This year we hosted our first ever Honors Homecoming tailgate. It was great to see so many recent alums and catch up with them about life after Elon. **Mark your calendars now to attend the second annual event on Saturday, October 18, 2014.** Like this past year, we'll have delicious Greek food from a local caterer, games, and great camaraderie and conversation.

**“Inquiry In Istanbul” Goes Public**

Associate Director Mike Carignan, Former Director Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, and current Honors Fellow Danielle Deavens led a panel presentation at the 2013 International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) conference in Raleigh, NC. The panel was called “Inquiry in Istanbul: Global Engagement and Scholarly Inquiry Development in a Pilot Study-Abroad Course for First-year Honors Fellows,” which discussed the new Honors Turkey course from the perspective of a faculty leader, a program administrator, and a student. Mike and Maureen are continuing to collect data to determine course effectiveness and continuing impacts of the experience. In a few weeks they will present new findings at the 2014 ISSOTL in Quebec.

**New Leadership**

As you know from our last newsletter, Edie Alexander, Administrative Assistant for the Honors Program for 23 years, retired this spring. We wish her well as she begins her much deserved retirement. In her place, we are very excited to welcome Tammy Womack. Tammy comes to Elon from UNC Chapel Hill where she worked in the Academic Advising Program in the College of Arts and Science. She is eminently qualified, extremely personable and an all-around wonderful addition to Elon. Please join me in welcoming Tammy to the Honors community.

Also, while Tom Mould is in Italy this fall, current Associate Director of Honors Mike Carignan will step into the role of Director while Barbara Miller will step into the role of Associate Director. Both have served in leadership roles in the program. Honors is very lucky to have them at the helm.

**Summer Teaching Workshop**

As part of this initiative to ensure consistent, high-quality course offerings, the Honors Program partnered with the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning to host a 4-day Honors Teaching Workshop. The workshop was well attended, with 18 faculty participants, all of whom are either currently teaching in the Honors Program, slated to teach in the next two years, or in the process of proposing an Honors course. During the workshop, participants discussed current literature on best practices in teaching high achieving and gifted students; examined student feedback from course evaluations and focus groups; created, revised and peer-reviewed course assignments to address higher-order critical thinking; employed backward-design syllabus development techniques to ensure program and course goals are met; and shared experiences and advice from past courses. Based on this workshop, we have developed a Moodle site to support faculty teaching in the Honors Program.

**Honors Joins the Effort**

As many of you know, on April 15th this year nearly 300 girls were kidnapped from their school in Chibok, Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram. Around the world, people expressed their outrage at the slow international response by using hashtag #bringbackourgirls and petitioning governments and international organizations to take action. To show their support for the girls and efforts to free them, many of our Honors students joined these grassroots efforts, as pictured here, all in red. Sadly, most of the girls remain in captivity today.

This year the Honors website has undergone a bit of a facelift. In addition to an alumni tab and resources for faculty teaching in the Honors program, we have added a new section called “Opportunities” on the homepage. Now, when opportunities arise both on and off campus that Honors students might be interested in or particularly well suited to, announcements pop up in the Opportunities section just under the “News” in the right hand column. Check it out at: [http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/honors/](http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/honors/).