



May 2001 @Elon Employee Newsletter

Take a quick break from this busy time of year with @Elon! This month's **E-people** feature focuses on Rob Springer, director of institutional research. **For Your Benefit** gives you important information about your health insurance coverage. Enjoy this month's features!

E-PEOPLE

[Rob Springer](#)

gives new meaning to the three R's: research, reports and rankings.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

[Physical Plant](#)

Did you miss the Open House at Elon West? We'll take you there!



UPCOMING EVENTS

[A Memorable May:](#)

Find out what's happening on campus this month. Be sure to check out the list of [May Birthdays!](#)

WHO'S NEW

Are you a [new employee?](#) Tell us your story!

NEWS & NOTES

What have your fellow faculty and staff members been up to lately? [Get the scoop](#) on questions such as these:

- Who recently received the Distinguished Service Award from Alpha Chi?
- Who was featured in a recent PBS documentary?
- Who will serve as a visiting associate professor at Dartmouth next winter?

FOR YOUR BENEFIT

Planning a summer vacation? Find out what Elon's [health plan](#) covers when you travel.

PROUD PARENTS

Read about the [newest addition](#) to the Elon family!

GOT NEWS?

We want to hear from you! Please e-mail us with your story ideas, comments and suggestions. Send your faculty/staff news to [David Hibbard](#), writer. Send your comments and suggestions to [Mandy Dixon](#), editor.

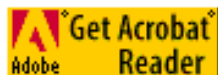
PAST ISSUES

- [February 2001](#)
- [March 2001](#)
- [April 2001](#)

[Remembering R.D. Rao](#)

Faculty members share fond memories of Dr. Rao, who died April 3.

Download a [PDF](#) printable version of the latest @Elon issue. If your computer is not equipped with Adobe Acrobat, you may download plug-ins by clicking on the logo.



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**E-PEOPLE**

How well do you know your Elon colleagues? Do you know what their jobs entail? Learn more about their positions -- and their personalities -- by reading the **E-people** feature in each issue of **@Elon**.

Rob Springer loves numbers.

And in his role as Elon's director of institutional research, he gets to work with numbers -- all sorts of them -- on a daily basis. From generating federally mandated reports to making educated forecasts about future enrollment figures, Springer is Elon's point man for all types of facts and figures.



"I really see my role as being an information provider, both on and off campus," says Springer, who gathers data about Elon for state and federal reports, higher-education surveys, college guides and administrative use. "I try to provide timely and accurate information to help the institution," he says.

That information is used in a variety of ways. Springer generates about 20 federal and state reports each year which detail Elon's student profile in many different ways, from the gender composition of the student body to the age and ethnicity of each student. Many of those reports are required for Elon to receive state and federal financial aid dollars. Springer also coordinates Elon's reporting for various higher-education surveys and rankings, such as U.S. News & World Report, Kaplan and Peterson's.



Springer also has a close working relationship with campus administrators, examining facts, figures and trends to help Elon plan for the future. "I supply information to the provost's office and senior staff, trying to make an educated forecast about enrollment," Springer says. Those predictions help college staff project budgets, predict future needs and stay one step ahead of the competition.

Much of Springer's work is available on a Web site (<http://www.elon.edu/irweb/>) that he created when he came to Elon in 1999. "The information isn't much good if it isn't supplied in a way that is user-friendly," he says. "The Web site is a way of making those figures available to everyone."

One of the areas that institutional research is moving into is assessment. "I really assist with assessment in a consulting role," Springer says. He monitors benchmarks such as student retention and percentage of faculty with terminal degrees. Springer also provides comparisons, so Elon can see how it measures up against schools such as the University of Richmond and Appalachian State University. "Elon does a good job of

looking at its peer group and trying to move up," he says. "One of the things I like about Elon is that it's driven to improve. That separates Elon from other schools."

Springer calls himself a native of the Tidewater Virginia area, but since his father was in the Navy, the family moved around to places such as Florida, California and New Mexico. "We lived all over," he says. "I was in kindergarten in Clovis, New Mexico, and I can still remember the tornadoes they had there."

Springer is a 1986 graduate of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. His wife, Becky, has a background in art history and works with an interactive art studio for kids in Greensboro. Their daughter, Maggie, was born last Nov. 13.



Elon is a perfect fit for Springer and his family, he says. "Between the people, support staff, students and the beautiful setting, it's a total-package institution," he explains. "It's such a great place to be!"

Just for Fun

In their spare time, Rob and his wife, Becky, enjoy dining at area restaurants. E-mail [Rob](#) to find out some of their favorites -- or to suggest some of your own!

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NEWS & NOTES

Do you have faculty/staff news that you'd like to share? Please e-mail [David Hibbard](mailto:David.Hibbard@Elon.edu).

Andy Angyal, professor of English, gave a talk on Wendell Berry at Timberlake Farms in Whitsett, N.C., Friday, April 6. The talk was part of a series on American environmental writers.



Bob Blake, William S. Long professor of English, recently received the Distinguished Service Award from Alpha Chi honor society. This new award recognizes Alpha Chi advisors who have displayed exceptional service to their chapters and regions. Blake served as Elon's Alpha Chi chapter advisor from 1977-1988 and held several offices at the regional level. He has been a member of the Alpha Chi National Council since 1981.



Clyde Ellis, associate professor of history, will serve as the Gordon Russell Visiting Associate Professor in Dartmouth College's Native American Studies Program next winter. The professorship is awarded annually to an established scholar in the field of Native Studies. Ellis will teach two courses and lead a series of faculty seminars during Dartmouth's winter quarter.



Tom Erdmann, associate professor of music and education, had two articles published recently. His cover article on Donald Harrison was published in the May/June 2001 issue of Saxophone Journal, while another article, "Profile: Tina Pelikan," was published in a recent issue of Women of Note Quarterly.



Gene Medler, adjunct instructor in dance, was featured during a recent Public Broadcasting Service documentary titled "JUBA! The Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance," which offered a close look at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project in 1999. Medler's company, the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, participated in the festival, which featured many of the old masters of tap dance. Medler was interviewed for the show and offered his opinions on the history of tap and its future. The hour-long program aired April 18 on North Carolina Public Television.

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WHO'S NEW

Want to learn more about the new faces you've seen around campus? Each month, we ask new employees to tell us a little about themselves.

Bruce Nelson, director of counseling services

Bruce is looking forward to becoming involved in campus life at Elon, and he sees a multitude of opportunities in his new position as director of counseling services. "The opportunity to work with students and colleagues in a stimulating environment is very exciting for me," he says.



A graduate of the University of Washington, Bruce also holds master's degrees from Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bruce has a diverse counseling background in North Carolina, having worked at John Umstead Hospital, the Department of Family Medicine at UNC, Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health and United Family Services in Charlotte. The prevention of violence in academic settings is one of his key research interests.

Bruce and his wife, Lauren, have a four-year-old daughter, Lyn. He is an avid outdoorsman who has climbed Mt. Ranier and biked the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. A member of the Durham Tennis League, Bruce says trying to improve his tennis game is among his favorite hobbies, along with landscaping.

Are You New?

If you are a new employee who would like to be featured in **Who's New**, please print out the form below (just click Print in your browser's toolbar), fill it out and send it to David Hibbard, News Bureau Director, College Relations, Campus Box 2030. Thanks!

Faculty/Staff Who's New Questionnaire

Name:

Office phone extension:

Job title:

Education:

Hometown:

Previous employment:

What attracted you to Elon?

Research interests:

Last book read:

Hobbies:

Family (Please list names of spouse, children and children's ages):

Pets:

Your most gratifying moment:

What do you do for fun?

What clubs or organizations do you belong to?

Favorite meal?

What music do you like?

Describe something unique about yourself.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our **In the Spotlight** feature sheds light on different departments or events on campus. This month, we take a look at Physical Plant's recent Open House at Elon West.

In the Spotlight: Physical Plant

On Friday, March 30, Physical Plant held an Open House for the Elon community. Ed Eng, director of Physical Plant, says that approximately 250 people attended the event. The purpose of the Open House was to allow faculty and staff to get acquainted with the people of Physical Plant and the new location at Elon West. "Now that we're in, we're really enjoying our new facilities," Eng says.



Staff members gave tours of the different areas, such as the electrical shop and the key and lock shop. Eng says they were proud to show off the new space. Before moving to Elon West last November, Physical Plant was located in East building.



The Cushman vehicles used by Physical Plant are a familiar sight on campus.



Ron Driscoll, Jerry Williams and Carol McBane check out the snacks during Open House.



Utilities Manager Paul Holt shows visitors a computer in the training room during Open House.

@Elon

Elon West is the home of Physical Plant, the Print Shop and the Construction Management Department. The facility is located on Haggard Avenue behind Pizza Hut, in the space formerly occupied by Winn-Dixie. Adjacent to the Physical Plant is a weight room used by Elon athletics.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Want to get a little culture? Check out these great Elon events! Ticket information for cultural events is listed below.

Friday - Sunday, May 4 - 6

Department of Performing Arts presents: Spring Dance Ensemble

McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Friday - Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday

Admission by ticket only: \$5.00 or Elon identification*

Monday, May 7

Elon College Wind Ensemble Spring Concert

McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Celebration Picnic for Graduates

Moseley Center, 6 - 8 p.m. Please e-mail [Michelle Martin](#) if you plan to attend.

Friday, May 18

Senior Showcase

McCrary Theatre, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 19

Commencement

Under the Oaks, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 24

Staff Appreciation Day

All Day

Ticket Information

All tickets for performances in McCrary Theatre will be available three weeks before the event and may be picked up in the Faith Rockefeller Model Center Box Office between 12:30 and 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. People with Elon identification will receive tickets by showing their college identification cards. Seats will be held 15 minutes before performance.

(RS) Indicates reserved seating. Except where so indicated, all tickets are for general seating.

Admission to all programs is free unless otherwise specified.

May Birthdays

May 1

Jo Anne Foley

May 2

Victoria Fischer

May 3

Michael Flannery

May 6

Ernest Bare

Rae Keane

David Schaeffer

Peter Tulchinsky

Teresa Walker

May 7

Monica Martin

May 8

Maura O'Connor

Tallulah Shaw

May 9

Jodi Emond

Ruth Jackson

Ray Johnson

Nancy Williams

May 11

Christy Barefoot

Mona DeVries

Dixie Lee Fox

Vickie Somers

May 12

Frank Bernhardt

Clementine Pinnix

May 13

McCrary Box Office Hours: 12:30 - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

McCrary Box Office Phone: (336) 278-5610

Black Box Production Reservations: (336) 278-5650

If you need special assistance for disabilities, please notify the Box Office or the Black Box Reservations staff when you request your tickets.

Mark Albertson

Amy Anders

Gerald Gibson

May 14

Rebecca Teague

May 15

John Barnhill

Todd Lee

May 16

Sue Cox

Buddy Evans

May 17

Rosemary Haskell

Brian Meehan

Michael Pirani

Michael Sanford

May 18

Katherine Maultsby

Scott Nelson

Sherley Mae White

May 19

Richard Dymmel

Angie Gilmore

Cynthia Lewis

Sara Peterson

Keith Vaughn

May 21

Paula Cardwell

Michael Kennedy

May 22

Lisa Carloye

May 23

Jim Drummond

Sandra Kilpatrick

Francis McKenna

May 24

Leslie Groves

Linda Martindale

May 25

Anna Bass
Richard Lage
Helen Mackay

May 26

Janet MacFall
Vickie Moehlman
Jo Watts Williams

May 27

Barry Bradberry

May 28

Kathy Gallucci

May 29

Matt Eviston

May 30

James Burke
Duane McClearn
Sandra Seidel

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FOR YOUR BENEFIT

Do you have questions about your benefits? This section contains frequently asked questions (and answers!) from human resources:

How am I covered by my health insurance if I need medical assistance while I am away from home?

If an employee or a family member covered under Elon's health plan is traveling outside of the service area, then benefits will be paid at 80 percent after the \$200 calendar year deductible has been met.

If a covered person is traveling outside of the service area and experiences an emergency illness or injury and is treated in a hospital emergency room, then the benefits will be paid at 100 percent after a \$50 copayment. (The copayment will be waived if admitted to the hospital.) Remember that you need to **notify CIGNA within one working day** if the emergency requires admission to the hospital.



CIGNA Customer Service: 1-800-599-9370

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PROUD PARENTS

We want to know about new additions to the Elon family!

Proud Parents

Congratulations to Richard Puchyr (College Relations) and his wife, Anne, on the birth of their son. Benjamin Greeley Puchyr was born on April 2. You can check out Benjamin's picture on Daddy's Web site (<http://www.elon.edu/puchyr/>).

Do you have a new bundle of joy? Are you hearing the pitter-patter of little footsteps in your house?

Please share the news with us so that we can run an announcement about your special delivery! Just e-mail [Mandy Dixon](mailto:mandy.dixon@elon.edu) with the details, including your name, your department here at Elon, the other parent's name, the birth date and the baby's full name. Is there a story behind the baby's name that you would like to share? If so, please include that in your e-mail as well.



Please note: Human resources needs information about new family members for insurance purposes, so please contact [Stephanie Page](mailto:stephanie.page@elon.edu) with the news if you have not done so already.

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