Elon Welcomes Professor Sheridan

The Elon Department of Economics is pleased to welcome Brandon Sheridan, a native of western Kentucky, to Elon University. Sheridan received his Ph.D. in Economics from The University of Kentucky in 2012. As an undergraduate, he studied Economics (B.S.) at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Sheridan’s primary research and teaching interests include economic growth, international trade, and pedagogy. After teaching for four years at North Central College in Illinois, where Sheridan designed and taught a course on economic growth and development, he is excited to continue his passion for teaching here at Elon.

Professor Jim Barbour Retires

While at Elon, Dr. Barbour served eight years as department chair from 1990-1998, and again from 2010-2015. Coming to Elon after serving as Dean of the Division of Administration and Computer Science at LSU Alexandria, he helped implement technology in the economics curriculum and introduced software such as LectureTools to classrooms. He has mentored research that has appeared in the New York Times, and has had his research published in the International Journal of Arts and Commerce, the Journal of Economic Education, the International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, and the Eastern Economic Journal.

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Dr. Barbour’s greatest impact, though, has been on the students he has shaped. Dr. Barbour has viewed teaching as a calling rather than a job, and this approach has led him to fostering ongoing relationships with his students. When asked what he’ll miss most about Elon, Dr. Barbour said teaching, and the moments he hears students say, “I’ve never thought about it that way before.” He’ll miss the community at Elon, although he says he’ll be back for the speakers, shows, and conferences.

In his 26 years at Elon, Dr. Barbour has embodied his mantra, “If there are people whose life’s path is better because theirs has crossed yours, you’ve done what you were put here to do.” He’s served as an academic advisor well over 100 students and as an economics thesis mentor to over 60 graduates. As a professor, Dr. Barbour has challenged students to see issues through a critical lens, applying concepts and facilitating intellectual transformation. He’s helped countless students develop their passions and sort out life after Elon.

Dr. Barbour’s own life after Elon will be dedicated to his woodworking turnery, which he owns and operates individually. The shop allows him to create tangible artwork that can be shared with others, something he values both as family heritage and hobby. To him, the shop provides a welcome complement to the intangible, yet impactful work he’s done in his years in academia. His pieces will be showcased yet again at this year’s commencement, with the Heraldic Staves that faculty marshals hold signifying one of his countless gifts to the university.
Dr. Steve DeLoach was awarded several awards in 2016. He is a recipient of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year Award.

The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes a faculty member who exemplifies the Elon University teacher-scholar model. This person is outstanding in the classroom, engages students in the learning process, maintains academic rigor, and provides evidence of commitment to the intellectual development of students through mentoring and related activities.

The recipient of the 2016 Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year award is selected according to the following criteria:

- Encourages and honors high academic achievement by students of business and management
- Fosters in students an enduring commitment to the founding principles and values of the society: honor and integrity, pursuit of wisdom, and earnestness
- Supports the advancement of business thought and practice to encourage lifelong learning.

Dr. DeLoach has had more than 20 papers published in peer-reviewed journals and presented multiple times at top international conferences. He has mentored more than 50 undergraduate research projects that resulted in presentations at national and regional conferences, and serves as the faculty advisor for the undergraduate research journal in economics Issues in Political Economy. He is the recipient of the 2013-2014 Elon University Distinguished Scholar Award. He received doctoral and master’s degrees in economics from Michigan State University and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska.
Alexandra Battaglia is volunteering for a small farm in Scotland, then moving to DC to pursue a career in Policy Studies.

Ameya Benegal is working as an Associate Research Economist at RTI International.

Rudi Biagi is working as a Leasing Consultant with the HB Nitkin Group.

Andrew Brazel is working at BlackRock Inc. as an analyst in Client Services in Manhattan, NY.

Alex Butler is working as an Index Analyst for Markit in New York, NY.

Ned Cooley is working as an Analyst at the Wellesley College Endowment Office in Wellesley, MA.

Cameron Douglass is working as an Environmental Producer at Arthur J. Gallagher in Chicago, IL.

Logan Drew is working for AXA advisors as a financial planner in Raleigh, NC.

Liam Dugan is an Account Executive at Patriot Energy in Boston, MA.

Michael Faircloth is attending Elon’s Masters of Science in Management program.

Ben Foshee is pursuing a consulting career in Washington, DC.

Atticus Grinder is volunteering in Africa while studying microfinance.

Chris Grippo is working in sales for Yelp in New York.

Michael Keenan is attending the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics.

William Kenyon is working as a Financial Analyst at Pernod Ricard in Boston, MA.

Sarah Krulewitz is working at GreenTech Media in Boston, MA.

Samantha Lutz is working as a Finance Analyst at Credit Suisse in Raleigh, NC.

Danae MacLeod is working at Spreedly, Inc. in Durham, NC.

Bernardo Missura is working as an Operations Manager with Budget Rent a Car in Kansas City, MO.

Kaitlyn Mulder is working as an IT Business Analyst with Nexen Energy ULC in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Jackie Peifer is working as a Project Lead at MetLife Insurance in Cary, NC.

Jeremy Revelise is working as a Product Strategy Analyst at GEICO in Chevy Chase, MD (DC).

Rebecca Sansale is working at the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors as a Research Assistant in Washington, D.C.

Justin Schweitzer is working as a Product Management Analyst at GEICO in Chevy Chase, MD (DC).

Spencer Taylor is working as an Analyst for Carlisle and Gallagher in Charlotte, NC.

Stephen Taliadoros is working as an Operations Analyst at Credit Suisse in Raleigh, NC.

Stephanie Tizik is working as an Analyst at Bank of America.

Matthew VanDerveer is an Associate Analyst, Financial Services at EY in State College, PA.
Several economic students presented their thesis research at the Eastern Economic Association’s annual conference in the nation’s capitol in late February. The conference included 10 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 seven papers presented by Elon students:

**Alex Battaglia**: "How Does the Young Adult Mandate Affect Wages and the U.S. Labor Market for Younger Workers?" (mentor: Katy Rouse)

**Ameya Benegal**: "The Effects of Armed Conflict on the Incidence Rates of Infectious Diseases" (mentor: Steve Bednar)

**Michael Keenan**: "Microfinance, Disasters, and their Impact on Business Outcomes: Evidence from Indonesia" (mentor: Steve DeLoach)

**Danae Macleod**: "Child Labor and Access to Financial Services" (mentor: Steve DeLoach)

**Carolyn Powell**: "Behavioral Economics and the Motivation of Savings" (mentor: Greg Lilly)


**Justin Schweitzer**: "Crowdfunding Viability in Low-Income Nations: An Experimental Study" (mentor: Greg Lilly)

*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.
Student Awards

Five economics majors were presented with awards during the Love School of Business annual awards program on April 21, 2016. This year’s awards and recipients include:

**John Kappas Economics Award**
Ameya Benegal
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**
Cameron Douglass
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**
Kenneth Crew
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 James T. Toney Endowment Fund**
Micah Spoerndle
This award was established by members of the Department of Economics in honor of Professor Jim Toney. This scholarship is for Economics majors and is to be used for study abroad.

**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 Present Theses

Thirty-one seniors majoring in economics or international economics successfully presented their 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 Welcomes 2016 Inductees

Danielle Brown
Ray Brown
Evan Christopher
Kate Fitzgerald
Adam Gill
Nicole Hanrahan
Rebecca Herring
Connor Kilbane
Austin Martin

Colby Marvin
George Post
Christian Reese
Hunter Rotchford
Arthur Tildesley
Steve Bednar


Jayoti (Tina) Das


Steve DeLoach

Steve DeLoach (cont...)


Cassandra DiRienzo


Andrew Greenland


Tonmoy Islam


Tonmoy Islam (cont...)


Mark Kurt


Gregory Lilly


Jennifer Platania


Douglas Redington

Katy 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 completed 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:
Mark Kurt
mkurt@elon.edu
(336) 278-5915
Hello Elon Econ Alumni!

How time flies! Last year I was just taking over as new chair of the department – this year we are well on our way to developing our new major in Economic Consulting, our new faculty member (Dr. Brandon Sheridan) who replaced Dr. Barbour upon his retirement is settling in nicely, and, unfortunately, I am now a pro at writing reports and dealing with scheduling issues. Dr. Greg Lilly also announced his retirement effective at the end of the 2016-17 AY – congrats to Dr. Lilly, you will be missed!!

Some exciting news this year as well is that the new LSB expansion was officially announced. The future 30,000-square-foot building (Sankey Hall), currently under design, will be located on the north end of the McMichael Science Center parking lot, adjacent to Colonnades Dining Hall. Construction is expected to begin Summer 2017. The Economics Department will most likely stay in KoBC, but this new building will help accommodate the significant growth seen in the LSB over the past decade.

Again though, 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!!

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