New Student & Transition Programs

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2015-2016 Year Review
Thank you, Graduates!

**Ryan Bennett**  
*Sport & Event Management*

My favorite thing about NSTP is the incredible experiences that it provides and the relationship that you build with those in the programs. After graduation I will be interning for the second time as a USGA P.J. Boatwright Intern with the Carolinas Golf Association to further develop my professional abilities within the golf industry and to help start a career in tournament operations.

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**Kimberly Temlak**  
*Media Analytics*

I enjoyed working with amazing people and learning how Elon goes the extra mile to help students transition into the Elon community and become the best versions of themselves! After graduation I will be working for WMC Global in Fairfax, VA as a Media Analyst. I will be intercepting and monitoring data from advertising creative placed all over the world.

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**Anna Brown**  
*Elementary Education*

After graduation I will be teaching somewhere, but I don’t know where yet! My favorite thing about working in the NSTP office was the opportunity to work with a variety of different leaders around campus, both students and faculty. It is such a fun environment to work in and a close-knit office!

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**Kimberly Beale**  
*Human Service Studies*

My favorite thing about NSTP is the family aspect that we have. My Elon experience would be drastically different without my job at NSTP. I am sad to graduate and leave the office. After graduation I will be working at Elon University as one of the new Elon Community Impact Fellows for Education.
New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation was off to a fast start in 2016! We have now hired 150 incredible orientation leaders out of a record breaking 240 applicants and began training this spring! Training will also be held in August prior to Move-In Day. This semester Head Staff spent time learning, leading and team-building at the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop at East Carolina University. Our Head Staffers, Abbie Dalton & Patrick Achey, were awarded “Best Problem-Solving” for their work in the Undergraduate Case Study competition, and our Graduate Intern, Cait Williams, and her partner were awarded “Best Problem-Solving” for their work in the Graduate Student Case Study competition. Our Head Staffers were voted 1st Place in the Spirit Competition by all of the other attending colleges & universities! We enjoyed the opportunity to put the continuous training to work and welcome all of the accepted students to Elon University’s great close-knit community at the secondary Rising Phoenix Weekend on April 23rd. Rising Phoenix Weekend is for prospective students and those who have already paid their deposit to learn more about Elon. The Orientation Leaders facilitated a session with prospective students about what Elon offers and why its community is so unique. All of this will further prepare New Student Orientation for the most anticipated day of the year, Move-In Day!
Gap Experience

The 2015 cohort of Gap Students finished the first semester of their college careers with a six-week adventure in Costa Rica, where they spent time studying the Spanish language and Latin American society and culture. Students were fully immersed in the Costa Rican lifestyle as they lived with host families in and around San Jose for six weeks. Additionally, they also explored the beautiful country through weekend excursions to beaches, volcanoes and forests, while adding activities like snorkeling, white water rafting, volunteering and dancing!

Prior to Costa Rica, students moved from South Dakota to Missouri, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. In St. Louis, students worked with Gateway Greening to help collect food from their urban farms. They learned about food insecurity and the value of having fresh food available in highly urban areas. From there, the students drove to Mullens, West Virginia, where they learned about RAIL-history. RAIL is an organization created to combat the poverty in the West Virginia coalfields. They volunteered and helped repair a space for the local community that had been ruined by severe flooding. The final stop before break was in Washington D.C. Students studied homelessness and social awareness. Students worked at local food banks to learn about causes of homelessness and how they can make a difference and help those in need.

NSTP prides itself on helping incoming students transition to a successful college experience. Upon returning, a few Gap dinners allowed students to catch up with one another and have a fun meet-and-greet with all Gap Alumni. The students have also met with previous Gap students as mentors and have a few events planned to get to know them! With Spring Semester coming to a close, the professional staff has finished extending offers to 2016 cohort members.

Caroline Cirby
Gap Program Student Coordinator
The First-Year Summer Experience staff members are very excited to announce the student facilitators for Summer 2016 experiences. There was a record high number of 44 applications. Through the interview process, the applicants told amazing stories about their past experiences, which included:

- acting as a training officer for ROTC
- working for America Reads
- mentoring elementary school girls through promoting healthy eating, exercise, and self-love
- participating in a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) program by leading classmates on a hiking and backpacking outdoor leadership excursion
- studying as a member of the Elon Gap Experience
- mentoring younger students as high school orientation leaders
- being a member of the Language Learning Community here at Elon
- leading mission trips to the Dominican Republic
- promoting positive self-image and self-esteem by being a teen girl ambassador at a national conference
- tutoring inner city children
- and receiving an award for completing over 100 hours of service through Habitat for Humanity.

These students are Honors and Leadership Fellows and members of numerous honor societies.

Colleen Fitzpatrick
First-Year Summer Experience Student Coordinator

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**Your 2016 FSE Facilitators!**

**Adventures in Leadership:** Taylor Cassidy, Michael Gibeley, Marley Goetz, Jack Hartmann, Hanna Kraus, Lyn Nelson, Madisen Norton, Alex Pfeiff,

**Discovery:** Elizabeth McDonald, Gabe Thornton

**Engage (formerly known as Pre-Serve):** Anthony Fraden, Natalie Intemann, Emma Ridgeway, Will Tracy

**Innovation:** Colton Cadarette, Hallee Bernstein

**Thrive:** Caroline Cirby, Madeline Reynolds
Student Interview
Rebecca Rabiner &
Colton Cadarette

What were your expectations going into this experience?
“I expected to meet new people, make friends, and see a lot of cool sights in LA.” - R.R.

“I expected, at the very least to make a few friends, and to see the “typical” touristy attractions around LA.” – C.C.

Do you feel that this experience has helped in your transition to Elon?
“Definitely. It’s really nice to see familiar faces on campus, and I’ve spent a lot of time with students from the program.” - R.R.

“Going to LA, although not traditional, had everything to do with me transitioning smoothly into my life here at Elon. Although I am only a mere week in, I know that I have friends that I can count on. Seeing them around campus and meeting up with my friends I was in LA with, really helped me coming here.” – C.C.

What is your favorite memory from the trip?
“My favorite memory from the trip was going to the TCL Chinese Theater and seeing a film on the IMAX screen. Overall, I loved getting to know the other students and faculty members on the trip.” - R.R.

“There are a lot of memories that stand out when I think of the trip. One of my favorites was when we went to Santa Monica, biked along the beach, and then went to the pier for dinner with Dean Parsons, who also happened to be in LA when we were.” – C.C.

What would you say to any student who is thinking about participating in this program?
“I would highly recommend it. You meet awesome people and see really cool parts of LA.” - R.R.

“I would encourage them to go for it, initially, I was really nervous. I had no idea what LA was like and the thought of traveling across the country by myself was really intimidating. I know that this program helped me to do things outside my comfort zone, and I know that I will be going back to LA at some point because of it. The Innovation orientation is a great way to meet new people, explore a new place and utilize the many great opportunities that Elon has to offer.” – C.C.
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