

# Della finds there's no place like home with Habitat

ARAMARK employee Della Conrad is set to move in to her new Habitat for Humanity house April 28.

By Lauren Pressley  
Contributing Reporter

These days it's all too easy to get ARAMARK Campus Dining Services employee Della Conrad excited. One only needs to ask about her new house to see a huge smile break across her face and her eyes begin to dance.

Conrad will be the proud owner of a brand-new house in a just a few short weeks, thanks to the help of Habitat for Humanity.

The dedication service for her home, as well as several others around it, will take place 4 p.m. April 28. A block party will follow.

Chi Rho, the university's Christian male capella ensemble, is planning to sing at the dedication service.

"She's treated all of us really well ever since we sang 'Della my Love' to her a few years ago," said senior Derek West. "We just really felt called to sing for her again."

A 33-year-old divorcee and mother of a 7-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son, Conrad has wanted a house of her own for many years.

She first learned of the Habitat for Humanity program through a co-worker, and in February 2001 attended an informational meeting.

"I was determined to have my own home, so I was really persistent in filling out all of the information they needed and doing everything they wanted me to," Conrad said. After Habitat conducted a home visit to determine the family's level of need, Conrad was approved in May 2001.

"When I first found out, I was screaming, and wanted to tell everyone I knew the good news," Conrad said. "I'm just so excited that I will finally be a homeowner. Habitat has actually purchased the house, and I will make payments to them."

In order to be eligible for a Habitat for Humanity house, prospective homeowners must agree to put in 300 equity hours towards various Habitat projects - 150 of those hours must be spent working on other Habitat houses before one's own house site is actually assigned.

Among other projects, Conrad has painted banisters, hung vinyl siding and planted trees. Prospective homeowners can also earn hours by participating in Habitat fundraisers such as the Unity Walk. "They give you lots of opportunities to get your hours in," Conrad said. "And when it comes to the time you put in on your own house, that's no big deal because you'd be there anyway."

One thing Conrad enjoyed most about the construction process was getting to know some of the people who volunteered to work on her house. Several churches helped out, as well as college service organizations from as far away as Ohio and Minnesota.

Some university organizations that were involved included the university Habitat for Humanity group, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, and Chi Omega sorority.

A tour of Conrad's almost-finished home revealed a spacious living room, a fully-furnished kitchen, three bedrooms and two full baths. It even has a large front porch.

Della excitedly explained her ideas for decorating while dashing from room to room.

Conrad plans to start with her daughter's room. "We're going to get some pretty wallpaper and I think I want to somehow build her a window seat," Conrad said. "My mind's just working a mile a minute."

Upon a viewing of the master suite, Conrad says what she looks forward to most is having the privacy of her own bedroom and bathroom.

She and her daughter have been sharing a room in their present apartment ever since her daughter was born.

Throwing open the doors of her personal closet, Conrad exclaims, "I'll have to buy more clothes just to fill this thing up!"

Conrad is extremely grateful to Habitat for Humanity for giving her the opportunity to have something for which she might have had to wait much longer.

"Not many Americans of my age, creed, and color, with no college education, are able to own a home," Conrad said. "It just doesn't get any better than this."



Old Gold and Black file photo

ARAMARK employee Della Conrad will be moving into her new Habitat for Humanity house soon. A dedication ceremony and block party will take place April 28, and all are invited to attend the event. Numerous student groups have been active in helping Habitat for Humanity build Conrad's house.



Billie Zito/Old Gold and Black

## Flying high

Pi Mu and Kappa Alpha Theta sororities and Sigma Phi Epsilon and Theta Chi fraternities decorated a car, complete with an eagle head, as part of Greek Week festivities April 18. The group placed third out of six for the event with its eagle mobile and third out of six overall. Kappa Delta sorority and Sigma Pi fraternity won first place overall.

## Community, campus help with Special Olympics

University and community members joined together to provide area school children with a fun sporting outlet - the Special Olympics.

By Vanessa St. Gerard  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

More than 50 university athletes contributed their time April 22-24 volunteering for the Forsyth County Spring Games, a Special Olympics event held at Kentner Stadium.

Nearly 600 athletes from 22 participating Forsyth County schools participated in the track and field events during the three-day program.

Kentner Stadium has been home to the Spring Games for 11 years, but according to Julie Griffin, coordinator of Challenging Athletes' Minds for Personal Success/Life Skills in the department of athletics, this year marks the first time the university's student athletes have been so involved.

"Most of the sports have been represented. Even the Deacon made it out here," Griffin said.

"Wake has had a connection with the Special Olympics for years and our office was in touch with them so we worked on getting athletes out here to help the kids," she said.

CHAMPS is a voluntary program designed to provide student-athletes with the tools necessary to help them understand the importance of making a meaningful contribution to their communities.

According to Griffin, athletes from most of the teams volunteered throughout the event, ranging from the football and tennis teams, to the field hockey team and the cheerleaders.

"The athletes have been great, doing more than we ask for," Griffin said. "Even when they had done everything and there was nothing else to do, they supported the kids and cheered them on. I think they even had a great time too."

The Spring Games began with opening ceremonies, including a parade of athletes April 22. The following day, elementary school students competed in various events.

The final day of competition was between adults,

"This is the most support we've gotten from the athletes. It's great for the kids to see that the community is supporting them."

Charyl Clark  
Forsyth County Special Olympics coordinator

middle and high school athletes.

"It's been very successful. With 240 heats over three days, this is the biggest Games yet," said Charyl Clark, the Special Olympics coordinator for Forsyth County.

"They work year-round to come out here and compete, and some even multi-train for multiple events. This is their games," she said.

Clark said that every year a different university group or club dedicates their time to volunteering for the Spring Games.

"It's great for the kids to see that the community is supporting them," Clark said. "They look around and see people cheering for them and they say, 'Wow, even the Deacon is coming out for us.' This week is all about them."

Typically on the day the elementary students compete, about 100 university students hold a carnival through the Volunteer Service Corps for the Olympians and other campus guests consisting of booths and carnival games.

"VSC's part usually is a carnival. But there was a miscommunication between us and the Special Olympics headquarters about the date so it couldn't happen this year," said senior Noelle Shanahan, VSC co-chairwoman.

"It's an opportunity for them to do something outside of competition," Clark said. "It just didn't work out this year."

Approximately 1,400 athletes are in the Forsyth County program, ranging in age from 8 to 65, and compete within their ability level.

"The athletes are able to compete with everyone in their ability," Clark said. "It's a chance for them to shine for themselves. That's what it's all about."

## BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to [news@ogb.wfu.edu](mailto:news@ogb.wfu.edu), faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

### Library to hold open house May 19

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library will hold an open house from 1 - 5 p.m. May 19 to honor graduates and their families. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Ext. 5282 or visit <http://www.wfu.edu/MOA>. Shop hours are 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

### Greek, Latin society announces members

The Beta Iota Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the National Honorary Society for students of Greek and Latin, initiated new members at their annual banquet April 17.

New initiates include freshmen Justin Beal, Hill Davis, Doug Hutton, Sarah Michaels, Jay Jenkins, Matt Lowder and Jacob Misenheimer, sophomores Jared Cardwell, Josh Edwards and Kelly Stout, junior Tyler Brooks and

seniors George Kayiales and Brian Harrington.

The chapter elected junior Tangelia Wallace president, junior Tim Williams as vice president, sophomore Heidi Smithson as secretary and senior Seth Yarboro as treasurer.

### Museum now hiring summer employees

The Museum of Anthropology is currently accepting applications for summer student assistant positions.

Students will assist curators and other museum staff with collections care and research, exhibit planning, educational activities

and general office work. For more information, call Ext. 5282 or e-mail [moa@wfu.edu](mailto:moa@wfu.edu).

### Scholarships available for study abroad

The Center for International Studies is currently offering study abroad scholarships for spring 2003.

Students planning on travelling, even if they have not yet been accepted to a program, are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for the application is Oct. 21.

Visit the Center of International Studies, Carswell 207, or call Ext. 5938 for more information.

### N.C. Churches invites community to worship

The North Carolina Council of Churches invites community members to join in its annual House of Delegates meeting at 10 a.m. May 14 at Parkway Presbyterian Church. Jill Crainshaw, an assistant professor at the Divinity School, will speak at the service.

### Corrections

A story in the April 18 issue incorrectly reported a citation given to Pi Beta Phi sorority members. They received a "Unauthorized Activity: Sorority Chalking" citation and were given a fine less than \$175.

Also, a story on university accreditation incorrectly described the committee discussing accredita-

tion solutions. That committee was the Committee on Academic Planning, which met for its monthly meeting.

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