Jennifer Ruggiero — Assistant Director of Career Services, the College of Arts and Sciences

Jennifer brings to our staff more than a decade of experience in the Career Services field at Hofstra University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Teresa Walker — Assistant Director of Career Services, the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business

Teresa moves into this position from her former role as Coordinator of Internships in the Love School of Business. She holds an Elon MBA and has 15 years of business experience.

Professional Discovery Week, launched last year with significant success, returns again this year with an expanded week of programming. Below are some of the highlights. Many departments have organized events designed especially for their majors, often involving the return of alumni. These programs, open to all students, are important components in our focus on transition strategies.

- Feb. 11 5:30 McKinnon Hall Professional Etiquette: Meals, Meetings, and Manners
- Feb. 12 6:00 KOBC 101 The Interview Reality Show
- Feb. 13 5:30 KOBC 101 How to Work a Room: Networking Step by Step
- Feb. 14 4:00 KOBC 101 Life After Elon: Preparing for the Real World
- Feb. 14 6:00 KOBC 101 Generational Differences in the Workplace: Keys to Getting Ahead
NEW PROGRAMMING LAUNCHED THIS FALL

StrengthsFinder
On October 1, Dr. Chris Hitch, Program Director in Executive Development with the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School and an Elon parent, presented two workshops to 55 students. Participants used the book, StrengthsFinder, and completed an online assessment helping them to identify their strengths. The workshop focused their attention on leveraging those strengths as they make decisions about their future.

Ultimate Career Launch
On October 30, the Love School of Business brought to campus Don Masura, a professional career management consultant who offered Business students a fast-paced workshop focused on preparing them to launch a successful job search, including the arts of interviewing, networking, and negotiating.

On December 5, Don offered students in Elon’s MBA program a career development workshop that included strategies for implementing an effective job search. Topics included positioning, networking, and negotiating.

FOUR KAPLAN COURSES SCHEDULED FOR SPRING

During Spring semester, Elon will sponsor four Kaplan Preparatory courses on campus. For two years, the GRE and LSAT have been offered on campus and student response has been very positive. This spring Elon will continue to offer these two courses.

In addition, students planning a graduate education in the medical fields will have an opportunity to take the MCAT on campus. Previously, Elon students have traveled to Chapel Hill twice weekly to take this course.

Additionally, the GMAT will be offered for individuals seeking entry into a graduate business school. This on-campus course will help Elon students seeking to participate in Elon’s MBA program or enroll in another program. It will also provide an opportunity for local residents currently employed in the area and seeking enrollment in Elon’s MBA program to take the course locally instead of driving to Durham or Chapel Hill.

“So YOU WANT TO MOVE TO . . . .”

A BIG decision for students is choosing where to live when they graduate. Some want to return to their home geographic area; others do not. Increasingly, young people decide where they want to live and THEN look for that first job.

On November 14, Career Services and Alumni Relations partnered to sponsor the first in a series of programs addressing this issue. Four alumni who now live in Charlotte — Chris Landino, Amy Wellington, and Matt and Kelly Kalajian — returned to campus to talk with a group of students about their decision to live in Charlotte, what living in the city is like, how they found their jobs, and the direction that their career paths have taken.

Students had lots of questions and stayed for over 90 minutes talking to Chris, Amy, Matt, and Kelly. Future feature cities will include Raleigh, Atlanta, and Washington, DC.
Planning for life after Elon can’t wait until Spring semester of the Senior year! This year, Career Services and Student Affairs have partnered to provide programming for sophomores and juniors designed to jumpstart their thinking and planning.

In October, a Sophomore class meeting attracted nearly 300 students. The class officers produced a lively program focusing on the Elon Experiences. Pam Brumbaugh, Director of Experiential Education, encouraged students to engage in multiple Experiences, explaining that they are an integral component of an Elon education and will give students a head start in securing outstanding internships and employment.

In November, the Junior class meeting focused on a conversation with 2007 graduates. These recent alums participated in a panel describing what they are doing now and explaining how they prepared to get there. Appropriately, the theme for the evening was “If I’d known then what I know now . . . .” Debby Wall and Jennifer Ruggiero outlined how Career Services can help students NOW as they plan for the future.

Both classes designed special t-shirts to commemorate the event and foster class solidarity. An annual tradition has begun!

**Transition Strategies—A New Look for a Popular Course**

Students have long had the opportunity to take a one-hour course entitled “Securing a Job,” taught by Career Services professionals. The Love School of Business has developed a similar class, “Personal Mastery,” for its majors. Both classes prepare students for life after Elon by focusing on self-understanding and decision-making, and by honing their resumes as well as presentation and interviewing skills.

During Winter Term and Spring Semester all Elon students will have an opportunity to take such a course. “Securing a Job” has been retitled “Transition Strategies,” better describing its breadth and focus. Ten sections will be offered in Spring, taught not only by Career Services professionals but also by other Elon faculty and staff. Additionally, some staff members have chosen to develop a special theme section of the course. Themes will include Ecocitizenship, Graduate School Options in the Health Care Professions, Securing a Graduate School Assistantship, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, and Personal Finances.

These courses are designed primarily for juniors and seniors but are open to all students. As students recognize the value of these courses and demand grows, so will the number of sections. Topics in the theme sections will vary with faculty and staff expertise.

**Video Conferencing Comes to the Career Center**

Career Services now has the ability to arrange video conferences in the Career Center conference room, thanks to a partnership with Media Services.

- Remote interviewing/recruiting now becomes a very real option that we can offer employers who otherwise might not recruit on campus
- We can utilize the expertise of our parents and alumni to provide workshops and networking opportunities for our students
- We can share this technology with other campus constituencies, such as departments seeking to enhance phone interviews with candidates
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Important Spring Events

- Four Kaplan Preparatory Courses offered on campus — LSAT, GRE, MCAT, GMAT
- Professional Discovery Week — February 11-14, 2008
- ENCCA Career Fair — February 21, 2008 McKinnon Center — Raleigh
  (www.enccacareerfair.org)
- Metrolina/CIAA Career Fair — February 28, 2008 Charlotte Convention Center — Charlotte (www.metrolinacolleges.org)
- Elon Career and Graduate School Fair — March 11 — Alumni Gymnasium
- Elon Teacher Fair — March 17 — McKinnon Hall
- Education Job Fair — March 18 — Great Hall, Student Union, UNC-CH
- NCCC Career Fair with Non-Profit Organizations — March 19 — Guilford College Alumni Gym