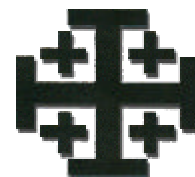


The Catholic Phoenix

Catholic Campus Ministry - Elon University



Fall 2006

Meet Our New Staff Advisor:

It all started with a photograph. Trevor Kelly, new advisor to Catholic Campus Ministry, first saw Elon University in photo form in an admissions brochure as a high school student, thought it seemed nice, and applied for admission. Elon recruits very heavily in the North, he observed. The Connecticut native was accepted into the graduating class of 2005 at Elon, and then afterwards made the journey down to North Carolina to see the school for himself. Just like a lot of Elon students have said, he fell in love with Elon the minute he set foot on campus, he remarked.

Trevor Kelly majored in computer science at Elon, and when he graduated, he did not have a real plan for what to do next with his life. In high school he had started working at Starbucks, so he intended to work there until a plan came to him. His Elon advisor, on the other hand, had other plans. Mr. Kelly says that soon after graduation, his advisor contacted him about employment at the University, in the web-design and programming department. He applied and was hired by Elon. Before he became advisor to CCM, he started off with a job that held him responsible for the maintenance of such Elon staples as the *OnTrack* system.

Father Gerry asked Trevor to consider becoming advisor to Catholic Campus Ministry at the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2006, a position he willingly accepted. Because of the nature of his day-job at Elon, he says, he does not get very much one-on-one contact with students. The advising position allowed him the chance to work directly with students. He says that his favorite part of working with CCM so far has definitely been the Beach Retreat, something that he always wanted to participate in when he was a student at Elon but never did. Another aspect of CCM that he greatly enjoys is the monthly Sunday night suppers. It certainly seems that establishing connections with all the members of Catholic Campus Ministry is very important to our new advisor.



-Gena Varrichio

One Amazing Weekend at the Beach with CCM

On September 22, 2006, Elon students packed up their belongings and escaped to the Topsail Beach on the coast of North Carolina for CCM's annual Beach Retreat. Sunny blue skies, great food, and fun team-building and faith-building activities were all components of the incredible weekend.

On the retreat, students had the opportunity to meet new people and realize how special the CCM community is. Team-building events like the infamous beach obstacle course and crazy balloon tower competition helped CCM members grow closer in friendship with one another. Fun was definitely a key element of this retreat! The creativity and "wonderful" acting abilities of the various groups during the parable skits on Saturday night provided lots of laughs for all!

Also, students had the unique opportunity to experience firsthand the magnitude of God's grace and beauty. The ocean was picturesque and granted serenity to all who looked at it. Some brave students even started their day a lot earlier than others in order to witness the spectacular sunrise. Participants grew deeper in their relationship with Christ through different reflections and teachings that took place over the weekend. The song "We are the Body" by *Casting Crowns* outlined and emphasized the lessons the students learned.

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Thus, the Beach Retreat was indeed a success and full of fun and great Christian fellowship. All the participants of the Beach Retreat will always treasure the memories of the amazing weekend. Kudos to all who spent time and helped make the retreat possible!

-Kara Cowdrick



— The choir sharing their many talents —



The New Music Ministry

Anyone who has been to the Catholic Mass on campus this year can attest to the fact that we have an amazingly talented group of students enhancing the worship with their music. **Chris Beeson**, a freshman from Hickory, NC, leads the Music Ministry every week during Mass in an amazing hour of song and praise. In the recent past, the Music Ministry of Elon University's Catholic Community was somewhat static; that is, there was no consistent group of musicians offering their services every week. After becoming acquainted with Father Gerry, Elon's Catholic Campus Minister, and the CCM core leaders over this past summer, Chris Beeson became determined to build up a community of singers and musicians, and form a dedicated Music Ministry. Chris has stated that he wants the Music Ministers to be "full-fledged and involved", and for this reason the group practices on Sundays before Mass, and will probably soon begin mid-week rehearsals as well. Chris often dedicates large portions of his weekends to the music ministry and liturgies on campus, usually playing and directing at both the 6:00PM and 9:00PM Masses..

Given the fact that this is a college campus with a variety of students from different backgrounds and traditions, Chris puts together an extremely well-balanced selection of traditional and contemporary music each week. He is assisted in this by Sophomore Cathy Liu. Senior Jen Romano feels that the Music Ministry has become an integral part of the Mass, and says, "*Our choir consists of anyone who feels passionate enough to spread God's love through song, and Chris has helped to make this community work by being a model of organization, kindness, and faith.*" It is easy to see that the Music Ministry is more than just a choir, a soloist, a piano player; it is instead a family of musicians who share a common interest, which is the spreading of God's love through song. The Music Ministry's main goal is to lead the worshipping community in prayer, to inspire those who come to Mass each weekend, and to reach out to them through their dedication, patience, and faith. It has taken time and determination to develop the Music Ministry, so any chance you get, be sure to thank all those involved!



-Nichole Rawlings

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—Elon University

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Back-to-Basics (B2B) is a new weekly program this year, which offers Catholic students a chance to meet other students and learn more about their Catholic faith in an informal discussion format.

Thoughts from those who attended:

"Back to Basics has been an awesome way to socialize and meet new Catholics while also deepening my faith by learning how to defend it."

-Christen Aquino

"After going to Catholic schools for 12 years, I thought I would be perfectly fine attending a non-Catholic university. However, after a year I realized that I really do miss those theology classes that I complained about in high school. I was so excited when I found out about Back to Basics. For me it is a great community builder, a comfortable environment, a faith builder, a learning experience, and most of all it is a proactive way to strengthen my roots in Catholicism and deepen my relationship with God."

-Seanna Baird

"Back to Basics is a good reminder of what I believe and why I believe it."

-Craig Campbell

"Back to Basics is a great way to have fun, meet new people, and learn more about the Catholic faith. I love it!"

-Melissa Gaisser