

## **John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award – 2012 Recipient**

### **Rachel Stanley, Elon University**

As a freshman Rachel approached Elon's Hillel chapter and expressed her strong commitment to social justice and community service. The Executive Board, impressed by her passion, invited her to become a member of the Board. During her three terms as president of Hillel, she has initiated new, sustainable efforts that have continued beyond her leadership: Elon's annual day of service, Mitzvah Day; Trick or Canning, collecting canned food from the local community on Halloween; and clothing and blanket drives.

Simultaneously, Rachel took on leadership positions with Elon Volunteers!, a student-run organization offering one time service events, ongoing programs, and alternative break service trips. She has served as coordinator for the Avalon Community Center, a refugee center in Greensboro, where students tutor and spend time with children. In the past two years Rachel has completed more than 200 hours of service, with many more not officially validated.

Rachel serves as an Amnesty International Coordinator educating the campus about local and global human rights issues. A major supporter of Amnesty International's efforts to end the death penalty, Rachel orchestrated a vigil and memorial service within 12 hours of the execution of Troy Davis. This past year, Rachel spearheaded "Interact With Respect Week" to raise awareness and bring together students of different faiths and backgrounds for common causes. Because of her successful advocacy efforts for Amnesty International, Rachel was selected to become part of a reorganizing committee allowing her to regularly attend Amnesty conferences and host events.

In September 2012, Rachel coordinated and planned "Campus Fest," a new annual event celebrating the diverse cultures that make up not only the Elon campus community, but also the local community. The event featured ethnic foods, music, and art from an array of organizations with a focus on culture and diversity.

Rachel's commitment to social justice and service aligns with both her personal and professional values. During summers in Atlanta, GA, she works for nonprofit organizations, serving in 2012 as a Volunteer Coordinator intern with the Latin American Association where she recruited more than 115 volunteers for a charity soccer event that had thousands of participants. She also maintained a solid group of volunteers for day-to-day work within the organization. Rachel has also honed her professional advocacy skills by being selected as a blogger for the American Jewish World Service.

For her innovation in civic engagement and for creating foundations that expand partnerships amongst communities, campuses and individuals, NC Campus Compact is pleased to present to Rachel Stanley the 2012 John H. Barnhill Civic Trailblazer Award.