

# More than fruit and vegetables: Local farmers market grows on university students, faculty

Anna Johnson  
Summer Editor

Locally grown tomatoes, green beans, green peppers, potatoes and squash filled plastic crates under tented booths. Other vendors peddled their handmade crafts: bags, wooden hatchets, body creams, baked goods and birdhouses. And to beat the summer heat, lemonade and lavender tea was offered to onlookers.

Students and faculty staying at Elon through the summer have grown accustomed to Thursday's arrival of the Elon Community Church farmers' market. The market is open from 3 -6:30 p.m. every Thursday throughout the summer. It's the third year the market has been located on the church's lawn adjacent to McEwen Dining Hall.

Sandra Sarlinga, with her husband Fabian Lujan, coordinate the the farmers' market.

"A farmers' market is what (the church) talks about," Sarlinga said. "You're taking care of the land and the Earth. And you are helping the local community."

Thursday, June 17, was kids' day at the market. Usually most of the vendors, averaging at 17 per week, are local farmers, bakers and craftmakers. But on kids' day, it's the kids chance to sell their wares.

Eva and Reno Fahianger sold their free-range chicken eggs. Reno corrected those who asked if they "had chickens."

"We just don't have chickens," Reno said. "We collect them, inspect them, clean them, weigh them, package them and sell them."

Sisters Logan and Sophia Dill sold vintage bags and flowers collected from their homes.

"This is our first year," Logan said.

"We like coming out because it's local and we meet people."

Sophia said she has always had a sewing machine and, she said, she enjoys being able to sell something she's made.

Cornelia Barnwell was given her mother's formula for homemade body scrub. She said she's saving up for a camera while her younger brother, Xan, sold cookies for a new toy.

But more than children were at the market. The regular vendors were also present. Addie Graves sells her homemade baked goods. Each, she said, made with love. The booth over is O.T. Bailey who sells his specially-crafted blue jay birdhouses.

Raquel Cortes Mazuelas, assistant director of the Spanish Center, has stopped by the market after work for the second year.

"I really like the idea of buying local," she said. "I can get lots of stuff and I like what is seasonal. Why buy something not in season and have it shipped from California?"

When the farmers' market began to wrap up for the evening, the "butterfly lady" released several butterflies for the children to chase after. Suzanne Tilton, an elementary school teacher, raises butterflies and teaches children about the life cycle of the butterfly.

After they were released, some of the butterflies landed on the children, and according to Tilton, granted them a wish.

"I started raising butterflies about 18 years ago," she said. "I love the children's reaction. That's why I do it."

The farmers' market will continue to be open on Thursday through September.



Above: Suzanne Tilton, the butterfly lady, tells children about the life cycle of a butterfly before releasing a dozen butterflies at the end of kids' day. She told the children a wish comes true if a butterfly lands on them.  
Bottom right: Two-year-old Aubrey Thompson stares at the butterfly that landed on her hand after the release.  
Bottom left: Elon faculty came to enjoy the farmers market including Earl Danieleley, Raquel Mazuelas and Jennifer Smith.

Anna Johnson | Photographer

## Elon alumni join ranks of Teach for America

Rebecca Smith  
Reporter

Many students graduated in the middle of their job search and left the grounds of Elon University without a plan. But, 14 alumni of the 2010 class left Elon with a mission, a new home and a job as educators with Teach for America.

Teach for America is a national nonprofit that aims to eliminate educational inequity. Students from all career interests are recruited to teach for two years in urban or rural, low-income, public school. Teach for America members hope to show that educational inequity is a solvable problem.

Sara Pasquinelli, a 2010 graduate, has known what she would be doing after she received her diploma since

November 10.

"I actually received an email saying I was accepted into the Teach for America program while attending a South Africa winter term course," Pasquinelli said. "Five minutes later, President Lambert and his wife came in and told us they would be joining us (on the Winter Term.) Talk about an awesome five minutes."

Students interested in Teach for America have to go through a rigorous application process. There is an initial online application, a phone interview round and a personal interview and presentation.

"The application process is a comprehensive test of your skills," Pasquinelli said. "It tests creativity, conflict resolution, collaboration and leadership. The process is demanding

because the work will be even more demanding."

Pasquinelli and Hunter Gros, another recent graduate, are moving to Phoenix for Teach for America.

"I guess you could say that I went from one Phoenix to another," Gros said.

Before the new members start their jobs in the fall, they must complete a training process.

"Mine don't start until June 12," Gros said. "From what I have heard, they are very hard and challenging. Something like 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. It is certainly meant to be a growing process."

Before the formal training process in June, new members participate in more than 40 hours of prep work. These hours do not count the time that new members spend taking the tests they must pass to teach.

The 14 students from Elon University are joining a class of 4,500 college graduates starting with Teach for America this fall. There were a record breaking 46,000 applications this year, and this increased interest in the program has allowed the program to expand into four new locations: Alabama, Detroit, Rhode Island and San Antonio.

Teach for America is a unique program because it allows college graduates to start teaching without a degree in education. Pasquinelli majored in History and Anthropology. Gros majored in International Studies.

Despite not majoring in education, both students realize that this is an opportunity to make a difference.

"Having the ability to work on the front line of a major challenge our nation is facing," Pasquinelli said. "We need to invest in our future by starting the investment today."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

2008 alumna Ashley Titolo, above, is an Teach for American corps member in teaching in Eastern North Carolina. While she was a student at Elon she majored in international relations and worked for Teach for America while still at Elon.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**7,300** Teach for America corps members currently working across the United States

**35** urban and rural locations where Teach for America workers are stationed at

**17,000** Teach for America alumni

**3 million** students have been taught by Teach for America workers

**1344** average SAT score of a Teach for America worker

**89** percent of Teach for America members held a leadership position in at least one activity

**3.6** was the average SAT of Teach for America members

**2** years are spent by Teach for America members teaching

BREAKING DOWN TEACH FOR AMERICA