



**CALIPIN
scores
GAME
WINNER**
PAGE 23

**YOUNG
COMMONS
SETS THE
STAGE**

Dance students
perform in
"Dance in the
Landscape,"
PAGE 13



Ommm

New Yoga studio brings
relaxation and peace of mind
to Burlington
PAGE 19



THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 | VOLUME 35, EDITION 24

www.elon.edu/pendulum



The 25th annual North Carolina Pride Parade was held on Duke University's East Campus last weekend. Hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds marched together to demonstrate their support of gay pride and acceptance.

SARAH CHAFFEE | Photographer

Area students take pride in **DIVERSITY** of community

Sarah Chaffee
Reporter

A man dressed as Jesus strapped on roller blades and skated down the main quad at Duke University's East Campus last Saturday. This man was joined by several local church members, all marching to show their appreciation of the hundreds of people that came out to celebrate the 25th annual North Carolina Pride Parade.

Churches from every denomination accompanied this roller-skating "Jesus" down the road, some holding signs that read, "I'm Baptist and I'm gay!" The demonstrators were attempting to showcase pride and acceptance of both their sexuality and faith.

People from several ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds walked down the streets of Durham, passing along smiles and hugs as they marched.

"We've been going to this parade for eight years, and this year we have a great turnout," said Frank Cotton of Saint Francis of Assisi, a Catholic Church located in Raleigh with a gay and lesbian outreach ministry.

"Our church provides social and spiritual retreats for the gay and lesbian members of our community," said Chuck Small, a fellow member of the church.

Several members of Elon's own gay and lesbian group, Spectrum, strolled the streets, flashing huge smiles of excitement as the people lining the streets cheered them on.

"Pride is for everyone," junior Madeleine MeJean said. "It made me really happy to see people united."

MeJean said every day should be

“
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— Madeleine MeJean
ELON JUNIOR
”

filled with this kind of acceptance and that people should try to attend a pride parade whenever they get a chance.

Sophomore Rhiannon Clark said she felt the parade made being different feel acceptable, something people should constantly feel.

"It's great to see support from churches and parents," Clark said. "It's good to see everyone being so open and not scared."

Impressed with the outcome, Clark casually pointed out the lack of protesters. A few protesters silently held signs that stated, "Homo sex is sin."

Sophomore Brittany Moore attended the parade with a car full of friends.

"I thought it was so much fun," Moore said. "Everyone was happy and we got to dance with all the people in the parade."

As the parade came to an end, Sen. Ellie Kinnaird (D-Orange) gave a speech celebrating the progress of gay rights in the South. Kinnaird emphasized, that even though the progress has been significant, there is always more work to be done. She thanked the community for showing its support and making the event possible.

"Everyone should experience the love and excitement," MeJean said.

Catholic leader visits Elon, blesses Newman Center

Kristin Feeney
Reporter

Hundreds of hours of planning, countless prayers and the collaboration of many came to a climax last Saturday when Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh visited Elon to celebrate Mass and bless the university's new Catholic Newman Center.

Now housed in the Holland House on South Campus, the Catholic Newman Center is the sixth facility supported by the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh. Newman Centers already exist at Duke University, East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Wilmington.

Named in honor of John Henry Cardinal Newman, a highly influential 19th-century British priest and cardinal, Newman Centers are residences and Catholic ministry centers at non-Catholic universities throughout the world. The blessing ceremony is a tradition that accompanies the official installment of the facility.

At Elon, Associate University Chaplain Phil Smith presented the welcome. President Leo Lambert gave

the introduction and reflection for the blessing. Burbidge offered the official blessing of the Diocese of Raleigh, and The Rev. Gerry Waterman and senior Justin Sposato, president of Catholic Campus Ministry, reflected on the gratitude of the program.

The blessing marked the first time an Elon religious organization has received a house of faith.

"This is the first of several houses (at Elon) affirming faiths," Lambert said. "There's a reason why the Catholics are first and that reason is the Rev. Gerry Waterman. He was the visionary who convinced us all."

Waterman is the Diocesan representative who has been serving Elon Catholic Campus Ministry for the last four years. He regularly presides over Sunday night masses as well as the Wednesday night Catholic mass.

"I am an external shepherd of the Diocese," Waterman said. "Having Bishop Burbidge come to campus shows our universality ... it connects the Catholic community at large."

At the blessing ceremony, Waterman thanked the many benefactors who made the Catholic Newman Center a reality.

"There's a saying that when it is in your power to do good, do not hold back ... your support and dedication have not gone unnoticed," he said.

Sposato echoed Waterman's gratitude.

"It's a pretty big thing to have the president of your university and the bishop of your Diocese at the same event," Sposato said. "It's a blessing to have that kind of support."

Twenty-five percent of Elon students, roughly 1,200-1,300 of the overall student body, are Catholic. Two hundred students regularly participate in Mass and 40-50 are actively involved in Catholic Campus Ministry programming, Sposato said.

The blessing of the Catholic Newman Center opens a new chapter for the Catholic Campus Ministry and its role on Elon's campus.

"We really do appreciate this amazing opportunity we have," Sposato said. "We have a lot of programming in the works. From Monday Night Football fellowship to small group discussion, we have a lot in store."

Catholic Campus Ministry invites all students to come and visit the Catholic Newman Center.

As Lambert said in his closing remarks, "the best purpose (of Holland House) is yet to come."