Coleman puts a new spin on music program

By Robert Hoppey ’09

Whether we are hearing a catchy new song on the radio or reliving a classic orchestral piece, the composition can literally be music to our ears. Todd Coleman, assistant professor of music, might ask — why stop there?

By infusing technology into his musical works, Coleman makes his pieces all the more powerful. His latest composition, “Exquisite Corpse,” uses visual images to reflect the musical message. It is performed by a cellist situated between two video screens.

“As an artist, I’ve always been interested in utilizing tools that gave me freedom of expression,” he says. “I find it more and more compelling to create experiences.”

Music has always been an integral part of Coleman’s life. As a child growing up in Arizona, he would often wake up on Saturday mornings to the sounds of Bach coming from his father’s room. It wasn’t long before Coleman was composing his own music.

Under the guidance of an influential high school teacher, Coleman wrote and submitted a piece for a competition held by the National Association for Music Education. After winning the award for top student composition, he went on to pursue degrees at Brigham Young University and the Eastman School of Music, where he received his doctorate in 2002.

Coleman spent four years teaching music at Grinnell College before coming to Elon last summer to coordinate the university’s music technology major. The new program teaches students how to apply the tools of technology to music composition, performance and production.

Much like technology itself, the music industry is consistently changing with the times. Coleman says that students in the music technology program need to be prepared to meet a growing demand for integrated media.

“The biggest change in the industry today is that one person is expected to know more steps in the process,” says Coleman. “It’s not uncommon to get a project where you would be asked to take on all elements for a producer — composing, recording and delivering.”

For a career requiring a diverse set of skills, it is fitting that students in the program should have a variety of expertise. Some come from a traditional background in classical music, while others are “new musicians” and rely strictly on a computer to exercise their musical creativity. In its first year, the program has eight majors and is expected to double in size by next year.

As the students pursue the major, Coleman is there to make sure their education is not limited to learning the ins and outs of a number of complicated programs.

“A lot of music technology programs operate like a vocational tech program, but I knew that Elon wanted to take a more artistic angle,” he says. “I’m not interested in technology for technology’s sake. I’m interested in tools to fully realize artistic ideals.”
When most people think of Valentine’s Day, they conjure up images of winged cherubs, red roses and boxes of chocolate. But not Chuck Sparks, Elon’s mail services supervisor.

“A zoo is what comes closest to mind,” he says with a grin.

It’s hard to blame him. After all, Feb. 14 is typically the busiest day of the year in the university’s mail center, which delivers 550 incoming packages and 6,000 letters on that day. Add in 12 harried staff members and a handful of student workers, and one gets a sense of the holiday chaos.

“It’s unreal,” says Sharon Justice, an assistant supervisor who has worked in the center for 21 years. “You have to be here to understand it.”

Other particularly hectic times of the year for the mail center are Halloween and the opening of the school year. For the latter, it is not the volume of move-in packages that is difficult, but rather the size.

“The textbooks that come in are not a problem,” says Sparks. “It’s the 52-inch TVs that cause problems.”

Luckily for Sparks, he has spent 21 years mastering the ins and outs of a college mailroom. With a background in industrial engineering, he came to Elon in 1986 after spending 10 years overseeing workshops with handicapped employees. Sparks was charged with reformulating the Elon mail system, which was transitioning from a contract service to an in-house operation.

“My job was to come in, bring everything back inside, streamline the place and get everything working,” he recalls.

When Sparks arrived, the mail center operated out of East Gym with a package room “the size of a closet.” The situation is in stark contrast to today’s spacious, warehouse-like center, which handles about 4 million pieces of mail every year.

Sparks and his staff stay on top of technology to ensure efficient deliveries and present items such as admissions publications in an attractive fashion. The staff relies on a machine called SmartMailer, which automatically organizes nearly all facets of outgoing mail, as well as an inserter machine that can stuff and seal an envelope in about one second.

Sparks says he picks up on new trends through the College and University Mail Services Association, an online forum featuring more than 500 schools.

“You feel confident when making a decision because you’re not out there by yourself,” he says.

Despite society’s increasing reliance on e-mail, Sparks maintains that the mail system will always be relevant. He acknowledges that letter writing has decreased sharply in recent years, but the number of packages has increased because of the popularity of online shopping.

“When I first heard about e-mail, people thought it would kill mail,” he says. “It hasn’t — mail is here to stay.”

Sparks and his staff are reminded of that fact every morning while retrieving hampers of mail from the Elon Post Office. They use a van with its back seats removed to transfer parcels to Moseley Center. The hub of campus life seems a fitting location for a service that holds so much importance to the university community.

“The convenience of the mail center speaks for itself,” he says. “We’re right in the center of campus and everyone uses us. That’s what we want.”
Professors help students examine the psychology of love

By Eric Townsend

Who knew there was so much science to Cupid’s arrows?

As Valentine’s Day approaches, students who took “Psychology of Personal Relationships” with Allison Russell over Winter Term can bring a whole new appreciation to the idea of romance or, at the very least, what scientists say it takes to keep a bond strong.

Nonverbal communication? Check.
Conflict resolution strategies? Check.
First impression management? Check.

“This is not a ‘how to get a husband’ course,” says Russell, an adjunct professor whose research interests include the psychology of close relationships. “I find a lot of these students have tended to look at people like Oprah and Dr. Phil for advice on relationships. Sometimes they get their idea from popular magazines.”

That’s why part of the recent winter course involved students researching academic journal articles that examined personal relationships and comparing those findings with the way Hollywood treats romance in the movies. “I think they like being able to adopt the concepts we’re studying to what’s going on in their lives right now,” Russell says.

It’s not the first time the course has been offered. Maurice Levesque, professor of psychology, has taught the course periodically since he arrived at Elon in 1997. The topic is one that closely relates to one of his research interests — the psychology of first impressions — and has proven popular with hundreds of students.

“For a lot of students, it’s, ‘I never really thought about that,’” Levesque says of topics taught in the course, where students have been required to read academic journal articles as well as mainstream books on relationships. “For some of them, it’s hard to let go of the folklore of relationships, like ‘never go to bed mad.’ Well, what if it’s 3 a.m. and you haven’t resolved an argument?”

Both professors said their goal is to teach students about the science of psychology while providing practical guidance for any relationship.

“There are some issues in relationships that never get resolved,” Levesque says. “The challenge is figuring out how to get around them.”

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Juggling Act: Patterson takes on multiple tasks

By Mary Cunningham ’08

Being a full-time administrator and mom can be enough work, but Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life, decided to tackle more. Her desire to learn was not fulfilled, so she went back to school.

Patterson is in the final stages of completing a doctorate in organizational development and psychology. She is working on her dissertation, which focuses on work motivation and generational differences among higher education student life staff members.

“What motivates me now is different than what motivated me when I was 25 years old coming out of grad school,” says Patterson. Seeing the difference in herself made her curious about the motivations of other student life staff members.

Patterson’s research is largely based on a survey of student life staff members from nine colleges and universities. After conducting the survey, she will do a statistical analysis to determine whether the motivational differences fall along generational lines.

As Patterson has worked on her degree, she has been able to remain at Elon full time. She chose a distance-learning program for that reason.

Jana Lynn Patterson has juggled work, family and school while completing her Ph.D. in organizational development and psychology.

“I love going to class, but it’s not as easy,” she says. Even without attending classes, it has been tough for Patterson to balance school, family and work. She wakes up at 4:30 a.m. to finish homework and does research during her lunch break. She’s even written papers on the side of a tennis court while watching her son’s match.

“Instead of cleaning house, I’d write papers,” she says.

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E-people
Janna Q. Anderson, assistant professor of communications and director of the Imagining the Internet project, was quoted by BBC News in a survey of eight top “leading lights” in the fields of media and technology. The experts were asked to share their views on the changes ahead in the next decade in the way we consume news.

Brooke Barnett, associate professor of communications, was a guest on the Dec. 31 broadcast of WUNC Radio’s “The State of Things.” Barnett was on a panel to discuss hopes and concerns for 2008.

Larry Basirico, dean of international programs and professor of sociology, was quoted in the New York Times’ “Week in Review” on Dec. 9 in an article about feuds. Basirico noted that feuds can come to an end when those feuding face a common problem.

John Burbridge, professor of business administration, taught a two-week course on global competitiveness at Jean Monnet University in St. Etienne, France. The students in the course are in the fifth year of a master’s program in international business.

A short story by Ken Calhoun, assistant professor of communications, has been selected to represent California in Ballyhoo Stories 50 States Project. The story, called “Animal Past,” is a fictional account of a biracial family set in the suburbs of Los Angeles, where Calhoun was born and raised.

David Copeland, A.J. Fletcher Professor of Communications, has published “A Series of Fortunate Events: Why People Believed Richard Adams Locke’s ‘Moon Hoax’” in the fall 2007 issue of Journalism History.

The Broadcast Education Association has named Vic Costello, associate professor of communications, incoming chair of the BEA Festival of Media Arts. He will serve a three-year term beginning in April 2008.

Tina Das and Steve DeLoach, associate professors of economics, recently published the paper, “Strategic environmental policy with technology licensing,” in the International Trade Journal. The paper investigates one of the reasons why bilateral agreements that attempt to link environmental protection with open trade are difficult to sustain. DeLoach was also a co-author of “Effectively Moderating Electronic Discussions,” published in the most recent issue of the Journal of Economic Education.

John Englar, whose career in law and business included service as general counsel and chief financial officer of Burlington Industries, has been named Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at Elon University School of Law. He will serve as an adviser to students and faculty members at Elon and will teach courses in international business transactions, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate restructuring.

Thomas R. Erdmann, professor of music, had his article, “The Total Artist: An Interview With Mark Isham,” published as the lead article in the January 2008 issue of the ITG Journal. He is also the author of all three 6,000-word cover stories in the new issue of Saxophone Journal. It is the third issue in a row that Erdmann has written all three cover stories.


Mathew Gendle, assistant professor of psychology, has recently been named as an editorial advisory board member to The Open Addiction Journal (TOADDJ). TOADDJ is a new, open-access, and peer-reviewed journal produced by Bentham Science Publishers.

Barbara Gordon, associate professor of English, published an article titled “Critiquing the Creation of Knowledge in the Liberal Arts: An Interdisciplinary Course on Death” in the November issue of The Global Spiral.

Mary Gowan, dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, co-authored an article published in the September issue of the Journal of Employment Counseling. The article, titled “Current and Future Value of Human Capital: Predictors of Reemployment Compensation Following a Job Loss,” examined the role of transferable skills and knowledge for individuals seeking reemployment.

Julianne Hall, adjunct assistant professor of biology, has joined The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, where her work on breast cancer will provide data for drug companies developing new treatments to the disease.
Rosemary Haskell, professor of English, published “War and Writing in the Undergraduate Literature Classroom: Modal Analysis and the Destabilization of the Soldier’s Heroic and Idyllic Worlds” in a recent edition of *EnterText*, an interactive interdisciplinary e-journal for cultural and historical studies and creative work.

A course taught by Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, was featured in a summary of highlighted Lifelong Learning Institute courses from around the nation posted on the Elderhostel Web site. Elderhostel is a not-for-profit organization based in Boston dedicated to providing travel and learning adventures for people 55 and older.

Earl Honeycutt, professor of business administration, has had two articles which he co-authored accepted for publication. The first article, “An Introduction to the Offshore Ethnocentrism Construct,” is scheduled for publication in *Services Marketing Quarterly*. The second, “Utilizing Activity Theory to Plan Cross-Cultural Sales Training Programs,” was accepted for presentation at the 2008 National Conference in Sales Management to be held March 26-29 in Dallas. The article will be published in the NCSM conference proceedings.

Lynn R. Huber, assistant professor of religious studies, presented a paper on Revelation and violence for a panel she co-organized for the Society of Biblical Literature’s annual meeting in November in San Diego. Huber’s paper examines how medieval visionaries read Revelation’s violent imagery as a way of exploring strategies for contemporary interpretations of biblical violence. Huber has also published an article in the current volume of the *Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spiritualities*. Titled “Sexually Explicit? Re-reading Revelation’s 144,000 Virgins as a Response to Roman Social Discourses,” this article examines the metaphorical representation of the faithful as male virgins in relation to the constructions of masculinity in the first-century Roman Empire.

Young Kim, assistant professor of art, had an installation art exhibition in the Arlington Arts Center in Virginia as part of the group show “Winter Solos” from Dec. 4 to Jan. 29. Kim’s piece involves the careful placement of 10 large salt squares on the floor of the gallery, with a red clay powder photographic portrait “printed” onto each through a screen. Kim’s piece had an installation art exhibition in the Arlington Arts Center in Virginia as part of the group show “Winter Solos” from Dec. 4 to Jan. 29. Kim’s piece involves the careful placement of 10 large salt squares on the floor of the gallery, with a red clay powder photographic portrait “printed” onto each through a screen. Kim’s piece had an installation art exhibition in the Arlington Arts Center in Virginia as part of the group show “Winter Solos” from Dec. 4 to Jan. 29. Kim’s piece involves the careful placement of 10 large salt squares on the floor of the gallery, with a red clay powder photographic portrait “printed” onto each through a screen.

Residence life staff represented Elon at the North Carolina Housing Officers conference in November. They were: Lucas Langdon, assistant director of residence life-East area (from left); Danny Glassmann, assistant director of residence life and Multicultural Center; Becca McQueen, assistant director of residence life-Danieley Center; Carrie Ryan, assistant director of residence life for operations; and Steve Anderson, associate director of residence life for community building and residential education. McQueen was appointed programming chair for North Carolina Housing Officers (NCHO) for 2007-2008. Ryan was re-appointed technology coordinator for NCHO for 2007-2009.

Greg Lilly, associate professor of economics, spoke with News 14 Carolina on Dec. 14 about the interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve earlier in the week, the American economy and how North Carolina’s economic health compares to other parts of the country.

An article titled “A Non-Tychonoff relatively normal subspace” by Ellen Mir, assistant professor of mathematics, appeared in the fall 2007 issue of *Commentationes Mathematicae Universitatis Carolinae*, a journal published by the Charles University Mathematical Institute in Prague.

Tom Nelson, associate professor of communications, had a column published in the Nov. 11 edition of the Burlington *Times-News* about his annual ritual of visiting the grave of Staff Sgt. Russell Ketner. He was also a guest reporter for KXMB Television in Bismarck, N.D., from Dec. 17 to Dec. 21. Nelson began his television career at the station in the late 1970s and has returned regularly for guest reporting duties.

David Noer, professor of business administration, had two columns published in the Greensboro *News & Record*. “Christmas ghosts issue a warning” and “Four community resolutions for 2008” were published Dec. 23 and Jan. 6, respectively. Both articles offered suggestions for ways to make Greensboro a better place.

Paula Patch, instructor of English, presented a paper titled “Students Don’t Fear the Wiki: Using Wikipedia to Teach Responsible Scholarship to First-Year Writing Students” at the annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) conference in Atlanta, Nov. 9-11.

Marty Peters, professor of legal education (right), and Don Peters, visiting professor of law, attended the “Legal Education at the Crossroads: Ideas to Action” conference held Nov. 2-4 at the University of South Carolina. Peters is also included in a new DVD that follows eight students through their first year of law school. “The Trials of Law School” gives an insider’s view of the first year at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.
Rebecca Pope-Ruark, assistant professor of English, received the first Outstanding Dissertation Award by the Association for Business Communication. She researched the way writers at marketing communication agencies draw on personal knowledge to write effectively, even if initially they know little about their clients' corporate practices.

Chad Raymond, assistant professor of political science, spoke with News 14 Carolina on Dec. 7 about the latest National Intelligence Estimate report on Iran's nuclear weapons capabilities. He also spoke with News 14 in November about the political unrest in Pakistan.

Faith Rivers, associate professor of law, presented a fellowship paper at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) conference in Atlanta, Nov. 14-17. Rivers' paper is titled “Bridging the Black-Green-White Divide: The Impact of Diversity in Environmental Nonprofit Organizations.”

An article titled “Purifying a Murky Mission: Responsible Business Leadership” by Barth Strempek, Doherty professor and associate professor of business administration (left), Kevin O’Mara, professor of business administration, and Rob Springer, director of institutional research, has been published in the fall 2007 edition of the Journal of the Academy of Business Education (JABE).

John G. Sullivan, Powell Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, was one of four presenters at a daylong workshop titled “Spirit, Service and Community in the Second Half of Life,” held under the auspices of the organization Second Journey at Dayspring Conference Center, Ellenton, Fla., Dec. 6.

Matthew Valle, associate professor of business administration (from left), and Art Cassill, professor of accounting, have been notified that their manuscript “The Windfall Profits Tax - Again: The Tax Policy Implications of a Failed Concept” has been accepted for presentation at the 2008 International Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Management in Arlington, Va. Valle and Robert Pavlik, associate professor of finance, have been notified that their manuscript “Factors Affecting Share Repurchase Decisions and Managerial Compensation: Innovation in Pay-For-Performance or Disguised Managerial Opportunism?” has been accepted for presentation at the same conference.

Donna Van Bodegraven, associate professor of Spanish, successfully defended her thesis for a master’s degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona on Dec. 11. The thesis is titled “The Border Experience in Mexican and Chicano Theater since 1993.”

Frances Ward-Johnson, associate professor of communications, has been awarded a national grant from the Public Relations Society of America Foundation. The grant of $4,800 will be used to complete research for a project titled “Realities in the Workplace: The Future of Minorities in Public Relations.”

Bill Webb, assistant professor of performing arts, was a production team member for Ernst & Young’s annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Ceremony in California from Nov. 16-17. The event was hosted by Jay Leno, with appearances by Lance Armstrong, Deborah Norville, Ben and Jerry, and Huey Lewis and the News.

Jo Williams, special assistant to the president, was interviewed for the “First Read” political blog on Republican presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani's visit to Greensboro on Dec. 3.

Rudy Zarzar, professor of political science, was interviewed Nov. 30 by News 14 Carolina about the recent Mideast summit hosted by President George W. Bush in Annapolis, Md. He shared his thoughts on the peace process and possible motivations for Bush to hold the summit near the end of his presidency.

Human Resources Corner

Counseling available to employees

The Employee Assistance and Counseling Program (EACP) provides confidential, professional counseling when you or a member of your household need help to resolve personal problems that are affecting you, your family or your work. The Employee Assistance and Counseling program deals with issues such as anxiety, alcohol abuse, aging parents, depression, drug abuse, financial stress, family conflict, legal concerns, marriage conflict, grief and loss, job burnout and stress. There is no fee or co-payment to be paid for any of the EACP services for you and anyone in your household.

The EACP provides services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Appointments can be scheduled at Alamance Regional Medical Center by calling 336-538-7481 or toll free at 1-877-800-9401. Please stop by the Office of Human Resources to pick up a brochure about the program.
Congratulations to the newest member of the Elon community: Stefanie Poe, software support specialist, and her husband, Kevin, welcome a daughter. Bailey Poe was born Thursday, Nov. 29.

Melissa Potter, director of donor relations, and Mat Gendle, assistant professor of psychology, are the proud parents of a baby boy. Gage Leman Potter-Gendle was born Thursday, Dec. 27.

Joel Hollingsworth, lecturer of computing sciences, and his wife, Heidi, welcome a baby girl. Pippa Jane Hollingsworth was born Friday, Dec. 21.
Happy Birthday!

Feb. 4
Cherie L. Bower
Kevin W. Byrd
Patricia Diez Andres
Jeff Lampson
Priscilla K. Lipe
Ellen L. Mir
Heidi E. White

Feb. 5
Debby Wall

Feb. 6
Chris P. Benton
Earl D. Honeycutt
Frances T. McKenzie
Paul C. Miller

Feb. 7
Laurin R. Kier
Sue M. Sinclair
Bill M. Wisser

Feb. 8
Herb L. Schuette

Feb. 9
Janet L. Hardie
Sara G. Neal

Feb. 10
Tracy Barr
Marsha Boone
Melanie Brookbank

Feb. 11
Casey Dirienzo
Michael Leonard
Gavin Sands

Feb. 12
Lisa Alcon
Brad Moore
Faith Shearer

Feb. 13
Stanley Greeson
Adam D. Short
Linda A. Wilmshurst

Feb. 14
Darlene Boggs
C.C. Cowan
Aaron Peeks

Feb. 15
Amy Beasley
Mark P. Kline
Anne Marx
Jodi M. McConnell

Feb. 16
Susan P. Lindley

Feb. 17
Steve Coleman

Feb. 18
Jack A. Smith

Feb. 19
D.J. Farmer
Pamela Moffitt

Feb. 20
Greg Calone
Paul Crenshaw
Monica Glover
Gregory Haenel
Yoram Lubling
Kelly L. Reimer
Rex A. Waters

Feb. 21
Wendy G. Williams

Feb. 22
Skip Allis
Pamela Baker
Hui-Hua Chang
Ronald L. Ledbetter

Feb. 23
Brandon M. Dimont
Stephen W. Forbes
Cassie L. Kircher
Beverly A. McQueen
Douglas B. Redington
Carol A. Smith
Paul Smith
Travis A. White

Feb. 24
Gary B. Bailey
Judith B. Howard
Amy L. Sanderson
Wayne M. Thaxton
Lynne M. Wentz

Feb. 25
Janis R. Baughman
Clifton R. Johnson
George R. Johnson
Mike Sterling
Jessica A. Tiller
Anthony Weston

Feb. 26
Sue A. Chinworth
Jane L. Cone
Christie Dickerman
Lucas H. Lemanski
Brian S. Newberry

Feb. 27
Marc C. Yellock

Feb. 28
Anthony E. Bennett
Justin H. Goodall
Dave J. Powell

Feb. 29
Phil W. Smith
Timothy R. Stream

March 1
Brooke L. Barnett
Sarah E. Rusche

March 2
Kathryn I. Wheelet

March 3
Joann W. Cousin

March 4
Christopher G. Dockrill

March 5
Christine J. Borzumato-Gainey
Michael Ennis
Joy D. Martin
Michael B. Strickland

March 6
Robert G. Blake
Marius Jurgilas

March 7
Bonnie S. Bruno
Beth E. De Ford
Jana Lynn Patterson
Kathy S. Whitt

March 8
Melodiee Brown
Scott W. Gaylord
Chris R. Leupold
Preston Moore
Pat Murphy
Katie Parsley

March 9
Martin C. Fowler
Sue A. Johnson
Chad E. Raymond
Kirby R. Wahl
Melody S. van Lindt de Jeude

March 10
Stephen A. Futrell
Teofilo Matias

March 11
Rick Earl
LT Richmond
Donja R. Washington

March 12
Dave L. Blank
George A. Taylor
Anthony B. Tillotson
Kurt V. Carlson

March 13
Jennifer R. Wagner

March 14
William J. Milton
Jean D. Schwind

March 15
Lamar Bland
Bill J. Burpitt
Dwight L. Davis
Stu Horne
Shane A. White

March 16
William D. Harrison
Loretta L. Lawson

March 17
Claristine N. Lockett

March 18
Dan Anderson
Faye Conally
Bryan Hedrick
Jessie McCullough
Anthony Totten

March 19
Ethel Allen
Lou Clyburn

March 20
Tyler Coble
Dave Kylander
Megan McColm

March 21
Patti Raduenz
Crystal Sharpe

March 22
Thomas Noble
Christopher Rowe
Frances Ward-Johnson
Jane Wellford

March 23
Kay Carroll

March 24

March 25

March 26

March 27

March 28

March 29

March 30

March 31

Katie Parsley ’03, editor
Eric Townsend, writer
Holley Berry, production assistant
Jerome Sturm, photographer
Robert Hoppe ’09, student writer
Mary Cunningham ’08, student writer
Dan Anderson, director of university relations

The @Elon newsletter is published by the Office of University Relations for the faculty and staff of Elon University. If you have faculty/staff news to share, e-mail Eric Townsend in the News Bureau (etownsend4@elon.edu) Please send your comments and story ideas to Katie Parsley (kparsley@elon.edu).