Dear Elon Teaching Fellows Family,

Greetings from the Teaching Fellows Office! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying some summer relaxation.

We are excited to welcome our next cohort of Fellows, the Class of 2020 to campus in a few short months. This group of 20 students hails from 13 different states and with the addition of a student from Honduras, we are now an even more international program! We are also looking forward to having this cohort in two dedicated Elon 101 sections, something that will allow us to provide stronger advising support for Fellows from day one of their Elon experience.

Our Class of 2019 Teaching Fellows finished up a successful first year on campus. Many enjoyed taking their first education course in the spring semester, and they also had a chance to be out in the schools through their first semester of service hours for Teaching Fellows. The cohort also read and discussed Claude Steele’s book *Whistling Vivaldi*, and visited the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro.

Our rising Juniors, the Class of 2018, headed off to three different destinations for adventures abroad during the spring semester. As a new option for Teaching Fellows, ten students studied in Oxford, UK, with St. Clare’s College. We also sent Fellows to Toledo, Spain, and San Jose, Costa Rica. Finally, we have one student who is studying in Argentina this summer. We are excited to welcome them all back to campus this fall and to see how much their time abroad has shaped them. Be sure to read about some of their many adventures on pages 10, 11, and 12.

The rising Seniors, the Class of 2017, had a busy spring semester. On March 3rd, they attended the 2016 North Carolina Technology in Education Society Annual Conference in Raleigh along with over three thousand educators to learn about, discuss, and see K-12 students showcase the roles of technology in education. You can learn more about this experience on page 2. We thank the School of Education Stewardship Committee for providing the funds to make this valuable experience possible. On May 5th, the Class of 2017 presented their Inquiry Project posters during the 2nd annual poster colloquium at the beginning of the School of Education Awards Dinner. We were pleased to see how members of this cohort met and even exceeded the high bar the Class of 2016 previously set for Inquiry Projects. We are also excited to begin to refine and improve the Inquiry Project process now that we have had two cohorts complete the experience. Kudos to the Fellows and their mentors as we have developed this new component for the program.

Last, but not least, the Class of 2016 brought together everything they learned across their teacher education and Teaching Fellows experiences in the successful completion of their capstone student teaching experience. We wish them the best of luck as they figure out which of their many job offers to take for next year, and look forward to hearing stories about the impact they have on their students, schools, and communities.

This spring, we enjoyed hosting on campus Rick Lavoie as our sponsored spring speaker on April 18-19. Lavoie served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs for 30 years. He has been a visiting lecturer at numerous universities and his national television appearances include *The TODAY Show*, *CBS Morning Show*, *Good Morning America*, *ABC Evening News* and *Walt Disney Presents*. Elon students had the chance to interact with Dr. Lavoie on three different occasions during his time on campus. Throughout these different presentations, Dr. Lavoie was an engaging and thought provoking speaker, and someone the Fellows were fortunate to have the chance to meet in person.

Have a great summer!

Dr. Jeff Carpenter, Director
The junior cohort had the opportunity to participate in the NCTIES (North Carolina Technology in Education Society) conference in Raleigh on March 3. This is a membership association for educators who aim to advance learning and teaching through the use of technology. Each year at this annual conference, educators come together to discuss new technology and how it can be adapted to fit the needs of a classroom. The junior cohort had the opportunity to attend sessions to dive into a particular topic, explore student showcases to see how students are interacting with technology, and browse vendors to view up and coming technology. A particularly interesting session many Teaching Fellows attended was led by Kevin Honeycutt about how monitoring his brain patterns helped him learn to manage his ADHD. One of his most significant points is that each brain is different and each student is going to experience different levels of focus at different times. He used something called a Melon headband that tracked his brain waves to show him his current level of concentration in real time on an app on his phone. Using the Melon headband to monitor a student’s individual brain patterns could be extremely beneficially for customizing his/her education plan, especially in the area of special education. Additionally, the Fellows had the opportunity to explore new gadgets such as Google Cardboard and other tools to create an augmented, or virtual reality. The NCTIES conference was a great opportunity for professional growth and provided many new ideas about incorporating technology into the classroom.

Nicole Ammerman ‘17
Teaching Fellows and the School of Education hosted their annual spring speaker, Rick Lavoie, April 18-19, 2016. Dr. Lavoie is well-known for his work with special education students and families. On April 18, Dr. Lavoie’s public presentation, “Educating for the 21st Century: Challenges and Changes”, explored the drastic cultural changes of the century and the ways that educators can meet the associated challenges. On April 19, Dr. Lavoie offered two different workshops: “Last One Picked...First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities” and “Establishing Effective Partnerships with Parents of Special Needs Students”. All events were well-attended and received by education students, faculty, local teachers and alumni. Below are a few reflections that represent how Teaching Fellows were impacted and inspired by Rick Lavoie’s visit. For more information on Dr. Lavoie, please visit his website at http://www.ricklavoie.com/.

“I found both talks extremely interesting and they opened my eyes to concepts I had never thought about. One thing that really stuck with me from his first talk was that we, as teachers, need to be lifelong learners so that we can prepare our students for the changing world they will be entering when they leave our classrooms. Rick Lavoie believed that there is a body of knowledge that everyone needs to know, but we also need to teach kids how to learn, not what to learn. In order for us to stay up to date on everything that will be changing in our world, we need to be able to unlearn the old information, learn the new information, and relearn the information that comes after the new information. If we simply stick with what we know and what we learned when we were young kids, then we will fail to prepare our students to be successful in their society.”

“Rick Lavoie also deepened my passion for special education. He truly emphasized the importance of relationships. Building strong relationships that allow for empathy, vulnerability and love can make all the difference for students and families. I enjoyed listening to his talk on students with learning disabilities, and how their struggles can be varied and complex. We need to be compassionate and help our students succeed not only academically but also socially.”

“I also took away from the session with Lavoie that our students are individuals and we should treat them as such. He said that “there is nothing so unequal as the equal treatment of unequals.” The students in my classroom are unequal by nature because they are different people and therefore I am doing them a disservice if I treat them as if they are the same person.”
The Class of 2017 presented their inquiry project posters to faculty and staff at the School of Education Awards Ceremony on May 5. Research topics included project based learning, the impact of music on teaching and learning a second language, solvability by radicals of 7th degree polynomials, exercise and its effects on elementary students’ attention, early childhood literacy education, Pinterest, young adult personality dimensions and their influences on literature, the effect of visual text in the instruction of high school Shakespeare, and preferences and disconnect in strategies for teaching English language learners.
This semester, the Teaching Fellows 2019 Cohort had the pleasure of visiting the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro to continue our study of history as well as learn more about the important historical events that occurred just 30 minutes away from our campus. We were taken around by a wonderful and knowledgeable tour guide who showed us many exhibits and photos that brought the history of the original lunch counter sit in that sparked a revolution to life. The museum was very interactive, which brought back many memories of the museums we visited on History Study Tour. There was a very sobering part of the museum which was a hall full of pictures of those who had been harmed in the Civil Rights movement, and towards the end there was an additional hall that listed the names of those who perished during the fight for equality. The best part of the museum was the ability to visit the original lunch counter when the first sit in occurred, where nearly all of the original furnishings had been maintained. An additionally inspiring part was where we stood together as a cohort and all shared our takeaways from the museum. For me, I thought it was inspiring to hear that this movement had been organized by college students, and to know that even though we are young, it is still possible to make an impact.

Rachel Cole ‘19
Before Study Tour we weren’t that close. We knew each other, we liked each other, but we didn’t know each other that well. After going from museum to museum, city to city, writing journals, and other bonding moments, everything changed! Take a look at everyone’s favorite parts:

**Megan:** Crowning Jim with the magical Celtics hat of love  
**Madeleine:** When it snowed when we were with Sam’s family  
**Sam:** Monticello because I love Thomas Jefferson.  
**Caroline:** Going to Hooters for the first time  
**Anna:** Celtics game, Love Park, Reading Market, Virg being my roommate  
**Lauren:** Playing with guns at Yorktown, exploring food, bonding, soul cycle  
**Mimi:** The basketball game, because it was the first time I’ve been to a game  
**Courtney:** Getting to know these lovely ladies over Italian in the North End of Boston and exploring around the city was amazing.  
**Emma P:** Getting to know everybody was by far the best the part  
**Rachel:** I really enjoyed the National Liberty Museum.  
**Emma M:** Boston Tea Party Museum—it was the most interactive and engaging.  
**Dana:** Mount Vernon, Reading Terminal Market, and Quincy Market  
**Hannah:** Hanging out in the hotel rooms together with everyone  
**Katie:** When we went to the Celtics game together in Boston.  
**Carrigan:** Getting closer to everyone and spending so much time together.  
**Allie:** Exploring the cities together  
**Danielle:** Philly, Love Park, Coffee every morning with friends  
**Marlies:** Exploring the cities and finding cool places to eat  
**Kristy:** Liberty museum! This museum was fun, positive, and informative.

*Allie Roth ‘19*
Alamance Battleground and N.C. State Capitol Grounds (January 6)

Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center (January 7)

Monticello (January 8)

The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar (January 9)

Mount Vernon (January 10)

Philadelphia (January 10-13)
While there: Visitor’s Center, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the Liberty Bell, The President’s House, National Constitution Center, Eastern State Penitentiary

Boston (January 14-17)
While there: Freedom Trail, Faneuil Hall, Old South Meeting House, Old North Church, Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum Old State House

Gettysburg National Military Park (January 19)
Congratulations Class of 2016

Courtney Beavan - Middle Grades
Victoria Bell - Elementary
Anna Brown - Elementary
Lee Buono - Middle Grades
Tabitha Core - Elementary
Angie Edwards - Elementary
Mary Frias - Special/Elementary
Robin Gottlieb - Special/Elementary
Katie Hugus - Elementary
Hannah Jacobs - Elementary
Kristin Leesman - Special/Elementary
Emma Lindsay - Special/Elementary
Aaron Marks - Middle Grades
Rachel Miller - Special/Elementary
Marguerite Rix - Special/Elementary
Sara Rosenthal - Special/Elementary
Sydney Ryals - Special/Elementary
Hannah Stewart - History/French
Rachel Yates - Special/Elementary
The 2016 Teaching Fellows are our first 100% national cohort hailing from 11 states. We appreciate all of their accomplishments and for setting the excellent standard for all of the national cohorts in the future.
Study Abroad

Oxford, England

This was the first year that the Teaching Fellows had the option to study at St. Clare’s in Oxford, England for their semester abroad instead of going to London. For the ten of us now finishing up the final weeks of our time here in Europe, we had no idea what to expect coming into this program. We quickly learned that it is very different from what we are used to back at Elon, but we were all able to adapt quickly. Exploring this city and all it has to offer has been wonderful!

All of us are enrolled in a Comparative Education course, where we have each had the opportunity to complete a research study on a variety of subjects from British school systems to international assessments. One of the major differences of the Oxford program is the internship. All of us have spent every Wednesday of this semester in a local school, observing and aiding in the classrooms. I think it is safe to say that we have discovered so many interesting differences between the education systems here as compared to what we are used to back at home.

Although we have all been enjoying ourselves in Oxford, I think some of our favorite moments from this amazing experience have come from our opportunities to travel throughout Europe. With three weeks of break over the course of the semester, we have seen so many new cities and had the chance to not only experience British culture, but cultures of many other European countries as well. Whether they are about Oxford or elsewhere, all of the memories we have made over the last few months are sure to stay with us forever.

Jossie Geyer ‘18
Toledo, Spain

For all of the sophomore Teaching Fellows, Spring 2016 has been the time of our lives. I, along with four other Fellows, am studying abroad in Toledo, Spain at the Fundación de José Ortega y Gasset. We are all either Spanish majors or minors, and all of our classes at the Fundación are taught in Spanish. We are taking four classes, plus an internship class that gives us the opportunity to help out in the local schools 8 hours every week. During our internships is one of the only times we are encouraged to speak English because we are helping in the English classes. It has been a wonderful opportunity to experience the different school systems in Spain, and we have all learned many new things that we can take back home with us and use in our future classrooms.

This program gives us the opportunity to live with host families, and that’s what all of us decided to do. I live with a wonderful family who has three kids ages 7, 11, and 13, and I could not be happier that I am with them. Living in a host family allows us to see what the family life is like in Spain, and we are able to experience and participate in more of their customs and traditions. We speak only in Spanish with the families, which is definitely helping us improve our speaking and listening skills, and my family has been kind enough to take me on vacation with them to northern Spain and let me participate in all of their family activities.

The Fundación has organized our classes so that we always have Fridays off, giving us the opportunity to travel. Occasionally there are day trips on Fridays provided through the school to places such as Madrid, El Escorial, Segovia, and Ruta del Quijote, and even weekend trips to Andalucía and Zamora. These organized trips have included guided tours through castles, old towns, and other historical sites. When we don’t have organized trips with the school, we have planned our own weekend excursions. Searching for tickets and good hostels are things that many of us had never done before, but being abroad has helped us all grow and become more independent. We traveled to a variety of places in Spain including Barcelona, Alicante, Sevilla, and Cantabria, and outside of Spain to Portugal, France, Denmark, and Italy. One of my favorite trips was when we went to Morocco, Africa for 4 days. This was included in our program and we stayed with host families and experienced the rich culture in Morocco. The lifestyle and roles of every person are very different than what we are accustomed to in the United States, but being in Morocco gave us a new perspective on different ways of living that we had never been exposed to before.

I am so fortunate to have had this amazing experience abroad. All of us have grown so much, having the courage to go somewhere completely unknown, with a language that is not our native language, and making ourselves comfortable in our new surroundings. I now easily walk around Toledo knowing where I am going and feeling like I am part of the community. Experiencing new cultures is something really fascinating to me, and it has definitely made me more open minded. Seeing the different lifestyle in Spain, especially living with a host family, has opened me up to different ways of living, to customs I had never known about, and to something different than what I am used to. This has made me realize that there is so much to this world that I still don’t know about, so many people with so many stories, and I’m just trying to take in something new each and every day. Studying abroad changes you, but in a good way. Life is a never-ending adventure, and I’ve been lucky enough to explore so many new places these past few months. I’m ready for any adventure and to step out of my comfort zone, because there’s so much out there in the world, and I want to experience it all.

Bryanna Schoenblatt ’18
Before coming to Costa Rica, I had never been out of the country, so I wasn’t sure what to expect. Costa Rica was so different from the image I had pictured in my head that I was really sad my first few days here. I was left wondering if I had made the right choice. But once I started having more of an open-mind, I realized that Costa Rica is an absolutely amazing country and I am so lucky to be here. Everybody is so relaxed and so friendly, I felt right at home in no time. My host family is great too. They have been nothing but welcoming to me and they really treat me as part of their family. I was somewhat nervous about the host family thing, but I’m so glad that I have one. It’s really nice to come home to someone who will ask you about your day and I can also practice my Spanish with them. I was anxious about being in a Spanish-speaking country, but it hasn’t been as difficult as I thought it would be. Costa Rica is a great place to learn Spanish. The intensive month of Spanish has been a big help, plus you pick up so much Spanish just by being immersed in the culture. I also get to practice my Spanish at my internship. My internship is at Centro Educativo Campestre, a private school in San Jose. It has been really cool seeing the differences between schools in the U.S. and Costa Rica. My favorite thing that I’ve done so far is zip lining in Monteverde. I was able to conquer my fear of heights, and the view was spectacular. I can’t believe that I’m almost half way done with my time here in Costa Rica. It seems like I just got here yesterday. Even though I still have quite a bit of time here, I can tell that Costa Rica has changed me for the better. I can’t wait to explore more of this country and see what else Costa Rica has in store for me.

Nicole Baugh ‘18
To ring in the New Year, junior Teaching Fellows traveled to our nation’s capital for an academic program at The Washington Center. This two week long stay, beginning in January 2016, was both rigorous and intellectually stimulating. Fellows participated in two one-week sessions that were filled with exceptional lectures and site visits. The first week, students focused on the current presidential race, and the second week students dove deeply into the topic of media and politics. The mornings were spent exploring these political topics shared by lecturers with a wide range of perspectives, who were well known and respected in their fields. Students had the chance to hear from Charlie Cook, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Chris Matthews among others. In the afternoons, students were able to see Washington in action at education related site visits, some of which include The Gates Foundation, NEA, The National Alliance for Charter Schools and Politico.

While in the city, students had additional enrichment activities, including a panel of Elon alumni who are current teachers in various settings. They were able to share valuable advice and perspectives. Students were also able to spend time enjoying all of the culture and history D.C. has to offer by visiting monuments, museums and restaurants in their free time. Additionally, students had the chance to meet one of NC’s Senators and get an insider tour at the Capitol Building.

After having the opportunity to explore education and politics (which are deeply interwoven!) at the national level, students spent a week back in North Carolina exploring these topics at the state and local levels with a day in Raleigh and a day with ABSS. Students had the chance to meet Governor Pat McCrory and observe a state Education Cabinet meeting. Students also were able to meet the superintendent of ABSS as well as many other important figures that keep the school system running.

This experience not only taught Fellows more about the field of education, it also taught us more about government, politics, and how to be informed citizens. By having these experiences and newly gained knowledge, we are better equipped to teach the future generations to be productive members of a global society!

Isabelle Thibault ’17
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2017 Nicole Ammerman, Aly Lucas, Isabelle Thibault, Hannah Wilpon
2018 Emily Gaa, Jossie Geyer, Maia Salinger, Bryanna Schoenblatt
2019 Rachel Cole, Courtney Kobos, Allie Roth

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