Employees answer call for service year-round

By Robert Hoppey '09

The holiday season and acts of giving are synonymous, and holiday giving traditionally goes beyond the realm of friends and family to the larger community.

Non-profit organizations and charities often see substantial increases in volunteers and donations during the holiday months. But according to Kathleen Edwards, assistant director of the Kernodle Center for Service Learning at Elon, the need goes well beyond canned food drives and Angel Trees.

“The challenge is to remind community members that the work agencies do occurs throughout the year, with unique needs at various times,” Edwards says.

The call for year-round community involvement is one that many Elon faculty and staff members have gladly answered.

Angela Lewellyn-Jones, associate professor of social justice

For Lewellyn-Jones, an opportunity for community service was the by-product of a classroom assignment. For the past 10 years, students in her “Violence in Families” course have worked with Family Abuse Services in Burlington. She joined the organization’s board of directors in 2006.

Lewellyn-Jones says that she sees serving others as “an essential piece of fulfilling my role as an engaged citizen,” and she enjoys seeing her students echo that enthusiasm. Each fall, her students conduct the “Mentors in Violence Prevention” program in ninth-grade health classes throughout Alamance County and also hold a fundraising dinner for the cause.

“The only way to truly combat the problem of violence in families is to raise awareness year-round and compel people to speak about this issue,” Jones says.

Sheri Wall, work order clerk, physical plant

It’s fair to call Wall a “volunteer extraordinaire.” She’s given her time and efforts in a variety of ways to many organizations in her community.

Like Lewellyn-Jones, Wall has worked with the board of directors of Family Abuse Services. She’s also served as a Cub Scout counselor, Sunday school teacher, service sorority member and sustainability advocate. Wall also takes the initiative to reach out in less formal settings, bringing food to grieving neighbors and colleagues.

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Video conferencing helps Piland bring his lessons to life

By Bethany Swanson ’09

Over the past three years, more than 15 professional photojournalists have been guests in the classroom of Randy Piland, but none has actually set foot on Elon’s campus.

Piland, a lecturer in the School of Communications, is pioneering video conferencing at Elon as a way to bring professional speakers into the classroom.

“It’s neat to meet the person and hear their philosophy and ask questions,” Piland says. “It adds a richness to the class to get this exchange that students wouldn’t get otherwise.”

A self-described “Mac-guy,” Piland began using the video technology available on Mac computers in 2005. As technology such as Skype and other programs evolved, the image quality has improved, and Piland is now able to chat with PC users, too. More recently, he has figured out how to record the sessions and post them on a class blog for future use.

A former photojournalist and photo editor at The Tennessean in Nashville, Piland uses his connections in the field to bring in a variety of media professionals. His classes have met top student photojournalists and Pulitzer Prize winners.

“It’s all about the experiential learning,” Piland says. “We get people from all over, and most of them are very willing to do it.”

A particular advantage of video conferencing is that it allows professionals to visit the classroom at any time, often with very little notice. Piland’s video conferences have featured Kenny Irby of the Poynter Institute, who discussed reporting the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; Rick Loomis, a photographer for the Los Angeles Times, who chatted about a trip to Iraq; and Josh Meltzer, a Roanoke Times photographer and 2006 National Press Photography Association Photojournalist of the Year, who discussed covering the shootings at Virginia Tech.

Piland recalls that when he contacted Loomis for the interview, the photographer said he had to go to Iraq in a couple of days on assignment. But Loomis asked if he could speak to the class upon his return. Piland accepted the offer.

“He went on the trip, came back on a Friday, produced the work and was talking to us about it on Monday,” Piland says.

Through video conferences held just a week after the Virginia Tech shootings, students met with several news professionals, including the managing editor of the Roanoke Times, which was responsible for much of the early coverage of the event.

“It was a great opportunity to talk to a staff who’s been through a tragedy,” Piland says. “It was a chance to hear about how they handled it and what they did.”

Senior Stefanie Meyers has taken two of Piland’s classes and participated in the discussion with the Roanoke Times staff.

“It left quite an impact on the class, hearing those reporters and photojournalists tell about that horrible day,” she says. “Speaking with them gave a clear sense of what it’s like to be out in the field. It gave me great respect for all who chose that occupation.”

Other faculty members in the School of Communications, including Glenn Scott, Jim Goodman and Peter Kewitt, have followed Piland’s lead and incorporated video conferencing into their teaching. Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, encourages the trend.

“It’s just wonderful because it allows our students to talk with working professionals who might otherwise not have been able to physically get to campus,” Parsons says. “It brings reality into the classroom in a way that’s so beneficial.”

According to Parsons, no faculty member has ever harnessed the power of video conferencing technology as often or as effectively as Piland has in the past three years. It’s just another example of Elon’s School of Communications staying on the cutting edge of technology and teaching.

“I see it as a valuable tool,” Piland says. “I haven’t really heard of any other schools doing this, Elon could be the first.”

A former photojournalist, communications lecturer Randy Piland uses the video capability of Mac computers to invite professional journalists to speak to his classes.

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“It left quite an impact on the class, hearing those reporters and photojournalists tell about that horrible day,” she says. “Speaking with them gave a clear sense of what it’s like to be out in the field. It gave me great respect for all who chose that occupation.”
Rough economy impacting holiday planning

By Megan Kirkpatrick ’09

As the unemployment rate increases, the overall economy weakens and the stock market continues on its roller-coaster course, Americans are more fearful now about their financial security than they have been in recent memory.

Add holiday spending to this equation, and one might be inclined to steal Frosty the Snowman’s eyes of coal just to heat the house.

“If you look at overall economic activity, consumer spending is two-thirds of overall gross domestic product,” says Jennifer Platania, associate professor of economics. “A lot of what drives consumer spending is consumer confidence. Incomes are down, unemployment is up, thus consumer confidence is down. I think that’s going to play a big role in holiday spending. I think we are already seeing sluggish sales.”

As a result of the economic instability, Platania is adjusting her holiday spending plan. Her solution? Better budgeting.

“I am trying to set money aside out of every paycheck so I can spend a specific amount,” she says. “This year, I am still going to spend, but I am going to be a little more dedicated to my budget.”

Platania is part of a growing number of Elon faculty and staff who are adjusting holiday plans in today’s economic climate. Assistant professor of psychology Chris Leupold is instituting a new tradition for gift-giving among his siblings.

“Instead of giving presents, we are putting the money we spend into an account for plane tickets or travel,” he says. “That way, we have a fund if someone wants to come visit. It is like giving each other travel money as opposed to another gift we probably don’t need.”

Alison Poliseno, program assistant for campus recreation, is also planning to change the way she gives gifts to her children and grandchildren this year. She and her husband have decided to cut back significantly on presents for their adult children. Additionally, each of her three grandchildren will receive one gift they really want instead of several small things, which add up.

It’s a safe bet that this holiday season will likely see fewer gifts exchanged and longer glances at account balances, both locally and nationwide. But a tighter budget doesn’t have to result in boring gifts. See the inset for a number of tips culled from several consumer Web sites for some money-saving ideas to keep this year’s holidays bright.

### Gift ideas for tight budgets

- Create a detailed spending plan and stick to it. Take a look at what you spent last year and consider changes in your financial abilities.
- Do your research. Find the best place to buy that special gift before leaving home.
- Pay cash. Avoid using your credit card when possible.
- Consider shipping charges. Choose lighter gifts for far-away family members.
- Reduce the number of presents you give by organizing gift exchanges with friends and family.
- Give a homemade present. Unique baskets, photos, food and crafts offer a personal touch.
- Give your time. Invent creative coupons for your loved ones.
- Consider sending that holiday card, photo or newsletter via e-mail.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

after deaths in the family and sitting with elderly patients at a local hospice.

“You don’t get paid for any of these things, and that’s the jewel of it,” she says. “You do it because you want to.”

### Brian O’Shea, assistant to the vice president of student life and dean of students

After graduating from Elon in 2004 and joining the university’s staff, O’Shea struggled with how to spend his free time. Then he recalled his passion for service as a student, when he was a member of the service learning community and worked with organizations addressing hunger and homelessness, among other issues.

“Some people think that in the ‘real world,’ you should start over,” O’Shea says. “In reality, you should stick with what you love.”

In 2006, O’Shea started building homes with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday mornings and joined the organization’s board the following year. He says he sees Habitat as a chance to interact with diverse people, and he appreciates the structure of the program, through which selected families are able to contribute hard work and some finances to make their dream a reality.

“With this break, someone can afford a safe new place to live, but it’s not a handout,” O’Shea says.

The Kernodle Center encourages faculty and staff to incorporate service into their work with students or as programming in their departments or offices. Local agency profiles can be found in a database on the Kernodle Center’s Web site, www.elon.edu/service, and by contacting the Kernodle Center at elonvols@elon.edu.
Hunter Bacot, associate professor of political science and director of the Elon University Poll, published an article, “Civic Culture as a Policy Premise: Appraising Charlotte’s Civic Culture,” in the most recent issue of the Journal of Urban Affairs. He also spoke with national and regional media after the release of information compiled during the second and third Elon University Polls of the semester.


The Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL) named four new CATL Scholars for 2009-2011. Scholars will receive funding for two years to develop, implement and assess projects intended to transform student learning. They are: Jessie Moore, assistant professor of English; Ayesha Delphish, assistant professor of mathematics; Ken Calhoun, assistant professor of communications; and Brooke Barnett, associate professor of communications.

MarQuita Barker, assistant director of residence life and Multicultural Center, presented at the RA Drive-In Conference, an annual statewide conference held to offer guidance and resources for resident assistants and staff members working in residence life.

Pam Brumbaugh, director of experiential education, presented two workshops this fall on the “Fundamentals of Experiential Education: Theory & Best Practices” in September at the National Society for Experiential Education Annual Conference at Disney, and, in October, in Denver for faculty and staff from colleges in the NSEE western region. Pam is in her second term on the NSEE executive board and currently serves as vice president.

Bill Burpitt, associate professor and chair of the MBA program, spoke at the 15th Annual Part-Time MBA Conference held at Pepperdine University. He was invited to speak on Elon’s efforts to help part-time MBA students develop their careers and create a strong sense of community among the students.

David Copeland, A.J. Fletcher Professor in the School of Communications, recently published a chapter in The Responsible Reporter: Journalism in the Information Age. The chapter, “Rewriting and Editing,” looks at the relationship between reporters and editors of print and online media.

Polly Butler Cornelius, soprano, and Victoria Fischer Faw, pianist, performed a recital of American music for the Greensboro Music Teachers Association. They also presented a lecture on “performing as teaching” in October at the UNC-Greensboro School of Music.

Leary Davis, founding dean emeritus of the Elon University School of Law, was honored in a resolution passed by the Elon University Board of Trustees in October thanking him for his work in establishing the law school. Trustees also voted to name the dean’s conference room in honor of Davis and to commission a portrait of him for that room.

Joyce Davis and Paul Miller, associate professors of exercise science, delivered invited presentations at the XV Annual International Symposium on Exercise Science in October in San Jose, Costa Rica. Travel to this conference was supported by a grant from CATL.


Clyde Ellis, professor of history and a University Distinguished Scholar, has published a portion of his research focusing on the Indian hobbyist movement in the most recent issue of Montana: The Magazine of Western History, a peer-reviewed journal published by the Montana Historical Society and the Western History Association.

Thomas Erdmann, professor of music and education, was part of the N.C. State Department of Public Instruction team evaluating the reaccreditation of the School of Education at Campbell University in October. Also, Erdmann and Matthew Buckmaster, assistant professor of music and education, adjudicated the Red Devil Classic marching band festival at Graham High School on Nov. 2.

Jim Exum, Distinguished Jurist in Residence of the Elon University School of Law, has been selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of Woodward & White’s list of “The Best Lawyers in America.” Exum, a retired chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, was recognized in the area of appellate law and the-company litigation.
Cynthia Fair, associate professor and chair of the department of human services, has co-authored a chapter for a book on the provision of care to children with life-threatening illnesses. The chapter examines the challenges posed to hospice care providers who work with HIV-infected children in both developed and developing countries.

Peter Felten, director of CATL, has been elected president of P.O.D., the Professional and Organizational Network in Higher Education. P.O.D. is the professional association for teaching and learning centers at colleges and universities in the United States. Felten also participated in an October symposium at the Fetzer Institute in Michigan.

Scott Gaylord, associate professor of law, was quoted in the Nov. 10 edition of North Carolina Lawyers Weekly in an article detailing a research report Gaylord co-wrote this fall for the Federalist Society. The report, “North Carolina’s Supreme Court: A Special Issue Report,” provided North Carolina voters an overview of several recent cases highlighting the different views justices have about the role of the judiciary in a federalist system. Gaylord also was consulted by Fox 8 News and the (Greensboro, N.C.) News & Record for analysis of the defamation lawsuit filed Oct. 30 against U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., by Democratic state Sen. Kay Hagan.

Three School of Communications professors were featured in October at the American Journalism Historians Association conference in Seattle. David Copeland, A.J. Fletcher Professor, was featured on the panel “Working With Edited History Books: Opportunities and Issues for Editors and Authors.” Associate Professor Anthony Hatcher was a panelist for a session on oral history, where he discussed his work with Elon students in the Society of Professional Journalists on the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Associate Professor Harlen Makemson gave a research-in-progress presentation on his forthcoming book, Shaped America’s Trip to the Moon, for the upcoming National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) in Memphis, Tenn., in October.

Norris Gunby Jr., assistant professor in the Love School of Business, has had a strategic management discipline-based paper, “Firm Performance and Complementary Strategy Development Processes,” accepted for publication in Management Decision.

Andrew J. Haile, assistant professor of law, had an article published in the ABA “Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases” about the pending Supreme Court case of Altria Group, Inc. v. Good, which deals with whether the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act preempts state law claims against tobacco companies for the use of “descriptors” such as “light” and “lowered tar.”


Earl Honeycutt, professor of marketing and interim chair of the department of marketing and entrepreneurship, has had an article he co-authored accepted for publication and recently received an award for the quality of his research over the summer. “Response to: The Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing Comes of Age” recently appeared in the Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing as an invited piece. His article, “The Service Recovery Paradox: Justifiable Theory or Smoldering Myth,” was selected as a Highly Commended Award Winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2008. Honeycutt also co-authored a new textbook, Sales Management: Shaping Future Sales Leaders.

George Johnson Jr., interim dean of the Elon University School of Law, was featured in a profile in the Oct. 10 Triad Business Journal. It focused on Johnson’s distinguished career and his role in leading the law school. Johnson talked about his goals of training the next generation of leaders committed to providing service to their professions and their communities.

Martin Kamela, associate professor of physics, Aaron Peeks, assistant professor of sociology, and Kim Jones, assistant professor of anthropology, participated in an October panel presentation with two collaborators from Appalachian State University at the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) Conference.

Lauren Kearns, assistant professor of dance and coordinator of the dance program, premiered a new dance piece in October for the 2008-2009 N.C. Dance Festival in Greensboro. Adjunct faculty member Jen Guy dances in the piece, along with two Elon alumni and a current student. Amy Beasley, assistant professor of dance, also premiered a piece at the same show.
Peter Kiwitt, assistant professor of communications, was elected to the board of North Carolina’s Piedmont Triad Film Commission. The board advises the PTFC in its efforts to attract and grow film and media production in the Triad region in conjunction with the North Carolina Film Commission.

Michele Kleckner, senior lecturer in computing sciences, attended the International Association for Computer Information Systems conference in Georgia in early October. She presented two papers: “The Use of an Action Item Based System to Implement and Document Embedded Assurance of Learning Activities in Support of a School/Program’s Strategy Elements” and “Lessons Learned: The Creation of a CS/CIS Gateway Class.”

Mark Kurt, assistant professor of economics, was interviewed by Tim Boyum of News 14 Carolina on Oct. 6, moments after the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell below the 10,000 mark for the first time in four years.

A panel of four GST 110 teachers — Jan Mays, Bryan Hedrick, Alan Russell and Tom Nelson — made a presentation Nov. 1 at the International Global Fusion Conference in Athens, Ohio. The focus was Elon’s unique approach to teaching Global Studies.

Nancy Luberoff, director of campus Hillel, was interviewed for a story on the online news site “Inside Higher Ed.” The story examines efforts by schools like Elon to recruit Jewish students and offer programs and resources to make students feel welcome on campus.

Susan Manring, associate professor of management, has co-authored an article with Sam Moore in the Journal of Cleaner Production titled “Strategy Development in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Sustainability and Increased Value Creation.”

J. McMerty, coordinator of video projects in the School of Communications, was part of a panel discussion at the College Media Advisers/Associated Collegiate Press convention in Kansas City, Mo., about leading college journalists in study abroad courses.

Tom Nelson, associate professor in the School of Communications, presented at the Broadcast Education Association District Conference on Oct. 11 at the University of South Carolina. Nelson’s presentation focused on a documentary he is producing that tells the story of German military men captured in Europe during World War II and transferred to prison camps in the United States. He also presented a paper on the future of the book on Oct. 26 during the International Conference on the Book at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

David Noer, Frank S. Holt Jr. Professor of Business Leadership, had two columns published this fall in the (Greensboro, N.C.) News & Record: “How to Resist Spin Masters” and “How to Cure those Post-Election Hangovers.” Noer also was quoted in “Layoff Aftermath: Learn How to Minimize the Aftereffects of Layoffs,” a recent cover story for HR Magazine.

Becky Olive-Taylor, associate dean of academic support, presented a session in September titled “Strategic Communication: A Model for Effective Campus Collaborations” at the N.C. State Drive-In Conference for the National Academic Advising Association held in Charlotte. Taylor and Jim Donathan, associate director of academic advising, also led an October session titled “Orienting New Faculty Advisors: Making the Most of a One-Hour Workshop” at the National Academic Advising Association Conference held in Chicago.

Assistant professors Rebeca Olmedo and Ketevan Kupatadze, of the department of foreign languages, participated in the panel, “The Knowledge Within: Balancing Chaos in the Works of Contemporary Latin American Writers — Severo Sarduy, Gloria Gervitz, Myriam Moscona, Alberto Blanco, Jordi Soler and Ignacio Padilla,” at the 58th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in October.

Amy Overman, assistant professor of psychology, had a column about her experience teaching an online course published in the Nov. 6 edition of “Inside Higher Ed.”

Gary Palin, executive director of the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, spoke in October at the inaugural Global Consortium for Entrepreneurship Centers Conference (GCEC) hosted by the University of Arizona. Palin’s presentation, “International Entrepreneurship Initiatives,” focused on Social Entrepreneurship and Education Consortium.

Mark Prokosch, adjunct assistant professor of psychology, recently published a study with co-authors from the University of California-Davis titled “Intelligence and Mate Choice: Intelligent Men are Always Appealing.” This article in Evolution and Human Behavior tests hypotheses based on evolutionary psychology regarding how women’s short- and long-term mate choices are influenced by men’s intelligence and creativity.
Mina García Soormally, assistant professor of Spanish, presented a paper at Duke University in the “Image and Illusion in Early Modern Spain” symposium in October.


Victor Streib, professor of law, recently published an article titled “Media Misuse: Criminal Lawyer Advertising and Prosecutor Campaigning Under the Guise of the Public’s Need to Know.” The article documents lawyers’ strong desire for media attention and the legal ethics that attempt to control that desire.

Kristen Sullivan and Cynthia Fair, of the department of human services, presented research in October at the annual conference of the American Public Health Association in San Diego.

John G. Sullivan, Powell Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, has published an article, “Awakening to Community: Beyond the Veil of Separateness” in the fall issue of Itineraries, the electronic journal of the non-profit organization Second Journey. Sullivan also moderated a November Webinar with two visionary authors: Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Sarah Susanka.

Nicole Triche, instructor in the School of Communications, will have “The Bars & Tones Experiment,” her project of five short films, screened Nov. 12 at the 14th Annual Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, N.C.

Niki Turley, director of residence life, and Becca McQueen, assistant director of residence life for Danieley Center, made presentations in October at the North Carolina Housing Officers Conference in Winston-Salem, N.C. Danny Glassmann, assistant director of residence life and Multicultural Center, was awarded the 2008 North Carolina Housing Officers Outstanding New Professional award.

Donna Van Bodegraven, associate professor of Spanish, presented “Short-Term Study Abroad for Advanced Language Students: Advice from Survivors of an Overly-Ambitious Pilot Program” with former Elon faculty member Scott Youngdahl at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference.

Larry Vellani, director of corporate and foundation relations, made a presentation to a delegation of Kazakh public officials and civil servants in Washington, D.C., in October. The Kazakhs presented him with a traditional, hand-embroidered Kazakh hat and ceremonial riding whip in appreciation of his remarks.

Frances Ward-Johnson, associate professor of communications, has been selected as a fellow in the 2008-2009 Journalism Leadership Institute for Diversity, a yearlong program which identifies, recruits, mentors and trains future leaders and administrators.

Associate professor Bud Warner and assistant professor Judy Esposito in the department of human services have co-authored two articles related to their study abroad course, “Island Living: Service For and Learning From the Elders of Guam.” The publications – “Island Legends: Examining the Benefits of Cross-Cultural and Cross-Generational Experiences for Students and Elders” in Anthropology & Aging Quarterly, and “Cross-Cultural Intergenerational Service Learning” in Academic Exchange Quarterly – focus on their experiences.

Scott Windham, associate professor of German, published “Redesigning Lower-Level Curricula for Learning Outcomes: A Case Study” in the most recent issue of ADFL Bulletin, a publication of the Modern Language Association. Windham describes the string of reforms and innovations that have taken place in his lower-level German courses as a result of his focus on defining and assessing student learning outcomes.

Tell us about your best and worst Valentine’s Day experiences! E-mail your story to ksimonetti@elon.edu by Jan. 7, 2009

Want your name in the next issue of @Elon?
Holiday Goodies

Impress your guests with these easy recipes using fewer than 10 ingredients

Reese’s Cup Cookies
Michaela Walker, program assistant, Love School of Business

Makes 4 dozen

1 tube Pillsbury peanut butter cookie dough
1 bag mini Reese’s peanut butter cups
1 mini muffin tin (use 2 tins to make cookies faster)

Roll balls of cookie dough roughly the size of a ping-pong ball. Drop in greased muffin tins. Bake according to package directions (10-12 minutes). Unwrap mini Reese’s cups while cookies are baking (one cup per cookie). As soon as the cookies come out of the oven, push a mini Reese’s cup into the hot dough. Place the entire tray in the freezer for about 10 minutes to set chocolate and prevent too much melting. Pop out cookies with a butter knife.

Sweet Fruit Dip
Jenny Scott Conklin, program assistant
North Carolina Campus Compact

1 1-oz. block cream cheese
Appx. 2/3 cup brown sugar
Appx. 1/2 bag Heath toffee bits

Mix all ingredients well with an electric mixer. Serve with fruit slices.

Blueberry Crunch
Earl Danieley, president emeritus and professor of chemistry

Makes 10 servings

1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple (including juice)
1 pkg. cake mix (pineapple or lemon flavor)
3 cups fresh or frozen blueberries (do not thaw)
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine (melted)
1 cup broken pecan pieces

Spread pineapple in lightly buttered 9x13” dish or pan. Sprinkle with dry cake mix, then spread blueberries on the dry cake mix. Spread sugar over the berries, and drizzle with melted butter. Top with pecans. Cook for about 45 minutes at 350 degrees, or until bubbly.

Homemade Cranberry Sauce
Megan Squire, associate professor of computing sciences

1 12-oz. bag cranberries, rinsed
1 cup orange juice
1 cup sugar

Put ingredients in a pot and bring to a boil. Simmer, uncovered, for about 10-15 minutes, or until the mixture thickens and the berries begin popping. Stir with wooden spoon, popping some berries and leaving some intact. Chill completely in the refrigerator, stirring occasionally as it thickens.

Rolo Pretzel Treats
John David Parsons, Web applications developer

1 bag Rolo candy
1 bag Snyder’s butter snap pretzels

Sandwich one Rolo candy between two pretzels. Repeat to make as many treats as desired. Heat in the oven or microwave for a few minutes until soft, but not until melted.

Nanny’s Beer Bread
Heather DiLorenzo, director of education outreach

1 round loaf rye bread
1 bottle beer
1 block Velveeta cheese (choose size according to the size of rye loaf)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut a “lid” out of the top of the rye loaf and put aside. Hollow the loaf, leaving the shell to form a bowl. Cut the leftover bread, including the lid, into small squares. Put the bread bowl and the squares on a baking sheet and place in the oven until slightly crispy and lightly browned.

While the bread is toasting, pour the beer into a saucepan and bring it to a low boil. Reduce heat to medium or medium-low. Slice the cheese into small pieces and put it into the hot beer. Stir constantly until the cheese is completely melted. Remove the toasted bread from the oven and pour the beer/cheese mixture into the bread bowl while both are still piping hot. Serve on a platter surrounded by the squares. Dip the toasted bread squares into the bowl.
Holiday Potato Casserole
Michelle Jones, assistant director of career services, arts and sciences
5 lbs. potatoes, peeled & quartered
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
1 bunch green onions, finely chopped
1 2-oz. jar diced pimento, drained
3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/3 cup milk
1 tsp. salt

Boil potatoes for 15 minutes or until tender, then drain and mash. Add butter and cream cheese. Beat at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Stir in 1 cup cheddar cheese and remaining ingredients. Spoon into a lightly greased 9x13” baking dish. Cover and chill, if desired.

Remove casserole from refrigerator and let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with remaining cheddar cheese, bake 5 minutes or until cheese melts. Note that if you bake immediately instead of chilling, baking time will be less.

Cheese Straws
Stephanie Hicks, program assistant, athletics
3 cups cake flour
3 cups grated (soft) extra-sharp cheddar cheese
2 sticks butter (softened, but not melted)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Using a cookie press, press dough onto an ungreased cookie sheet or an old pan sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Bake for no more than 8-10 minutes or until the edges begin to turn brown. Cool completely, then store in a tightly covered container.

Stuffed Mushrooms
Cindy L. Barr, assistant dean of admissions
1 pkg. fresh mushrooms
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese (regular or light)
1/4 cup soft bacon bits
1 envelope onion soup mix
1 stick butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wash the mushrooms and remove the stems. Coat baking dish with butter or nonstick cooking spray and arrange the mushroom caps in the dish. In a separate bowl, mix together the cream cheese (soften first), soup mix and bacon bits. Spoon mixture into each mushroom cap, and top the caps with a dab of butter. Bake approximately 25-30 minutes (until the top of the mushroom is golden brown).

Planning, attitude help keep off holiday pounds

By Tamryn Fowler, Elon Wellness program

In the time between carving the Halloween pumpkin in October and putting away the holiday décor in January, many of us struggle with a similar problem: Overeating that leads to holiday weight gain.

Holiday meals can interrupt weight-loss goals and derail your desire to control meal portions. Then, when the holidays have passed and you’ve indulged in a few too many pieces of chocolate cake or a larger-than-necessary share of turkey and stuffing, you resolve to be a smarter eater when the holidays roll around next year.

Well, next year’s holidays have officially arrived. Here are some tips on how to share in the holiday joy without packing on pounds.

• Avoidance is not the answer. In a recent report in *Behavior Research and Therapy*, doctors found that dieters who tried to control their appetites using avoidance strategies were at a greater risk for overeating than those who used coping skills to control their overeating. Speaking of coping skills ...

• Healthy eating starts with a positive mindset. According to Judith Beck, Ph.D., author of *The Beck Diet Solution*, planned eating, positive self-talk and reinforcement of weight-loss goals can help keep you from eating more than you should at gatherings.

• Recognize the emotional triggers behind holiday eating. During the holidays, certain foods reinforce certain memories and emotions and play a large role in family traditions. This is one of the many reasons why many Americans overindulge during the holidays, eating the same unhealthy foods year after year. This year, try celebrating the holidays with non-eating activities and begin some new traditions.

• Make smart food choices. During holiday dinners, monitor your portions by making your plates smaller and drinking more water or diet beverages. Instead of filling up on hot chocolate, eggnog and wine drinks, try hot flavored tea. Though it’s often difficult to turn down Grandma’s famous pies, try altering recipes to include low-fat custards or leave out the crust. And for those New Year’s Day football-watching parties, try exchanging the beer, pizza, wings and nachos for fresh vegetables and low-fat or fat-free dip and a fruit salad.

Though certain foods smell good, look good and are readily available at this time of year, we all have the choice to turn them down or moderate our intake in the interest of our long-term health. We can take charge of these decisions, to cut back on food portions while still enjoying holiday favorites and to develop a plan for eating well and staying healthy.
Faculty, staff gifts vital to campaign’s success

By Kristin Simonetti ’05

Most of the Elon community will remember Oct. 11 as the day the university launched Ever Elon, the most ambitious fundraising effort in Elon’s history.

But for Greg Zaiser and Nancy Harris, co-chairs of the faculty/staff fundraising campaign, the important date to remember was Oct. 7, the day their part of Ever Elon entered its public phase with a kickoff at College Coffee.

Ever Elon, with its goal of raising $100 million to increase the university’s endowment and address other critical needs, will require the strong support of some of Elon’s most generous donors – its faculty and staff. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year alone, faculty and staff donated more than $235,000 to Elon. Harris stresses the importance of continuing that tradition of giving so the university can meet the goals of Ever Elon to support scholarships, faculty development, engaged learning, campus preservation and facilities, and to increase annual and long-term unrestricted giving.

“We’re on a path to achieving the special things that we want to do, be it increasing diversity, funding for study abroad, for faculty to develop as teacher-scholars and spend more time with students,” says Harris, associate dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. “These are unique features of Elon that are not replicated anywhere else.”

Zaiser, Elon’s dean of admissions, says the university’s ability to do those special things depends on a larger endowment, Elon’s long-term investment fund.

“We’re competing for students with schools with endowments that we can’t even imagine,” Zaiser says. “If we are going to compete for those students, we’re going to need the scholarships to do that.”

One of the campaign’s goals includes raising $12 million to reward and enhance teaching and scholarship through additional professorships, faculty sabbaticals and research stipends. Ever Elon’s success also will enhance the overall experience for all employees through improvement in athletics, facilities and programs.

“Ever Elon benefits everything,” Zaiser says. “If you’re a huge Phoenix fan or a staff member who loves the performing arts here, the campaign allocates funds for that, too.”

Faculty and staff may contribute to Ever Elon by taking advantage of the payroll deduction plan. Employees can authorize a specific amount of money from each paycheck to go toward the faculty/staff campaign. Faculty and staff also have the option of making a one-time annual gift. For information on these and other giving options, contact Brian Howard at 278-7425 or bhoward4@elon.edu.

The chairs of the faculty/staff campaign say they realize it may be difficult for employees to begin giving or increase the amount they give in today’s economic climate. They encourage faculty and staff to give what they can, because every gift to Elon makes a difference. As Harris points out, giving by faculty and staff sets an example to follow and encourages giving by alumni, parents and friends.

“I may not be able to give $1 million to Elon,” Harris says, “but I take pride in supporting this institution how I can because I believe in it.”

As of mid-November, donors had contributed nearly $60 million in gifts and pledges to the Ever Elon campaign. To stay up-to-date on the progress of Ever Elon, go to www.everelon.org.

### Recent Gifts and Pledges of $10,000 or More

- **McMichael Family Foundation Law Scholarship Endowment:** $2,000,000
  - The McMichael Family Foundation
- **Golf Facilities:** $250,000
  - W. Cecil Worsley III ’86
  - Johanna Sutton Worsley
- **Scholarship for International Study:** $25,000
  - Ralph “Hal” Yarwood P’10
  - Susan Yarwood P’10
- **Parents & Grandparents Fund:** $25,000
  - Robert A. Clohan ’67, P’98, P’02, GP’10
- **Elon Fund:** $15,000
  - Kerrii B. Anderson ’79
  - Douglas T. Anderson
- **Mittie C. Landi Scholarship:** $15,000
  - John N. Landi
  - Mittie C. Landi
- **Parents & Grandparents Fund:** $15,000
  - Donald Scott P’10
  - Ellen Scott P’10
- **Matthew John Ford Scholarship:** $10,000
  - Southland Electrical Supply
- **Golf Facilities:** $10,000
  - von Drehle Corporation
  - Raymond von Drehle P’11
  - Ronnie von Drehle P’11
- **Christine Baker Scholarship** Christine Baker ’88
- **Adrienne A. Livengood-Baker and Greg Livengood Endowment for Faculty Fellowships** Adrienne A. Livengood-Baker P’09
- **William Andrew Hopkins Scholarship in Memory of Margaret Tyree Hopkins** William Andrew Hopkins ’51
  - Rosella Wilson P’86
### Happy Birthday!

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<td>Leon Knight, Brian J. Niemhaus, Kirstin Ringelberg, Troy E. Stames, Robin M. Waldron</td>
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Mandy Gallagher, assistant professor of communications
Mandy comes from the Lone Star State, where she spent 2005-2008 teaching in the College of Mass Communication at Texas Tech University. “I look forward to working with fantastic faculty, staff and students on Elon’s beautiful campus,” she said. Mandy lives with her husband, James, and dog, Sanford. She stays active by running and road cycling.

Monet Thomas, East Area residence director
Monet begins her job as residence director excited “to give back.” She received a bachelor of science in business administration and marketing from Elon in 2007. She is originally from Concord, NC, but comes here from Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Greensboro. Monet enjoys reading, rock climbing and spending time with her pom mix, Bosley.

T. Leon Williams, director of the Multicultural Center
Leon comes to Elon from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is joined by his wife, Rochelle, daughter, Sierra, 10, and son, Elijah, 4. Leon likes to work on his health and fitness in his down time. He hopes to strengthen the perspective of diversity on Elon’s campus.

Gary Hill, moving and setup
Gary resides in Mebane.

Mark Kurt, assistant professor of economics
Mark comes to Elon after spending five years at the University of Iowa earning master’s and doctoral degrees. Mark was attracted to Elon’s dynamic environment. When he’s not working, he enjoys running, hiking and going to the park with his tolling retriever.

Kristin Simonetti, editorial assistant
A 2005 Elon graduate, Kristin returns to campus after completing her master’s in Mass Communication at UNC – Chapel Hill. A Sterling, Va., native, Kristin enjoys running, traveling, reading and cheering on her beloved Washington Redskins in her free time.

James Solomon, moving and setup
James currently lives in Burlington.

HR offers discount film tickets
Faculty and staff may purchase discount movie tickets for the new Alamance Crossing Carousel Cinemas in Burlington or the Carousel Grande in Greensboro at the matinee price of $6.00 each. Simply pay for the number of tickets you would like to purchase at the bursar’s office. You will receive a receipt. Bring the receipt to the Office of Human Resources (314 W. Haggard Ave.) to pick up the tickets. There is no limit to the number of tickets you may purchase at one time.

HR offers several other employee discounts at restaurants, hotels, theme parks and retail stores. To view a complete listing of all discounts available to Elon employees, go to http://www.elon.edu/hr/disc_opp.htm.