AJA JOHNSON ’05 AWARDED PHI KAPPA PHI GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

While taking math classes in Budapest, Hungary during the spring semester, Aja Johnson ’05 received the news that she is one of sixty recipients of a Phi Kappa Phi national graduate fellowship award. Established in 1932, the Fellowship Program annually awards Fellowships of $5,000 each for post-graduate study at accredited institutions of higher learning. These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis for first-year graduate or professional study. Each of the 300 chapters may nominate one student for the national competition.

meeting in January 2005, and she won a merit award at that conference.

For the past two years, Aja has been the recipient of a GlaxoSmithKline Women in Science Scholarship. She received a scholarship of approximately $1,000 and was assigned to a scientist from GlaxoSmithKline who served as her mentor. In addition to her scholarships, her honors include: Phi Kappa Phi (National Interdisciplinary Honor Society), Phi Eta Sigma (Freshman Honor Society), chapter president of Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematics Honor Society), and chapter president of Mathematical Association of America.

Aja’s summers at Elon have been filled with mathematical research. In 2003 she attended Carleton College in Minnesota studying combinatorics and topology knot theory. Last summer she worked on a paper in geometric group theory as a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at the University of Illinois.

Next year she will enter the University of Georgia’s Ph.D. program in mathematics. She has been awarded a fellowship for her first two years, and she will have a teaching assistantship for the three years after that. She says that she is very excited about next year and having the chance to really focus on math full time.

Aja’s success at Elon has been remarkable. She graduated summa cum laude this year with a BS in Mathematics and a BA in Theater Arts. This spring she studied graph theory, complex analysis, real analysis and number theory at College International in Budapest. She writes that she is learning new concepts which are not offered at Elon and is seeing Europe on the weekends.

As an Elon University Honors Fellow and an Elon University Science Fellow, she has had many opportunities for research and writing. In 2004 she presented her research, “Strategies for a Sequence Game of Chance;” at the Nebraska Conference for Women, the Furman Undergraduate Conference, the MAA Southeastern Section Meeting, and Elon University’s Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF). This research has been accepted for publication in the Pi Mu Epsilon Journal, a first for an Elon student. She also presented a poster titled “Connectivity of a Leximorphic Space” at the MAA/AMS joint
NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI

Phyllis Hammer Richardson ’78 is a math instructor at Sampson Community College in Clinton, North Carolina. She has twice won the Student Government Association’s “Extra Effort for Faculty” award by a vote of the students. Her husband, Will, is a general contractor, and she has two children, Daniel, a middle school science teacher, and Whitney, a student at Brunswick Community College.

Dana Redmon Watson ’96 lives in Belews Creek, North Carolina with her husband, David, a police officer, and her daughter, Sydney Paige, age 2. Dana is an algebra I teacher at East Forsyth High School in Winston-Salem. She is involved with the 9th grade academy at her school which helps 9th graders with the transition into high school.

Larry Hodge ’74 is chair of the computer science department at UNC-Charlotte.

Danny Modlin ’98 is enrolled in graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He has received a teaching assistantship and will teach undergraduate courses in the fall. He plans to graduate in 2006 with a master’s degree in mathematics with a concentration certificate in statistics.

Rose Cordero ’01 passed the New York Bar Exam last November. She is working in Manhattan for a law firm specializing in property law.

Donna Davis Westbrook ’84 was a math teacher at Graham High School last year and has just finished her master’s degree in School Administration at UNC-CH. She hopes to become an assistant principal. She is married to Ricky Westbrook and has two children, Grant, a sophomore in high school, and Lauren, a 6th grader.

John Papa ’69 taught high school math for 24 years and later served as Director of Instruction and Vice Principal. After 36 years in education, he recently retired as vice principal of an elementary school in New Jersey.

Barbara Day Bass ’61 serves on the Elon University Board of Trustees. She spoke at the 2004 graduation exercises at Elon. She is the trustee representative on the Phi Beta Kappa Steering Committee.

Kate Mansi Merrill ’00 lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her husband Jonathan Merrill, who is a 2001 Elon graduate in physics. She works for a non-profit organization called YouthBuild and is developing a competency-based curriculum for a charter school which will open this fall.

Karen Henderson ’88 is teaching 7th grade math in Southern Pines, North Carolina. She has two children ages 7 and 9.


John Watts ’80 is in the real estate business.

Kristie Collins ’94 is the Director of Development Information Systems in the Office of Development at Princeton University.

Andrew Spage ’91 is a sales director at Computer Sciences Corporation in the Managed Hosting Services business unit. He lives with his wife, Laura, and his children Olivia (9) and Wyatt (5) in Fairfax Station, Virginia. Laura returned to teaching 6th grade this year after taking 5 years off.

Liese Faircloth ’93 received her master’s degree in accounting from UNC-CH this spring and will begin working for Ernst and Young in Raleigh in August.

Leanna B. Giles ’02 is teaching 8th grade math and Algebra I at Turrentine Middle School in Burlington. She is serving as Treasurer of the new Alamance County (Triad) Chapter of the Elon Alumni Association. She and her husband live in Burlington.

Lori Tyler ’92 is finishing her fourth year of study for her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning with a concentration in Mathematics Education at Vanderbilt University. She is teaching several math education courses and participating in a design research project with middle-school mathematics teachers in North Carolina and Arizona in areas such as statistical understanding and data analysis, deprivatization of practice, teacher leadership, institutional context, and most importantly, student learning.

Allyson Randolph Neeriener ’00 writes that she is now using her math skills to count fingers and toes. On January 14th of this year she gave birth to Emily Anne Neeriener, who weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 and a half inches long. Allyson will be staying home with Emily and is already thinking of ways to teach her math!

Tom Cole ’86 is married to Lisa Crowder ’86 and has three children Thomas(15), Geoffrey(12), and Sarah(11). For the past six years, they have owned Cole Wholesale Pet Supply which supplies pet and grocery stores with various pet supplies.

Jennifer Golemon Pearman ’93 and her husband, Bill ’92 live at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY, where Bill does research for the Army and is an Academy Professor for the Department of Chemistry and Life Science. They are leaving this summer for South Carolina so Bill can obtain a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry - Spectroscopy. After he completes his Ph.D. they will return to West Point to finish out his military career. Jennifer is a stay at home mom involved in a number of volunteer organizations. She has three daughters Leah(8), Adeline(7) and Mirjam(4).

(continued on page 3)
MEMORIES FROM OUR ALUMNI

Dr. Francis giving me a difficult time about missing class for softball games…Phyllis Hammer Richardson '78

My memories of my math classes are numerous. I'll always remember the great professors we had in Mr. Alexander and Mr. Lampier. One funny story is in my sophomore year (1966-67) we had a new professor from Michigan University who spoke little English with a Chinese accent. The class was at 8 am and not only could we not understand what he was saying, he would erase his notes two seconds after writing them on the chalkboard. Needless to say I didn't attend too many classes and learned most of Calculus II on my own. I showed up for the mid-term and final and still earned a B. (It was the first non-A in a Math course for me at the time)…John Papa '69

I transferred to Elon as a sophomore and the warm reception that I got from faculty and fellow math majors made that adjustment much easier for me…Phyllis Hammer Richardson '78

I will never forget the help that Dr. Russell and Dr. Lee gave me my senior year. They are the reason I went to graduate school! Actually, Dr. Lee's wife, Hollynne Stohl, was my graduate school advisor at NC State…Kate Mansi Merrill '80

I remember falling out of my chair in Jeff Clark's Calculus III class. He looked at me and said, “Are you all right?” He kept teaching and everyone laughed…Dana R. Watson '96

Approximately ten years after I graduated from Elon, I stopped by the campus and arrived, unannounced, at Bill Barbee’s office. Even though he had not seen me for over ten years, Bill immediately recognized me and greeted me by name. He also remembered my wife's name and asked how she was doing. While we were talking he went over to his file cabinet and pulled out the grade book for the first semester calculus course that I took from him 13 years earlier. As we went down the roll of my former classmate Bill could tell me exactly what each of them was currently doing! …Larry Hodge '74

I remember sitting in Dr. Haworth’s modern geometry and analysis classes hoping that the random number generator would not generate my group to the board. The class always seemed to be a good one if someone else’s group was called…Liese Faircloth '93

Dr. Haworth's Non-Euclidean Geometry final exam. I wrote so long that my arm ached…Phyllis Hammer Richardson '78

Dr. Fisher’s Calculus classes were my favorite. He was an excellent instructor. He taught Mathematics at NC State for 35 years, and wrote several Math text books. He was semi-retired when he came to Elon to teach Calculus. He was a very impressive and inspiring instructor. I also enjoyed Ms. Evans' Advanced College Algebra class in which I received the highest final average grade (98.5)…Bob Ruggeri '59

NEWS FROM OUR GRADUATES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Beth Sheriff '04 was a finalist for Guilford County's Rookie Teacher of the Year. She was honored at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast. She is teaching math at Ragsdale High School.

Tammy Raper Newbern '94 lives in Simi Valley, California and teaches at Royal High School. She has just completed her first year of teaching AP Calculus. She and her husband are expecting their first child in October.

Lisa Grignon '99 moved to Seattle, WA in 2001 to attend the University of Washington. She graduated in December of 2002 with a Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering. While there, she did research with the Air Traffic Management Group. In August 2002 she began working at Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific as a manager for the TLAM program on base. Located on Naval Submarine Base Bangor, SWFPAC is one of two facilities that provides TRIDENT missiles and strategic weapons system support to the TRIDENT submarine fleet.

Holly Weeks McDow '99 and her husband Thomas McDow '99 have moved to Southern Pines. Thomas will be working for Great American Opportunities, which does fundraisers for schools and non-profit groups.

Josh Rowan '04 is teaching high school math in Georgia.

Bob Ruggeri '59 taught math at a Carteret, NJ high school for seven years. Then he pursued a career in computer systems development. He was employed by Merck & Co., Inc. for 32 years initially as a Computer Programmer, later as a Systems Analyst/Designer, and finally as a Project Manager. His primary responsibility was the development of computer applications for the corporate business community (i.e. Finance, Marketing, Accounting, Economic Affairs, etc.). He and his wife, Patricia, have three grown and married children and four grandchildren. He is now retired and lives at Myrtle Beach, S.C. He writes that he recently bought the book The Complete Idiot's Guide to Calculus so that he can continue to enjoy the subject that is so near and dear to his heart, mathematics.
Babies, Weddings, and Other Family News

**Todd Lee** married Hollyynne Stohl last November at the Butterfly House at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham. Most of the math department faculty attended the reception which followed the ceremony. Hollyynne is an assistant professor of math education at NC State University.

This spring the happy couple won third place in a license plate contest sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Todd says that their tags show what happens when a Math Ed geek unites with a Math geek in marriage. When Hollyynne and Todd first met for coffee, there was a spark. When they saw each other’s license plate, they knew it was for life! The latest news is that they are expecting their first child in early December.

**Richard Haworth** celebrated the graduation of his two children from UNC-Greensboro: Cheryl Haworth Wyrick, a 1995 Elon graduate, received her Ph.D. in Educational Research Methodology, and her brother, Carlisle, also graduated with a Masters Degree in Applied Geography. Cheryl and her husband work for Tanglewood Research, which receives grants to study risky behavior by young people. Cheryl’s husband, David Wyrick, was named Elon’s Young Alumus of the Year in 2004.

**Jim and Lisa Beuerle** welcomed Rachel Ann Beuerle (at right with sister Lauren) on January 7. Rachel weighed 6 pounds, eight ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Lauren, age 2, is excited to have a new sister.

**Crista Coles** and husband Sanjay Arangala are the new parents of Chaythan Sudharmar Arangala. Chaythan (below with father Sanjay, brother Emil, and mother Crista) was born on April 16 in Durham. He weighed eight pounds, 1.5 ounces.

Retired math professor **Bill Barbee** moved last fall to the mountains near Weaverville. He and his wife, Susan, built a new home on property which had been in his family since 1790. His daughter and her family live nearby. He is tutoring his grandson in algebra. He spends his free time working in the yard and clearing the land.

**Janice Richardson Plumbec’s** daughter, Bonnie, received her master’s degree in accounting last year from UNC-Wilmington and works for DeLoitte in Raleigh. Her son, Paul, is an apprentice with Rich and Thompson Funeral Home and is taking classes to be a licensed funeral director.

Department chair, **Skip Allis**, is building a house in Brown’s Summit, a small community north of Greensboro. His wife, Celeste, teaches math at Rockingham Community College, and the location of their new home will cut her commute in half. They will move with their 13 cats in October.

Jessica Foust, daughter of **Bernice Foust** and a rising high school junior at the Early College @ Guilford, has completed all of her high school courses and has been admitted to Guilford College for the 2005-2006 school year. Bernice is secretary for the Math Department.
THE math department wants to recognize its alumni with graduate degrees. Is your name on this list? Is the information correct? Please let us hear from you with this information. Send additions or changes to walton@elon.edu.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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JEFF CLARK TO BECOME DEPARTMENT CHAIR IN 2006

Dr. Jeff Clark will assume the duties of department chair in the fall of 2006, succeeding Skip Allis who has asked to step down from the position at that time. Jeff served as department chair from 1994 until 2000. A Pennsylvania native, he joined the math faculty in 1988 after receiving a Ph.D. from Yale and working for a year for a banking institution in New York. He has served as chair of Academic Council, and last year he was promoted to full professor. His wife, Laura, is a clinical psychologist. His son, David, is in the second grade this year and in cub scouts. His daughter, Elizabeth, will go to kindergarten next year and loves her ballet classes. The Clarks live in Carrboro.
NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Department Chair Skip Allis was elected secretary of Academic Council this spring. He also has served on the Curriculum Committee and has been chair of the Graduate Council.

Jan Mays will become the coordinator of the first-year math classes, replacing Alan Russell who will be on sabatical in the fall. She is president-elect for the North Carolina Mathematics Association for Two-Year Colleges. She will become president in May 2006. She has received a grant to be a service learning scholar at Elon, enabling her to develop a project where students work with a non-profit organization to do data analysis.

Lisa Beuerle is the faculty advisor to Hillel, the campus organization for students of the Jewish faith. Lisa also serves as chair of the Intellectual Climate Committee. She gave a talk titled "Excel Projects for Elementary Statistics Students" with Jim Beuerle at the October 2004 NCCTM conference. She co-published (with Janice Richardson) “Math and Education Faculty Working Together to Improve Content Knowledge For Pre-service Elementary Teachers” in the Proceedings from the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education in October 2004. Janice traveled to Toronto in October to present the results at the Math Education conference. Janice is the director of the Teaching Fellows program at Elon.

Jim Beuerle serves as advisor to Pi Mu Epsilon, chair of the Goldwater Scholarship Committee, and member of the Academic Standing Committee. He gave a talk at the Southeast Sectional MAA meeting at Meredith College titled “An Approach to an Undergraduate Research Seminar in Mathematics.” He was a fellows day presenter at Elon, talking about “Math...be Knot Afraid: Three Pounds of Fun.” He will be listed in the 2005 edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” He brought area high school seniors to campus this spring to practice for the Advance Placement Calculus test.

Alan Russell will be away on sabatical in the fall. He plans to use this time writing an origami textbook with activities and diagrams. Alan teaches a popular general studies origami course and says that there are no textbooks on the market for a college course. Last year his origami class sent a Phoenix made of 1000 origami cranes to Seattle for the re dedication of a peace monument. This year his class constructed an Olympic flag mobile, made of 1,000 origami cranes. Alan serves on the Students with Disabilities Committee.

Ellen Mir is in her second year at Elon. She went to several conferences during the past year including Math Fest in Providence, Rhode Island and the MAA Southeastern Sectional Meeting at Meredith College in Raleigh. She serves on the Students with Disabilities Committee.

Crista Coles gave a talk in June in Cincinnati at an Inverse Problems in Engineering Seminar. She went to the AMStat meeting in Montreal in August to recruit new department members.

Richard Haworth is chair of the high school math contest at Elon. He has been involved since its inception in 1979, and he serves on the North Carolina Math Contest Committee and the Executive Committee. He is also on the board and executive committee for the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, serving as convention services coordinator. Last year he was on a subcommittee of Academic Council which examined the criteria for evaluation of teaching, scholarship, service leadership and institutional service.

Jan Mays, Alan Russell and Richard Haworth gave a show on math magic to fifth graders from McCrory Elementary School in Asheboro.

Todd Lee published an article titled “A Specific Construction of a Conic from an Ellipse” in the Delving Deeper column of Mathematics Teacher in the September issue. The article was accepted with no editing. He will have a technology tip in the April edition of the magazine. He traveled with the Science Fellows to Washington, D.C. during winter term. His finite math textbook is selling well. It is being used by High Point University and in community colleges in Maryland. He attended a week- long program on discrete geometry at the Mathematics Sciences Research Institute at Berkeley.

Jeff Clark has had an article accepted for the Proceedings of the International Conference on Technology in collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM). He gave a talk titled “Describing Mathematical Figures with MetaPost” at ICTCM last October. He presented “Using Art to Teach Group Theory” at the AMS/MAA joint meeting in Atlanta last January. At the Southeastern Sectional MAA Conference in Raleigh, he presented “Giving Students Their Own Curves in Multivariable Calculus.”

Helen Walton serves on the Phi Beta Kappa steering committee. She is the chairman of the local Historic Preservation Commission and is on the Board of Directors of Preservation North Carolina and the county’s Textile Heritage Museum.
DEPARTMENT ADDS TWO PROFESSORS

The math department welcomes two new full-time professors for two newly created positions.

Dr. Ayesha Deplish comes to Elon from Florida State University where she will receive her Ph.D. in Statistics this summer. Ayesah is a native of Trinidad and received a bachelor’s degree from Mount Saint Mary’s College, where she was the student representative to the Trustees. She also received the Mount Leadership Award there. She earned her master’s degree from Florida State. She comes to Elon as an assistant professor with a strong background in statistics and plans to explore the feasibility of offering a statistics minor at Elon.

Dr. Anthony Mancuso is no stranger to Elon. He taught classes in statistics and economics in the Love School of Business in 2003-2004 filling in for professors on sabbatical. For the past year he has worked for SAS Research Institute in Raleigh as a Statistical Service Specialist. He has had a strong desire to return to teaching and will join the math department as a lecturer in statistics this fall. He and his wife are moving to Durham this summer.

STUDENT HAPPENINGS

The following students presented at the Student Undergraduate Research Forum under the guidance of Todd Lee and Crista Coles at Elon in April:

- **Ryan Barnard ’05** – “WaTor Explorations”
- **Cheryl Borden ’05** – “Seriation Techniques and Native American Folklore”

These students also presented these talks at various conferences. **Ryan Barnard ’05, Cheryl Borden ’05 and Briana Yoho ’05** presented their research at the MAA regional conference at Meredith College in March. Briana spoke on “Turning the Lights Out.” **Aja Johnson ’05**, mentored by Todd Lee and Crista Coles, did a poster at the joint AMS/MAA national meeting in Atlanta last January, and she won a merit award there.

The following students will attend graduate school next year:

- **Ryan Barnard ’05** – Wake Forest University
- **Aja Johnson ’05** – University of Georgia
- **Diana Liberto ’05** – Wake Forest University in math education

Five of 23 Elon students in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program are math majors.

**Jen Davis ’05** was selected as the Outstanding Mathematics Education Student for the central region of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She is the tenth Elon student to win the award since its inception in 1986. She was in competition for the award with students from larger universities such as UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, NC A&T, Duke and Wake Forest. Jen is getting married on July 4 and will teach in a high school near Charleston, South Carolina.

**Cheryl Borden ’05** received the James S. and Marilyn Denton Award, a school-wide award for leadership.

**Jen Davis ’05** and **Aja Johnson ’05** received the academic achievement award from the math department this spring. **Aja Johnson** received the mathematical research award.

**David Runkle ’06** and **Laura Snipes ’06** were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honorary society in April.

**Kristin Mandella ’07** is going on a study-abroad trip to Sicily for the month of June. She will intern with Susquehanna Bank when she returns.
CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE

To find out the latest information about the math department, to see our photos, and to get our email addresses and phone numbers, check our web site at http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/math/.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR RESPONSES. Please continue to send your news to Helen Walton at her mailing address or email address listed below. This newsletter is not possible without you. Even if you have replied previously, please write again. We continue to circulate your responses to the math faculty and our retired faculty.

This newsletter is a joint production of the mathematics department and the Office of Alumni Relations.

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