

E-PEOPLE

Who are the keepers of Elon history?

By Laura Weisiger '06

Belk Library is home to thousands of books, dozens of computers and a steady stream of chattering (but industrious) students. However, the second floor houses one of the most interesting collections in the library — the Elon Archives and Special Collections. Taking care of these collections was the job of Connie Keller until this past June, when Katie Nash joined the Elon staff as a full-time archivist.

An Elon employee since 1979, Keller has seen the archives and special collections grow. The archives include artifacts and documents too fragile to be on a shelf, some pieces dating back to the 1780s. Elon didn't have an official archive until 1996, Keller says. Before that, volunteers worked on the collection part time.

The special collections include documents on the history of the United Church of Christ and its affiliation with Elon as well as the Elon authors collection — various writings from current and former Elon faculty, staff and students. The authors collection begins in the 1940s, says Nash.

The special collections also include books from every speaker who has visited Elon. Keller has made it a point to get each book signed, which means she's met dignitaries such as George H.W. Bush, Elie Wiesel and Margaret Thatcher. Keller says one of the most interesting people she's met is Francis Bok, an author and former slave.

The archives and special collections room, dedicated to the preservation of Elon history, houses a piece of the senior oak, one of the few still believed to be in existence. Pieces of the oak were sold not long after its demise.

Located outside McEwen building, the senior oak was a huge tree that was a favorite meeting place for students and the site of many marriage proposals as well. Sadly, lightning struck the oak in the early 1980s, and the tree was cut down (see story on page 2).



Katie Nash (left), special collections librarian and archivist, and Connie Keller (right), coordinator of library technical services and systems. Nash is wearing an Elon football jacket, donated to the Elon archives by Edwin Davidson, Class of 1957.

"I remember watching them chop down the tree," says Keller. "We all just sat outside and watched. It was the saddest thing."

In her current job as coordinator of library technical services and systems, Keller works with reference collections, government documents, and the acquisition, processing and maintenance of the library's collection.

Nash is Elon's first full-time archivist. She began working in Belk with the archives and special collections in June. Previously, she worked at the Greensboro History Museum.

"I've always liked dealing with old photos and manuscripts," she says.

For those who are interested in Elon history, the archives have a number of old yearbooks, graduation programs, catalogs, photographs and more. To access this collection, Nash encourages faculty and staff to make appointments.

Adds Keller, "This is not a drop-in place. It's best if you let us know what you're looking for so that we can be prepared."

Various classes visit the collections and archives room each semester, says Nash. Faculty are also frequent researchers. The archives especially attract people from the community who are interested in finding information about their relatives, Keller says.

Two especially interesting collections are the Sloan Bible Collection and the Marjorie Hunter Collection. The Sloan

Collection includes bibles from all over the world, a gift from former Elon professors Dr. and Mrs. William Sloan. The Marjorie Hunter Collection consists of various items used by alumna Marjorie Hunter, a former reporter for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. This collection is Nash's favorite in the library.

Another collection of rare books includes a 1599 Geneva Bible and a prized 1613 King James Bible donated by Elon trustee emeritus Royall Spence Jr. '42.

"There have always been people who are interested in Elon history," says Keller.

The life of the senior oak

By Bryan Jones '07

Many current students and young faculty do not know about the life of the senior oak. The story of its existence is one of many little-known facts about Elon in the Archives at Belk Library.

The senior oak was the lone surviving tree of the forest grove that was cut down in 1889 to make room for one of the first

buildings on campus. The tree had a crooked, massive trunk that gave it a distinctive look. Will Long Jr., son of William S. Long, the first president of Elon, believed that the tree and its crooked shape looked artistic. After some argument with his father, Will Jr. convinced him to let the tree grow.

Originally, the tree was called "the crooked oak" until 1930, when senior class officers began having their pictures taken beneath the tree. From that point on, the tree was known as "the senior oak."

For the next 50 years, seniors stood beside classmates for cherished photographs beneath the tree. What made the tree such a popular attraction was the fact that it symbolized the school's growth in size and stature.

Lightning struck the tree in 1980, badly damaging it, and a decision was made to cut the historic oak down. The tree was cut into 804 small chunks and offered as gifts to donors. The offer of the small blocks of the tree was announced to alumni just after it was cut down. All 804 pieces of the tree sold rapidly.

Many senior classes over the years have had their own traditions to pass on to future students at Elon. Even though some students may not know the story of the senior oak, those who have a piece of the tree and had their pictures taken beneath it will always think of it as a vital part of Elon's history.



Staff, faculty share the load on Katrina relief trip

By Cathy Hefferin

When **Keith Dimont, supervisor of automotive services**, was asked to be the barbecue chef for 100 people at Our Lady of the Gulf church where Elon's Hurricane Katrina volunteers were working during fall break, he readily agreed. He had been cooking for the physical plant employees for years on move-in and graduation days. He has grilled for benefit golf tournaments and churches. One hundred people would be a piece of cake. Little did he know that number would eventually triple.

Dimont volunteered to accompany the Break for the Bay Service Trip volunteers after seeing all the destruction on television. "I got involved when the students were working hard to raise money. Then the opportunity arose to go with them on the trip," he says. Dimont drove the 26-passenger Elon bus that left campus on the morning of Oct. 14 loaded with student volunteers and headed for the Gulf. **Ray Pruitt, automotive shop foreman**, and **Chris Williams, groundskeeper**, followed in a 24-foot box truck filled with relief supplies donated by the Elon community. The three also loaded the truck with any power tool they thought they might need, a generator and a grill. "I was first told there would be 100-125 people at the Sunday lunch," says Dimont, "but something told me to bring my big grill."

While the bus stopped near Atlanta for a break, Dimont

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Ocek Eke, assistant professor of communications, was one of three faculty members who made the trip to the Gulf Region.

received a call from **J.J. Scott, North Carolina Campus Compact VISTA**, revising the number to 300-350 for Sunday's barbecue. Scott and several students had traveled to Bay St. Louis the day before to set up camp for the volunteers. "I just got out the list and tripled everything," says Dimont. "J.J. and the students who were already there helped with the shopping." In addition to help from Truitt and Williams, Dimont also recruited several of the students to help him set up the grill and cook. Over 200 attended the mass held in the church's community center that Sunday, but Dimont says word of the cookout spread and neighborhood volunteers also came by to eat. "We estimated over 300 ate at the cookout," he says.

Dimont enjoyed the experience. "It was fun getting the students and team leaders involved in planning that," he says. But cooking wasn't their only job that weekend. Dimont, Truitt and Williams were asked to tackle repairs to the church's maintenance shed, which hadn't been touched since the hurricane. Its contents had been pushed to the rear of the shed and covered with mud from the storm surge. The three assessed the situation, then pulled in a couple of students to help. "Everybody worked hard," says Dimont. "It just started clicking." Among other things, the shed had been filled with metal picnic tables that the group cleaned and sanitized for use in the elementary school cafeteria.

Three faculty members who made the trip worked alongside the students sorting clothes, unloading supplies and cleaning up storm debris. **Alexa Darby, assistant professor of psychology**, decided to participate for two reasons. She wanted to help. "I'm not the kind of person to just sit around," she says. She also wanted to explore the possibility of recording oral histories for the families who lost all their photos and keepsakes in the storm. She hopes to develop a Winter Term course for 2007 based on the idea.

Ocek Eke, assistant professor of communications, spent part of Saturday morning helping to unload a trailer of supplies at the United Methodist Church relief center. After the trailer was unloaded, a young mother came out of the church lot carrying a box of drinks, her daughter hanging onto her arm. Several people offered to help, but she refused. Eke took the box from her arms without asking, and she flashed a smile of thanks as she led him to her car. "You can't fathom it," says Eke of the destruction around him. "Even when you see it up close and personal, there are no words to describe it. I wanted to help in any capacity, even if it's helping someone carry a case of Gatorade." Eke and the others did plenty more than that in the three days they spent near the Bay.

Jaime Orejan, assistant professor of leisure and sport management, became the unofficial cheerleader of the group. He formed students into two "bucket brigade" lines to unload the supplies more quickly. Orejan, in the middle of the line, loudly called out the contents of the boxes as they passed from hand to hand. "Plastic cups, silverware, toilet paper, tents, toothpaste, cleaning supplies, first aid — what we'll all need in two hours," he shouted and laughter followed. On Sunday morning, Orejan roused the campers around 7:15 a.m. by singing his version of reveille, "It's time to get up, it's time to get up, it's time to get up in the morning."

Orejan was instrumental in helping to organize the trip through his ties to the area. He grew up in nearby Hattiesburg and knew the priest at Our Lady of the Gulf. He traveled to the area a few days before the students to visit with family and friends. "I just sat and listened and cried with them," he says. "You don't have to say anything."



Keith Dimont, supervisor of automotive services, was the chef for the barbecue for Hurricane Katrina victims during the fall service trip to Bay St. Louis, Miss. Ray Pruitt, automotive shop foreman, is seen in the background.

Orejan has been keeping up with recovery efforts in the Gulf Region. "There is so much to do that the progress they have made is not really visible," he explained. "Three of the students who went with us in October are going back for the month of January on their own." Orejan is helping the students find a place to stay.

Eke will also return to the Gulf in January, leading a Winter Term General Studies course that focuses on civic engagement and volunteerism. Sixteen students have signed up for the class, which will meet on campus for a week before traveling to the hurricane-affected area for a hands-on lesson in volunteering.

Jenny Trimble, director of the Kernodle Center for Service Learning, is helping Eke plan the volunteer work the students will do in the Bay area. The fall Break for Bay service trip was Trimble's first as the center's director; she came to Elon in June. "I thought it was great," says Trimble. Planning is under way for a spring break service trip to the area.

Holiday Disasters

Most people put a lot of planning into their holiday celebrations, but as we all know, even the best laid plans...

My mother is a fabulous cook and pastry chef — she could give Martha Stewart a run for her money and she makes the most wonderful eggnog. Every year, we look forward to that creamy, frothy treat. When I was 10 years old, the family Christmas festivities were to take place at our home. My mother baked for days and had everything just perfect. My mother always made two batches of eggnog, one for the adults and one for the kids, and she used colored punch bowls so that she would know which was which. Well, that year she forgot which bowl she put the kid-friendly eggnog in and put the wrong bowl out with the cookies and treats for the kids. At first we kids thought the eggnog tasted a bit funny, but then we really started to enjoy it. It wasn't long before most of us were pretty drunk. That certainly made for an interesting Christmas Eve and a very low-key Christmas morning as most of the kids had hangovers.

The Christmas I was 12 was also very eventful. My dad had finally gotten a clue as to how to make my mother happy at Christmas, without any hints from mom, and had purchased her a beautiful cashmere cardigan sweater. He had it wrapped at the department store and put it under the tree. That year, we had a cat that was about to have kittens and on Christmas Eve she disappeared. We were really worried about her, but we could not find her anywhere. So, we went to bed, excited for Christmas morning. The next morning, when my dad went to turn on the lights on the tree, he found our cat. She had somehow managed to shred open the box containing mom's sweater, made a nice little nest and proceeded to give birth to eight kittens on the cashmere. That cat had great taste, and those kittens all grew up to be extremely snooty and pampered, as all cats should be.

Holley Berry (Ho Ho Ho), secretary for university relations

Around six years ago, I was living in Bowling Green, Ohio. Right before the holidays, my wife and I flew to see family and friends in our hometown of Burwell, Neb. For our return flight, my parents drove us to the nearest airport, three and a half hours away. We had three legs to our flight back to Ohio. We were flying from Omaha to Minneapolis, from Minneapolis to Detroit, and from Detroit to Toledo. When we arrived in Omaha, they told us our flight was delayed and we would likely miss our connection in Minneapolis. Our family had already left and could not come back to get us, so we decided to take the flight anyhow. When we arrived in Minneapolis, our flight had not left yet, but was boarding. So we ran as fast as we could. When we arrived, there was still a line for the flight. Although we felt like we were going to be sick, we were excited to have made it. We then realized the line was for people getting new flights. The flight had been cancelled. We were placed on standby for the next morning. We had to stay in the airport that night.

The next day we got on the flight to Detroit, which we later found was the last flight to land. Detroit was already snowed in and every gate was filled with planes. We sat on the runway for over three hours before we were finally able to get to a gate and deplane. You may remember this flight being on the news. There was a major storm that swept across the country and many people from our flight entered into legal negotiations with the airline for not allowing anyone to have food, water or use the restroom (even babies). In Detroit, they kept placing us on standby for the flight to Toledo — every four hours for two straight days, knowing good and well we were never going to fly out. Needless to say, this was a long and painful few days of airport sleeping with thousands of others. We would have remained at the airport longer, but luckily my wife's boss came and picked us up in Detroit and drove us back to Bowling Green. It was a holiday experience we will never forget.

Jerrid Freeman, associate director of residence life operations and information management

I remember one year my parents switched names on the presents. My presents had my sister's name on them, hers had my name on them, in case we peeked before Christmas morning. (We wouldn't do that.)

Ernie C. White, painter



During my freshman year of college, my family and I traveled to Pittsburgh right before Christmas to see the Nutcracker. As we were pulling into the restaurant parking lot, our van stopped running. While we ate dinner, my dad called a tow truck to repair the van. He was told that they couldn't get to it until the next morning, so we were stuck in Pittsburgh for the evening. With no transportation and hotel reservations, he called friends of ours who lived in the city. They agreed to house us for the evening and pick us up after the performance. We had to catch a cab to the theatre and didn't make it until after the show had started. We finally got to our seats about halfway through. Just when we thought everything would be OK, a young boy behind us got sick. His mother stood up to take him outside and he vomited as they were passing behind my seat. After the show, we waited in the lobby for our ride and waited and waited and waited. Finally, the doorman made us wait outside because they were closing the theatre. Eventually, our friend arrived and we piled in his car. He decided it would be the perfect time to show us the sights so he drove us around town. At one point, he got lost and ended up running a stop light and making an illegal U-turn right in front of a police officer. So we ended our evening by getting pulled over. We spent the night with our friends and had to sleep in our dress clothes. The next day our van was fixed and we made it home. We laugh about it now, but I'm not sure any of us have seen a performance of the Nutcracker since.

Julie L. White, programmer for application technologies

My disaster wasn't at Christmas, but Thanksgiving. About five years ago, a family friend had married a girl from Russia and it was to be her first Thanksgiving in America, so we invited them to have Thanksgiving dinner with our family. For years, I had roasted my turkey using a recipe from Jeff Gazda, Aramark food services director, that called for marinating the bird in honey, soy sauce and some wines. But that year my husband decided that we should deep fry the turkey. Not wanting to mess up my turkey, I marinated it as usual. Thanksgiving Day, I had prepared all of the traditional dishes so that our friend's wife could have an authentic American Thanksgiving meal and all we had to do was fry the bird. When my husband put the turkey into the turkey deep fryer, all of the marinade really fried and the entire turkey was black. Grocery stores were closed so we were stuck with blackened turkey. After we peeled away the blackened skin, the inside was delicious and juicy. But, a black turkey was hard to explain to someone new to America.

Karen Hughes, student account analyst

Last year, my husband, Steve, and I planned Christmas in Paris. I love making travel plans and anyone who knows me can tell you that I like everything planned to the minute. I had our schedules confirmed for the flights, tours, opera, hotel arrangements and airport transportation in Paris. We booked our flight with British Airways but had to take U.S. Airways from RDU to Boston. The plane left a little late, however, the attendant assured us that we would have plenty of time to catch our connecting flight. We arrived in Boston with minutes to spare, ready to run out of the plane, down the concourse, grab a train to the international terminal and catch our flight! The plane was slowing down, coming to a stop. We stood up, got into a sprinter's position and then the announcement came from the captain. "Please sit back down. The ground crew can't get it together, so we have to back up and park the plane inside the markings on the ground which the ice and snow has covered up." Steve and I were in a panic. We didn't know anything about Logan Airport, but were determined to find our next flight. Once the doors finally opened, we were out of there. I think we broke the old speed-walking record, racing down the moving walkways. At British Air, the young ladies with big welcoming smiles on their faces told us that we missed our flight by five minutes. There was nothing we could do but start over. This was just the beginning.

We had to go back to U.S. Air because that was the airline we were on from our original destination. No one would help. No one. Not only were these people rude, but they sent us on wild goose chases all over the airport. Then the gods of novice travelers sent us a sweet, wonderful, helpful U.S. Air representative. She put us up at a hotel for the night, rebooked our flight for the following evening and saw us on our way. Once at the hotel, I called the Paris hotel, the airport transportation at Charles deGaulle Airport and the first tour scheduled to make new arrangements with all of them.

We arrived at the airport the next day, wearing our rumpled clothes but full of excitement and eager anticipation. The first obstacle of the day was the ticket counter. The attendant and her supervisor told us that we had the wrong seats for the price we paid for our tickets. If we wanted to travel in these seats, we would have to shell out an additional \$2,000 — each. Of course, we couldn't and wouldn't do that so we had to fly standby. Talk about nerve-racking. They called out our names five minutes before the flight was scheduled to leave. Relief flooded in, but our luggage didn't. We stayed in the same outer clothes for the next four days and bought necessities.

Once we arrived in Paris, we had a wonderful time despite the clothes situation. The people were so very nice and helpful. All the food was delicious and the sights were unforgettable. Would we go through this again? Mais oui!

Susan Patton, associate registrar

I have a gingerbread man cookie story. I was making Christmas cookies when our younger two boys were 3 and 5. Well, they started to fuss and complain, like little boys do, so I sent them to their room to find love, the most important ingredient in Christmas cookies. They came back later and my youngest son, Peter, said he had found "wub" under his bed, so we finished the gingerbread cookies. We painted them and let the cookies harden for a couple of hours, and we hung them on the tree. The next morning, Peter came into my room, crying, "Mommy, come see the tree." There were 23 gingerbread man heads hanging on the tree, but the bodies were littering the floor. Peter, in a whimpering voice said, "I guess we didn't have enough 'wub' to hold them together." I was devastated by my careless remark. So we made more Christmas cookies, this time out of plaster of Paris. The poor tree practically doubled over with the weight of those "new" cookies. After 35 years, we have just one of those plaster of Paris cookies left. It is pretty crumbly, but it has become a treasure. If anyone comes to see our tree, we delight in retelling the Christmas disaster story.

Lela Faye Rich, associate dean for academic support

Some 20 years ago, my ex-wife Lou (who is now, I'm happy to say, my best friend) and I decorated the mantelpiece of the apartment where we lived in Greensboro with natural pine bows, a short candelabra and several of our best friends' holiday cards. As evening fell on Christmas Eve, we lit the little candles and busied ourselves preparing a special dinner just for the two of us. Before long, I noticed from the kitchen that the living room had grown suddenly bright, and when Lou and I rounded the corner, to our great dismay we found that the candles had burned down low enough to set the pine bows and cards on fire. Fortunately for us — and the rest of the apartment complex's unsuspecting tenants — the flames never got the chance to spread any further. Once we managed to smother the blaze, clear the smoke and settle our jangled nerves with a glass of wine, we began reading through the damaged cards before consigning them to the trash bin. That was when I noticed a card from our good friend, Henry, the cozy snow scene on its cover singed to a crispy brown all around the upper edges. On the inside were these now prophetic words: WARMEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

L. D. Russell, lecturer of religious studies

WHO'S NEW



Eric Ashley Hairston, assistant professor of English

Eric came to Elon after teaching at both Sweet Briar College and N.C. State University. He was drawn to Elon because of its emphasis on teaching, the collegial faculty relationships and the university's commitment to liberal arts. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and his master's degree and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia. His research interests include anything from African American literary history to Asian American literature and Southern literature. Eric and his wife, Cherry, have a 3-year-old son named Graham and a cat named Holly, who Eric says is his wife's pet and his nemesis. He enjoys classical concerts, cultivating roses, cooking, sketching architectural designs and anytime Wake Forest beats Carolina, Duke or Clemson. His claim to fame is that he once fell head first into a canal in Venice.

Ron Morgan, physical plant buyer

Ron comes to Elon after being involved in the textile industry. He was interested in the job because he wanted to get involved in a purchasing position. He has three sons and a yellow lab named Oz. He enjoys listening to country music.



Jodi McConnell, assistant athletics trainer

Jodi is a graduate of Marshall University and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Her hometown is Cadott, Wis. Before coming to Elon, she was employed by IMG Academies, an educational and training facility for young athletes, and also worked at Jacksonville University.

Randy Glass, sanitation/recycling worker

A Yanceyville, N.C., native, Randy formerly worked at Burlington Industries. He loves to be outside fishing or hunting. The beautiful campus is what drew him to the university. His favorite meal includes anything with pinto beans, and he enjoys listening to music, especially rap, R&B and blues. Randy describes himself as "very tall."



Chris Adams, PC software support specialist

Chris is originally from Cascade, Va. His hobbies include drag racing and playing basketball. His favorite meal is pizza, and he likes to listen to rap and R&B music.

Brian Baker, major gifts officer

Brian's hometown is Winston-Salem, N.C., and he was employed by the University of Louisville before coming to Elon. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University. Brian was attracted to Elon because of its growing reputation and family atmosphere. His own family includes his wife, Katy, and a 2-year-old Boxer named Duncan. He enjoys playing sports especially basketball, golf and tennis.



IN MEMORIAM



The Elon community mourns the loss of **Ann Lashley, associate head coach for women's basketball**, who died Nov. 10 following a courageous battle against cancer. She was 40 years old. A memorial service was held in Whitley Auditorium on Nov. 13.

Ann, who had entered her 12th year at Elon this fall, joined the Phoenix staff with head coach Brenda Paul after serving four years as her assistant coach at Georgia State University. Following the 2002-03 season, Ann received one of the AFLAC National Assistant Coach of the Year awards.

Bench dedicated in memory of Richard Puchyr



A bench overlooking the Phoenix Club Sports Fields on South Campus was dedicated on Oct. 25 in memory of Richard Puchyr, Elon's director of web content and design, who died April 9, 2005. Richard's widow, Anne (left), and son, Ben (center), attended the dedication.



Janna Quitney Anderson, assistant professor of communications, was a featured presenter at Accelerating Change 2005, Sept. 16-18 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif. The conference focused on artificial intelligence and intelligence amplification from global, national, business, social and personal foresight perspectives.

Anderson's 30-minute main stage presentation included highlights from her research for the Pew Internet & American Life Project. She built the presentation around futuristic data gathered for the Elon University and Pew Internet "Imagining the Internet" database.

Andy Angyal, professor of English, taught a lay ministry class in Catholic Social Ethics for the Diocese of Charlotte at Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. The class ran from Oct. 29-Dec. 3.



Robert Blake, professor of English, spoke on "Shakespeare's Riddles and Revelations: Revisiting Personal Space in the Sonnets," focusing on Shakespeare's Sonnet 29 at the South Central Modern Language Association Conference in Houston, Oct. 26-28. Blake has also been appointed

as a Visiting Scholar to The Graduate School at Duke University. During the appointment, Blake will serve as a professional mentor to Fellows in Duke's Preparing Future Faculty program. Blake has also been selected for inclusion in the Empire Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals in Education.

Kevin Boyle, professor of English, has given poetry readings from his book *A Home for Wayward Girls* at The Regulator Bookstore in Durham, Prairie Lights Bookstore in Iowa City, Iowa, The Tattered Cover in Denver, The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also has readings scheduled for the KGB Bar in New York City and at Portland State University.



Lee Bush, assistant professor of communications, delivered a presentation Oct. 26 to the Tarheel Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Bush's presentation was titled "PR and the Brand Defining Idea-The Challenging Role of Public Relations in Integrated Marketing." She

explored the ways public relations can play a crucial role in the marketing process as advertising becomes less effective for capturing consumers' attention.

David Copeland, professor of communications (left), and **Harlen Makemson, assistant professor of communications** (right), each made presentations at



the American Journalism Historians Association convention Oct. 6-8 in San Antonio. Copeland discussed newspaper coverage of the French and Indian War, specifically the Battle of Quebec, on the panel "Contextualizing the Alamo: Famous Battles and the American Press." Copeland is editor of the recently released eight-volume *The Greenwood Library of American War Reporting*. Makemson presented "The Lost Genius of Political Cartoonist Bernhard Gillam," a research project on the life of the 19th century cartoonist of magazines *Puck* and *The Judge*.



Glenda Crawford, professor of education (left), **Deborah Long, associate professor of education** (center), and **Peter Felten, director of the Center for**

the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (right), led a session on "The Evolving Role of Students in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" at the annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning on Oct. 16 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Felten also served on the panel and co-authored a paper presented separately at the conference.

In addition, Felten presented twice at the Oct. 27-30 POD Network conference in Milwaukee. His papers, co-authored with colleagues from Vanderbilt and Ohio State, focused on peer mentoring in undergraduate research and on new approaches to the scholarship of teaching and learning. Felten also was named program co-chair for the 2006 POD conference in Portland, Ore.

Long, **Carolyn Stuart, associate professor of education** (left), and **Mark Rumley, director of school outreach programs for the School of Education** (right), delivered an invited presentation



during the 23rd Annual North Carolina Teacher Education Forum in Raleigh on Sept. 30. The presentation was titled "Preparing Teacher Candidates to Deal with the Challenges and Opportunities in Diverse Classrooms" and focused in part on the sabbatical research that Stuart completed examining how highly effective teachers work with the parents of exceptional children.



Paul Crenshaw, assistant professor of English, had his essay titled "Storm Country" published in the new edition of *Best American Essays*. The collection was edited by Robert Atwan and Susan Orlean. Crenshaw's essay "Military Days" will appear in *Shenandoah*, the literary journal of Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va.





Pranab Das, professor of physics, served as a keynote speaker at the conference “Science and Orthodoxy, a Necessary Dialogue” in Bucharest, Romania on Oct. 22. The conference brought together international experts on science and religion. His presentation was titled “Emergence, Discovery and a Platonic Perspective on Complex Systems.”

Tina Das, associate professor of economics (left), **Casey DiRienzo, assistant professor of economics** (center), and **Thomas Tiemann, professor of economics** (right), have had their article “A Note on An Ethnic Homogeneity Kuznets’ Curve” accepted for publication in *Challenge*. The article finds and explains an inverse U-shaped relationship (a Kuznets’ Curve to economists) between the ethnic homogeneity and per capita income of nations.



Mayte de Lama, assistant professor of Spanish, presented a paper titled “Un océano de Anas: la poesía erótica de Istarú y de Rossetti” at the VI Congreso Internacional de Poesía y Poética organized by the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México, Oct. 5–7. She also presented a paper titled “Encuentros lésbicos y la problemática de la identidad en la narrativa femenina española: Marta Portal y Lucía Etxebarria” at the 55th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., Oct. 13–15.



Clyde Ellis, associate professor of history, gave two public lectures as the inaugural speaker at the University of Oklahoma’s 2005–2006 Southern Plains Lecture series. Ellis is one of three leading scholars to participate in the lecture series this year. His first talk was titled “‘Tipis, Council Fires, and Indians Galore’: The Early History of the Indian Hobbyist Movement in the United States.” The lecture comes from research for his next book, for which Elon has provided generous funding. His second lecture was titled “‘Enormous Crowds Attracted by the War Dances’: Craterville Park, The American Indian Exposition, and the Beginnings of Southern Plains Powwow Culture.” The lecture was drawn from his recently published book, *A Dancing People: Powwow Culture on the Southern Plains*.



Ellis is senior editor of *Powwow*, a collection of essays on American Indian powwow culture and history by some of the leading scholars in the country. Ellis also contributed an essay to the collection. Luke Eric Lassiter, associate professor of anthropology at Ball State University, and Gary Dunham, director of the University of Nebraska Press, served as co-editors.

Tom Erdmann, professor of music and education, had his article on Eric Marienthal featured on the front cover of the July/August 2005 issue of *Saxophone Journal*. Erdmann also published an article on Evan Parker and Paul Taylor, in the journal’s Sept./Oct. 2005 issue. He also had his article, “Early Musical Experiences and Jazz Approaches to Recording and Performing, an Interview with Sophie B. Hawkins,” featured on the front cover of the fall 2005 issue of *Women of Note Quarterly*.



Erdmann judged two events Oct. 22. He was a parade judge for the Tabor City Yam Festival Parade and the music judge for the South Columbus High School Stallion Classic Marching Band Competition. Erdmann also served as music judge at the 26th Annual Brick Capitol Classic Marching Band Festival in Sanford, N.C., on Oct. 29.

Erdmann’s review of Maurice Peress’ book, *Dvorak to Duke Ellington*, was published in the new issue (Vol. 25, No. 2) of *The Journal of the Conductors Guild*. He also had two articles on Candy Dulfer and Nelson Rangell featured on the front cover of the Nov./Dec. 2005 issue of *Saxophone Journal*.



John Guiniven, associate professor of communications, has been elected to the executive board of the Public Relations Society of America’s College of Fellows. He will begin his two-year term as secretary-treasurer in January. PRSA is the largest organization of public relations professionals, and the College of Fellows is considered the most select group within PRSA. Elected membership is based on making “significant contributions to our profession throughout a distinguished career.”

Eric Hall, assistant professor of sports medicine (left), **Paul Miller, associate professor of sports medicine** (center), and **Wally Bixby, assistant professor of exercise science** (right), presented two papers at the recent Walking for Health: Measurement and Research Issues and Challenges Conference held Oct. 13–15 at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign campus. Their papers were titled “Further validation of the PRETIE-Q: Relationship between preference and tolerance for self-reported physical activity” and “Predictors of health-related quality of life in college students.”



Juliane Hammer, assistant professor of religious studies, led a workshop on “Teaching Gender Relations in Muslim Societies: Religious Text, Women’s Lives and Contemporary Muslim Debates” Oct. 7 in McCormick, S.C. The workshop was part of a seminar for educators from the region titled “Islam in Asia” organized by Greenville Technical College and funded by the Freeman Foundation.



Earl Honeycutt, professor of business administration, has been elected to the editorial review board of the *Journal of Selling and Major Account Management*. He also serves on the editorial review boards of *Journal of Personal Selling & Sales Management*, *Business-to-Business Marketing*, *Journal of Logistics Management* and *Industrial Marketing Management*.



Faculty members **Maureen Ihrle, associate professor of Spanish** (left), and **Ernie Lunsford, professor of foreign languages** (right), presented “Making Connections: Social Commentary, Pop Music and High

Tech” at the annual international meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in New York on July 31. This multimedia project combines music, images and a variety of online activities appropriate for Spanish language, culture and civilization courses.

Martin Kamela, assistant professor of physics, presented his recent work on “An Oscillating System with Sliding Friction” at a sectional meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers, held at the University of North Carolina–Pembroke Oct. 28–29.



Joel Karty, assistant professor of chemistry, is co-author with John Brauman, a professor in chemistry at Stanford University, on two recent publications in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*. Both papers delve into the characteristics of exotic states of electrons, called dipole-bound states.

Christopher Leupold, assistant professor of psychology (left), has been notified that his manuscript “Turnover and Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) Physicians: A test of job embeddedness theory” has been accepted for publication in the conference proceedings of the 2005 Conference on Emerging Issues in Business and Technology. Written with Kerry Leupold, M.D., of Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, and **Matt Valle, associate professor of business administration** (right), the study looks at factors that predict turnover for health-care providers. The paper was presented at the annual conference in November.



Maurice Levesque, associate professor of psychology, and Christopher Nave, a 2004 Elon graduate, had their article titled “Toward an Understanding of Gender Differences in Inferring Sexual Interest” accepted for publication in the *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. The article examines several aspects of what Levesque says is the well-documented tendency of men to oversexualize their interactions with women.

Levesque and Elon alum David Vichesky '03 have had their

paper titled “Raising the bar on the body beautiful: An analysis of the body image concerns of homosexual men” accepted for publication in *Body Image: An International Journal of Research*. The study of gay men, conducted as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program, examined the nature of body image concerns and evaluated the connections between body image dissatisfaction and psychological well-being. The research was supported by an Elon University Faculty Research and Development Grant and by grants from the Undergraduate Research Office.



Susan Morris, assistant professor of political science, will publish a book review in the journal *China Information*, vol. 20, no. 2 (2006).

Tom Mould, assistant professor of sociology and general studies, has published a chapter in a new book about the folk roots of American masculinities, *Manly Traditions*. Mould’s chapter is titled “‘Running the Yard’: The Negotiation of Masculinities in African American Stepping.”



A book chapter by **David Noer, Frank S. Holt Jr. Professor of Business Leadership** and **professor of business administration**, has been published in the second edition of *Coaching for Leadership: The Practice of Leadership Coaching from the World’s Greatest Coaches*. The book is edited by Marshall Goldsmith and Lawrence Lyons. Noer’s chapter is titled “Surviving the Transition from Line Manager to Executive Coach.”

Toddie Peters, Distinguished Emerging Scholar and **assistant professor of religious studies**, has published a chapter in a new book. Peters’ chapter is titled “Decolonizing our Minds: Postcolonial Perspectives on the Church” and appears in a new book titled *Women’s Voices and Visions of the Church: Reflections from North America*.



Laura Roselle, professor of political science, presented a paper, “The IR/ICT Nexus: A Constructivist Perspective,” on Sept. 30 at the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy at Duke University. She participated in a workshop for international scholars titled “The American

Footprint: The Impact of US Technology and Technology Policy on the World.”

L.D. Russell, lecturer in religious studies, gave a presentation titled “Racing vs. Religion: A Brief History of Occoneechee Speedway” for the Hillsborough Historical Society Oct. 30. Russell discussed the second chapter of *Godspeed: Religion and Racing*, his book-in-progress. The chapter is being published as an article in two installments in the Hillsborough Historical Society’s online journal.





Bird Stasz, associate professor of education (left), and **Kim Eke, senior instructional designer for social sciences** (right), presented “Crossing the Digital Divide: A Case Study of Uzbekistan” at the Georgia Conference

on Information Literacy at Georgia Southern University, Sept. 30–Oct. 1. The presentation summarized the Uzbekistan basic education project, focusing on the ways technologies were used to span space and time in developing educational materials collaboratively with educators in Uzbekistan.

John Sullivan, the Maude Sharpe Powell

Professor of Philosophy, has published a new book titled *Living Large: Transformative Work at the Intersection of Ethics and Spirituality*. The book offers a new vision for the future and concrete practices to make that vision a reality. Sullivan also gave a public lecture at Tai Sophia Institute in Laurel, Md., Sept. 16. The presentation, “Re-imagining Ethics, Spirituality and Practice for an Emerging Ecological Age,” was in conjunction with a book signing for *Living Large*.



J.W. Thompson, an irrigation technician in Elon’s landscaping department, traveled to southwest Alabama Oct. 7–11 with Friends Disaster Service to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Thompson used a Project Pericles service sabbatical to make the trip, the second of three relief visits he plans to make this year. Thompson and a group of about 10 people helped restore the Mowa Choctaw Friends Academy, a school for kindergarteners located about 45 miles north of Mobile, Ala.

The work of **Sandra Varry, assistant professor of art**, was included during a recent exhibit at George Mason University as part of the Society for Photographic Education Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. The exhibit was juried by eminent photographer Chan Chao.



Linda Wilmshurst, assistant professor of psychology, participated in an online chat Oct. 26 on ldtalk.org, the Web site of the National Center for Learning Disabilities. Wilmshurst and co-author Alan Brue recently wrote a new book titled *A Parent’s Guide to Special Education*. Wilmshurst and

Brue took part in the chat session to answer questions about special education and new requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Greg Zaiser, associate dean of admissions and financial planning and **director of undergraduate admissions**, copresented “Hitting the Road: Developing an International Market Through Recruitment Travel” at the 61st annual conference of the National Association of College Admissions Counseling in Tampa, Fla., Sept. 22–24.



Care24, myuhc.com good sources for health info

Arthritis is a painful fact of daily life for many people. Nearly one in three adults suffers from arthritis. They may experience pain, stiffness, inflammation and damage to joints. This can limit daily activities. In some cases, it can lead to severe disability.

However, there are things you can do to reduce the impact of arthritis. Maintaining a healthy weight, getting regular exercise and quitting smoking can all help strengthen and protect your joints and bones.

It’s never too early to think about prevention. An estimated 75 percent of people age 60 or older will develop osteoarthritis. This is the most common form of arthritis. However, a healthy lifestyle and losing extra pounds may reduce your risk.

Optum® Care24SM registered nurses can help you learn more if you are enrolled in the university’s health insurance plan. Call for information about prevention, symptoms and self-care. You also can call for help making a list of questions to ask your doctor. Nurses are ready to talk with you about many health issues, any time of the day or night, seven days a week.

And, when you’re searching online for health information, go to www.myuhc.com first. You’ll find a wide range of health and well-being topics. You also can ask your own questions during one of the online community chats.

Call Care24 services toll free today at 888-887-4114. You also can speak with master’s-level specialists and other professionals about a variety of personal concerns.



A Look Back...10 YEARS AGO

The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business officially occupies Long Building on Nov. 14.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 13
Catherine Walker

Dec. 14
John Burbridge
Gene Gooch
Bradley Young

Dec. 15
Jamie Talley

Dec. 16
Nicole Jones

Dec. 17
Alison Polisenio

Dec. 18
Sallie Hutton
Scott Jean
Angel Smith
Eccles Wall

Dec. 19
Sankey Blanton
Melissa Holmes
Lynn Huber
Gail Robertson

Dec. 21
Carrie Ryan
Bob Weston

Dec. 22
Andi Bender
Judy Esposito

Dec. 23
Rhonda Belton
Michelle Stephens

Dec. 24
Jane Deaton

Dec. 25
Monica Pagano

Dec. 26
Holley Berry
Wayne Brown

Dec. 27
Paul Adams
Juliane Hammer
Smith Jackson
Miriam Stratton
Brian Webb

Dec. 28
Elizabeth Joyce
JP Lavoie
Richard Mihans
Linda Springs

Dec. 29
Boyd Boyd
Kate Hickey

Dec. 30
Jane Freund
Paula Wilkerson

Dec. 31
Patty Cox
Nancy McMillan
Carolyn Morrow
Romelle Nall
Linda Sabo
Tammy Yates

Jan. 1
Anthony Hatcher
Lynn Melchor

Jan. 2
Alex Yap

Jan. 4
Kelli Burns
Kari Kerkhoff
Matthew Kutch

Jan. 5
Paul Parsons
Boyd Pickard
Doug Rowe
Melissa Thompson
Alan Woodlief

Jan. 6
Stephen Braye
Robert Pavlik
Dawn Tosch

Jan. 7
David Willson

Jan. 8
Mayte De Lama
Mike Gregory
Michael Murray
Lucile Stone

Jan. 9
Carl Edmonds
Doug McIntyre

Jan. 10
Mary Inabnit
Bob Russ

Jan. 11
Julie White

Jan. 13
Joe Davis
Teresa Graves
Joel Hollingsworth
Trevor Kelly
Andrew Perry

Jan. 14
Ann Amyot
Bonnie Bach
Michael Frontani
Glenda Ireland
Richard Shirley
Sarah Thomas

Jan. 15
Louis Adams
Lynne Formato
Mohamad Haj-Mohamadi
Sandra Varry

Jan. 16
Carrie Ann Brice
Shane Burnham
Scott Hildebrand
Naomi Ingram

Jan. 17
Stefanie Barbour
Barbara Rhoades
Paige Vignali
Aaron Walker
Alan White

Jan. 18
Jessica Gisclair
Monica Hadley
Blair Wilburn

Jan. 19
Jonathan Brown
Jeffrey Coker
Alexa Darby
Stephanie Huffstetler
Ann Johnson
Michael Kingston
Delmas Slade

Jan. 20
Shaunta Adams
Brian Baker

Jan. 21
Hanzel Bynum
Mary Ector
Remi Lanzoni

Jan. 23
Meghan Dillon

Jan. 24
Betty Morgan
Anthony Stubblefield

Jan. 25
Stephen Folger
Timon Linn
Rob Springer

Jan. 26
Lorraine Allen
Marie Murphy

Jan. 27
Dustin Fonder

Jan. 28
Kristin Barrier
Mike Talley
Paul Weller

Jan. 29
Brian Baute
Stephanie Hicks
Charles Holt
Patrick Rudd
Jennifer Smith
Dan Wright

Jan. 30
Gary Clayton
Julie Schuld
Sharon Spray

Jan. 31
Georges Gnakpa
Sharon LaRocco
James Stovall

Feb. 1
Lawrence Simon
Donna Van Bodegraven

Feb. 2
Bennie Felts
Mike Shea
Steven Stovall

Feb. 3
Helen Ellington
Leon Knight
Brian Nienhaus
Kirstin Ringelberg
Robin Marie Scerbo
Troy Starnes

Feb. 4
Cherie Bower
Kevin Byrd
Priscilla Lipe
Ellen Mir

Feb. 5
Debby Wall

Feb. 6
Chris Benton
Earl Honeycutt
Paul Miller

Feb. 7
Cary Caruso
Laurin Kier

Feb. 8
Herb Schuette

Feb. 9
Linda Buff
Janet Hardie
Donald Milholin

Feb. 10
Tracy Barr
Marsha Boone
Melanie Brookbank
Julie Celona-VanGorden

Feb. 11
Casey Dirienzo
Michael Leonard

Feb. 12
Lisa Alcon
Brad Moore
Faith Shearer
Doug Stemke

Feb. 13
Stanley Greeson
Darlene May
Linda Wilmshurst



Elon University as a Learning Organization

By Mary Santiago

In his breakthrough book *The Fifth Discipline*, researcher Peter Senge clearly outlined the essential characteristics of what he termed a “learning organization.” Learning organizations, according to Senge, encourage everyone’s lifelong learning and personal development. These behaviors are modeled at all levels within the organization and have a positive impact on the retention of talented staff and faculty.

The five key traits that demonstrate that an institution is a learning organization are further elaborated here:

Personal Mastery

It’s important for each individual in a learning organization to continually clarify his or her personal vision and focus energy on professional development goals. Learning organizations encourage each employee’s personal and professional growth since learning only helps the entire organization solve more complex problems and develop innovative solutions.

Systems Thinking

A systems perspective is a way of looking at reality that incorporates the understanding that everything is interrelated. If we look at the patterns that characterize the entire system then we can understand the system itself. Systems thinking helps develop intuition to reveal underlying patterns and connections among seemingly unrelated ideas or events.

Team Learning

Learning usually takes place in a social context. You might have heard the expression before that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is synergy — the energy of all of the individual perspectives and ideas brought together in

a synthesis. In order for an organization to truly benefit from what the team knows, it’s essential that people from different departments with divergent viewpoints get together to discuss complex interdisciplinary issues. Cooperative learning is a hallmark of a learning organization.

Shared Vision

An effective organization is one in which people are asked for their input on the collective vision for the future. Here at Elon, it’s great that everyone is being asked for their opinions about President Leo M. Lambert’s white paper on “Sustaining and Deepening.” The input that is being gathered from all of the constituencies such as alumni, the Board of Trustees, parents, faculty and staff will be incorporated into Elon University’s new strategic plan. Visions that are shared take into account the personal visions of all related parties and speak to both the minds and hearts of everyone involved.

Mental Models

Senge recommended that we constantly question the assumptions and generalizations that we tend to make so that we actually deal with our biases. Our mental models or frames of reference need to be continually examined since they help us understand information and categorize knowledge, but also limit what we actually perceive.

Elon University’s mission is focused on providing engaged learning experiences for our students. This can only occur within the context of all of us — faculty, staff and students — coming together as a learning community within a learning organization.

Recommendations:

The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook: Strategies and Tools for Building a Learning Organization, Peter M. Senge, Art Kleiner, Charlotte Roberts, Richard B. Ross, and Bryan J. Smith.

The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization, Peter M. Senge.



Congratulations to the newest members of the Elon community:

Janet Myers, assistant professor of English, and her husband, Alan, are the proud parents of a daughter. Clare Aisling Myers-Moran was born on Nov. 5.

Toddie Peters, assistant professor of religious studies, and her husband, Jeff Hatcher, welcomed a baby girl, Eve Elizabeth, born on Nov. 27.

Todd Lee, associate professor of mathematics, and his wife, Hollylynne Lee, are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Delta Sophia, born on Nov. 30.

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Brian Grady '06, student writer

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Sarah Moser '06, student writer

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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 David Hibbard in the News Bureau (dhubbard@elon.edu). Please send your comments and story ideas to Cathy Hefferin (chefferin@elon.edu).