Letter from the Dean

I hope you enjoy reading a brief summary of the many events and achievements within Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, during the 2017-18 academic year. As reflected in the Elon College vision statement below, our faculty members are committed to creating innovative learning experiences that challenge and engage students. Every undergraduate student at Elon benefits from their studies in the arts and sciences as they complete their Elon Core Curriculum. Approximately two-thirds of Elon students graduate with a major or minor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We excel at guiding students in applying and integrating knowledge from the disciplines in order to address the complex problems that affect today’s world. Our faculty and staff embrace mentoring and teaching opportunities that assist students in reaching academic, personal and professional goals. In this annual report, we share highlights of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty members and programs as they work toward realizing our shared vision.

Best wishes,

Gabie E. Smith
Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences

ELON COLLEGE, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:

Inspired by intellectual curiosity, passion and integrity, we champion disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary applications to reflect upon, respond to and offer solutions to critical problems in a complex and changing world.
DEPARTMENTS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJORS

Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, is comprised of 20 departments and several interdisciplinary programs:

Natural, Mathematical and Computational Sciences
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Science
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Physics

Arts and Humanities
- Art & Art History
- Arts Administration
- Dance Science
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- World Languages & Cultures

Social and Behavioral Sciences
- History & Geography
- Human Service Studies
- International & Global Studies
- Political Science & Policy Studies
- Public Health Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology & Anthropology

The College houses innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary minors:
- African & African-American Studies
- American Studies
- Asian Studies
- Astronomy
- Classical Studies
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Digital Art
- Geographic Information Systems
- Geography
- German Studies
- Interreligious Studies
- Italian Studies
- Jazz Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Leadership Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Multimedia Authoring
- Neuroscience
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Photography
- Poverty & Social Justice Studies
- Professional Writing and Rhetoric
- Women’s, Gender, and Sexualities Studies

We encourage students to also explore pre-professional and service advising programs:
- Health Professions
- Pre-Law
- Nonprofit Leadership
- Military Science
- Peace Corps Prep Program

Through the curriculum in these departments and programs, the College offers 45 majors and more than 50 minors.
Any Fredsell ’18 | Religious Studies

A seasoned veteran of five study abroad experiences, Anya Fredsell will spend the next academic year in India as the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship. She first spent eight weeks studying the Tamil language at the South Asia Summer Language Institute in Madison, Wisconsin, with the support of a full scholarship funded by a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship. Anya has deferred her admission (with a full scholarship) to a master’s program in global religions at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. Mentored by Associate Professor of Religious Studies Amy Allocco, Anya’s Elon College Fellows and Lumen Scholar research applied an ethnographic approach to the study of the changing practice of yoga in a developing global society. Her project involved hundreds of hours of participant-observation, resulted in more than 60 interviews, and culminated in eight academic conference papers and two accepted journal articles. Anya also served as the vice president of Elon’s Yoga Club and as a yoga/group exercise instructor for Campus Recreation.

Madeline “Maddy” Wetterhall ’18 | Biology

A German Studies minor, Maddy Wetterhall will spend next year teaching English in Germany with the support of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Associate Professor of German Scott Windham says, “it’s her human empathy that makes Maddy stand out: her service to others, her commitment to global citizenship, her willingness to work with people of diverse viewpoints and her sense of purpose.” Maddy was an Elon College Fellow and worked with her mentor, Associate Professor of Biology Linda Niedziela, to study the impact of antiepileptic drugs on the cognition of zebrafish during the early developmental period. She received the Jane M. Baird Pre-Med Scholarship and a Presidential Scholarship, was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, and, along with Mitchell Bergens ’18, received this year’s Marsilius von Inghen Award for Excellence in German Studies. Maddy plans to attend medical school after her Fulbright work.
Spencer Wagner ’18 | Political Science and Policy Studies

Spencer Wagner is now in Washington, D.C., where he plans to pursue long-term career opportunities after a paid 12-week research internship with the National League of Cities. Even as a first-year Elon student, Spencer served as a class senator, which he continued each year until he was elected to serve as the executive vice president of the Student Government Association during his senior year. Of his many service commitments at Elon, Spencer notes he is perhaps most proud of serving in the Political Engagement Workgroup, which organized presidential debate and election watch parties, the Political Science First 100 Days Panel and the Active Citizen Series. While at Elon, Spencer also served as vice president and then treasurer of the North Carolina Student Legislature. He completed three internships, including one through the Washington Center and two through the local and D.C. offices of Congressman David Price. He also received the Isabella Cannon Leadership Scholarship during his junior year and the Outstanding Senior in Political Science award during his senior year.

Alexis Williams ’18 | English Literature & Spanish

Elon College Fellow and Lumen Scholar Alexis Williams is developing her writing portfolio prior to pursuing a master’s degree in dramatic writing. Alexis’ Fellows and Lumen research topic, “The White Gaze on ‘Black Theatre’: How the perception of the white mainstream reinforces the reproduction of minstrelsy on Broadway,” was mentored by Assistant Professor of English Scott Proudfit. Her two-year investigation revealed “limitations imposed on African-American theatre and the ways African-American writers have interacted with those limitations.” Through a semester abroad in Chile, Alexis honed her Spanish language skills and studied Latin American theater as another point of comparison to European and North American theater traditions. Alexis presented her research at the Harvard National Collegiate Research Conference her senior year. At Elon, Alexis was also active in leadership and service roles and is most proud of her multi-year work with the Black Student Union (including a year as the organization’s president) and the President’s Student Leader Advisory Council.
Sarah Holdren ‘18  |  Anthropology & Public Health Studies

As a 2018 recipient of a Fulbright grant, Sarah Holdren will soon travel to Finland to study and continue her research interests in infant feeding cultural practices in the context of modern medicine. At Elon, Sarah was an Honors Fellow and Lumen Scholar whose research project, “I Pumped. I Didn’t Breastfeed: Exploring the Infant Feeding Experiences of Parents in the NICU,” integrated culture and medicine. Mentored by Professor of Public Health Studies and Human Service Studies Cindy Fair, her project investigated how the intensive care environment of the NICU impacts the experience of infant feeding. Sarah was also recently awarded a National Institutes of Health Graduate Research Fellowship and will enter a Master of Science program in narrative medicine at Columbia University following her Fulbright experience. Sarah also held a service/leadership role at Elon as the director of outreach for Elon Volunteers! Her long-term plans include attending medical school in order to treat patients and continue research in maternal and child health.

Alonzo Cee’18  |  Statistics

Alonzo Cee will enter the first class of Elon’s new Master of Arts in Higher Education program in the fall. As an undergraduate, he worked with WSOE campus radio and served as a tour guide and as a member of Elon’s Inclusive Community Council. He provided leadership as president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and within his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha. Alonzo also advanced his philanthropic interest in pancreatic cancer research through the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and started the Black Men of Distinction group at Elon as a support system for black males on campus. While a highly respected campus servant and leader, Alonzo was also committed to his academics and says he decided to major in statistics because of his interest in baseball and baseball analytics. He pursued a research project, “Modeling Salaries of Major League Baseball Players,” with support from mentor Ryne Vankrevelen, lecturer in statistics. He studied abroad in the Dominican Republic through a course that focused on baseball and tourism but also supported his interest in social and racial justice.
Mariana Kneppers ’18 | Biology & Environmental and Ecological Science

Mariana Kneppers is pursuing her passion for marine ecology in a six-month Divemaster research internship in the Seychelles through Global Vision International. While at Elon, she did a Winter Term study abroad course in Belize that included a marine ecosystem component and spent a semester in Turks and Caicos as part of the Marine Resources Management Studies program of the School for Field Studies. As an Elon College Fellow and Lumen Scholar, mentored by Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Brant Touchette, Mariana engaged in greenhouse and field research on the Outer Banks of North Carolina investigating the vulnerability of coastal marsh plants to heat stress. She presented her project at the Water Resources Research Institute of the UNC System and at the Association of Southeastern Biologists. As a junior at Elon, Mariana was awarded a prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which along with her Elon College Fellows and Lumen Scholarships supported her travel and research. She is currently working on a manuscript for possible publication and hopes to pursue a doctorate in marine ecology.

Julia Goldberg ’18 | Dance Performance and Choreography & Dance Science

Inspired by her two majors, Julia Goldberg completed a research project as an Elon College Fellow titled “Technology through the Body: How may physiological data elicit spectator empathy in a multimedia dance film?” Mentored by Assistant Professor of Dance Jen Guy-Metcalf, the project resulted in the creation of a multimedia film and lecture demonstration for members of the Elon community. Julia studied abroad in Vietnam and attended the Elon in Los Angeles summer program, where she completed internships at Performing Arts Physical Therapy, Barak Ballet and Evoke Yoga. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Eta Sigma, served as the executive administrator for Synaesthetic Dance Company and earned a spot on the President’s List. Post-graduation, she trained through a work study program at the Peridance Capezio Center in New York City before attending the Summer Intensive at Visceral Dance Company in Chicago. She plans to continue writing and hopes to apply for a position in publishing.
Analytics

Many Elon College students are leaders in Elon’s Center for Organizational Analytics. Four of them — mathematics and statistics major Nicole Ciotoli ’18, applied mathematics and statistics major Sarah Kapinos ’19, applied mathematics major Lauren McMahon ’19 and applied mathematics major Julia Tranguch ’20 — were speakers at the Elon Analytics Conference held at SAS Institute in April.

Elon College students and faculty are also involved in the Baseball Analytics Club. Lecturer in Statistics Ryne Vankrevelen is taking on a leadership role. Statistics major David Higgins ’18 is currently working for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club. Statistics major Alonzo Cee ’18 and math with teacher licensure major Ben Rogers ’19 did research in Baseball Analytics with Vankrevelen.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics also has new curricular offerings. STS 347: Statistical Computing for Simulation and Theory will introduce students to the theory of statistics while teaching them how to code in the R programming language. STS 460: Statistics Practicum will be available starting in fall 2018. In this course-based internship, students work on team projects that are proposed by business, industry and government organizations.

Elon-Alamance Health Partners

The Community Impact Fellows, funded by the Kenan Foundation, have joined with the Elon-Alamance Health Partners program. As a result, the fourth cohort of graduates participating in these service-year programs is made up of six fellows instead of four. The two Community Impact Fellows, Daniela Cerón ’18 and Bernadette Cooper ’18, will work with local students through Alamance Achieves, a nonprofit focused on furthering educational success. The other fellows will work with local organizations that contribute to the health and well-being of Alamance County residents — Jared Bishop ’18 with Healthy Alamance, Sally Gordon ’18 with the Alamance County Health Department, Kacie Lynch ’18 with Impact Alamance and Kelsey Warren ’18 with Alamance Regional Medical Center.
New Robotics Lab

The Duke Robotics Lab will be available for computer science and engineering classes in fall 2018 in the space that was formerly the Academic Support Office. It will contain 10 work stations that will allow students to work in teams designing, building and programming small-scale robots.

The Elon University Poll

The Elon Poll conducted a record 21 surveys in 2017-18. Four of these were traditional telephone surveys, one was a mixed mode (telephone and email) survey and 16 were online opt-in surveys.

The mixed-mode survey was conducted in partnership with McClatchy Newspapers and sampled North Carolina public K-12 teachers about their opinions regarding guns in school. One telephone survey was also conducted in partnership with McClatchy Newspapers to examine Mecklenburg County voters' attitudes about issues facing the greater Charlotte area. Two statewide telephone surveys studied the opioid crisis, opinions about elected officials and political knowledge in North Carolina. The largest project of 2017-18 involved 16 surveys, one in each of the metropolitan areas deemed as finalists for Amazon’s second headquarters. This project was conducted in partnership with the Business Journals group of business newspapers.

The Elon Poll advanced in several ways in 2017-18. The call center moved from Gray Pavilion to a new space in Powell Building. The poll developed an innovative randomized panel of North Carolina registered voters, increasing data quality while dramatically lowering costs. Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight.com raised the rating of the Elon Poll from a B+ to an A-. This makes the Elon Poll the highest-ranked polling organization based in North Carolina. Elon Poll Director Jason Husser will work with the Office of University Communications in 2018-19 to establish media partnerships to distribute survey results to even broader audiences.

Pilates/Somatics Lab

The Pilates method of mind-body conditioning is an innovative cross-training system that allows dancers to build core strength, core stability and overall physical awareness. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the new Pilates Lab currently houses a sampling of small and large equipment with plans to introduce additional equipment in the coming year. Dance students are already using the lab and benefiting from learning the Pilates method.
Elon College Fellows

The 33 Elon College Fellows in the Class of 2018 represent 15 departments and two interdisciplinary majors within the College of Arts and Sciences. They include Periclean Scholars, Lumen Scholars and members of Phi Beta Kappa, as well as recipients of national fellowships and many other achievements and honors. Each fellow completed a two-year mentored research experience culminating in a professional outcome and presentation.

A few examples of their accomplishments include:
- Amy Mullen (public health studies and policy studies) investigated "Newcomers and Nursing: Infant Feeding Beliefs and Practices of Recently Settled Refugees" with Assistant Professor of Anthropology Mussa Idris and presented her research at Elon’s Spring Undergraduate Research Forum and at the Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference;
- Periclean Scholar Sandra Pearce (environmental studies) spent two years working in partnership with a community in Zambia to develop a service project under the guidance of Professor of English Steve Braye;
- During Winter Term 2018 Matthew Sears (biology) studied abroad in Panama, where he conducted research as part of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute under the mentorship of Assistant Professor of Biology Jen Hamel;
- Corinne Wilson (dance performance and choreography) completed a summer internship as a choreography intern at the McDonald Selznick Associates Dance Agency in Hollywood, California.

The Elon College Fellows Class of 2018 represented 15 departments and two interdisciplinary majors.

The 2018 Elon College Fellows leave the university to engage in exciting opportunities in service, employment or continued study. For instance:
- Alexa Trost (public health studies and international & global studies) will serve in the Peace Corps in Swaziland;
- Annalise Tolley (biology) has accepted a fellowship to work with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project non-government organization in India;
- Alexandra Meads (computer science) will work as a technical associate with MetLife in Tampa, Florida.

Peace Corps

Elon was recognized this past winter as a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers, ranking highly among schools of similar size. The university currently boasts 20 recent graduates working in a variety of capacities in 17 nations. At least five members of the Class of 2018 will contribute to this total, serving in the following nations and Peace Corps tracks: Sarah Canipe, Benin (health); Kat Milbradt, Morocco (youth in development); Bob Minton, Ukraine (education); Abbie Robinson, Paraguay (environmental education); and Alexa Trost, Swaziland (health). Members of the Class of 2018 who completed the Peace Corps Prep program this year include Camden Formby-Lavertu, Reena John, Tate Replogle, Abbie Robinson and Sarah Stacki.

From left, Steve Moore, director of the Peace Corps Prep Program; Katherine Johnson, director of Global Health; Camden Formby-Lavertu ’18; Alexa Trost ’18; Bob Minton ’18; and Jennifer Zinchuk, director of TEFL/TESOL.
A Meaningful Matrix of Mentoring

Throughout Elon College and across its many programs, faculty and staff mentors are a vital part of students’ experiences. Every day, students and professors share conversations over lunch or coffee, collaborate in labs and rehearsal studios, and chat on campus walkways or online. Formal mentorship arrangements are a feature of research opportunities, scholarship programs and more. While the college’s outstanding faculty mentors are too numerous to mention, here’s a sampling of those who have shaped student learning.

Scott Wolter, associate professor of engineering, whose success in securing grant funding has purchased lab equipment and material, and also provided stipends for some of his student researchers;

Polly Cornelius, senior lecturer in music, who holds the distinction of having 10 of her former Elon voice students perform on Broadway, and one current student, Tres McMichael ’19, receive the first place award in the 2018 National Hall Johnson Spiritual Competition through the National Association of Teachers of Singing;
Buffie Longmire-Avital, associate professor of psychology, who has been named a Center for Engaged Learning Scholar, where she will focus her work on diversity and inclusion of students from historically underrepresented groups in mentored undergraduate research;

Karen Yokley, associate professor of mathematics, who mentors student research on the spread of mosquito born illnesses and toxicology and leads a group of students and faculty pursuing research related to dengue fever;

Renay Aumiller, assistant professor of dance; Jen Guy Metcalf, assistant professor of dance; and Lauren Kearns, professor of dance, who jointly approach the mentorship of their many student choreographic and dance science researchers guided by what they describe as the three pillars of curiosity, creativity and collaboration;

Laura Roselle, professor of political science and policy studies, whose department created its first faculty award this past year, named the Laura Roselle Award for Undergraduate Mentoring, and whose colleagues unanimously chose her as the award’s first recipient.

As this sampling of mentors suggests, the commitment of the Elon College faculty and staff to mentorship is profound. In addition to the many academic programs that maintain peer-mentoring programs, mentorship includes many institutional structures of support.

Advising through Elon 101
Elon 101, an advising seminar taken by all first-year students with an average adviser to advisee ratio of 1 to 16, provides first-year students with mentoring opportunities. The seminar is also staffed with a peer leader who adds another dimension of mentoring access. Elon 101 advisers assist students with understanding the arts and sciences-based Elon Core Curriculum to complement major and minor requirements.

Students are encouraged to develop Elon plans that outline a graduation trajectory, which leads to many adviser-advisee discussions about how to be meaningfully engaged, academically and socially, as an Elon student. In the fall of 2017, College of Arts & Sciences faculty taught 30 percent of the 100 Elon 101 sections offered.

Communities of Professional Practice
Recognizing that some students’ long-term goals have specific advising needs, the college supports several unique “Communities of Professional Practice” (CoPP). This was the inaugural year for the Nonprofit Leadership CoPP, an advising track for students who are interested in pursuing a career in any role within the nonprofit sector. The CoPP serves as a resource for students to plan their coursework to align with their career goals, develop relationships with faculty members who have shared interests and build a community with their peers.

The Health Professions Advising CoPP has a mission to provide students with advice, information and resources to help them enter a health professions program after completion of their undergraduate degree. Through a series of focused workshops, mock interviews, individual meetings, on-site test preparation and personal advice, the CoPP helps Elon graduates gain admittance to a range of health profession schools, including medical, dental, veterinary, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy and pharmacy school programs.

The Pre-Law Advising CoPP is preparing to welcome the first cohort of students in a pre-law focused Elon 101 course in fall 2018. These Phoenix Undergraduate Law Scholars will spend two years working with dedicated faculty mentors learning about the law alongside a community of peers from various majors across campus with similar interests in the legal profession. Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, pre-law advisers assisted students as they considered law school and applied to various programs. Students involved with the pre-law
advising program also have the opportunity to participate with Phi Alpha Delta or the Elon Mock Trial team. This year's team was invited to compete in the American Mock Trial Association Opening Round Championship in Wilmington, Delaware.

**The Residential Campus expands opportunities for learning**

The Living and Learning at Elon initiative offers a variety of opportunities for faculty to mentor students outside the classroom and even beyond one's academic discipline. Elon College faculty teach residentially-linked first-year seminars, live in residence among students and direct the intellectual life of on-campus neighborhoods. By the time classes begin in fall 2018, the university will have eight faculty and nine staff members living on campus in Elon's nine residential neighborhoods. Half of these faculty directors or faculty-in-residence will be Elon College faculty, including Clay Stevenson, senior lecturer in music, who will serve as faculty director in the new East Neighborhood. We also have a total of 37 live-out faculty and staff who serve as advisers and mentors to students in 27 residential learning communities.

In fall 2018, four new living-learning communities will be launched: African Diaspora: Exploring Blackness Across the Globe; Outdoor Learning Community; Paideia: Civic and Political Engagement; and Sport Management and Media. We have continued to link first-year seminars to residential neighborhoods but in fall 2018, seven of the 40 courses we are linking include new disciplinary classes offered by Elon College departments and faculty. These courses are all linked to Historic Neighborhood in the heart of Elon's College of Arts & Sciences.

**Internships enrich the student experience**

Over the past five years, the number of Elon College students completing an internship has grown by approximately 27 percent, and 30 percent of all Elon internships are completed by our students. In the past year, students have participated in a variety of programs off-campus that have been mentored by faculty across 25 of Elon College's departments and programs.

Pam Kiser, retired professor of human service studies, and the Faculty Council on Internships have spearheaded the effort to increase the quantity and quality of internships for Elon College students. Starting in fall 2018, CJ Fleming, assistant professor of psychology, will take over as the faculty fellow for internships and will continue to increase the role of internships in the College.

**Undergraduate research creates a meaningful challenge**

Students whose majors reside in Elon College once again benefitted from and contributed impressively to the university's undergraduate research program. Not only were our Elon College Fellows well represented this year, but many Honors Fellows are also Elon College majors. Fifty-four students took part in the 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program, and 37 of the 42 faculty mentors were Elon College faculty members. All 12 of the SURE students selected as Provost Scholars represent majors in Elon College. Ten Elon College Fellows and nine Honors Fellows were among the 32 Elon students who attended the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, held this year at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Many Elon College students were among the 212 student presenters during this year's Spring Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), including 36 Elon College Fellows and a similar number of Honors Fellows. Psychology major Caroline Dean '18 organized a "Scholars' Table" dinner for junior students titled "Making Global Local," where she and six other Elon College students presented their research. Others contributed to the Undergraduate Student Research Association, dedicated to building a sense of community among undergraduate researchers and promoting awareness of research opportunities among students not currently engaged in research.

Located in the Colonnades Neighborhood, the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) living-learning community is one of 30 residential learning communities offered at Elon.
Excellence in Service & Leadership

Dave Gammon, associate professor of biology, demonstrates the breadth of forms that service-leadership can take. He has served as coordinator of the interdisciplinary science courses, branch coordinator for the Elon College Fellows program and on Academic Council. Dave has also been a co-organizer of the Burlington Science Expo, judged student oral presentations at the international bird research meetings at Academia University and collaborated with the physics department and the Alamance-Burlington School System to develop two major science outreach events. Dave is frequently invited to offer guest lectures on topics ranging from the relationship between environmental dilemmas and economics and a solar-powered future to evolution and faith and how science was relevant to the 2016 elections.

Sirena Hargrove-Leak, associate professor of engineering, exemplifies the depth of service-leadership that one can perform when dedicated fully to one’s program. Sirena is the co-director of Elon’s dual-degree engineering program, and recently chaired the Engineering Bridge committee that laid the foundation for the new four-year engineering degree at Elon. She is the site coordinator for TEAMS competition, an annual national competition coordinated by the Technology Student Association that gives high school students the opportunity to discover their potential for engineering. She has also served as faculty adviser to the Engineering Club, as well as on the math/science curriculum committee, the library committee (which she chaired in 2014) and the Voices of Discovery speaker series committee.

Excellence in Mentoring

Yuko Miyamoto, associate professor of biology, routinely mentors Honors Fellows, Lumen Scholars and Elon College Fellows who successfully carry their research to presentations at the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), the National Council of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) conference and other professional meetings. Yuko developed a mentoring structure within her labs that enables more advanced students to be involved in the mentoring of a new cohort of students each year. She carries a sizable advisee load for one of the largest majors in Elon College, and regularly writes letters of reference for current and former students who wish to attend graduate school, complete summer internships and secure research positions and scholarships.

Amy Overman, professor of psychology, mentors several independent research students in her lab. Her students can often be found presenting at SURF or NCUR and sharing their research at regional and national conferences. Over the past three years, she has published four co-authored articles and presented nine co-authored presentations at conferences with undergraduates. All of her students who have applied to doctoral programs have been accepted to one or more of them. Amy holds her students accountable for their work on a weekly basis, communicating with them almost daily. She offers encouragement, while holding the students to a high set of expectations and requiring them to take ownership of their own research projects.

Excellence in Teaching

Laura Taylor, associate professor of statistics, serves as the mathematics and statistics first-year coordinator, supporting all faculty who teach STS 110: Introduction to Statistical Reasoning in the first-year core. She also hosts monthly Math and Munch sessions enticing faculty to share their classroom pedagogies for STS 110. In her own sections of STS 110, Laura engages students with demonstrations in StatCrunch and projects that focus on real world data tied to the first-year common reading. In addition, she often has first-year students maintain a statistics diary to reflect on how important statistics are in our understanding of the world in which we live. Laura is an excellent mentor for future statisticians through both the research and internship experiences.
Excellence in Scholarship

Pamela Winfield, associate professor of religious studies, has made presentations at regional and national conferences of the American Academy of Religion, ASIANetwork, the Association of Asian Studies and the Zen and Material Culture conference. Her work has appeared in publications from the Oxford University Press, in the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Art and in CrossCurrents Journal. She has been invited to participate in a symposium hosted by the University of Zurich, a closed manuscript workshop at Duke University’s Franklin Humanities Institute, and to write a short précis for academic audiences about the Martin Scorsese film adaptation of Shusaku Endo’s “Silence.” In 2015 her book, “Icons and Iconoclasm in Japanese Buddhism,” received the Association of Asian Studies’ fourth annual Book Prize. She has also spoken about her research at numerous universities and board meetings.

University Award Winners

Stephen Bloch-Schulman, associate professor of philosophy and chair of the Department of Philosophy, received the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching. His substantial and influential contributions in the field earned him national recognition this year when he was named the first recipient of the new Excellence in Teaching Philosophy award from the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, the American Philosophy Association and the Teaching Philosophy Association. Stephen has served as a dedicated mentor to his students and a leader in undergraduate research. He has co-authored four published articles and co-presented 14 conference presentations with undergraduate students.

Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, professor of psychology and director of the Center for Research and Global Engagement, received the Distinguished Scholar Award. She focuses her research and scholarship on early childhood development and high-impact practices in higher education. Since coming to Elon in 1995, Maureen has published 33 peer-reviewed scholarly articles and has made 55 presentations at international and national conferences, with seven additional manuscripts now under review. Her edited book, “Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research,” will be published by the Council on Undergraduate Research in June. She has supervised more than 100 students through undergraduate research during her time at Elon.

Shereen Elgamal, lecturer in Arabic in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, received the Ward Family Excellence in Mentoring Award. She brings challenge and rigor to her courses while also cultivating in her students a love for what she teaches. A member of the Elon faculty since 2008, she has taught Arabic courses, coordinated the Middle East Studies program and served as the faculty adviser for the Arabic Language Organization and the Muslim Student Association. Students and alumni point to the influence that Shereen has had on their lives and their learning. She embodies all the best qualities of a mentor, providing the motivation that her students need to fully develop and pursue their goals.

Sylvia Muñoz, director of El Centro and associate director of the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education, received the Periclean Award for Civic Engagement & Social Responsibility. Sylvia works closely with many College of Arts & Sciences students and faculty. She has taught multiple Spanish conversation classes at El Centro as well as several sections of Elon 101, using both as opportunities to impress upon students how important it is to be an active participant in the local community. Sylvia provides a strong example for how to actively create a strong Elon community.
As noted in the 2017 Provost Report, the faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences published 17 books and 164 articles and/or book chapters. Our faculty also made 329 presentations at scholarly meetings/conferences and 39 artistic exhibitions and performances. Eight faculty members also secured grant support for research projects. A few examples to illustrate the work of the College’s prolific scholars include:

**Books**


**Selected Articles**


Scott W. Windham, associate professor of German, published “Culture First: Boosting Program Strength Through Cultural Instruction” in Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German.

**Selected Exhibitions / Performances**

**Selected Grants, Awards, Accomplishments**

**Chad Awtrey**, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, secured funding from the National Security Agency for his project, “REU: Computational Research on Local Fields and Galois Groups.”

**Amy Overman**, professor of psychology, and **Todd Lee**, professor of mathematics and statistics, secured support from the Colonial Academic Alliance for their research, “Learning to Learn: A student operator’s manual for the brain.”

**Clyde Ellis**, professor of history, secured funding from the Native American Rights Fund for his project, “The Impact of the Boarding School Era on Native Americans.”

**Paul Fromson**, professor of psychology

**Karl Green**, assistant professor of performing arts

**Thomas Henricks**, Danieleley Professor, Distinguished University Professor and professor of sociology

**Faculty Departures and Retirements in 2017-18**

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**Jon Metzger**, professor of music, conducted a master class and offered a recital performance at the University of Calgary and at the Banff Center for the Arts & Creativity in Canada in September 2017.

**Anne R. Simpkins**, associate professor of art, presented a one-person retrospective at The Constance Gallery in the Helene Center for the Arts at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

**Pam M. Kiser**, Watts-Thompson Professor, Distinguished University Professor and professor of human service studies

**Steve Moore**, lecturer in environmental studies

**Betty Morgan**, associate professor of political science and policy studies

**Jeffrey Pugh**, Maude Sharpe Powell Professor, Distinguished University Professor and professor of religious studies

**Sharon Spray**, associate professor of political science and policy studies

**Anthony Weston**, professor of philosophy
New Faculty in 2017-18

Daniel Baur, assistant professor of exercise science

Lynn Beck, lecturer in music

Richard Blackmon, assistant professor of engineering

Susan Camilleri, assistant professor of political science and policy studies

Margaret Chapman, lecturer in English

Simon Higgins, assistant professor of exercise science

Amy Hogan, lecturer in psychology

Kristin Lange, assistant professor of German

David “Sandy” Marshall, assistant professor of geography

Valerie Maze, musical director/conductor for the Department of Performing Arts

David McGraw, assistant professor of arts administration

J.P. Mullican, technical director for the Department of Performing Arts

Matt Pardo, assistant professor of dance

David Parker, lecturer in biology and lab coordinator

Erin Pearson, assistant professor of English

Antonio Rizzuto, assistant professor of chemistry

Sabrina Thurman, assistant professor of psychology
Christina Peterson ’10 was a French and international studies major with a minor in business whose study abroad experience was transformational. After graduation, Christina pursued a master’s degree in cross-cultural and sustainable business management at the American University of Paris. After numerous internships with French companies, she was hired by Orange Telecommunications, where she first served as a consultant and then as a strategic marketing manager. In 2015 she accepted a job at Google as an account manager in telecom and returned to the U.S. to live in New York City. In spring 2018, Christina participated in the first Undergraduate Conference on Languages and Cultures, returning to Elon to join our Professionalization Panel. She shared with students how her degree and her experience as a French major have contributed to her successful career trajectory. She has also served on the Homecoming planning committee for Elon, and she is involved both at Elon and at American University in Paris in alumni mentorship programs.

Larry F. Hodges ’74 double majored in mathematics and physics at Elon. He is now professor of human-centered computing in the School of Computing, a faculty fellow of the Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership and a faculty scholar in the School of Health Research, all at Clemson University. From 2008 to 2013, he served as the C. Tycho Howle Director of the School of Computing. Prior to joining Clemson, he served as chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for six years. He began his career at Georgia Tech, where he was a faculty member for 14 years. Larry is an active researcher of virtual reality, 3D user interface design and evaluation, interactive training systems and virtual humans. In 2017 he was inducted into the Computer Science Alumni Hall of Fame at North Carolina State University, where he received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. In addition to his academic career, he is the co-founder of two companies, Recovr, Inc. and Virtually Better, LLC.

Phillip “Andy” Ellen ’92, president and general counsel for the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association, majored in political science at Elon and earned his J.D. from Campbell University. Andy has been named one of the top five most effective lobbyists in North Carolina by the North Carolina Public Policy Institute for the last three biennia, as well as a recipient of the 2014 Triangle Business Journal’s Corporate Counsel Awards. He has overall responsibility for leading NCRMA and its seven affiliated companies. He is passionate about achieving the association’s mission of promoting a positive legislative and regulatory environment for the retail industry in order to enhance members’ opportunities for success. The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research has ranked Andy as one of the 15 most influential lobbyists during each of the past three biennia, including being ranked as the third most effective lobbyist for the 2011 legislative session.
Celebrate! 2018 offered a week of opportunities to showcase and commend the many achievements of Elon’s students. In addition to traditional events such as the induction ceremony of Phi Kappa Phi, the Leadership Awards Ceremony sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa and the elondocs Documentary Showcase in Turner Theatre, this year’s Celebrate! featured new panel discussions and program banquets, an eco-art installation in the Arts West Living Studio and the Elon Jazz Ensemble’s spring concert. It also marked the premiere of the new Celebrate Stage, a free outdoor lunchtime stage that featured performances by numerous Department of Music ensembles, BFA Dance majors, the Instant Laughter improv comedy troupe and the Elon Circus Club, as well as tributes to the senior human service studies majors, awards for outstanding sociology and anthropology students, a Kickbox winners presentation, readings of poetry from the new edition of Colonnades literary journal and more. Celebrate! 2018 also marked the 25th anniversary of the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum. In honor of this milestone, Dean Gabie Smith hosted a luncheon to honor Roz Reichard, former dean of math and sciences who, together with Professor of English Kathy Lyday, organized Elon’s first SURF Day.