

THE MAGAZINE OF

ELON

SUMMER 2019

**FIRST
OUTCOMES** Elon
grads land
impressive
jobs



Goldman Sachs

Google

Microsoft

New York Post

20

SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

Associate Professor of Physics Kyle Altmann used real-life science and technology to recreate a magical artifact from the "Harry Potter" series.

23

COVER STORY

GOING PLACES

BY KEREN RIVAS '04 AND ROSELEE PAPANDREA TAYLOR

Like generations of Elon graduates before them, members of the Class of 2019 are already making their marks in exciting careers.

28

DUTY TO NATION

BY ERIC TOWNSEND

Three graduates from the Elon Law Class of 2018 are starting their legal careers in military service.

30

REDESIGNING AN INDUSTRY

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

Jay Reno '10 is changing the way people decorate their homes with a fresh, sustainable approach to the furniture business.

34

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

BY KEREN RIVAS '04

A look at how data collection is affecting our decision-making in today's technology saturated environment.

37

FROM THE ARCHIVES

PENNED HISTORY

BY OWEN COVINGTON

Letters from Ida Diehl, who served as Elon's dean of women during the early 1930s, paint a picture of college life and the financial crisis during the Great Depression.

39

OUT OF THE PARK

BY MADISON TAYLOR

How Elon's baseball program is developing talented players who are playing in the minor and major leagues.

.....

2 Under the Oaks	22 Point of View
12 Phoenix Sports	43 Alumni Action
14 Elon LEADS	47 Class Notes

ON THE COVER MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2019 WHO HAVE LANDED IMPRESSIVE JOBS (FROM LEFT): MAX PIVONKA, *Goldman Sachs*; ANNA COSENTINO, *Google*; JOURDAN PARHAM, *Microsoft*; and DIEGO PINEDA, *New York Post*.

Failure — the key to TRANSFORMATIVE



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

twitter.com/ElonConnieBook

WHEN PEOPLE SHARE the success of Elon, the story rarely begins with failure. Yet, lessons learned from failure provided a foundation upon which to build our university of national renown. Elon was established in 1889 as the fourth attempt by the then-Christian Church to bring the essential seed of education to its ministry. That's right — the *fourth* time was a charm.

I was intrigued by the hard-hitting language in the church's 1857 Committee on Education report to the powers that be when it was clear church leaders had to close their first attempt to establish the Graham Institute in eastern Alamance County. "Let us arouse ourselves from our stupidity, awake from our lethargy, and bend ourselves to the task, and resolve to do something ..." And so they did, creating Graham College. Establishing a college on limited resources was not going to be easy. Solvency required leadership by every employee.

The coeducational Graham College was a trailblazer because it realized the potential of educating women. But by 1863, the Civil War and mounting debt made it impossible to keep the college open. The third attempt in 1881 established Graham Normal College, focused on providing degrees in education and preparing teachers. That effort served as the forerunner for the magical and final fourth attempt, when Graham Normal College was repositioned to make way for a new school, Elon College, located in western Alamance County at Mill Point. With a menu of comprehensive offerings, the school had the ingredients of an established institution, having learned important lessons from the founders' earlier failures and retaining an understanding of the importance of being adaptable.

In the midst of their failure, tweaks and relaunches, could Elon founders have envisioned the great university that developed from their efforts? Certainly those dark and uncertain days obscured the full promise of their work.

As we prepare to begin the upcoming academic year, I wish I could send a breaking news flash back to those visionary leaders about important developments expanding Elon's position of influence on the national higher education landscape. Earlier this year, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education moved Elon and 151 other institutions from the Master's Universities category to the Doctoral/Professional Universities category.

Universities in this category are national in scope and positioned to lead. They feature strong professional degrees while remaining laser-focused on what matters most — *students*. Distinct from research-focused universities, schools in Elon's new category focus on excellent teaching and mentorship, innovation, and the powerful synergy of undergraduate majors and professional graduate programs, such as Elon's programs in law, physical therapy and physician assistant studies. This category closely associates Elon with other universities known nationally for excellence, including Gonzaga, Pepperdine, Santa Clara and Creighton.

The almost 50-year-old Carnegie Classification system is the leading framework for recognizing, describing and studying institutions in U.S. higher education and forms the basis for major college rankings, including those by U.S. News & World Report. As a result of the Carnegie reclassification, Elon will move from the U.S. News Regional Universities ranking to the National Universities ranking. When the rankings are released in

CHANGE

From the very beginning, the people of Elon understood the power of taking risks, learning from failures and moving forward yet again with the desire to always be better.

September, Elon will join the nation's most elite institutions, and celebrate our arrival as a nationally recognized leader in American higher education.

This new position of leadership is no accident, but rather is the result of a long history of resiliency and a culture of determination established by our founders. From the very beginning, the people of Elon understood the power of taking risks, learning from failures and moving forward yet again with the desire to always be better.

The destiny is excellence. The vision is ongoing transformation. ♣

Connie Ledoux Book
PRESIDENT

TOP MARKS

The latest rankings and recognitions for Elon University



- **College Consensus has ranked Elon a top U.S. university.** The organization ranked Elon No. 68 out of almost 1,100 colleges and universities nationwide. It arrived at its rankings by combining the results of college ranking publishers U.S. News & World Report, The Wall Street Journal and WalletHub, as well as student reviews posted on several websites.



- **Elon's "active experiential learning" programs** are the focus of the university's profile in the 36th edition of the 2020 Fiske Guide to Colleges. The annual bestselling college guide profiles more than 300 of the nation's best colleges and universities, offering exclusive academic, social and quality-of-life ratings for each school.



- Career services website Zippia has ranked Elon **No. 1 in North Carolina and a top school nationally for preparing students for employment.** It based its rankings on federal government data that estimates 94.5 percent of Elon graduates are employed 10 years after college enrollment.



- BestColleges, in partnership with the national advocacy group Campus Pride, has named Elon **the Most LGBTQ-Friendly College in North Carolina.** The annual rankings were released in June during Pride Month. In its overview of Elon, the online college resource site noted Elon's participation in LGBTQ+ admission fairs, LGBTQ+ scholarships, Lavender Graduation and awards dinner, and its Gender & LGBTQIA Center.

THE MAGAZINE of ELON

SUMMER 2019 | VOL. 81, NO. 3

The Magazine of Elon is published quarterly for alumni, parents and friends by the Office of University Communications. © 2019, Elon University

EDITOR
Keren Rivas '04

DESIGNERS
Garry Graham
Bob Nutt
Billie Wagner

PHOTOGRAPHY
Andrew Krech '13
Kim Walker

EDITORIAL STAFF
Alexa Boschini '10
Owen Covington
Roselee Papandrea Taylor

CONTRIBUTORS
Belk Library Archives
and Special Collections
Oliver Fischer '20
Sonya Walker '20

**VICE PRESIDENT,
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS**
Daniel J. Anderson

EDITORIAL OFFICES
The Magazine of Elon
2030 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244-2020
(336) 278-7415
elon.edu/magazine

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CHAIR
Edward W. Doherty P'07
Saddle River, New Jersey

ELON ALUMNI BOARD, PRESIDENT
Kyriakos Pagonis '99
Arlington, Virginia

YOUNG ALUMNI COUNCIL, PRESIDENT
David Campbell '13
Charlotte, North Carolina

Toni & Michael Brown P'20
Mount Laurel, New Jersey

**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

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



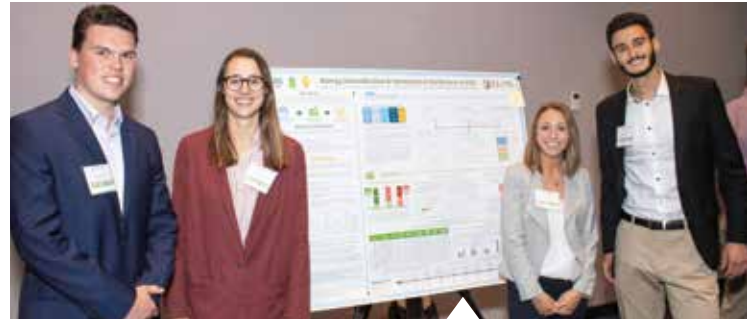
Three members of the Class of 2019 and a 2018 alumna accepted Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship awards to spend a year teaching English in a foreign country. **Samantha Collins '19** will spend a year teaching English in Mexico. **Courtney Kobos '19** has the Czech Republic as her destination, while **Jill Watkins '19** will teach in Malaysia. **Courtney McKelvey '18** is heading to South Korea, where she hopes to work with North Korean refugees. In addition, **Bonnie Bloxom '19** received a Fulbright grant that will support her pursuit of a master's degree in global health at National Taiwan University in Taipei City, Taiwan.



Chandler Vaughan '21 is studying this summer at the University of Bristol through the Fulbright U.K. Summer Institute. The four-week program focuses on arts, activism and social justice. She is the second Elon student selected in recent years for the program, which is sponsored by the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission.



Ten Elon students completed the university's Peace Corps Prep Program in 2019, with some of the students serving as Peace Corps volunteers after graduation. **Lindsay Arnold '15** is also headed to South Africa to volunteer through the organization.



Four Elon University students were named national winners in three categories of the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards competition. **Emmanuel Morgan '19** and **Alex Hager '19** won for General News Reporting for a shared byline story about the toppling of the Confederate monument at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August 2018. **Jessica Rapfogel '19** was honored in Sports Photography for a photo from the Harlem Globetrotters' visit to Schar Center. **Anton Delgado '20** won for Breaking News Photography for a campus photo he took during Tropical Storm Michael. Elon's three national SPJ wins this year outpaced the performance of colleges and universities such as Syracuse, Georgia, Indiana, Northwestern, Missouri, Yale and Harvard.

Emmanuel Morgan '19, Maya Eaglin '19, Meagan Gitelman '19 and **Carter Rayburn '19** placed sixth in the 2018-19 Hearst Journalism Awards Team Multimedia – News competition. The quartet produced a story about the prevalence of human trafficking in Alamance County in their Multimedia Journalism class taught by Communications Senior Lecturer Randy Piland.

A team of Martha and Spencer Love School of Business students won Man-

hattan College's international Business Analytics Competition. **Thomas Gow '19, Annik Westermann '19, Carli Miller '19** and **Fabio Brigagão '19** analyzed and visualized data about New York's energy consumption and presented insights and predictions regarding if the state could reach its goal of 70 percent renewable electricity by 2030.



Five juniors make up Elon's third class of Multifaith Scholars. **Kylee Smith, Sarah Jane McDonald, Madison Gray, Srija Dutta** and **Anna Daniel** will pursue academic coursework, undertake faculty-mentored undergraduate research projects and participate in community engagement partnerships with local religious communities in the two-year program. Amy Allocco, an associate professor of religious studies, is the program's director.



Joseph Keller '19 and **Abbie Vandruff '20** are participating in the Television Academy Foundation's internship program. The foundation provides 50 paid internships at top Hollywood studios and production companies annually. Keller is interning in the marketing department of Endemol Shine North America in North Hollywood, California, and Vandruff is interning in the unscripted development department at Back Roads Entertainment in Los Angeles.

READY TO SERVE

Six 2019 graduates are working to improve health, wellness and education in Alamance County through two of Elon's service-year programs. Four are serving for a year as Elon-Alamance Health Partners: **Bridgette Agbozo** with Healthy Alamance, **Katie Davin** with the Alamance County Health Department, **Taylor Jones** with Alamance Regional Medical Center and **Chelsea Thomas** with Impact Alamance. **Mariatu Okonofua** and **Lexy Roberts** are serving as Kenan Community Impact Fellows. They are working in the educational area through the nonprofit Alamance Achieves.

Kathy Coville of Cone Health, who co-directs the initiative with Tom Brinkley, executive director of the Student Professional Development Center, explained this will be a year of learning and growth for each fellow, with each supported and encouraged while being given the freedom to take on and overcome new challenges. "We throw them into real meaningful and consequential work where there's no one right answer," she said. "We tell them that there is a community of mentors standing alongside you saying, 'Yes, you're the leader here. This is your job. You can do this.' Each of you has made your mark."

This is the fifth cohort for each initiative. Elon University and the four partner agencies are funding the program. ♣



{ From left: Bridgette Agbozo, Taylor Jones, Mariatu Okonofua, Lexy Roberts, Katie Davin & Chelsea Thomas }



Kenneth Brown '19 appointed youth trustee

KENNETH BROWN JR. '19 was appointed to a two-year term on the Elon University Board of Trustees as a youth trustee.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Brown is a recipient of the Odyssey Program's Leon and Lorraine Watson Scholarship and was deeply involved in the Student Government Association. He served as class president during his first two years and as SGA executive president during his senior year. During his time at Elon, he guided SGA response to national and local emergencies and disasters and pushed for a more effective funding model for student activities fees. In 2016 he was named a North Carolina Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow and he has received the SGA Rising Star Award as well as multiple Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards. Brown was a fixture at athletic events and studied in Scotland during his junior year.

Brown, who graduated with a degree in human service studies, is on a two-year paid fellowship in Raleigh, North Carolina, with the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, which supports organizations that work to improve the lives and well-being of North Carolinians. ♣



“Elon has prepared you with all the necessary tools to conquer the world, even in ways you may not have expected. ... On graduation day, you have everything you need with you, whether you realize exactly what those tools are or not. So go ahead from Elon unafraid and excited. ... You are ready to tackle any challenge.”

— Award-winning photojournalist Al Drago '15 delivering the 2019 commencement address on May 24.

“What I’ve learned along the way is that what you build is less important than how you build it. In particular, it is the act of investing time, commitment and energy into your relationships with family, friends and colleagues that will make all the difference.”

— The Rev. Jennifer Bailey, founder of Faith Matters Network, during her Baccalaureate message to the Class of 2019 on May 23.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Elon students joined President Connie Ledoux Book and other community leaders in May to kick off Women Build for Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County, an annual effort by local women to fund and build a Habitat for Humanity home. Elon University’s Habitat chapter assisted with the build, which provided an Alamance woman a home. In addition to its latest effort, the chapter, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, has supported and worked on the construction of 28 homes. Each year, between 200 and 250 Elon students participate in Habitat.

LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

The founding director of Elon's Gender and LGBTQIA Center, Matthew Antonio Bosch has worked tirelessly to help Elon become a Top-30 LGBTQ-friendly campus in the U.S. In his latest role as dean of student inclusive excellence, Bosch is responsible for developing and coordinating programs that foster intercultural competence among students and support student diversity, equity and inclusion across the university.

Matthew Antonio Bosch

BY KYLE WHITAKER '14

I first met Matthew Antonio Bosch at a welcome reception in Moseley Center, just a few short days after he started as director of Elon's new Gender & LGBTQIA Center in 2013. While it's been many years since that first meeting, I remember two things distinctly: his Long Island accent, which to my Southern ears sounded like something out of an old film noir, and his unwavering optimism about the future of our campus. While it was clear to me then he would leave a lasting and valuable legacy at Elon, I could not have predicted the impact he would have on my own life, both personally and professionally.

Prior to Matthew Antonio's arrival the fall of my senior year, I had not yet found a way to connect meaningfully with LGBTQIA student life at Elon. The creation of the GLC, and Matthew Antonio's vision for it, completely changed this, providing me with an opportunity to volunteer in the center, meet other LGBTQIA students and connect with faculty and staff who shared an identity I did not often see in professional spaces.

As I began to consider a future in higher education and student affairs, Matthew Antonio was a shining example of what it meant to be out, proud and successful as a young professional in the field. He introduced me to scholarships on the LGBTQIA student experience, a topic that later became part of my own research in graduate school. He made it possible for me to envision a future in which I could live and work authentically and, more importantly, help others do the same. In fact, I've recently joined a mentorship program at my current institution meant to connect LGBTQIA students and staff, a role I took on to pay forward the mentorship and guidance I received from Matthew Antonio as an undergraduate.

As an alumnus, I've remained connected with Matthew Antonio through our work with the LGBTQIA Alumni Network. As we continue to advocate for the LGBTQIA student and alumni experience, I have loved the opportunity to visit campus and witness the tremendous growth that has taken place under his leadership. While it is easy to measure his impact in tangible metrics like the Campus Pride Index, stories from students and alumni really drive home the significance of his work. Every LGBTQIA student I meet at Elon is a reminder that my story is just one of many — and I know it's far from over, thanks to the dedication of people like Matthew Antonio. ✨



An English literature major, Kyle Whitaker '14 obtained a Master of Education degree in student affairs and international education policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. He serves as a first-year adviser and adjunct instructor of education at American University.

Elon University moves to doctoral category

Elon University is now classified as a Doctoral/Professional University, a new category created by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. For almost 50 years, the Carnegie Classification has set the standards for recognizing, describing and studying higher education institutions in the U.S. The categories are used to form the basis for national college rankings, including those by U.S. News & World Report. In this year's update, Carnegie reshaped the doctoral university classification to better accommodate schools that offer first professional degrees at the graduate level. Elon's doctoral programs include the JD degree (law) and DPT (physical therapy).

The category of 152 schools was finalized in February. Elon was previously classified as a master's university. The Doctoral/Professional category includes many of the nation's finest universities, including schools that gain recognition in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings. This reclassification recognizes Elon's continuing advancement in graduate program offerings



and associates the university with many other leading universities across the country.

"Elon University is proud to be included in the new Doctoral/Professional Universities group," said Connie Ledoux Book, Elon's president. "Distinct from the doctoral universities with high research activity, schools in this group focus on excellent teaching and mentorship, innovation and the powerful synergy of undergraduate majors and professional graduate programs." ♣

SYLLABUZZ

COR 314: Plants and Civilization

BY OLIVER FISCHER '20

The premise is simple. If you can make it through an entire day without using any plant products, you will get an "A." That's the proposition Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Brant Touchette makes to the students taking COR 314: Plants and Civilization, a course that focuses on how people use plants. "They start coming up with these really creative ideas like, 'I'll be on an outdoor volleyball court with only sand, sitting in a plastic or metal chair, and I will only eat meat,'" Touchette says. "They come up with these long, really elaborate things, but eventually one of them picks up the fact that we need oxygen."

They might not get that easy "A," but running through those hypothetical scenarios helps the students realize the importance of plants. "It gets them to start thinking about how we use plants," Touchette says, including some surprising ways, such as creating clothing fibers from pineapples. "Some plants are used globally more than we use them in the United States, and so I get them to start thinking about that," Touchette says.

Many of our medicines come from plants. Most people in the U.S. go to the pharmacy when sick, but that is not always the case in much of the world. "Seventy-five percent of people on this planet don't do that," Touchette says. "They actually go out into the environment and know what plants will help them for whatever illness they have." He explains how some plants like marijuana are used for both recreational and medicinal purposes. "We get into a lot of these different aspects of how we as humans interact with plants," Touchette says.

The course attracts students from a wide variety of majors, from performing arts and business to biology and communications. "I try to capitalize on that by asking students to talk

and write about how plants interact within their own major," Touchette says. For instance, he asks communications students to look at how paper and print have evolved and changed with the use of plants throughout history. A music student, on the other hand, might explore what plants are used to make different string instruments. "They have different tonalities based on the wood that's been chosen," he says.

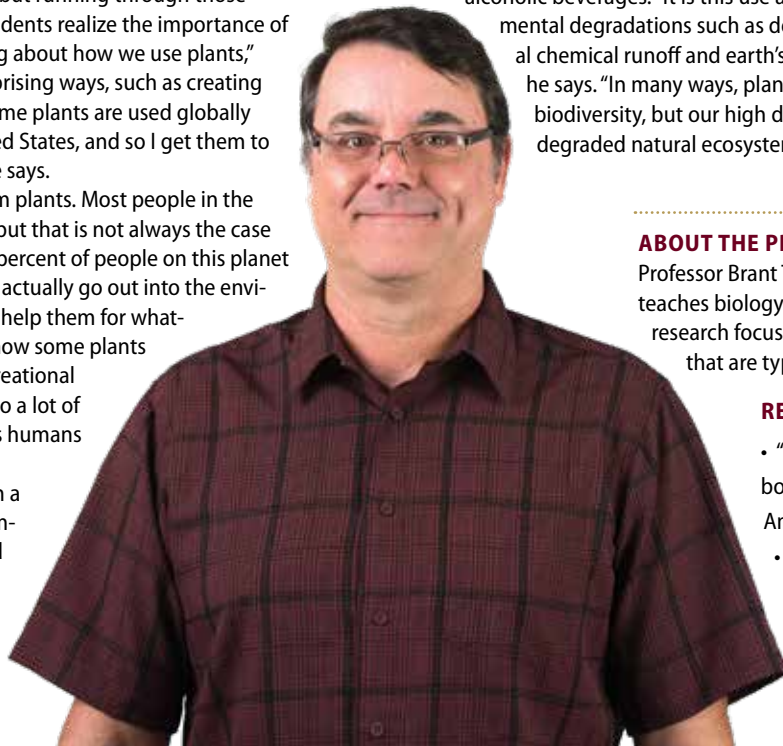
Regardless of major, at the end of the day, Touchette wants students to understand the close connection between humans and plants. "We rely heavily on plants in so many different ways," he says, for things like paper, furniture, fuel and alcoholic beverages. "It is this use and misuse of plants that has led to environmental degradations such as deforestation, water pollution from agricultural chemical runoff and earth's altered carbon balance and climate change," he says. "In many ways, plants are necessary to provide habitats rich in biodiversity, but our high demand for plant-based products has also degraded natural ecosystems." ♣

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Professor Brant Touchette joined Elon's faculty in 2001. He teaches biology and environmental studies courses, and his research focuses on how aquatic plants survive in areas that are typically hostile to most species.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- "Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest" by Mark Plotkin (1994)
- "The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World" by Michael Pollan (2002)





{ President Connie Ledoux Book presents a key to ABSS Superintendent Bruce Benson. }

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Elon Elementary students will start the 2019–20 academic year in a new school, thanks to a partnership between Elon University and the Alamance-Burlington School System. A ceremonial key crafted in Elon’s Maker Hub represented the power of that partnership.

President Connie Ledoux Book presented the carefully crafted key to Superintendent Bruce Benson at a June ceremony, standing within the entryway to the new school on Walker Road, north of Elon’s campus. “I feel this building is a great example of a strong partnership in action,” Book said. “Education is transformational not just for individuals and families and our communities. Education changes the course of the world. This school is an investment in the future, far beyond our time.”

The university contracted with Samet Corp. to build the 94,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art school in exchange for ownership of the elementary school’s previous site on East Haggard Avenue. In the short-term, the university will use that property as a parking lot. Long-term plans for the site are for a residential and academic quad. ♣

Four selected for Sports Hall of Fame

Four athletes will be inducted into the Elon University Sports Hall of Fame in the fall. The 49th class is made up of Erin Morse ’00 (women’s soccer), Jayme Chikos ’03 (women’s basketball), Anna Milian ’10 (women’s tennis) and Scott Riddle ’11 (football). They will be inducted on Sept. 7, before Elon’s home football game against The Citadel.

In four years of Elon soccer play, Morse was a two-time team MVP from her midfield position and a two-time first team All-Big South Conference selection. Chikos, a four-year letter winner, retired as women’s



basketball’s all-time career leader in total assists and assists per game. Milian, who played tennis for Elon for three seasons, has the highest career singles winning percentage in school history. Riddle, a four-year starter at quarterback, retired as the Phoenix’s all-time career leader in completions, passing yards, passing touchdowns and total offense. He helped lead the Phoenix to the FCS Playoffs for the first time in 2009 and the No. 3 ranking in the national polls before closing out that season with a top-10 ranking. In recognition for his accomplishments, Elon retired his No. 16 jersey in 2011. ♣



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Every year, students, faculty and staff have an opportunity to donate their unwanted items at the end of the academic year through Elon’s move-out program, Don’t Trash It! The program is made possible by a partnership among Elon’s Office of Sustainability, Residence Life, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, Environmental Services and area charities. It’s meant to offer a sustainable option for members of the university community to get rid of unwanted furniture, food, bedding, clothing and other wares. Here is a report of the success from this year’s effort.



17,875 lbs

The weight of the items (mostly clothes and housewares) that were donated to Goodwill



23 truckloads

The number of donations transported to area charities. Habitat for Humanity took 15 truckloads while Hospice and Palliative Care of Alamance-Caswell took eight truckloads.



1,562 lbs

The amount of nonperishable food that was donated to Allied Churches of Alamance County



205 sets

The number of bedding sets (sheets, comforter and pillow cases) that were donated to First Presbyterian Church Furniture Ministry

Source: Office of Sustainability

FALL CULTURAL CALENDAR PREVIEW

For a complete list of events, visit elon.edu/culturalcalendar.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Alex Wagner

Elon University 2019-20 Common Reading Lecture

In "Futureface," author and journalist Alex Wagner questions Americanness, identity and belonging through an examination of her parents' racial and ethnic histories.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Andrea L. Pino-Silva, "Taking the Reins of Our Movement: Unapologetic Survivor Storytelling and the Power of Everyday Activism"

Liberal Arts Forum Lecture and Supporting Survivors Week Keynote Address

Through her personal story, Andrea L. Pino-Silva talks about the history of Title IX activism and encourages students to become "everyday activists" to fight racial-, gender- and LGBTQ-based oppression on their campus and beyond.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Nobuntu

Elon University Lyceum Series

The female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe has drawn international acclaim for its inventive performances that range from traditional songs to Afro jazz and gospel.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2 AND NOVEMBER 7-9

Department of Performing Arts presents "Damn Yankees"

Faust meets professional baseball in the Broadway sendup of love and the American pastime.

ANNOUNCING

THE ELON UNIVERSITY SPEAKER SERIES

2019-20 SEASON **Quest FOR Truth**



NIKKI HALEY

Former Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Governor of South Carolina

ELON UNIVERSITY FALL CONVOCATION
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 3:30 P.M.

Nikki Haley served as the 29th U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 2017 until 2019 and as the 116th governor of South Carolina from 2011 to 2017.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LECTURE

ZACHARY R. WOOD

Writer and free speech activist

TUESDAY, OCT. 1, 6 P.M.

Author of "Uncensored: My Life and Uncomfortable Conversations at the Intersection of Black and White America"



ELON LAW DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES
PRESENTED BY THE JOSEPH M. BRYAN FOUNDATION

PREET BHARARA

U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York (2009-17)

THURSDAY, OCT. 10, 6:30 P.M.

Author of the best-selling book "Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law"



COMING IN 2020: SONIA MANZANO, JIMMY WALES, FREDERICK M. LAWRENCE & A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS MEAN TO NORTH CAROLINA in partnership with *The Charlotte Observer*, *The Herald-Sun* and *The News & Observer*

For more information, visit elon.edu/speakerseries.

CORNER

FACSTAFF

Four faculty and staff members were recognized for their contributions to Elon during a May 15 awards luncheon. **Amy Allocco**, associate professor of religious studies and director of the Multifaith Scholars Program, received the Ward Family Excellence in Mentoring Award. The Distinguished Scholar Award went to **Jeffrey Carpenter**, associate professor of education and director of the Teaching Fellows Program, while **Janna Quitney Anderson**, professor of communications and director of the Imagining the Internet Center, received the Daniels-Daniely Award for Excellence in Teaching. **The Rev. Jan Fuller**, university chaplain (not pictured), received the Periclean Award for Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility.



A May 31 staff appreciation celebration recognized six Elon staff members. **Tracy McBane**, program assistant for the departments of mathematics and statistics, and computing sciences, was the recipient of The Phoenix Rising Award. **Jessica Blocker**, coordinator of the prospect database in the admissions office, was the winner of the Phoenix Community Engagement Award. **Libby Coyner**, archivist and assistant librarian, received the Phoenix Innovation Award. **Nicole Bergen**, program assistant for the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, was named Professional Hourly Staff Member of the Year. **Maurice Levesque**, associate provost for curriculum and assessment, was named Administrative Staff Member of the Year; and **Susan Tripp**, horticulturist, was named Physical Plant Staff Member of the Year.



Andy Angyal, professor emeritus of English and environmental studies, has co-authored "Thomas Berry: A Biography." Published by Columbia University Press, the book focuses on the life and thought of the Catholic priest and "ecoth theologian." Angyal wrote the book with Yale University professors Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim.

Lynne Bisko, outreach librarian, co-authored "Personal Librarians: Building Relationships for Student Success" to help other libraries create their own programs that help students succeed in their academic careers. Her co-authors are from Case Western Reserve University and the University of Toronto. The book is available from ABC-Clio.

West Virginia University Press has published a collection of essays by Professor of English **Cassie Kircher**. "Far Flung: Improvisations on National Parks, Driving to Russia, Not Marrying a Ranger, the Language of Heartbreak, and Other Natural Disasters" offers insight into Kircher's travels and life in the wilderness, including her time as a National Park Service ranger.

Two Elon professors have received Fulbright awards. Assistant Professor of Performing Arts **David McGraw** spent two weeks in May and June working with the South African State Theatre as one of the first Fulbright Specialists in the field of stage/theater management. He helped the theater company prepare



for a U.S. tour of its production of "Freedom: The Musical." Associate Professor of Strategic Communications **Jessica Gisclair** will spend spring 2020 lecturing at the Shanghai International Studies University as a recipient of a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award. As part of this appointment, Gisclair will give public lectures on topics such as the role of media in the United States, evolving influence of social media and user-generated content, and legal and ethical responsibilities of news media. ♣



{ Elon's men's tennis team won the Colonial Athletic Association tournament championship in April. }

'This year's team was truly a family'

BY ANDREW WILSON '14



"I was watching the guys coming at me, running, and it was like, 'I can't believe it. I did it. We did it.'"

—CAMILO PONCE '20

Trust. That's the word Elon head men's tennis coach Michael Leonard used to describe all that transpired on Saturday, April 20, when his team captured its first Colonial Athletic Association tournament championship and punched its ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2014.

"If there's one thing we talked about as a team, it's that almost every point we won that day, our players did something they would've said was a weakness of theirs at the beginning of the year," Leonard says. "They trusted their game to do something that wasn't natural to them. They trusted that things we had been working on all year, they knew they could do it in the biggest moment of the year. We wouldn't have won that match without that trust in themselves, and that's what makes this so special is to see how far we came."

Having battled Mother Nature throughout the tournament, the team knew championship Saturday would be no different. It was not a question of if the rain would come, but when. With Elon trailing defending champion UNCW 3-2 late in the match, Camilo Ponce and Kyle Frankel stood on the court with Elon needing both to win to claim the title. That's when the skies opened, and the match had to shift from Elon's Jimmy Powell Tennis Center to Greensboro's Piedmont Indoor Tennis Center. Despite the change of location, there were no tense moments during the drive to Greensboro.

"I actually told the rest of the team to go get something to eat with our assistant coaches to keep Kyle

and Camilo away from the commotion," Leonard says. "So it was just the three of us. I knew they were both playing well because I had been on their courts all day, and we just said, 'How many people in their life have the opportunity to play for something like this? Just go out and embrace it.' Honestly, we kind of laughed after all of the weather and said, 'This is fun.'"

When play resumed, Frankel lost the second-set tiebreaker he had led 3-2 when play was suspended. "Kyle was a player who, when he first got here, he had never played indoors," Leonard says. "He was playing one of their better guys, and Kyle really had command of the match outside. But with the second-set tiebreaker, we knew if he lost, it could get tight because Kyle would much rather be outside. So for him to finish off that third set and win that match was obviously huge for him and the team."

With Frankel's win, the match came down to Ponce at No. 5. The sophomore had a 4-0 lead. One year prior, as a first-year, Ponce led 4-1 in a third set against CAA-foe William & Mary in a 3-3 match, but ended up falling 6-4 with the Tribe claiming the 4-3 win. "There was a learning curve," Leonard says. "Last year, Camilo lost those matches. This year, he started winning those matches, and his confidence by the time he got to the conference tournament was pretty strong. He believed in himself."

Ponce finished off Leo Sprovieri, and the celebration was on, with a large contingent of Elon friends and family making the trip to Greensboro. "It's like a dream come true," Ponce told the Burlington Times-News after the match. "I was watching the guys coming at me, running, and it was like, 'I can't believe it. I did it. We did it.'"

This was the last chance for Elon's 2019 senior class to win an elusive championship. After reaching the semifinals each year since joining the CAA, the team finally got over the hump. "My goal has always been for everyone who plays here for four years to get a ring," Leonard says. "When we were in the Southern Conference, we were pretty much in the finals every year and winning a lot. But then, we moved to the CAA, and every year, it was someone different. We thought we were right there, but for whatever reason, we just couldn't get there."

"Now, knowing we have one, we're not satisfied. I'm so proud of this team and this senior class — this year's team was truly a family. But now, we've proved we can win it, and trust me, we want the opportunity again." ✱



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MELISSA ANASTASAKIS '20



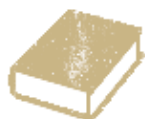
BY KEREN RIVAS '04

MELISSA ANASTASAKIS '20 has brought acclaim to both the Phoenix women's cross country and women's track and field programs since arriving at Elon. The Hillsdale, Ontario, native garnered CAA Rookie of the Year in Cross Country honors in 2016 and has won All-CAA honors three times during her athletic career. She won her second straight title in the 1,500 meters at the CAA's Outdoor Championships in May, then went on to set a personal best in that race during the NCAA East Prelims. Melissa spoke with The Magazine of Elon about running and her interests off the track. ♣



▶ **Her race preparation includes a cup of java.**

Often, on the morning of a race, she likes to do a light run and dynamic drills, followed by a cup of coffee, "especially if I'm competing from home and I can go to Oak House," she says.



▶ **She enjoys reading.**

"When I'm relaxing, I enjoy a good book," she says. Coach Mark Elliston encourages the team to read a lot for educational purposes, but Melissa prefers fiction, among other genres. "My favorite authors are Gerald Durrell and Fredrik Backman."



▶ **She is Canadian.** The one thing about her Canadian roots she is asked about most often? Ketchup potato chips. "I guess it's supposed to be like eating French fries with ketchup, but people from the South definitely find it weird."



▶ **She loves Nordic skiing.**

"I first picked it up in high school, but it allows for some great aerobic conditioning during the winter when running can be challenging," she says. "It is definitely the thing I miss most about living up north."



▶ **She is very competitive.**

Her older brother was "an all-around pretty athletic kid" growing up, and Melissa thinks that's where she got her competitive streak. "Running was probably the only thing I could beat him at when we were younger."



A record year

HOW WILL YOU MAKE YOUR IMPACT?

All gifts to the university for any purpose count as part of the \$250 million Elon LEADS Campaign. Go to elonleads.com to learn more about the campaign and how you can make an impact. **Elon leads through you!**

ELON'S GENEROUS COMMUNITY OF DONORS SET NEW GIVING RECORDS during the 2018–19 fiscal year, helping to fuel momentum in the \$250 million Elon LEADS Campaign. Alumni participation in annual giving reached 26 percent, while 80 percent of faculty and staff made gifts to the university. These record levels of participation are significant now that Elon has launched the largest fundraising campaign in its history.

"Elon's culture of philanthropy is growing and has never been stronger," said Jim Piatt, vice president for university advancement. "Our inspired alumni, parents and friends are supporting Elon at historic levels because they believe in preparing outstanding graduates to lead our future. We are grateful for their support of the university and the Elon LEADS Campaign."

Since the public launch of the campaign in April, alumni and parents have given \$2.5 million in major gifts and commitments to establish scholarships, the top priority of Elon LEADS. Once fully funded, these scholarships will increase access to global study and support students with high financial need, including those in Elon's Odyssey Program, which serves students who often are the first in their families to pursue college. In addition to those endowment gifts, close to 8,000 alumni made an impact on the Elon LEADS Campaign through annual giving during the 2018–19 fiscal year, which ended on May 31.

Leaders in philanthropy

Thousands of donors have contributed \$172 million to date in support of the campaign's top four funding priorities:



GRADUATES THE WORLD NEEDS

\$92.4 million has been raised in scholarships to support graduates the world needs



ENGAGED LEARNING

992 donors have made gifts to increase access to engaged learning opportunities



MENTORS WHO MATTER

7 new endowed and annual funds have been created to support faculty and staff mentors



ICONIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

350,000 square feet of new facilities have been funded in support of Elon's iconic learning environment

The power of annual gifts

Lara Yeast '19 didn't take long to make an impact at Elon. She made her first gift to the university just before she graduated in May. A few days later, she was randomly selected to decide which department, scholarship or initiative at Elon would benefit from a \$20,000 donation. The exciting twist to Yeast's Commencement week came by way of the \$20K – Give It Away Challenge, sponsored by Jen Porter P'11 P'19 and trustee Dave Porter P'11 P'19. The Porters created the challenge to encourage seniors to give back to Elon before graduation. The couple donated \$20,000 and matched gifts from seniors dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 as an extra incentive. "I chose to make my senior class gift mainly because of how thankful I am to the school and community. Elon gave me so much more than I will ever be able to repay," says Yeast, a statistics major passionate about the sport industry. She chose to split the \$20,000 evenly between the Center for Organizational Analytics and the Department of Sport Management. Both Yeast and the Porters belong to a growing community of donors whose support is vital to the success of the Elon LEADS Campaign.

RISING PARTICIPATION IN 2018–19

- 26%** Alumni (7,995 donors)
- 33%** Parents (3,100+ donors)
- 56%** Elon seniors (780+ donors)
- 80%** Faculty and staff (1,100+ donors)



Leading with their hearts

It's easy to see why **Kirsten Ferreira Flowers '13** and **Darien Flowers '13** hold Elon so close to their hearts. After all, the couple first met on campus — at a gathering of friends in Room 317 of Carolina Hall, to be exact. Elon also gave them a network of lifelong friends and mentors, plus the tools they needed to launch successful careers. “When I think about Elon, I think about being home,” says Kirsten. “It’s a place that is comforting and familiar, but at the same time challenges you to be better.”

The couple now lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Since leaving campus, they’ve found several ways to channel their gratitude for their alma mater. As members of the 1889 Society, they are loyal donors to Elon every year. They support multiple areas of campus and have expanded their impact during the Elon LEADS Campaign with a recurring gift commitment.

They also show their leadership by taking on alumni volunteer roles. Darien is vice president of the Young Alumni Council, and they both serve on the Washington, D.C., Regional Committee for the Elon LEADS Campaign. As members of the committee, Darien and Kirsten are champions for the campaign in their region. They encourage support for the campaign and help build excitement for the Elon LEADS event in D.C. on Sept. 18. It’s work they are proud to do together.

“We believe that an Elon education is special,” says Darien. “This campaign supports scholarships, engaged learning, faculty and staff mentors, and Elon’s incredible environment for learning. I’m honored to advocate for Elon LEADS. This is a message we are proud to share with our peers and fellow alumni.”

A COMMITMENT TO IMPACT

Expand your impact during Elon LEADS by committing to a monthly gift and you will automatically join the 1889 Society, which honors Elon’s most loyal donors. Learn more at elonleads.com.



Elon LEADS goes West



“I encourage each of you to think about how you will support your university in this campaign. Elon LEADS is our campaign and it’s up to each of us to keep Elon strong and moving ever forward.”

—President Connie Ledoux Book

THE ELON COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES came together at OUE Skyspace LA on June 12 to celebrate the Elon LEADS Campaign.

Attendees heard from President Connie Ledoux Book, who shared stories of student success and highlighted each of the four priorities of the campaign. “I encourage each of you to think about how you will support your university in this campaign,” Book said. “Elon LEADS is our campaign and it’s up to each of us to keep Elon strong and moving ever forward.”

Students participating in the Elon in LA program attended the event and enjoyed meeting many of the people who made their experiences at Elon possible. “It is because of many of the people in this room that I am standing here today,” said Megan O’Reilly ’21, a music production and recording arts major who performed during the event. “I am so grateful for all that my Elon education has given me, and I’m excited to see where my experiences lead.”



Attend an Elon LEADS event near you or learn how you can make a difference as part of the campaign by visiting elonleads.com/your-role.

Upcoming Elon LEADS events

Make plans to join us at one of these special Evening for Elon events to celebrate the launch of our historic campaign:



SEPT. 5 | **New York City**
Lincoln Center



SEPT. 18 | **Washington, D.C.**
The Newseum



OCT. 2 | **Boston**
Museum of Science, Boston



OCT. 17 | **Charlotte, North Carolina**
The Ballantyne Hotel

NOV. 12 | **San Francisco**
Julia Morgan Ballroom



DEC. 4 | **Raleigh, North Carolina**
The Pavilion at The Angus Barn



A commitment to *pay it forward*

BENEFITS OF BLENDED GIFTS

Blended gifts allow donors to make a powerful impact at Elon now and in the future, while providing financial security and potential tax or income benefits. Find out how you can make an impact at Elon through blended giving by going to elonlegacy.org or contacting Carolyn DeFrancesco, senior director of planned giving, at cdefrancesco@elon.edu or 336-278-7454.

When **Carol Brown '68** graduated from Elon, she was offered a job with one of the largest and most prestigious business technology companies in the world, IBM. She turned it down. Brown had a different plan for how she wanted to connect her Elon mathematics degree to something else she learned during her time on campus — serving the public good. “I wanted to give back. I wanted to become a teacher,” she says.

Now retired and living on the South Carolina coast following a 30-year teaching career, Brown is still giving back to her alma mater. Recently, she made an estate gift and an annual gift to support student scholarships as part of the Elon LEADS Campaign. Brown took advantage of Elon’s blended gift program, which allows donors to make a long-term impact through an estate gift and an immediate impact with an annual gift. She is using her annual IRA withdrawal to create a five-year annual gift commitment to support scholarships.

Helping to bring great students to Elon is a priority for Brown, a first-generation college student herself. “There are so many kids who want to go to Elon but can’t afford to go and get that experience,” she says. “I wanted to make a commitment and give another student a chance.” Using an IRA charitable rollover as part of her blended gift is ideal for Brown because it allows her to see the impact of her philanthropy now and continue helping Elon in the future. She’s proud to support a place that had such a profound impact on her life.

“Elon teaches you to give back, to pay it forward, so every year I make a donation,” she says. “When you walk around campus, the students speak to you. That’s the culture at Elon. It was that way when I was there. Elon has changed physically, but the culture of it has not.”



SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

THE CLOCK on Associate Professor of Physics Kyle Altmann's wall is useless at telling the time. But it does show if his wife is at work or traveling, or whether his son is at soccer practice or a friend's house.

If it sounds like magic, that's because it is, in a sense. Altmann's creation is based on the Weasley family's enchanted clock from the "Harry Potter" series, which displays each family member's location rather than the time of day. The Weasley clock features nine hands—one for each member of Harry's best friend's large household—and in lieu of hours are potential whereabouts such as home, school, lost and mortal peril.

British science fiction writer and futurist Arthur C. Clarke once said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." With his scientific and technological prowess, Altmann decided to transform the clock from fictional wizardry to reality for his own Muggle (aka non-magical) family. "That's always been something I love about physics," Altmann says. "We can explain lots of everyday things, but I also love throwing physics at things you wouldn't expect to be able to explain." Altmann completed the clock a couple of years ago and gave it to his wife, Katie, as a Mother's Day gift. "We have a family of four kids, and she loves it when she knows where everybody is, and particularly when we're all at home together," Altmann says.

Altmann revisited his Weasley clock during a presentation in May for the Tectonic Plates series, a "science café" featuring discussions on a wide range of STEM topics in a relaxed atmosphere at the Fat Frogg Bar and Grill near Elon's campus. During the talk, Altmann demonstrated how the magic of Harry Potter can be replicated using real-life science. Take levitation, for example. Altmann crafted a 3D-printed Golden Snitch and put a magnet inside. The Snitch floats in midair below an electromagnet that is controlled by a magnetic field sensor, which detects how far away the Snitch is and changes the electromagnet strength to keep it steady. He demonstrated invisibility and cloaking by simply submerging Pyrex glassware in cooking oil. Light bends or refracts in different ways when it passes through different materials, which affects how the human eye sees the object. Pyrex and cooking oil have the same index of refraction, so the glass seemingly disappears when encased in the oil.

Associate Professor of Physics Kyle Altmann used real-life science and technology to recreate a magical artifact from the "Harry Potter" series.

But the centerpiece of the presentation was Altmann's clock. "I knew I had the background in programming, and I knew I could 3D print some gears," Altmann says. "It ended up being a good project for trying all sorts of new things in Elon's Maker Hub." The space offers tools and allows members of the Elon community to explore ideas and learn new things by doing. Each member of Altmann's family uses an app called OwnTracks that runs in the background on their phones and tracks their location. He set up geofences, or virtual boundaries, within the app around the locations his family frequents the most—home, Elon, Katie's workplace, his son's best friend's house, nearby soccer fields—and outfitted the clock with a Raspberry Pi, a small single-board computer. Whenever the Altmanns cross the geofence boundaries, the app sends a message to the server, which prompts the computer to move the appropriate hand on the clock.

When someone leaves a geofenced area, their hand on the clock moves to "travel." If they don't enter another geofenced area within six hours, it moves to "lost." And if they're "lost" for more than six hours, it moves to the dreaded "mortal peril." "Katie actually hates that one," Altmann says. "If the kids are on a field trip or something, she knows where they are. They're not in mortal peril. But seeing their face next to mortal peril causes her a lot of frustration."

Altmann says creating the clock was a valuable learning experience that involved a great deal of revision and persistence. "The very first gears I made for the Weasley clock didn't mesh properly, so I had to redo it a bunch of times," he says. "The Maker Hub makes that easy to do, to make small revisions and try again." Instilling those values in students throughout the university is one of Altmann's goals in his new role as Faculty Fellow for Technology, which he will hold for a three-year term beginning with the 2019–20 academic year. He hopes to help faculty and students across all disciplines find ways to use the Maker Hub to exercise their creativity by designing and building something.

"That's one of the key ideas behind science education," Altmann says. "If you know the basic concepts, you have some idea where to begin. You might go down a path that wasn't correct, but you'll learn something along the way. There are a lot of parallels between maker education and the kind of persistence and problem solving we want to get out of our students." ♣



A reporter's search for truth

BY JOE BRUNO '14

I almost didn't answer the phone. It had been a long day at work, and I was eating a prosciutto pizza and drinking a Michelob Ultra while waiting for my now fiancée so we could go to the Charlotte Hornets game. In a dimly lit Italian restaurant, with pizza-greased hands, I picked up the call. On the other end was a

source with an urgent and overwhelming tip about absentee ballot irregularities in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District race, specifically in a county I'd never been to — Bladen. "I don't know how you're going to prove this," the source said.

I finished the pizza. I downed the beer. I started making calls.

Bladen County is three hours east of Charlotte and sits at the end of the 9th Congressional District. It's a county of a little more than 30,000 that's home to more water towers than Walmarts. To put things

in perspective, there are usually more people having lunch in Elon's Lakeside Dining Hall than living in some Bladen County towns. Internet service is spotty, news coverage is minimal and tourists are infrequent. But for a two-week period in late 2018, the county was the epicenter of the U.S. political world.

The first major development happened Nov. 29, just two days after the North Carolina State Board of Elections withheld certification of the race. A source provided me with six sworn affidavits alleging fraud in the 9th District election. The affidavits claimed people in Bladen County were picking up ballots for others — an act that's illegal in North Carolina. They also publicly identified the central figure of this investigation: McCrae Dowless. To tell this story well, and as other media outlets started to pay attention, my team at wsoc 9 and I loaded up a news vehicle and took a drive down U.S. 74 to Bladen County, where we maintained a steady presence. On our second day there, we were provided with another major development: a source gave us photocopies of 159 absentee ballot envelopes.

On a picnic bench at a local church, the station's

cameraman, investigative producer and I sorted through all of them, tracking the absentee ballot witness names by hand and on a laptop. After several hours of data-crunching, we identified a pattern of the same people signing as witnesses. I then went door-to-door, looking for them. That's how I met two women who admitted in interviews they were paid to promote Republican Mark Harris, pick up absentee ballots and not put them in the mail but instead hand-deliver them to Dowless. Numerous

source phone calls, dozens of blind door knocks, 550 driven miles and three stops at an Elizabethtown McDonald's fueled the coverage.

Meanwhile, our work caught the attention of larger media outlets. CNN, The Washington Post, The New York Times, NPR, MSNBC, The New Yorker and wire services all started covering this potential election fraud taking

place in rural North Carolina and how it all started with our "shoe-leather reporting." For a local reporter who is often chasing stories, the experience was a validation of the work journalists do every day, particularly at a time when there is so much talk about fake news and a growing distrust in the media. Professors often tell you about the importance of a free press in the democratic process, but one seldom experiences it on a daily basis.

In February, following a four-day evidentiary hearing, the North Carolina State Board of Elections unanimously voted to hold a new election. In the end, it's not about whether a Republican or a Democrat holds the seat. Our right to vote is a privilege that people have died trying to protect. What is left when confidence in our electoral systems is eroded? It doesn't matter if a perpetrator is a foreign agent or a farmer; voters are entitled to trust in the process. Those who violate that trust should be held accountable. Our democracy is the envy of the world, and no matter income, residency or background, we all deserve fair elections, free from any allegations of taint or fraud. Thankfully, on Sept. 10, the people in Bladen County and all of the 9th Congressional District will get one. ♣

Joe Bruno '14 is an investigative reporter for wsoc 9, the ABC-affiliate TV station in Charlotte, North Carolina. His reporting on ballot fraud in the state's 9th Congressional District race earned him national recognition, including a Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism – Special Achievement for National Impact, which encourages and showcases substantive and innovative coverage that informs viewers about their electoral choices, and a George Polk Award in Journalism, a prestigious award that honors intrepid reporting.



Going places

Like generations of Elon graduates before them, members of the Class of 2019 are already making their marks in exciting careers.

BY KEREN RIVAS '04 AND ROSELEE PAPANDREA TAYLOR

94%

Percentage of 2018 graduates who were employed, in graduate school, completing a fellowship or working for a service organization

95%

Percentage of 2018 graduates who had accepted a position related to their career goals

The results of the First Destination Outcomes survey, conducted nine months after graduation by the Elon Student Professional Development Center, reveal just how ready members of the Class of 2018 were to enter the workforce.

SOURCE: SPDC

JUST WEEKS, OR IN SOME CASES EVEN DAYS, following their May graduation, members of the Class of 2019 were launching impressive careers or preparing for graduate school. It's not unusual for Elon graduates to secure positions with companies like Credit Suisse, PepsiCo, NBC Sports and Vanguard before they even graduate. Or for them to spend their first year out of school teaching English or conducting research abroad through the Fulbright program, or continuing their educational journey by pursuing graduate degrees at institutions such as Columbia, Duke, Johns Hopkins and Yale.

It's not surprising, then, that Elon has retained the No. 1 ranking in the state for job placement according to Zippia, a leading career services website. The site also ranks Elon among the top 15 in the nation, based on data from the federal government's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System that estimates 94.5 percent of Elon graduates are employed 10 years after college enrollment.

So where have members of the Class of 2019 landed? We highlight some examples in the following pages.



→

→

New York Post

→ **Goldman Sachs**

micr



NBC NEWS



Maya Eaglin

- **NBC News New York City**
- Journalism major; leadership and African & African-American Studies minors
- Served as news director of Elon News Network for three years
- Interned at Widmeyer Communications, WRC-NBC4 (Washington, D.C.), NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and NPR
- Part of Imagining the Internet journalism teams covering U.N. Internet Governance Forums in Mexico and Switzerland
- Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow
- Studied abroad through Semester at Sea

“I had multiple internships, including at microbiology and polymer chemistry labs, which helped me find my interests and choose my career path. I also conducted research as part of my Lumen Prize. This was one of the first times I was challenged to think creatively and critically as a scientist and was fundamental to my career choice. My dream is to one day work in higher education.”

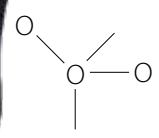
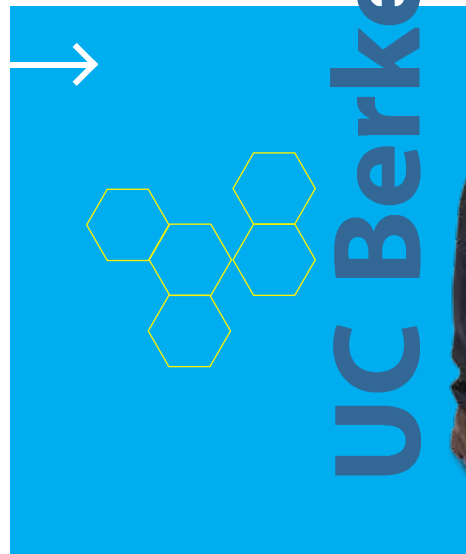
“The journalism program, with state-of-the-art facilities, prepared me for the professional world. I began working with ENN my first week on campus, and the alumni network has been so helpful. As a news director, I know my experiences at Elon have helped in my employment.”

Nick Ciolkowski

- **Pursuing a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley**
- Biochemistry major
- Lumen Scholar
- Member of Elon’s men’s cross-country team and four-time All-CAA runner



UC Berkeley





“Going into my senior year, I used Elon’s alumni network on LinkedIn to land a role in a division led by a phenomenal alumna at SAS, a large tech company in North Carolina. That experience showed me that sales was the right path for me and that the tech industry, after several summers in education and mining, was the one that made me most excited to come to work each day.”

Asher Thompson

Cloud sales academy resident at Google in Austin, Texas

Marketing and business management major, human resources concentration

Business Fellow

Studied abroad in Chile and Argentina

Interned at Imerys S.A. for two summers, Walt Disney World and SAS



Courtney Kobos

Teaching English in the Czech Republic as part of a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship Fellowship

English with teacher licensure major

Elon Teaching Fellow and Leadership Prize recipient, conducting research under the guidance of Assistant Professor of English Jennifer Zinchuk

Interned at an International Leadership Academy in Texas, completed her Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certification in Ecuador through World-Teach and completed a year-long teaching practicum at the Alamance-Burlington Early Middle College

Studied abroad in England

“All four years of college, professors and staff at Elon started the conversation about potential post-graduate pathways and made it a normalized topic of conversation. Elon graduates truly have the world open to them. I have built a professional learning community that is like family to me. Thanks to Elon, I will influence the lives of hundreds as an educator.”



Fulbright

“At Elon, I’ve had people who supported me in my own goals, encouraged me to try new things and taught me the importance of staying true to my values. Thanks to the support through the Student Professional Development Center, I was able to connect with career counselors at the Porter Family Professional Development Center who helped me prepare for my interviews.”

Dora Muratovic

Auditor at Goldman Sachs in New York City

Accounting major; economics and information science minor

Business Fellow

Interned at Elon Center for Organizational Analytics and Goldman Sachs

Studied abroad in Chile, Argentina and England



David Duncan

Pursuing a law degree at Duke University School of Law

Psychology major; Spanish and leadership studies minor

Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow and Leadership Prize recipient, conducting research under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Human Service Studies Carmen Monico

Participated in Study USA in Alabama and Georgia

Interned in the Union County public defender’s office

Selected to participate in Duke Law School’s inaugural Pre-Law Fellowship



Duke

“I had an internship at my local public defender’s office the summer after my first year at Elon. That experience was important because it helped me shift my focus and guided my career path as a result. My dream is to practice immigration law in the state of North Carolina with the goal of eventually becoming an immigration judge.”

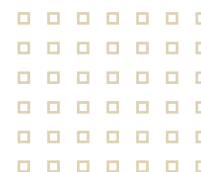


“The Love School of Business Porter Family Professional Development Center staff helped me practice both my case and one-on-one behavioral interview skills. Their feedback and guidance during these sessions made me a more confident and prepared candidate. I will remember the relationships that I developed with faculty, staff and peers who have continually encouraged me to be intellectually curious.”



Josh Cadorette

- **Business technology analyst at Deloitte in Virginia**
- Economic consulting major; political science and leadership studies minor
- Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow and Stanford University’s Hasso Plattner Institute of Design’s Innovation Fellow
- Interned at Quantum Strategies in Pennsylvania and studied and completed an internship at PwC in Shanghai his junior year
- Worked as challenge course facilitator at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch in Montana



Joyce Choi

- **Assistant at William Morris Endeavor in Beverly Hills, California**
- Cinema and television arts major
- Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellow
- Interned at Inklings Entertainment and Boston Children’s Hospital twice, as well as at FilmNation Entertainment, Epiphany Story Lab, the Limits of My World Documentary and William Morris Endeavor
- Participated in Elon in LA and the Sundance Film Festival Experience programs
- Founded Women of the Elon Entertainment Empire

“I had eight internships before I graduated at various production companies and at Boston Children’s Hospital’s marketing department. These experiences with different roles within media certainly opened doors. I did Elon in LA sophomore year and Sundance my senior year. I loved both experiences so much and was able to grow in my career through them.”





{ From left: Jesse Peterson L'18, Jeff Porter L'18 & Sarah Trombley L'18 are serving in the JAG Corps. }

DUTY TO NATION

THREE GRADUATES FROM THE ELON LAW CLASS OF 2018 ARE STARTING THEIR LEGAL CAREERS IN MILITARY SERVICE.

BY ERIC TOWNSEND

Earlier this year, Jesse Peterson, Jeff Porter and Sarah Trombley were each accepted into separate military branches to serve in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, a legal system of commissioned officers who both prosecute and defend service members accused of crimes.

The trio represents the largest number of Elon Law graduates from a single class to accept JAG commissions immediately following Commencement, which took place in December for the three friends. All were active in Elon Law's Military Law Society and one completed a legal externship with the U.S. Coast Guard. Made famous in pop culture by the Academy Award-nominated thriller "A Few Good Men" and the CBS television drama "JAG," these lawyers handle a wide variety of responsibilities throughout the military — contract reviews, estate planning, employment law — and provide legal interpretation and advice to their commanders and staff officers.

The three Elon Law alumni could think of no better way to begin the practice of law. ✪

JESSE PETERSON L'18

U.S. Air Force JAG

President of the Military Law Society | Leadership Fellow | Moot Court Board Member
Previous military service: U.S. Army National Guard

"The JAG Corps offers an opportunity to gain significant litigation experience early in my career. I am particularly interested in operational or national security law, so being able to practice while stationed or deployed overseas offers an unparalleled chance to work in an operational environment at the forefront of this area."

JEFF PORTER L'18

U.S. Army JAG

Mock Trial | Elon Business Law Journal | Military Law Society | Federalist Society
Previous military service: U.S. Army

"When I first joined the Army as a paralegal I knew I wanted to do more, to be a lawyer and earn the privilege to serve within the JAG Corps. Aside from wanting to serve my country, being in the military is an honor and opportunity to better myself."

SARAH TROMBLEY L'18

U.S. Navy JAG

Military Law Society | Advocacy Fellow | Moot Court Board Member | Academic Teaching Fellow

"My parents served in the Navy and they raised me with values they learned in the Navy: respect, integrity and dedication. I was also drawn to the Navy JAG program because of the chance to use more of what I learned in law school, gain more hands-on experience and travel the country and world."

FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY

SEVERAL ELON LAW GRADUATES ARE CURRENTLY SERVING AS MILITARY LAWYERS IN THE JAG CORPS. THEY INCLUDE:



Maj. Austin Ribelin L'09
U.S. Army
Charlottesville, Virginia



Capt. Jake Pryor L'13
U.S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps Recruit Depot,
San Diego, California



Capt. Evan Freemyer L'16
U.S. Army
Stuttgart, Germany



Lt. Diamond D. Zephir L'16
U.S. Air Force
Moody AFB, Georgia



Maj. Steven Luke Spencer L'09
U.S. Air Force
Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota



Lt. Andrew J. Scott L'14
U.S. Navy
Naval Medical Center, Camp Lejeune,
North Carolina



Lt. Victoria Hinton L'16
U.S. Coast Guard
Norfolk, Virginia



Capt. Tara Scanlon L'May'17
U.S. Army
Fort Polk, Louisiana



REDESIGNING an Industry

JAY RENO '10 IS CHANGING THE WAY PEOPLE DECORATE THEIR HOMES WITH A FRESH, SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO THE FURNITURE BUSINESS.

BY ALEXA BOSCHINI '10

Gone are the days of owning massive collections of DVDs and CDs, thanks to entertainment subscription services like Netflix and Spotify. Some consumers are decluttering their closets through companies like Rent the Runway, which offers designer clothing and accessory rentals. Others are forgoing vehicle ownership with the availability of ride services like Uber and Lyft. Particularly among young adults, ownership is dying out in favor of sharing, renting or subscribing to goods. But until recently, no such sustainable option existed for one of the more expensive assets in people's lives — furniture.

Enter Jay Reno '10 and Feather, a furniture subscription service that offers a flexible and sustainable alternative to ownership. According to the United States Census Bureau, young adults move more frequently than any other age group in the country. Reno himself has lived in six apartments in his eight years in New York. With each move, he faced the same issues: His furniture didn't always physically fit within his new dwelling. His only options? Buy new furniture and either sell the old furniture or discard it.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, about 9.7 million tons of furniture end up in landfills every year. That statistic was unacceptable to Reno, a long-time sustainability advocate, and he set out to find a solution using his business savvy. If companies like Uber and Rent the Runway could change the way consumers view basic needs like transportation and clothing, why couldn't he do the same for furniture? "I notice issues in the world, and I try to solve them through business," Reno says. "There is a ton of dispos-



{ Jay Reno '10 }

able furniture out there. Most people who move frequently are buying 'fast furniture,' throwing it out each time they move and buying new stuff. I decided to solve that problem by building a more circular model for furniture."

Founded in 2017 and available in four urban markets, Feather allows subscribers to pay a low monthly fee to rent their furniture. Most clients use the service for 12 to 24 months at a time. At livefeather.com, customers can choose



from a wide variety of individual furnishings or curated room packages, which the company then delivers and assembles within a week. All monthly furniture payments go toward owning each item, so customers can ultimately buy the pieces if they want. Otherwise, they have the option to add, swap or return furniture as their tastes and needs change, whether they're moving to a new place or just want redecorating. Furniture that clients return is refurbished and reused, finding new life away from the landfill.

In just two years, Feather has expanded rapidly. In May alone, the company announced three major milestones. It raised an additional \$12 million in funding, led by Spark Capital. It unveiled a new subscription model in which nonmembers pay for services a la carte and members pay a monthly fee for an annual contract and additional services and benefits. And it expanded to Los Angeles and Orange County, California, following successful runs in New York and San Francisco. "People would rather vote with their dollars by using something that is a better alternative to ownership and isn't harming the earth," Reno says. "Feather is both convenient and much more sustainable than the current alternatives."

Reno felt a strong connection to the natural world from a young age. He grew up playing outdoors and hiking in the mountains in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, which he describes as a small, woodsy town. But after living in the same area for his entire life, he wanted to experience college in a completely different environment. A recommendation from his high school guidance counselor led him to Elon, where he majored in business with a concentration in entrepreneurship. "I knew I wanted to build things from the ground up and solve big problems in the world," Reno says.

Outside the classroom Reno played intramural sports and honed his leadership skills in the Student Government Association, where he served all four years of college, including as senior class president. His study abroad experience in Madrid stands out as a highlight from his time at Elon, he says, because it pushed him outside of his comfort zone and enabled him to learn through real world experiences.

"Elon did such a good job of allowing you to experience lots of parts of you, to learn about yourself and have nurturing support systems around you, so even if you did fail, you could feel comfortable trying different things," Reno says. "What

“People would rather vote with their dollars by using something that is a better alternative to ownership and isn’t harming the earth.”

Elon helped teach through this engaged learning environment was the ability to see the real world before you were actually thrust into it. That’s super unique about Elon.” Reno remains actively involved with the university through his work on the President’s Young Leaders Council.

After graduating from Elon, Reno studied environmental policy at Harvard but dropped out after a semester. His professors emphasized that he and his classmates were unlikely to effect environmental change through policy in their lifetime, but their work would pave the way for future generations to solve those problems. Reno disagreed. “I felt there were ways you could achieve positive environmental outcomes faster than that,” he says. “I realized business was actually one of the best ways to do that.”

He ultimately obtained his master’s degree in climate and environmental sciences from Columbia University while pursuing his entrepreneurial interests. He launched a same-day grocery delivery company focused on local food resources, but the business shuttered after about two and a half years. “I think that failure really instilled in me a will to win and a drive,” Reno says. “I really wanted to build something and actually have it solve a big problem.”

Reno co-founded another company — an app dedicated to solving excess capacity at bars and restaurants in New York City — that was acquired in 2016. He shifted his focus to Feather in 2017. He recognized a trend toward people valuing experiences over products, and after his own frustrations with his multiple moves, he hypothesized that urban consumers would rather rent furniture than own it. He set out to test his theory with a simple one-man operation. He created a basic website, using e-commerce platform Shopify, and unpacked and assembled furniture orders in his apartment. He delivered them to people’s homes himself with a friend’s help.

He took a chance and cold-emailed the CEO of West Elm, the popular home and lifestyle brand owned by Williams-Sonoma, and pitched the Feather concept. That email led to a meeting that resulted in West Elm making some of its furniture available to rent through Feather. “You have to



put yourself out there and take risks, but don’t spend your entire savings building something before it’s proven that it’s going to exist longer-term,” Reno says. “I built a test, put the test out in the world, talked to smart people in furniture who validated it, and customers started to use it.” Reno applied and was accepted into Y Combinator, a top startup accelerator that provides initial capital and resources to companies in the program, and the business began growing rapidly from there.

Today, Feather is a far cry from its modest early days operating out of Reno’s apartment. The company has raised \$16 million in venture capital. Its headquarters in SoHo has 40 full-time employees and counting, plus dozens of people responsible for assembly and deliveries. Its clientele includes celebrities and businesses, not to mention thousands of average city dwellers looking for a convenient and eco-friendly way to furnish their homes. Next, Reno hopes to expand the business to more cities.

“The transformation from when we started to now is just mind-boggling,” Reno says. “We’re changing consumer behavior. That’s why we’ve raised so much venture capital and why the best investors are investing in us. You have to get people to do something completely differently, and if you can do that, you create a category-changing business.” ♣

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

A look at how data collection is affecting our decision-making in today's technology saturated environment.



BY KEREN RIVAS '04

You are on vacation and in the mood for Chinese food but don't know of a good restaurant, so you decide to check online reviews. After browsing a couple of entries, you make your choice. But was it really your decision? How do you know the information the search engine provided was accurate and not simply designed to get you to choose a predetermined selection?





“Decision-making in the digital age is ceded to code-driven tools created by commercial interests,” says Janna Anderson,

professor of communications and director of Elon’s Imagining the Internet Center, which collects experts’ views on digital trends.

The center’s findings show a major concern among experts today is the surrender of independence and privacy to technology. “Experts say we are giving away our power over choice — that we blindly trust these tools because it’s convenient.

“When you decide what Chinese restaurant you are going to, that decision is being made by a technology company’s code, and even they sometimes do not understand why it makes the choices it does.”

Whether we like it or not, as society’s dependence on technology increases, our ability to make free and independent decisions is bound to decrease. Somewhere in cyberspace, a profile of you is being compiled using the digital footprint you leave behind. “Every word you type, every word you speak, even every place you go can become part of a permanent collection of data,” Anderson says. The sites you’ve visited. The number of steps you’ve taken in a day. The comments you’ve posted. The queries you’ve searched — or asked Alexa and Siri to search for you. And while it’s no secret that tech companies like Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft collect personal data from consumers and sell, trade or use it to target ads and make a profit, consumers know little to nothing about what happens to their personal information.

There is also a tremendous amount of data that is generated about people, governments and corporations without people’s knowledge, says David Levine, associate professor of law at Elon University School of Law and affiliate scholar at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School. “This mining of data has potential social benefits, and is lucrative for companies that control and analyze the data, but it also has downsides as privacy is being eroded.”

Levine’s research focuses on the flow of information in the lawmaking and regulatory process and the impact of intellectual property law on public and private secrecy, transparency and accountability. “The entire world is struggling with the implications of data mining and artificial intelligence,” he says.

Many experts say today’s accepted business models are harming

society and threatening human rights. “We have gone from being worried about privacy to being worried that today’s form of market capitalism may be destroying democracy,” Anderson says. Technology companies have been so busy working to optimize profit and power they didn’t consider the ways in which their programming of newsfeeds can be used to manipulate opinion or perpetrate potential misuses of people’s personal data. One example is the suspected Russian influence during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

The personal data of up to 87 million users was compromised starting in 2014 through a Facebook app, thanks to a Russian-American computer science professor hired by Cambridge Analytica, the political consulting and data analysis firm that ran targeted political ads on social media on behalf of then-candidate Donald Trump.

For Elon Professor of Computer Science Megan Squire, whose research has offered insight into the nature of communications and connections among online communities, there is no inherently dark side of data, only irresponsible actors. She relies heavily on data collected from social media companies like Facebook to identify networks, connections and relationships that might not be easy to spot at first glance. “My job is to study data, so I look at everything,” she says. “If there is a question about the world, data can help us answer it.”

While Squire believes technology companies need a watchdog, she laments how Facebook’s efforts to make privacy more robust after the Cambridge Analytica debacle has resulted in researchers like herself getting caught in the crossfire. “Companies are taking away the ability for people to study data, but they are not filling the gap themselves,” she says, adding that better partnerships are needed between researchers and social media companies, though she acknowledges those are hard to forge. “Not only do we have more data being generated, but there are also more techniques for handling the data. Both of those things are increasing,” she says. Add to that the fact that the hardware to process that data — think computer chips — is also getting more powerful, and you have a recipe for issues to arise. “There are a lot of fast-changing, fast-moving companies making mistakes,” Squire says. “There is a struggle because companies don’t know what to do. That’s the place where we are at right now. There are a lot of mistakes and a lot of confusion about what should happen, what’s legal and what’s ethical.

“We are operating in this gap where the behavior might be legal but is leading to things that might be illegal or unethical. Those holes are where the gray areas, where the question marks are.”



“This mining of data has potential social benefits, and is lucrative for companies that control and analyze the data, but it also has downsides as privacy is being eroded.”

—David Levine, associate professor of law



“We are operating in this gap where the behavior might be legal but is leading to things that might be illegal or unethical.”

—Megan Squire, professor of computer science

Levine says governments have historically gathered data, so there tend to be laws dealing with varying levels of access and decision-making processes, depending on the country. In the U.S., for instance, the Freedom of Information Act and other laws put a thumb on the scale in favor of disclosure of information. The opposite is true for private companies, but efforts to change that are already in motion.

The European Union’s holistic General Data Protection Regulation, which is designed to protect users’ privacy by offering more transparency throughout the data collection process and providing new regulation for how companies manage data, entered into effect in 2018. [The pop-up message you get when you visit a site informing you about how it uses cookies to collect data is a result of that legislation.] California adopted its version of the GDPR last year as well. In June of this year, France made it illegal for entities to use data to predict how judges might render decisions, and in the U.S. a bipartisan legislation has been introduced to force the largest companies, those with 100 million or more monthly users, to disclose how much consumers’ personal data is worth to them. More importantly, the Designing Accounting Safeguards to Help Broaden Oversight and Regulations on Data (DASHBOARD) Act also attempts to give more control to users by requiring companies to share what information they are collecting and to give consumers the ability to delete all or parts of that data.

Whether the law will pass is anyone’s guess, but Levine cautions about the efficacy of such sweeping regulations, pointing to instances when privacy has been used to squelch commentary in European countries. He warns that as more companies have demanded confidentiality and privacy for new technologies like algorithms for autonomous cars, search engines and social media, the public has been kept in the dark about how these developments impact them. “If an algorithm is opaque, it becomes impossible for the public to understand the rationale behind any particular outcome or determine if, when and how algorithms are

misused,” Levine argues in a 2017 paper on the subject. “In order to bring us closer to the ability of understanding how technology is integrated into our lives, we need to recognize the differences between justified and dubious confidentiality and privacy claims.”

While regulation is crucial, Anderson says many experts emphasize the need for better education in digital literacy. She compares it to the effort we put into teaching teens what they need to know before they get behind the wheel of a car, though she acknowledges it’s more complicated to teach how to live in a digital age. “You’re not just taking a highway. There are a lot of people out there trying to get your attention and gain something from you — your information — or to sell you something,” Anderson says. “Expert respondents in our survey work urge that digital literacy should be part of every aspect of every parent interaction, and it should be embedded throughout our education systems, starting in kindergarten.”

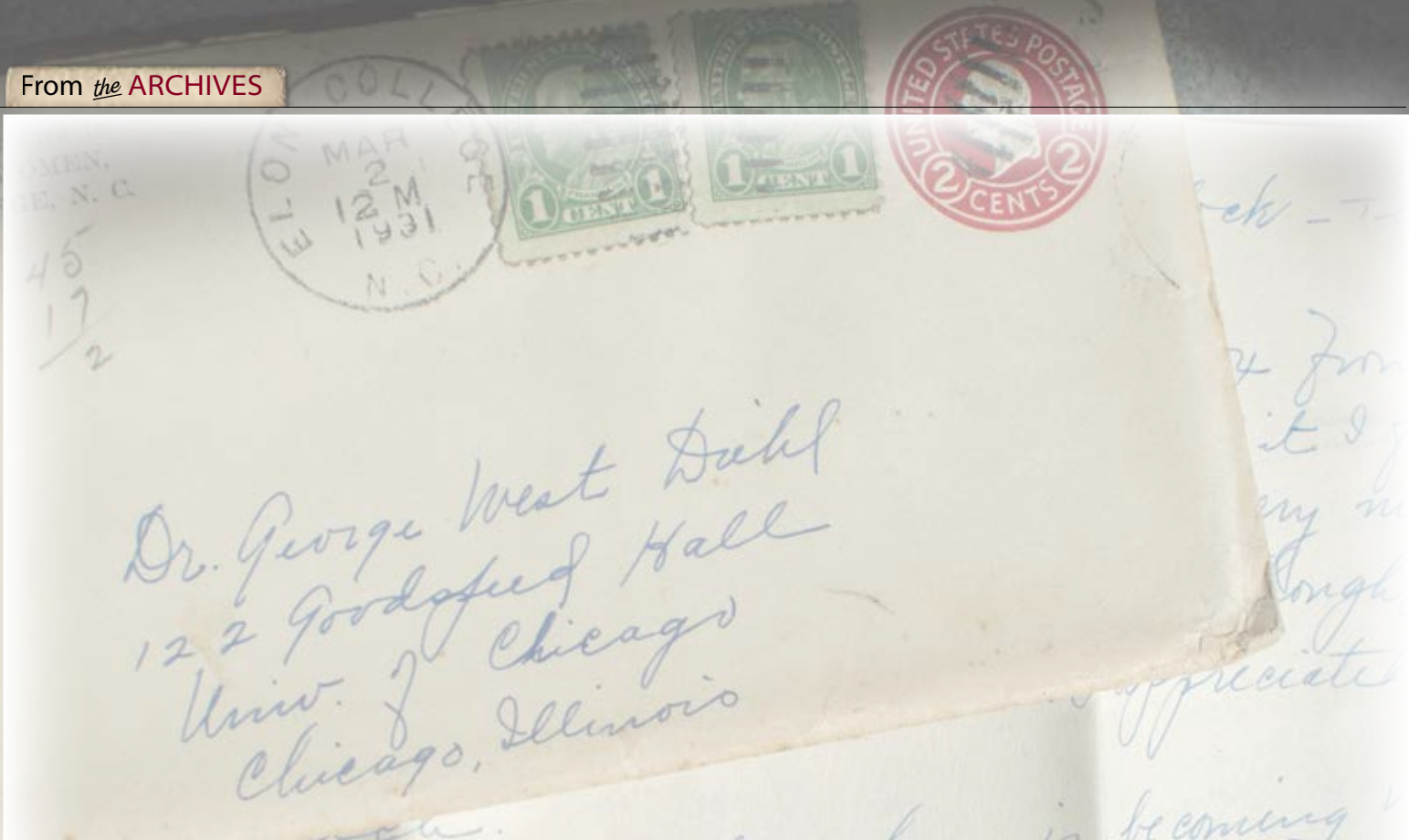
The best advice in the meantime: Know the risks associated with using these platforms and be careful with what you share. “No one is forcing you to put things on Facebook and Twitter. Full stop,” Levine says. “If you want to use a proprietary platform that has no good history of respecting the privacy of users, you have to be aware of that history. Be more judicious about what you post and understand that as private entities, all the privacy settings you agreed to are out the window if the company chooses to do so.”

As Anderson prepares to survey industry experts about the impact of technology on democratic institutions by 2030, she remains optimistic. She says some experts expect that social and civic innovation might eventually modulate many problems we see today and improve trust in democratic institutions, create kinder social media spaces and allow the most beneficial, fact-based information to rise to the top in the sea of information. “If we can do this and business leaders put people before profit, then that can do a lot to mitigate some of the negative impacts we have seen so far,” she says. ✱

Are we better off with or without technology?

An April 2018 survey of technology experts as part of the “Future of the Internet” studies led by Pew Research Center and Elon’s Imagining the Internet Center revealed that roughly 32 percent of respondents believed people’s well-being will be more harmed than helped by digital life in the next decade. Another 47 percent said the opposite, while 21 percent said there will not be much change in that period. However, 92 percent of these experts offered recommendations to mitigate the harms and accentuate the benefits of digital tech in the next 10 years. Among the suggestions were:

- Crafting new antitrust laws to regulate large technology companies.
- Holding algorithms, and the companies responsible for them, accountable for their role in shifting and shaping social and political power dynamics.
- Creating “nudge” systems to remind people when their data is being collected and how algorithms work to deliver content to them.
- Developing a “digital bill of rights” that prioritizes human dignity over profits. A few experts argue tech companies should be turned into regulated utilities.
- Creating laws and regulations offering more privacy protection to users and rights when they are under surveillance — or “dataveillance” — from technology firms and governments.
- Integrating better-targeted digital media literacy more deeply into educational systems.
- Re-examining the industrial-era social contract of expected rights and obligations of companies and workers when it comes to jobs and of governments and citizens when it comes to safety nets.



Dr. George West Diehl
122 Goodspeed Hall
Univ. of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Penned History

Letters from Ida Diehl, who served as Elon's dean of women during the early 1930s, paint a picture of college life and the financial crisis during the Great Depression.

BY OWEN COVINGTON

Long before College Coffee became a university tradition, Elon students, faculty, staff and even town residents would gather on campus to sip tea and eat tasty treats. In an Oct. 17, 1930, letter to her husband, Dean of Women Ida Diehl writes about “one of my informal teas” that drew attendees from across the campus community and the town.

“I had quite a nice crowd,” Diehl writes to husband George, who was completing a graduate degree at the University of Chicago at the time. “They were all delighted who came and those who did not come regretted it very much and said they certainly were coming next time. The reception hall was very pretty indeed. I had one of my beautiful luncheon cloths on the tea table, my silver candles and baskets with beautiful dahlias and fern with green candles for the lighting. The hall was lighted by candle light. It was perfectly beautiful.”

The letter is among the more than 70 Diehl penned to her husband during 1930 and 1931 that are now part of the university’s

archives thanks to the generosity of Elon parent Septimus Bean, whose daughter, Alyx, graduated in 2018. University Archivist Chrystal Carpenter says Bean became enthralled by the university’s history when Alyx became a student, and through the years he’s been a generous donor of historical pieces he finds about Elon, particularly letters and memorabilia.

Diehl’s letters help paint a picture not just of campus life during the early years of the Great Depression, but also of the college’s financial struggles and the transition in 1931 from President William Allen Harper to Leon Edgar Smith, who would serve as president until 1957. As a member of the college’s administration and a campus resident, Diehl offers a firsthand look at Elon during an interesting, and critical, period in its history.

Diehl shares the details of a faculty picnic in October 1930 at Moonelon, a lakeside retreat west of campus where the university’s Lodge facility is now located. The picnic committee had gone ahead to prepare three fires, and “over one fire we fried a huge

skillet of onions, and one of potatoes. Over another one a large can of coffee was steaming and the third fire boiled T-bone steaks. Really it was a feast long to be remembered.”

A March 26, 1931, letter relays her complaint about one of the fraternity groups on campus “singing songs and making a great noise” one night. “I hope they take their departure by the time the lights go out so that I can get some sleep,” Diehl tells her husband. She writes on Nov. 23 of that year that earlier in the day, Elon triumphed on the football field over Guilford College, and again was worried about another noisy night. “I hope no disturbance is raised tonight, for last night all night long the boys caroused around,” Diehl writes. “I understand they were drinking quite a lot. That seems to be the only way some people know how to celebrate a victory.”

But beyond accounts of afternoon teas and football victories, Diehl conveys the anxiety that gripped campus leadership about the future of Elon College due to its indebtedness and the increasingly dire economic recession. Diehl notes at one point that Elon was \$500,000 in debt — about \$7.5 million in today’s dollars. “Darling, the situation here is becoming very serious,” Diehl writes on March 2, 1931. She explains that the college’s trustees will meet again later that month to take some “very drastic measures,” including firing the college’s business manager. Diehl writes that



{ Ida Diehl }

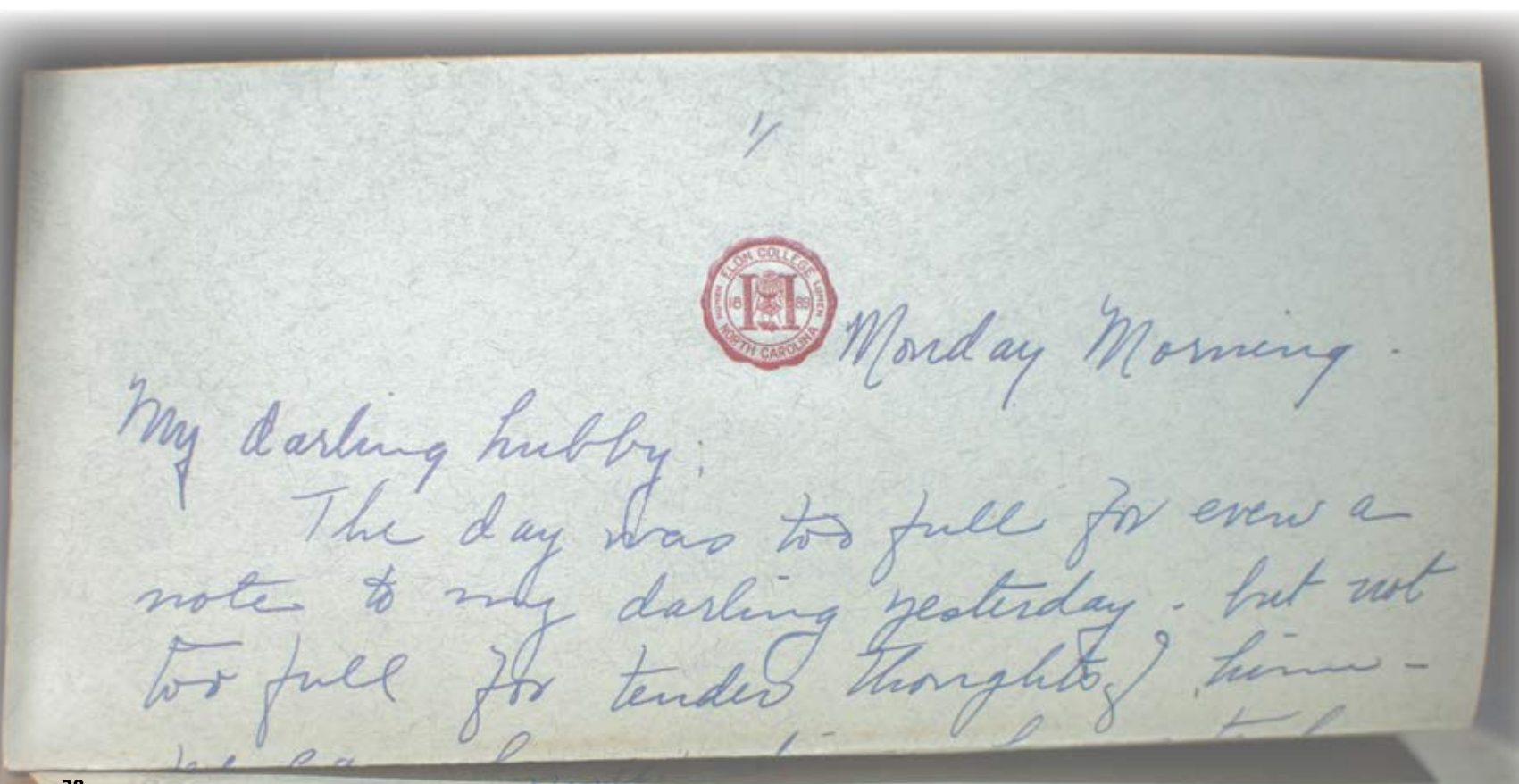
“things are working toward a crisis.”

Despite the challenges, Diehl remained optimistic about the college’s future and positive about the impact she was having at Elon. “I do not want you to think for one minute that I have been a failure here,” Diehl writes. “On the other hand, even though I have a pessimistic outlook at times, my administration here will always be a highlight in the progress of Elon, without a doubt. ... This is a precarious situation without a doubt, but they will have to swing it some way. It will take level heads to do it, though.”

Following the arrival of Smith as Elon’s new president, Diehl is considerably more optimistic about the future of the college. She notes in a Nov. 30, 1931, letter that Smith returned to campus after a trip to Norfolk, Virginia, and “got into the thick of the battle.” That included meeting with creditors and bankers and convincing them to “wait at least two years and give him an opportunity to work out the situation. ... Otherwise, they would have to take the college, which of course they said they did not want.”

Diehl describes Smith as “untiring in his efforts” to save the college from financial collapse. “He is certainly wading into the thick of the fight,” Diehl writes. “I do not know where he is going to come out, and he says he does not know either, yet he is willing to put all he has into it.”

Thankfully, Smith was able to pull through, and Diehl witnessed the survival of the institution during one of the greatest crises it ever faced. ✽



OUT OF THE PARK

HOW ELON'S BASEBALL PROGRAM IS DEVELOPING TALENTED PLAYERS WHO ARE PLAYING IN THE MINOR AND MAJOR LEAGUES

BY MADISON TAYLOR

{ John Brebbia '16 is a pitcher with the St. Louis Cardinals. }



PHOTO: BILLY HURST/ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

John Brebbia '16 is the first former Elon University player to make a Major League Baseball roster since 2006, just the third since 1995 and one of only 11 in the history of Elon. But on Dec. 13, 2013, this accomplishment looked unlikely if not impossible. That was the day Brebbia was released by the New York Yankees, the team that picked him in the 30th round of the June amateur draft at the close of his junior year at Elon.

As excited as Brebbia was on the day he signed his first contract in August 2011, he felt equally disappointed the day he was released. "When they tell you to pack your things, that your services are no longer needed, it's a real kick in the gut," Brebbia says in a telephone interview from Miami, where he is on a road swing for the St. Louis Cardinals, the team that gave the right-handed relief pitcher an opportunity to reach the top rung of the professional baseball ladder. "A team is telling you you're done. Thank you for coming out and thank you for trying. They're saying you don't have what it takes."

Brebbia did not agree with that assessment. With the blessing of his wife and encouragement from friends, including his college coach Mike Kennedy, he took a scenic route to the Major Leagues through the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball. Even though Brebbia had returned to Elon in 2014 to earn his degree in political science, he wasn't prepared to let his baseball dream end. He elected to extend his career outside of the traditional minor league system and hoped that a Major League team would notice him in places like Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Laredo, Texas — places with few amenities, low pay and long bus rides. It's the last stop before many players leave baseball forever.

Brebbia is now a key member of the Cardinals bullpen, earning a \$500,000-plus salary as the team contends in the National League Central. He's also the leader of a wave of former Elon players advancing through the labyrinthine route from college baseball diamonds to Major League stadiums.



{ Elon Baseball Coach Mike Kennedy }

GETTING ON BASE

While Brebbia is the only Elon player currently on a Major League roster, nine others are at varying stages of the minor league or independent league systems. Four players joined those ranks during a historic June amateur draft in 2019. George Kirby became the highest June draft pick in school history (first round, 20th player chosen). For the first time, three Elon players were taken in the initial 10 rounds (Kyle Brnovich and Ty Adcock, round eight). Four were drafted overall.

This success is a trend. Over the past 10 years, 32 players from Elon have been drafted. Since Kennedy became Elon's head coach in 1997, 48 Elon players have been drafted. But selection is just the beginning of a difficult and often frustrating process. If any sport proves the cliché that "many are called but few are chosen," Kennedy says it's Major League Baseball.

He speaks from experience. Kennedy played 162 games over two seasons in the minor leagues after being drafted in the ninth round by the Oakland Athletics following a stellar career as a player at Elon. He returned to Elon as pitching coach before becoming head coach. Kennedy acknowledges that recruiting talented players is important. Most of the student-athletes who

GOING PRO

FORMER ELON PLAYERS NOW PLAYING PROFESSIONALLY AS OF JUNE 27

GEORGE KIRBY '20



Position: Right-handed pitcher
Hometown: Rye, N.Y.
Drafted: In the

first round by the Seattle Mariners as the 20th overall pick
Signed: On June 13 by Seattle for a reported \$3.24 million signing bonus
Current assignment: Everett AquaSox in the short season Northwest League

PHOENIX

KYLE BRNOVICH '20



Position: Right-handed pitcher
Hometown: Milton, Ga.
Drafted: In the

eighth round by the Los Angeles Angels as the 241st pick
Signed: On June 17 by Los Angeles for a reported \$168,700 signing bonus
Current assignment: Not reported as of yet

PHOENIX

TYLER ADCOCK '20



Position: Right-handed pitcher, outfielder
Hometown: Oxford, N.C.
Drafted: In the

eighth round by the Seattle Mariners as the 246th pick
Signed: On June 10 by Seattle
Current assignment: Arizona League Mariners (Rookie league)

PHOENIX

CAM DEVANNEY '20



Position: Shortstop
Hometown: Amherst, N.H.
Drafted: In the

15th round by the Milwaukee Brewers as the 463rd pick
Signed: On June 14 by Milwaukee
Current assignment: Arizona League Brewers (Rookie league)

PHOENIX

come to Elon dream of playing at the next level. Helping players achieve this goal while also encouraging them to pursue a degree is something Kennedy believes in. “It’s hard to compete with the dream, especially when it seems so close. But the reality is, very few guys make it. You could be out of this game in a very short time; that’s the reality of it,” Kennedy says. “The important thing here at Elon is development, helping kids do what they need to achieve their dream of playing at the next level. But we also believe we’re not just developing players, we’re developing people.”

Brebbia’s path is familiar. He transferred to a high school in Florida for his senior year while also playing in tournaments and summer leagues in order to draw the attention of colleges. “The Elon staff reached out to me my senior summer and, of all the places I talked to, Elon was the best fit academically and athletically,” Brebbia says.

Kennedy believes keeping things in perspective is important. “It’s a balancing act — academics, social situations, the culture on campus and baseball. It’s something we talk about when recruiting. It’s part of the Elon package. Our biggest thing with our kids is, ‘Are you in position to graduate?’ because the odds of making the big leagues are slim. The best thing here is all our kids are on track to graduate.”

Kirby is among those players who decided to go to college after being late-round draft selections out of high school. He was first taken in the 32nd round by the New York Mets. He then came to Elon from Rye, New York, to more fully develop as a player and get an education. He hoped to improve his draft status and did. His 2019 stats include 107 strikeouts and just six walks in 88 1/3 innings. He was the Colonial Athletic Association Pitcher of the Year and an All-American for five different organizations, according to Baseball America. He’s one of the top pitching prospects in the nation and just signed a \$3.24 million contract with the Seattle Mariners.

ELON



{ George Kirby was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the first round of the Major League Baseball Draft in June. }

NICK ZAMMARELLI '17



Position: First base, right field, third base
Hometown: Providence, R.I.
Drafted: An

eighth-round draft pick by the Seattle Mariners in 2016

Current assignment: After four minor league stops, Zammarelli is still with the Mariners organization at the Class AA level with the Arkansas Travelers of the Texas League.

PHOENIX

ROBBIE WELHAF '18



Position: Right-handed pitcher
Hometown: Doylestown, Pa.
Signed: As a free agent in June 2018

with the Detroit Tigers

Current assignment: With the Tigers Class A affiliate in West Michigan of the Midwest League. Previous stops include Lakeland, Florida.

PHOENIX

GOING PRO

FORMER ELON PLAYERS NOW PLAYING
PROFESSIONALLY AS OF JUNE 27

RYNE OGREN '19



Position: Second base
Hometown: Conestoga, Pa.
Drafted: In the 12th round by the Seattle Mariners in 2018

Signed: On June 10, 2018, for a reported \$125,000 signing bonus
Traded: By the Mariners to the Baltimore Orioles on April 24, 2019
Current assignment: Now playing for the Class A Delmarva Shorebirds of the South Atlantic League

RYAN CONROY '19



Position: Right-handed pitcher
Hometown: Rotonda West, Fla.
Drafted: In the eighth round by the Baltimore Orioles

in 2018
Signed: On June 15, 2018, for a reported \$150,000 signing bonus
Current assignment: With the Aberdeen Ironbirds of the Class A short season New York Penn League

JORDAN BARRETT '18



Position: Left-handed pitcher
Hometown: Margate, Fla.
Drafted: In the 18th round of the 2017 secondary draft by

the Toronto Blue Jays
Signed: On June 18, 2017, released by Toronto on March 26, 2019
Current assignment: The Gateway Grizzlies of the Independent Frontier League. Though not considered an affiliated minor league, players in the Independent League can be signed by a Major League organization.

PHOENIX

JOHN BREBBIA '16



Position: Right-handed pitcher
Hometown: Sharon, Mass.
Drafted: In the 30th round of the 2011 draft by the New York Yankees. Released by New York Dec. 13, 2013

Signed: As a free agent by the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sept. 15, 2015. On Dec. 10, 2015, was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals from Arizona in the Rule 5 draft.
Current assignment: Made the St. Louis Cardinals Major League roster at the end of spring training in 2019

PHOENIX

ELON PLAYERS WHO REACHED THE MAJOR LEAGUES

Bunn Hearn: St. Louis Cardinals (1910-11), New York Giants (1913), Pittsburgh Rebels (1915) and Boston Braves (1918, 20)

Bill Evans: Pittsburgh Pirates (1916-17, 19)

Cap Clark: Philadelphia Phillies (1938)

Tal Abernathy: Philadelphia Athletics (1942-44)

Ed Sauer: Chicago Cubs (1943-45), St. Louis Cardinals (1949), Boston Braves (1949)

Tom Brewer: Boston Red Sox (1954-61)

Dick Such: Washington Senators (1970)

Greg Booker: San Diego Padres (1983-89), Minnesota Twins (1989), San Francisco Giants (1990)

Greg Harris: San Diego Padres (1988-93), Colorado Rockies (1993-94), Minnesota Twins (1995)

Joey Winkelsas: Atlanta Braves (1999), Milwaukee Brewers (2006)

John Brebbia: St. Louis Cardinals (2017-present)

GETTING NOTICED

Brebbia, who communicates with his former coach via text message, credits the culture Kennedy creates for Elon's success. "Mike Kennedy's advice for guys playing professionally is the same as his advice to college guys — work hard and be a good teammate. He is big on not being a selfish player and playing to win and playing for a team. When you win as a team, everyone is doing well. He kind of has that professional baseball mentality in a college setting."

Kennedy says, ultimately, how much a player with talent is willing to work makes a big difference. "We feel like we do a good job of developing players, but players are the ones who contribute to being better players. That's not always easy. Things get in the way. There are distractions. But the ones who do the work have really done well."

Recruiting, developing and then sending players to the professional level have translated into a rich era for Elon baseball. Elon entered the 2019 season with great expectations and two highly regarded pitching prospects: Kirby and Brnovich. Elon completed an excellent team season, with a 33-24 record and a conference championship 19-5 mark in the CAA. "Coming into the fall, we knew we had high-profile guys," Kennedy says. "Brnovich was coming off a strong (2018) spring with his strikeout records. He made the USA Baseball Collegiate National team and got a lot of attention, Adcock was developing as a pitcher and Kirby with his arm and 6-4 lanky frame is what Major League scouts are looking for. I told them, if you guys play well, it's hard not to get noticed."

Kennedy says scouts who came to Latham Park for performances by Kirby or Brnovich also got to watch Adcock and Cam Devanney, who was eventually drafted in the 15th round. The Mariners have gained the most by attending Phoenix games, drafting four Elon players since 2016, including two this year (Kirby and Adcock).

On June 22, Kirby was introduced to fans during a Seattle Mariners game at T-Mobile Park. He posed for photos in a jersey with No. 20 and Kirby written on the back. He made his professional debut three weeks later on July 13, pitching two scoreless innings for the Everett AquaSox in the Class A Northwest League.

Brebbia says players drafted in the first 10 rounds have a much different experience from someone drafted in round 30. "Obviously those guys are really good. First-rounders are really good. Top 10-rounders are really good. The best advice I can give them is to keep getting better and have fun.

"I wish the best for those guys who were drafted. It's going to be a heckuva fun ride. I hope they enjoy it as much as I have. I hope they get to the big leagues soon and they don't waste too much time because it's a blast." ♣

A commitment kept



Fellow alumni,

Elon's strategic plan for the past 10 years was named The Elon Commitment because our alma mater does more than make plans. Elon commits to priorities. One of the plan's key themes focuses on supporting alumni and developing innovative programs to directly engage them in the life of the university. Elon kept that commitment.

We have grown the number of regional alumni chapters and expanded volunteer and networking opportunities. We have improved Homecoming and Reunion Weekend and launched new affinity networks. Thousands of alumni and parents have come together through the Evening for Elon series, and the Top 10 Under 10 Awards recognize young alumni every spring. We even dedicated the Martin Alumni Center as the home for alumni on campus.

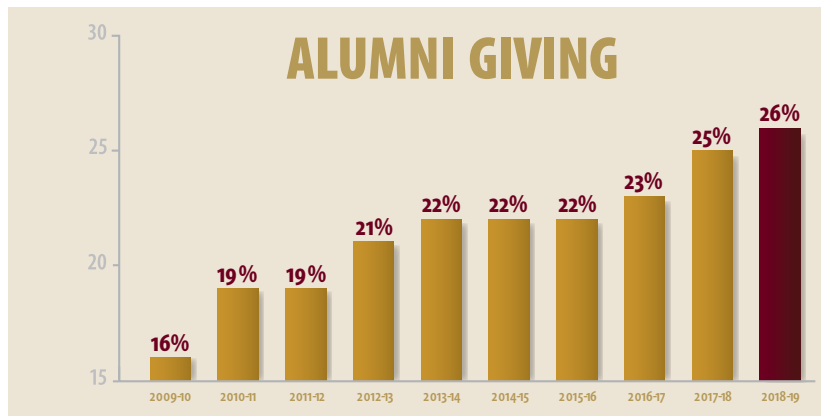


In turn, our alumni body responded. During the past decade:

- The number of alumni who engage in events and programs each year has tripled.
- Ten times the number of alumni serve in leadership and volunteer roles.
- The number of undergraduate alumni donors has more than doubled.
- The senior class giving participation rate has more than doubled.

The generations before us laid the foundation brick by brick. Our Elon Alumni Board remains dedicated to our progress, with Michelle Wideman Snavelly '00 finishing her term as president and passing the baton to Kyriakos Pagonis '99 this summer. And now, we have the chance to once again deepen the alumni experience in the decade ahead. Let's commit to it — to Elon.

Brian Feeley '03
Senior Director of Alumni Engagement



Announcing the Elon Jewish Alumni Network

ELON EJAN

JEWISH ALUMNI NETWORK

Rachel Campbell '13, a member of the leadership team. "Many students develop meaningful relationships and participate in impactful experiences through Jewish life during their time at Elon, and this affinity network will empower them to continue those journeys long after graduation."

EJAN is one of four recognized affinity networks supported by the Office of Alumni Engagement. For more information about affinity networks and how to get involved, visit elon.edu/alumni.

The Office of Alumni Engagement launched the Elon Jewish Alumni Network (EJAN) this summer. The purpose of the network is to unite and represent the interests of Elon University's Jewish alumni.

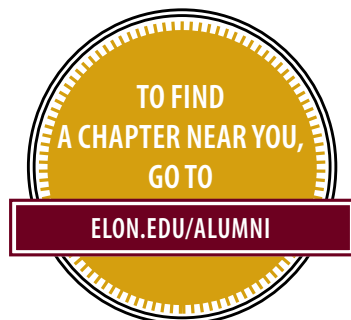
"Launching EJAN is exciting because it will give Jewish alumni a closer connection to Elon through the lens of their Jewish identities," says



alumni on the town

2019 Welcome to the City series

Each fall, Elon's alumni chapters hold events as part of the Welcome to the City series. Hosted in a popular spot in your city, these events connect our newest graduates and recently relocated alumni to the thriving Elon community in their cities. More information about dates and locations for the event series can be found at elon.edu/alumni and by email invitations coming soon. We can't wait to see you at an event this fall!



OTHER CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

On June 8, the **Seattle alumni chapter** held a beach cleanup on Alki Beach. The alumni partnered with other organizations to clean up debris from West Seattle beaches.



Have you recently moved?

Make sure to update your information at elon.edu/alumniupdate to learn about upcoming events in your area.



LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Nearly 30 of Elon's key alumni leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., in June to set agendas and goals for the future of Elon's vibrant alumni network. Alumni leaders from the various regional chapters, as well as from Elon Black Alumni Network, Elon Jewish Alumni Network, Elon Latinx/Hispanic Alumni Network and Young Alumni Council, collaborated to gain valuable information and plan strategy for the upcoming year.

"Successful and engaged alumni are what drive an institution into the future, and this reaffirms Elon's commitment towards bettering all alumni wherever they might live, work and play," says Adam Gill '16, vice president of the Charlotte alumni chapter. "Together, Elon alumni will raise our entire community by ensuring successful alumni programs, support and experiences."



SEE YOU AT THE BALLGAME!

Check out our lineup of fun baseball outings this summer across the country. Alumni groups in Chicago, Charlotte, Greensboro, Denver, Tampa and Washington, D.C., have already enjoyed a day of baseball, and we are looking forward to more experiences at the ballpark:

- » BURLINGTON ROYALS – 8/16
- » BOSTON RED SOX – 8/21
- » DURHAM BULLS – 8/24
- » NEW YORK YANKEES – 9/19
- » PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES – 9/27



ELON UNIVERSITY

— SAVE THE DATE FOR —

HOMECOMING & REUNION *weekend* NOV. 1-3, 2019

Join fellow alumni and friends for a weekend you'll never forget. For more than 100 years, alumni, students, faculty and staff have attended the weekend festivities to renew friendships and reignite their Elon spirit. You don't want to miss it!



RETURNING SIGNATURE EVENTS INCLUDE:

ROCK THE BLOCK: #ELONHOME COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY ■ HOMECOMING BRICK RUN/WALK ■ SUB/SGA HOMECOMING CONCERT
ALL-ALUMNI TAILGATE VILLAGE ■ ELON FOOTBALL VS. WILLIAM & MARY ■ AND MUCH MORE!

REGISTRATION OPENS IN SEPTEMBER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ELON.EDU/HOMECOMING.

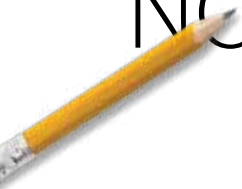


The Elon calendars are back!

Support your alma mater by making a gift to the program or area that means the most to you and secure your 2020 Elon calendar, featuring photos of campus through the seasons submitted by alumni.

elon.edu/calendargift

CLASS NOTES



69 **REUNION** Committee co-chairs **Don Goldberg, John Papa** and **Kathy Cobb White** along with committee members **Noel Allen, Marti Kellam Caddell, Kathryn Copeland, Barbara Hudson Harrell, Kay Thomas Papa, Jo Nelle Skipper Schrappner, Kaye Savage Schroeder, Ken Scott** and **Larry Sharpe** encourage all classmates to attend the 50th class reunion during Homecoming, Nov. 1-3. Members of the class will receive their Golden Alumni Medallions at the reunion lunch and Class of 1969 induction on Friday, Nov. 1. If you have questions, please contact reunions@elon.edu. • In June 2018, **Cliff Springs** funded the Charles C. Springs '69 Endowed Scholarship for Elon students with special needs. Later that year, he endowed the Charles C. Springs 2018 Scholarship, which will be funded through his estate. Cliff is retired and lives in Greensboro, N.C.

74 **REUNION** The members of the Class of 1974 will be celebrating their 45th reunion at Elon's Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Nov. 1-3. Reunion committee chairs **Mark Smith** and **Anne "Oz" Dechert Staley** and committee members **Randy Jackson, Tom O'Berry, Alan Parham, Melanie Kissell Truitt, Bob Wallace** and **Carol Shamel Williams** look forward to seeing the rest of the class back on campus to help celebrate this special weekend. If you have questions, please contact reunions@elon.edu.

78 **Susan Bolick Regan G'03** first retired from elementary education in 2008 and returned as a part-time reading specialist before retiring for good

Golden Alumni: Mark your calendars!

Elon's Class of 1969 and all Golden Alumni graduates (members of the Class of 1968 and earlier) are invited to attend the Golden Alumni Luncheon and Class of 1969 Induction Ceremony during Homecoming on Friday, Nov. 1, at noon. Visit elon.edu/homecoming for more information about this event and other Homecoming programs. Registration opens in early September.



from Clover Garden School in Burlington, N.C., on 5/29/19. She was in education for 41 years. Susan lives with husband Ricky in Burlington.

79 **REUNION** Join the Class of 1979's 40th reunion committee chairs **Grayson Whitt** and **Robin Moser** and committee members **Rhonda Enoch, Ernie Hines Jr., Dennis Lawson, Jodie Luke, Billy McPherson** and **Annette Metcalf** back on campus Nov. 1-3 to help celebrate your reunion during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Be sure to make plans now to attend. If you have any questions, please contact reunions@elon.edu.

84 **REUNION** Join the Class of 1984's 35th reunion committee co-chairs

Diane McSheehy and **Cheryl Bowling Windsor** and committee members **Bubba Ayer, Mike Ford, Jane Pillow, Terrie Horner Schiffman** and **Karen Walker** on Nov. 1-3 to participate in class reunion activities and reminisce about the great times that were spent at Elon. The committee is looking forward to catching up with classmates during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. If you have questions, please contact reunions@elon.edu.

85 **Steve Sabol** is co-editor of "North Carolina's Experience during the First World War," which was published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2018. He spent the summer in Sweden on a faculty research grant to examine Sami, Kazakh and Sioux socio-political organizations in ▶

elon.edu/classnotes

TURN YOURSELF IN!

Help us keep you in touch with your Elon classmates.

ALUMNI ALBUM



Cliff Springs '69



The Rev. Gordon Rankin '88



Elizabeth Batterman Scarce '91

Finding his VOICE

A seasoned play-by-play radio announcer, Wes Durham '88 is now hosting a talk radio show.

BY OLIVER FISCHER '20

Play-by-play radio announcing runs in the family for **Wes Durham '88**. His father, Woody Durham, was known as the "Voice of the Tar Heels," and that passion was passed on to Wes from an early age. "For me, I've always tried to stay with the basics of the passion I have for the business since I was a kid when I decided I wanted to get into play-by-play," Durham says.

Durham believes that a lot of play-by-play announcers end up in their careers because they weren't quite good enough to be players themselves, but still have a passion for sports and want to remain in the field. "That's probably like a lot of us," Durham says. "We found our way to broadcasting as a way to stay connected to sports."

In the early days, Durham's career revolved around radio, though he has also appeared on television in recent years. But what Durham enjoys most is the variety that each game brings, even when it's the same team playing. "Every game is different, no matter if it's football or basketball or baseball," Durham says. "That was an interesting piece to start with because as a kid watching the games, you always remember the most exciting games."

As a student, Durham called roughly 150 football and basketball games for Elon's WSOE. His first job after college was at Radford University in Virginia, where he was a radio announcer for basketball and baseball. When he was 26, he announced football and basketball on the radio for Vanderbilt University. After that, he became the radio voice of Georgia Tech, and in 2004, Durham became the play-by-play radio voice for the Atlanta Falcons. Almost a decade later, Durham got the opportunity to



work for Raycom Sports and Fox Sports South in 2013 to do Atlantic Coast Conference football, basketball and baseball on television. Most recently, Durham was hired by ACC Network and will co-host the three-hour talk show "Packer and Durham" with Mark Packer. He will continue to do play-by-play for football and men's basketball games.

"I'm fortunate to work with somebody like Mark Packer," Durham says. "He is as talented a guy doing the sports talk as I've ever been around. We're both fortunate that our dads worked at the Atlantic Coast Conference at a time when the ACC was really starting to take shape because we have really good respect and perspective for the history of the league."

That's not the only thing the pair has in common. Both Durham and Packer have been affiliated with the league in one form or another for the past 25 years, and Durham believes that will show when the two go on air in late August. "It will also be a reflection of how good the ACC is right now," Durham says. "We're really excited to start every morning on the weekdays and talk about ACC sports and tell some of those stories and also have fun and a few laughs along the way and get people excited about what the ACC is doing."

"Packer and Durham" will air live on ACCN and simulcast on SiriusXM radio on weekdays at 7 a.m. ET starting Aug. 23. ♣



the early 20th century. Steve is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and lives in Huntersville.

88 | **The Rev. Gordon Rankin** was installed in April as conference minister of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ at the First Congregational Church of Wolfeboro. Gordon lives with wife Paige Besse-Rankin in Northwood.

89 | **REUNION** Time to celebrate the Class of 1989's 30th reunion with committee co-chairs **David Hibbard** and **Suzanne Roth Miller** and committee members **Dana Moser Armour, Sam Burke, David Mabe,** and **Dawn and Mark Shriver**. They hope their classmates make plans to head back to campus Nov. 1-3 to help celebrate this exciting milestone with them during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. If you have questions, please contact reunions@elon.edu.

91 | **Elizabeth Batterman Scarce** was promoted to corporate director of marketing over the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions at Dewberry. Her responsibilities include working with the regions' marketing managers to align marketing efforts, fostering a collaborative work environment in more than 30 offices and creating practices to make teams more efficient.

94 | **REUNION** Exciting plans are underway for the Class of 1994's 25th reunion during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Nov. 1-3. Reunion committee chair **Garrett McKnight** and members **Jason Abbott, Jacquelyn Gardner Allred, Suzanne Morrell Crutcher, Julie Moore Gillespie, Jim Glass, Tracey Tavolacci Hecht, Rob Johnston, Natasha Jones, Joe Kilty, Meghan Davis Mack, Jim Mahoney, Bryson Croft McLean, Leighton (Mickle) Moore, Dave Nash, Heather Wessel Nesbitt, Leigh Humphries Orr, Katherine Leigh Owens, Kevin Parker, Chantale Mackler Roach, Andrea Wilson Short, Chris Stamps, Jeff Walters** and **Seth Waugaman** hope to see all their classmates on campus to mark this special milestone. For more information, please contact reunions@elon.edu.

98 **Kelli Palmer** was appointed CFA Institute's first head of global diversity and inclusion and corporate citizenship. She will drive the execution of internal initiatives, projects, events and programming. Kelli will also partner with internal stakeholders to implement global initiatives for the organization. Kelli lives in Charlottesville, Va., with partner James Bennett and their son, William, who was born 9/24/18.

99 **REUNION** It's time for the Class of 1999's 20th reunion. Make plans now to mark this milestone with reunion committee co-chairs **Ruby Thornton Bracy** and **Jennifer Kiser Green** and committee members **Chuck Jones, Meg Crawford Pagonis, Michelle Carter Rash, Elic Senter, Ashley Lane Setzer, Kelly Collins Truesdale** and **Karlyn Wade-Richardson** at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Nov. 1-3. For more information, contact reunions@elon.edu. • **Troy Adams** was featured in the January 2019 issue of Mobile Beat

magazine, a national publication for the mobile DJ industry. The article, "Community & Craft in the Carolinas," recognized Troy for his efforts in launching a monthly lunch-and-learn series for the wedding and event professional industry. It also highlighted Troy's company, Carolina DJ Professionals, which employs 50 people, including many Elon alumni, who work as DJs, photo booth staff or musicians. Troy lives in Charlotte with wife Aleah Adams.

00 **Michiel Wackers** is the assistant director of the Department of Community Development for the City of Cleveland. He is responsible for the investment of \$30 million annually to improve the city's neighborhoods. He manages a department of 68 people who rehabilitate housing and develop affordable and mixed-use development. Michiel lives in Cleveland with wife Jennifer March-Wackers.

ALUMNI ALBUM



Kelli Palmer '98



Troy Adams '99



Michiel Wackers '00, right

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.

— NEW RATES —

ONE BENEFICIARY		TWO BENEFICIARIES	
AGE	ANNUITY RATE	AGE	ANNUITY RATE
60	4.7%	60/65	4.3%
65	5.1%	67/67	4.7%
70	5.6%	71/73	5.2%

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.

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



PLEASE CONTACT:

Carolyn DeFrancesco, Director of Planned Giving
336-278-7454 ■ cdefrancesco@elon.edu ■ elonlegacy.org



{ Members of the 1980 cheerleading squad. }

CHANGING *the* TUNE

BY OLIVER FISCHER '20

For more than two decades, **Jon Guza '97** worked in sales for International Inventory Management, which specializes in making parts for machinery. Little did he know then that one day he would sell new and used vinyl records and serve craft beer and wine at his own store in Graham, North Carolina. And while that may seem like a drastic and sudden career change, opening HiFi Records was the result of extensive planning and preparation.



{ Jon Guza '97 & Molly Feudale }

More than a year ago, Guza and girlfriend Molly Feudale started thinking about him leaving his technical sales job to start doing something different. He turned to his two big passions — music and beer — for inspiration.

"We started to go out on the weekends and do what we called 'field study,' just checking out places that looked cool to us," Guza says. "We looked at beer, and we looked at records. I got

Molly interested in records, so we started talking about doing a store where we could sell both."

For that to happen, Guza had to focus fully on the venture, which meant leaving behind the stable job he had for 23 years after getting an internship through Elon's career services office. "I was making good money. The benefits were there. The retirement plan was there. It was just eight hours a day," he says, adding that what the job was lacking was room for personal growth. With their sights now set on opening their own record and craft beer store, all they needed was a location.

The couple settled on downtown Graham, which has been attracting new businesses and has undergone a rebirth in recent years. "Graham is suddenly this magnet, with several places to eat and grab a quick drink," Guza says. "We kind of got on the train." They found a space just off Court Square at 103 N. Main St., but the building was far from being ready to open for business.

The renovation process was challenging, to say the least. "There were bricks piled up in one corner, piles of wood, drywall scraps, pieces of conduit littering the floor, workmen everywhere," Guza recalls. "I was just going, 'God, what have I done?'"



{ Jon Guza '97 is the owner of HiFi Records in downtown Graham, North Carolina. }

It took 10 months of renovations and all-new plumbing, electrical and air systems to make the place what it is today. "We brought out original architectural features like the original floor and original wall, which used to be behind plaster," Guza says. "We wanted it to feel like an extension of our living room." They also decided to name the store HiFi, in honor of Guza's father's dog who loved to sit in front of the hi-fi turntable while it played tunes.

Now that HiFi Records is open for business, Guza hopes to attract customers who are looking for the unique experience their store offers as well as those who stumble upon it while visiting Graham. "Come to Graham, park your car, walk around," Guza adds.

Leaving a stable job to pursue your dream is risky, and on his journey, Guza had his moments of doubt. "The big thing keeping me up at night was, 'Is this a wise move?'" Guza says.

"It took a lot of talking to myself, and it took a lot of Molly talking to me and going, 'You can do it.' But taking that leap of faith and overcoming the challenges has all been worth it."

"I look forward to coming here every day. This place is only as good as we make it, so it's up to us to keep pushing, keep having events, musicians and building up excitement." ♣

01 In April, **Justin Bryant** had his short story “On These Seas, Colors Wash to Gray” published by Volume 1 Brooklyn. Justin lives with wife Sarah Miller in Raleigh, N.C. • **LaRhonda Johnson Horton** welcomed daughter Hannah on 6/15/18. They live in Greenville, N.C.

02 **Summer Johnson Holbert** was designated a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She qualified by passing a series of national examinations and by meeting high standards of business and professional conduct. She is a benefits administrator at Raytheon. Summer lives in Stafford, Va., with husband Nicholas. • **Nathan Webster** owns three food businesses in Roanoke, Va. The newest is Scratch Biscuit Co. The breakfast place, with

its made-from-scratch menu, has received praise from review sites and state media. Nathan says his inspiration for the restaurant came from his Biscuitville trips while at Elon. He also owns The Village Grill and The Lick BBQ & Co., a food truck and catering company. Nathan lives in Roanoke.

03 **Robin Beers** is serving a three-year term on the board of directors for the Maryland State Education Association. Robin is also in her third term on the board for the Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County in Maryland. She advocates for policy, legislation and funding that support quality and equitable public education at the local and state level. An elementary-school teacher, she lives in Annapolis. • **Kristjan Thompson** was promoted to associate professor of gross anatomy in the Biomedical Sciences Department at Mercer University School of Medicine. Kristjan lives ▶

Matthew Gladstone '18, **Benjamin Morse '15** and **Carter Speers '17** were among the members of the Boston Red Sox organization to receive championship rings on the field during the team's 2019 home opener in April. Benjamin is account executive for premium sales, Carter is special assistant to the president and CEO of the Red Sox Foundation and Matthew is an inside sales representative.



ALUMNI ALBUM



Justin Bryant '01



Summer Johnson Holbert '02



Nathan Webster '02



Kristjan Thompson '03



Nicole Wright '03



Holly Andrews '04 & Tom Haney



Lori Cuadrado '05, Rachel Della Valle '05 & son Niko Edmund

in Savannah, Ga. • **Nicole Wright** was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology of the UAB School of Public Health. Nicole lives in Birmingham.

04 **REUNION** The Class of 2004's 15th reunion committee, which includes chair **Cara Catalfumo Mitchell** and members **Lindsey Goodman Baker, Nicole Bergeron Bilgen, Katie Howell Fayard, Kate Sherman Hughes, Ellen Johnson, Melissa Jordan, Melissa Dawley McCauley, Myra St. Clair, Lindsey Parker Tanona** and **Renita Leak Webb**, would like to invite all classmates to come back Nov. 1-3 for Elon's Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. For more information, contact reunions@elon.edu. • **Holly Andrews** and Tom Haney were married 12/15/18. They live in Lenoir, N.C.

05 **Lori Cuadrado** and **Rachel Della Valle** welcomed son Niko Edmund Cuadrado-Della Valle on 2/13/19. The family lives in Durham, N.C.

08 **Cathryn Wile** is happy to share her Elon sapling is going strong 11 years past graduation. Cathryn is the founder of Forlulu Events, a Denver-based company that creates and produces events for the outdoor industry.

09 **REUNION** Join the Class of 2009's 10th reunion committee chair **Kari Taylor** and committee members **Mackenzie Ames, Christopher Briggs, Whitney Butcher, Karen Hooper Ellis, Corie Hampton, Emma Heydlauff, Molly Hilboldt Lewallyn, Scott Leighty, Sam Slaughter, Kathy Stewart, Jennifer Kay Tucci** and **Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh** at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Nov. 1-3, to participate in class reunion activities. For more information, contact reunions@elon.edu.

10 **Katherine Molzon** and Byron Hager were married 4/27/19. Katherine is a nurse at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C. Alumni in attendance included **Katie Day, Stephanie Hicks, Phil Pons, Stefanie Richards, Lindsay Stone** and **Richard Johns '11**. The couple lives in Wilmington, N.C. • **Alyson McCathren** and Adam Solloway were married 10/20/18. Alyson, who received her nursing BSN from Georgetown University, is a heart transplant coordinator at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. She plans to pursue her acute care nurse practitioner degree at Vanderbilt University this fall. Alyson and Adam live in Washington, D.C.

12 **Jacqueline Higgins** and Andrew O'Connor were married 5/4/19. Alumni in attendance included **Elias Crowder '11, Teri Horn '11, Kelsey Murphy '11, Rebecca Berube, Catherine Creeden, Marcus Lorelli, Julia Murphy** and **Brit Sullivan Shriner**. Jacqueline is ▶

ALUMNI ALBUM



Cathryn Wile '08



Katherine Molzon Hager '10, Byron Hager & friends



Christopher Fry '12, Brittany White '12 & friends



Jacqueline Higgins '12 & friends



NASCAR
DIGITAL MEDIA

AMPLIFY YOUR CAREER with an Elon graduate degree

Elon's nine nationally accredited graduate programs combine the power of experiential learning with the close, mentoring relationships that are the hallmark of an Elon education. Together, we are committed to your success.



MIKE SALES
INTERACTIVE MEDIA CLASS OF 2011
NOW: *Senior Director of Creative Design, NASCAR Charlotte, North Carolina*

Accounting
(M.S.)

Business
(MBA)

Education
(M.Ed.)

Higher Education
(M.H.E.)

Interactive Media
(M.A.)

Law
(J.D.)

Management
(M.S.)

Physician Assistant Studies
(M.S.)

Physical Therapy
(D.P.T.)

ELON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS | 336-278-7600 | gradadm@elon.edu | elon.edu/graduate

ALUMNI ALBUM



Drew Cather '13 & Danin Greusel Cather '14



Janelle McNeil-Masuka '13 & Eldridge Masuka



Catherine Brinkman Somers '14, John Somers '14 & friends

A champion for personal health

An early stage breast cancer diagnosis has given Kate Catlin Payne '06 a new perspective on life and made her an advocate for early detection.

BY SONYA WALKER '20

Kate Catlin Payne '06 has been acquainted with cancer for a long time. She was just 4 years old when she lost her aunt Nancy to Stage 4 breast cancer. Her aunt was diagnosed at the age of 26 and given a few months to live. But despite this grim prognosis, Nancy proceeded to live seven more years. "She wanted to live, she wanted to be part of things," Payne says. "I'm so thankful she lived long enough to meet me. I am named Kate Nancy after her."



Payne tells of Nancy's strength and fortitude as she let doctors try all treatments as well as any trials that they had. "She just felt like she at least wanted future generations to be more informed," Payne says, "and have better treatments and to learn as much as they could from her journey."

With Nancy's story and her family's history of cancer in mind,

Payne decided to seek genetic testing for herself at an early age. She found a doctor and, after having a complete and comprehensive conversation about her family history, they decided that she was a good candidate. The test results showed Payne had an uncommon genetic mutation, so she started annual mammograms at the age of 30. The next few years were laced with more testing. Approximately seven weeks before her wedding day in 2016, she was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. After various attempts to remove all of the cancerous cells proved unsuccessful, Payne opted for a bilateral mastectomy. The scheduled date for operation? Three days after she was to marry her husband, Luke.



{ Kate Catlin Payne '06 was diagnosed with breast cancer days before her 2016 wedding. }

The timing of their wedding and her impending surgery brought even greater significance to their vows of "in sickness and in health." Their wedding also became a celebration of life with the people who matter most to them. "It was kind of amazing timing. It was a great perspective to have going into our wedding," she says. "I could not have cared less about the shape of my dress or how the flowers looked or any of that because we were celebrating life and each other and the beginning of our life together."

Two days after her surgery, doctors called Payne to tell her that they had successfully removed all of the cancer. Payne attributes the success of this operation — and the option to even have it — to early detection testing. She is now an advocate for early testing and learning about personal genetic histories in order to help people detect cancer early. "If you find them as early as possible you have options," Payne says. "And that's what we all want. We want options. We don't want to receive a terminal diagnosis."

Payne, a corporate communications graduate who serves as the vice president of communications for the NC Chamber in Raleigh, honors her story and many others on her website, katecatlinpayne.com, by writing about her own journey and the effects that overcoming the disease might have on future life decisions, such as having children. She often speaks about the importance of early detection at community events to spread awareness and empower others to take control of their own personal health. She is active with Susan G. Komen North Carolina Triangle to the Coast and served as the co-chair for the group's 2018 Triangle Race for the Cure.

"You are the person who cares the most about your health, and if you do not own it and you do not take charge of it, no one else will," Payne says. "If you have your health, you have everything. That's the most important thing." ♣

a program analyst at USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The couple lives in Arlington, Va. • **Christopher Fry** and **Brittany White** were married 9/29/18 surrounded by many of their Elon friends. **Mark Sundman '12** officiated the ceremony and their dog, Moseley, was ring bearer. Christopher and Brittany are both nurse anesthesia students at Duke University. They live in Durham, N.C.

13 | **Drew Cather** and **Danin Greusel '14** were married 9/2/18. Drew and Danin met at West End Bar in Elon as undergraduates. They live in Morgantown, W. Va. • **Janelle McNeil-Masuka** and **Eldridge Masuka** were married 6/3/18. Janelle is a medical student. The couple lives in West Lafayette, Ind.

14 | **REUNION** Class of 2014 fifth reunion committee members **Jared Allen, Sentrell Allen, Same Bomes, Patrick Brown, Heather Harder, Kelsey Harris, Tara Kirkpatrick, Will Llamas, Kyra Gemberling Molinaro, Connor O'Donnell, Jenn Mammel O'Donnell, Danielle Prongay, Kelly Smith, Randall Weisenburger** and **Sarah Yucha** encourage the entire class to return for Elon's Homecoming & Reunion

Weekend, Nov. 1–3. For more information, contact reunions@elon.edu. • **Catherine Brinkman** and **John Somers** were married 2/23/19. **Matt Brady** and **Allie Pepin '15** were in the bridal party. Other alumni in attendance included **Jack Adkins**, **Blayze DiPasquale**, **Stu Kaufman**, **Olivia Mackey** and **Dylan Morgan**. Catherine is an occupational therapy assistant at Pasco County (Fla.) Schools and John is a professional golfer for PGA Tour Latinoamérica. They live in Dunedin. • **Brooke Purgason Burns** and **Ryan Burns** welcomed son Owen Robert on 3/29/19. Brooke is a teacher with Rockingham County (N.C.) Schools. The family lives in Reidsville.

15 **Nick Cook** {**Interactive Media '18**} and **Conner Croxson** were married 2/16/19 surrounded by many of their Elon friends. Nick is a graphic designer at McKinney and Conner is an alumni engagement coordinator at Duke University School of Law. They live in Durham, N.C.

18 **Marie Keeter** and **Benjamin Stuart** were married 2/9/19. Marie is a financial analyst for Headwaters Financial Corp. and Benjamin is a health care analyst with Transwestern Commercial Real Estate. They live

in Atlanta. • **Haley Ebel** and **Anderson O'Brien** were married 5/4/19. Alumni in attendance included **Ryan Pelosi** and **Olivia Jung '19**. Haley is a commercial marketing analyst at Gibson Energy and Anderson is a finance analyst at Phillips 66. The couple lives in Houston.

19 **REUNION** The Class of 2019 will be celebrating Reunion Zero this year during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Return to campus Nov. 1–3 and join your classmates for your very first class reunion. For more information, contact reunions@elon.edu. ♣

ALUMNI ALBUM



Conner Croxson Cook '15, Nick Cook '15 G '18 & friends



Haley Ebel O'Brien '18, Anderson O'Brien '18 & friends



Marie Keeter Stuart '18 & Benjamin Stuart '18

IN MEMORIAM

James "Jim" William White '40,
Burlington, N.C., 12/8/18.

David Charlton Stewart, Sr. '41,
Greensboro, N.C., 11/4/18.

Della Crutchfield Mitchell '52,
Virginia Beach, Va., 4/9/19.

David A. Mondy '52,
Norfolk, Va., 3/17/19.

Glendon Parrish Lackey '53,
Knoxville, Tenn., 1/24/19.

Donald Scott Pennington Sr. '54,
Westerville, Ohio, 12/6/18. A longtime Elon supporter, Donald established the Nathan and Evie Pennington Memorial Scholarship in 2017 in honor of his parents, who believed strongly in education. The scholarship provides funding for deserving students from Alamance and surrounding counties in North Carolina.

Harry Edmunds "Ned" Jones '55,
Richmond, Va., 4/7/19.

Iris Matkins Pennington '55,
Burlington, N.C., 12/21/18.

Benjamin Wunchel Barr '57,
North Wilkesboro, N.C., 11/24/18.

Alfred "Al" B. Male Jr. '57,
Hilton Head Island, S.C., 4/22/19.

Stanley Otis Carey '59,
Longwood, Fla., 4/8/19.

Herbert Lee Smith '61,
Graham, N.C., 11/28/18.

Virginia Meacham Fogleman '67,
Liberty, N.C., 12/4/18.

James "Jim" Lynwood Wilson '67,
Liberty, N.C., 12/7/18.

Joseph "Joe" Spigel '72,
Vinton, Va., 12/20/18.

Rexanne Bishop '74,
Greensboro, N.C., 4/22/19.

Dale Thomas Massey '83,
Kimesville, N.C., 12/1/18.

**KEEP US
INFORMED!**

elon.edu/classnotes





HERE COMES THE CLASS OF 2019

Multiple ceremonies, countless hugs and timeless memories highlighted the festivities during Commencement Week, May 20–24. More than 1,400 undergraduate and graduate students received their diplomas and joined the alumni ranks. Here are some images from that memorable week.





ELON UNIVERSITY

Office of Alumni Engagement
PO Box 398
Elon, NC 27244

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

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

{ A group of 13 incoming first-year students along with student and staff facilitators explored the North Carolina coast and some points along the way as part of Elon's Adventures in Leadership summer programming in July. Read more about their experiences at elon.edu/news. }

