Professor Platania Named New Department Chair

Congratulations to Professor Platania for being named the Chair of the Department of Economics!

Jen Platania, associate professor of economics, earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Florida State University in 2001. She began teaching at Elon University in 2002. She is the advisor to the Economics Club and has led several Winter Term business and culture courses to New Zealand, Turkey and Greece. Notably, she received the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2008 and Elon's Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year award in 2015.

Professor DeLoach presents Distinguished Scholar Lecture

Stephen DeLoach, professor of economics in Elon’s Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, suggests that the international efforts to reduce poverty helped ignite what he calls the "microfinance revolution."

DeLoach examined his research April 7 in his 2015 Distinguished Scholar Lecture, titled, "Saving Billions: The Impact of Microfinance on World Poverty." The lecture is given annually by the recipient of the university's Distinguished Scholar Award, which recognizes a faculty member whose research has earned peer commendation and respect, and who has made significant contributions to his or her field of study.
Economics Conference

Several economic students presented their thesis research at the Eastern Economic Association’s annual conference in New York at the end of February.

The conference included 13 undergraduate research sessions sponsored by the journal *Issues in Political Economy (IPE)*. Seventy-two students from 28 colleges and universities throughout the country participated in the two days of sessions. Students came from institutions including American University, Davidson College, Furman, Gettysburg College, George Mason University, Ithaca College, St. Lawrence University, The College of New Jersey, Texas A&M University and the College of Wooster.

There were eight papers presented by Elon students:

- **Annie Barker**, “Gender Discrimination Effects on Women’s Career Choices” (mentor: Tonmoy Islam)
- **Caroline Crew**, “Does Tourism Alleviate Poverty? Evidence from UNESCO World Heritage Sites” (mentor: Steve Bednar)
- **Jordan Grover**, “Losing the Free Trade Monopoly: Mexico and the end of the MFA” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)
- **Jen Smith**, “Married to the job: allocation of time and household production for fully employed couples” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)
- **Kate Smith-Lin**, “The Impact of Formal Banking Institutions on Indonesian Households’ Saving Behavior” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)
- **Garret I. Mann**, “Shaking Things Up: The Marginal Effects of Football Schemes after a Change at the Top” (mentor: Tonmoy Islam)
- **Matt Trogdon**, “Investigating Impact of Verbal Motivation and Pay Cuts on Worker Performance” (mentor: Mark Kurt)
- **Katherine Welch**, “From Cronkite to Williams: The Effect of TV News Coverage on the Number of Students Graduating with STEM Majors” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)

*Issues in Political Economy* is the leading undergraduate research journal in economics and is co-edited in its entirety by undergraduates at Elon University and the University of Mary Washington. Elon has co-edited the journal since 1998. The *IPE* is indexed in *Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Economics & Finance*. Steve DeLoach, professor of economics, serves as the journal’s faculty advisor.
2015 Economics Graduates

Caroline Crew is working as a Resorts Front Desk Agent in Aspen, Colo.

Maria Restuccio is completing 1 year of Service Fellowship.

Matthew Baum is working as a consultant in a Business Adviser Program for Ernst & Young in Charlotte, N.C.

Jordan Grover is working as a Sustainable Development Program Associate with Global Brigades in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Katherine Larson is working as a marketing analyst with Red Ventures in Charlotte, N.C.

Alexandra Worsham is attending UNCG to obtain an MBA.

Stefano de la Feld is working as a support consultant at Prometheus Group in Raleigh, N.C.

Marquessa Smith-Lin is working with Boston Private Financial Holdings.

Daniel Spiller is working for Trailblazer Studios over the summer and then pursuing jobs in the entertainment industry.

Katherine Welch is attending Boston University Law School.

Kyle Groves is working as a Consultant at FactSet Research Systems.

Cole Voynick joined Vanguard as a Client Relationship Specialist in Charlotte, N.C.

Jennifer Smith has joined Glaxo Smith Kline as a part of the Future Leaders Program for Sales and Marketing in Kansas City, Mo.

Senior Spotlight

Caroline “Callie” Crew is an economics major and Honors Fellow. Under the mentorship of Assistant Professor Steven Bednar, Crew created an econometric model using yearly panel data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey to capture the effects of nine World Heritage Sites in nine surveyed provinces. She looked specifically at changes from 1991 through 2006. Her research question was straightforward: “Have my actions as a tourist affected people on my travels?”

In addition to her research, the Honors Fellow has been active at Elon University with the Phi Psi Cli yearbook and the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. She hopes to work as a financial analyst for an energy company following graduation and wants be a part of organization that works toward finding environmentally friendly solutions to future energy needs.
Student Awards

Four economics majors were presented with awards during the Love School of Business annual awards program on April 18, 2015. This year’s awards and recipients included:

**John Kappas Economics Award**  
*Jennifer Annette Smith*  
This award goes to the senior economics major who best demonstrates enthusiasm for economics, potential for leadership, and classroom excellence. It is named in honor of the late John Kappas, a 1985 Elon graduate.

**Student Achievement in Economics Award**  
*Marquessa Kate Smith-Lin*  
This award is given to a senior economics major who has shown enthusiasm and success in his or her courses as well as promise for future achievement.

**The David O. Bowden Economics Scholarship**  
*Stephanie Tizik*  
Established by David Bowden ’70, the David O. Bowden Economics Scholarship is awarded to a rising senior majoring in economics who has been active in the department and demonstrated potential for future success. At Elon, Mr. Bowden was a double major in business administration and economics. He went on to earn his J.D. from the University of Miami.

**The Department of Economics Endowed Scholarship**  
*David Wallach*  
This scholarship was established in 2005 by members of the Department of Economics for an economics major with a record of academic excellence within the major who exhibits a commitment to social responsibility.

The department extends its congratulations to this year’s LSB award recipients!
Senior Economics and International Economics majors successfully present theses

Thirty-three seniors majoring in economics or international economics successfully presented undergraduate research theses to faculty members in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business’ Department of Economics.

The senior thesis is the culmination of the economics major and serves as the students’ required comprehensive evaluation in the major field of study. For this research project, economics majors work individually with a professor to build on work done in previous courses, culminating in a work of presentation quality.

The completed work is presented before the Department of Economics, as well as in public forums such as Elon’s Spring Undergraduate Research Forum and the Eastern Economic Association’s annual conference.
ODE Inductions

Thirty-two students were inducted into Elon’s Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) economics honorary society on April 14th during the Spring Economics Banquet.

The Elon ODE chapter is hosted by the Department of Economics in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. The chapter is advised by Katy Rouse, assistant professor of economics. Requirements for ODE include successful completion of 16 hours of economics courses with a minimum GPA of 3.25.

Congratulations to this year’s inductees:


Alumni Updates

Greg (Halstead) Halzen works as a teaching mentor at Columbia University’s Teacher’s College.

Danny Standford is working on his MA degree at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Brett Greene just completed his MBA from UNC Kenan Flagler and works for Highwoods Properties in Raleigh, NC.

Jackson Fambrough created PASR, a college basketball recruiting program, which is featured on KenProm.org.

Mike Barg is currently working on his Master’s degree at the University of Michigan.

Brian Leardon is the East Coast Rep for MOD Pizza, based in Seattle.

Zach Gillis is still working with ENY, but recently transferred to Los Angeles, CA.

Matt Baum is working for BAP consultants.

Megan Green is working on her Master’s degree in Environmental Management at Duke University.
James L. Barbour


Steve Bednar


Bednar, S. (2013, August 31) 'When it Rains it Pours': How Salt Altered the Political Landscape in the 20th Century. Presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL, August 2013

Jayoti (Tina) Das


Stephen B. DeLoach


Cassandra Dirienzo


Andrew N. Greenland


Tonmoy Islam


Mark Kurt


Gregory Lilly


Lilly (Cont.)


Jennifer Platania


Douglas R. Redington


Katy E. Rouse


Vitaliy Strohush


Hello, Econ Alumni!

Do you remember your senior thesis and the ting of uncertainty over how you were going to come up with an idea for it, much less complete it? Or what you were going to do after you complete the thesis and walked across the stage at graduation?

We believe that we can create more support for our students and we are hoping you can be a part of it. Over the next year, we will be developing the Elon Economics Network. The goal is two-fold.

First, it connects alumni with rising seniors to provide a bit of guidance regarding your process of discovery through the senior thesis. Second, share your experiences about where the economics degree has taken you, provide advice or simply listen.

As you know the Economics degree is a highly versatile degree, which takes our alumni down many varied and unique paths. Hearing about your path can be helpful and inspire confidence.

You have a powerful voice and we hope you are willing to be involved in creating stronger connections with each other.

Contact:
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Hello Elon Econ Alumni!

As new chair of the Economics Department I wanted to take a minute to personally say “Hi” and keep you updated on the latest and greatest from the world of Econ @ Elon! I took over the role of department chair in August 2015 as Jim Barbour is getting ready for his retirement in May 2016 – congrats Dr. Barbour! What an exciting time to be chair of this great department too – in the works are plans for a new applied major in Economic Consulting and we are hiring a new faculty member this spring who will join us in August 2016. Some things never change though – the Econ room is still a second home to all of our dedicated students (who misses the Econ room?!!), and we still leading the way when it comes to undergraduate research (who misses working on their thesis?!!). But even though we continue to move forward, we LOVE to see our alumni come back to visit, so if you ever have plans to be in the area please come by – lunch is on me! And if you can’t make it down to NC, drop us a quick email and let us know how you are doing – we’d love to hear from you!!

To stay current on the Economics department, visit www.elon.edu/economics throughout the year.

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