



A New Era for Multifaith at Elon

With the adoption of a new Multifaith Strategic Plan this year, Elon has articulated an exciting and ambitious (dare I call it “bold”?) vision for what a twenty-first-century diverse and inclusive university might look like. With this plan, Elon continues to show national leadership as a laboratory and thinktank for imagining how we can thrive as a religiously diverse and pluralistic society. I want to emphasize three important points at this juncture:

First, as always, with this plan, Elon keeps the needs of students front and center. It recognizes that Elon’s students have changed in the last decade or two. They are more religiously diverse than ever before. Alongside our sizable Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant student communities, over 40% of undergraduates report they identify with the religious “nones,” i.e., as agnostic, atheist, spiritual-but-not-religious, or simply without religious identity or preference. More than 12% of our students are now studying in one of Elon’s graduate programs.

Second, this plan involves the whole university and it will foster the development of enduring campus partnerships. Its aspirations encompass our many excellent schools and programs, and it relies on important initiatives underway in Student Life, Academic Affairs, and the Division of Inclusive Excellence.

Third, this plan recognizes that the best way, indeed the only way, to address the complicated, disputed questions that a diverse range of backgrounds and points of view bring to the table is through the resources and tools that a university like



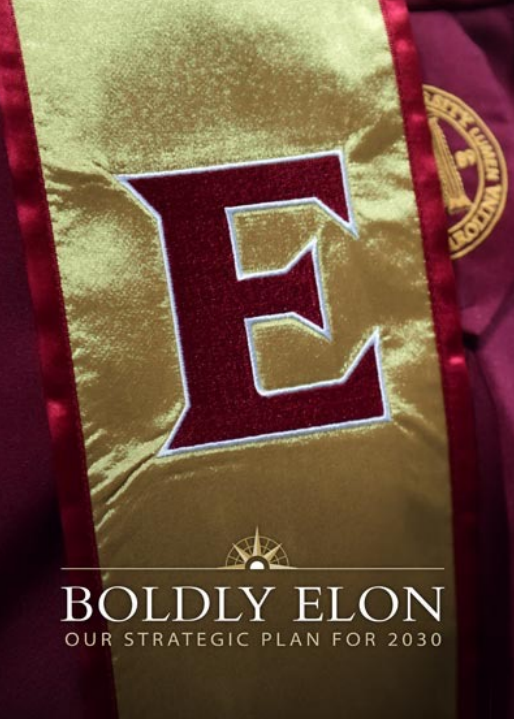
Elon can offer: critical inquiry, expertise, good will, and intellectual community. At a time when the contributions that higher education makes to society are openly questioned, it is essential that we all stand for the humanistic principles on which universities are founded. This plan does that.

As this report will make clear, some of this important work is already underway. I look forward to updating the campus soon on the exciting progress we are making.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian K. Pennington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Brian Pennington

Director of the CSRCS and Professor of Religious Studies



Multifaith Strategic Plan

“Create structures and learning opportunities that engage all students, faculty and staff in advancing their intercultural and multifaith learning and competencies.”

“Expand and diversify admissions footprint and reputation internationally and across the United States, recruiting students from a wider range of racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds and developing pathways for enrollment from non-traditional students.”

“Advance social and emotional well-being and ethical and purposeful reflection.”

Elon University has adopted a new Multifaith Strategic Plan that will guide the university’s initiatives to promote religious and worldview diversity and student development of global competencies. The 2023-2030 plan responds to the call by the Boldly Elon strategic plan that “all students, faculty, and staff” have opportunities to advance their intercultural and multifaith learning. The recently approved plan builds upon the strong foundation for multifaith education established under the Elon Commitment plan of 2010-2020.

THE PLAN ESTABLISHES FOUR BROAD STRATEGIC GOALS:

GOAL ONE: Make Elon a more religiously diverse campus and community

GOAL TWO: Make Elon a more equitable and inclusive campus and community

GOAL THREE: Support opportunities for multifaith learning and engagement of all members of the Elon academic community

GOAL FOUR: Articulate the value and importance of multifaith learning as well as multifaith diversity, equity, and inclusion for all constituents

Other principles that guided the planning committee’s work included alignment with the university’s Mentoring Design Initiative, support for Elon’s growing graduate student population, and the promotion of collaborations across Elon’s various schools, including the Schools of Business, Law, Communications, Education, and Health Sciences.

The full Multifaith Strategic Plan is available on the CSRCs website here:
<https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/csrcs/multifaith-strategic-plan/>.



THE MULTIFAITH STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Kirstin Boswell, Co-chair, University Chaplain and Dean of Multifaith Engagement

Geoffrey Claussen, Co-chair, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Lori and Eric Sklut Scholar in Jewish Studies, and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies

Brian Pennington, Co-chair, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society and Professor of Religious Studies

Randy Williams, Co-chair, Vice President and Associate Provost for Inclusive Excellence and Associate Professor of Education

Eleanor Finger, Assistant Vice President for Student Life, Assistant Professor, and Dean of Campus Life

Joel Harter, Associate University Chaplain (Fall 2021)

Alena Jain, Class of 2024

Baris Kesgin, Associate Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, and Associate Coordinator of the International and Global Studies Program

Laké Laosebikan-Buggs, Director of Inclusive Excellence for Graduate and Professional Education

Andrew Monteith, Assistant Professor and Distinguished Emerging Scholar of Religious Studies

Allison Pelyhes, Multifaith Coordinator

Barjinder Singh, Associate Professor of Management

Maddy Starr, Class of 2023

CSRCS Partners with Elon NEXT to Promote Religious Literacy in the Workplace

In pursuit of the new Multifaith Strategic Plan’s goal to provide “opportunities for employees, alumni, adult, and professional learners to develop religious literacy competencies,” the CSRCS has partnered with the Office of Professional and Continuing Studies to begin building an online religious literacy training program on the ElonNext platform. Dr. Helen Orr (Religious Studies) is heading the content development with production support from OPCS Director Jack Rodenfels. We project a launch sometime in 2024.



REL 1120 Religion and Power

& REL 1280 Religion, Race, and Resistance

Advancing Equity Requirement

In pursuit of the goals of the Multifaith Strategic Plan, this year the CSRCS has supported the development of several courses on religion, ethics, and interreligious relationships for inclusion in the first tier of courses that meet the Core Curriculum’s new Advancing Equity Requirement (AER). These courses examine the role that religious communities, sacred texts, and differing worldviews have played in enforcing racial and other oppressions as well as the resources religious traditions offer for pursuit of social justice and racial equity. Elon faculty voted to approve this new Core Curriculum requirement for all undergraduate students starting in the Fall of 2023. The Advancing Equity Requirement will ensure that students graduate with at least one course focused on the social constructions of race and identity—including religious identity—and their connections to systems and structures that govern US institutions.



On the Edge Symposium 2023: Civil Religion and Race in the United States

Scholars from the US and Canada converged for the CSRCS's fourth biennial On the Edge Symposium, February 9-11. The theme for this year's interdisciplinary symposium was "Civil Religion and Race in the United States." Civil religion is a framework developed in the 1980s for describing religious language and rituals in civic spaces and political rhetoric. Presenters were invited to explore the ways that race and identity shape how individuals understand themselves in relation to the United States, as well as how Americans understand those situated beyond their own communities.

Twelve scholars from a variety of fields including history, anthropology, textual studies, philosophy, political science, and gender studies joined Elon faculty conveners Andrew Monteith (Religious Studies) and Jessica Carew (Political Science) to present current research on civil religion aimed at a new understanding of the concept in light of recent scholarship on race in the US. Papers covered a range of topics, including the Black Lives Matter movement, modern American Jewish Zionism, civil religion in the American South, and racialized conspiracy theories.

On the Edge is a biennial symposium series dedicated to publishing interdisciplinary scholarship on religion. Past symposia have focused on apocalyptic worldviews, the role of the body in religious practice, and religious communities and practices in borderlands. Convened by two members of the Elon faculty, On the Edge has produced several major, multi-authored publications by academic presses and helped to foster long-term collaborations across institutions and fields of study. The peer-reviewed, online journal *American Religions* will devote a 2024 special issue to this year's Civil Religion symposium—stay tuned for more information!

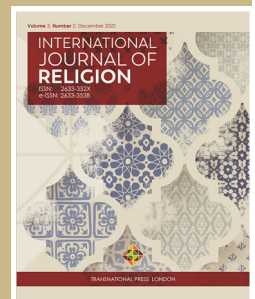
Symposium Keynote: Sylvester Johnson on Race, Religion, and Democracy



This year's symposium keynote presentation, "Racial States, Civil Religion, and the Future of American Democracy," was delivered by Sylvester A.

Johnson, Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities and Executive Director of the "Tech for Humanity" initiative at Virginia Tech. One of the nation's leading historians of Black Religion in North America, his lecture to a large audience in McKinnon Hall examined the conflict between religious nationalism and democratic principles in the US.

"Religion at the Borders" Symposium is Published



Papers from the 2021 On the Edge "Religion at the Borders"

Symposium were published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Religion*. Guest editors Sandy Marshall and Shayna Mehas, both of the History and Geography department, were also co-authors of the introduction to the issue. The edition also featured an Afterword by one of the symposium's keynote speakers, Banu Gökarıksel of UNC Chapel Hill's Department of Geography.

Reimagining Jewish Sexual Ethics

On Nov. 3, 2023, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Vanderbilt University, Rebecca Epstein-Levi, gave a talk titled, "Textual Intercourse: Present-Day Problems, Rabbinic Sources, and Relational Ethics." Drawing from her book, *When We Collide: Sex, Social Risk, and Jewish Ethics*, the lecture explored multifaceted social interactions associated with Jewish sexualities and their effects at the individual and interpersonal levels. The talk also discussed the development of a Jewish sexual ethic that looks beyond the traditional heteronormative relationships presented in Jewish texts. The lecture was made possible by support from the Fund for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences, Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, WGSS, Spirit and Pride, the GLC, the Truitt Center, and the CSRCS.



Textual Intercourse:

Present-Day Problems, Rabbinic Sources, and Relational Ethics

Dr. Rebecca Epstein-Levi (Vanderbilt University)

Building Diverse Communities

What can we learn today from ancient civilizations about diversity as a building block of healthy communities? On Sept. 12, the Classics Studies Department hosted a panel of faculty and staff from across the university to discuss the resources for navigating pluralism that different societies in history can offer.



Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital presents research on Racial Socialization in Jewish Families



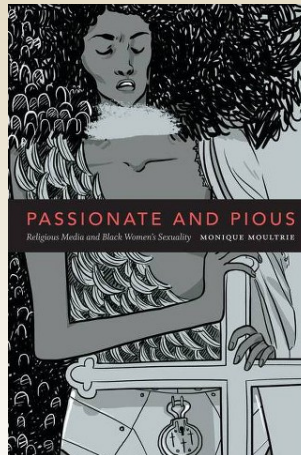
Elon Professor of Psychology and Director of the Black Lumen Project, Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, presented research from a recent study she conducted on "How Jewish American Parents Engage in Jewish Racial-Ethnic Socialization." This study's principal research question asked, "to what extent do parents socialize their children to be aware that the Jewish people in America are multi-racial?" Utilizing personal narrative, anecdotal sharing, and survey

data about the experience of Jews of color (JoCs), the talk addressed that question to a room full of Elon faculty and staff from many different departments. Longmire-Avital discussed how Jewish American parents consciously and subconsciously engage in Jewish racial-ethnic socialization and how white Jewish parents and Jewish parents of color talk about race and the Jewish people.

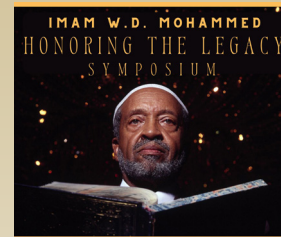


Religious Media and Black Women's Sexuality

On March 23, Dr. Monique Moultrie, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University, delivered the 2023 Rex G. and Ina Mae Powell Lecture in Religious Studies. The lecture explored the impact of faith-based sexuality ministries on Black women's sexual agency, focusing particularly on how women in celibacy groups navigate sexual desire, religious authority, and their own spiritual pathway. Dr. Moultrie's research is based on focus groups with Black women active in Protestant Christian ministries led by heterosexual Black women in non-traditional Black church settings. Moultrie examined singles' ministries, conferences, television programming, internet dating practices, and media savvy celibacy projects, to understand how Black churchwomen reconcile their Christian identities with their sexuality, same sex attraction, senior sexuality, and abstinence. Her first book on these topics, *Passionate and Pious: Religious Media and Black Women's Sexuality* was the Religious Communication Association 2018 Book of the Year.



W.D. Mohammed Legacy Symposium



Elon University held its second annual Legacy Symposium, which celebrates the life and contributions of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, one of the most important leaders of Islam

in US Muslim history. The son of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad, W.D. Muhammad helped guide followers of that Black Muslim movement to orthodox, Sunni Islam in the 1970s. This year the symposium, hosted by the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society, the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, and Muslim Life, featured guest speakers Imam Salahuddin Muhammad and Imam Oliver Mohammed from As Salaam Islamic Center in Raleigh.



"Catching a Catfish with a Gourd." Zen ink painting with 31 poetic inscriptions. Jōsetsu, c. 1415

The Tones of Zen Buddhism

Zen Buddhism is well known for expressing the meaning of enlightenment using the fine and literary arts. It cultivates visual tones through ink-brush painting and aural tones through elegant rhyming poetry. In February, renowned scholar of Zen Buddhism, Steven Heine, offered the 2023 Smith-Chase Lecture, "Zen Tones: Painting and Poetry," focusing on Zen's investment in the arts. Heine is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Asian Studies at Florida International University and recipient of the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun Award in recognition of a career promoting Japanese culture. The lecture was organized by Heine's collaborator, Elon's Pamela Winfield.

Lectures and Events



10th Anniversary of Jewish Studies

This spring Elon University's Jewish Studies program celebrated its ten-year anniversary with a reception on the Lindner Hall plaza. Established in the fall of 2012, the academic minor explores the historical and contemporary experience of Jewish people through courses spanning the liberal arts. Jewish Studies leads students to consider the distinctive ideas and practices of Jewish communities, the ways in which Jewish ideas have influenced and have been influenced by other civilizations, the conditions under which Jews have been the victims of persecution, and the significance of the establishment of the State of Israel in the 20th century. Speakers at the event included Elon University President Connie Ledoux Book, Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences Gabie Smith, founding program coordinator Professor of Religious Studies Geoffrey Claussen, and current coordinator, Associate Professor of History Andrea Sinn. The program has become a robust and lively intellectual space at Elon, and we are grateful to our faculty partners who teach these important classes. Many congratulations on ten years!

Religion Trending: Iran Protests

When widespread protests against the Iranian government broke out on September 16, the CSRCS organized a panel of Elon faculty with expertise in Middle Eastern culture and politics to dissect the events for the campus. The demonstrations in Iran were a reaction to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody following her arrest for violating Iran's veiling laws. Government attempts to quell the unrest had been unsuccessful, and news blackouts and the detention of journalists was preventing information from reaching the international community. The well-attended informal lunchtime discussion was lively and richly informative. Many thanks to Shereen Elgamal (Arabic), Sumeyye Pakdil (Religious Studies), Baris Kesgin (Political Science) and Waseem bin Kasim (History), for their generous participation.



Multifaith Scholars Names its Seventh Cohort

Six students have been named members of the seventh class of Multifaith Scholars, the CSRCS's two-year fellows' program for juniors and seniors offering a closely mentored, experientially rich and intellectually rigorous educational opportunity. Students are awarded \$5,000 annually to support global research and study connected with religious diversity and multireligious societies. This year, six faculty members new to the program have been named as mentors.

Amy Allocco, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, has directed the Multifaith Scholars program since it was established in 2016. She notes that this year's class brings additional strength and disciplinary diversity to the cohort.



In addition to pursuing their faculty-mentored undergraduate research projects and academic coursework in Interreligious Studies, the scholars participate in the program's ongoing community partnership with the Burlington Masjid, assisting with youth and social events, joining community garden workdays, volunteering with the food pantry, and taking part in potlucks and iftar meals during Ramadan.

2023-2025 MULTIFAITH SCHOLARS



Sandoh Ahmadu

Major: *Psychology*

Minors: *Neuroscience, Interreligious Studies*

Mentor: *Pamela Winfield (Religious Studies)*

Project Title: *Bridging West & East: An Alternative for Emotional Regulation*



Kiara Cronin

Major: *Human Service Studies*

Minors: *Interreligious Studies, Leadership Studies, French*

Mentor: *Sandra Reid (Human Service Studies)*

Project Title: *How Generation Z is Deconstructing Traditional Faith Practices*



Grace London

Major: *Biochemistry*

Minor: *Interreligious Studies*

Mentor: *Jeanmarie Koonts (Nursing)*

Project Title: *Elon Nursing on Spirituality and Religion*



Jasper Serenity Meyers

Major: *Classical Studies*

Minors: *Asian Studies, Interreligious Studies*

Mentors: *Lynn Huber (Religious Studies), Kristina Meinking (Classical Studies)*

Project Title: *Female Same-Sex Erotic Encounters in the Ancient Mediterranean Religious Landscape*



Kaelyn Rosenberg

Major: *Cinema and Television Arts*

Minor: *Interreligious Studies*

Mentor: *Nicole Triche (Cinema & Television Arts)*

Project Title: *Vampire Media as a Reflection of Christian Values and Prejudices*



Hunter Siegel

Majors: *Political Science, International & Global Studies*

Minors: *Interreligious Studies, Peace & Conflict Studies, Spanish*

Mentor: *Aaron Sparks (Political Science)*

Project Title: *Examining the Relationship between Religious Identity/Ideology, Political Identity/Ideology, and Pro-Environmental Orientation in American Christians, Muslims, and Jews*

Supporting Student Learning and Development



Multifaith Scholars Says Goodbye to Seniors

Many congratulations and a few tears ushered this year's MFS seniors out into the world. The four graduates have many accomplishments under their belts, and they bring to graduate programs and the workforce a number of highly developed skills. All four conducted extended field research in global contexts, from Jerusalem to Staten Island, and they have several external awards and recognitions among them. On Apr. 17, they offered their final reflections at an event that hosted families, community partners, and Elon faculty, staff, and university leadership.



WARMEST WISHES TO THE MFS CLASS OF 2023!
 Darsev Kaur • Aidan Melinson • Peyton Rohlfs • Maddy Starr



MFS and the Burlington Masjid

Elon's Multifaith Scholars produce excellent student research, but they are also marvelous citizens of Alamance/ Burlington. Since the program's founding, MFS have partnered with the Burlington Masjid on a range of projects and activities that have helped build Elon's relationship with this important local community. With Dr. Sandy Marshall's facilitation and guidance, students have participated with the masjid youth, worked on the masjid's garden, volunteered in its English language tutoring program, and joined for many community programs.





Elon Student Researchers Take Awards at Regional Conference

Eleven Elon students and two faculty members spent the first weekend of spring break in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion Southeast (AAR SE) hosted by Mercer University. The regional conference, which allows professional scholars of religion to present research and meet with colleagues from other institutions, was held for the first time in person since 2020. The CSRCS hosted an undergraduate reception during the conference to allow undergraduate students in attendance to meet and talk about their work.



Maddy Starr '23 was awarded Best Undergraduate Research Paper for, "Material Memories: Narratives of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict," which she wrote under the guidance of her mentor, Associate Professor Amy Allocco.

Peyton Rohlfs '23 won second runner-up for her paper, "Religion, Nationalism, and Memory: How Identity is Performed in the Sri Lanka Diaspora Community in Staten Island, NY," supervised by Assistant

Professor of English, Dinidu Karunanayake. Lumen Scholar Natalie Triche '23 also presented a portion of her research project, "Contemporary Egyptian Nationalism Through an Anthropological Lens," supervised by CSRCS Director Brian Pennington.



Religious and Cultural Literacy for Nursing Students

During planning discussions to develop Elon's Nursing programs, one question regularly heard at the table was, "How can we provide nursing students a signature Elon educational experience?" One set of answers to that question has helped to shape this exciting new program: intercultural fluency and religious literacy as critical twenty-first-century nursing skill sets. Since the Nursing program was launched in 2021, the CSRCS has worked with its faculty to help build those



competencies. Assistant Professor of Nursing Jeanmarie Koonts has partnered with CSRCS Director Brian Pennington to build modules for NRS 2200 Health Assessments that

focus on culture, religion, and spirituality as critical factors in holistic patient care. Joined by CSRCS Scholar Waseem bin Kasim, Pennington and Koonts have conducted sessions for both the Accelerated BSN and traditional BSN cohorts in Koonts's class, employing case studies methodologies to help students develop awareness of cultural difference in health and healthcare concepts, understand how patients' religious backgrounds can affect their preferences around care, and take cognizance of patients' spiritual needs. Both Pennington and Elon's Imam Shane Atkinson have also spoken at the monthly "Diversi-tea" event organized by SHS students to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion education and awareness for healthcare professionals. To paraphrase and Elon aphorism, this exciting young program is producing "the nurses the world needs."

Supporting Student Learning and Development

Winter Term Students Explore Religious Diversity in Global Society



Students traveling with four Winter Term courses this past January had the opportunity to learn about religious diversity in different societies. In India students

learned from minority Christian and Muslim communities in a largely Hindu nation, while students in Spain and Morocco explored the history of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian interaction in those two countries. Students in "Hawai'i: Nation or State" studied indigenous traditions and their suppression by colonizing powers, and Ghana students discovered the complex interweaving of African, Muslim, and Christian practices. Each of these four courses is included in the curriculum of Elon's distinctive Interreligious Studies minor.

The courses and their instructors are:

Mussa Idris and Waseem bin Kasim, *"Ghana: West African History & Culture"*

Sophie Adamson and April Post, *"Spain & Morocco: Historical & Contemporary Encounters"*

Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler and Cassie Kircher, *"Hawai'i: Nation or State?"*

Amy Allocco and Brian Pennington, *"India's Identities: Religion, Caste and Gender in Contemporary South India"*



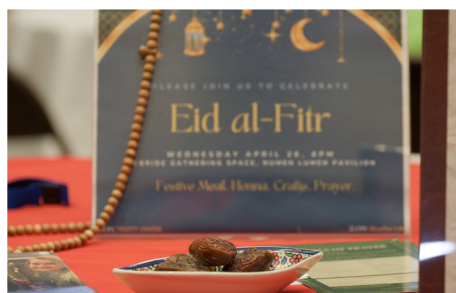
SURF Symposium Highlights Student Ethnographic Research

During the Student Undergraduate Research Forum (i.e., SURF Day) on April 25, an interdisciplinary symposium showcased five student research projects that employed ethnographic methods to study processes of identity formation in a variety of cultural settings. These student projects focused on post-Arab Spring Egypt, the Israel/Palestine conflict, a Sri Lankan restaurant and heritage museum on New York City's Staten Island, a historic city in the of the North Indian homeland of the global Sikh community, and queer farmers in the US Appalachian Mountains. This symposium drew from students' insights about the lives and experiences of people who have navigated social, economic, and political currents generated by national and global forces much larger than themselves. With majors in public health, environmental studies, religious studies, and political science, these student researchers engaged in an interdisciplinary discussion about what ethnography has taught them about the everyday impacts of authoritarianism, sexual identity politics, militarization, migration, and global capitalism.



CSRCS Pilots SURE “Pod” to Support Summer Research Abroad

Three students awarded a SURE Away grant for Summer 2022 joined a pilot effort by three faculty members to develop support for those Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) students who do research away from Elon each summer. Natalie Triche, Maddy Starr, and Darsev Kaur (all Class of 2023) undertook a week’s intensive workshop on ethnographic fieldwork, interview best practices, and research ethics conducted by Amy Allocco and Brian Pennington. Triche and Starr went on with Allocco and Pennington to do a further week’s practicum in Israel/Palestine, where they were joined by Dr. Sandy Marshall. Following the trainings, Triche went to Cairo, Kaur to India, and Starr stayed on in Jerusalem to pursue five weeks of independent research, returning to prepare for the SURE poster session and final lunch. Building on those successes, the SURE Away Pod 2023 will welcome a larger group of both students and faculty mentors.



Interfaith Iftar and Eid al-Fitr at Elon

Two spring events marked the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, the celebration that concludes the month of fasting.

Dozens of members from the local community joined a record number of students, faculty, staff, and community members in the McBride Gathering Space in the Numen Lumen Pavilion on April 26 to celebrate Eid. Nearly 100 attendees shared a festive meal while

learning about Muslim traditions from around the world. Associate Chaplain for Muslim Life Imam Shane Atkinson, Professor of Arabic Shereen Elgamal, Imam of the Burlington Masjid Shaheer Sayed, Multifaith Intern Ashley Burnett '24, and President of the Elon Muslim Society Hasan Khan '26, were a few of the speakers during the celebration.

On April 4, the Global Neighborhood and Elon Muslim Society sponsored an Interfaith Iftar and panel discussion on “Feasting and Fasting in Faith Traditions.” Members of the Burlington Masjid community gathered at Elon to break their fast on with the students, faculty, and staff in attendance.

Elon Receives Gift of Work by Prominent Indian Muslim Artist

Elon University has accepted a gift of works by M.G. Raffic Ahamed, an artist widely regarded across India as a contemporary master of collage. Raffic, a fully self-taught artist, became famous for his development of a complex “visual language,” through which he conveys his sense of India’s religiously diverse society and expresses his understanding of more universal themes, such as “searching” and “time.” The gift by Manhattan intellectual property rights attorney and collector, Nigel Howard, was facilitated by Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Multifaith Scholars Director, Amy Allocco. She first learned about Raffic’s work from a Dalit advocacy foundation that focuses on the rights and education of members of India’s most stigmatized castes. After exchanging letters with Raffic, she met him in his home city of Madurai in February 2004, and a lifelong friendship ensued. Raffic has become a regular guest lecturer for the Winter Term “India’s Identities” course. Allocco co-teaches with Brian Pennington.



“This important and generous gift to Elon’s collection will not only beautify campus spaces but also give us excellent teaching materials for helping students think about important global themes like gender in the modern world, relations between religious communities in diverse societies like India, and the artistic traditions of South Asia,” said Allocco.

Pieces in the collection will be on display in the Core Curriculum offices in the Global Neighborhood Commons and in the Numen Lumen Pavilion in the Fall of 2023.

Waseem bin Kasim completes first year as CSRCS Scholar

Waseem bin Kasim, Assistant Professor of History, is serving as the 2022-2024 Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society Scholar. In his first year, Kasim has finished the manuscript for his book, *Urban Saniscapes: Slums, Housing, and Everyday Sanitation in Accra and Nairobi, 1908-1963*. The book is a comparative project that explores the public health basis for making the two cities. Additionally, he published the article, “Politics of Disaster: Earthquake, Rehousing, and Confronting Colonial Rule in Accra (Gold Coast/Ghana), 1939-45” in *The Journal of African History*. In summer 2023, he is finishing the article “Health Emergency, Veto Power, and the Practicality of Colonial Society: Accra in the First Two Decades of the Twentieth Century.”

During his term, Kasim also expects to pursue public scholarship projects that connect the legacies of Euro-American colonialism to public health and racial inequities, spearhead the CSRCS’s “Religion Trending” series on religion in the news, and develop programming that outlines the global intersections of religion and health.



CSRCS Works with Villanova University's Multifaith Programs

Elon's national reputation for multifaith excellence has led to some great partnerships and collaborations. This year, Drs. Kerry San Chirico and Julie Sheetz invited the CSRCS to consult on the consolidation and expansion of Villanova University's interfaith programs.

Over 2022-2023, Amy Allocco and Brian Pennington met online with various stakeholders and conducted a site visit in April. It was a wonderful opportunity to put two excellent programs in conversation with one another. The resulting report will continue to inform our work at Elon, and we expect the many relationships with faculty and university leadership at Villanova to continue to bear fruit.



CSRCS Indian MOU Partner Visits Elon

Dr. James Ponniah, Head of the Christian Studies Department at the University of Madras, India, paid a visit to Elon's campus in March. During his stay, he lectured to several courses, consulted with Multifaith Scholars on their ongoing research projects, and held discussions with Elon faculty and administrators about partnership possibilities between the two institutions. The CSRCS maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Madras, under which the partners have jointly organized conferences, collaborated on publications, hosted guest lecturers from one another's institutions, and facilitated student research.



Kasim Selected for Schusterman Center's Summer Institute for Israel Studies

Elon Assistant Professor of History Waseem bin Kasim has been selected to join the 2023 Schusterman Center's Summer Institute for Israel Studies (SIIS) at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

He will join the program beginning in Summer 2023.

At SIIS, faculty from around the world enjoy a two-week residency at Brandeis where they participate in seminars taught by distinguished Israel studies scholars and develop syllabi for courses they will teach upon returning to their home institutions. In addition to the residency, participants undertake a tour of Israel, featuring meetings with Jewish and Arab intellectuals, politicians, and community leaders as well as visits to select historical and cultural sites in multiple locations throughout the country.



Interfaith America events

Elon helped to celebrate two different milestones for its longtime partner organization, Interfaith America (formerly the Interfaith Youth Core, IFYC). In October, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society, Brian Pennington traveled to Chicago to mark the 20th anniversary of the organization. In November University Chaplain Rev. Kirstin Boswell and President Emeritus Leo M. Lambert celebrated the launch of Interfaith America's "Black Interfaith Initiative" at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. Elon University has enjoyed an affiliation with IFYC/Interfaith America for over a decade.

Dozens of faculty, staff, and students have participated in Interfaith America conferences

and trainings, and IA support has helped to generate important new scholarship by Elon authors on interreligious studies, undergraduate research, and mentoring. Congratulations to Interfaith America!



Faculty Highlight Research Mentoring in Italy

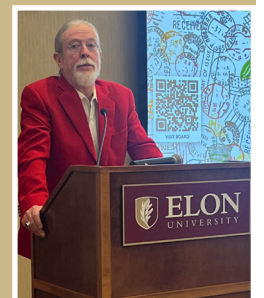
Amy Allocco presented research highlighting global learning by students in the Multifaith Scholars program at the Forum on Education Abroad in Milan, Italy in October. Multifaith Scholars Director since 2017, Allocco joined



Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Research on Global Engagement and Kate Patch, Senior International Officer and Senior Director of Global Initiatives at Grinnell College, to present, "Mentored Undergraduate Research in Global Contexts." The previous week in Florence, Vandermaas-Peeler and Allocco conducted a workshop for colleagues at Elon's study abroad partner, Accademia Europea di Firenze on "Mentoring Relationships in a Constellation Model," in which they explored cultural perspectives on mentoring relationships in education and the enhancement of intercultural learning across diverse contexts.

LD Russell Retires

After teaching at Elon for 30 years, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies LD Russell retired at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. In his many years in the classroom, where he dedicated himself to the core curriculum and first year students, LD helped to transform countless students' lives and perspectives. He was also a fabulous friend to the CSRCs. Very warmest wishes, LDR.



2022-2023 PUBLICATIONS BY CSRCS-AFFILIATED FACULTY

Our folks have been busy! Faculty with scholarship roles supported by the CSRCS saw the following articles and chapters published this year.

Amy Allocco (Director of Multifaith Scholars)

"A Constellation Model for Mentoring Undergraduates During COVID-19" (with Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler and Jessie L. Moore), *Teaching and Learning Inquiry* 11 (March 2023). <https://doi.org/10.20343/teachlearningqu.11.9>.

"Mentoring Undergraduate Research in Global Contexts: Insights from a National Study" (with Laura Cruz, Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, and Kate Patch), *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching* 33/4 (2022): 21-36.

"Negotiating the Applied/Theoretical Dilemma at the Intersection of Interreligious Studies and Global Citizenship." *Journal of Interreligious Studies* 36 (2022): 43-52. <https://irstudies.org/index.php/jirs/article/view/721/685>

"Undergraduate Research in the Global Context: Models and Practices for High Quality Mentoring," (first author, with Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, Eric Hall, Caroline Ketcham, Mussa Idris, Jennifer A. Hamel and David J. [Sandy] Marshall). *Mentoring & Tutoring: Partnership in Learning* 30/1 (2022): 106-23.

"Mentored Undergraduate Research as a Signature Pedagogy in Interreligious Studies" (with Brian K. Pennington), in *The Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, ed. Lucinda Mosher. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 358-369, 2022.

David J. (Sandy) Marshall (CSRCS Scholar 2020-2022)

"Introduction: Religion at the Borders," (with Shayna Mehas). *International Journal of Religion* 3/2 (2022), 63-68.

"Family Narrative Interviewing and the Intimate Geopolitics of Intergenerational Memory in Palestine," (with Taylor Garner and Nadia Mansour). *Fennia International Journal of Geography*. 199/2 (2022), 226-241.

"Undergraduate Research in the Global Context: Models and Practices for High Quality Mentoring," (with Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, Amy Allocco, Mussa Idris, and Jen Hamel. *Mentoring and Tutoring: Partnership in Learning* 30/1 (2022), 106-123.

"Intergenerational Place-based Digital Storytelling," (with D. Smaira and L. Staeheli, L). *Children's Geographies* 20/2 (2022), 109-121.

Waseem Kasim (CSRCS Scholar, 2022-2024)

"Politics of Disaster: Earthquake, Relhousing, and Confronting Colonial Rule in Accra (Gold Coast/ Ghana), 1939-45" in *The Journal of African History, First View*. 1-14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021853723000403>

Brian K. Pennington (CSRCS Director)

"The Interreligious Studies Agenda: Three Dilemmas," in *The Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, edited by Lucinda Mosher, 15-23. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2022.

"Mentored Undergraduate Research: A Signature Pedagogy for Interreligious Studies," with Amy L. Allocco, in *The Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, edited by Lucinda Mosher, 358-69. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2022.

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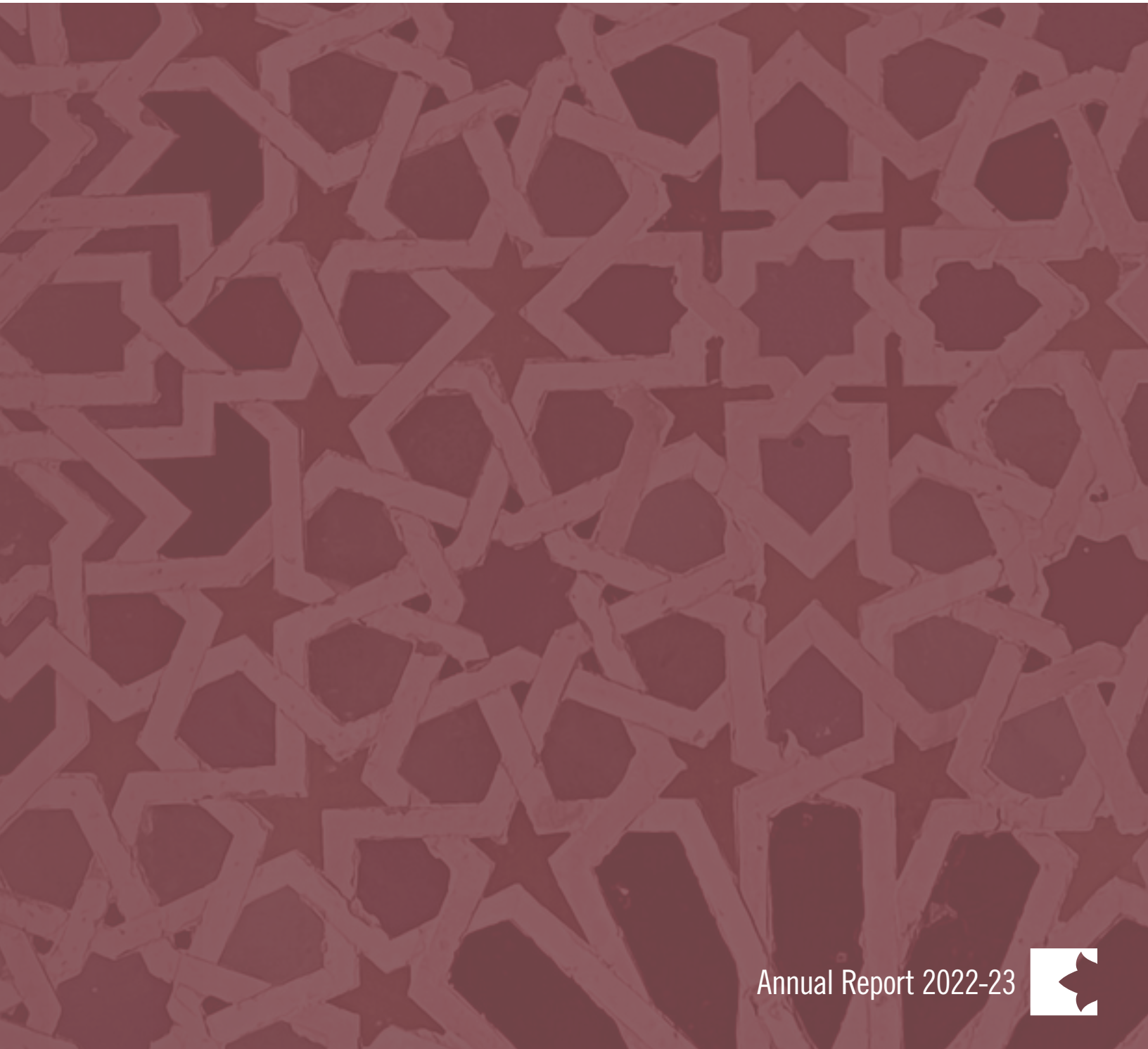
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