



Reaching Beyond Discovery

ANNUAL REPORT | 2015 - 2016

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Letter from the Dean

I am delighted to have the opportunity in this brief report to share the accomplishments of the students, faculty and programs in Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. More than 2,500 students at Elon major in one of our degree programs and many more deepen their learning in one of our interdisciplinary minors. Students committing to the liberal arts not only develop an understanding of disciplinary knowledge and skill-base, they also develop the cognitive and behavioral abilities required to navigate the complexities of today's world. We are dedicated to assisting students in fulfilling their roles as global citizens who appreciate the values of inclusivity and intercultural competence.

Through mentored relationships and intentional interactions, our students achieve impressive goals during their time at Elon. These accomplishments are possible due to college faculty who engage students with innovative pedagogy to enhance student learning. Our students throw themselves into the full Elon experience, taking advantage of opportunities to integrate and apply their learning through undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, leadership and service learning. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these wonderful achievements in 2015-16.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabie E. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabie E. Smith
Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences

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PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Elon College, the College of Arts & Sciences is comprised of 19 disciplinary departments that are organized within three branches:

Natural, Mathematical and Computational Sciences

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Computing Sciences Environmental Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Science Mathematics & Statistics Physics
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Arts and Humanities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art & Art History English Music Performing Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy Religious Studies World Languages & Cultures
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Social and Behavioral Sciences

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History & Geography Human Service Studies Political Science & Policy Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology Sociology & Anthropology
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The College houses innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African and African-American Studies American Studies Arts Administration Major Asian Studies Biochemistry Major Classical Studies Criminal Justice Studies Dance Science Major Digital Art Drama and Theatre Studies Major Engineering 3 + 2 Majors Environmental and Sustainability Studies Major Geographic Information Systems Geography German Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Major International Studies Major Interreligious Studies Italian Studies Jazz Studies Jewish Studies Latin American Studies Leadership Studies Middle East Studies Multimedia Authoring Neuroscience Peace & Conflict Studies Poverty & Social Justice Studies Professional Writing Studies Public Health Studies Major Women's, Gender, and Sexualities Studies
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We also support pre-professional and service advising programs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Professions Military Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace Corps Prep Program Prelaw
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Through the curriculum in these departments & programs the College offers 45 majors and more than 50 minors.





STUDENT SHOWCASE

Helen Meskhidze '16 | *Physics and Philosophy*

An Honors Fellow, a double major in physics and philosophy with a French minor, and a finalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, Helen Meskhidze made many contributions to the Elon community and received one of its premier awards, the Lumen Prize. Helen used the award's \$15,000 scholarship to advance her creation of an atlas of "starburst" galaxies—sharing what her supercomputer simulations revealed about the type of light astrophysicists should expect to see from galaxies that contain certain properties. This atlas will help to advance others' research into the causes of the galactic phenomena, and her work has already been admired by renowned astrophysicists. A member of numerous honor societies, Helen also provided leadership in the Elon chapter of the Society of Physics Students and worked on behalf of Elon Volunteers! and Amnesty International.

Claire Lockard '16 | *Philosophy*

Integrally involved in the Philosophy department's diversity infusion grant was Lumen Scholar and philosophy major Claire Lockard, whose Lumen project title was "Toward a More Aspirational Alternative in Higher Education: Moving Beyond Conventional Diversity Discourse." Claire was an Honors Fellow and held several campus leadership roles including serving as president of Spectrum and sitting on the President's LGBTQIA Task Force.



Lauren Phillips '16 | *English*

After completing English concentrations in literature and creative writing and having served in editorial roles at *The Pendulum*, *The Edge*, and the *Colonnades Literary and Art Journal*, Lauren Phillips secured a paid, one-year, postgraduate fellowship with Time, Inc. Building on her past internships with *Good Housekeeping* and *Four Seasons Magazine*, and following a competitive selection process, Lauren has been awarded the Lifestyle Group Fellowship. She will work with the editorial staff of the print and online magazine *Coastal Living* at the magazine's offices in Birmingham, Alabama.



Addison Horner '16 | *Music Production and Recording Arts*

Music production and recording arts major Addison Horner completed an internship at Trans World Radio where he produced original musical content for radio broadcasts. As a prolific composer, Addison provided the nonprofit network with a library of musical cues that continue to serve its database in 160 countries. While at Elon, Addison completed an undergraduate research project, developing Hashtag Music. This project provided a popular piano method for learning via the social media platform, Instagram and included 171 video lessons. It gained more than 290 followers and was well-received in the discipline, resulting in presentations at the Clafin University Popular Music Symposium, Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Chapters Piano Symposium, Association for Popular Music Education National Conference and International Society for Music Education World Conference.



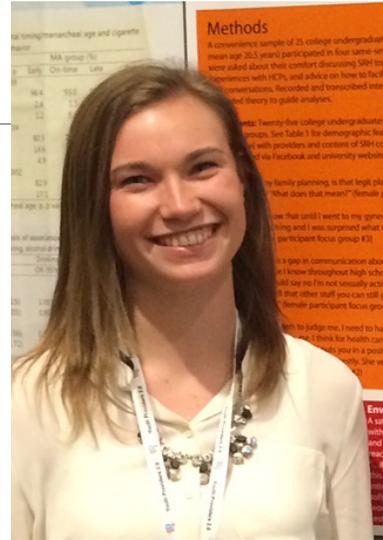
Kathleen Hupfeld '16 | *Exercise Science with a Neuroscience minor*

The winner of a highly competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship as well as a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship, exercise science major and neuroscience minor Kathleen Hupfeld will soon begin graduate studies in cognitive neuroscience at the University of Michigan. At Elon, she engaged in undergraduate research on the impact of stimulation on motor skills, language and cognitive abilities. Kathleen was a Kenan Scholar, a Lumen Scholar and an Elon Honors Fellow; studied abroad in Australia, India and Ghana; was a member of numerous honor societies; and volunteered with many organizations, including the Special Olympics of Alamance County, the North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center and the Open Door Clinic of Alamance County.



2nd Lieutenant Brandon Grieves '16 | *Marketing with a Professional Sales focus*

2nd Lt. Brandon Grieves, who participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program in Elon College, the College of Arts & Sciences, received a Bachelor of Science in marketing with a focus in professional sales. He was commissioned last spring and will serve as an Armor Officer on reserve duty status in 1-120th Infantry Regiment in the Army. He will attend the Armor Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Jenna Nelson '16 | *Public Health*

Jenna Nelson was a public health studies major and Leadership Fellow. She was selected for the Leadership Prize, a prestigious \$10,000 grant to implement a research-based project in the Elon and Burlington communities that was related to her public health studies major. Jenna is also a certified emergency medical technician and traveled with the Global Medical Brigade to Ghana. She spent a semester in Copenhagen studying health systems and working with the Danish Staten Serum Institute. Jenna began a master's program in public health at the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

News & Initiatives

Psychology students significantly benefit from engaging in faculty-mentored research, and in the last three years, at least 100 students were an author or co-author on at least one publication or presentation at a professional or undergraduate research conference. The department also helps students to develop an informed and sensitive appreciation for the complex causes of human behavior, and prepares them through knowledge and skills to have a positive impact on human affairs at local and global levels.

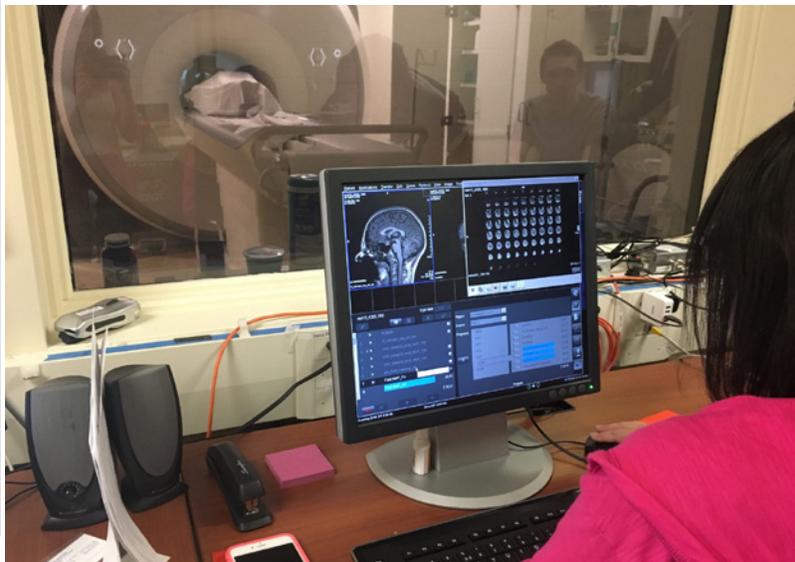
French program recognized

In 2016 the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) conferred the honor of Exemplary Program with Honors on the French program in the Department of World Languages & Cultures. This prestigious honor recognizes programs that demonstrate growth, innovation, collaborations, pedagogical excellence and success of students and alumni. Students in Sarah Glasco's course, FRE 378: Cultural Shifts in France Through Music, collaborated with students from Clay Stevenson's course, MUS 310: Live Sound Production Recording, and performed their own creative work, showcasing a semester's worth of research and study of the May 1968 cultural revolution in France.

Graduates with a French major or minor continue to use their language and intercultural competency skills in careers, such as international business, government, public health, social work, teaching, marketing and communications, or in graduate work in various fields. Two 2016 Elon graduates, Jackson Edwards and Zoe Heiberg, were accepted into the selective Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) and will spend a year teaching English at French primary or secondary schools.

Philosophy Department receives grant

Elon faculty and students of philosophy are deeply committed to diversity and inclusion and have pursued a new research initiative exploring why few female-identified students choose to study philosophy. Three faculty members and three philosophy majors received Diversity Infusion Project grants from Elon's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning to study and enact changes to make classes more attractive to female-identified students. Researchers conducted surveys, focus groups and analyzed course enrollment data to understand why female-identified students make up relatively few students in upper level philosophy classes and in the major. This research has led to several changes in course offerings, and greater insight into how classes and the major can be more inclusive, inspiring campus-wide discussions about inclusivity.



As a result of a National Institutes of Health grant, several Elon undergraduate students working with Amy Overman, associate professor of psychology, are conducting neuroscience research that includes summer experiences at a neuroimaging facility at Penn State.

Psychology embraces teacher-scholar ideals

The 650 Elon students currently majoring or minoring in psychology benefit from the active and varied scholarship of the department's 19 faculty and from a strong and diverse curriculum that provides a solid foundation for an array of career intentions. The department promotes a love of learning and acquisition of transferable skills, such as the ability to gather information; think critically, logically, and creatively about that information; and communicate effectively.

Psychology faculty embrace the ideals of experiential learning and the teacher-scholar model. They create new and unique courses with integrated labs, case studies, in class "conference" poster sessions, and service learning components. Psychology majors have been very well served by this approach. Each year, all senior majors take the ETS® Major Field Test for Psychology, and each graduating class since 2011 has scored in the top 15 percent of approximately 360 participating institutions. Nine months following graduation, 48 percent of the psychology class of 2015 had been accepted to professional or graduate school and 65 percent had accepted employment.

Loy Farm offers sustainability experiences

Loy Farm offers our students unique spaces and pedagogical experiences in which to learn and practice sustainability. A biointensive “high tunnel” facility enables year-round, hands-on experiences for students studying sustainable crop production. Students serve as garden managers, farm interns and agricultural research assistants in high tunnel, row crop, orchard or apiary systems.

The facilities at Loy Farm, including the solar farm, Piedmont Prairie habitat and wildlife research site, enable the development of innovative curriculum and unique opportunities for students. The Environmental Studies Department recently created a major in Environmental and Sustainability Studies offering concentrations in Responsible Design/Build, Sustainable Food Production and Human Ecology.

The onsite studio, constructed by faculty and students using construction materials and tools provided by community partners, provides hand-on experience in sustainable design and building. Recent student projects resulted in three “tiny houses” that will be the basis for micro-housing research.

Students and faculty from other departments and from off campus also make use of this valued pedagogical space. The Environmental Education Center at Loy Farm hosts a variety of events that provide opportunities for people to learn about sustainability. The Office of Sustainability offers tours and Elon Academy high school students routinely visit Loy Farm to explore food production as part of their experience on campus.

Living and Learning at Elon

Living and Learning at Elon is steeped in the liberal arts tradition of a residential college that supports the growth of the whole student in an environment where academic, social, and residential aspects of undergraduate life are seamlessly integrated. Elon College continues to play a significant role in the success of Elon’s residential campus with more than 40 College faculty participating in the Residential Campus Initiative. Faculty share their expertise and passion for learning outside the traditional classroom through roles ranging from teaching residence-linked seminars, providing programs, or actually living in residence.

Tony Crider, associate professor of physics and recent recipient of the university’s highest award for excellence in teaching, has advised the multi-disciplinary STEM Living Learning Community in Colonnades. This Living Learning Community has tripled its growth and shown a significant increase in gender diversity.

Mussa Idris, assistant professor of anthropology is faculty leader of the “First Friends Community Support” that partners the Global Neighborhood Association Service Partnership with the North Carolina African Services Coalition (NCASC) in Greensboro, North Carolina. In collaboration with the Kernodle Center for Service Learning, the program offers English classes, supporting funds and cultural orientation to an international refugee family living in Greensboro. This partnership has been an impactful experience for participating Elon students in the Global Neighborhood.



Encouraged by mentor Michael Strickland (right) in the Department of Environmental Studies, Dustin Pfaehler '16 (left) has built a tiny house as part of an independent research project.



Tony Crider, associate professor of physics, (on far left) advised the multi-disciplinary STEM Living Learning Community in Colonnades.

Several departments collaborate in new design-thinking program

The world is full of complex and messy problems and liberal arts and sciences students are well positioned to have a local or global impact through design thinking and social innovation practices. Faculty in Professional Writing & Rhetoric (English), Computing Sciences and the School of Communications are creating a unique immersive semester program – formally called the Design Thinking Studio in Social Innovation. Students, faculty and community leaders will collaborate in a start-up agency type environment to apply divergent and convergent thinking to make real social change in Elon’s community. Students participating in the Spring 2017 pilot will earn a full 16 semester hours of credit, including three courses toward the Professional Writing Studies minor, an ELR for service-learning and the opportunity to complete a disciplinary undergraduate research project.



In the spirit of taking advantage of all the Maker Hub has to offer, a group of students offered Kickboxes—to help create everything from apps to artwork—participated in a design thinking workshop in February to gather peer input on their project designs.

Program and Department Accomplishments

This year the Performing Arts and English departments collaborated to launch the new major in **Drama and Theatre Studies**. The interdisciplinary major includes courses in theatre theory and dramatic criticism and encourages students to analyze theatre from multiple disciplinary approaches. Students may concentrate their study in theatre history or literary criticism, or train as dramaturgs— script experts and research specialists for theatrical productions. Faculty and students in Drama and Theatre Studies have also shared their research with community members as part of the “Talk on the Steps” speaker series before performances.

Elon BrainCARE is an interdisciplinary research institute in the College of Arts and Sciences directed by Eric Hall, professor of exercise science, and Caroline Ketcham, associate professor of exercise science. In past years the focus of Elon BrainCARE has been on student-mentored concussion research and education in partnership with



Caroline Ketcham, associate professor of exercise science, (right) and Eric Hall, professor of exercise science, have directed Elon BrainCARE with a focus on student-mentored concussion research.

athletics leading to dissemination of findings through an annual symposium, peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national and international conferences. Recent graduates with experience through Elon BrainCARE have accepted highly competitive research positions and been admitted to graduate programs and medical schools.

The mission of Elon BrainCARE has now expanded to include a focus on student mental health associated with

concussion. The goal of the new Elon BrainCARE Research Institute is to help students and student-athletes thrive through education about the potential impact of concussions, and creation of health-promoting environments that support resilience and positive mental wellness. Elon BrainCARE anticipates expanding collaborations across campus.

The **Pre-Law advising program**, under the leadership of Elisha Savchak-Trogdon, assistant professor of political science, assists students in all stages of preparing for law school including advising, selection of a major, LSAT preparation, identification of programs that fit student goals, securing law-related internships and navigation of the application process. Students in the Pre-Law program also benefit from participation in the Elon Mock Trial and Phi Alpha Delta, the pre-law society. About 94 percent of 2015 graduates who applied to law school were accepted, many receiving generous scholarships. Recent graduates have been admitted to prestigious law schools including Columbia University, University of Chicago, New York University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Virginia and Duke University, just to name a few.



Kathy Matera, professor of chemistry, (left) assists students, such as Taylor Glenn '16 (right), through the Health Professions advising program.

Under the new leadership of Kathy Matera, professor of chemistry, the **Health Professions advising program** provides information to students from all disciplines about post graduate health-care career opportunities. Individual advising and workshops provide information about career options, preparation and the application process for a wide

variety of health professions. In the last five years, students have gained admittance to medical, dental and veterinary schools, as well as physical therapy, physician assistant and pharmacy programs at rates higher than the national average. Recent graduates have been admitted to programs at Johns Hopkins University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tufts University, Emory University, Wake Forest University, Pennsylvania State and University of Tennessee, among others.

The **Peace Corps Prep Program**, established in 2013 as a cooperative agreement between Elon University and the Peace Corps, promotes Elon's mission to prepare students for global citizenship and service. The program has grown to more than 100 students participating in areas relating to global health, agriculture and the environment. Ten Elon alumni are serving in locations including Peru, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Cambodia, Guatemala, Thailand, Madagascar and the Dominican Republic. Peace Corps focal areas are global health initiatives, youth and community development, education and literacy, and nutrition and sustainable agriculture; we are exploring education and economic development as future possibilities. Erin Lawless '03 is serving as deputy chief of programming and evaluation for the Peace Corps.



Forty-five **Elon College Fellows** graduated in 2016, representing three interdisciplinary majors and 14 of the 19 departments in the College. Five were Lumen Scholars, 10 participated in a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience. Sixteen were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Thirty-eight Fellows had an internship at sites such as Pricewaterhouse Coopers Management Consulting, Buckhead Pediatric Dentistry, North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, Los Angeles Dance Project and the U.S. Dept. of State Foreign Services Institute. More than 40 of the 2016 graduates had a study abroad experience in locales including Samoa, South Africa, Rwanda, India, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and Denmark. Fellows held significant leadership positions on campus such as president of Interfaith Community, executive intern to University Communications, residence area coordinator for Global Neighborhood and co-editor of fiction for *Colonnades*. All Fellows completed a two-year mentored research experience, exploring disciplinary topics, such as relationships between diet and gut microbiota; opinions about adoption in Morocco; and endurance of the Great American Songbook through musical review.



Embodying the Elon Experiences

The Elon Experiences are programs of study that allow for application of disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in experiential and real-world contexts through study abroad, service, internships, leadership and undergraduate research. The Elon Experiences reflect our institutional values and enable students to deepen traditional learning while

discovering connections and integrating experiences. When students are given the opportunity to integrate, they become aware of future academic, professional and personal goals. The application, reflection and integration facilitated by the Elon Experiences can result in amazing stories of undergraduate outcomes and future prospects.



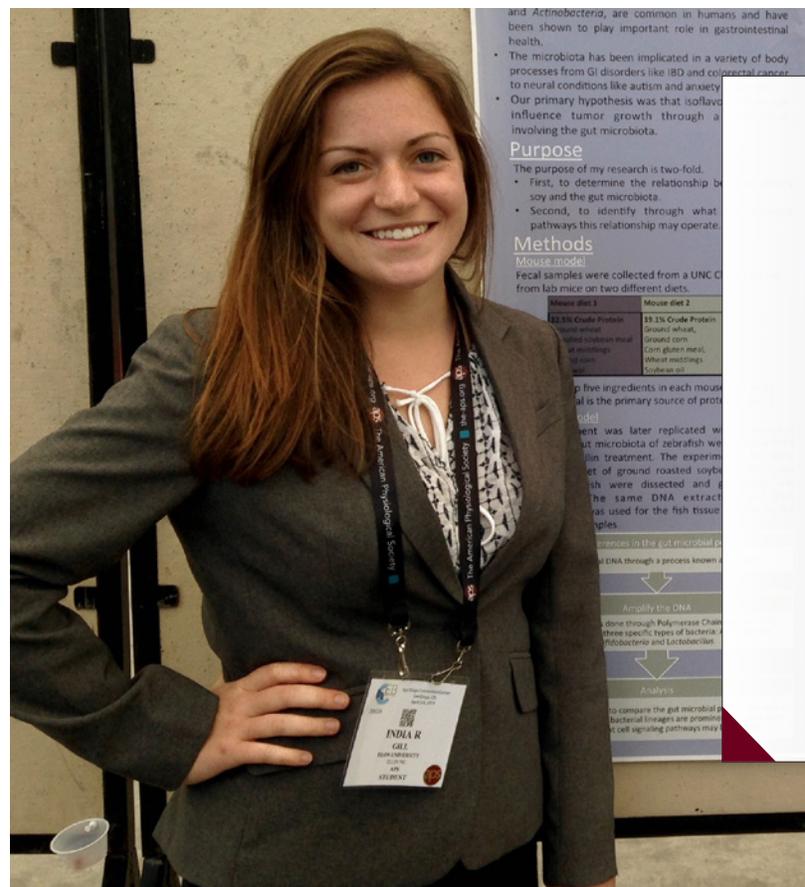
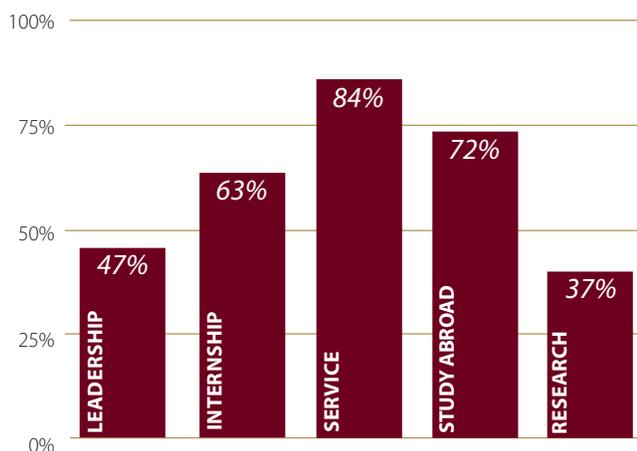
Miranda Romano '16 | Undergraduate Research and Study Abroad

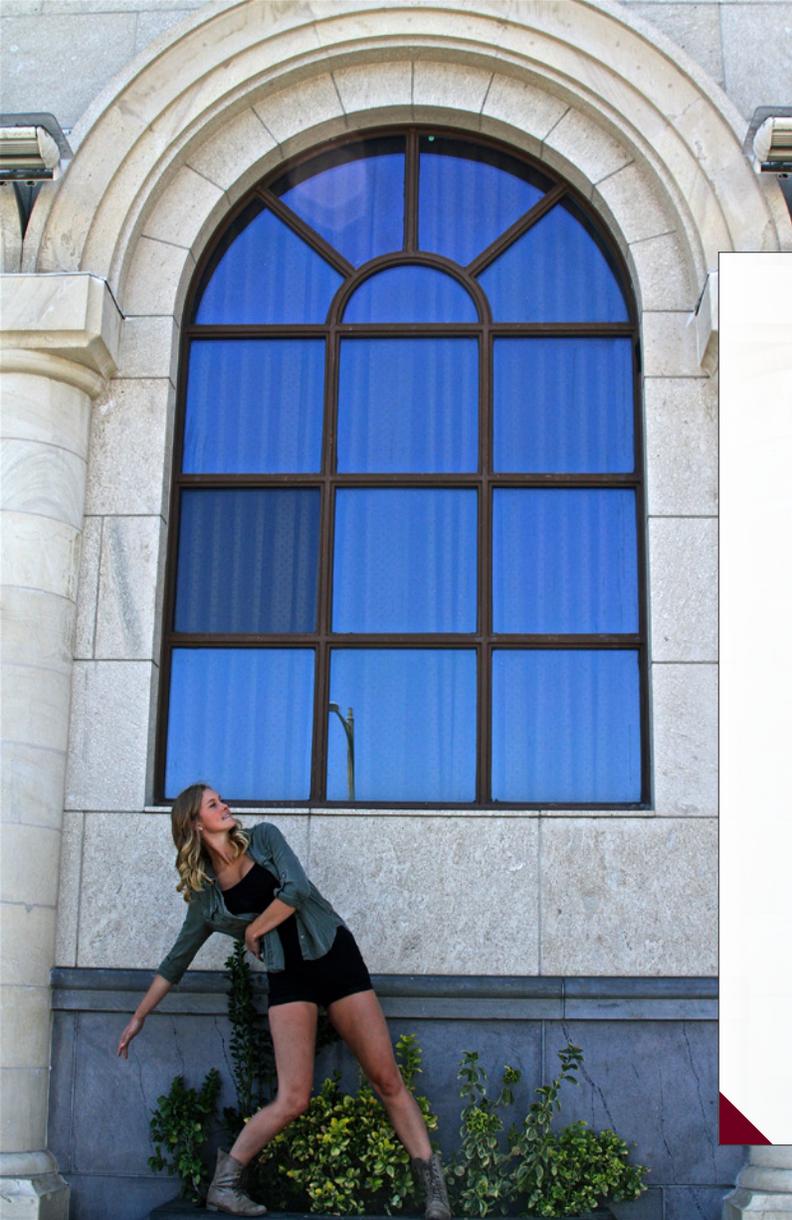
Miranda Romano is an example of an Elon student embracing multiple Elon experiences in preparation for a strong trajectory post-graduation. Miranda was an English major, concentrating in professional writing & rhetoric and creative writing. She also minored in Spanish and was an Elon College Fellow and a lead consultant at the Writing Center. While at Elon, she completed an internship with a congressional representative and at Primerica. She worked with faculty mentor Kevin Boyle, professor of English, to complete a summer undergraduate research experience and fellows research titled, "What I Won't Tell You: An Exploration in Poetic Introspection, the Writing Word, and the Human Heart." She has already published three poems, and is currently employed at *Four Seasons Magazine* at PACE Communications in Greensboro.

“My Elon Experiences allowed me to personalize my education and pursue learning in a very hands-on and engaging way. My research, study abroad, internships and service were some of the most influential and most memorable parts of my time in college. I had the opportunity to learn while pursuing my passions and experiencing completely new things. I think they are the experiences that set me apart from others in my field.”

Elon Experiences for 2015 Graduates

Source: Student Life





Nicole Ivan '16 | *Study USA, Internship and Undergraduate Research*

Nicole Ivan participated in a Study USA program, Elon in LA and completed an internship at Los Angeles Dance Project as part of her experience. She worked very closely with her research mentor, Lauren Kearns, professor of dance, and Joyce Davis, professor of exercise science, in completing research on hip rotation and mobility in pre-professional dancers. Nicole is currently employed as a dancer at Bodiography Contemporary Ballet Co., in Pittsburgh.

“The experiences I had at Elon not only allowed me to blend my varying interests but helped me continue my passion post graduation. Whether it was through securing internships in dance and science while participating in Elon in LA, finding faculty mentors in different departments to work together with me to complete my Elon College Fellows research project or participating in a master class over Winter Term that led to my current employment, Elon provided me with the opportunity to do anything and everything I wanted.”

India Gill '16 | *Undergraduate Research and Internship*

India Gill, a Phi Beta Kappa member who majored in biology and history, was an Elon College Fellow and Glen Raven Scholar. India was a participant in the NOYCE Scholars program, which is designed to support internship experiences in STEM-educational organizations. In India's case, she spent a summer interning at the Knoxville Zoo. During this experience, she educated visitors about zoo animals and their habitats as well as assisted visitors in interacting with animals, including ferrets, owls and snakes. India also served as a biology department teaching assistant. She was mentored in her undergraduate research by Jennifer Uno, associate professor of biology, and completed her research titled “Dietary Soy and the Gut Microbiome,” which she presented at SURF and the Experimental Biology Conference. India is attending the University of Tennessee veterinary school.

“Personally I think that the greatest value in my Elon experiences is that they were so varied and didn't always relate directly to my primary major, biology. Things like taking Dr. Rodney Parks' Wilderness and Adventure Therapy course and hiking the Inca trail in Peru didn't check any boxes on my degree audit but provided opportunities for self-discovery and personal growth. The teaching assistant labs and working on my independent research project helped me to build invaluable relationships with faculty who would not only be supportive and helpful in making postgrad plans but would also become role models.”

Faculty Highlights

Elon College Awards



Excellence in Teaching

Olivia Choplin, associate professor of French, engages the teaching and learning enterprise with a high level of commitment to excellence. She strives to support major pedagogies and initiatives such as her department's First Flight writing to learn initiative; and the department's major goals to enhance linguistic proficiency, intercultural competency and critical thinking. She skillfully integrates student learning outcomes integral to these goals into the fabric of her courses.

Student perception of teaching and learning scores and comments strongly indicate that Olivia is an enthusiastic, dedicated, challenging and effective teacher. She wrote of her own teaching: "My goal is to project to students that I am a fun, compassionate and engaging professor who is not satisfied with anything other than a student's best work, but who will go out of her way to support a student on his/her path towards whatever that means for him/her."



Excellence in Scholarship

Meredith Allison, associate professor of psychology, is interested in the interface of psychology and the law and has a particular interest in the ways in which social psychology can inform legal issues. She has conducted several studies on perceptions of alibis, eyewitnesses' memories for events, people's perceptions of eyewitness accuracy and confidence, and stereotypes of older adult witnesses, offenders and victims. She has also collaborated with colleagues in the criminal justice area on studies of people's knowledge of laws and accompanying punishments. Finally, she is interested in interpersonal communication and has studied the use of gestures in dialogues.

In the 2014-15 academic year, she produced four peer-reviewed publications that include three journal articles and one book chapter and involved three different undergraduate co-authors. Last year Meredith was appointed by the president of the American Psychology-Law Society to the annual APLS undergraduate paper award committee.



Excellence in Service

Jeff Clark, professor of mathematics, concluded a term of service as the department chair for Math and Statistics in spring of 2012. During his term as chair, he helped to lead the department back to a healthy enrollment in the major, doubling enrollment within two years. He served on a departmental committee to revise the curriculum for linear algebra and mathematical reasoning and coordinated assessment of the pure and applied concentrations in the mathematics program in 2013 and 2014. He also led the department's committee coordinating their participation in the university's First Flight writing excellence initiative.

On the university level, he served as a sabbatical replacement on Academic Council during spring 2014 and began serving on the Institutional Review Board in the fall of 2014. He has served on the University Curriculum Committee for many years and served as chair last year and was re-elected as the chair for this year.

University Award Winners



Tony Crider, associate professor of physics, received the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching. Tony

has the unique ability to effectively communicate science to both experts and non-experts alike, assuring each student that they are capable of handling the material. This outlook creates an empowering and inclusive classroom environment for all majors, even in the potentially intimidating field of astrophysics. Through his mentorship, students recognize that their doubts serve as an important step in their own learning and that their questions will be met with openness and encouragement.



Eric Hall, a professor of exercise science, received the Distinguished Scholar Award. He has made great strides in

conducting original and high-impact concussion research and is a respected contributor to the field. Since BrainCARE's inception six years ago, every varsity athlete and club athlete receives a baseline test so in the event the athlete receives a concussion, there is a test on record to use as a comparison. Eric's work and his collaborative spirit have helped make Elon a leader in establishing concussion management guidelines for return-to-play and

return-to-learn. The model is now being instituted in all NCAA programs across the nation. Eric is a prolific researcher with a publication record that includes almost 50 peer-reviewed scholarly articles and hundreds of presentations. His publications are often co-authored with students and colleagues from Elon and within the discipline at other institutions.



Heidi Frontani, a professor of geography, received the Ward Family Excellence in Mentoring Award. Heidi passed away

unexpectedly last spring. She was posthumously honored with this recognition at the spring faculty awards luncheon. Heidi took her greatest delight in her advocacy for current and former students. It was through this advocacy that she changed the trajectory of others' lives for the better. She felt most passionately about teaching her students how to make an impact in the world and recognized that, collectively, the whole is stronger. Heidi did not forget about her students after graduation; she kept up with their progress and regularly made phone calls and checked in long after they had left campus. Her leadership and energy encouraged her students to maintain a balance of focus and curiosity. Many of Heidi's former students are now physicians, epidemiologists, lawyers, educators and scholars within their fields. With her help, many have presented their research at various academic conferences and have gone on to win scholarships, grants and prizes.

Publications, Presentations, Artistic Exhibitions and Performances

As published in the 2015 Provost Report, the faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences published 11 books and 122 articles and/or book chapters. Our faculty also made 201 presentations at scholarly meetings/conferences and 34 exhibitions and creative performances. A few examples to illustrate the work of the College's prolific scholars include:

Books



Megan Squire, professor of computing sciences, tackles the problem of data cleaning in order to conduct rich data science

in her new book, *Clean Data: Data Science Strategies for Tackling Dirty Data* (2015). The book illustrates how technology users and scientists should take advantage of improvements to the data cleaning process in order to improve the outcomes of their scientific work.



Geoffrey D. Claussen, assistant professor of religious studies, examines the life of Rabbi Simhah Zissel Ziv in his new book,

Sharing the Burden: Rabbi Simhah Zissel Ziv and the Path of Musar (2015).



Sharon Spray, associate professor of political science and policy studies, and **Laura Roselle**, professor of political science and policy studies, explore the research process and its principles within the field of comparative politics in their new book, *Research and Writing in Comparative Politics* (2015). This book helps students to navigate the research process and grow as critical thinkers capable of examining the strength of relationships between scientific variables.

Selected Articles



Christopher Arena, assistant professor of engineering, published “Optimization of Multi-pulse Sequences for

Nonlinear Contrast Agent imaging using a cMUT Array” with A. Novell, S. Kasoji and P.A. Dayton in *Physics in Medicine and Biology*.



James Bissett, professor of history, published “The Dilemma Over Moderates: School Desegregation in Alamance

County, North Carolina” in the *Journal of Southern History*.



Kirsten A. Doehler and **Laura Taylor**, both associate professors of statistics, co-authored two papers: “Incorporating Code-Based Software in an Introductory Statistics Course,” published in the *International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology* and “Reinforcing Sampling Distributions through a Randomization-Based Activity for Introducing ANOVA” published in the *Journal of Statistics Education*.



Buffie Longmire-Avital, assistant professor of psychology, published “‘Deep like the sea and strong like the

earth’: Exploring the ideal partner characteristics of emerging adult heterosexual Black women” with recent Elon graduate, Brenda Reavis ’16, in the *Journal of Black Psychology*.



Janet Warman, professor of English and education, had several poems published, including “Gettysburg

Battlefield at Dusk, January 1999” and “News and Record Obituary” in *Crossing Lines: A Main Street Rag Anthology*, edited by Rayne Debski, Charlotte Mint Hill Books, 2015.



Drew Perry, associate professor of English, continues to share his creative writing talents with readers of *Our State*

magazine. Many of his recent commentaries on life in the Old North State can be enjoyed online at <https://www.ourstate.com/author/Drewperry/>.

Selected Exhibitions/ Performances



Samantha DiRosa, associate professor of art and environmental studies, shared her work, “Outlaid,” a single channel video/live

music performance at Fondation des Etats-Unis, in Paris, France in July 2015.



Lynne Kurdziel-Formato, associate professor of dance, choreographed “Peter Pan” for an ARTPARK performance in

Lewiston, New York during the summer of 2015, and returned to Elon to choreograph “Oklahoma!” in the fall semester.



Matthew Buckmaster, associate professor of music and education, performed with the Cramer Trombone Choir Concert at

the International Trombone Association meeting in Valencia, Spain, in July 2015.

Selected Grants, Awards and Accomplishments

NIH grant to support a three-year study on aging



Amy Overman, associate professor of psychology, recently received \$343,866 from the National Institutes of

Health to fund a three-year study of age-related changes in memory.

The grant is funded under NIH's Academic Research Enhancement Award program; the objective is to provide support for meritorious research and strengthen the research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support. This is the first NIH grant awarded to Elon University.

Overman is a co-founder of Elon's neuroscience minor and serves as a member of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee and faculty adviser of the Elon University Neuroscience Club. She is the principal investigator of the research and will collaborate with Nancy Dennis, associate professor of psychology at Penn State University. The grant will enable several Elon undergraduate students to conduct neuroscience research over a period of three years, and will include summer experiences at a neuroimaging facility at Penn State.

The study is expected to provide information to be used to develop strategies that can help overcome memory difficulties experienced by healthy older adults.

Grant funds infrastructure



Megan Squire, professor of computing sciences, received a major grant from the National Science Foundation to create an

infrastructure that enables mining and analysis of open source software.

This multi-year project has enabled Megan, colleagues and students to integrate the flagship data commons, FLOSSdata, with several other popular data sources that were previously housed and administered separately. The grant also enables Megan and colleagues to expand the data commons and create a suite of text mining software tools that are designed specifically to search and analyze these artifacts inside the data commons.

Fulbright scholarship



Carmen Monico, assistant professor of human service studies, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research

and teaching in Guatemala on youth-at-risk. Her research provides the opportunity to respond to the U.S. humanitarian crisis by connecting the outcomes of the vocational training program that the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala developed with support from the Research Triangle Institute International and USAID to prevent violence, improve child welfare and better the reintegration of returned youth from the U.S.

Retiring Professors Awarded Emeritus Status



Nancy Midgett, Professor Emerita of History



Chalmers Brumbaugh, Professor Emeritus of Political Science



Jane Wellford, Professor Emerita of Dance



Helen Walton, Professor Emerita of Mathematics



Barbara Taylor, Professor Emerita of Computing Sciences

New Faculty in 2015-2016



Takudzwa "Titch" Madzima, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science



Christopher B. Arena, Assistant Professor of Engineering



Muriel Vernon, Assistant Professor of Anthropology



Bilal Ghandour, Assistant Professor of Psychology



Ryan Johnson, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy



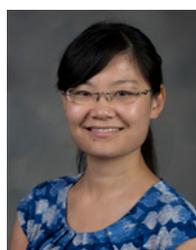
Matthew W. Wittstein, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science



Andrea Metts, Lecturer in Mathematics & Statistics



CJ Eubanks Fleming, Assistant Professor of Psychology



Xiaolin Duan, Assistant Professor of History



Scott Spurlock, Assistant Professor of Computing Sciences



Virginia Novine-Whittaker, Lecturer in Music



Patricia Burns, Lecturer in French



Heather Lindenman, Assistant Professor of English



Stephanie Baker-White, Assistant Professor of Public Health Studies



Ariela Marcus-Sells, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies



Katherine Johnson, Assistant Professor of Public Health Studies



Pablo Celis-Castillo, Assistant Professor of Spanish



Jennifer Zinchuk, Assistant Professor of English



Elisha Savchak-Trogdon, Assistant Professor of Political Science



From left to right: Maurice “Don” Owens ’95 and David Wyrick ’94 were honored April 28, 2016, at a special luncheon. Stuart E.Y. Richie ’10, who was in Russia at the time and not pictured, accepted her award from afar.

Alumni of Excellence

Outstanding alumni from Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, were honored for accomplishments in their professions and representing Elon’s values in their fields and the world. “This event is a reminder of the transformative power of a liberal arts education,” said President Leo M. Lambert at the ceremony. “Each of you has made an extraordinary contribution to the world.”

David L. Wyrick ’94

David Wyrick earned his Bachelor of Science in exercise and sports science from Elon in 1994, his Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1998, and his doctorate in educational research methodology from UNC-Greensboro in 2002. He currently serves as an associate professor in the Department of Public Health Education and as director of the Institute to Promote Athlete Health & Wellness at UNC-Greensboro. He is a prolific scholar with 30 peer-reviewed publications since 2001, and six more currently under review. He and his co-authors have researched alcohol use among college students, dining habits of college students, cigarette smoking policies and health impacts and high school drug prevention programs, just to name a few. He has successfully applied for and received research grants from the National Football League Foundation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Nursing Research, the NCAA Sport Science Institute and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Stuart E.Y. Richie ’10

Stuart E.Y. Richie earned a Bachelor of Arts in theatre studies and a Bachelor of Arts in theatrical design & production from Elon in 2010. While finishing her studies at Elon, she had the good fortune of completing a stage management internship with Cirque du Soleil’s production of “Mystère.” She worked in production and stage management at Elon in “110 in the Shade” and the Ever Elon Endowment Campaign. At the Heritage Theatre Festival, she worked on “Moonlight and Magnolias” and “On Golden Pond.” At Busch Gardens in Williamsburg she worked on “All Together Now” and “Rhine Acrobats.” All of these experiences prepared Stuart to move quickly into stage management roles with Cirque du Soleil, where she is working on the traveling production of “Varekai” as it moves across Europe. Stuart joined the program via a pre-recorded digital message from Russia to accept her award.

Maurice “Don” Owens ’95

Maurice “Don” Owens earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Elon in 1995. He has practiced strategic communications, public relations and government relations in Washington, D.C. for more than 18 of the last 21 years. During that time, his work has focused primarily on shaping the messaging, outreach, lobbying, marketing advocacy and planning needs for organizations characterized as “groups of conscience.” Some of these organizations have included Social Security Works and the Strengthen Social Security Coalition, the Center for Teaching Quality, the National Black Child Development Institute, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Pre-K Now, the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition, the Association of Maternal Child and Health Programs, the Trust for Early Education, McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership, National Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children and his current position at Public Citizen where he’s helping to amplify the people’s voice in the nation’s capital to ensure that all citizens are represented in the halls of power.



CELEBRATE!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACADEMICS AND THE ARTS

Celebrate! 2016 offered a great week to showcase the academic and artistic achievements of students and faculty across the campus. More than 165 examples of original undergraduate research from students being mentored by faculty within the College of Arts & Sciences were showcased at the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum on April 26, and 31 faculty from across the college shared their own scholarly work as well. On April 27, the Opera Workshop featured a special performance of Mozart's compositions, and April 28 included a celebration of academic service-learning as well as a celebration of the kickbox/maker hub space. The week was capped off on April 30 with a Piano Extravaganza concert from our Music Department, featuring a 16-hand selection on two concert grands.



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