

Would be 'trash' makes thousands of pounds of donation

"Don't Trash It" program donates tons of students' waste to local charities

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Bags, bedding, food and furniture are some of the many items forming the base of the piles of trash thrown out at the end of every school year. But Elon University's "Don't Trash It!" program has found a charitable way to keep this garbage out of the landfill.

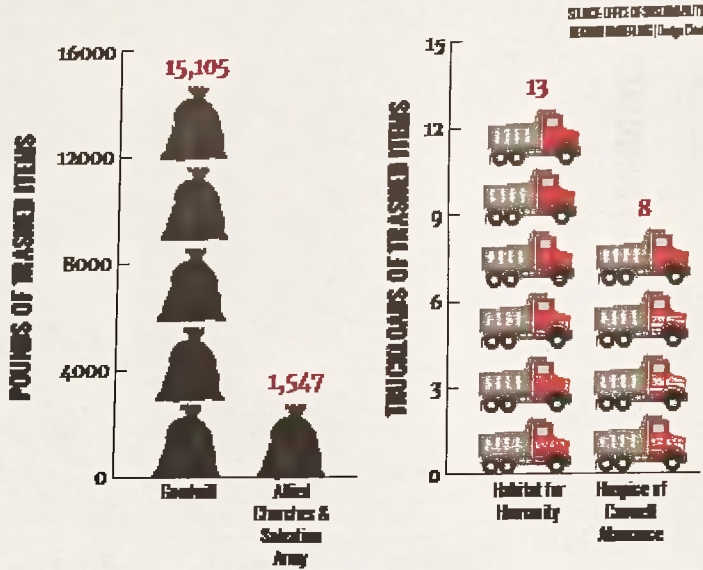
The program goes into effect as students pack up after final's week and begin throwing all of the unused items they eagerly bought at the start of the year.

Throughout campus donation stations are set up to collect items for reuse. Student volunteers then sort through the items at the stations and garbage bins for anything that can be turned into a donation.

Run through the Office of Sustainability, the "Don't Trash It!" program donated more than 8 tons of goods to local nonprofit organizations at the end of the 2017-18 academic school year, beating its record of 6.5 tons the year before.

The Office of Sustainability took over the "Don't Trash It!" program from the Truitt Center in 2014 and has since expanded its reach. The program now donates to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, the Furniture Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, the Allied Churches of Alamance County, the Salvation

'DON'T TRASH IT' DONATIONS 2017-18



Senior Cara DePan, student coordinator for Elon's "Don't Trash It" program, sorts through donations for local NGOs right before summer 2018.

Army and the Hospice of Alamance Caswell.

Kelly Harer, the assistant director of sustainability for education and outreach, helps run the program by organizing volunteers, setting up donation stations and sorting through the trash.

"Any time we are able to divert something usable from the landfill to someone who needs it, I consider it a success," Harer said.

To continue this success, Harer relies on student volunteers to fill three pivotal roles in the "Don't Trash It!" program: item collector, food deliverer and truck monitor. But finding these students at the end of the year poses an

annual problem.

"The biggest struggle is the same each year, which is getting enough volunteers to help collect, sort and move items," Harer said. "We're always looking for volunteers to help sort items, but it's a difficult time of year to get volunteers, as most students are either studying for finals or have left campus."

PROGRAM RECORD

8

"Don't Trash It!" program donated more than 8 tons of goods during the 2017-18 school year, beating its record of 6.5 tons the year before.

To help with the struggle, the "Don't Trash It!" program appointed student coordinators to both find more volunteers and help out with the tasks themselves.

Senior Cara DePan is one of those student coordinators. She found the "Don't Trash It!" program to be a "perfect integration of sustainability and philanthrop-

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

1. Habitat for Humanity
2. Goodwill
3. The Furniture Ministry at First Presbyterian Church
4. The Allied Churches of Alamance County
5. Salvation Army
6. Hospice of Alamance Caswell

ic services."

Throughout the year DePan also works as an intern with the Office of Sustainability, one of her main goals being to educate more Elon students about the work her team does.

"When people hear 'big words' such as sustainability or ecology, they either reach for the nearest Merriam-Webster or immediately flock to the idea of recycling," DePan said. "Throughout the year, we work hard to help students extend that definition for themselves. We provide resources or hold events around campus intending to teach and inspire the community to acknowledge and respect the interconnected-

ness between us and the natural world."

As Elon's population grows, so will its effect on the natural world. With incoming freshmen numbering at 1,690 enrolled students, the largest in its history, the leaders of "Don't Trash It!" program will be busier than ever as they work toward a more sustainable Elon.

"I can't foresee a future where Elon wouldn't continue this program," Harer said. "We're able to help those who need it most in Alamance and surrounding counties, while at the same time keeping literal tons of items from entering landfills. It's truly a win-win for everyone involved."

East Neighborhood dedicated to engagement and innovation

Elon opens its newest neighborhood, filling it with freshmen and LLCs

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The completion of East Neighborhood, Elon University's newest student housing facility, marks the school's new push toward a more civically engaged and socially innovative student body.

The trio of three-story buildings will host more than 300 students, the majority of which will be freshmen. The neighborhood's theme of civic engagement and social innovation is what many professors working in the neighborhood are most excited for.

"Civic engagement is a central goal of an Elon education. We try to produce students that will graduate as leaders in all walks of life," said Mark Dalhouse, the faculty-in-residence for East Neighborhood. "Social innovation also ranks high as a priority for an Elon education, and combining the two in a neighborhood

opens up a myriad of possibilities for LLCs and programs."

Through this "myriad of possibilities," students living in the neighborhood will have a greater exposure to both social and political issues and will have more opportunities to participate

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MARK DALHOUSE
FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE,
EAST NEIGHBORHOOD

in civil discourse, debate, community service and leadership development.

The neighborhood will be home to the following Living and Learning Communities: Paideia: Civic and Political Engagement, Leaders in the Global

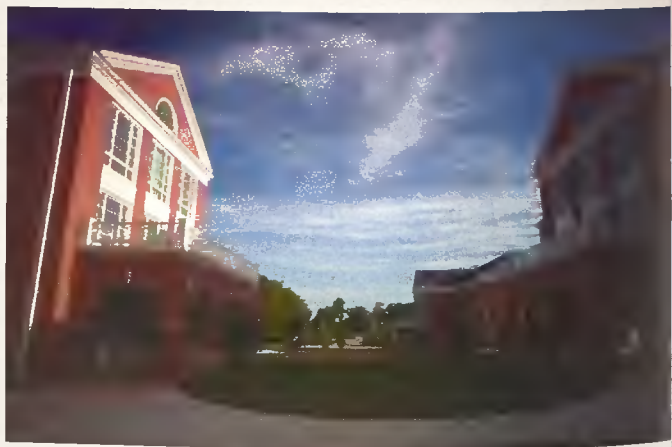
World, Lichens: Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies, Service Learning, Honors Pavilion and Elon College Fellows.

Junior Jordan Williams will be the Resident Assistant for the Service Learning LLC located on the first floor of East C. As one of the neighborhood's first RAs, Williams is looking forward to experiencing the theme of the neighborhood with her residents.

"Civic engagement and social innovation is a really big deal right now with our current political climate," Williams said. "It is a time for change; we are always progressing and moving forward, and to have a whole neighborhood centered around different aspects of civic engagement and social innovation is incredibly exciting."

One of Williams' top priorities as the student leader in her LLC is to "build a community that will push everyone together and help students grow."

Working with RAs to help balance between a residence hall that will both make students feel safe but also challenge them will be one of Dalhouse's top pri-



The new East Neighborhood Residence Hall was built around a theme of civic engagement and will be welcoming residents during move-in day Aug. 24.

orities. "The first year of college is a major transition in life, and we need to keep in mind we are dealing with students that are really opening a new chapter in their lives," Dalhouse said. "We want to create an atmosphere that is supporting yet challenging, nurturing yet broadening, and that is going to require some careful choreography between the RAs and the faculty."

This choreography will

EAST NEIGHBORHOOD - BY THE NUMBERS

350

students will be housed within the neighborhood's 3 residential buildings.

6

LLCs will operate out of East, promoting growth and innovation.

start with new program initiatives such as "East Explore," which will take students to different international restaurants with an emphasis on that country, and "East Explore," which will take students on a series of trips around the area to discuss different challenges the local community are facing.

Each new program is created to open students' minds and give a sense of family within the neighborhood.