

# THE PENDULUM

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## HOPE feeds the hungry



Barbara Davis and other community members volunteer at the Allied Churches of Alamance County, which receives support from Elon's HOPE organization. CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

### *Elon sophomores establish charity to benefit local food pantries*

Morgan Abate  
Senior Reporter

A student-led nonprofit founded by Elon University students to raise funds for needy food pantries will serve its first meals in Alamance County through four local restaurants March 7.

Co-founder and sophomore Jensen Roll worked with food pantries and homeless shelters before coming to Elon. He noticed these pantries ran out of food quickly, did not have enough volunteers and lacked funds for facilities and incidentals. His observations prompted him to take action and find a solution: Helping Other People Eat (HOPE).

Starting this coming Fellows Weekend, HOPE and its "HOPE-certified" partner restaurants will give customers the option to round their bills to the next dollar or to add a custom donation. The funds raised will be distributed by HOPE to local food pantries.

The organization scheduled its debut around Fellows Weekend because of its potential to reach prospective students and to show their families how Elon engages with the local community.

The first pantry to benefit from HOPE is Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC), which serves 300 to 400 people daily.

"The opportunity is there," Roll said. "The

need is there."

ACAC is dedicated to helping the impoverished by providing shelter and food for individuals and families, among other services. But since Loaves and Fishes, the county's only food pantry, suddenly closed in August, ACAC has struggled a great deal.

In September of last year, a month after Loaves and Fishes closed, ACAC opened a new food pantry. The addition of the unexpected program put an extra burden on the organization. ACAC slowly slipped into debt for a few months after starting the program.

Despite these recent hardships, Executive

## 2014-2015 Elon tuition to increase

Michael Bodley and Stephanie Lamm  
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

With the passing of the 2014-2015 fiscal budget, Elon University reaffirmed its commitment to a slow growth model, increasing tuition by 3.69 percent and bringing the total cost of an Elon education to \$41,914 per year for students living on campus. Students living off campus can expect to pay \$30,848.

Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology, said part of the problem is the university's endowment, currently valued at \$183 million. Though the university plans to triple it by 2020, the funds still pale in comparison to schools such as the University of Richmond — one of Elon's main competitors — which boasts an endowment valued at just over \$2 billion.

"There are certainly some challenges to being a tuition-dependent institution," Whittington said. "If you're growing slowly instead of really fast, you can get a double effect of covering the cost of education because you grew some and the tuition rate went up some."

Whittington said a 4 percent increase is a "line in the sand" that media outlets have publicized as being too much. Over the last four years, Elon has kept its tuition increases below the line.

But Gabriel Noble, a senior who was almost unable to graduate due to cost, asked when the university should stop expanding and settle for what is here now: a "perfect campus." Thanks to a Change.org petition, Noble will graduate this spring through donor contributions and grants.

"I know they have to raise the tuition for everything they're adding on," he said. "When I got here, Elon was enough for me to be happy for my whole four years. At what point does the administration decide we're good — we

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