NEW CHAIR, NEW BUILDING, NEW BEGINNINGS

Dr. Alan Scott began his career at Elon in 2009. Now in his 5th year, he became the Department Chair in January 2014. One of the biggest developments for the department during his new position is the new Psychology building on South Campus. Dr. Scott’s highlights for the new building include:

- New teaching space, including improved technology allowing for more flexibility
- A WET lab that will provide new opportunities for in-class lab experiences, particularly for the neuroscience program
- Computer labs that will allow for more flexibility if a professor wishes to include a lab component
- Instead of having 3 or 4 spaces for clusters of faculty offices, they will be in one common area

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Dr. Scott is looking forward to helping with faculty development. In his new role, he is more aware of all of what his colleagues are working on, and he is excited to help support the professional development of our faculty in their teaching and research endeavors.

Study Abroad: One Student’s Experience in Denmark

Alex Ward (‘14) spent a semester in Denmark, living in downtown Copenhagen. Denmark is ranked among the top 3 happiest countries in the world, which provides a great place to study Positive Psychology. While abroad, Alex studied in the Psychology Program at The Danish Institute for Study Abroad where he took a Positive Psychology course and a practicum that accompanied the course.

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NEW FACULTY PROFILES

Dr. David Buck
- Originally from Indianapolis, IN
- Attended Hanover College for Undergrad and double majored in Psychology and English with a minor in Philosophy
- Attended Florida State University for his Masters and Doctorate
- Dr. Buck’s research is about sexual prejudice. Currently he is researching how identity concerns predict prejudiced behavior toward sexual minorities.

What are you most excited about at Elon?
Working with the great faculty of the department.

Fun fact: He is one half of an identical twin pair!

Dr. India Johnson
- Originally from Indianapolis, IN
- Attended Purdue University at Indianapolis for her Bachelor's with a major in Psychology
- Attended The Ohio State University for her Masters and Doctorate in Social Psychology
- Dr. Johnson’s research is about stereotyping and prejudice. Currently she is researching how attitudes toward stigmatized groups influence how people evaluate information in a persuasive context.

What are you most excited about at Elon?
Mentoring students.

Fun fact: She just got married in Miami Florida where it was 95 degrees at 10am for her wedding!
Study Abroad, Continued

The Positive Psychology course focused on how to keep a specific mindset in order to achieve a more positive outlook on life. This was explored during a weekend trip to western Denmark and a weeklong trip to London. In Alex’s practicum course he had the opportunity to work in an after school center for kids aged 5-10. As most children did not speak English, Alex had to use nonverbal communication in order to build friendships.

While back at Elon, Alex has been able to integrate his experience in Denmark in many ways. Alex was accepted to be a Global Study Ambassador. Alex makes presentations about the study abroad experience in Elon 101 classes, orientation weekends, and other events on campus. Alex is also one of two students on the Study Abroad Committee. The committee reviews proposed study abroad courses and approves and denies them based on the quality of the proposal.

Alex highly recommends the program in Denmark for Psychology students. While abroad he was able to earn 8 credit hours toward the major, and 8 more credit hours toward general requirements. The Psychology Program in Denmark offers 3 different courses to enroll in, offering flexibility in choosing a course that you are most interested in. Alex believes that:

“The experience as a whole is phenomenal and Denmark is one of the best places to study Psychology.”

FACTS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT:

- 337 Psychology Majors
- 260 Psychology Minors
- 36 Students Conducting Research This Spring
- 76% of Majors Participated in Study Abroad
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alumni Updates

Thank you to all who sent updates. Due to limited space, not all were included. Look out for an Alumni Update Newsletter in the Fall. If you would like to be included please email Emily Benson at ebenson3@elon.edu!

Sarah Borowski ’11:

Sarah switched her major from Biology to Psychology during her sophomore year. Sarah was able to work in a lab with Dr. Epting during her years at Elon. She is currently working toward her M.A. in Experimental Psychology at The College of William & Mary and applying to Clinical and Developmental doctoral programs for next fall.

Laura Sweeney ’11:

Laura received her Master’s in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She currently lives in Clinton, Connecticut working as a Clinician in an emergency center for teenage girls. Laura’s Psychology education at Elon gave her great exposure to the DSM, which she uses often at her job.

Rob Garland ’11:

After growing up with an Army clinician Father, Rob was always enthusiastic and interested in the field of Psychology. After graduating in 2011, Rob began working at “Second Nature Blue Ridge”. He is considering attending graduate school in Psychology in the near future.

Stephanie Hicks ’10:

Originally a Communications Major and Psychology minor, Stephanie switched her major to Psychology. She is currently in an Applied Developmental Psychology PhD program at Fordham University. Her close mentorship with her Psychology advisor at Elon is one of her most valued aspects of her education.
Lumen Scholar: Cara McClain  

Cara McClain ('14) a Psychology Major with minors in Spanish and Environmental & Sustainability Studies, is one of the prestigious Lumen Scholars at Elon. She has been working with Dr. Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler on a project titled “Outdoor Explorations With Preschoolers: The Role of Nature Experiences in Young Children’s Psychological Development And Environmental Awareness”. Their research highlights the importance of nature experiences for physical, socio-emotional, and cognitive development in children during early childhood.

During her research, Cara had the opportunity to do a yearlong data collection period. Once a week she would spend time and hike with preschoolers while collecting data via video recording. Opportunities like these have given Cara the chance for meaningful engagement with faculty both in and outside the classroom, thus deepening her learning experience.

Cara is someone who has always had a passion for Psychology for as long as she can remember. She has always loved learning about people and trying to understand them, thus fueling her interest in the field of Psychology. As she prepares to graduate, Cara is able to look back on her Elon experiences. Her favorite part of Elon has been the people she has met and the opportunities for hands-on experiences.

Cara is a finalist for a Fulbright as a teaching assistant for English in Costa Rica. She is also a finalist for City Year Boston. Cara is interested in education reform and will most likely be working in a school next year upon graduation.

Some More Alumni Updates!

Jackie Nelson, Ph.D. ('06) is an Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas!

Elizabeth Palmer ('11) is currently pursuing her PhD in Human Development and Family Science at Ohio State!

Alyson Hignight ('12) is working at the UNC Fertility Clinic and is a Pre-Medical student at Fordham University!

Stephen Michael Ph.D. ('08) is a Forensic Psychologist and is currently teaching at Mercer University!
THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING!

New Chair, continued

- New space to conduct research will allow for interaction and observation rooms
- Various common spaces for students and undergraduate researchers will hopefully support development of a stronger psychology student culture

In addition to the new building, Dr. Scott is excited for the addition of a new faculty member of Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

There is a national growth in the field of I/O Psychology and Dr. Scott is very pleased that Elon can be a part of that trend. Students in the past have really enjoyed this field and have found success in admission to graduate programs in I/O. Our leadership programming with Dr. Leupold offers a great resource for our I/O program.

*We are all very excited to have Dr. Scott as the new chair of the department and are excited for our growth in the new building! Best of luck to Dr. Scott!*