

# A SLICE OF $\pi$

Official Newsletter of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

## Notes from the Chair and Associate Chair



Dr. Jim Beuerle, Chair  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics

It has been an exciting year for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Our faculty continue to elevate Elon's national profile, earning prestigious professorships, national awards, and significant NSF funding to support innovative research and student programming. Faculty and students presented research across the country and internationally, from national mathematics meetings to conferences in Europe.

Our students are thriving. This year, we celebrated three recipients of Elon's premier undergraduate research award, along with numerous conference presentations, publications, national awards, and impressive graduate placements in industry, research, and doctoral programs. We also refreshed our student lounge space in Duke, further strengthening the collaborative and welcoming community that defines our department.

Your support and engagement make this momentum possible. We are grateful for the many ways our alumni mentor students, share career advice, and invest in the future of mathematics, statistics, and Data Analytics at Elon. Thank you for remaining such an important part of our story.

Jim



Dr. Kirstie Doehler, Associate Chair  
Mathematics and Statistics

As of this academic year, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has approximately 40 students that have declared either a Mathematics or Applied Mathematics major, another 45 that are majoring in Statistics, and almost 50 that have chosen our newest major, Data Analytics. Our minors continue to grow as well, with nearly 60 students pursuing a minor in Statistics and over 100 pursuing a minor in Mathematics!

In other news, I have officially joined the modern age and now have a LinkedIn account, so please feel free to connect with me there! I'm always glad to hear updates and learn what alumni of Elon University Department of Mathematics and Statistics are up to.

Kirstie

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*Dr. Nancy Scherich awarded the A.L. Hook Emerging Professor  
In Science and Mathematics as well as an NSF grant-  
Launching Early-Academic Pathways for Mathematical and  
Physical Sciences (LEAPS-MPS)*

*Dr. Kristen Mazur was awarded the Trevor Evans Award for  
her part in co-authoring "Illuminating Illustration: Interesting  
Intersections and Helly's Theorem"*



Dr. Nancy Scherich

Dr. Scherich's research in algebra and topography, particularly knot theory and its application was instrumental in awarding her the A.L. Hook professorship. She has co-authored with her students as well as on her own and does a wide range of non-traditional math related to dance. Her NSF grant directly focuses on her with with knots and braid group representations. It will support the launch of research programs, STEM, and also fund programming with in the Math/Stats departments.



Dr. Kristen Mazur

"The Trevor Evans Award, established by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), is presented annually to an author or authors of an exceptional mathematical article that is accessible to undergraduates. Overall, the article leads the reader through the exploration of an intriguing mathematical result in an accessible way with nice illustrations and plenty of suggestions for the reader to learn more." Dr. Mazur stated, in regards to her co-authored article, "We hope our article inspires students to learn about Helly's Theorem-a 100-year-old result about intersections of convex sets."

## **We have been a busy department over the past year!**

Dr. Heather Barker presented at the International Consortium for Research and Mathematics Education in Mexico. She presented on "A Pedagogical Approach for Teaching Statistics for Social Justice."

Dr. Keta Henderson presented at the Association for Women in Mathematics Research Symposium held in Wisconsin. She presented her project "A Sigma-shaped bifurcation curve for a class of reaction diffusion equations and an application to an ecological model."

Dr. Jeff Clark presented at Mathematical Association of American's MathFest in California - "Multivariable Calculus and Physics." He also presented at the annual ICTCM meeting - "Animations in Multivariable Calculus" as well as the Southeastern section of MAA - "How Many Dice Do You Need for a Bell Curve?"

Dr. Aaron Trocki presented his research at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. He also published in the international journal Digital Experiences in Math Education.

Faculty (Dr. Hwayeon Ryu and Dr. Keta Henderson) and students attended/presented at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington, DC

Dr. Ryu published a paper in Mathematical Biosciences, and also attended/ presented at MathFest in California as well as at the international applied math conference in Canada.

9 of our faculty (Drs. Metts, Barker, Henderson, Doehler, Cantwell, Taylor, Weaver Bussberg and Vankrevelen) attended/presented at the US Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) in Iowa

Dr. Nancy Scherich attended the Bridges conference in the Netherlands with 2 of her students who presented their research in math/stats. She was awarded an NSF grant.

Dr. Crista Arangala along with Dr. Mazur and one other colleague published in the College Mathematics Journal.

Dr. Ryne Vankrevelen and several of his students attended the SABR conference in Arizona.

Dr. Hwayeon Ryu presented and served as a panelist at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Seattle. She also delivered a keynote talk at the MAA Southeastern Section Conference, presented at the Third Joint SIAM/CAIMS annual meeting, and presented with her student Pagnapech Ngoun '26 at MathFest in California. Last but not least Dr. Ryu advocated for STEM workforce and federal funding on Capital Hill.

Math and Stats sent its first student, Bunny Ingram '27, to the SAS Innovate Conference in Orlando

A large contingent of faculty and staff attended and presented at the MAA Southeastern Section annual meeting in High Point.

Elon hosted the regional STEM conference for undergraduates (IRIS=integrating research in science).

And just in case you thought we were all work and no play, several faculty and staff got into the spirit of Halloween hosting a Where's Waldo contest for students. Faculty/Staff dressed as lookalikes with 3 actual characters for students to hunt down and claim a prize! We also hosted several pizza and coffee drop-ins in our "new" student lounge located in Duke 205. This location was suggested by students and the move occurred over the summer of '25 complete with a new accent wall, comfy furniture and snacks.



Drs. Ryne Vankrevelen, Kirstie Doehler, Mark Weaver, Heather Barker, Andi Metts, Laura Taylor, Nic Bussberg, Larry Cantwell, and Keta Henderson all attended and presented at USCOTS (US Conference on Teaching Statistics) in July.

Dr. Nancy Scherich, along with her research students Lila Snodgrass '26 and Sol Addison '25 presented at the Bridges 2025 Math-Art conference in the Netherlands over the summer.



Faculty and students attended the MAA Southeastern Section at Highpoint University. Faculty and students presented!



Where's Waldo Halloween Fun

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

**Bailey Reutinger '25**, a Lumen Scholar was also named a semi-finalist for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The program offers research, study and teaching opportunities to recent graduates.

**Nicolas Alvarez '26** was awarded the Lumen Prize which is Elon's premier undergraduate research award, providing a scholarship to support and celebrate their academic achievements and research proposals.

**Lila Snodgrass '26** was also awarded the Lumen Prize. Her Lumen research led to attending the Bridges 2025 conference in Eindhoven, Netherlands. She and her research partner alumni Sol Addison and their professor Dr. Nancy Scherich had their paper "The Danceability of Twisted Virtual Knots" accepted at the conference where they gave an oral presentation of their work.

**Bunny Ingram '27** was the first Math/Stats student to attend the SAS Innovate Conference in Orlando, Florida. The SAS conference brings together professionals from around the globe to explore the cutting edge of analytics and artificial intelligence. We hope to send a student cohort in the future!

**Mira Fitch '26** and **Rony Dahdal '26** were both selected for early induction into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honor society which focuses on academic excellence, intellectual maturity, scholarly potential, and accomplishments beyond their major fields.

**Jillian Thomas '25** Honors Fellow published her research "Numerical Simulation of Jellyfish Swimming in Volume 8 of PUMP - Preparing Undergraduate Mathematicians for PhDs: Journal of Undergraduate Research. Her research was also a part of her Honors thesis.

**Anna Rakes '26** (Statistics) and **Bunny Ingram '26** (Data Analytics) each presented at the 2025 eUSR - Electronic Undergraduate Statistics Research Conference.

**Pagnapech Ngoun '26** presented at MathFest's annual meeting in California.

13 of our students including **Lila Snodgrass '26**, **Sol Addison '25**, **Lauren Beuerle '25**, **Jillian Thomas '25**, **Liwei Chen '25**, **Nicolas Alvarez '27**, **Murilo Lopes '27**, **Clayton McLamb '25**, **Nat Song '25**, **Lily Helm '25**, and **William Corky '26** presented their various research at the MAA Southeastern Section Conference in High Point.

# 2025 Lumen Prize

The Lumen Prize is the university's premier undergraduate research award that comes with a \$20,000 scholarship to support and celebrate their academic achievements and research proposals. This year the department has 3 Lumen Scholars!

**Nicolas Alvarez** - Mechanical Engineering & Mathematics

Project: "Learning to Walk: Applying Lessons from Infant Motor Development to a Reinforcement Learning Policy for Locomotion of Quadrupedal Robots"

Mentor: Dr. Blake Hament

**Sophie Remisio** - Environmental Engineering & Applied Mathematics

Project: "Filtering the Future: A Regenerable Approach to PFAS Filtration Using Non-Conventional Sorbents"

Mentor: Dr. Will Pluer

**Muhammad Awal Tahiru** - Physics and Applied Math

Project: "Decoherence and the Arrow of time: Investigating the Quantum Origins of Temporal Asymmetry"

Mentor: Dr. Martin Kamela

## Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates! Many have lined up exciting careers or will attend Graduate School

Those entering the workplace include: **Sol Addison** (Lee Montessori-Data Analytics), **Jack Autieri** (Lowes), **Elizabeth Blandin** (Elevance Health), **Erik Blix** (Deutsche Bank), **Adam Jockle** (American Eagle Outfitters), **Jeremiah Lee** (Centene Corporation), **Sean MCDermott** (LabCorp), **Walt Pierce** (Live Oak Bank), **Claire Rainey** (T1D Exchange), **Katherine Scott** (Citigroup), **Juan Sengariz Carral** (Armando Alvarez Group), **Jillian Thomas** (Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab), **Ella van Gerven** (Loyola Academy), **Juliet Walker** (PwC), **Marques Walker** (Epic Systems Corporation)

Congratulations to **Mira Fitch '25** on being inducted to **Phi Kappa Phi**.

Congratulations to **Mira Fitch '26** and **Rony Dahdal '26** (both Juniors) on their induction into **Phi Beta Kappa**.

New inductees into **Pi Mu Epsilon**, the National Mathematics Honor Society included: **Grady Cooke**, **Jake Dyer**, **Hannah Enk**, **Bailey Reutinger**, **Aubrey Spicola**, **Lila Snodgrass**, **Ella Allen**, **Nicolas Alvarez**, **Murilo Ferreira Lopes**, **Leann Beckhan**, **Anna Kauffman**, **Kaitlyn McCarron**, and **Colby Robbins**

New inductees into **Mu Sigma Rho**, the Statistics Honor Society included: **Elizabeth J. Blandin**, **Charlie J Bodor**, **JB Buckner**, **Thomas N. Closser**, **Zackary M. Diamond**, **Tristan J. Hiestand**, **Kai M. Indeglia**, **Griffin M. Pace**, **Anna M. Rakes**, **Marques L. Walker**, **Cameron A. Waller**, and **Linghong Zhou**

**The following awards were given out at our end of year Awards Ceremony**

Achievement in Statistics- **Elizabeth Blandin, Bailey Reutinger**

Outstanding Academic Achievement in Mathematics-**Jillian Thomas**

Outstanding Research Award in Statistics-**Bailey Reutinger**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Data Analytics- **Lauren Beuerle, Clayton McLamb**

Outstanding Research Award Mathematics- **Sol Addison, Lauren Beuerle, and Jillian Thomas**

Bailey Reutinger/Dr. Bussberg



Jillian Thomas/  
Dr. Yokley



Lauren Beuerle/Dr. Mazur



Sol Addison/Dr. Scherich



Clayton McLamb/Dr. Vankrevelen

Elizabeth Blandin/  
Dr. Doehler



# Alumni Updates

**Barbara Bass - 1961** "Since I've retired, I have volunteered my time writing historical books for my community. I have probably written over a dozen, my last being WWI and Halifax County, Va.

**Adam Benjamin - 2004** "Working as a Data Scientist for Unacast, a location intelligence company. If students have questions about working in academia, consulting for NGOs (e.g., World Bank), or private sector, I'd be glad to talk with them. They can reach me through LinkedIn."

**Jeanette Olli Mokrey - 2003** "Promoted to Professor of Mathematics; serving as STEM Discipline Director for Rosemary College of Arts, Education and Sciences at Dominican University; presented on research related to peer-led team learning in college algebra at MathFest in August 2025.

**Alexandre Lagarde - 2022** "I am now a data engineer at Medlive.

**Angela Leonard - 1989** "Reached my 35th anniversary with IBM this year! Been an grandma since April 2020. We now have a grandson, two granddaughters and another granddaughter on the way! What a blessing....

**Lauren Beuerle - 2025** "I am attending NC State for my doctorate in applied mathematics.

**Catherine Maresca - 2018** "I am still teaching, mostly statistics, at Enloe's Magnet high school in Raleigh, NC. I am planning a wedding for October 10, 2026!

**Amy Robbins - 2014** "I've changed roles from Brand Insights Lead at Coinbase to International Brand Insights Lead at OpenAI.

**Sol Addison - 2025** "Currently a data analysis intern for a public charter school in DC, looking at enrollment trends over time.

**Rose Prey - 2001** "In the last year, I have taken on the role of Vice Chair of the Global Patent Litigation Group at Greenberg Traurig. My family and I also moved from Princeton, NJ to New Hope, PA and enjoy living on the Delaware river.

**Angeline Sanders - 2018** "I'm a biostatistics manager at a biotech company focusing on late phase cancer clinical trials.



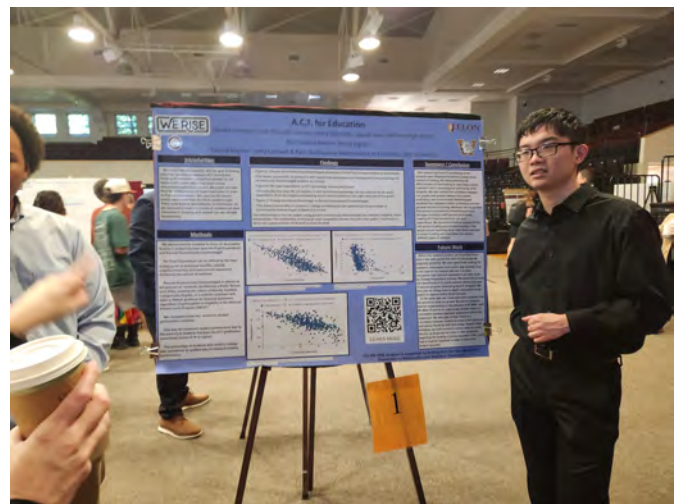
Aerial Silks



MAA Poster Session High Point



MSR coffee drop-ins in our new lounge space! Duke 204



SURF poster presentations- WeRISE students

# Thank you Donors!

Thank you so much for your donations to our department, which help us provide money for equipment, projects and departmental scholarships. We are so grateful for the following donors for the Calendar year 2025:

*Abigail J. Garcia '11, Kasey Collins '22, Jessica D. Kelly '09, Mary C. Hall '10, Booz Allen Hamilton, Jeanette P. Mokry '03, Briana T. Long '05, Kelly A. Reagan '17, Ashleigh A. Bowen '24, Michael B. Landreth '11, Lauren P. Beuerle '25, Maggie B. Hakas '17, Lynne M. Davis '71, Tammy S. Newbern '94, Lori See '85, Bobby N. Beckom '69, Emily D. Buehler '13, Harold Edward E. Williams '66, Matthew R. Christian '07, Samantha F. Chessen '21, Sharon L. Medeiros '02, Jaime L. Speiser '10, Maggie G. Macdonald '15, Gina M. O'Rourke '11, Juliet D. Angle '18, Caitlynn L. Collins '24, Mark Weaver, Leanna B. Giles '02, Morgan L. Ferguson '19, Bethany V. King '18, Griffin Pace '25, Paul C. Kantlehner '16, Kathleen M. Lovin '03, Helen F. Walton, Angeline M. Sanders, '18, Helen Stein, Thomas J. Walch '23, Amy E. Flower '04, Cynthia A. Blanchard '10, Sara D. Armstrong '22, Robert M. Davis '03, Daniel J. Rapp '13, J. Todd Lee, Lynn W. Mollenauer '11, Lynne M. Davis, Lori E. Tyler '11, John E. Papa '09, Heather Barker '11, Sara Boyer, Tammy S. Newbern '71, Nery Guardado, Helene K. English, Dr. Jim Beuerle.*

