

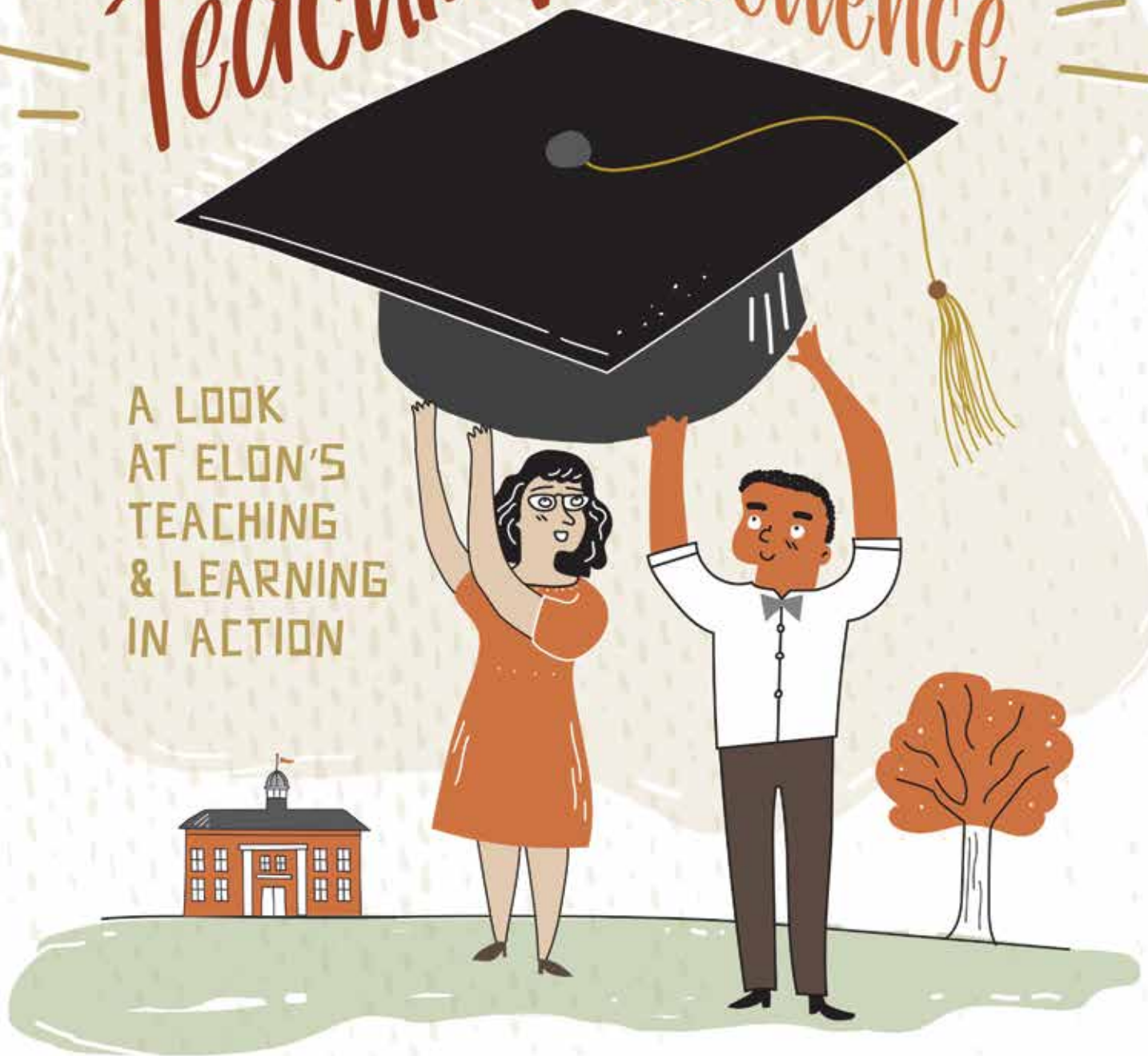
THE MAGAZINE OF

SPRING 2022

# ELON

Teaching Excellence

A LOOK  
AT ELON'S  
TEACHING  
& LEARNING  
IN ACTION



20

**INNOVATION IN ACTION**

BY OWEN COVINGTON

Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship Sean McMahon helps students grow their business ideas from concept to reality.

23

**GOING THE DISTANCE**

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

Emily Favret '09 walked away from an athletic scholarship to chart her own course at Elon, a decision that paved the way for a dream opportunity at Nike.

26 **COVER STORY**

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

BY KEREN RIVAS '04 G'21

We asked some of our most engaged faculty members to share what inspired them to become teachers and what keeps them going.

33

**CONNECTING THE DOTS**

BY AMANDA KENNISON '10

Deena Elrefai '22 found the through lines among a multitude of interests to make the most of her Elon experience.

36

**A CATALYST FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING**

BY OWEN COVINGTON

Elon's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is helping position the university as a national thought leader in teaching practices and supporting student learning.

38

**TEACHING THE TEACHERS**

BY TRAJAN WARREN

Marna Winter '98 and Erin Hone '04 are among the faculty in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education who are dedicated to helping the next generation of teachers make an impact in the classroom.

40 **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**LAB WORK**

A then-and-now look at how much Elon's science labs have changed over time.

- 2 Under the Oaks
- 12 Phoenix Sports
- 14 Campaign Update
- 42 Point of View
- 43 Alumni Action
- 47 Class Notes





**THROUGH THE MIST**

An early morning fog blankets the intramural fields at Elon.

# Celebrating MASTERY

## IN TEACHING AND LEARNING



[facebook.com/ElonConnieBook](https://www.facebook.com/ElonConnieBook)

[twitter.com/ElonConnieBook](https://twitter.com/ElonConnieBook)

There are headline moments in the life of an institution when the world takes notice. Wider audiences suddenly gain an understanding of the unique mission, values and excellence that have taken decades to build. For Elon, one of those moments came last September when U.S. News & World Report named our university No. 1 among national universities for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Elon's faculty was ranked above the faculty at Princeton, Brown, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, Stanford, Duke and many other fine universities the public perceives as exemplars of excellence.

While Elon has been consistently ranked near the top by U.S. News since being categorized as a national university, being awarded the very top position was a culminating and well-deserved recognition of the high quality of an Elon education. Outstanding faculty compete to join the Elon community because teaching is their top priority. It is their passion and purpose, a life's work, and they are *very* good at it. I've often described working as a faculty member at Elon as the sweet spot between teaching, scholarship and mentoring, a powerful combination that inspires students and faculty alike.

I am always proud to tell people that I began my service at Elon with 16 fulfilling years as a faculty member. That experience informs my leadership priorities and explains why I am passionate about higher education and about Elon University. Teaching is exhilarating and rewarding; it is also challenging and humbling. Faculty members at Elon are working to create a better world, and they start by

helping students find their best paths to knowledge and begin lives of purpose. In this edition of *The Magazine of Elon*, you will see many familiar faces, faculty who are bringing learning to life, impacting the lives of our students and as a result changing the world.

In 1993, Elon's faculty adopted a four-credit-hour system, inspired by a vision that relationships in our classrooms would be more meaningful and more powerful if faculty had more time with students in smaller groups. It was called the "Engaged Hour." That redesign of Elon's curriculum continues to yield remarkable outcomes. In fact, when I visit with alumni, they are quick to share a story about a faculty member who changed their life. The backdrop for those relationships is often the classroom, but equally involves an experience abroad, advice during an advising session or mentoring over an undergraduate research project.

Some of my fondest memories at Elon are of colleagues sharing with me an excitement about something learned or a moment in their classrooms. When I was in my first year, Professor Ray Johnson inspired me with his passion about his course exploring the assassination of John F. Kennedy. A few years later it was Steve Braye's use of problem-based learning techniques, and Sophie Adamson's Global Experience class where she used soccer to drive learning about cultural, social and economic differences. One year, I observed Professor Matt Valle's management class and spent time in Associate Professor Nim Batchelor's philosophy class. Both are remarkable teachers, turning lectures



{ As a professor in Elon's School of Communications, Connie Ledoux Book works with students in a call center answering questions about the nationwide conversion to digital television in 2008. }

into active group discussions that featured unsettling and unexpected questions. In these teaching moments, they created opportunities for students to not only discover new ideas but to become someone new on the other side of the learning.

Crafting this transformation through learning doesn't come easily. That's why there is a well-established field of study about the most effective practices in teaching and learning. Elon faculty are prominent leaders in this groundbreaking research. Deandra Little and faculty colleagues offer leadership in Elon's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, which was established in 2005 to provide resources for faculty to deepen and enhance their expertise in the classroom and beyond. Faculty consult with and mentor one another and provide feedback through classroom observations. They also have access to grants, workshops and many programs to help them excel. You can read more about the work they do on page 36.

The national recognition of teaching excellence at Elon provides the perfect opportunity to highlight a few of many outstanding faculty members in this edition of *The Magazine of Elon*. I hope you'll spend time reading about the work faculty are doing with students and the impact they are making in our community and around the world. Then please take a moment to send a note of thanks to your favorite professors. Elon faculty enjoy hearing from you and knowing that they were an important part of your life's journey.

Connie Ledoux Book  
PRESIDENT

# TOP MARKS

A roundup of Elon University's latest rankings and accolades



- **For the 17th consecutive year, Elon University received a No. 1 ranking for the percentage rate of study abroad** in the Institute of International Education's annual Open Doors Report. It also ranked No. 9 in the total number of students studying abroad, and No. 8 among doctoral universities in the total number of students completing a short-term study abroad experience.



- **Elon University was one of 16 institutions nationwide to be named the most promising places to work in student affairs** by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. The recognition is based on research that examines categories like family friendliness; salary and benefits; and professional development opportunities, as well as other factors. Overall, the research is focused on workplace diversity, staffing practices and the work environment.



- **Elon's undergraduate business degree program in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business ranks No. 35 in the nation** in the 2022 rankings by Poets&Quants. The rankings focused on three main components — school admissions standards, alumni perspectives on the academic experience and employment outcomes data. Elon achieved its highest marks in academic experience, ranking No. 17 in the country in this category.



- **In its annual rankings of on-campus MBA programs, The Princeton Review listed Elon's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business as one of the best business schools** for 2022. The ranking draws data from surveys of thousands of students and administrators at nearly 250 schools around the country, touching on subjects such as academics, the student body, campus life and career plans.



- **The 2022 edition of The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges highlighted Elon** for its sustainability-related policies, practices and programs. The ranking featured 420 colleges and universities out of the 835 it surveyed during the 2020-21 academic year. Elon earned a "green rating" of 90 out of a possible 99.

THE MAGAZINE of ELON

SPRING 2022  
VOL. 84, NO. 1

The Magazine of Elon is published three times a year for alumni, parents and friends by the Office of University Communications.  
© 2022, Elon University

EDITOR

Keren Rivas '04 G'21

DESIGNERS

Garry Graham  
Billie Wagner  
Ben Watters

PHOTOGRAPHY

Rob Brown  
Ben Watters

EDITORIAL STAFF

Alexa Boschini '10  
Owen Covington  
Devon Smith  
Roselee Papandrea Taylor G'21  
Trajan Warren

CONTRIBUTORS

Belk Library Archives  
and Special Collections  
Leila Jackson '22  
Katelyn Litvan '24

VICE PRESIDENT,  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MARKETING

Michael R. Haskins

EDITORIAL OFFICES

The Magazine of Elon  
2030 Campus Box  
Elon, NC 27244-2020

(336) 278-7415

[elon.edu/magazine](http://elon.edu/magazine)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CHAIR

Edmond N. Moriarty P'15 P'18  
Far Hills, New Jersey

ELON ALUMNI BOARD, PRESIDENT

Katie Zach Fitts '04  
Richmond, Virginia

YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL, PRESIDENT

Sarah Dodge '13  
Charlottesville, Virginia

PARENTS COUNCIL, CO-PRESIDENTS

Amy and Rob Heinrich P'22  
Grayslake, Illinois

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS  
ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIR

Roger Bolton  
New Canaan, Connecticut

SCHOOL OF LAW  
ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIR

David Gergen  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

MARTHA AND SPENCER LOVE  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
BOARD OF ADVISORS, CHAIR

Patricia Chadwick P'16  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

PHOENIX CLUB  
ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIR

Mike Cross  
Burlington, North Carolina

# FREEDOM SCHOLARS

PREPARE TO TAKE FLIGHT

The Freedom Scholars, Elon's new college access program for local high school students focused on the study of democracy and civic engagement, will launch this summer thanks to a \$300,000 Teagle Foundation Knowledge for Freedom grant.

The program includes a two-week residential experience at Elon for 15 rising high school seniors in the Alamance-Burlington School System, a year of programming and college application support, and one-on-one mentoring by Elon undergraduates and area civic leaders. With the support of their mentors, each scholar will plan and execute a civic project in their home community. At the end of their senior year, they will present their work at the Freedom Scholars Symposium, which also will serve as the welcoming event for the incoming cohort of scholars.

"Young people have spearheaded many significant changes taking place in our country and across the world in the past few years," said Associate Professor of English Prudence Layne, who conceived the program. "As an educator, it is my duty to help prepare our youth to confront the challenges facing our world and create sustainable



ELON  
FREEDOM  
SCHOLARS

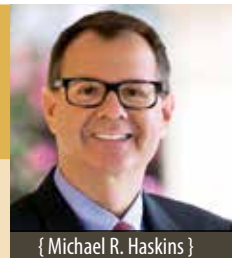
change. The Elon Freedom Scholars are another line of defense in this work. I can't wait to see what they will accomplish."

The Teagle Foundation's 42-month Knowledge for Freedom grant was awarded this past fall to Layne, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Lauren Guilmette and Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies Joel Shelton. The foundation works to support and strengthen liberal arts education in service of effective citizenship and meaningful lives. Its Knowledge for Freedom Programs invite underserved high school students to study and engage with literature and philosophies that

raise deep questions about leading lives of purpose and civic responsibility.

The Freedom Scholars program will work in tandem with the successful Elon Academy program to increase college access in Alamance County. "We want to expand on the excellent work that the Elon Academy has done," Layne said. "There is such a large number of applicants for Elon Academy that they cannot accept them all. We want to offer the Freedom Scholars program as an option for those who weren't able to be part of Elon Academy." ✦

## Michael R. Haskins named VP FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING



{ Michael R. Haskins }

Following a national search, Michael R. Haskins has been named Elon's vice president for communications and marketing. He joined the staff on March 28 from his previous position as vice president for marketing and communications at the University of South Alabama.

"Mike Haskins is a career communicator and marketer who has a deep knowledge of higher education," said President Connie Ledoux Book. "He will draw upon his experience at three other universities, as well as the professional publishing field, to continue Elon's long history of excellence in communicating with both internal and external audiences and advancing the university's national reputation."

Haskins has led a staff of nearly 30 professionals at the University of South Alabama (USA) since 2014, overseeing branding, communications and marketing for the university and USA Health, a comprehensive health-care organization with two hospitals serving Mobile, Alabama, and the surrounding region. Prior to that role, he served eight years as executive vice president for external relations at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. He began his work in higher education in 1993 at the University of San Diego, where he served as director of publications and later the senior director of publications and marketing communications.

"I am thrilled to be joining the innovative, dedicated and creative culture at Elon," said Haskins. "I look forward to working with every member of the Elon community to further advance the success of the university and enhance the recognition of its history, reputation and bold vision for the future."

# A matter of INTEGRITY

BY DEVON SMITH

**F**or Xuan Huynh '24, being passionate about creating social good and systemic change is a matter of integrity. The daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, Xuan grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, immersed in Vietnamese culture. "It's something I am super grateful for because it exposed me to that aspect of my identity," she says. "It was also what led to my first experience with discrimination based on perceived non-citizenship status and language barriers."

As a result, Xuan focused on volunteering. By the seventh grade, she served as a tennis coach. By the ninth grade, she organized tennis clinics that provided rackets and school supplies to middle school students. In 2019, while in the 11th grade, she organized the Open Peacebuilding and Leadership Conference. The student-run conference brought together 50 students from 14 high schools in northern Virginia to foster teamwork, communication and leadership skills, and critical and creative thinking.

"My upbringing developed my emotional intelligence, compassion and a capacity to give back to my community," she says. "It elevated my desire to create social good."

After arriving at Elon as a Business Fellow, Xuan began seeking ways to serve historically and presently marginalized students. She joined the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education as a student coordinator. She's also a member of the Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern and North African Task Force, which aims to identify strategies and organize support for those communities at Elon.

Additionally, Xuan serves as executive vice president for Elon's Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity chapter. She was the catalyst for examining how the organization assesses potential new members to make the process more equitable and inclusive.

As a double major in finance and data analytics with a minor in women's, gender and sexualities studies, Xuan hopes to pursue a career as a financial adviser and "help women establish financial independence." In the meantime, she's using her time at Elon to create social good and a more inclusive campus for all students while enhancing her skills to make the world more equitable.

Xuan doesn't focus on her impact being large or small, or a conduit for fame and money. She is humbled by her heritage and a deep appreciation for people's differences. "Success has never been about wealth for me; I would like to influence people to assist with generosity," she says. "For me, it's simply a matter of integrity." ✦

*Xuan is part of "Huemanity of People," a series by the Division of Inclusive Excellence that celebrates the diversity of Elon's community to uplift the values of inclusion and equity.*

## ELON RECOGNIZED FOR Undergraduate Research

The Council on Undergraduate Research recognized Elon University in March with the 2021 Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments for providing its students with high-quality research experiences.

Elon was one of only three universities nationally to receive the award, which honors schools that demonstrate depth and breadth in their undergraduate research initiatives and evidence of continual innovation.

“This honor recognizes and reinforces the power of undergraduate research at Elon University, which is rooted in mentorship, discovery and personal achievement,” President Connie Ledoux Book said. “Countless Elon students have benefited from the rich relationships developed working side-by-side with their mentors in the lab, out in the field and in the classroom. Undergraduate research continues to grow and flourish at Elon, and we’re grateful for this meaningful recognition of its important place within our university.”

Ranked among the top 100 national universities by U.S. News & World Report, Elon has built a sustainable model that expands participation and diversity in undergraduate research conducted outside of classes. Twenty-two percent of undergraduate students and more than 54 percent of undergraduate faculty engage in



undergraduate research. Among Elon’s signature undergraduate research programs are the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, which showcases research from departments across campus, and the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience.

“We are thrilled that Elon’s Undergraduate Research Program has been recognized,” said Meredith Allison, director of undergraduate research at Elon and professor of psychology. “This award reflects the sustained effort and investment by faculty mentors and students from all departments, as well as the university’s long institutional commitment to undergraduate research and engaged learning.”

## CORNER

### FACSTAFF

**Elon University is one of four institutions awarded a \$24,665 one-year grant by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics to look at the mentoring needs of Black student-athletes.**

Eric Hall, principal investigator and professor of exercise science, alongside his collaborators — Assistant Professor of Exercise Science Lauren Walker, Professor of Exercise Science Caroline Ketcham, Associate Professor of Psychology Buffie Longmire-Avital and Professor of Sport Management Tony Weaver — aim to identify and recognize the mentoring needs of Black athletes. The goal is to then establish a program that will provide the



infrastructure to support an integrated network of mentors for Black athletes.



**Dani Lane, assistant professor in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education, has published a new book.** “Instructional Collaboration in International Inclusive Education Contexts” looks at the instructional collaboration between special education and general education in international educational contexts and the role this plays in enabling inclusive education.

**A team of Elon faculty and staff, led by Director of Project Pericles and Professor of Psychology Mathew Gendle, have secured a two-year grant of \$40,000 from the Colonial Academic Alliance** that will support ongoing multi-institutional efforts to prepare students and universities to better incorporate current and emerging best practices in community-based learning into their academic and co-curricular programming. As part of the grant, Elon’s team — Carrie Eaves, associate professor of political science and policy studies; Bob Frigo, director of the Kernodle Center for Civic Life; Phillip Motley, associate professor of communication design; and Amanda Tapler, senior lecturer in public health studies — will partner with colleagues at Drexel University, the University of Delaware and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to collaboratively advance this work.





# LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

*The director of the Center for Engaged Learning, Professor of English Jessie L. Moore has researched the writing lives of students and alumni for more than a decade to better understand how writing courses and programs can support the development of students as writers. In recognition of her work, she received Elon's Distinguished Scholar Award in 2021.*

## Jessie Moore

BY GARRETT TURNER '08

Jessie L. Moore has been one of Elon's most influential faculty members in the study of scholarship, specifically as it relates to teaching methodologies. She also played an instrumental role in my success as a student.

As a sophomore, selecting a major seemed like one of those fork-in-the-road moments, when turning back or making the wrong decision at the beginning of the journey would haunt me later. Even more challenging was the fact that I didn't truly understand what "professional writing and rhetoric" meant and why I needed a thesaurus to decipher the ins and outs of this "situated art." The only certainty I had at the time was this major seemed creatively different, broadening academic approaches through design theory, writing technologies and workplace heuristics.

My first exposure to Dr. Moore and PWR took place during a summer course titled "Around the World in 22 Days." The course highlighted diverse world cultures and teaching theories for students learning English as a second language, something that played into my interest in working overseas upon graduation. The course was highly innovative and ahead of its time — it was taught predominantly online through recorded lectures, allowing students to engage with each other remotely.

Over the next two years, I expanded my rhetorical worldview under Dr. Moore's tutelage, learning how to transfer writing knowledge and mentor peers across multidisciplinary subjects while working at Elon's Writing Center. This experience was influential to my career as it helped me develop skills like understanding clients' needs and developing a roadmap for executing a strategic plan, something I continue to practice in my current professional role.

As an alumnus, my lifelong connection with Dr. Moore has evolved into engagement through the Center for Engaged Learning. This partnership has given way to a three-year mentoring opportunity for potential students to collaborate with Elon faculty on the center's research. Recently, we have begun initial discussions on a future project to continue offering unique opportunities for students interested in mentorship programs.

If I have learned anything from my interactions with Dr. Moore, it is that oftentimes you never know the impact your work will have on others. That's certainly the case when you work with students. You don't really know the impact you have on their present or future path, but putting forward the effort through mentorship and teaching is definitely worth it because it can lead to a breakthrough. Dr. Moore's work demonstrates that. 🌱



*Garrett Turner graduated from Elon in 2008 with a degree in English with a concentration in professional writing and rhetoric. He serves as vice president of global strategy for telecommunications firm Liberty Port LLC.*

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## North Carolina College Media Association

Several student media organizations were recognized in February at the North Carolina College Media Association's annual conference. Colonnades Literary Art Journal, Elon News Network and Phi Psi Cli yearbook were recognized in 17 different categories and collected 11 first-place awards. Additionally, Colonnades, ENN and The Pendulum, the student-run newspaper, were honored with Best of Show awards. In the fall, ENN also won both a Newspaper Pacemaker and an Online Pacemaker at the virtual Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Association National College Media Convention. The Pacemaker award is the highest honor awarded by ACP for excellence in student journalism.



**Emily Wilbourne '22 received the 2021 Award for Academic Achievement Abroad.** The award recognizes "sophisticated and thoughtful academic projects that occur as part of education abroad programs." An arts administration major with a double minor in dance and interreligious studies,

Wilbourne's research explores the impact of Japanese imperialism on a traditional Buddhist drum dance from Korea called "seungmu," or "Monk's dance."

**Twelve Elon students and alumni have been recommended as semifinalists for the 2022-23 Fulbright U.S. Student Program**, the largest exchange program in the country that offers opportunities for recent graduates in more than 140 countries. They are:

- **India Kirssin '21** (*international & global studies major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Argentina
- **Angela Myers '21** (*professional writing and rhetoric major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Spain
- **Sadie Traylor '21** (*policy studies and international & global studies double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Laos
- **Cameron Wilson '21** (*Spanish and strategic communications double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Colombia
- **Jack Corby '22** (*policy studies major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Bulgaria

- **Samantha Dominguez '22** (*biochemical engineering major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Czech Republic
- **Deena Elrefai '22** (*public health studies and international & global studies double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Uruguay
- **Emily Katz '22** (*psychology major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Spain
- **Miso Kim '22** (*psychology major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to South Korea
- **Allison Potter '22** (*public health studies and policy studies double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Nepal
- **Mary Catherine Stallsmith '22** (*political science and international & global studies double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to North Macedonia
- **Anastasia Theoharis '22** (*political science and international & global studies double major*) - Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to Germany



## SYLLABUZZ | IDS 2040 - Edible Ideologies: Food, Power & Identity

BY KATELYN LITVAN '23

Many families have a special recipe or dish that has spanned generations. These dishes can create a sense of togetherness and represent so much more than just the ingredients they include. This idea of culinary culture is what Professor of Spanish Nina Namaste seeks to explore in her class, Edible Ideologies: Food, Power and Identity.

The class was first introduced in 2018 and has been taught by rotating faculty during the spring semester ever since. Namaste was inspired to create the course after completing research on food and identity. "I wanted to have a course that exposed students to the varied, deep meanings of food and thought that teaching a course in the core curriculum/interdisciplinary studies would be the perfect place for it," she says.

Students look forward to a variety of hands-on and tasting activities that occur in the class each week. One class had students attempt to plan a meal for a family of four using only \$5. The class is discussion-based, and students write reflections on their activities and readings. Namaste wanted to stay away from the typical lecture style and instead allow students to develop practical cooking skills along with an understanding of cultural issues that can intersect with food. Namaste experiments

with an "ungrading," which focuses on formative feedback. Students have a midterm and final portfolio that documents and reflects critically on their learning.

The class often collaborates with Elon Dining Services and participates in cooking classes throughout the semester. Students have the opportunity to practice menu planning and pairing, knife skills and sauce making. These lessons facilitate discussion on the complexity of food.

Namaste likes to keep the course fresh and incorporates new material every year. She places a heavy emphasis on social justice issues and discusses the ethics of food systems in a historical context. She wants students to explore being



**SOCIAL**  
snapshots



A compilation of @ElonUniversity social media mentions on #ElonDay.



**Lumen Scholar Kiara Hunter '23 has been named a finalist for a 2022 Truman Scholarship**, a prestigious national fellowship awarded each year to college juniors who seek to work in education, government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, or elsewhere in public service. Hunter, a double major in public health studies and statistics, is one of just 189 students nationwide to be named a finalist, and one of only five attending a college or university in North Carolina.



**Kyra O'Connor '23, executive director of Elon News Network, has been selected for the Carnegie-Knight News21 fellowship.** As part of the paid summer fellowship, O'Connor and more than 30 students from 13 universities will participate in a 10-week investigative reporting assignment. She has also been named to the Society of Professional Journalists Legal Defense Fund Committee. In that role, she will help decide how the fund can aid journalists with legal or direct financial assistance.



**Ryan Lockwood '24, a business administration and marketing double major, has been selected as a 2022-23 Newman Civic Fellow** by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education. The fellowship will provide Lockwood with a year of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional and civic growth.

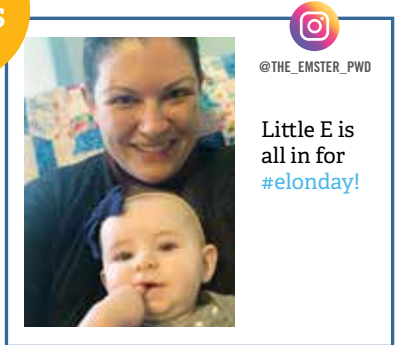
active change agents, which is the focus of the final project. "I want students to see that they can have an impact on the food system in any number of ways, small and large," she says. ✨

**ABOUT THE PROFESSOR:**

Professor of Spanish Nina Namaste joined Elon's Department of World Languages and Cultures in 2008. She has done disciplinary research on race, gender and sexuality in contemporary Spanish culture through the lens of food studies. She has also completed research on intercultural learning for both students and faculty.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS:**

- "In Defense of Food" (Documentary, 2015)
- "Encyclopedia of Junk Food and Fast Food" by Andrew F. Smith



Little E is all in for #elonday!



Happy Elon Day from The Kennedy Center staff delegation! Proud to be able to work alongside these wonderful Elon University alumni every day! Must be something in that Phoenix water. #bELONG #ElonDay



Happy #ElonDay! Great to visit recently and see just how much has changed! My dad went to Elon in the 1970s and hardly recognized it when I went there. I know the feeling! Great to see @elonuniversity working hard to make my degree worth more and more! Keep it up #elon #elonuniversity #elonalumni



The @elonuniversity spirit is strong in the @wusa9 newsroom today! Five alums and one proud parent! Grateful for the experiences I had as a student that helped me to get to DC as a TV news producer. Happy #ElonDay!

**FOLLOW US**

- Twitter: ElonUniversity
- Instagram: ElonUniversity
- Facebook: Elon University
- LinkedIn: Elon University

# SPRING CALENDAR PREVIEW

For other events, visit [elon.edu/culturalcalendar](http://elon.edu/culturalcalendar)

Here is a snapshot of what to expect during Commencement Week. For a full list of events, go to [elon.edu/commencement](http://elon.edu/commencement).

## TUESDAY, MAY 17

### Senior Baccalaureate

The Class of 2022 celebrates the end of final exams and the launch of Commencement Week by gathering for a special ceremony featuring new and old traditions where many Elon journeys began — Under the Oaks.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

### Senior Celebration

An evening of sweet goodbyes for the members of the Class of 2022. The event will include free food, a live DJ, games, photo opportunities and an end-of-night fireworks show.

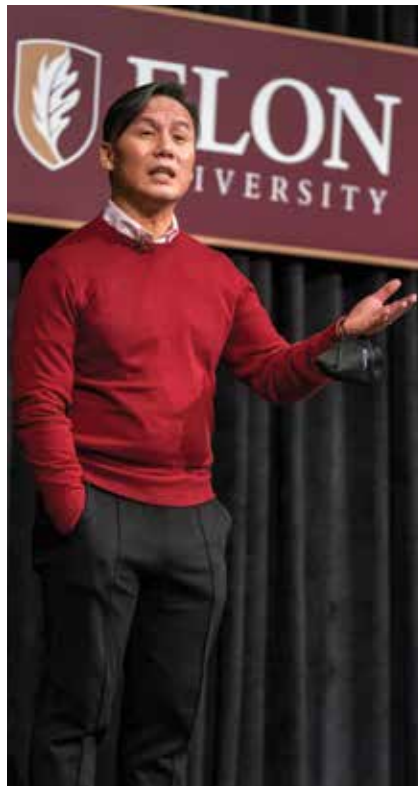
### Graduate Programs Commencement

The Master of Arts in Higher Education, Master of Arts in Interactive Media, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Master of Science in Management and Master of Science in Accounting candidates will receive their diplomas during a joint graduate program ceremony.

## FRIDAY, MAY 20

### The 132nd Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies

Diploma Ceremony for the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and School of Communications at 9 a.m., followed by a Diploma Ceremony for the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education and Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences at 2 p.m.



“I adopted a very American personality and I made sure that there was no sense of Chineseness in anything that I said or did, or choices I made or clothes I wore. I eschewed all of it. It’s very similar to the kind of thing that you do when you realize that you are a gay person, and any affectation or hand gesture could give you away. And so you adopt these ways of protecting yourself, which are actually not who you are at all, and they become an armor.”

— Award-winning actor BD Wong talking about the identity conflicts he faced as a gay Asian American during Elon’s 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address on Jan. 11

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 29-MAY 1

### The Department of Performing Arts presents “Movin’ On”

Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West

April 29 at 7:30 p.m.; April 30 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; May 1 at 2 p.m.

Directed by Julio Matos

“Movin’ On” picks up where “A Chorus Line” left off. A humorous and compelling look at the lives of six successful Broadway performers trying to sing and dance their way out of the chorus line. Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Reservations are highly recommended and will be offered beginning April 22 at [elonperformingarts.com](http://elonperformingarts.com).



“I don’t give advice. If I was in my 20s, I might because in your 20s you think you know everything and tell people what to do. But I would say you should read because there’s something to be learned in everything. Just pay a little attention.”

— Nikki Giovanni, poet & distinguished university professor at Virginia Tech, during a talk on March 3 sponsored by Elon’s Liberal Arts Forum

## HILARY CORNA '07 to deliver Elon's 2022 undergraduate commencement address

**H**ilary Corna '07, a bestselling author, celebrated keynote speaker and host of the "UNprofessional" podcast, will deliver Elon University's undergraduate commencement address to the Class of 2022 in May.

A Business Fellow while at Elon, Corna studied abroad at Kansai Gaidai University near Osaka, Japan, and then graduated with degrees in international business and Asian studies along with a minor in Japanese. She bought a one-way ticket to Singapore after graduation to pursue her dream of launching a post-college career in Asia. Her fluency in Japanese landed her a job with Toyota as a senior executive officer, and she spent three years as a kaizen leader working with dealerships primarily in the Philippines and India to improve operations and share practices.

Those experiences paved the way for her first book, "One White Face," a narrative nonfiction account of her time abroad that was published in 2011 and is currently being adapted into a screenplay. A 2013 Elon Top 10 Under 10 Alumni Award recipient, Corna has become a sought-after organizational consultant and keynote speaker, with a focus on how to make businesses and leaders more human-centric. Her talks have focused on leading through change and uncertainty, sparking innovation, and maintaining positivity, balance and mental health, among other topics.

Corna has appeared in media including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Forbes, NBC, Fortune, Mashable and Muse, and her clients include General Motors, the United Nations, State Farm and Toyota, among others. Her second book, "UNProfessional: A Manifesto," will be published this year and details a new way to do business — The Human Way — and focuses on helping businesses evaluate how human they are in four critical areas: brand, customer experience, culture and employee experience. ✦



## Grant supports development of new education models

**B**ringing Theory to Practice (BT2P), headquartered at Elon, is launching the Paradigm Project, a multi-year initiative for systemic change in undergraduate education supported by a new grant of \$1.5 million from the Endeavor Foundation.

BT2P Director David Scobey says the project aims to help develop new models of holistic, inclusive, engaged education and to catalyze systemic change that realizes them for all students. "We have long worked with other educational change-makers to advance improvements in areas like student well-being, engaged learning and the civic responsibilities of universities," he says, "but these have too often remained siloed. In a time of turmoil across higher ed, it's urgent to move from piecemeal innovation to systemic transformation."

Project activities will include field scans of current promising innovations, design labs that develop new holistic models of the college experience, and books and media that distill, debate and disseminate the ideas and values of the project.

Founded in 2003, BT2P is a national initiative dedicated to transforming higher education to provide it to all students. The new grant by the Endeavor Foundation will extend through May 2025 and Elon will continue to serve as the host and home of Bringing Theory to Practice. The

foundation is dedicated to improving the world for the benefit of all living beings, in the context of supportive societies in which all can thrive, a healthy climate and a sustainable planet.

"I applaud both BT2P and the Endeavor Foundation for this important, ambitious initiative," said Provost Aswani Voley, a member of the BT2P Advisory Board. "Elon is honored to be part of a national effort that aligns with its values and advances an inclusive and engaged approach to learning for all students." ✦



# A PERFECT FIT

BY ROSELEE PAPANDREA TAYLOR G'21

**W**hen Madison George '23 first started pole vaulting during her first year of high school, she had no idea her shoes were designed for a man's foot. The more she excelled at pole vaulting, the clearer it was that those track spikes didn't do much to support her arches or the shape of her foot, making her more prone to injury.

George, who was selected as a 2022 Goldwater Scholar, wasn't at Elon long when the Honors Fellow, engineering major and student-athlete realized she wanted to design a shoe for female pole vaulters and found an ideal way to merge her passions. "I wanted to kind of create a bridge between my academic and athletic life," says George, now a junior. "The way that I did that was to find something that I could do using my engineering major to benefit the world of pole vaulting and to potentially benefit myself and all athletes."

As a first-year student, George received Elon's Kickbox, a \$300 grant from the Maker Hub that provides support and money so recipients can make substantial progress on an idea. "I made prototypes during that time when I was doing Kickbox," she says. "I used 3D modeling platforms to make the bottom layer of a pole-vault spike just to

get the experience doing it and that's when I decided that this was going to be my thesis project." Last May, she received the Lumen Prize, the university's premier \$20,000 scholarship award, to help fund her research. Working with two mentors from two different departments — Scott Wolter '85, associate professor of engineering, and Shefali Christopher, assistant professor of physical therapy education — has also been a learning experience, George says. "Whenever we are in a meeting, it's really awesome because they are constantly learning and feeding off of each other," she says.

George taught herself how to design in two different computer programs and is spending the bulk of her junior year conducting interviews, analyzing different materials and working with athletes to gather force distribution measurements so she will know exactly where to add the extra support in her shoe design. She interviewed a researcher at Nike and discovered that most changes made to athletic shoes are a result of user feedback. George wants to design her track spikes using kinetic force properties, which requires that she do biomechanical tests. "There's a lot of stuff that needs to be looked into," she says. What areas of the shoe need to be denser or reinforced with

thicker material? Does the takeoff foot need to be more reinforced than the other or will that throw off the rest of the vault? "It's very exciting, this road that I'm taking."

Developing a draft prototype by the end of the school year is one of her goals. "That will be the exciting part," George says. "Right now, I'm in the nitty-gritty background research stage that I need, but constructing the shoe will be the fun part and, hopefully, I can use 3D software."

If all goes as planned, she will graduate in 2023 with a tested prototype in hand. "I want to create sport-specific shoes for all athletes," George says. "Hopefully I can get recognized by a shoe brand and they can help guide me through continuing my education while pursuing my goal." ♣

*"I want to create sport-specific shoes for all athletes."*



{ Madison George '23 is working on developing pole vaulter shoes that fit all athletes. }



# FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MARY TENDLER



BY DEVON SMITH

This spring, **Mary Tendler** was named the CAA Coach of the Year after boasting an 11-5 conference record in her 19th season leading Elon's volleyball team, which reached the CAA conference championship game for the first time in 2021. Her coaching acumen can be traced back to her days as a volleyball player at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. There, she helped the Fighting Illini reach the national semifinals twice. Her .421 career hitting percentage set an NCAA record until 1993 and currently ranks 11th all-time. Tendler shared more about her life with *The Magazine of Elon*. ✦



► **She has a picture with Dick Butkus.** She grew up on the South Side of Chicago watching the legendary Bears linebacker play. Then in 2017, they were part of the inaugural University of Illinois Hall of Fame class. "Being a huge Bears fan growing up," she says, "that was pretty exciting for me."



► **She can juggle.** It's a skill she learned as a child, first with tennis balls, later with rings and clubs. In the offseason, she likes to introduce her hobby to the volleyball team. "I think they enjoy it, and it promotes good hand-eye coordination," she says.



► **Coloring was her game-day ritual.** "A lot of people play loud music to get hyped up before a match. I'm the opposite," she says. When she couldn't focus because she was anxious to play, coloring books calmed her down. She now plays iPad games before matches.



► **She enjoys waterskiing.** She grew up visiting her family lake house in Wisconsin, which led to a love for water skiing and other boating activities. Her favorite lake to visit was Crystal Lake.



► **She likes romance novels and movies.** "People think I'm into action movies and stuff," she says, "but no, I like romance." She has read most of Nicholas Sparks' books and enjoys watching Hallmark Christmas movies. She finds it soothing to know a story ends happily ever after.

# A CULTURE of Philanthropy

## CAMPAIGN IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Goal \$250M

**\$242M+** Raised to date  
(as of March 14)

**270** Total Number of Endowed  
Scholarships

- 123 Odyssey
- 42 Fellows
- 60 Elon Engagement
- 45 Elon Experiences

**\$7.9M** Support for Faculty/  
Staff Mentors Who Matter

**\$85.4M** Support for Our  
Iconic Campus

- School of Communications expansion
- Schar Center
- Richard W. Sankey Hall
- Koenigsberger Learning Center
- LaRose Student Commons
- The Inn at Elon
- Innovation Quad (STEM facilities)

**\$68.6M** Graduates the  
World Needs

BY JALEH HAGIGH

**T**HE GENEROSITY OF ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS continues to fuel the success of the Elon LEADS Campaign, which has provided life-changing resources to support scholarships, access to the Elon Experiences, faculty and staff mentors who matter and Elon’s iconic campus. As of March 14, more than 31,000 donors had contributed \$242 million toward the campaign’s historic \$250 million goal.

Many opportunities remain to support student success before the campaign concludes Dec. 31, 2022, as the largest fundraising initiative in Elon’s history.

“The Elon LEADS Campaign continues to demonstrate that the culture of philanthropy in the Elon community is strong,” said Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement. “We have an opportunity now for our entire community to finish this campaign and not just meet the \$250 million goal but exceed it and strengthen Elon for generations to come.”

Gifts to the Elon LEADS Campaign enhance every part of the Elon experience, including making transformative study abroad opportunities possible for students like Sebastian Schroeter ’25. Schroeter toured four soccer stadiums and participated in marketing meetings with some of Spain’s top clubs as part of Elon’s “Through the Lens of ESPN” course.



“ I traveled to Spain to dissect the intersection of Spanish soccer, sport media and sport management and their relationships to the surrounding culture in Spain and around the world. It was not only a dream come true to visit some of the world’s most prestigious stadiums but also an amazing way to get a glimpse into how these organizations operate.”

— SEBASTIAN SCHROETER '25, COMMUNICATIONS FELLOW AND SPORT MANAGEMENT MAJOR



# Leading Through You

Donor support creates a lasting impact at Elon.  
Read more about these and other gifts at [elonleads.com](http://elonleads.com).

*Elon is grateful to the following benefactors who have recently made generous gifts to the new Innovation Quad for STEM studies and to endow scholarships in the Fellows Program and the Odyssey Program, which serves students with high financial need, including first-generation college students. Increasing scholarship funding is the top priority of Elon LEADS.*



{ Furman Moseley '56 (center) & then-President Leo M. Lambert celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Susan Scholarship. }

scholarships to the Susan Scholarship endowment, which Furman Moseley established in 2007 with a \$5 million gift to honor his wife on her 70th birthday. Since then, the Susan Scholarship has transformed the lives of more than 60 promising female students.

“I know well the impact Susan has had on my life and believed her favorable impact would continue on in the individual lives of young women of promise who were chosen as Susan Scholars,” said Moseley, who attended Elon on a football scholarship. “Exchanges with many over the years affirm that Susan’s favorable impact continues.”

## ▲ Furman '56 and Susan Moseley

Furman '56 and Susan Moseley of Seattle have made a second leadership gift to the Innovation Quad that will also increase the number of Susan Scholarships in Elon's Odyssey Program. In 2020, a lead gift from the Moseleys named the first building in the IQ, Founders Hall, and marked a significant step forward in providing premier facilities for Elon's engineering and other STEM programs and the physics program.

Scheduled to open in August, the first two buildings of the Innovation Quad, Founders Hall and IQ2, represent the heart of the IQ and the initial phase of a long-term investment by Elon into science, creativity and discovery that will be accessible to all students. The IQ is located between the Dalton L. McMichael Sr. Science Center, Richard W. Sankey Hall and the Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center, solidifying connections between STEM and the sciences, entrepreneurship, sales, design thinking and analytics.

The Moseleys, who are among the university's most devoted and generous donors, understand the ability of the Innovation Quad to fuel Elon's national rise.

“Expanding and improving Elon's offerings of STEM disciplines fits today's demands and tomorrow's technical realities,” Furman Moseley said. “Elon's IQ commitment makes the university even more competitive for its future students.”

The 20,000-square-foot Founders Hall is designed to enable engineering students and faculty to turn bold ideas into prototypes. The three-story, 40,000-square-foot IQ2 will include cross-disciplinary studies, equipment and research in biomedicine, computer science, physics and robotics. Future phases of the IQ will include academic and residence halls, as well as a series of corporate-sponsored incubators and design hubs that will promote dynamic cross-disciplinary studies and collaboration.

In addition to supporting construction of the IQ, the Moseleys' gift will add four



## ▲ Vicky and Sam Hunt

A gift from Elon Trustee Vicky Hunt and Sam Hunt of Burlington, North Carolina, will name the atrium in Founders Hall. The Hunt Atrium will be a spacious, inviting entry point to the Innovation Quad with open collaboration and assembly areas, tiered bench seating and meeting space for group events. Hunt Atrium will also host guest speakers and receptions.

“The Innovation Quad is about Elon expanding its footprint in science, technology, engineering and math education, an important expansion of a curriculum that is in demand with students now and into the future,” the Hunts said. “This state-of-the-art facility will be a hub for

student engagement, collaboration and mentoring.”

The Hunts’ gift will also endow the Sam and Vicky Hunt Business Fellows Scholarship in Elon’s Martha and Spencer Love School of Business.

“We appreciate being able to continue our support of Elon and in particular the Elon LEADS Campaign,” the couple said. “This is a great university with outstanding leadership and one that is constantly moving forward.”

The Hunts are members of the Elon LEADS Campaign Steering Committee and Order of the Oak, which recognizes donors who make estate and other planned gifts to Elon.

▼ **John and Kristin Replogle P’18 & Wolfspeed Inc.**

Elon parents John and Kristin Replogle P’18 of Raleigh, North Carolina, partnered with Wolfspeed Inc., a global leader in silicon carbide and GaN technologies based in Raleigh, to support this exciting new chapter in



{ From left: Kristin P’18, John P’18 & Tate ’18 Replogle }

Elon’s future.

“The IQ is foundational to really elevate Elon’s excellence in STEM,” said John Replogle, who serves on Elon’s Engineering Advisory Board. “Just as Elon is at the top echelon when it comes to areas like communications and business, my hope is the engineering program and IQ will catapult Elon to a top echelon in STEM.”

Replogle also serves on the board at Wolfspeed, formerly

known as Cree, and shared his excitement for the IQ with company CEO Gregg Lowe.

“We believe the Innovation Quad’s emphasis on expanding experiential learning for students will create talented and informed young professionals who will become our industry’s next leaders,” Lowe said. “We plan to further support these efforts by connecting students and graduates to internship and new grad positions with us at Wolfspeed, where we know they will add value to our teams with their innovative spirit and enthusiasm.”

These gifts will also endow the Wolfspeed Scholarship to assist students in Elon’s Engineering Scholars program. Preference for the scholarship will be given to students who are the first in their families to attend college or who otherwise bring diversity to the Engineering Scholars program and/or Elon’s student body.



{ Gregg Lowe }



▲ **Louis DeJoy and Aldona Woś**

Elon Trustee Louis DeJoy and his wife, Dr. Aldona Woś, of Greensboro, North Carolina, have made a second endowment gift to their scholarship in the Odyssey Program to assist students from Title I schools in Guilford County.

The DeJoy-Woś Odyssey Scholars Endowment was established in 2018 following an initial major gift from DeJoy and Woś, who are passionate about making an Elon education possible for highly motivated students attending Title I schools in Guilford County — students who would be unable to enroll at Elon without significant financial assistance. The couple’s additional gift adds four scholarships to the DeJoy-Woś Endowment, bringing the total number of scholarships to 16. The first two DeJoy-Woś Scholars are enrolled in Elon’s Class of 2025.

DeJoy has been leading a comprehensive effort to identify students from Title I high schools and help prepare them to attend Elon and benefit from the university’s high-impact experiential learning model. He said he wants these students to be successful students and later successful professionals who give back to their communities.

“I can see how well the partnership and process are working, and I want to expand our efforts in this program,” DeJoy said. “I am confident that we will have transformative impacts on the future success of these young adults.”

# A Legacy of Impact

BY JALEH HAGIGH

**T**he transformational impact of their Elon education inspired Trustee Burney Jennings '87 P'18 and his wife, Dina Blake Jennings '87 P'18, of Greensboro, North Carolina, to make a \$1 million estate gift to support the Dina B. '87 and Burney Jennings '87 Scholarship, which the couple endowed in 2008. Their gift is part of A Will to Lead, a special opportunity of the Elon LEADS Campaign that allows donors to provide long-term funding for the university through their estates.

"It's appealing to us to leave a legacy of giving back to others," Burney Jennings said. "It feels good to know that when we are no longer here, there will be a very nice fund for students to be able to attend Elon who might not otherwise have been able to."

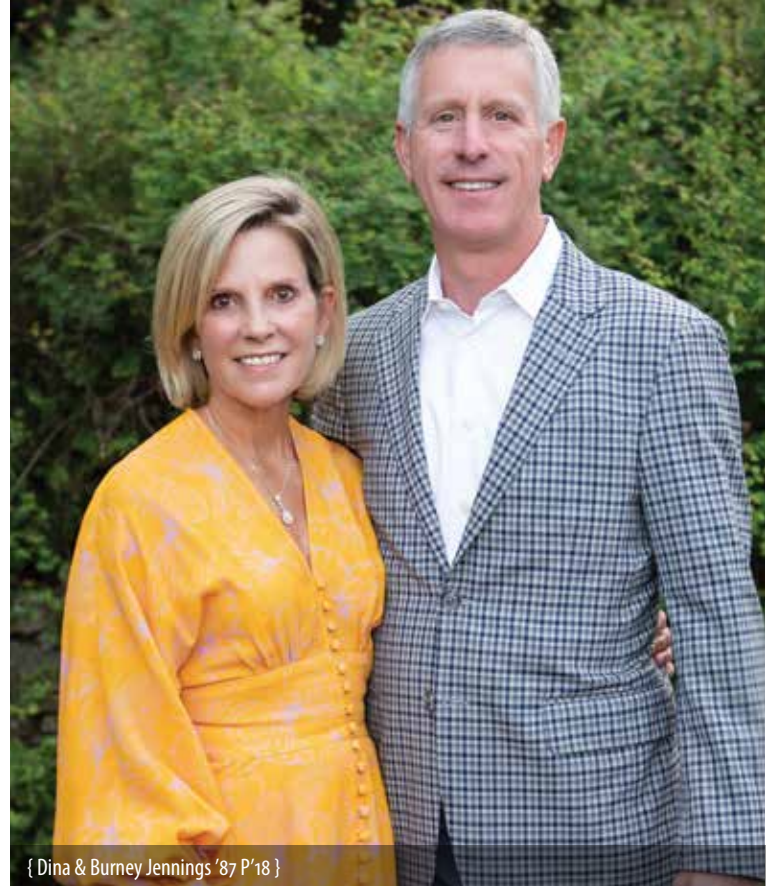
"There are people who want to attend Elon as their first-choice school and can't because of finances, and we wanted to make it easier on their families," Dina Jennings said.

The couple are delighted by Elon's continued ascent and recognition as the national leader in engaged, experiential learning, which was pivotal to their education. "Elon helped shape who I am today," Dina said. "I knew my professors and didn't feel like I was a number."

"There's been a tremendous amount of progress at Elon over the last 50 years and it makes me proud," Burney said. "Elon has focused on excellence and stayed true to doing what it does best, which is small classrooms, engaged learning and caring about the students."

The Jennings family has deep roots at Elon that span four generations, beginning with Burney's maternal grandfather, Clyde W. Gordon Sr., a 1926 alumnus who served on the board of trustees. Burney's father, the late Maurice N. Jennings Sr. '57 P'87 GP'13 GP'18, served as a trustee from 1978 to 1998, when he was elected trustee emeritus. Maurice Jennings founded Biscuitville in 1966 and along with his wife, Linda, was one of Elon's most devoted donors. Burney Jennings led the family-owned franchise as president and CEO from 1997 to 2021, when he transitioned to his current role as executive chairman. The couple's daughter, Bailey Jennings Golmont, is a member of Elon's Class of 2018. Burney's sister, Elon parent Fran Teter P'13 P'18, husband Chris Teter P'13 P'18 and their children Tricia Teter '13 and Gordon Teter '18, are also part of the Elon family.

The couple's legacy of philanthropy at Elon includes gifts



{ Dina & Burney Jennings '87 P'18 }

to establish the Jennings Professorship of Law at the Elon University School of Law, the Jennings Emerging Scholar Fund, Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center and Schar Center, where one of the large video boards bears the Biscuitville name. They are members of Order of the Oak, which recognizes donors who make estate and other planned gifts to Elon.

Burney is a member of the Elon LEADS Campaign Steering Committee and has served on the university's board of trustees since 2000. Dina Jennings served on Elon's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Advisory Board from 2013 to 2019 and together with Burney served on the Elon Alumni Board.

Donors have contributed \$8.8 million to A Will to Lead to fund scholarships and other Elon LEADS Campaign priorities. To learn more about the benefits of estate gifts and how you can make an impact, contact Elizabeth Read, assistant director of planned giving, at (336) 278-7474 or [eread@elon.edu](mailto:eread@elon.edu).

# Donors LEAD on Elon Day

BY MEGAN MCCLURE

Thousands of donors around the world supported students on Elon Day 2022 by making gifts to scholarships, academic schools, athletics and more. Since the first Elon Day nine years ago, donors have given an incredible 40,000+ gifts and \$16.6 million in honor of the day. The following leadership donors sponsored generous challenges and matches to inspire additional participation in Elon Day:



NUMBER OF GIFTS **4,988**

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED **\$3,513,081**

CAMPUS FUNDS IMPACTED **168**  
 AVERAGE\* GIFT **\$214**  
**ELON LEADS THROUGH US**

\* Excludes matches and challenges



- Debra and Claudio Del Vecchio P'23 P'24
- Joan and Ed Doherty P'07
- Dina and Burney Jennings '87 P'18
- Jen and Dave Porter P'11 P'19
- Sue and Bill Smith
- René and Smith Jackson
- Jennifer and Andrew Greenfield P'24
- Vicki and Mike Herson P'23
- Pam and David Rothenstein P'23
- Ed and Aimee Cunningham P'23
- Maity Interiano '07
- Laurie and Chip Bevier P'24
- Taylor Melvin P'22
- Kellie and Bob Hilb P'20
- Jerry Neuman P'22
- Craig Leupold P'23
- Debbie and Stephen Ellick P'18 P'21 P'23
- Debi and Harris Gellman P'22
- Grace and Dan Melrod P'23
- Kathy and Russell Smith P'15
- Several anonymous donors

See the full list at [elon.edu/elonday](http://elon.edu/elonday).



## Elon LEADS in Raleigh, N.C.

May 5, The Pavilion at the Angus Barn

Elon LEADS is back on the road celebrating the historic impact of our university campaign. Stay tuned for details and a full schedule of regional events this fall. [elonleads.com](http://elonleads.com)

# Every Gift COUNTS

BY MEGAN MCCLURE & HEATHER MUNRO '18

*Donors who make annual gifts of any size serve as the cornerstone of philanthropy at Elon. Their gifts provide support for every part of campus, and each donor has their own motivation for supporting Elon students.*



PHOTO CREDIT: VCO PRODUCTIONS 360

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

As an Emmy Award-winning journalist and co-anchor of Univision Network's national weekend newscast, Maity Interiano '07 attributes much of her professional success to the university's national leadership in engaged learning and to her mentors in the School of Communications.

In return, Interiano has chosen to lead the way in philanthropy at Elon by establishing an annual scholarship to support Hispanic/Latinx students in the School of Communications. She also serves as one of the co-chairs of the \$250 million Elon LEADS Campaign and recently played an active role in Elon Day 2022 by encouraging her peers to participate in the day of giving.

"I believe that Elon University benefits from having a diverse student body that encourages different conversations, with different points of view and opinions," says Interiano. "I encourage alumni, parents and friends of the institution to support Elon in whatever capacity they can. Everything you give to the world comes back to you multiplied."

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Elon parents Jill Bercovitch-Blake and Craig Blake of Norton, Massachusetts, choose to give at the Elon Society level based on the rich experiences of their current student, Javik Blake '23.

"We donate to Elon to help support students chasing their dreams through engaged learning and access to opportunities both academic and experiential," Jill Bercovitch-Blake says. "Elon has afforded Javik opportunities to do what he loves, like broadcasting in Minor League Baseball as a student. At Elon, experiential learning is more than a buzz word. It's a value and a virtue. We look forward to continuing this support for years to come as our newest Phoenix, Aidan, begins his journey at Elon in the fall."



## SITTING AT THE OTHER END OF THE TABLE

Jaylan Evans '20 was inspired by the donors who shaped his Elon experience, so he made his first gift to Elon during his senior year. A few years past graduation, Evans continues to give. He wants to



help ensure students like him continue to have the opportunities he is grateful to have been afforded.

"Giving as a senior allowed me to plant my acorn early, watering the sapling that will eventually grow into a massive oak tree, assisting numerous students to earn the degree they deserve," Evans says. "My donors gave me the opportunity to go after higher education, gifting me superb training, tools and an experience that is one beyond my wildest dreams. Now, being at the other end of the table, I choose to give to the music theatre program and student scholarships. It is a full-circle moment for me."

## SECOND-NATURE GIVING

As a former student-athlete, Robbie Seebold '17 has felt the impact of donors on a personal level.

"Being an athlete, I had so many opportunities, including a fully equipped practice facility and a study abroad trip to Scotland," Seebold says. "Both were made possible by donors. It almost comes as second nature to give back to men's golf because it changed my life, and I want to do the same for other student-athletes."



"I have also seen the benefits of Elon donors in my professional life. I was fortunate to personally connect with donors on and off the golf course and get to know the generous people who made my Elon experience everything I could have imagined. Their involvement gave me opportunities I would not have had otherwise."

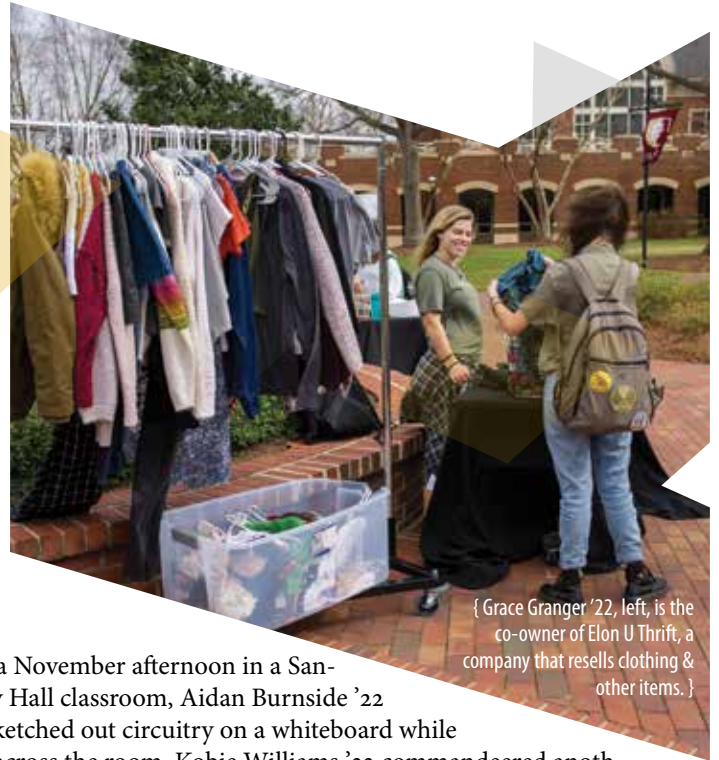
---

# INNOVATION IN



{ Kobie Williams '22 maps out his business idea as part of Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship Sean McMahon's Design Thinking for Action class. }

# ACTION



{ Grace Granger '22, left, is the co-owner of Elon U Thrift, a company that resells clothing & other items. }

**D**uring a November afternoon in a Sankey Hall classroom, Aidan Burnside '22 sketched out circuitry on a whiteboard while across the room, Kobie Williams '22 commandeered another whiteboard to map out a decision-making flow for his nascent mobile application. Elsewhere, Ben House '23, Leah Schultz '23 and Grace Wainwright '23 gathered around a laptop as they poured over their latest additions to a website for Century Orchard, an area seller of heritage and disease-resistant pear trees. Sophie DeJong '22 took a break from her work on her business, Cape Cod Naturals, to turn around and offer feedback to the trio.

Bouncing between students and groups was Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship Sean McMahon, pulling up a chair to offer constructive feedback and probing questions for the dozen students in his class, Design Thinking for Action, which serves as an incubator for ideas, businesses and inventions. McMahon can be deep in discussion with one student when another overhears their conversation and pops by to offer some insight or pose a question.

It's an innovative and free-flowing approach to teaching these students how to navigate a startup business from a spark of an idea to actually connecting their services or products with potential customers. Throughout a single class period, the students and McMahon can come together to work on something as a group, dissolve into small groups or individuals to work on their own projects, and then reform into multiple collaborative pods to bounce ideas off each other. "We all talk about our businesses with each other," says DeJong, whose Cape Cod Naturals offers candles for sale on Etsy and other online retail sites. "It's like an open book. It's really motivating to be around everyone who is doing their own thing."

McMahon is there to coax them along and offer lessons learned from his own time as an entrepreneur and within academia as they move their business ideas from concept to reality. "For me, it's straight-up heaven," he says of the experience of working with the students and seeing how they work with and guide each other. "All these students have really owned the nature of this course."

Fall 2021 was the third time the course was offered by McMahon, who designed and launched the entrepreneurship major and minor at Elon in 2014. Typically filled with juniors or seniors, the course is designed to be an incubator where students can take what they've learned in other courses and combine them with a business idea to see what can happen when they dedicate the time and energy toward moving it forward in a collaborative way. Each submits an idea with their application to participate in the class, with McMahon choosing about a dozen students to enroll.

ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR OF  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SEAN MCMAHON  
HELPS STUDENTS  
GROW THEIR  
BUSINESS IDEAS  
FROM CONCEPT  
TO REALITY.

BY OWEN COVINGTON

“The entrepreneurial ecosystem here at Elon is really taking shape,” McMahon says. “Within that, there should also be some core for the people who might launch the next Tesla. This class tries to be a proxy for that little core of those in this area who are actually working on a project.”

Burnside, who is double majoring in engineering and entrepreneurship, used the class to propel forward his idea for a lightbulb that can seamlessly switch from LED to UV, giving it the capability to kill viruses and bacteria. The idea stemmed from discussions with his father, who is in the medical field, during the early days of the pandemic about how hospitals and other health care environments use UV light to disinfect. “I want to design a way to be able to use UV to disinfect that’s cheaper, less invasive and less time-intensive,” Burnside says.

Burnside has been focused on learning about intellectual property rights as his bulb is taking shape and is also leaning on other class members for assistance. Lending a hand with coding the firmware for the lightbulb are Williams and Jakob Reuter ’23, who with Grace Granger ’22 is running U Thrift, a company that resells clothing and other items for students. “We have a lot of accountability with the other students in the class,” Burnside says.

Williams is building an app that taps into crowdsourcing to identify whether study spots on Elon’s campus are available. The app seeks to process student-reported data about whether locations are vacant and leverage machine-learning to predict when certain spots may be available for use. “Being around people who are working on their own things and being a fly on the wall for these conversations about business is so helpful,” Williams says. “I have learned to explore new areas I haven’t thought about before.”

Every other week, each class member presents their progress on their business idea to the group, as if their fellow students are shareholders. They talk about goals and accomplishments, then field challenging questions from their classmates.

“That keeps us motivated and on track because there are multiple people holding us accountable,” says Wainwright, whose team is advancing Century Orchard’s online retail and marketing efforts.

Wainwright, Schultz and House didn’t come into the class with an idea to pursue, but instead opted to explore how to help an existing business scale and innovate. Century Orchard was moving from handling all its orders by phone or email to creating e-commerce options.

The supportive and collaborative class environment McMahon creates is particularly appealing to Schultz. “I like that it’s not just me pursuing an idea by myself in here,” Schultz says. “It’s a bunch of people with different projects, so we can all learn from each other and from Dr. McMahon.”

In working with his students, McMahon carefully resists the urge to be a naysayer, even when he sees students wanting to pursue ideas that others have attempted and failed previously. It’s an approach that keeps him from being written off as out-of-touch by a young mind looking to try a fresh approach and is also one that



{ Grace Wainwright '23 & Jakob Reuter '23 bounce off ideas during a recent class. }

demonstrates the value in learning even through failure. He often talks about “keeping the porch light on,” meaning that even the most far-fetched idea might gain traction and succeed.

DeJong thinks it’s unlikely that her career path will lead her to producing and selling candles on a large scale, but Cape Cod Naturals has provided her the experience of running her own business while gaining insight into how to navigate real-world challenges during the pandemic, such as supply chain issues. “I came in knowing that I wanted to work on my marketing,” DeJong says. “I knew I wanted to put my effort into that, as well as working on my self-discipline and time management.”

McMahon can rattle off the statistics — that each year only about three out of every 1,000 college graduates will found a startup. For those who do launch new companies, the average age is about 40, so the image of the self-made millionaire is not of the recent college grad, but someone who may have a few (or many) gray hairs.

But when he arrives at class to find one student in the hallway talking to a client, with two students working on different projects collaborating and trading ideas on the whiteboard, and another sending a text message about being late to class because they are working on product inventory, he can’t help but be excited by all they are learning, and how it will shape their future careers and lives.

“These students may or may not make a career out of these startup projects, but their experience in this class is definitely going to inform what they do next,” McMahon says. “The initiative they took and the exposure they received are going to be hugely important for their next steps, and the way they view themselves actualizing ideas.” ♣



# GOING THE DISTANCE



Emily Favret '09 walked away from an athletic scholarship to chart her own course at Elon, a decision that paved the way for a dream opportunity at Nike.

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

**“The real-world skills I gained from internships, leadership positions on campus and truly immersive coursework shaped my applications to jobs after graduation.”**

# A

lifelong athlete, Emily Favret '09 went into her senior year of high school knowing she was going to play soccer at Elon. She had traveled to campus to meet the team and followed a strict Division I strength and conditioning program. But about a week before high school graduation, something clicked. She woke up one morning feeling an unmistakable desire to do something completely different. She wanted a more varied experience at Elon, one that primarily took place off the soccer field.

“Once I realized that true flexibility was available with my courses, studying abroad, interning and in general an amazing campus life, something was pulling me in that direction,” says Favret, who is now a director of consumer creation communications at Nike. “I’m pretty sure my life would be completely different if I didn’t do that from day one at Elon.”

With this newfound realization, an 18-year-old Favret braced herself and walked into the kitchen to confront her parents — she didn’t want to play soccer anymore. “We had missed financial aid deadlines; that ship had sailed,” Favret says. “My parents made massive sacrifices for me to go to Elon. While I walked away from an athletic scholarship, they made it work. And I’m forever indebted that they did.”

Favret grew up in a small town in Maryland surrounded by athletics. Her dad was a competitive marathon runner and both of her parents played in different sports leagues. She grew up attending their events and engaging in a variety of sports herself — soccer, volleyball, basketball and track, including in boys-only leagues because they were the most competitive. But soccer was always her primary focus, and she thought she would pursue it in college and beyond. She attended Catholic schools and planned to go to a Catholic university as well. But when she met a coach from Elon at a recruitment camp, she quickly scheduled a visit to campus.

“When I got to campus, I told my mom, ‘I don’t care if I play soccer here or not; this is where I see myself going to school,’” she recalls. “I hadn’t realized it before then, but when I dreamt about college, this is what it looked like.”

Favret eagerly committed to the soccer program and fell more and more in love with Elon’s overall energy as she got to know the university better during the next year. She attended Fellows Weekend and learned more about study abroad and the wealth of other experiences Elon offers outside the classroom. She was always involved in a host of extracurricular activities beyond athletics — she was even voted “most actively involved” in high school — so participating in a breadth of opportunities in college was important to her.

“As soon as I started looking at all the opportunities at Elon, it broadened my aperture of what could be out there,” Favret says. “I could study abroad multiple times. I always thought I wanted to go into something related to communications, but I never really saw the depth of what that could be. All the opportunities to be involved with campus life from day one completely blew my mind.”

True to her vision, Favret made the most of her Elon experience. Before she even started classes, she participated in the First-Year Summer Experience program, which ignited a love for the outdoors that continues to this day. She met some of her closest friends in the Leadership Fellows program and transferred the skills she gained there to other roles on campus, including as an orientation leader and admissions tour guide (“The skill of walking backwards continues to benefit me in life,” she says.). And she stayed connected to her athletic roots, playing on the Club Soccer team and many intramural teams.

A strategic communications major, Favret immersed herself in her courses and cultivated a passion for telling brands’ stories. She credits Professor of Journalism Janna Anderson as one of her greatest mentors, facilitating connections between the classroom and the professional communications field. “She pushed us, inspired us, challenged us in unique and different ways, and just had such a pulse on how coursework applied to the real world,” Favret says. “There was always a relation to what this looks like in reality.”

Anderson still vividly remembers an encounter with Favret during her sophomore year that exemplifies her work ethic. After Anderson urged her Media Writing students to seek internships as early as possible, she walked into her classroom at 7:30 a.m. one day to find Favret feverishly completing a screening exam for an internship application for Ketchum, a global strategic communications company.



{ A lifelong athlete, Favret developed a passion for the outdoors & endurance events after graduating from Elon. She has completed five marathons, seven long-distance triathlons & an ultramarathon, among many other events. }



{ Above: Favret crossing the finish line at Ironman Austria in 2016. Bottom right: Favret & Paige Taylor '09 at Mt. Rainier National Park. }

“She was writing a press release as part of a timed test, competing against juniors and seniors,” Anderson says. “Of course, the ever-determined, focused and hard-working Emily landed the internship, and she worked on several accounts for the Ketchum office in Washington, D.C., before her junior year. ... She left Elon ready to perform at the highest level in her field.”

Favret graduated with five internships under her belt, including one at Ketchum’s Madrid office during Winter Term immediately after studying abroad in Perugia, Italy, for a semester. While walking away from an athletic scholarship was a risk, she says the unique blend of experiences Elon afforded her was the catalyst for her current success. “The real-world skills I gained from internships, leadership positions on campus and truly immersive coursework shaped my applications to jobs after graduation,” she says.

**M**uch like her attitude as a student, Favret left Elon with a willingness to try anything that would lay a solid foundation for her long-term career goals. Though she graduated in the middle of the Great Recession, she held out for a full-time job at a PR agency in New York City. Her first few clients were ultra-high-net-worth retirement funds and skincare companies, a far cry from

**“It took me a while to get to the center of what I really wanted to do, but I knew that good experience was good experience.”**

the athletic brands she dreamed of working with, but she approached everything with the same curiosity and drive that defined her time at Elon. “It took me a while to get to the center of what I really wanted to do, but I knew that good experience was good experience,” Favret says.

After a few years in various agency positions, she landed a job in the sports division at Edelman, another global PR and marketing firm. In her first year at the agency, she worked on campaigns for the Super Bowl, the Olympics, the World Cup and more. Then she transferred to Edelman’s London office for three years, where she led various sports accounts including Heineken’s sport sponsorship portfolio in Champions League soccer, Formula 1 racing, Olympics and rugby.

In addition to leisure travel, she was able to travel extensively in this role — for week-long film shoots in Africa and Thailand and across Europe, and even an around-the-world journey with Heineken and Champions League that took her to six countries in four weeks. “Leading the work and being exposed to that amount of culture and travel in my job was both incredible and exhausting,” Favret says. In three years of working and living abroad, she filled three passports, traveled to 15 new countries and led teams and projects all over the world.

In the middle of her world tour, an opportunity arose for a new chapter in her career. A recruiter from Nike contacted her, and after a few phone interviews, she flew from Vietnam to Nike headquarters outside Portland, Oregon, for a day of in-person interviews. She secured the job on her 30th birthday. “As a storyteller and as a brand, I was always a fan of Nike,” Favret says. “I’ve always run and competed using their products since a young age and idolized the company and what the brand stands for, so it was pretty special.”

Favret started with the company in 2017 as a director of global employee communications, helping to oversee content that reached more than 70,000 people in Nike’s offices and retail stores around the world. She also shepherded employee experiences, from bringing LeBron James to Nike’s campus to play kickball with the staff to letting employees test new shoes before they hit the market. “Up until this point, my career had centered around media relations and external communications,” Favret says. “The opportunity to do employee communications at Nike was very intimidating and new to me, but I went in eager to

learn as much as I could about this amazing company and its people.” Now, in her current role as director of consumer creation communications, Favret helps to lead both internal and external communications for driving Nike’s narrative with a sharper focus on running, Olympics and women’s sport initiatives.

Just this past year, Nike designed all-new uniforms for the 25th anniversary season of the WNBA, tailored specifically for the bodies of women athletes rather than simply being smaller versions of men’s uniforms. “As an athlete and lifelong fan of women’s sports, it was amazing to be a part of this landmark project that drove record-breaking visibility and awareness to these athletes, their sport and their unique needs as female athletes,” she says. “It was a huge body of work but so special to be a part of it.” The buzz created by the storytelling of the project helped to drive record sales of women’s basketball uniforms for the league and Nike, during a season that saw its highest ever TV viewership and social traction.



Looking back on her career so far, Favret says she might not be where she is today if she hadn’t changed the course of her Elon journey that summer before her first year in her family’s kitchen. It fostered her curiosity, her “say yes” attitude and her time management and problem-solving philosophies, skills that continue to shape her life and career.

“My Elon experience gave me the confidence that I could go after big things,” Favret says. “I feel like 18-year-old Emily applying to Elon would be really stoked to know what was on the other side of that.” ♣

# Teaching Excellence

WE ASKED SOME  
OF OUR MOST ENGAGED FACULTY  
MEMBERS TO SHARE WHAT INSPIRED THEM  
TO BECOME TEACHERS AND WHAT  
KEEPS THEM GOING.

**T**hroughout the years, Elon has held steadfast to the belief that students learn most deeply through engaged, hands-on experiences. It's not surprising that in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings, Elon was recognized as No. 1 in the nation for undergraduate teaching. Leading this innovative teaching and experiential learning are dedicated faculty who are passionately committed to their vocation. But what inspired them to follow this path in the first place and what keeps them engaged year after year? See what they have to say.



## CHRIS HARRIS

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FINANCE // CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE // DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY AT ELON UNIVERSITY

I always enjoyed learning. Whenever I learned things, even when I was an undergraduate student or when I started working professionally for an investment firm after college, I found that I really loved the idea of trying to learn more and then share that with people.

At first, I didn't know I was going to become a teacher. Even when I did my Ph.D., I was investigating career paths outside of academia. I looked at a whole range of universities and decided I wanted something where I could interact with students, where I could actually have a personal connection with them and help them. But I found that's not necessarily the vision that every school has. It almost was discouraging, going through a doctoral program, and then looking for jobs and realizing that may not be what a career path in teaching held for me.

It wasn't until I came to Elon that I recognized a difference in the culture — the opportunity to innovate, to stay excited in your field and the encouragement to actually connect with students. I just thought, "That's the environment I want to be in." I want to be able to help people on a one-on-one level. And I want to be able to hopefully teach in a way that helps students feel excited, feel like it was worth their time and energy to be there, to pay attention and to be involved in the class.

That's why I'm here, and I know many colleagues who feel the same way. It's a unique school. I think that engaged learning is a buzzword that's used everywhere, but I see it every day here in class and in my office hours. I see what that means, and it's exciting. It's a great environment to be in.

The field of finance really is a forward-looking discipline. It's really about seeing what's ahead and trying to make decisions now based on uncertain information and limited resources — How do we try to make the best decision for the future? So I love to continue learning, I love to see the things that are coming and the possibilities that exist. And I think that keeps me going, because it's so much easier to walk into a class and say, "Did you know about this? Now here's what we're learning today."





## STEVE FRIEDLAND

### SENIOR SCHOLAR AND PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE ELON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Why teach? I guess it was in my blood. Both of my parents were teachers. My mother was an elementary school physical education teacher. My father was a guidance counselor and then principal of a high school. I had no plans on becoming a teacher, but as I learned quickly, it's great. When you find your happy job, you just stay there.

To this day, I try to emulate the example my parents set for me, particularly my mom. When I was very young, I would laugh when my mother was going to teach her phys ed classes, thinking all she might do was roll a ball out. But as I got older and I saw the kind of preparation she had, I had so much more respect for what she accomplished. When I flailed about as a newer teacher, I realized she is the best teacher I'll ever know. She really cared about her students and her craft. I was lucky in that I saw what a good teacher was like and had great role models.

Even after all these years of teaching, I look forward to seeing the light bulbs go off with my students, observing them becoming, starting to live their lives fully. I view myself as the coach on the side, not the sage on the stage. I'm like a river guide. All I can do is create the environment and hope that they're paddling with me in the right direction. And when I see them really achieve, it's as if I'm achieving, too. So any achievements I have are through them. And it's great when I hear from students 10-15 years later and see what they've become. It's nice to have played a tiny role in where they are.

I get to carry the mace for the law school graduation, which is getting heavier every year. I really enjoy it because I am the first one marching into the auditorium and I get to see all the expectant looks from the families and friends, all the students' support groups. It gives me great pride when I see the students walk across the stage to get their diplomas because I know how much they had to put into this experience. It wasn't just something that was handed to them. Our students are willing to get up every day and really push themselves. And that's what I love about what they do and where they go. Life is not about great days or years. It's often about moments, and I view graduation as their moment, a moment that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. I'm just glad to be there to share it with them.

## NAEEMAH CLARK

**PROFESSOR OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS // CHAIR OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS //  
J. EARL DANIELEY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR // FACULTY  
ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOW IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Initially, I went to undergrad to be an English teacher because I always loved my high school English teachers. And then I taught briefly a sixth-grade class and thought, “Oh, sixth grade is hard,” so I went to graduate school to be a reporter. Soon I discovered that I like teaching undergraduate students about the media industry, so I thought, “Oh, maybe I should be a college professor,” and that’s what brought me to Elon.

Sometimes, when I’ve just had a long weekend or a long day, knowing that I’ve got class always gives me a boost because I like talking to my students. I like sharing what I know and hearing a little bit about what they know and seeing their creativity and how smart they are. I think students are really a big part of what gets me out of bed every day, because I know I get to work with them.

It wasn’t always easy during the pandemic, but I knew that I had content I wanted to deliver, content that I thought would make them great when they graduated, make them excellent in their professions in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion, and in terms of media industry policy. So even though it was hard, even though there were days that you just wanted to stay in bed, you know you’ve got good stuff you want to share, and you hope that you’re going to change them in a way that they change the industry. Because of what I do — I teach about media and entertainment — what they are creating is going to touch other people’s lives, so I hope that I’m inspiring them in that way.

In my classes, I like to talk about the importance of understanding who you are, what your position is in the space that you’re in and making sure that every decision you’re making is about creating a better situation for everyone else you come in contact with. I think that is a huge part of my equity-minded approach to education — that yes, some people are going to do great in a certain situation, but how do we make it better for everyone? That’s hard work because you must think about who is not being included, what conversations aren’t being had, and then also where am I getting an advantage that other people aren’t and how can I make sure that other people are also able to experience that kind of equity? That is important for me to share with students and with my colleagues as well.



## JEN LIND

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY //  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING (EFFECTIVE FALL 2022)**

The first thing I ever taught was dance. I loved dancing when I was a kid, so it seemed natural to teach something that I adored doing. Similarly, in college, I was fascinated with biology classes so finding a career where I could share that knowledge with students also seemed like a natural fit. Now that I've been teaching for a while, I still love science and am passionate about teaching how the body works. Science is all around and in us — it is eye opening and amazing.

But beyond that, I also very much enjoy watching students learn; seeing them discover things that I, too, enjoy learning about and making connections that lead to those “aha!” moments in class. Watching students really struggle to understand a concept and then have something suddenly click — those are my favorite classroom moments. It always makes my day and motivates me to do more.

Teaching really is a continuous journey where I get to keep learning and teaching things that I genuinely enjoy. Even during the pandemic, it was truly awesome to see science at work in the face of this new virus and what that means for our community at Elon and beyond. I was and still am learning more about it and sharing that information with my students as we negotiate together through the challenges of this pandemic.

For me, teaching is an opportunity to keep learning, discovering and sharing. That's what makes it entertaining and exciting every day. I love getting those emails at the end of the semester from the student that I connected with or a former research students letting me know they successfully defended their Ph.D. and are coming back for a visit. For me, those moments also keep me going — knowing that I have, even in a small way, contributed to a student's life path. They remind me why I chose to teach. It's always fun and inspiring to see how much they've grown, and I love hearing about their journeys, seeing their successes.

I feel very lucky to have so many great relationships with Elon students. Last year, in the heart of the pandemic, one of our biology alumnae got married. My kids were in her wedding, I did a reading and my husband officiated the ceremony. It was such a special day and speaks to the bonds and relationships that develop on this campus. But this is just one story; there are many more. The relationships where you develop those special connections you have for the rest of your life — that also makes teaching unique and special. I have a similar bond with my undergraduate research mentor. We still communicate on a regular basis, and it means the world to me. I can only hope it means the same to the students that I've mentored here at Elon.





## EVAN SMALL

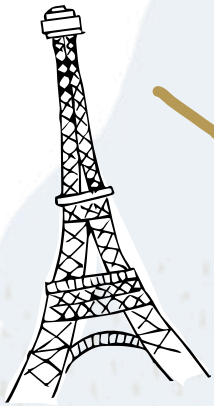
**INSTRUCTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WELLNESS // ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, CAMPUS RECREATION AND WELLNESS**

I always knew I wanted to work with students. One of the things that really interests me is helping students make meaning of experiences and helping them recognize the power of their voice and their ability to influence change in the world. Specifically in my field of experiential education, it's recognizing the transformative power of those experiences and how these can shape my students and the community around them. I want them to connect the dots between school and the real world, and really put what they're learning into practice. That's always been exciting for me.

We often make this divide in education between school and the real world. I really appreciate teachers who start to break that down, who help students recognize that what we're doing in class is directly connected to our ability to influence the broader community. I appreciate teachers who center community in their class, who really help students feel heard and valued and seen in their classroom. I think about what it means to be in community with each other. How do we create knowledge? What does that look like in an academic space? That's always been something I do in my teaching practice that I've appreciated from previous teachers.

It's always exciting for me when students come back and I can help them see what we have now and how that's connected to their experience, how we wouldn't have what we have now or be where we are now without them. We always hear from President Book that the world needs Elon graduates and that's absolutely true. It's exciting for them to be able to go out into the world, taking what they've learned here and the experiences they've had here and impact their communities and have that change be felt around the world. It's always exciting to see them leave and see them do great and amazing things wherever they go.





## SOPHIE ADAMSON

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH // CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

What inspired me to become a professor is what inspires me still every day, and that is this fierce conviction that everything can be taught and that everybody has the capacity to learn. I find it fascinating to figure out the key to what helps somebody learn and the tools I need to connect with my students. The most effective teachers are the ones who really believe that learning *how* people learn is fascinating and worth figuring out.

Anybody can teach new content, but it seems even more important to figure out the intangibles, like what motivates or inspires people, how do you get critical thinking and inquiry and engagement and connection regardless of the day's lesson or topic. I'm a French professor, and I also teach in the Core Curriculum and the Global Experience. Every time students walk out feeling like they learned something is when I feel totally inspired and ready to do it again the next day. They may come in sometimes deflated or confused, and it's our job to figure out how to make the pieces fit for them.

I think the best thing you can give to another human being is a new skill, a boost in their confidence and the motivation to want to keep learning. It can happen every single day in the classroom because we're engaging and learning things, thinking critically and asking questions. Even if it's small progress, it's progress.

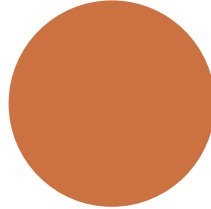
Another one of the most rewarding aspects about being a professor is what happens outside the classroom, although it couldn't happen without the bond we've created in the classroom. They go hand in hand, and that's what sets Elon apart — we are engaged with our students all the time. We are club and academic advisers. We study abroad with them. We have these impromptu coffee conversations. We go out to meals. There's so much more that happens between students and professors outside the classroom, so it is inevitable that we grow together. It is not one-sided. I don't know if students know that, but they impact us as well. We may be at different stages of our lives, but professors never stop growing and learning from our students. And it's so meaningful to us to have those relationships. ✦



# CON- NEC- TING THE DOTS

Deena Elrefai '22 found the through lines among a multitude of interests to make the most of her Elon experience.

BY AMANDA KENNISON '10



"I'm not graduating as someone who has a concrete opinion of how things are, but rather as someone who has the tools and skills to see questions, ask questions and be comfortable not knowing answers until I am able to explore things more."

**EENA ELREFAI '22** epitomizes the quintessential engaged Elon student. Double majoring in public health studies and international and global studies with a minor in Spanish, Elrefai's résumé is lengthy and far-reaching. From participating in the First-Year Summer Experience program the summer before her first semester to presenting research in the professional track of the American Public Health Association conference in the fall of senior year, her journey traverses all five of Elon's Experiential Learning Requirements, and then some.

"I have been floored by just how much I've managed to get out of this experience," Elrefai says. "I feel like I've taken advantage of everything and participated in so much, and I was so surprised about how much Elon offered me."

How is it possible to pursue so many commitments and interests in a healthy, beneficial way? For Elrefai, it's all about intentionality and building authentic relationships.

### Intentional Intersectionality

Senior Lecturer in Public Health Studies Amanda Tapler has served as a teacher and mentor to Elrefai since her first year. She has watched Elrefai build upon steppingstone experiences and strategically pursue involvements.

"[Deena] has thought about the opportunities that have been put before her," Tapler says. "She's thought about how these experiences may overlap or enhance or deepen her academic but also personal and potentially her professional life."

It's that thoughtful approach that allowed Elrefai to identify through lines between her varied interests. One of her main campus involvements is working with Experiential Learning and Outdoor Adventures (ELOA), specifically the Elon Challenge. As she progressed in her public health coursework, conducted research in community health and engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) trainings, Elrefai recognized the opportunity to improve the program. She adapted frameworks learned in her academic work to develop a facilitation guide that helps Elon Challenge groups explore antiracism and discuss DEI topics.

When the facilitation guide needed a trial run, Elrefai further connected her different interests. Elon's Health Equity and Racism (H.E.R.) Lab allows student researchers to analyze the roles of race and racism as contributors to racial health inequities. Through her involvement with the lab, Elrefai knew the group wanted to do a bonding exercise.

She suggested they serve as a test group for the anti-racism and DEI experience she created for the Elon Challenge and provide feedback.

Elrefai's ability to creatively combine interests maximizes her time and creates deeper involvements. Her mentors have taken note of her forward-thinking. Evan Small, assistant director of Campus Recreation and Wellness for Experiential Learning and Outdoor Adventures, met Elrefai through the Adventures in Leadership program in the summer before her first semester. He has since supervised her in several of her roles in ELOA. "She thinks interdisciplinarily and transdisciplinarily," Small says. "It's not just 'let me put my head down and do public health things.' [Deena] has such a great grasp of all the facets of her life and how they integrate and knit and weave together."

While connections between public health and experiential learning may not seem obvious, Elrefai's willingness to ask questions and investigate revealed multiple points of overlap. This spring, Elrefai and Small's working relationship shifted to an academic one because of this. The two are collaborating on research based on applying public health models to experiential education.

### Openness Breeds Opportunity

Associate Professor of Public Health Studies Stephanie Baker is Elrefai's faculty mentor for her Lumen Prize research on reproductive health among Latina/Latinx women in Alamance County. Elrefai also took Baker's Introduction to Public Health course early in her Elon career, so Baker has had a front-row view of Elrefai's trajectory as a student.

Baker recalls an early conversation with Elrefai regarding the value of learning outside a letter grade. "I think it was a moment of pause for her," Baker says. "She started to see, 'you know I have to kind of reteach my brain to appreciate the learning even if it may or may not be represented by a grade I wanted to get.'"

Those redefining moments continued throughout her education. Baker explains Elrefai learned a lot about being patient and changing course to complete her research project, even when things may not have gone as planned. "I think Deena really takes advantage of opportunities to learn," she says. It is that willingness to continuously learn and adapt that has set her up for success.

Another key to her success: embracing uncertainty. Elrefai entered Elon thinking she knew what she wanted to do. Her first two years at Elon were



{ Deena Elrefai '22 counts Associate Professor of Public Health Studies Stephanie Baker among the mentors who have guided her Elon journey. }

characterized by realizing just how much she didn't know. The next two have been spent learning the importance of not shutting yourself off to options and accepting that it is OK to have your mind changed.

"Every time I learn something new, it gives me 10 more questions," Elrefai says. "I'm OK with living in a little bit of uncertainty for a while as I learn that things are not black and white, things are not concrete, every issue has a thousand sides and deserves to be explored from the perspective of those experiencing it. I'm not graduating as someone who has a concrete opinion of how things are, but rather as someone who has the tools and skills to see questions, ask questions and be comfortable not knowing answers until I am able to explore things more."

## Authentic Associations

Whether discussing her leadership roles around campus, Fulbright semi-finalist status or work as a Periclean Scholar, Elrefai is modest about her achievements. She is quick to credit the relationships that have guided her Elon journey. She is especially grateful to the

many faculty members who have challenged, empowered and motivated her as both a student and a person.

She's dubbed Elon a "self-fulfilling culture" where professors really care about their students, who see that and feel empowered to explore. Elrefai praises Baker's, Small's and Tapler's self-directed approaches to teaching and mentoring. "Baker has been such an amazing mentor because she challenges me unlike I have ever been challenged in my life," she says.

Tapler encourages students to "explore issues and figure out what they mean for us and allows us to change those definitions over time," Elrefai says. That freedom establishes a "joint learning experience where we're learning together which is really, really cool." Similarly, Small has empowered Elrefai to ask questions and take control of projects, in both work and research. "[Evan] has let me have so much freedom but guided me so effectively and given me room to make mistakes."

The relationships Elrefai has built with faculty members reflect her focus on building authentic connections in all aspects of her

academic, social and professional lives.

"[Deena] is very much a relational person," Small says. "Her deep, sustained involvements center on what she's doing but also who she's doing it with." Tapler also appreciates Elrefai's ability to carefully consider the value of each of her experiences and how they might benefit her community. It's not just about her journey, but rather "Deena's journey with."

Regardless of where that journey takes her next — teaching English in Uruguay, working in a public health position in Colombia or starting a master's program in global health are just a few options she's currently pursuing — Elrefai's thirst for knowledge, intentionality and authentic relationships will guide her way.

"[Deena's] a lifelong learner," Tapler says. "I've definitely seen that in terms of her excitement over intellectual curiosity and her interest in so many different things and different perspectives. She's probably one of the perfect students for Elon, thinking about that interdisciplinary component and being a liberal arts and sciences institution. That has afforded her the opportunity to take advantage of all Elon has to offer." ♣



{ Assistant Professor of Economics  
Brandon Sheridan serves as a  
CATL Faculty Scholar. }

# A CATALYST

## FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING


**J**ust days into his first semester at Elon, Brandon Sheridan was already getting to know the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Like all new faculty, Sheridan participated in an overarching series of information programs and workshops that is organized and delivered by the center, commonly referred to as CATL. It's an opportunity to quickly establish connections with CATL and its staff, who offer a wide range of support to faculty, whether it's their first day on campus or their 10th year teaching at Elon.

"As a faculty member at a teaching-focused institution, it means everything to have a resource like CATL," says Sheridan, an assistant professor of economics and a CATL Faculty Scholar. "You can't be about teaching and experiential learning if you don't support it. CATL gives faculty members the resources to do what they do best."

Launched in 2005 with Assistant Provost for Teaching and Learning Peter Felten as its founding director, CATL has become a vital resource for Elon's faculty and a catalyst for effective teaching and engaged learning at Elon. The center has fostered a collaborative and supportive culture among faculty while advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning, with research that is helping shape and advance the practice and impact of teaching at myriad colleges and universities.

"CATL has been a leader in thinking about the idea of the scholarship of teaching and learning, and baking that into the mission," says Deandra Little, assistant provost and director of CATL since 2013. "The conversations about teaching and learning that are happening here are on a different level from what I hear at other institutions."

Joining Little on the CATL staff are associate directors Mary Jo Festle, Kelsey Bitting and Olivia Choplin, all of whom are teaching faculty at Elon, keeping their feet firmly planted within the classroom as well as within the work of CATL. Supporting the center is Program Coordinator Christina Wittstein. Together, the team provides support for Elon faculty that ranges from single-session community workshops to extended support for scholars that stretches over multiple years. CATL's programs and



**Elon's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning is helping position the university as a national thought leader in teaching practices and supporting student learning.**

BY OWEN COVINGTON



**“I really love talking to people from a variety of disciplines to try to understand what teaching looks like in their context, why it matters to them, and how we can tweak or change things to help the reality match their vision of what they want to be.”**

—Deandra Little, assistant provost and CATL director

services include guided opportunities to develop teaching projects with colleagues, grant funding for initiatives such as inclusive teaching practices or the scholarship of teaching and learning, and one-on-one consultations with faculty, including in-class assessments.

In June, CATL will partner with Elon’s Teaching and Learning Technologies to offer the 18th annual Teaching & Learning Conference, with the theme “Educating Engaged Citizens for an Uncertain and Changing World.” The conference has historically drawn 300-plus participants from dozens of higher education institutions throughout North Carolina and the country, positioning Elon as a thought-leader in teaching practices and supporting student learning.

Little believes that the ethos of the faculty at Elon is to take a scholarly approach to teaching — not just to the work and research within their disciplines — and CATL is there to help guide and support that approach, both individually and collectively. “Support for innovations in teaching and learning is something that has been at the heart of what CATL is doing since it was founded,” she adds.

Choplin distinctly remembers talking with a peer at another institution shortly after she joined the Department of World Languages

and Cultures as an assistant professor of French and saying, “I can’t imagine having landed at a better place for people who really care about teaching.” She describes herself as a fan of CATL from the beginning, and turned to the center for support with a research opportunity. She took her work with CATL another step forward in 2021 when she joined the team as associate director. “I thought this would be a great way for me to meet incoming faculty, to continue to grow as a teacher and scholar, to dive deeply into the scholarship of teaching and learning, and to facilitate other people on those journeys,” Choplin says.

The scholarship of teaching and learning is not “second fiddle” at Elon, she says, and the university values the investments faculty are making in that area within its promotions and tenure process. That empowers CATL to offer the support necessary to try innovative approaches, such as a Winter Term course Choplin taught three years after coming to Elon that included producing a full-length play in French during the intensive three-week term. She was able to tap into CATL resources to make that possible.

“The learning gains I saw in that immersive experience were incredible,” Choplin says.

Among the services CATL offers is a mid-

semester focus group with students who share anonymous feedback for their professor about how their learning is being supported and how it can be enhanced. Offering that review and analysis in the middle of the semester instead of at the end allows students to provide feedback at a point when the professors can pivot or adapt their approach to the course. “It also becomes a conversation point for faculty to remind students that this is why we are doing these things, and this is how it connects to your educational and eventually professional experience,” Little says.

As a CATL Faculty Scholar, Sheridan has been engaged for the past two years in examining the level of active, engaged learning that faculty members perceive is happening in their classrooms and how that compares to reality. “As an economist, I want to know what I’m doing is effective,” Sheridan says. His selection as a CATL Faculty Scholar gave him the time and financial support to extend and expand his research that draws from recorded classroom sessions to examine the amount of lecturing versus active learning and explore the question of what an effective balance is. “CATL has experts who think about these topics every day,” he says. “They are so available and so knowledgeable.”

Asked about her favorite part of leading CATL, Little is quick to reply that her role offers her the opportunity to engage with faculty across campus to learn what they are passionate about, and how that plays out in the classroom. It’s not just faculty early in their careers, but those further along with tenure and scores of publications who are still exploring how to become better teachers.

“I really love talking to people from a variety of disciplines to try to understand what teaching looks like in their context, why it matters to them, and how we can tweak or change things to help the reality match their vision of what they want to be,” Little says. “It’s so enriching to hear about the really creative ideas they are coming up with to help their students better understand and learn about things that matter to them.” ♣



{ Thanks to a CATL grant, students enrolled in two Spanish classes last fall were able to visit Minro Acres Alpaca in Burlington, N.C., to learn about the cultural impact of alpacas and llamas on Peruvian society. }

# TEACHING - the - TEACHERS

Marna Winter '98 and Erin Hone '04 are among the faculty in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education who are dedicated to helping the next generation of teachers make an impact in the classroom.



BY TRAJAN WARREN

Most everyone has at least one teacher who inspired, encouraged and empowered them to become who they are today. Marna Winter '98 is using “the Elon way” to motivate her students into becoming some of those teachers. As a senior lecturer and chair of the Department of Education and Wellness in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education, she feels a responsibility to instill this philosophy into her students.

“The Elon way’ is very experiential learning- and engaged learning-based,” Winter says.

Elon has built a national reputation as the premier student-centered environment for hands-on learning. It’s among the many reasons Elon was ranked No.1 in undergraduate teaching in the 2022 U.S. News & World Report “Best Colleges” guide. In its first two appearances since being designated as a national university in 2020, Elon ranked second in this category.

Winter spent seven years in the public K-12 school system teaching middle school, a multi-age project-based classroom and elementary grades before returning to Elon. It was during those years she fine-tuned her teaching philosophy to be more of a facilitator of learning, rather than a lecturer — a technique she first picked up as a student at Elon. While she learned much by doing in the field, her experiences and professors at Elon provided what she needed to be a successful educator, and it’s what she tries to emulate for her students.

“It was amazing being a student at Elon and then coming full circle to work with teacher candidates as they were going into their practicum,” Winter says.

Erin Hone '04, senior lecturer in education, echoes that sentiment. When she



returned to Elon as a faculty member, she looked at her own former professors almost like celebrities. She saw how they built relationships with teaching candidates and sought one another's help to grow as instructors. "I could tell that I knew how to do things because I had been taught those things and had been given experiences that others didn't necessarily have yet," Hone says. "When I came to Elon as a faculty member, I realized why that was. Our faculty are constantly trying to make things the very best, relevant and cutting edge."

Hone spent seven years in Guilford County Schools, where she taught elementary grades. She decided to pursue her graduate degree in elementary math because she struggled with the topic as a child and wanted to ensure that future students didn't resent math, as she had. She was a reserved student, often anxious about her academic performance. The teachers that took the time to make her feel more comfortable in the classroom are the ones who had the biggest impact on her. "Regardless of the resources, their prior experiences or any access students have, it's the teacher that makes the biggest difference," Hone says. "A teacher can make or break a student's experience."

Being a teacher requires consistent growth, and that is something Hone works to reinforce to her Elon teaching candidates. The best way to reach as many students as possible, she says, is to be able to take criticism and, more importantly, self-reflect.

Education in the United States is beginning to shift from a teacher-centered approach, in which the teacher is a lecturer and

"It was amazing being a student at Elon and then coming full circle to work with teacher candidates as they were going into their practicum,"

Winter says.



students passively receive the information, to a student-centered environment, where the teacher serves as the authority figure but allows for more active collaboration among the pupils. "It's great to see them shift and think about becoming a facilitator of learning rather than a director of learning," Hone says.

Students come to Elon expecting high-quality teaching and engaged learning. The curriculum in the School of Education gives them just that. The students get hands-on experience in classrooms throughout the region to prepare them more than any lecture could. "From the first class as an education major, we got to have practicum hours," says Meredith City '14, who is now a second-grade teacher at South Mebane Elementary in Alamance County. "I liked that option that Elon offers to its education majors of seeing a variety of schools and different grade levels because kindergarten is different from fifth grade. Elon shows us all the options and then we get to see for ourselves what we feel like would be our best fit without preconceived notions."

Along with the engaging curriculum, the faculty in the School of Education make a profound difference for the teaching candidates. Their unwavering dedication and insight stick with students long after they graduate. "This is my sixth year as department chair for our faculty and hands down, we have the most dedicated faculty who are passionate about ensuring our students are equity-minded and ready to go work with families and students," Winter says.

Citty has been on the receiving end of that dedication.

During her first year of teaching, she reached out to Winter about how to teach a phonics program. In response, Winter spent a day in Citty's classroom co-teaching the lesson with her.

"All of the faculty for the School of Ed have the mentality that, 'You'll always be my student and I want to keep up with you and stay connected,'" Citty says. "And they instill that in us and we put that into our classrooms. That speaks volumes about the type of people who work in the School of Ed." ❄

"Regardless of the resources, their prior experiences or any access students have, it's the teacher that makes the biggest difference," Hone says. "A teacher can make or break a student's experience."

{ A second-grade teacher, Meredith City '14 has benefited from the dedicated faculty in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education. }



# LAB WORK

*A then-and-now look at how much Elon's science labs have changed over time.*

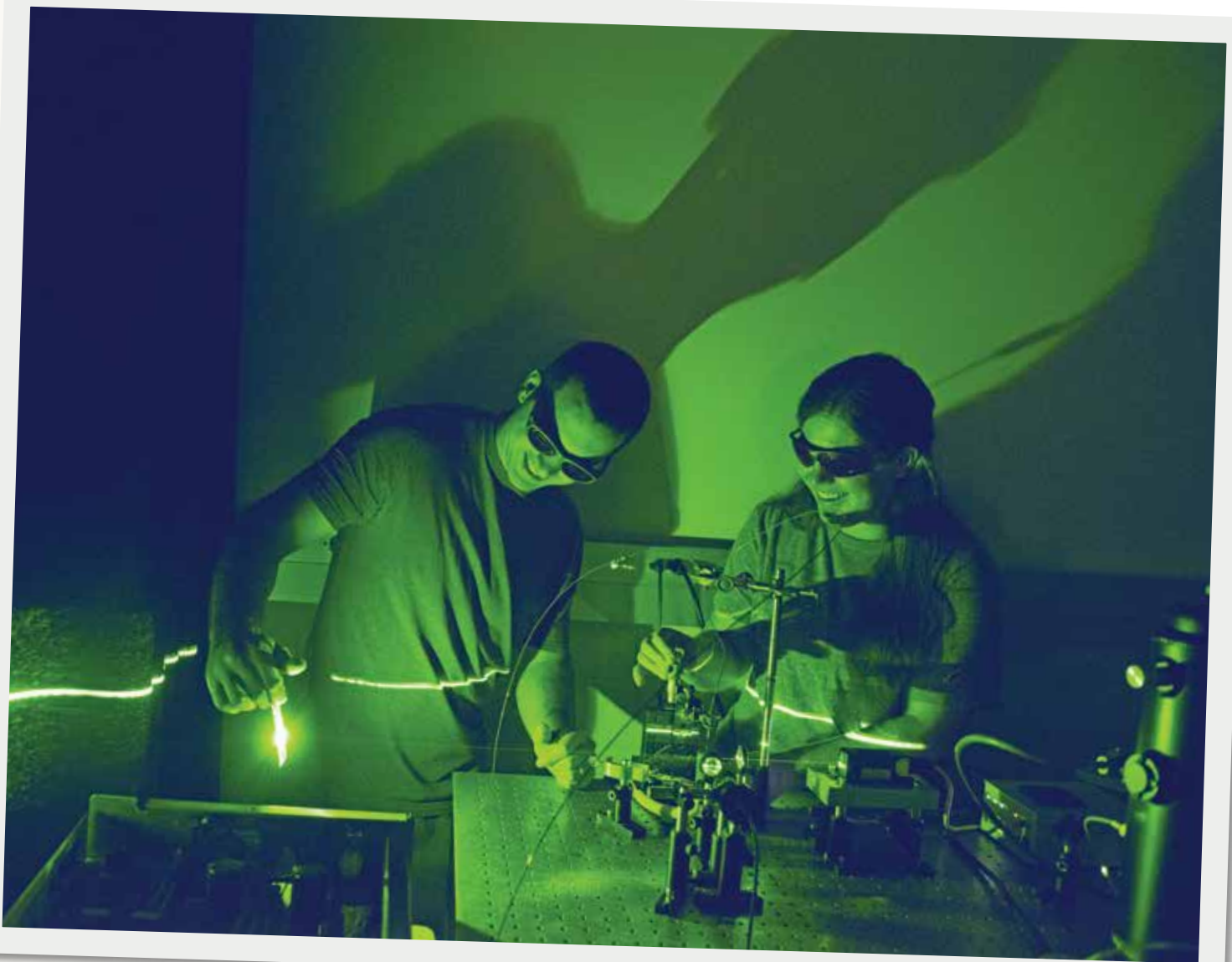


## Then ...

*For many years, most labs at Elon were housed in Duke Building. In this archival image, chemistry professor Paul Cheek works with students in what would have been considered a state-of-the-art science lab in the 1950s.*

## ... Now

*Since opening in 1998, McMichael Science Center has been the headquarters for Elon's science and engineering programs. A recent addition to the center is a laser lab. In this photo, Anna Sheinberg '22 works with her mentor, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Tony Rizzuto, as part of her research.*



# Humanizing *the* INHUMAN

BRANDON K. GAUTHIER '06

**A**nd how is it,” Dr. Yoram Lubling asked me during an ethical philosophy course in 2002, “that in the wake of the Enlightenment, after centuries of debates about metaphysics and the human ‘soul,’ Nazi Germany murdered 6 million Jewish men, women and children?” It was not a rhetorical question. It was a moral charge. *Grapple with man’s inhumanity to man.* That moment reverberates in my mind — a brilliant professor in a classroom in Powell, 20 years ago, demanding to know why homo sapiens, after 200,000 years of history, still behave with such brutality toward one another.

Endless hours of study later, I have written a book about some of the worst men who ever lived: Hitler, Stalin, Lenin, Mao, Mussolini and Kim Il-Sung. I wanted to know about a time in their lives before they were evil — to engage with not only what makes us different from them, *but what is fundamentally similar about all of us.* To come to terms with the humanity of inhumanity itself — that was my objective.

So I studied their youths. Mothers and fathers. Education. First loves. Favorite books. These men, remember, were once relatable human beings. They emerged from the womb, flesh and blood; and breathed; and cried; and drank milk; and slept; and toddled; and learned

to read; and sang; and went to school; and laughed; and wept; and earned good (and bad) grades; and went through puberty; and clashed with Dad; and adored Mom; and wondered what they would be when they grew up (A teacher? A priest? An artist?); and fell in love; and suffered tragedies; and struggled with the complexities of an unforgiving world; and realized that they too would die someday.

Like us, they had the capacity for both love and cruelty from a young age. That perspective is anathema to our need to believe that we’re entirely different. We, who try to live ethical lives and treat others with dignity and respect. But thinking of ourselves as a distinct species from murderous tyrants diminishes our ability to grapple with a conundrum we all share: *that the line between individuals doing awful things convinced they are just and people doing awful things knowing they are wrong is not always so*



*clear.* At what point can we ourselves become villains without realizing it? How can we guard against as much? The answers begin with considering what we have in common with those we deplore most. Monsters aren’t real. Humans are.

Nothing in the early lives of Stalin and Hitler predestined them to commit mass murder. They had abusive fathers, yes, but good fortune most influ-

enced their early lives. Along with Lenin, Mao, Mussolini and Kim, those two benefited from loving mothers and engaging educations. The earliest origins of the extraordinary suffering they would cause began not with trauma, but from the belief that they could play an important role in changing society for the better. Ideological fanaticism, opposed to only psychopathological traits and crass opportunism, inspired their later crimes against humanity.

To analyze the lives of such men with empathy is the antithesis of their tyranny — not the height of complicity. If we can feel for adolescent Lenin mourning the hanging of his older brother by the Tsar, and teenage Hitler caring for his mother as she died of breast cancer and 20-something Stalin sobbing over the loss of his first wife, we can distinguish ourselves from the monstrous even as we acknowledge our human susceptibility to radicalism and cruelty.

Engage, then, with the humanity of the heinous. Doing so reinforces the recognition that each one of us, under given conditions, can commit terrible acts, big and small, with the conviction that to do so is acceptable, that larger ideological ambitions necessitate as much. But it also reminds us that we can be different by rejecting the tuneful dogmatism of sirens who pull us toward disaster by ignoring, or denying, the humanity of others — *even the odious.* We can interpret the meaning of human experience, past and present, with compassion, even if it is often lacking in history. Courageous opposition is needed to confront tyranny over the ages. But so, too, is love and mercy.

The onus is on us, Dr. Lubling. ✦

*Brandon K. Gauthier '06 is the director of Global Education at The Derryfield School and an adjunct professor of history at Fordham University. Learn more about his new book — “Before Evil: Young Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mao, Mussolini, and Kim” — at BeforeEvil.com.*



# Advancing Elon's alumni network

Dear Fellow Alumni,



Spring has finally sprung, and with it comes a renewed sense of excitement as we look toward the next decade of advancing our alumni network as a part of Elon's strategic plan, Boldly Elon.

Over the last several months, the team at Elon spoke to groups of alumni, interviewed alumni volunteers, polled the masses and did a deep dive into the data to uncover emerging themes of what Elon alumni desire and need. One thing is clear: Alumni care deeply about Elon's future and are passionate about making connections, expanding their networks and continuing lifelong learning.

The Elon Alumni Board made important contributions to this process, and recently had the opportunity to give feedback to a newly developed strategic plan for alumni engagement during our spring meeting. Among the many objectives, I'm excited to see professional development for alumni as a top priority this next decade. We are ready to advance our network by building on each other's strengths and investing in regional learning centers, professional development opportunities, webinars, online resources and opportunities for connection.

Philanthropic support for these efforts will be important. Coming off the momentum of another successful Elon Day, we are heading into the end of this fiscal year, and I encourage each of you to consider making a gift to support the part of campus that is most meaningful to you. Every gift not only counts toward the final year of the Elon LEADS Campaign but also helps make Elon, the place we know and love, better. Your participation as an alum also counts toward the overall participation goal for Elon, which in part determines our ranking in U.S. News & World Report. Your gift can help with Elon's rankings, which in turn enhances the value of your degree.

These next few years will require leadership from everyone within our alumni community. Whether you participate in a networking event, offer your connections to a recent graduate or make a gift in support of these opportunities, I encourage you to find your role and jump in feet first. Together, we will boldly propel Elon forward.

**Katie Zach Fitts '04**  
President, Elon Alumni Board

## Staying CONNECTED

The graphic features a dark red arrow pointing right with "ELON next" in white and gold. To its right is a gold arrow pointing right with "LifelongElon" in white. Below these are three categories: "LEARNERS" (blue icon of a book), "MENTORS" (teal icon of three people), and "CONNECTORS" (gold icon of two hands shaking).

As part of ELONNEXT, LifelongElon continues to serve as your hub for professional network connections, mentorship, job opportunities and a resource for continued education through our monthly professional development webinars. Connect with alumni from all over the world with the touch of your keyboard. Continue to build a meaningful, robust professional network by logging into **LifelongElon.com** today.

# Elon LEADS Through Us!

This year 38 regional alumni chapters – including one international chapter in London – hosted local Elon Day gatherings March 1 to bring alumni together to celebrate the university's largest day of giving. These events provide alumni with a way to celebrate Elon Day where they live and participate in the day by making their annual gift to Elon. Thanks to all alumni who made a gift and celebrated the success of the day with us.



{ Washington, D.C. }



{ Cincinnati }



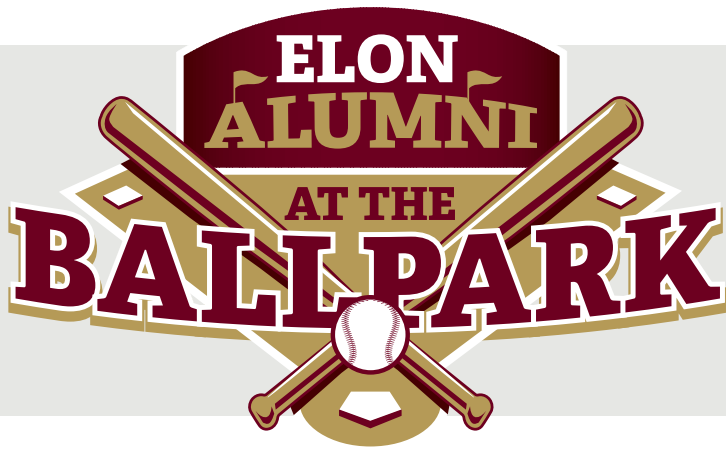
{ Baltimore }



{ Triangle }



{ Charleston }



This summer, enjoy a day at the ballpark with fellow Phoenix fans! Join your regional alumni chapter as Elon Alumni gather at ballparks across the country to support their local teams and reconnect with one another. The Elon Alumni at the Ballpark series allows alumni to gather in a safe and fun environment for the whole family while supporting their local city. We can't wait to see you at the ballpark!



{ Boston }

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

The **Boston Alumni Chapter** kicked off the new year with an all-out boxing match. More than 30 alumni and friends gathered at EverybodyFights Seaport Boxing Gym to test their physical fitness. The Boston Alumni Chapter is excited to continue to build relationships with the community and find unique ways for alumni to gather and have fun.

The **Richmond Alumni Chapter** gathered for a children's book drive on Feb. 3. Alumni collected more than 60 books to donate to Love of Learning in Richmond, Virginia, and made connections with each other while enjoying pizza and drinks. The Richmond Alumni Chapter was brought together through a shared desire to give back to the local community and forge connections with the Elon community.



{ Richmond }



{ Los Angeles }

More than 60 alumni from the **Los Angeles Alumni Chapter** and Elon in LA students gathered at the Los Angeles Contemporary Art Museum to view the Black American Portraits Exhibit in Hollywood. The exhibit chronicles the ways in which Black Americans have used portraiture to envision themselves in their own eyes. Students and alumni were able to walk the exhibit, engage in thoughtful conversation and deepen their Elon connections with one another.

# Get Ready for #ElonHome 2022



**Save the Date: Nov. 4-6 for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2022.** Begin making your plans now for #ElonHome to celebrate all that you love at Elon with your friends and family. We're excited to welcome back numerous class and affinity reunion groups. We will kick off the weekend with our Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony, celebrating outstanding alumni making an impact for Elon and their local communities. Friday evening festivities include everyone's favorite Rock the Block Party featuring great music, delicious food and fun for the whole family. Other weekend festivities include:

- ✦ **Class and Affinity Reunions** — This fall we're celebrating the Classes of 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017, as well as Sigma Pi, Kappa Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Omicron Pi, Sigma Chi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Delta Upsilon and Vital Signs.
- ✦ **Game Day Experience** — Head over to the All-Alumni Tailgate Village for celebrations leading up to the football game vs. Albany.
- ✦ **Much more fun** continues into Saturday evening — exciting announcements to come!



Registration opens in early September. Visit [elon.edu/homecoming](https://elon.edu/homecoming) for more details.



# CLASS NOTES

**'67** Last November, **Tom Conally** made 1,000 white origami doves and gifted them to his church, Elon Community Church in Elon, N.C., as a plea for world peace. He shares that Japanese legend holds that if a person who is ill makes 1,000 paper cranes, the gods will grant that person's wish to be well again. He decided to fold white doves because the dove is the biblical symbol of peace. He and wife **Faye Daniele Conally '61** live in Gibsonville.

**'78** **Michael Gilliam** was inducted into the N.C. Music Educators Hall of Fame during its annual convention in November. Mike taught choral music in the Wake County Public School System for 32 years, where he was twice nominated for Wake County Teacher of the Year and was one of 20 semifinalists for that honor in 2004. He is now retired and enjoys camping, gardening, fishing and traveling to dog shows with wife **Anne Fowler Gilliam '77** and their Welsh springer spaniels. Mike and Anne live in Fuquay-Varina.

**'82** **Scott Stevenson** accepted a position as director of talent acquisition with **USAA**, headquartered in San Antonio. He was also appointed to the board of directors for the Great Careers and Business Executives Networking Group, a national nonprofit association providing career networking and outplacement resources. He lives in Oak Island, N.C.

**'87** **Alan Wooten** has been named a managing editor for Franklin News Foundation and The Center Square, headquartered in Chicago. Prior to this role, he's been a publisher, general

manager and editor, with his work appearing in newspapers every year since 1977. He's won national or state awards in every decade since the 1980s. Alan will be able to remain in Clinton, N.C., which will allow him to still enjoy season tickets with the Phoenix.

**'91** **Kevin Carter** is happy to share that he and a group of fellow alumni, aka Jerry's Kids, got together in Charlotte, N.C., in October for a Dead & Company concert. The group included **Sandi Hincke Walsh '83**, **Kevin Hand '84**, **Johnny High '85**, **Chuck Hodgkin '86**, **Cathy Brown '88**, **Gayle Grasich High '88**, **Pam Walser Kleindienst '88**, **Cabby Raymer '88**, **Lyn Linke Witt '90** and **Dale Tuck '93**.

**'92** **Donna Petherbridge** has been named vice provost for Digital Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA) at North Carolina State University. In that



role, she is responsible for fostering the integration and support of digital learning in N.C. State's academic programs, supporting online and distance education programs at the university, and leading DELTA's strategic growth as it seeks to serve the university community. She and husband Martin Petherbridge live in Garner.

**'94** **Melissa Darr**, a move manager and organizer with Generational Transitions, was the recipient of the 2021 Davidson-Davie (N.C.) Community College Small Business Center Emerging Entrepreneur Award. Her business offers downsizing services for seniors, as well as right-sizing, organizing, decluttering and other client-tailored services. She lives in Lexington. • **Kerry Walsh-Stevenson** started a new job at Nufarm Americas Inc. as its communications manager for North America. In her role, she is responsible for providing direction, development and implementation across company-centered facets of customer, corporate, brand and internal communications. She also provides communications, direction and support for the company's key initiatives. Kerry lives in Durham, N.C.

**'97** **Angela Long Carter** was recently promoted to senior legal counsel at Jackson Healthcare, where she advises its family of highly specialized staffing, search and technology companies. She lives in Roswell, Ga., with husband Ken and their two children, Kate and Will.

elon.edu/classnotes

**TURN YOURSELF IN!**

Help us keep you in touch with your Elon classmates.



## ALUMNI ALBUM



Alan Wooten '87



Donna Petherbridge '92



Melissa Darr '94



Angela Long Carter '97

# A Pawsitively Purposeful Social Venture

BY KATIE PEOPLES '06

## Alex Ward '14 opens dog rescue diner and lounge in Vietnam

Like countless alumni before him, **Alex Ward** followed his passions around the world after graduating in 2014, eventually landing in Vietnam where he currently runs R House, a diner and lounge that also serves as a dog rescue. He and his partner, Geneva Marcelino, moved to the country in hopes of using their strengths and passions to find purpose.

After going through the process of adopting their first dog in Vietnam, Ward and Marcelino saw an opportunity to help bridge the gap between rescue shelters and those looking to adopt. Unlike in the United States, there is limited education about animal rescues in Vietnam. They saw a need for a safe space where abused, abandoned or neglected dogs could find comfort and rebuild trust in humans.

"We saw a major opportunity to pursue a more authentic life upon adopting our first dog in Vietnam," Ward says. "As we looked at how we could make a difference, we brought our interest in supporting the mission of dog rescues together with my passion for food and beverage."

Founded in 2019, R House fosters rescue animals from local shelters, which helps create more openings at those shelters for other animals in need. Unlike a nonprofit, however, R House generates its own income through its dining services and additional revenue opportunities like co-working rates and movie nights. They even hosted their first wedding in February when two former adopters tied the knot.

Ward is no stranger to achieving his goals. As a student, he took full advantage of Elon's engagement opportunities. He credits two programs, the Life Entrepreneurship Program and his semester study abroad experience in Copenhagen, Denmark, with laying the foundation to pursue his passions.

"These two Elon Experiences pushed me to push myself out of my comfort zone and pursue a life that was authentically mine," he says.

Ward has remained engaged with Elon since graduating, crediting the National & International Fellowships Office for helping with his successful application for a Princeton in Asia Fellowship. He also served as a partner and resource for Elon's MBA study abroad course.

His hardworking nature has helped him carry on through a trying couple of years. Even through a global pandemic, Ward and his team moved forward and opened a second branch in Dalat, Vietnam, one year after opening R House in Saigon. Most recently, they opened The Meow House by R House, a co-working space for humans that fosters rescue cats. Between the three locations, they regularly foster 50 to 60 animals.

While the locations are social enterprises, R House also accepts monetary and supply donations to help with operations. "The R House group works hard to use these donations to make the spaces sustainable by creating 'homes' that are also places the community can make purchases, have meals, workshops and bonding moments that are simply meaningful and purposeful," according to its Facebook page.

Ward and his team are grateful to their patrons and donors who support them in creating sustainable community-based locations that have a higher purpose of rescuing animals.

"In addition to changing the lives of dogs and people, we also are educating our team and community on sustainability, buying local, conscious consumption and social entrepreneurship," Ward says. "To be able to make a significant impact in the lives of hundreds of dogs, thousands of people and multiple communities while living in a foreign country is a true privilege, and I'm proud to say that my experiences at Elon were pivotal in guiding me to this point." 🐾



{ Alex Ward '14 }



{ In 2019, Alex Ward '14 & Geneva Marcelino opened R House, a diner and lounge that also serves as a dog rescue. }

ALUMNI ALBUM



Bobby Griffin '05 & family



Raechel Hester Timbers '06 & family



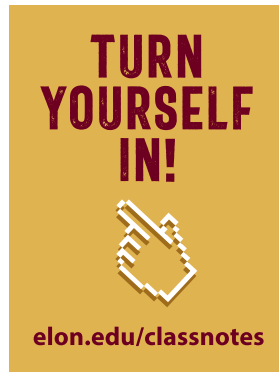
Audra Wagaman '09 & family



Lauren Wisniewski Giampietro '10 & family



Katrina O'Hara Ferrino '10 & Michael Ferrino



Kelsey McEvoy '10, Brian Pollard & friends

# Charitable Gift Annuities Can Provide Income for Life

A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY of \$10,000 or more to Elon will guarantee a fixed income for the rest of your life. With market interest rates near historic lows, a gift annuity is an attractive way to increase your income and make a gift to Elon at the same time. You will receive immediate tax benefits and can defer capital gains. The payment rate of a charitable gift annuity depends on your age at the time of the gift — the older you are, the higher the rate.

## CURRENT RATES

ONE BENEFICIARY		TWO BENEFICIARIES	
AGE	ANNUITY RATE	AGE	ANNUITY RATE
60	4.3%	60/65	4.0%
65	4.7%	67/67	4.4%
70	5.1%	71/73	4.7%

*Annuity rates are subject to change. The annuity rate remains fixed once your gift is made.*

To explore a gift annuity for you, your spouse or a family member, visit [ELONLEGACY.ORG](http://ELONLEGACY.ORG).

**Talk with us today** about how you may benefit from a life income gift to Elon and other gift planning opportunities.



PLEASE CONTACT:

**Elizabeth Read**, Assistant Director of Planned Giving  
336-278-7474 ■ [eread@elon.edu](mailto:eread@elon.edu) ■ [elonlegacy.org](http://elonlegacy.org)



{ Elon students laying out an issue of *The Pendulum*, the student newspaper, in 1993. }

'00 Last fall, **Michael Medeiros** was named senior vice president of dedicated contract carriage for Penske Logistics. He and wife **Angela Medeiros** live in Suwanee, Ga.

'05 The year 2021 brought much change for **Bobby Griffin**. On 5/13/21, he and wife Kelly Leonhardt Griffin welcomed daughter Adalynn Mae. Seven months later, Bobby was named head varsity football coach and men's track coach at Pamlico County (N.C.) High School. The family lives in New Bern.

'06 **Brandon Gauthier** has written his first book, "Before Evil: Young Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Mao, and Kim." Published this spring by Tortoise Books, the book is a narrative work of history meant for both popular and academic audiences. It analyzes the early lives of the aforementioned dictators through stories about

family, education, rebellion and tragedy. Brandon is the director of global education at The Derryfield School in Manchester, N.H., and an adjunct professor of history at Fordham University. • **Raechel Hester Timbers** and Justin Timbers welcomed son Simon Marshall on 12/24/21. He joins older sister Sophia. Raechel is an instructional designer for the Association of American Medical Colleges. The family lives in Manassas, Va.

'08 **Mary Cunningham** is now the associate director of marketing and communications for George Mason University's College of Health and Human Services in Fairfax, Va. She says she loves being back in a college environment and attributes her career to the student writer position she once had in Elon's Office of University Communications. She lives in Oakton. • A doctoral student in educational psychology and research at the University of

South Carolina, **Alexandra Fippinger Weaver** has been chosen by the Office of the Vice President for Research as one of 52 outstanding students selected as SPARC Graduate Research Grant recipients. The grant is a highly competitive merit-based award designed to ignite research and creative excellence across all disciplines at the university, and will fully fund her dissertation research.

'09 **Chelsea Peabody Bohannon** was named a 2021 Gift + Stationery 40 Under 40 honoree by leading specialty retail magazines "Gift Shop Plus" and "Stationery Trends." Honorees represent all facets of the gift industry, from retailers and manufacturers to designers and sales managers. As senior PR manager for International Market Centers, Chelsea represents its flagship gift, furniture and home décor trade show portfolio. She lives in Decatur, Ga. • **Erin O'Connell {LAW}**, an assistant public defender with the Virginia

Indigent Defense Commission, was appointed to the Staunton office in May 2021. She says she is proud of continuing her grandfather's legacy of equal justice in the same court district where he was chief magistrate, clerk of court and police officer. • **Audra Wagaman** and Matt Merschbach welcomed daughter Hattie on 4/8/21. The family lives in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. • **Chad Zimmermann** was promoted from assistant chief counsel III to deputy chief counsel for litigation and administration for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control. He now supervises attorneys in the Office of Chief Counsel on litigation matters and regulatory affairs. He and wife Katherine Zimmermann live in Mount Joy.

'10 **Jordan Frederick** graduated with a master's degree in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2021 and celebrated her 10th year teaching at Queen's Grant High School. She also

ALUMNI ALBUM



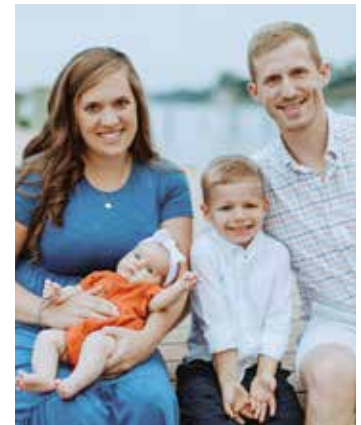
Jo Beth Harstrick '11 & family



Adley Kloth '11 & Andrew Roosa



Scott Seel '11, Travis Holler & friends



Erin Bradley Somerville '11 & family



Evan Atkinson '12, Lauren Wilmer '12 & friends



Emily McLaughlin Pierce '12, Ryan Pierce & friends

## ALUMNI ALBUM



Caroline York Ingram '12 G '15 &amp; Jordan Ingram



Benjamin Ackerman '14, Andrea Lauckner '14 &amp; friends



Guy Altobello '14, Kara Damiano Altobello '14 &amp; friends



Jordan Thomas '14, Jordan Only-Thomas '14 &amp; friends



Kasia Luzynski Norcross '15, Dillon Norcross &amp; friends



Laura Sweeney Hollister '16 &amp; Molly Sweeney Hollister '17

presented a paper at the 2021 Bronte Society Conference in September. She lives in Charlotte. • **Lauren Wisniewski Giampietro** and Kyle Giampietro welcomed son Nolan Michael on 7/5/21. The family lives in Langhorne, Pa. Lauren is a senior graphic designer for CNO Financial Group. • **Kelsey McEvoy** and Brian Pollard were married 9/25/21. Alumni in attendance included **Jonathan Hatch '08**, **Morgan Zech '08**, **Laura Ulrich '09**, **Abigail Burns**, **Garrett Kersey Jr.**, **Jerome Lewis**, **Amanda Unetich**, **Luke Olszewski '11**, **Rebecca Salazar '11**, **Glynis Burner '12** and **Madison Kersey '12**. Kelsey is a business manager with Atrium Health. They live in Charlotte, N.C. • **Katrina O'Hara** and Michael Ferrino were married 6/5/21. Alumni in attendance included **Carole Allison '09**, **Brad Franks {MBA '18}**, **Lauren Fellmeth Knapp**, **Michelle Pojasek Koenigscknect**, **Alex Ford Korgaonkar**, **Leanne Gerelus Simpson**, **Jessica Roycroft Franks '13** and **Bobby Trimble {LAW '17}**. Katrina, who works for Johnson & Johnson, and Michael live in Doylestown, Pa.

**'11** **Scott Seel** and Travis Holler were married 10/23/21 surrounded by many of their Elon friends. They live in Austin. • **Jo Beth Harstrick** and Alex Harstrick welcomed daughter Nicoletta "Niki" on 4/30/21. The family lives in Hingham, Mass. • **Adley Kloth** and Andrew Roosa were married 6/26/21. Alumni in attendance included **Meredith Berge Reeves**. In November, Adley started working at Google as a program manager, where she works on YouTube music and audio ads. She and Andrew live in Santa Monica, Calif. • **Erin Bradley Somerville** and John Somerville welcomed daughter Susanna June on 7/22/21. She joins older brother Johnny. The family lives in Detroit.

**'12** **Evan Atkinson** and **Lauren Wilmer** were married 10/18/21 in Atlanta. Alumni in attendance included **Raleigh Lancaster '08**, **Ashley France-Howell '11**, **Crystal Brown**, **Amber Childs**, **Chase Gottwald**, **Lamar Lee**, **Brandon McGee**, **Zach Power**, **Cedric Pulliam**, **Shakinah Simeona-Lee**, **Gary Wilson**, **Ronda McPherson '13** and **Will McPherson '13**. ►



**Justin Seifts '09**, a Spanish teacher at East Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina, was awarded the 2022 Reckford Teaching Prize by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation. The \$2,000 prize is awarded annually to honor excellent teachers who have outstanding records of inspiring students and passion for their work at their core. In addition to instilling confidence in his

students, Justin supports others by translating and interpreting for colleagues and Latinx families. He also serves as an adviser for a variety of clubs and leadership committees, including the College Board committee to improve AP World Language access and achievement, N.C. American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and the advisory board for the Spanish Education Committee at Elon University.

# WHOLEHEARTED LIVING

Olivia Wamelink '18 and Brody Lewis offer sustainable baby products through B. Well Babies



BY HEATHER MUNRO '18 & LEILA JACKSON '22

When **Olivia Wamelink '18** was looking for colleges, Elon wasn't on her radar. It wasn't until she decided to transfer after a lackluster first year at Denison University that her older sister's stories about Elon convinced her to pay a visit. "The moment I got out of the car, stepped onto the brick and looked around, I just knew Elon was home," she says.

Wamelink's time at Elon followed one theme: sports. Despite leaving varsity lacrosse behind at Denison, she didn't want to give up the sport, so she joined Elon's women's club team. Her time with the club lacrosse team exposed her to Campus Recreation & Wellness, so she decided to get a job there. Associate Director Jenny Larson soon became a mentor, helping her realize her potential. With a passion for mental health and a manager that believed in her, Wamelink launched Elon's inaugural Love Your Body Week to help individuals around campus get healthy and happy.

Little did she know that experience would spark her entrepreneurial thinking down the road.

At first glance, it seemed like Wamelink had life figured out, especially when she accepted what she thought was her dream post-graduation job as an account executive with Learfield IMG College. After discovering the job was not everything she hoped it would be, she left IMG. She bounced through jobs for a couple of years until she found a role that felt purposeful, and that tied to two passions she discovered while at Elon: a passion for working hard and achieving goals, and a passion for helping others.

That role was the founder of her own company, B. Well Babies. When the challenge of finding baby gifts for her boyfriend's family arose, Wamelink found a gap in the market. As someone who puts

a lot of thought into giving gifts, she was disappointed when she struggled to find something unique and purposeful. In response, she created her own product and company.

The company's signature silicone catch-all bibs and bowls are sustainable, fashionable and affordable while also aligning with her goal of providing "wholehearted living." This involves fostering strong relationships while living boldly and has been a mantra for Wamelink and her boyfriend, Brody Lewis, on this entrepreneurial adventure.

B. Well Babies' charitable contributions set the company's products apart from other silicone catch-all bibs. With a drive to help children become the best versions of themselves, the couple set out to find an organization that needed their help. They stumbled upon Foster Village Charlotte, which aims to equip foster parents with everything they need to prepare their home for a child. Wamelink and Lewis believe that the resources available to foster parents can completely change a child's life trajectory. "When foster children have a well-equipped caregiver, they feel empowered to create a new path for their lives," Wamelink says, adding that a portion of all proceeds go to the charity.

Launching a new business amid a pandemic has been nothing short of a whirlwind for Wamelink, but the uncertainty of life is what made her jump in and take the risk.

"I had doubt, fear, anxiety and confusion. But one thing I knew for sure — nothing is promised," Wamelink says. "I threw fear aside and decided that from now on, I was in charge of my future."

The future is bright for B. Well Babies with new products coming soon and a patent in the works. Visit [bwellbabies.com](http://bwellbabies.com) to learn more. ✨

Lauren is an attorney for the Professional Association of Georgia Educators and Evan is a social media officer for Georgia Institute of Technology. • **Alison Schiffler Orshoski** and Curt Orshoski welcomed daughter Crawford on 9/1/21. The family lives in Richmond, Va. • **Emily McLaughlin** and Ryan Pierce were married 10/24/20 but due to the pandemic, had to wait a year to celebrate with family and friends, including many alumni representing the classes 2007 through 2013. Emily and Ryan live in Arlington, Va. • **Kristin Rice** has been promoted to the position of general counsel at the North Carolina Office of the Commissioner of Banks. In that role, Kristin oversees the legal function of the NCCOB focusing on financial services regulation, state-agency policy matters and non-bank financial service delivery to North Carolinians. She also deals with the legal issues that affect public agency administration. She lives in Raleigh. • **Caroline York {PA '15}** and Jordan Ingram were married on 5/22/21 at the Cadillac Service Garage in downtown Greensboro, N.C. Alumni in attendance included **Addie Carr Harrison, Sophie Kluthe, Corrie Baglia {PA '15}** and **Jaelyn Stevens {PA '15}**. Caroline and Jordan live in Winston-Salem, N.C. Caroline works as a physician assistant at Wake Forest Baptist Health.

'14 **Benjamin Ackerman** and **Andrea Lauckner** were married 10/2/21. Alumni in attendance included **Aaron Laws '13, Luke Lorefice '13, Melissa Mullery '13, Chase Barbe, Kara Malone, Adam Shapiro, Madeline Bray Snyder, Philip Snyder, Bryan Miner '15** and **Rhett Richards '16**. Benjamin and Andrea first met at Elon in fall 2011. They live in Charlotte, N.C. • **Guy Altobello** and **Kara Damiano** were married 8/20/21. Alumni in the wedding party included **Helen Phelan '13, Ranen Jones Burke, Sean Burke, Michael DiBartolo, Victoria Dolan, Austin Kick, Vince Savarese** and **Jenna Sonlin**. Kara is a senior category manager with Wayfair and Guy is an analyst with Columbia Threadneedle. They live in Boston. • **Jordan Only** and **Jordan Thomas** were married 10/10/21. They live in Washington, D.C., where Only is a teacher for the District of Columbia Public Schools and Thomas is a consultant at Guidehouse.

'15 **Kasia Luzynski** and **Dillon Norcross** were married 3/27/21 in Augusta County, Va. **Caitlin Sherr '14** served as bridesmaid. Kasia is a physical therapist with the Augusta County Public Schools.

'16 **Laura Hollister** and **Molly Sweeney '17** were married 12/31/21. The pair met as undergraduates at the school where they were placed as student teachers. Laura is a teacher and Molly is an assistant principal intern with Durham County (N.C.) Schools. They live in Durham. • **Burke Hrovat** and **Allie Pietro** were married 9/19/21. Allie is a designer for Oracle and Burke works in finance for Chamberlain. They live in Chicago. • **Caroline Morelock** and **Teddy Szyperski** were married 2/20/21 in Charlotte, N.C., surrounded by family. They later celebrated with friends in August. Teddy works for Walker & Dunlop and Caroline works for Honeywell. They live in Charlotte. • **Georgios Tarasidis** was licensed to practice law in Alabama and Connecticut in 2021. He recently joined the Law Offices of Pat Brown as an associate attorney practicing criminal defense in Avon, Conn. He lives in Manchester.

'17 **Delaney France** and **Alexander May** were married in Nags Head, N.C., on 10/2/21. Alumni in attendance included **Nancy Dennen Travia '81, Suzie Tinsley Cox '82, Kelley Loughlin France '82, Toni Napoli '82, Greg Owens '82, Hal Cole III '83, Mike France Jr. '83, Libby Long '09, Lauren France Rojas '09, Charlotte Forde '13, Camryn Bindra, Jennifer Gehrin, Maryn Hayward, K McKay, Olivia Smiarowski, Kailey Tracey, Paige Wheeler** and **Kyle Loughlin '18**. Delaney and Alex live in Raleigh.

'18 **Francesca Filandro** and **Dan Ford** are happy to announce their engagement. They expect to wed on 7/2/23. They both work in finance, Francesca for Keurig Dr Pepper and Dan for Barclays. They live in New York City.

'21 In September, **Will Johnson** joined the Bulfinch Group as a financial representative. There he helps families, individuals and businesses build and preserve wealth by guiding them to make responsible decisions with their money. He lives in Boston. ♣

## ALUMNI ALBUM



Burke Hrovat '16, Allie Pietro '16 &amp; friends



Caroline Morelock Szyperski '16, Teddy Szyperski '16 &amp; friends



Delaney France May '17, Alexander May &amp; friends



Francesca Filandro '18 &amp; Dan Ford '18

elon.edu/classnotes  
**TURN YOURSELF IN!**

Help us keep you in touch with your Elon classmates.





**Sarah Oldham '12** reports that this past November alumni gathered in New York City's Central Park for the eighth annual Jackson Cup. The football cup, which was established by **Kim Jackson '12**, was inspired by a "Friends" episode and was first played in 2013. After being canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, alumni came in from Richmond, Va.; Williamsburg, Va.; Charlotte, N.C.; Milwaukee; and Washington, D.C., and included **Alex King '09**, **Liza Carey '10**, **Hillary Bergman Cheek '12**, **Jamie Fries '12**, **Cameron Green '12**, **Anne Randolph Goddard Rand '12**, **Sam Warren '12** and **Emily Drago '15**.

# UNLEASH YOUR DATA POTENTIAL

## with Elon's MSBA

Elon's 10-month Master of Science in Business Analytics program is designed for innovators and problem solvers who strive for a competitive career in the field of business analytics. Open to people from all educational and professional backgrounds, Elon's MSBA fits the career needs of both recent graduates and working professionals.

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
ELON'S MSBA PROGRAM:

336-278-7600  
gradadm@elon.edu  
elon.edu/msba

*"The MSBA program gave me the ability to attack and solve unstructured problems, which is a key skill. Elon's MSBA program not only increased the technical skills necessary to gain a position with a Fortune 500 company, but it also increased my communication skills."*

TRAVISH HICKS G'21  
Product analyst at Champion

### Elon Graduate Programs

**Accounting**  
(M.S.)

**Business**  
(MBA)

**Business Analytics**  
(M.S.)

**Education**  
(M.Ed.)

**Higher Education**  
(M.A.)

**Interactive Media**  
(M.A.)

**Law**  
(J.D.)

**Physician Assistant Studies**  
(M.S.)

**Physical Therapy**  
(D.P.T.)



## IN MEMORIAM

**Margaret Joyce “Peggy” Snavelly ’38**,  
York, S.C., 9/10/21.

**William Means Stewart Jr. ’40**,  
Concord, N.C., 11/5/21.

**Elsie Boone Fike Schlaeger ’45**,  
Greensboro, N.C., 11/15/21.

**Victor A. Zodda ’45**,  
Hampton, Va., 1/31/21.

**Elizabeth “Lib” Alston Braddy Cuttle ’46**,  
Danville, Va., 10/3/21.

**Earleen Longest Baltzegar ’48**,  
Graham, N.C., 9/14/20.

**Lucious Culvern “L.C.” Adcock ’50**,  
Oxford, N.C., 1/20/22.

**James David Peeler ’50**,  
Burlington, N.C., 5/21/21.

**Fred Sahlmann ’51**,  
Lake Charles, La., 9/12/21.

**Carolyn Braxton Gabriel ’52**,  
Winston-Salem, N.C., 11/27/21.

**Yono Mork ’53**,  
Bellingham, Wash., 6/16/21.

**Calvin Kennedy “C.K.” Siler ’54**,  
Pleasant Garden, N.C., 10/5/21.

**Kathleen Euliss Smith ’54**,  
Lexington, N.C., 1/9/22.

**Wayne Watkins Martin ’57**,  
Morganton, N.C., 9/9/21.

**Dalton J. Beaman ’58**,  
Greensboro, N.C., 10/30/21.

**Sylvia O’Connell ’58**,  
Orange Park, Fla., 7/19/21.

**Woodrow Wilson Brown ’59**,  
Raleigh, N.C., 11/14/21.

**Robert “Bob” Orr ’60**,  
Oak Island, N.C., 12/23/21.

**Roger H. “Sonny” Suddith ’60**,  
Point Arena, Calif., 8/20/20.

**Frank R. “Dick” More Jr. ’62**,  
High Point, N.C., 11/7/21.

**Walter Leonard “Lennie” Riddle ’62**,  
Danville, Va., 1/1/22.

**John Herbert Swift ’62**,  
Burlington, N.C., 12/22/21.

**James H. Griggs ’63**,  
Whitsett, N.C., 10/6/21.

**Jo Watson Strong ’63**,  
Raleigh, N.C., 12/9/21.

**Larry Allen Ring ’67**,  
Burlington, N.C., 1/27/22.

**Roy Daniel Sonovick ’67**,  
Burlington, N.C., 12/17/21.

**Ashley Bullard ’68**,  
Johns Island, S.C., 1/22/22.

**Thomas Byron “Tom” Gold III ’68**,  
Reidsville, N.C., 1/23/22.

**Flora J. Hovis ’68**,  
Spruce Pine, N.C., 12/28/20.

**James Edward “Bill” Teer ’68**,  
Graham, N.C., 10/12/21.

**Charles “Doug” Mills Jr. ’69**,  
Virginia Beach, Va., 9/25/21.

**Paul Leroy Fulton Jr. ’71**,  
Winston-Salem, N.C., 1/28/22.

**Carl Wallace Spragins ’72**,  
Smithfield, N.C., 10/11/21.

**Charles Donald “Don” Kernodle Jr. ’73**,  
Burlington, N.C., 5/17/21.

**Marcia Lutfy Lankford ’73**,  
Greensboro, N.C., 12/5/21.

**Paul Dalton Rudd ’73**,  
Sparta, N.C., 8/10/21.

**John William “Bill” Baine ’74**,  
Hilton Head Island, S.C., 9/28/21.

**Marilyn N. Yates ’74**,  
Deland, Fla., 10/13/21.

**Harold Clayton Rich Jr. ’75**,  
Harrells, N.C., 1/9/22.

**Steve Hardie Anderson ’76**,  
Halifax, Va., 10/8/21.

**Clair Moody ’77**,  
Yanceyville, N.C., 1/12/22.

**Ted Bradford Overton ’79**,  
Aurora, N.C., 7/23/21.

**Gloria Marie Faucette ’82 G’93**,  
Burlington, N.C., 7/28/20.

**Jeanne Marie Lubben-Souris ’82**,  
Oakland, N.J., 10/9/21.

**Mildred Lloyd Godfrey ’86**,  
Mebane, N.C., 10/17/21.

**Bennett Watson Cowper Roberts Jr. ’91**,  
Durham, N.C., 11/4/21.

**David Scott Dahl ’96**,  
Winston-Salem, N.C., 11/7/21.

**Lewis Frederick Small ’97**,  
Fayetteville, N.C., 4/26/21.

**Jamie McClure Hicks ’01**,  
Louisville, Ky., 9/7/21.

**Zach Kelly ’15**,  
Los Angeles, 1/4/22.

**Bowen W. Brinegar ’18**,  
Durham, N.C., 12/19/21.

**Carolyn Mahoney Hopkins ’18**,  
Williamsville, N.Y., 9/14/21.

.....

**Rebecca “Jane” Fowler**, Burlington, N.C., 8/20/21. Fowler retired from Elon as assistant to the registrar for statistical analysis in 2002 after a career spanning more than 20 years.

**Amy Leonard**, Burlington, N.C., 10/11/21. Leonard was an adjunct professor and wife of Elon head men’s tennis coach Michael Leonard. She taught tennis in the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education for 15 years.

**Romelle Nall**, Burlington, N.C., 9/26/21. Nall retired from Elon in 2008 after working in Residence Life for 11 years, first as a secretary and then as a program assistant. She also served the university in temporary positions through 2011.

**Brent Smith**, Burlington, N.C., 10/4/21. Smith joined Elon in 2013 as a video integration manager, a role he held for three years before being promoted to assistant director of Teaching & Learning Technologies. He worked to provide audio and visual support for events, managing live event video production and managing facilities in the School of Communications.

**Madison Taylor**, Burlington, N.C., 1/6/22. Taylor was a development writer in University Advancement and husband of Roselee Papandrea Taylor, associate director of university communications for admissions communications. He spent the past five years telling the story of the powerful impact of philanthropy upon the university and its students using his gift for words and passion for connecting with people.

# TOP 10 UNDER 10

## CELEBRATING YOUNG ALUMNI SUCCESS

→ Ten accomplished alumni from the past decade will be honored April 30 at the 2022 Top 10 Under 10 Alumni Awards in recognition of their professional success, continuous work to better their communities and service as loyal alumni role models. Join the Office of Alumni Engagement, the Young Alumni Council and the entire Elon community in congratulating these outstanding alumni!

### Cedric Pulliam '12

**Majors:** International studies and political science

Cedric is a senior adviser for the chief medical officer, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta.



### Bill Powers '13

**Major:** Strategic communications

Based in Waxhaw, North Carolina, Bill serves as global account director for JLL commercial real estate at Havas NY.



### Ryan Vet '13

**Major:** Marketing

An entrepreneur, consultant, investor and instructor based in Durham, North Carolina, Ryan spends most of his time advising and investing in many startups.



### Nasia Thomas '15

**Major:** Music theatre

Nasia made her Broadway debut in 2016 in "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," and has gone on to perform in two more Broadway shows.





## Mackenzie Zendt '15

**Majors:** Public health studies and international studies

As Presidential Management Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, Mackenzie is detailed to the U.S. agency working on global COVID-19 vaccine distribution.



## Danielle Deavens '16

**Major:** Journalism

Danielle is the co-founder of Bold Xchange, a St. Louis-based venture that makes it easier to discover and support Black-owned brands.

## Doug Spencer '16

**Major:** Business management

Doug is the co-founder of Bold Xchange, a St. Louis-based venture that makes it easier to discover and support Black-owned brands.



## Mia Ginaé Watkins '16

**Major:** Cinema and television arts

As a communications specialist at PlayStation, Mia has won two company awards and contributed to several PlayStation game titles.



## Carlos Andino '17

**Major:** Political science

Carlos is an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in Washington, D.C.



## Ben Lutz '17

**Majors:** International & global studies and political science

Ben is the founder of Al Fusaic, an educational and cultural platform for resources related to the Middle East and North Africa Region.

# ELON UNIVERSITY

Office of Alumni Engagement  
PO Box 398  
Elon, NC 27244

Toll Free: (877) 784-3566  
[elon.edu/alumni](http://elon.edu/alumni)

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
**Paid**  
Elon, NC  
Permit No. 1



{ Students & faculty in Elon's Doctor of Physical Therapy program play wheelchair basketball to learn how to better support & enhance the health & wellness of their future clients. The exercise also allows them to develop empathy & understanding of what is required for individuals with physical disabilities to participate in a rigorous sport. }