



MERISSA BLITZ | Staff Photographer

Twisted Measure performs in Whitley Auditorium as a part of Push the Music, a charity concert benefitting Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy, Push America, which assists people with disabilities.

## Pushing for awareness, funds for disability cause

Cassie Grimm  
Reporter

Students gathered in Whitley Auditorium to hear performances by Elon's a cappella groups and support a good cause Oct. 27. Push the Music, organized by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, raised money for its national philanthropy, Push America.

Push America was founded by Pi Kappa Phi's national organization in the 1970s and helps those with disabilities through education, support and awareness, according to Push America's website.

"We do projects for the community, in a few weeks we are building a handicap ramp," said Pi Kappa Phi secretary Michael Gaytan. "We also have local meetings every week, we go play basketball with local high school students. It's a lot of fun."

Students paid a \$5 entrance fee at Push the Music. The proceeds will be donated to Push America.

Sweet Signatures, one of Elon's female a cappella groups, opened with "Dream On" by Aerosmith, followed with "Parachute" by Cheryl Cole. The group concluded its performance with the song "Wally" by Aslyn.

The next group to perform was Elon's only all-male a cappella group, Rip\_Chord. It began with a mash-up of "My Girl" and "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" by The Temptations. Next, the men switched to a more soulful style with gospel song "Nothing But

the Water (I)" by Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. The group concluded the performance with the song "It Girl" by Jason Derulo, led by freshman CJ Moore.

Last to perform was co-ed group Twisted Measure, which first crooned "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele, and then sang "Slumber," by Needtobreathe. Twisted Measure ended the evening with a powerful rendition of "All These Things That I've Done" by The Killers.

"I can't decide which performance was my favorite," said freshman Maddie Hooper. "I'm torn between 'It Girl' and 'Set Fire to the Rain.' I thought all three groups did a great job, though, and really connected with the audience."

Gaytan said he was proud of the way the event turned out.

"I think tonight went very well we had a great crowd and excellent performances," he said. "We raised a good amount of money too."

Gaytan said there will be further fundraisers during the rest of the year, and the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi will continue to do community service for those with disabilities.

"We host one event for Push America each month and have some of our largest events in the spring," said Jon Bolstridge, Pi Kappa Phi philanthropy chair.

Gaytan said these events will include a sorority football league and an empathy spaghetti dinner.



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Sweet Signatures performs pop and classic rock hits as part of Pi Kappa Phi's benefit concert.



Left: Bert Brokaw performs with Rip\_Chord as a part of the Push the Music fundraiser.



Right: Rip\_Chord performs mash-ups of 50s soul as well as gospel and popular R&amp;B tunes.

## Club Dance showcases classic moves at Midnight Meals

Audrey Horwitz  
Reporter

Juniors Dane Barnett and Kayleigh Johnson sit next to each other in their non-experimental research methods class. One day, Johnson asked Barnett to come to Club Dance, Elon's ballroom dance club, with her and he has been coming back ever since.

"I really enjoy the non-academic outlet," Barnett said.

Johnson has made a habit of pulling friends into the club.

"I love dragging people here who wouldn't normally show up but find out they're good at it," she said.

In Oaks 212 the night of Oct. 27, students were immersed in a group of swinging, waltzing, ballroom-dancing Elon students.

Club Dance, Elon's ballroom dance organization, performed at Midnight Meals. Although Midnight Meals is usually held in Irazu, it was moved to The Oaks to give students plenty of room to show off their dance moves.

There was no dress code or formal agenda for the night. The purpose of each performance was to teach dance moves to anyone who wanted to learn and to enjoy one another's company.

"I love the sense of community when we come together every Friday night," said Phyllis Jarrell, club president. "It's that kind of connection where you don't have to talk."

It's the social aspect Jarrell described that draws Elon students to the club.

"It's a nice medley of people," said senior Ned Dibner. "We're all good

friends and we can always count on each other. It's also a fast way to get to know people, specifically girls."

Although some might consider ballroom dancing outdated in the 21st Century, certain strains of pop culture are bringing back a more formal style of dance. Shows like "Dancing with the Stars" are bringing dance styles such as ballroom more into pop culture.

"I think that our generation has lost the love of social dancing without it being more than just dancing," Jarrell said. "When people actually join our club they realize this kind of dancing is actually cool."

There is more than one type of ballroom dancing and Club Dance explores a variety of these styles. During its Friday practices in East Gym, the group rehearses salsa, cha-

cha, waltz, tango, rumba and foxtrot, among other dances. The club has about 50 members with varying experience. A group of advanced students also travels to other schools for competitions.

The majority of Club Dance members came in with no experience, making the group perfect for beginners. They meet in at 7 p.m. each Friday in East Gym.

the **Swing**

Katie Pullman has the details on Club Dance's performance at Midnight Meals.

<http://bit.ly/theswing2>