

# Fifteen organizations sponsor K.FRESHH's vision

Elon senior organizes relief concert for Caribbean after hurricanes

Nina Fleck

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Elon University students, faculty and alumni are working together to put on a show to benefit those whose homes were destroyed during Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Helping Hands United: A Benefit Concert for Caribbean Island Hurricane Relief will take place at 10 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Phoenix Activity and Recreation Center in the Daniele Neighborhood. The cost is \$5.

"All proceeds from the concert will be going to three organizations: International Relief Teams, the Community Foundation for the Virgin Islands and Unidos por Puerto Rico," said Sylvia Munoz, the associate director for the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education. "No artists or anyone involved will be taking a commission, and 100 percent of the proceeds raised will be going straight to these organizations."

This concert is the brainchild of senior music production and recording arts major Kellcee Batchelor.

Batchelor was first inspired to organize the concert after fall break last October, a little after Hurricanes Irma and Maria passed through the Caribbean Islands.

"I feel like a lot of the times we get paralyzed by fear," Batchelor said. "We get paralyzed by all of the destruction that we see. It's OK to feel those emotions ... but at some point we have to be mobilizers. I really hope this event stands as a cure to that paralysis."

When the idea was conceived, Batchelor's big goal was to make this event truly diverse and highly

collaborative. He has been working with 15 campus organizations to coordinate the show.

"A lot of student-run and faculty-run groups are all supporting it," said senior Julio Dragonetti, who will be performing in the show with his band, LowFly. "It's a really diverse group, especially for this campus ... a lot of the minority fraternities and the Latnix groups are really chipping in for this because those are a lot of the cultures that are affected in the Caribbean Islands."

Another big goal of Batchelor's was to create a cultural experience for the students in attendance.

"A lot of the students who are a part of the Latino and Hispanic Union, they've agreed to make dishes," Batchelor said. "They're making homemade dishes and then Aramark donated all of the food, and it's going to be Caribbean-style catered food."

Along with the food and sponsors, the music will also be exemplary of culture. The show will feature seven acts consisting of local artists, Elon alumni and current Elon students, including Batchelor himself, whose stage name is K.FRESHH.

"The music is very diverse as well," Batchelor said. "Everything from pop, to hip-hop, to EDM, to funk, to rock — there's a little in there for everybody. So not only is the show itself diverse in terms of acts and people performing, but even down to the sponsors who are helping partner with us."

"He didn't want this to be only his event," said senior Andres Garreaud, who helped Batchelor plan the event in its initial phases. "He wanted to have a collaborated effort across many different organizations to show that Elon can come together, like it does for ElonTHON, to support communities in need and be the change we want to see in the world."

Partner organizations are



Casper (Connor Smith), K.FRESHH (Kellcee Batchelor) and Komodo (William Henderson) hold posters for the benefit concert that supports hurricane relief in the Caribbean islands.

helping set up, usher, cater, ensure security, advertise and promote the event. Cultural groups on campus such as El Centro and the Caribbean Student Association "have helped from a cultural standpoint," according to Batchelor, to nail the promotion aspects and appeal to all students.

Limelight Records and SGA have provided the funding for the event. SGA has taken on costs for safety measures while Limelight is covering the cost of the lighting and assisting with the stage management of the event to ensure it is run seamlessly and professionally.

The company that provided the lighting for this year's Homecoming concert, Audio & Light, Inc., located in Greensboro, will also provide the lighting for this

concert, while Elon's media services will be handling the audio.

"The production company that did Jon Bellion is doing this," said junior Josh Scovern, a music production and recording arts major who will be helping mix the audio. "It's going to be huge."

Batchelor said he hopes to attract a large, diverse audience for this special, collaborative event. He also hopes it inspires others to take action geared toward the betterment of society.

"At Elon, we talk a lot about being global citizens," Batchelor said. "Be global thinkers, be global citizens ... I think we really need to be as altruistic as possible, be as selfless as possible. If you combine selflessness with optimism, you can do a lot of great things."

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KELLEE BATCHELOR  
CONCERT ORGANIZER

## Local restaurant celebrates 15 years in the Elon community

Skid's serves as a social hub for community and students

Elizabeth Bilka

Elon News Network | @Elizabeth\_Bilka

It's just a regular Monday morning at Skid's Restaurant.

Tucked away between the Circle K gas station and the Park Place apartments on West Haggard Avenue, the restaurant was in the middle of the breakfast rush. The beeper attached to the door was constantly chirping, alerting the wait staff to more customers. Patrons were quickly greeted at the door by wait staff with friendly smiles, pleasant conversation and a cup of their usual beverage, ranging from hot coffee to sweet tea.

This year the restaurant will celebrate its 15th anniversary at Elon. Glenda Robertson has been a server at Skid's since the restaurant opened on Feb. 22, 2003.

"It's been a fast 15 years," Robertson said.

Robertson said the work has always been overwhelming, with a mix of locals and students filing in and out for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Initially, the crowd was drawn in by name recognition. The property was originally a Hardee's and now-owner George Katsoudas planned on leasing out the space as an investment.

Katsoudas said he realized Elon was missing a restaurant with din-



Loyal customers Mitch Rippey, Bo Loy and Steve Waltman enjoy their weekly breakfast at Skid's Restaurant.

er-style food. The restaurant business and the name Skid's came from Katsoudas' childhood. In the 1960s, Katsoudas' father emigrated from Greece and worked at the Skid's on North Church Street in Burlington. He later bought the restaurant from the original owners in 1982. Katsoudas asked his father for permission to use the same name at the new Elon location.

Fifteen years later, he admitted the place has changed a little, but Skid's remains a "true neighborhood

local place."

Katsoudas said his wait staff, including Robertson, Marianne Everett and Janice Champion, are there to make people feel like family, whether it's remembering their faces or beating them to the punch by knowing their usual order.

Robertson said working for Katsoudas and the people she serves every day has made the environment a great place to work.

"They come back for the food and the company," Robertson said.

Richard Lambert is one of those people who kept coming back. Lambert said he doesn't remember exactly when he started going to Skid's, but estimated between five to six years ago. He said he joins a group of regulars three times a week between 7-7:30 a.m. Lambert said they even have a group text to plan when to go.

"We just kind of text each other, 'Are you coming to Skid's?'" Lambert said.

The wide-ranging topics of conversation at the table lasted the full

IF YOU GO...

Location: 134 W Haggard Ave, Elon College, NC 27244

Hours: Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cuisine: Breakfast, Diner and Greek

Price: ~\$5

hour and a half.

"Sports, you name it, that's what we talk about," Lambert said.

"It is a social mecca," said Mike King, another group regular.

Steve Waltman graduated from Elon in 1989 and said he has been a customer for the whole 15 years. Waltman said his breakfast at Skid's breaks up the monotony of the day.

"It's a place you can come and meet, solve the world's problems," Waltman said. He also wants to support his friend, Katsoudas.

"That's what being a friend is, supporting in any way," Waltman said.

Katsoudas said he expects the place to change again in the next 15 years. He said he wants to add outdoor seating, as well as make minor menu changes and fix up the building a bit.

But the daily routine is still the same. By 10 a.m., the breakfast rush has died down. Table conversations have been replaced by the music from the radio as the staff prepares for more customers for lunch. Robertson said people can still expect "good service, a smile, a laugh" from this Elon establishment 15 years later.