

Professor Elizabeth Markowski retires

Taught for 20 years in the Interior Design Program

When we asked retiring professor Elizabeth Markowski how she feels about retirement, she responded with this:



Ms Sweet and Ms Markowski steppin' out in London on a Summer Abroad trip

ODE

There was an old woman who was not always so.
She pondered the past; "Where did it all go?"
To family and friends, the list would begin,
And teaching, the length she could not comprehend.

And then she retired....

The plan, I vowed, was for studio time
to design and create my small sculptures sublime.
To give me some time with my hammers and
saws...
The joy of creating with seldom a pause.

To the query about my retiring and such
My answer was, "Yes, I like it so much."
But that was before my chair's fateful call.
"Come back, yes, really. It's only for Fall."

Yes, Fall and then Spring, but I'm not really sore.
I'm glad I could be in the classroom once more.
To be with the students, the gift best of all,
To teach and enjoy them, I think, was my call.

The very best thing that I've loved in my life,
Besides being a mother and being a wife,
Was teaching, and it came to me right from the
start
That students and teaching live deep in my heart...

With Katherine, Charles, Yaprak - Becky, Susan,
and Hunt
Time shared and remembered the years will not
blunt.
Thanks for the memories, now I'd better quit
stalling.
I hear the song of my studio calling.

And then she retired?

Interior Design helps rebuild - together



Above: HSBC Employee Give-Back Day 2007 in West Greenville, organized with Rebuilding Together Inc and ECU's Interior Design program

Faculty from the Department of Interior Design and Merchandising recently helped land **\$75,000 in grants for Rebuilding Together Pitt County, Inc.**, a local affiliate of Rebuilding Together. A \$50,000 grant was received from the **James J. and Mamie Richardson Perkins Trust**, and \$25,000 was granted by **The Mildred Sheffield Wells Charitable Trust**.

Rebecca Sweet MFA, Assistant Professor of Interior Design at East Carolina University, guided the grant application process. "These grants validate the importance of rehabilitating homes for the elderly, the handicapped and low-income groups in Pitt County. The focus of rehabilitation is making homes 'Safe Warm and Dry.' The program highlights the importance of good design available to everyone, regardless of income level," commented Ms Sweet. These resources will be put toward purchasing tools and equipment for Rebuilding Together, rehabilitating homes of the elderly in West Greenville, and funding for student assistance.

And on Saturday April 5, 2008, Rebuilding Together Pitt County, NC, Inc., will use a portion of these grant funds, participating in **National Rebuilding Day**, Rebuilding Together's annual signature event. The day is the culmination of a year of planning, training, organizing, and assembling the largest nationwide group of volunteers to repair and restore houses and non-profit facilities, revitalize entire

communities, and make a lasting impression on those who are helped. This year Rebuilding Together Pitt County, NC, Inc. will focus on two homes located in West Greenville.



STUDENTS DESIGN RENOVATIONS FOR LAKE MATTAMUSKEET PUMP HOUSE

Hunt McKinnon's fall 2007 interior design studio presented to wildlife and historic preservation professionals with innovative designs for renovating the historic pump house at the **Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge** in Hyde County.

Student teams created designs incorporating principles of energy conservation, education, and historic preservation for the site of the state's largest lake and seasonal home to migrating birds. Renovation concepts included using the pump house as an environmental learning center and retreat for Boy Scouts and other groups, while at the same time maximizing the use of solar and wind power to promote sustainability.



The students presented their concepts to **Gordon Myer**, deputy director of N.C. Wildlife; **Reid Thomas**, preservation specialist for the N.C. Historic Preservation Office; **Roger Rulifson**, ECU marine biologist; and **Mack Simpson**, of Regional Development Services. This capstone studio is marketed by Regional Development Services and is gaining a reputation for collaboration with North Carolina organizations associated with revitalization and historic preservation.