IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ever Elon Campaign Kicks Off In Style

By Kristin Simonetti ’05

In an emotional weekend of collaboration and celebration of Elon’s values, President Leo M. Lambert and the university’s board of trustees announced the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Elon’s history.

With a goal of raising $100 million, Ever Elon: The Campaign for the Future of Our University is the largest campaign in Elon’s history and the first to focus primarily on growing Elon’s endowment. The campaign seeks $70 million in new endowment to support students, faculty and programs, $20 million in annual giving and $10 million for new facilities. At the campaign’s public launch on Oct. 11, donors had already contributed nearly $59 million toward the total fundraising goal.

The kickoff weekend included a Friday afternoon news conference, a Saturday morning town meeting and an evening gala highlighted by vocal, dance and musical performances. The gala marked the debut of two original musical pieces: the “Ever Elon Campaign Theme,” composed by faculty members Todd Coleman and Stephen A. Futrell, and a new verse of the Elon Alma Mater, composed by Futrell and performed by the Elon University Camerata. Students, alumni and faculty also spoke at the gala, describing in emotional terms what the Elon experience has meant to them.

“It created a sense of momentum for the campaign and the university,” says Carolyn Ent, director of events for the president’s office and an integral planner of the kickoff weekend. In particular, she says the business setting of the town hall meeting and the theatrical elements of the gala combined to effectively convey the diverse goals and sentiments of Ever Elon.

“It created a sense of momentum for the campaign and the university,” says Carolyn Ent, director of events for the president’s office and an integral planner of the kickoff weekend. In particular, she says the business setting of the town hall meeting and the theatrical elements of the gala combined to effectively convey the diverse goals and sentiments of Ever Elon.

“When I heard the overall plans for the weekend schedule, with the business meeting and the discovery sessions, I knew that something was missing, and that was the heart,” says Fred Rubeck, associate professor of performing arts, who directed the gala performance. “I wanted to find a way through a 30-minute presentation to sum up the emotional reason for doing what we’re doing (in the campaign). I felt strongly that we needed to touch the heartstrings.”

Stephen A. Futrell directs the Elon University Camerata as it performs the Alma Mater, including a new verse written by Futrell, at the gala.

The celebration capped nearly a year of planning and preparation by many faculty and staff, including Ent, Rubeck, Chuck Davis, director of the Ever Elon Campaign, Bobby Clark, director of development communications, Charity Johansson, assistant to the president, Katie Nash, university archivist, Lauren Kearns, assistant professor of dance, Jesse Borkowski, video producer, and Christopher Waters, director of information systems and technology.

“I’ve worked at a number of universities and a number of events over 30 years, and I never expected to have so many colleagues as excited about this as there were,” Clark says. “It was great fun, but hard work. A lot of hard work.”

Faculty and staff are invited to learn more about the Ever Elon Campaign, including its goals and ways to give, by visiting the campaign’s Web site, www.everelon.org. The site features more than 100 videos of members of the Elon community sharing their favorite Elon stories and what the university means to them. Faculty and staff are encouraged to add their Elon stories by clicking on the “Tell Your Story” link. Faculty and staff have long been among Elon’s most generous supporters, and they can continue that tradition by making an online gift through the secure site.
Mary Gowan works in the business of change

By Bethany Swanson ’09

The last year has been one of great change for the dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business.

In July 2007, Mary Gowan left her position as associate dean for undergraduate programs at the George Washington University School of Business in Washington, D.C., to help Elon continue building a premier business school in a new state-of-the-art facility.

More than a year later, the changes, tweaks and adjustments haven’t stopped.

“We’re still experiencing a lot of change,” Gowan says. “And I think the faculty and students are open to it. I’m hearing faculty use words like ‘optimistic’ and ‘energized’ when we talk about where we are headed.”

Gowan and her faculty and staff are busy with several long-term and short-term projects, including preparation for a visit from the school’s accrediting group, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The Love School was initially accredited in 2004 and must conduct a self-study every five years to maintain its accreditation. The AACSB’s peer review team, made up of deans from other business schools, will visit Elon in early February.

In addition, the faculty are also working on a five-year strategic plan that will set the direction for the future of the school and its activities. The plan is being developed in conjunction with a revision of the school’s mission statement, Gowan says.

“We’re having to do a lot of self-study, a lot of evaluation, clarification and benchmarking,” she explains. “The guidelines are always changing, but what we’re working toward is an institution that is dedicated to educating responsible leaders.”

When the plan is completed, Gowan says she envisions the school becoming “a recognized leader in engaged and experiential business education that integrates theory and practice.”

Many programs in the Love School are already gaining national recognition. The Elon MBA program was ranked No. 2 in the South and No. 12 in the nation by BusinessWeek last fall, making it the top-ranked part-time MBA program in North Carolina. The program recently enrolled its largest and most qualified class of 33 students, with an average GMAT score of 545. There are now more than 150 students enrolled in the MBA program.

Last spring, the Love School cosponsored a fair-trade symposium on campus with the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and Students for Peace and Justice. The collaborative event came about after a student asked Gowan to support efforts to bring a fair-trade expert to campus. Gowan says she’d like to see more collaboration like that in the future.

“I understand that community is very important here,” she says. “And I’m learning more and more that the business school has a role to play on campus, collaborating and working with the rest of the institution.”

Mary Gowan is overseeing several long-term and short-term projects in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, including a five-year strategic plan for the school.

Gowan’s plans for the future include strengthening relationships between the university, the business school and the Alamance County community. She says she would like to create more opportunities for students to work on consulting projects at local businesses, allowing them to deal directly with clients and real-world issues.

But Gowan also says she understands the need for the Love School to maintain an outward focus. She recently spoke to alumni chapters in New York and Washington, D.C., gaining contacts with alumni and donors and finding possible internships for students. She also says she believes that a global focus is necessary to help cultivate students’ understanding of business and has plans to explore a global internship program for business students.

“We’re working on strengthening our mission,” she says. “And I think we’re in good shape.” @
Elon’s open houses are ‘a community effort’

By Robert Hoppey ’09

From taking the campus tour to eating in the dining hall, many current students easily recall their experiences at an Elon open house. But few realize just how much planning goes into each event.

That’s where Catherine Williams comes in.

Williams, associate director of admissions and director of transfer and special admissions, takes the lead on all of Elon’s open house weekends. After beginning her career in elementary education, Williams made the switch to working in admissions after her children were grown.

After 20 years working in Elon’s admissions office, the job of planning open houses might become mundane for some. But not for Williams; she institutes changes each year to create the most satisfying experience for each new face that visits Elon. It can be a big undertaking, but Williams says she is never on her own.

“I have friends at other colleges who feel like they plan these events on their own, but I have never felt like that,” she says. “Everyone pitches in to share their enthusiasm and pride. It’s a community effort.”

Six weeks before each open house, Williams contacts various departments on campus, including environmental services, facilities and student life, about playing a role in the process. While some faculty and staff lead sessions about majors or study abroad opportunities, others make sure that every table, chair, microphone and refreshment is in the right place — and that everything gets cleaned up.

After all, Williams says, an open house is “pretty much everyone’s job.”

Williams says the best time for prospective students to see Elon is in the fall, when they can observe the normal flow of campus life. For these open house weekends, she relies on faculty, staff and a team of students who volunteer to give tours and share their experiences with prospective students and their families. Together, there are more than 100 student, faculty and staff representatives on campus for each fall open house.

But a fall open house pales in comparison to the most challenging event of the year — Fellows Weekend. With more than 430 prospective students competing for a slot in the prestigious Fellows programs, Williams is responsible for creating an individual schedule for each attendee.

Knowing how important Fellows Weekend can be in a student’s decision whether to attend Elon, Williams makes sure to pair each student for an interview with a faculty member who best reflects their interests.

“It take a long time to match up the puzzle,” Williams says.

With so much invested in each open house, Williams makes sure that her events go off without a hitch — rain or shine.

“We used to have a rain plan,” she says. “But we found that when people travel all this way to see our campus, they want to go on a tour in the rain.”

Zaire McCoy, senior associate director of admissions, recalls a torrential downpour that threatened to disrupt an open house in 2003.

“As the students and parents were being dismissed to attend an Exploring Majors session and go out on tour, it began to rain buckets. But the show had to continue,” McCoy recalls. “Families were wet and realized that we had no control over the weather.”

Everything turned out OK.

“Prospective families stayed for the entire program, regardless of the unexpected shower,” McCoy says. @
Janna Anderson, associate professor of communications, is featured in an online podcast interview with Aaron Strout of Mzinga, a Massachusetts-based white-label social networks provider. Strout, the vice president of new media for Mzinga, is known for his interviews with technology experts. The interview is posted on his “We Are Smarter Than Me” site.

Robert “Bob” Anderson, associate professor of political science, was one of four panelists for OPEN/net, a two-hour call-in program sponsored by the North Carolina state government. The panelists discussed the upcoming presidential elections and North Carolina’s possible role in determining who succeeds President George W. Bush. Anderson also offered analysis for Fox 8 WGHP and News 14 Carolina on Aug. 29 after Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain announced Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate.

Bill Andrews, assistant professor of physical therapy education; Steve Folger, associate professor of physical therapy education; and DPT alumni Shannon Norbet and Lindsay Clark Swift published a research article in the September issue of Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy. “Tests and Measures Used by Specialist Physical Therapists When Examining Patients with Stroke” is the first to comprehensively identify the tests and measures most frequently used by clinicians with neurologic or geriatric specialization when they work with this patient population.


Megan Squire Conklin, associate professor of computing sciences, was one of the organizers of the 2008 Workshop on Public Data about Software Development (WoPDaSD). The workshop, in its third year, was held in Milan, Italy, in September as part of the Fourth International Conference on Open Source Systems.

Samantha DiRosa, assistant professor of art, has a solo exhibit of work at Riley Photography Gallery at the University of Notre Dame. “Gathered Bodies” consists of manipulated photographic images of objects such as leaves and lichen collected from the forest floor and butterfly carcasses accumulated from the shoulders of highways, all arranged in a poetic display.

Shannon Duvall, assistant professor of computer science, wrote “A Mental Makeover for the Graduate Student” for the July/August edition of the magazine IEEE Potentials, a periodical sponsored by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The article gives practical advice for success in graduate school, especially for underrepresented minorities.

Thomas Erdmann, professor of music and education, had two articles featured on the cover of the September/October issue of Saxophone Journal. The articles were about the biggest-selling instrumental musician of all time, Kenny G, and University of Tennessee saxophone professor Connie Frigo. Erdmann has also written the public relations materials for Lori Bell’s upcoming Resonance Records release, The Music of Djavan.

Stephen Futrell, associate professor of music, marked his fifth appearance as featured vocalist with the Eastern Kentucky University Orchestra for the “Pops in the Park” concert and fundraiser. The annual event is produced by the EKU Music Department and the Richmond Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Amanda Gallagher, assistant professor of communications, co-authored a paper that will be published in Newspaper Research Journal in 2009. “Civic Respondents: A Content Analysis of Sources Quoted in Newspaper Coverage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita” found that official sources were not used in the news stories as often as unofficial sources.

Dave Gammon, assistant professor of biology, and former Elon student Brady Loux recently learned that mockingbirds preferentially mimic species whose acoustic characteristics match the physiological capabilities of mockingbirds. They presented their findings in August at the national meeting of the Animal Behavior Society in Snowbird, Utah.

Mary Gowan, dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and professor of management, co-authored a paper titled “Corporate Social Responsibility, Applicants’ Ethical Predispositions, and Organizational Attraction” that was presented at the recent Academy of Management meeting in Anaheim, Calif.
Anthony Hatcher, associate professor of communications, published an article in the July issue of the *Journal of Media and Religion*. “Adding God: Religious and Secular Press Framing in Response to the Insertion of ‘Under God’ in the Pledge of Allegiance” examines how the issue of adding “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 was framed and influenced by two forces: the Catholic Knights of Columbus and the secular Hearst newspapers.

Kim Jones, assistant professor of anthropology, was a featured speaker this summer at two workshops in Brazil. The first was for the directors of the Humanitization of the Public Hospitals Program from various municipalities in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. She was also the featured speaker for the 1st Annual Conference on Applied Medical Anthropology, Public Health, and Humanitization of Public Hospitals at the State University of Montes Claros (UNIMONTES).

Margaret Robison Kantlehner, associate dean for external relations and associate professor of law, joined three Elon Law students for a July presentation at the “Power Girls” Summer Leadership Institute at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro.

Peter Kiwitt, assistant professor of communications, was named the founding chair of the Entertainment Industry Caucus for the University Film and Video Association (UFVA). The caucus’s mission is to share the expertise of members with industry experience as well as to help members transition into academe.

Richard McBride, university chaplain and director of church relations, coordinated a protest in front of an Alamance County Board of Commissioners meeting that was featured Aug. 26 on “Morning Edition,” an NPR program broadcast across the nation. The protest attracted dozens of residents who were offering support for a 23-year-old county librarian who faces deportation for being in the country illegally.

Jon Metzger, associate professor of music, has received his 20th consecutive American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Plus Award.

Barbara Miller, assistant professor of communications, co-wrote an article that was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Applied Communication Research*. “Digging Deeper: Crisis Communication in the Coal Industry” found that the lack of a professional communicator on staff, as well as the lack of implementation of crisis communication into overall policy planning strategies, prevents coal companies from being able to preempt or respond adequately to a crisis.

David Noer, Frank S. Holt Jr. Professor of Business Leadership, had a column published Sept. 7 in the Greensboro *News & Record*. The column, “The Mo Green Question,” examines the selection of new Guilford County Schools Superintendent Mo Green and what expectations the board of education may have for him.

Rebeca Olmedo, assistant professor of Spanish, received a grant from the Carolina and Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies that funded her summer research for a new foreign language course, “Gender, Race and Religion in Latin America.”

Monica Pagano, assistant dean of international programs, and Laura Roselle, professor of political science, had an article accepted for publication in *Frontiers*, one of the most prominent American journals devoted to the analysis of study abroad. “Beyond Reflection Through an Academic Lens: Refraction and International Experiential Education” discusses experiential learning and the process of reflection, introduces the concept of refraction to explain how learning takes place and provides examples from international service learning and international internship programs.

Roselle also chaired two panels in August at the American Political Science Association’s (APSA) annual meeting in Boston: “Global Multistakeholder Networked Governance for Information and Communication Technology Policy” and “Blogging, eGovernment, and Public Administration.” Roselle was also elected chair of the Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award Committee for 2009 by the political communication section of APSA.


Mina Garcia Soormally, assistant professor of Spanish, presented an article in Málaga, Spain, in July. “Construir un imperio a partir de Andalucía: Fray Hernando de Talavera, primer arzobispo de Granada y sus ecos en Nueva España” is part of a volume based on Andalusian writers and also those who lived or wrote on Andalusia, Spain.

Kerstin Sorensen, assistant professor of political science, presented a paper in September at the International Sociological Association Research Committee 19’s conference on “The Future of Social Citizenship: Politics, Institutions, and Outcomes” in Sweden. Her paper, “The Inter-American Development Bank and Poverty Reduction,” examines the debates within the Inter-American Development Bank on poverty and the ideas guiding the bank’s strategies, actions and policy advice since its renewed commitment in the mid-1990s to reducing poverty and promoting social equity in Latin America.

Nicole Triche, instructor of communications, had two of her thesis films — “Experiment 002: Thaumatrope” and “Experiment 003: Wire”— shownSept. 21 at filmSPARK 2008. FilmSPARK is part of SPARK-con, an annual showcase of the creative works of Triangle artists. She also had her short film, “Metacarpus,” shown as part of the Hi Mom! Film Festival opening night screening in September in Chapel Hill.

Matthew Valle, professor of management, co-wrote a manuscript accepted for publication in the journal Career Development International. “Understanding the use of intimidation as a response to job tension: Career implications for the global leader” reports on a study his research team conducted that investigated the relationship between job tension and the use of intimidation in the workplace.

University Advancement staff member and former Elon football coach Jerry Tolley, right, with Rear Admiral Edward “Ted” Walker. Walker, chair of the Grandparent Leadership Society, made a $100,000 gift in Tolley’s honor to support athletics facility expansion.
Norman Aldridge, moving and set-up worker
A native of Yanceyville, N.C., Norman previously worked for A. O. Smith Co., which produces water and electrical products. In his free time, Norman enjoys staying active with softball, cycling and hiking.

Crystal Anderson, associate professor of English
Crystal most recently taught at the University of Kansas. A Virginia native, she received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Richmond, her master’s degree from the University of Virginia and her doctorate from the College of William and Mary. She was attracted to Elon because of its reputation and the chance to teach motivated students a variety of subjects. Crystal lives with her dog, Marley, and enjoys home décor, crochet and gardening.

Marquita Barker, assistant director of residence life
Marquita was raised in Norfolk, Va., and earned degrees from Old Dominion University. After graduating, she became a residence hall director there. She came to Elon for the small community and professional growth opportunities. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, shopping, spending time with her family and watching political television shows.

Chiichao Catherine Chiang, assistant professor of accounting
A native of Cary, N.C., Chiichao comes to Elon from North Carolina Central University. She earned degrees in accounting and management from N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill, and a doctorate from City University of New York. She likes Elon’s MBA program, as well as the “state-of-the-art facilities and well maintained, beautiful campus.” She lives with her husband, Tâ-Ming Chen, and their children, Justin and Ryan. She enjoys traveling, hiking and swimming.

Barry Coe, campus security officer
Barry is originally from Graham, N.C. He worked in law enforcement before coming to Elon, and he remains an active real estate agent. Barry says that one of the most appealing aspects of working at Elon is tuition benefits for his wife and children.

Richard Earl Cook, assistant professor of performing arts and music director
Richard previously worked at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He enjoys cooking and rollerblading, and lives with his wife, Carol, son, John, and the family’s two miniature dachshunds, Wolfgang and Constance.

Lauren Cox, staff accountant
Lauren comes to Elon from the auditing firm Ernst and Young. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Lauren loves Carolina football and basketball. She lives in Greensboro with her husband, Jordan, and their dog.

Abigail Doukhan, instructor of philosophy
Abigail is originally from Strasbourg, France. Prior to her current position, she taught philosophy on the high school level. She says she was attracted to Elon because of the opportunity for engaged teaching.

Christine Engel, head cross country coach
Christine is a native of Flanders, N.J., and comes to Elon after working as a coach at Columbia University. She was a decorated runner as a student at Clemson University. At Elon, she is coaching the women’s and men’s cross country teams.

Kim Farmer, dispatcher
Kim is a native of Gibsonville, N.C. He lives with his wife, Cynthia, and their 4-year-old daughter, Eva. In his free time, he enjoys fishing and playing with his three Italian greyhounds.

Claudia Harris, visiting associate professor of business administration
Claudia received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Eastern Kentucky University and a master’s degree in business and a doctorate in management and finance from the University of Utah. Prior to coming to Elon, she taught at N.C. Central University and UNC-Chapel Hill. Claudia enjoys the arts, especially singing in her church choir, playing the violin and working on fabric art and embroidery.

Jared J. Heymann, assistant professor of chemistry
Jared received his bachelor’s degree from Gannon University and a doctorate in chemistry from Duke University. He lives with his wife, Michelle, and their cats, Hines Ward and Tommy Maddox, both named after professional football players. He enjoys staying active by taking part in volleyball, golf, bowling and softball in his free time.

Duke Hutchings, assistant professor of computing sciences
Duke grew up in Victor, N.Y. He comes from Bowling Green State University and chose Elon because of the “wonderful atmosphere for learning.” Duke lives with his wife, Heather, and his two dogs, Oscar and Emmy. He enjoys ultimate Frisbee, hiking and card games.
Michelle Jones, assistant director of career services for arts and sciences
Michelle comes to Elon from Appalachian State University, where she worked as a graduate assistant in the Walker College of Business Career Services. She was attracted to Elon by the friendly staff and beautiful campus. A native of Richmond, Va., Michelle enjoys traveling, hiking, watching movies and cheering for the Washington Redskins.

Howard Katz, professor of law
Howard joins the faculty after teaching at Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, where he was a visiting professor. He enjoys basketball and architecture and came to Elon because of its “commitment to engaged learning.”

Shannon C. Kimball, program assistant
Formerly the manager of a women’s fitness center, Shannon calls Graham her hometown. She has two children, Luke and Olivia, and a Jack Russell terrier, Lacy. She enjoys exercising, reading and going to the beach.

Ryan Kirk, instructor of geography and environmental studies
Ryan joins Elon’s geography and environmental studies departments after earning a doctorate in natural resource science and management from the University of Minnesota. He was drawn to Elon by its “remarkably strong community and commitment to student learning.” Before his arrival, he worked as an adjunct instructor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. In his spare time, he dabbles with photography, soccer, hiking and camping.

Rotua Lumbantobing, instructor of economics
Rotua is originally from Jakarta, Indonesia. She is working toward a doctorate at North Carolina State University and was attracted to Elon because of its quality of students and small size. She enjoys walking her Jack Russell terrier, Bonnie, in her free time.

Mena Assunta Marino, instructor of Italian
Marino was attracted to Elon by its reputation and friendly people. In her free time, Mena enjoys reading about sports.

Paul Namaste, assistant professor of sociology
Paul, who had been an assistant professor at Grand Valley State University until his move to Elon, was attracted to the institution’s “genuine focus on student learning and support for continuous experimentation and improvement in teaching.” Elon was also a perfect fit for him because his wife, Nina, is a professor of foreign languages here. Paul likes to spend time with Nina and their daughter, Samira. He is also interested in hiking, photography, watching movies and reading science fiction.

Nina B. Namaste, assistant professor of Spanish
A Chicago native, Nina comes to Elon after working in the Midwest. Nina received a bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and a master’s degree and doctorate from Indiana University. She previously worked at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., and joined the Elon faculty because she said she feels that “people genuinely wanted to work together toward the same goal — learning and growth of the individual and community.”

Amy Neal, wellness program assistant
Amy comes to Elon after working for the United Way of the Cape Fear Area, a Habitat for Humanity organization in her hometown of Wilmington, N.C. She earned her undergraduate degree at James Madison University and her MPA from UNC-Wilmington. She lives with her husband, Chris, and her two dogs, Bella and Zoe. She enjoys walking the dogs and gardening.

Carl Niedziela, assistant professor of biology
Carl is a native of Pelham, N.C., and most recently taught at North Carolina A&T University. He says that he was attracted to Elon because of its collegial atmosphere. Carl enjoys gardening and woodworking, as well as the company of his dog and two parakeets that he shares with his wife, Linda.

Thomas Erwin Noble, visiting assistant professor of law
Thomas has previously worked as an attorney for Tuggle, Duggins and Meschan in Pennsylvania and Neal, Gerber and Eisenberg, LLP, in Chicago. Originally from San Jose, Calif., Thomas and his wife, Jennifer Carney Noble, have three children, Jackson Connor, Avery Caroline and Piper Carney.

Delio Estrada Palacios, custodian
Delio, a native of Gibsonville, N.C., says he thinks Elon is a nice place to work. He lives with his wife and two children, along with Rodney, the family’s pet guinea pig. When he’s not working, he likes to go to the park.

Courtney Poythress, program assistant
Courtney has an associate’s degree in business administration and calls Burlington her hometown. This is her first job. When she’s not working, she enjoys spending time at home with her dog, Besse.

Jonathan S. Romm, Campus Compact program coordinator
Jonathan, a former member of the United States Peace Corps, is now Elon’s representative for Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement and service learning in higher education. His interests include black-and-white photography, disc golf and basketball.
Murray Silverstone, assistant professor of physics
Murray comes to Elon after working as a research associate at the University of Arizona’s Steward Observatory. He studied astronomy and astrophysics at Harvard College as an undergraduate before earning a doctorate in astronomy from UCLA. He decided to come to Elon to teach excellent students and share his passion for astronomy. In his spare time, Murray enjoys mountain biking, cooking and political action, and holds a special affinity for Macintosh computers.

Chad Smith, assistant professor of exercise science
Chad comes to Elon from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He lives in Greensboro with his wife, Karen, and enjoys camping and hiking.

John M. Strollo, assistant football coach
A Long Branch, N.J., native, John previously worked at Duke University. He attended Boston College and Springfield College. He and his wife, Janet, have two daughters, Katie and Emily, and he enjoys motorcycles and model airplanes.

Safia Swimelar, assistant professor of political science
Safia hails from Austin, Texas, where she received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Texas. She also holds a doctorate from the University of Nebraska. She comes to Elon after spending five years teaching at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. Safia lives with her husband, Adnan, her 4-year-old daughter, Sienna, and their two dogs, Stella and Bergman. She enjoys staying active with yoga, swimming and tennis, as well as traveling and discovering new independent and foreign films.

Jalonda Thompson, assistant director of multicultural affairs and leadership
Jalonda previously worked at Salem College and calls Kernersville, N.C., her hometown. She enjoys the arts, namely musicals, plays and classical music, and sports. She was attracted to Elon by its sense of community.

Nagatha Tonkins, director of internships and external relations for the School of Communications
Nagatha is a graduate of North Carolina A&T University, where she served as an internship director and assistant professor. Her background is in television and radio news reporting. She came to Elon after being impressed with the friendly people, strong academics, students, technology and campus beauty. Nagatha enjoys reading, traveling to the beach, watching home decorating shows on TV and entertaining her friends and family.

Nicole Triche, instructor of communications
Nicole comes to Elon from her hometown of Durham, N.C., after working for the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian State University and a master’s degree from UNC-Greensboro. She came to Elon because of the “excellent reputation and friendly faculty and staff.” She lives with her husband, Evan, and her dog, Laika. She likes shooting Super 8, reading and going to the movies.

William M. (Mike) Wilder, adjunct instructor of mathematics
Mike joins the Elon faculty after working for Lucent Technologies. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, California Polytechnic State University and UNC-Greensboro, Mike lives with his wife, Randi, and dog, Hobbes, in Burlington.

Pamela Winfield, assistant professor of religious studies
Pamela joins Elon from Meredith College in Raleigh. She came to the university because of its high academic caliber and study abroad opportunities. She enjoys yoga and traveling abroad, especially to see museums and temples. Pamela and her husband, Jacques, are new parents to son Thomas.

Donna K. Wood, serials paraprofessional
A North Carolina native, Donna earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UNC-Greensboro. Before coming to Elon, she worked for the Guilford County Register of Deeds, and she believes that Elon is “a wonderful place to begin my career in librarianship.” She has two dogs, Jack and Cooper, and three cats, Maggie, Charlie and Cody. She also enjoys reading and gardening.

Jennifer Workman, program assistant
Jennifer, who calls Burlington home, received a bachelor’s degree from UNC-Wilmington in communication studies. She enjoys working out, shopping, being with friends and football games.

Karen Yokley, assistant professor of mathematics
Karen is a Columbia, Tenn., native and graduate of the University of Tennessee and N.C. State University. She previously worked as a postdoctoral fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “I like that Elon is focused on the students,” she says. “I wanted to work in a place where there was a sense of community, and Elon seems to be a great place to continue to learn and make a difference in education.”
Happy Birthday!

Oct. 27  Derrick A. Cash
Kathleen E. Edwards
Eugenia H. Leggett

Oct. 28  Eugene B. Grimley
Katherine L. Neas
Sandra L. Reid

Oct. 29  Ren H. Bryan
Terry Buckley
Harold C. Carr
Bill M. Webb

Oct. 30  Amy C. Whitmer

Oct. 31  Sheri L. Wall

Nov. 1  Richard E. Cook
Gray Hunter

Nov. 2  Sheldon B. Carr
Matthew W. Clark
Jay E. Harper
Rhonda W. Kosusko

Nov. 3  Sharon N. Gaskin
Clay Hassard
Bill Morningstar

Nov. 4  Henry D. Gabriel

Nov. 5  Bonnie R. McAlister
Ata L. Paylor
Scott Rivera
Jodean K.
Schmiederer

Nov. 6  Robert C. Day
Fred E. Melchor
Darlene Pinnix
Jerry R. Tolley
Nicole E. Triche

Nov. 7  Robert G. Anderson
Dale J. Becherer
Barry L. Coe
Darrell W. Gantt

Nov. 8  Sandra D. Bays
Phyllis S. Phillips
Rene B. Summers
Larry D. Vellani

Nov. 9  Jesse A. Borkowski
Amanda L. Sink
Jeffrey K.
Weatherford

Nov. 10 Charity A. Johansson

Nov. 11 Lynda A. Butler-Storsvold
Barbara L. Gordon
Lisa R. Roper
Barbara A. Walsh

Nov. 12 Neal S. Byrd
Jody F. Cassell
Roger Gant
Claudine R. Moreau
Maurice C. Stephens
Renie C. Thompson
Jennifer K. Tucci
Karen A. Yokley

Nov. 13 Nick Herman
Deirdre F. Lea
Katie C. Nash
Daniel Skidmore
Carolyn B. Stuart
Christopher C. Waters

Nov. 14 Peter Breidenbach
Art D. Cassill
Annie M. Hester
Eric V. Hill

Nov. 15 Barry B. Beedle
Becca F. McQueen

Nov. 16 Brandon M. Eland
Marie L. Murray
Melinda J. Wood
Donald P. Woolley

Nov. 17 Anita K. Briggs
Jim L. Murphy

Nov. 18 Mat H. Gendle
Kay M. Riddle
Sandra O. Singleton

Nov. 19 Stephen P. Bailey
Danny C. Cross
Deborah T. Long
Richard W. McBride
Yvette B. Ross
Scott D. Stevens

Nov. 20 Melisha H. Chamra
Gloria J. Thompson
Shawn R. Tucker

Nov. 21 Shannon L. Duvall
Amy J. Stringer

Nov. 22 Apasra M. Christian

Nov. 23 Michelle L. Ebbs
Kristen Sullivan

Nov. 24 Tony A. Sawyer
K.J. Storz
Eddie N. Watkins
Jamane Yeager

Nov. 25 Nina B. Namaste
Faith R. Rivers
Kim B. Werr

Nov. 26 Nim Batchelor
Linda S. Cykert
Michelle B. Woods

Nov. 27 Jayme L. Price

Nov. 28 Kim Epting
Leary Davis
William T. Ingrassia
Edward L. Marsh
Karen R. Nunez

Dec. 1  Anthony J. Amoruso
Richard P. Bang
Jason A. Kirk
Lisa M. Ponton
Katie A. Reetz

Dec. 2  Judith Garcia

Dec. 3  Gloria Graves
Kehaya T. Wescott

Dec. 4  Randall H. Bowman
Leary Davis
William T. Ingrassia
Edward L. Marsh
Karen R. Nunez

Dec. 5  Lawrence L. Garber
Tammy D. Horn
Tom C. Mould

Dec. 6  David Burnett
Maggie C. Byerly
Richard D’Amato
Michael R. Skube
Amy H. Vaughn

Dec. 7  Claudia S. Harris
Marna K. Winter
David N. Worden

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Employee discounts available

Several merchants in the Burlington area offer discounts to Elon employees. New discounts available this year include AARP memberships, Sam’s Club one-day memberships, Hertz car rentals and Carolina Hurricanes tickets. DeLil Nail Studio and Tanning Gallery are also offering discounts, and local apartment complexes are providing move-in specials.

Additionally, several theme parks offer discount coupons throughout the year. You can contact the office of human resources to receive coupons and brochures.

For a complete listing of all discounts available to Elon employees, go to http://www.elon.edu/hr/disc_opp.htm.