Greetings from the Teaching Fellows Office!

This fall we welcomed 25 new Teaching Fellows from 9 different states, bringing our total number of states represented in the program to 16! First-year Fellows participated in Orientation and the Challenge Course and joined upper-class Fellows in the Mentor/Mentee Luncheon and Fall Social.

Our enhanced national model is in its second year and two new program components were implemented this semester with the 2016 cohort. These Fellows joined Business Fellows in the Life Entrepreneurs Program (LEP), which involved a two-day retreat on October 18-19 at Camp Hanes and a follow-up seminar facilitated by Elon faculty. This program offers Fellows the opportunity to discover who they are, where they want to go in life, and how they are going to get there. Sophomore Fellows are also collaborating with faculty mentors on a variety of ongoing research endeavors, from the use of social media in pedagogy to the role of quantitative literacy. These inquiry projects will culminate in the spring 2015 with a poster session colloquium.
Our own Elon Teaching Fellow Alum, Emily Dietrich, chose to spend her first year out of school doing something a little different. For the past few months, Emily has spent her time in DC with an organization called City Year. City Year is an education nonprofit based through AmeriCorps, a federally funded service-based program. In the specific DC program that Emily has been working with, over 150 first-year Corps Members spend the majority of their time in high-needs schools to address the dropout crisis. To do this, the Corps Members are targeting issues such as attendance, behavior, and coursework while also working with students in individual and group settings.

For Emily, this means ten-hour days during which she provides extra support, assists in afterschool programs, and works special events with the goal of creating an “inclusive, exciting learning environment for the students.” Emily has spent her semester serving in City Year DC’s only high school, Cardozo Education Campus, which houses both a middle school and a high school. Specifically, Emily serves in a middle school Language Arts classroom and acts as the Literacy Coordinator for the school. This includes the responsibility of creating a culture of literacy throughout the school. Based on her interview, which revealed her jam-packed daily schedule, the program is certainly keeping Emily busy with tasks of all kinds.

In her time with City Year, Emily has faced multiple challenges. She expressed that the greatest challenge has been her realization of the severity of the issues that exists within our education system. Emily spoke of issues such as extremely low proficiency percentages, high behavioral issues, personal politics, and a surplus of other problems that need to be addressed. Ultimately, Emily explained that she is really struggling with the reality that, “When discrimination and a lack of trust in the students continues day in and day out, it can be quite frustrating to those who are trying to teach students to advocate for themselves.” Although
On the 22nd of September, the First Year Teaching Fellows donned comfortable clothes, piled into cars and headed over to the challenge course. We had met several times, but names and faces still weren’t clear. We started by playing several silly ice breakers that included running, squatting and crawling around the ground. Some greeted these activities with confident and competitive attitudes while others found themselves glancing around with nervous laughter. Later, these laughs and playful attitudes would become the basis for long lasting friendships.

We then continued with trust exercises, and while some fellows were hesitant at first to close their eyes and let strangers pull them through the woods, by the end we were filled with a great sense of trust for each other. After these warm-ups we moved on to a true challenge. We had to walk across a wire that was raised off the ground. In the way stood several trees and gravity. It took several tries, but by the end, fellow Lawton Harper balanced himself between the wire and a tree and let people crawl over him for support. We also went through the spider web: a mess of wire where each fellow had to get through to the other side without touching the wires. People crawled, or were lifted, through these small spaces. We also completed the challenge where people were lifted and pulled over a wall. It seemed dauntingly high, but fellow after fellow was lifted up and pulled over to the top. The trust created in this short period of time was incredible.

By the end, we all knew each other’s names, and we all had positive things to say about each other! And of course, as with any Teaching Fellows event, there were plenty of snacks and pizza! Overall, the Challenge Course was a fantastic way to become acquainted with other first year fellows and begin our wonderful four-year journey with each other!

- Isabelle Thibault ‘17
A Letter From the Director

Continued from page 1

The Fellows hosted the annual Fall Seminar Alumni Panel: You Can't Do It Alone: Getting To Know Your Resources on October 29 at the Elon Community Church, Community Life Center. Elon alumni in resource positions within the Alamance-Burlington School System were panelists.

Fellows from the campuses of Elon, UNC-G and NC A&T are busy planning for the third annual Triad Teaching Fellows Education Conference, which is scheduled for April 5, 2014 and hosted by NC A&T. The conference theme focuses on changing paradigms for 21st Century teaching.

Please mark April 10, 2014 for our Spring Speaker series on the topic of “Let’s Move”. The event will take place at 7:30pm in Whitley Auditorium on Elon’s campus and is co-sponsored by the School of Education. During the week of April 7-11, Fellows and other Elon students will participate in campus-wide events to promote health, wellness and nutrition, within and outside classrooms.

Glenda W. Crawford
Director

Fall Social

On Monday, November 11, 2013 all of four Elon Teaching Fellows cohorts gathered in the new banquet room in upstairs Lakeside for the annual Fall Social. The evening was filled with the wonderful conversations, amazing food (as always), and a heaping portion of nostalgia and sentiment. In the presence of a few faculty/staff special guests, both Dr. Crawford and the senior fellows were honored. Following a heartwarming and undoubtedly sincere introduction from Lauren Kepke, our own incredible Dr. Crawford was gifted a book of “thank you” notes from all of her fellows. The entire interaction showcased her overall compassionate demeanor in a way that, of course, brought the crowd to their feet. Following the honoring of Dr. Crawford was the introduction of the senior cohort. From laughs to tears and poems to improvisations, it was a time where us seniors were able to illustrate one of the many blessings that the Elon Teaching Fellows program provides: irreplaceable and unforgettable friendships. Appropriately, the evening was brought to a close with a slideshow commemorating the seniors and our four years here at Elon. It was an amazing night filled with some sad endings, but also some very special moments. -Allie Hylton ’14
Continued from page 2

Alumni Spotlight

After graduating in the spring of 2013 with peers who would be finding jobs in the US, Ally Golightly was more than ready to teach overseas in South Korea. That was all possible thanks to the hard work and dedication that won her a Fulbright award in her last semester at Elon. About the award she said, “I pursued a Fulbright ETA grant because I wanted to learn about another culture and education system.” Senator J. William Fulbright founded the competitive international exchange program in 1946 to create an educational experience for students in the United States and abroad. According to the program’s website, it has provided almost 310,000 participants with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Ally’s reflection on her experience shows how the Fulbright mission can come to life in the hands of a deserving award recipient: “Since I have been in South Korea, it has been very hard adjusting to the fact that most students study constantly. For instance, my host sisters, who are 4th and 5th grade students, go to an academy after school for 3 hours and then return home to study for another 3 hours after dinner. The studying only becomes more intense as students get older. I believe this experience around an education system and culture that focuses on studying and teaching to the test will influence how I view standardized testing in the U.S.” The future is wide open for Ally, but more than likely, she will return to the US to continue her work as an exceptional educator and lifelong learner.

-Wesley Rose ’14
Meet the Class of 2017 Teaching Fellows

Caring Enthusiastic Kind Loyal Bubbly Honest

Calm Quirky Compassionate Friendly Outgoing

Creative Personable Passionate

Introverted Fun Nurturing Positive Confidant Athletic

Witty Supportive Stubborn Reliable
No one could have asked for a better group of people to be in the class of 2017 Teaching Fellow cohort. At the end of our four years together, we will have made friendships that will last lifetimes. We are a crazy bunch of future teachers with big ideas and even bigger personalities.

So here we come Elon - Get ready for us!
On the weekend of October 18th, the Sophomore Teaching Fellows participated in the first part of the Life Entrepreneurship Program by going on a retreat near Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Still a little unsure of what they were about to experience in the coming days, they loaded up the BioBus with the Business Fellows and took off. The one night retreat ended up being a great experience where all involved got to meet their LEP group, teacher, and assistant, and got to know each other, and themselves, a little better than they did before. Through a whole booklet of activities, hearing guest Christopher Gergen speak about his experiences as a life entrepreneur, and some creative games, the fellows bonded with their individual groups. When they returned to Elon, the fellows began taking a once-a-week class with their respective groups that helped them set goals for themselves, keep each other accountable, and really focus on their strengths and values to determine who they really were and where in life they really wanted to be going. Overall, the retreat and class was a great experience where the fellows learned a lot about themselves and the members of their cohort.

–Anna Brown ‘16
First Year Student- Faculty Dinner

On Monday November 4th, 2013, the Teaching Fellow’s freshman cohort participated in the student- faculty dinner, which, was an opportunity not only to eat food outside of a dining hall, but also a chance to meet our future teachers, advisors, and mentors in the years to come. As a future English major, I was seated at a table with my fellow English majors, Dr. Pyne, Dr. Owusu-Ansah, and Dr. Long. While at first I was nervous, and too preoccupied with making a good first impression to really let my guard down, by the end of the evening, our table was laughing and telling stories. I felt comfortable and welcome. All of the teaching fellows around me had huge smiles on their faces, me included.

Throughout the evening I heard cheerful conversations discussing not only our passions for education and our favorite subjects, but also plans for our futures. I left the dinner with not only a comforted feeling of knowing more about my department, but also an anticipation and excitement for all I have yet to experience. It is moments like this that I feel not only blessed to be at a University as amazing as Elon, with all of our dedicated faculty, but also in a program and family as supportive as the Teaching Fellows.

–Kelly Richard’17
In 2012, the Elon Teaching Fellows were proud to announce that two of its Sophomore Teaching Fellows had won the Numen Lumen Prize. Leigh Iler’s research looks at the concept of Response to Intervention (RTI) which focuses on the identifying and improving education for students with disabilities. Meanwhile, Wesley Rose’s research is based around music and compositional techniques, with a specific focus on the music of Franz Liszt (1811-1886). Since receiving the Numen Lumen in the Spring of Sophomore year, these two Teaching Fellows have been kept on their toes doing plenty of research for their selected topics. This semester, Teacher Talk Newsletter checked in on the two, to see how the research was going in their Senior Year.

Leigh Iler: During the months of June and July, I participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), where I had the opportunity to pilot original scripts with students at Elon's Summer Learning Academy. This fall, three sophomore Teaching Fellows served as tutors and implemented the scripts at a local middle school. In the coming months, I will conduct a data analysis and synthesize my findings. I recently presented at the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) conference and hope to publicize my results through additional presentations and publications.

Wesley Rose: Preparing a senior piano recital takes plenty of practicing, but there’s also lots of mental preparation and research involved. Part of my Lumen work was to prepare program notes for my recital based on the research I did over the summer. Another part was reflecting on and writing about what I’ve done so far in graduate school applications. Lastly, my senior seminar paper and presentation focused on a sub-topic in my Lumen project.

Sarah Worley ’14
Major Spotlight

The Elon Teaching Fellows Class of 2014 has no shortage of Education majors. Among these Seniors alone, there are students majoring in Elementary Education, Special Education, Secondary Math, Secondary English, Secondary History, Music Education, and a plethora of Middle Grades combinations. However, there is one major that stands out amongst them all: Secondary Science. Out of the twenty-seven members of the class of 2014, only one student has dared to select this subject for a major: Emily Liberatore. Luckily, for Emily, she is not completely isolated in her love for Science. Johanna Markiewitz, a fellow Senior, is focusing on the subject on a Middle Grades level. Being the lone Secondary Science Major has allowed for some unique experiences for Emily. For instance, in her Methods class this Fall she was the only Senior. So Dr. Tomasek (her Methods professor) pulled in some Science Education Major Juniors to join the class with Emily, giving her the chance to get to know students in a different grade level. Dr. Tomasek didn’t stop there. She educated her Methods class on Flipped Learning (where students learn material at home, often through video, and then do work in class). Not only did her Methods class get to practice Flipped Learning in their placements, but they also got to learn about Flipped Learning through a presenter during one of their class periods. Dr. Tomasek even invited another Methods class into the presentation to allow for further mixing of the majors.

While Emily may be the only Secondary Science major, she is far from alone. In fact, her small class sizes actually provided advantages as her Methods class blended grade levels and subject areas. Plus, it is safe to say beyond Elon, Emily will have a leg up in the competitive education job field.

-Sarah Worley ‘14
PHOTO GALLERY
Can we really teach creativity and innovation? Steve Wozniak (Woz for short) would probably tell us that rather than teaching these skills, we should try to create a learning environment where students can develop them. We should show what it means to be innovative and provide prompts with authentic challenges that engage their mental energy. That describes the common factor of many scenarios Woz gave as he told his life-story at Elon’s 2013 Fall Convocation.

Woz’s story began when he found his father’s scientific journals around the house. Soon after, he craftily used an electronic metronome to make a fake bomb in high school, which brought some relieving laughter to the audience. As Woz’s rapid speech delivery moved forward, he was suddenly into his college years, designing computer models and software ideas. Along the way, a thread of reflection on some successes but mostly failures guided Woz’s story. Perhaps the most intriguing parts of his talk were the many brief anecdotes about Steve Jobs. Woz expressed some personal passion about his own work when said of Jobs, “He was not a computer designer...he was not a computer engineer.” His narrative showed that realizing the flaws of your own work is one of the most important steps in creativity.

Woz’s message weaves itself nicely into the fabric of Elon’s upper-level education curriculum. In Dr. Carpenter’s Teaching 21st Century Classrooms course, many senior education students have been learning about the importance of the Partnership for 21st Skills (P21), of which North Carolina is a member. Creativity and innovation are at the top of P21’s list. In addition, we have also discussed the role of project-based learning as a means to best teach the Common Core standards and keep students engaged with schoolwork. These topics reinforce Woz’s emphasis on practical challenges discovered throughout his career, which led him to develop possible solutions. He likes to say that he “thinks like a consumer.” In the same way, teachers should try thinking like their students in order to envision the types of projects and challenges that might work best in the classroom. - Wesley Rose ‘14
2013-2014 Advisory Committee
Dr. Steven House, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Deborah Long, Dean of Education
Dr. Glenda Crawford, Director
Jennifer Fish, Assistant Director
Dr. Stephen Byrd, Associate Professor - Education
Nina Namaste, Associate Professor – Foreign Languages
Melissa Jordan, Director of Multicultural Center
Meredith McNeill-7th Grade Math Teacher, Southern Alamance Middle School
Kristy Mills –English Teacher, Western Alamance High School
Class of 2014-Kyle Keith, Connor McDade
Class of 2015-Allie Glenn
Class of 2016-Derek Winton
Class of 2017-Caroline Hoffman

Special Thanks to Dr. Crawford and Mrs. Fish for making this all possible!