A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO LEARNING

A N N U A L  R E P O R T  |  2 0 1 8 - 1 9
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.

Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, is a vibrant intellectual community committed to advancing the academic, personal and professional development of students. The vision statement above reflects our community members’ commitment to creating innovative intellectual and social climates that challenge our students.

All Elon students benefit from their deep study of the arts and sciences, which prepares them to analyze complex problems through creative cognitive and behavioral strategies and disciplinary knowledge. Our faculty and staff embrace mentoring and engaged learning opportunities to assist students in reaching shared goals that lead to future success.

We invite you to learn more about the many accomplishments of our students, faculty members and programs.

Best wishes,

Gabie E. Smith
Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences
Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences comprises 20 departments and several interdisciplinary programs. Through this varied curriculum, the College offers more than 45 majors and 50 minors. In addition, students can create a unique independent major based on their intellectual and professional interests with the direction of College faculty members.

### Arts and Humanities

- Acting (BFA)*
- Art (BFA or BA)*
- Art History*
- Arts Administration
- Dance Performance and Choreography (BFA)*
- Dance Science
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English (creative writing, literature, self-designed, teacher licensure and special education teacher licensure available)*
- French*

### Natural, Mathematical and Computational Sciences

- Applied Mathematics
- Astronomy*
- Astrophysics
- Biochemistry
- Biology (teacher licensure available)*
- Chemistry*
- Computer Science*
- Earth Science
- Engineering
- Engineering dual degree programs with Bio-Physics/Biomedical, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Mathematics and Physics
- Environmental and Ecological Science
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies*
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Science*
- Mathematics (teacher licensure and special education teacher licensure available)*
- Physics*
- Science Education (secondary science comprehensive licensure in biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics available)
- Statistics*

### Social and Behavioral Sciences

- Anthropology*
- History (teacher licensure and special education teacher licensure available in history/social studies)*
- Human Service Studies*
- International and Global Studies*
- * also offers a minor

### Additional Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Minors

- African and African-American Studies
- American Studies
- Asian Studies
- Classical Studies
- Creative Writing
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Dance
- Data Science
- Digital Art
- Game Design
- Geographic Information Systems
- Geography
- German Studies
- Interreligious Studies
- Italian Studies
- Jazz Studies
- Jewish Studies

* also offers a minor

We encourage students to explore our pathways of professional development and credentialing:

- Health Professions
- Legal Professions
- Military Science/ROTC

- International and Global Studies
- Music Education*
- Music in Liberal Arts
- Music Performance*
- Music Production and Recording Arts*
- Music Theatre (BFA)*
- Philosophy*
- Professional Writing and Rhetoric
- Religious Studies*
- Spanish (teacher licensure available)*
- Theatrical Design and Technology*

- Environmental and Ecological Science
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies*
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Science*
- Mathematics (teacher licensure and special education teacher licensure available)*
- Physics*
- Science Education (secondary science comprehensive licensure in biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics available)
- Statistics*

- Policy Studies*
- Political Science*
- Psychology*
- Public Health Studies*
- Sociology*

* indicates audition, portfolio or interview is required

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**PROGRAMS OF STUDY**
NICK CIOLKOWSKI ’19 | Biochemistry

As a Lumen Scholar, Nick focused his research on using the element vanadium to synthesize new antibiotics that can overcome organisms that have become resistant to conventional antibiotics. Nick was also a four-time All-Colonial Athletic Association runner and two-time league individual champion for the Elon University men’s cross country team – the first such champion in school history at the Division I level. He was also the CAA Men’s Cross Country Runner of the Year in two of his seasons. In his first year, he was the Elon Athletics Male Basnight Award recipient and received the CAA Men’s Cross Country Rookie of the Year award. In his senior season, he broke the school record in the men’s 8K. The Department of Chemistry awarded him the Senior Biochemistry Achievement Award, and he received the American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award. Nick is studying at the University of California-Berkeley to continue his research and pursue his dream of working in higher education.

SAMANTHA COLLINS ’19 | History with Teacher Licensure

Having minored in Spanish, Samantha will spend the next year teaching English in Mexico as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. Her experiences working with a college access program in Austin, Texas, in 2018 led her to seek out this opportunity. She plans to teach history in high school when she returns. A Teaching Fellow at Elon, Samantha participated in the American History Study Tour and the Engaging D.C. Study USA program, studied abroad in Spain and India, and was a member of the Sigma Delta Pi, Pi Gamma Mu, Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies. Her achievements as a student and excellence as a student teacher were recognized this spring when she was one of four seniors to receive the Arnold Strauch Award presented by the School of Education.

KENNETH BROWN JR. ’19 | Human Service Studies

Kenneth’s many leadership and service commitments at Elon included two years as class president and one as the executive president of the Student Government Association. He was a mentor to incoming Odyssey Program scholars; a Center for Race, Ethnicity, & Diversity Education (CREDE) student coordinator; a special events coordinator for the Black Student Union; a tutor with the Positive Attitude Youth Center and with the “It Takes a Village” Project; an ESL teacher’s assistant at Alamance Community College; and an intern with the Greensboro Urban Project. He was named a North Carolina Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow in 2016, and he has also received the SGA Rising Star Award and multiple Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards. Kenneth recently began a two-year paid fellowship with the A.J. Fletcher Foundation in Raleigh, North Carolina, lending support to organizations that work to improve the lives and well-being of North Carolinians. He is also serving a two-year term as a youth trustee on the Elon University Board of Trustees.
MORGAN FERGUSON ’19 | Mathematics and Statistics

In the summer after her sophomore year, Morgan conducted research at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington as part of a National Science Foundation-funded research experience for undergraduates. As a junior, she presented her results in “Face recognition on the MORPH-II database” at the 13th Annual Regional Mathematics and Statistics Conference, held at The University of North Carolina-Greensboro. This year, she presented her research on dengue fever at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research with her mentor, Professor of Mathematics Crista Arangala. Morgan also completed a practicum with Hanesbrands Inc., an internship with Ernst & Young and a semester of study in Ireland, in addition to serving as a math tutor and being active in her sorority. Inducted into the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi, Morgan also received her department’s award for outstanding achievement in both mathematics and statistics.

MICHAEI DRYZER ’19 | Independent Major in Biophysics

An Honors Fellow and Lumen Scholar, Michael worked with researchers from Duke University to participate in the Reinvent the Toilet Challenge, an initiative backed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. His team explored the effectiveness of using electroporation to kill devastating parasites that impact communities without reliable or effective sanitation solutions. During a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in 2018, he studied whether electroporation could produce pores in worm eggshells and determined that creating such holes in the eggshells was enough to kill them. Michael expects to continue research but foresees a change in focus. Noting that he’s been greatly influenced by his autistic sister, he says he wants his research to illuminate the experience and special needs of people with autism or other cognitive disabilities.
NICOLE GALANTE ’19 | English

As an Elon College Fellow, Nicole researched representations of adolescent power in young adult literature, a genre for and about adolescents but written almost exclusively by adults. “Adolescence, in general, is a period void of most power and repressed by adult influences, but the young adult literature is all about power,” she says. “My research explores this contradiction and how it manifests in the genre.” Her research findings rest on the reading and analysis of 20 contemporary young adult novels. Nicole was a Provost Scholar and a Betty Gerow Scholarship Award recipient, a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience participant and a recipient of the Rawls Endowed Research Grant. She may have graduated, but Nicole isn’t leaving Elon just yet. This fall she is one of 12 students in the second cohort of Elon’s Master of Arts in Higher Education program.

TRES MCMICHAEL ’19 | Music Theatre and Arts Administration

In addition to earning two degrees and completing three minors, Tres conducted undergraduate research with Buffie Longmire-Avital, associate professor of psychology, on perceptions of partner availability for emerging adult gay black men. He presented his findings in a short film at the Spring Undergraduate Research Forum. In 2018, Tres won first place in the National Hall Johnson Spiritual vocal competition, sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He also collaborated with the CREDE in creating a series of diversity seminars that he led for his peers and faculty in the music theatre and acting programs. Tres was accepted into the Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership program at Seattle University, but will delay entering for a year as he heads to the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., where, as an Allen Lee Hughes Community Engagement Fellow, he will work as an administrator and teaching artist.
Mariatu's Honors Fellow research project focused on the link between racial and gender identity formation in college-aged women and how this potentially impacts their political consciousness and activity. Her academic honors included membership in first-year honor society Phi Eta Sigma, and she received a Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Award, a Wellesley College Book Award and a Sewanee University Excellence in Writing Award. In addition to completing an internship in the office of the senior associate provost, Mariatu was an Elon Academy College Access team mentor; a senior student ambassador with the Student Professional Development Center; a S.M.A.R.T. mentor; an Alamance Girls in Motion student mentor; a New Student Transitions orientation leader; a member of the National Council of Negro Women; a member of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity; and a presenter at Elon's Intersect: Diversity & Leadership Conference.

An Elon College Fellow and a member of the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi, Styrling was selected as one of six rising juniors who formed the first cohort in the Multifaith Scholars program. Her subsequent research, rooted in conducting ethnographic interviews with members of the community at the Sikh Gurudwara of North Carolina in Durham, resulted in five presentations, three journal articles, one short popular piece, a seven-minute video, a photo exhibition, a separate study about Elon residents’ knowledge of Sikhs and a curriculum module for professors. Styrling is one of three Elon students who traveled overseas this summer as part of a federal scholarship program to further their study of foreign languages critical to U.S. diplomacy and outreach. She studied Hindi in Jaipur, India, and participated in cultural activities to expand her understanding of Indian history, politics, culture and daily life.
Elon-Alamance Health Partners

Six members of the Class of 2019 will spend the coming year working in health, wellness and education in Alamance County in partnership with local organizations. Four will serve as Elon-Alamance Health Partners fellows, with a focus on the health and well-being of Alamance County residents. Two will serve as Kenan Community Impact Fellows, working with local students through Alamance Achieves, a nonprofit focused on furthering educational success. They constitute the fifth cohort for these service-year programs.

Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll released seven survey reports in 2018-19. These surveys reflected what residents of the United States, North Carolina and Alamance County thought about a wide array of issues. Topics included the impact of Hurricane Florence, residents’ perceptions of safety, preferences in the Democratic presidential nomination, North Carolina constitutional amendments and the effect of election fraud on voter confidence. Hundreds of Elon students placed tens of thousands of phone calls as part of the university’s commitment to engaged learning. In the 2020 election cycle, the Elon Poll team will provide an accurate, nonpartisan measurement of what voters are thinking about in regard to important elections for governor, U.S. senator and president.

New Minor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

In collaboration with the Love School of Business, the college will offer a new Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) minor that provides an integrated approach to understanding historical and contemporary dynamics of wealth and power in relation to moral reflection. At the center of PPE is the examination of value and values (economic, political and moral) and the ways that different systems of valuing are contested and enacted. Elon's PPE minor provides students with a foundation for leadership and global citizenship by fostering careful reasoning and thoughtful deliberation about complex and multidimensional issues of public policy that will be subject to both individual and collective decision making in the years ahead.

Elon College Fellows

The 55 new Elon College Fellows in the Class of 2022 started their Fellows journey a bit differently from previous cohorts. The traditional fall introductions to the arts and sciences were distilled and delivered as an engaging experience at the Conservators Center in Caswell County, North Carolina. Dedicated to wildlife education and conservation with an emphasis on large carnivores, the center integrates the arts and sciences in its purpose, mission, implementation, challenges and accomplishments. The Big Cat Colloquium was bookended by preparation and reflection in the Fellows sections of Elon’s first-year seminar course, COR 110: The Global Experience. The Class of 2022 Fellows also visited Washington, D.C., for a Winter Term course during the government shutdown. Thirty-nine Fellows in the Class of 2019 graduated, having benefited from internships, study abroad, service, leadership and undergraduate research experiences that will serve them well as they continue their post-Elon journeys.
Political Science program hosts disciplinary journal for the next three years

The Department of Political Science and Policy Studies has been selected as the host institution for the undergraduate research journal of Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society) for the next three years. It is a huge accomplishment and great external recognition of all the work this Elon program has done in recent years.

PATHWAYS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CREDENTIALING

Health Professions Advising

This program continues to provide students with advice, information and resources to help them gain entrance to health professions programs after completing their undergraduate degree. Focused workshops, mock interviews, individual meetings, on-site test preparation and personal advising sessions advance that goal. Undergraduates also have multiple opportunities to visit Elon’s physician assistant and physical therapy programs. Elon College graduates regularly gain admittance to a range of health profession schools, including medical, dental, veterinary, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy and pharmacy school programs. Data show that Elon students are at or above the national averages for acceptance into all of these programs.

Legal Professions Advising

The Legal Professions Advising Program also maintained an active presence on campus this past academic year for students considering law school. Graduates from the Class of 2019 were accepted into a variety of distinguished law school programs including Columbia University, George Washington University and the University of Notre Dame. Students involved with the advising program were also invited to participate with Phi Alpha Delta and the Elon Mock Trial team and to attend a meeting with Elon alumni who are current law students to discuss the realities of law school.

Military Science/Reserve Officer Training Corps

Elon College proudly continues to provide support for Elon’s ROTC students. College-led activities this past year included improving communication about the program to prospective students and their families, hosting fall and spring breakfasts for the 28 current Elon ROTC students and the dean’s office, working with the registrar’s office to facilitate class registration for ROTC students, developing a plan to facilitate student travel to and from the ROTC Consortium leadership at North Carolina A&T University, and working with Elon Air Force students to host a spring visit of all Consortium Air Force students and their cadre.

ROTC student leaders offered a color guard for President Book’s fall inauguration ceremony and were invited to her home for a dinner. They continue to be enthusiastic participants in promoting Elon and the ROTC opportunity to prospective students by attending admissions events and meeting individually with campus visitors. With President Book in attendance, four Army ROTC Cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants in a May 23 ceremony in Holt Chapel. Cadets commissioned were Samuel Burke (accounting), Sol Carlson (business administration and finance), Taylor Massa (psychology) and Tyler Wilson (computer science).
Peace Corps Preparation

With 19 Elon alumni currently serving worldwide and 130 alumni having served in the Peace Corps, Elon has been ranked No. 18 (in a tie) among medium-sized schools on the agency's 2019 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list. Elon's Peace Corps Prep program was established in 2013, recertified last year and now prepares students to serve in the following areas: Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health and Youth in Development. Among the members of the Class of 2019 who completed the Peace Corps Prep Program this year are Bonnie Bloxom, Moriah Collins, Monique Hanna, Nicole Harrison, Sofia Huster, Hope Koene, Conor McVeigh, Sarah Smythe, Anna Thomas and Lauren Ventresca.

Nonprofit Leadership

In the 2018-19 year, seven new students joined the Nonprofit Leadership program for a total of 19 participating students. The group's primary focus this year was on building the curricular and co-curricular components of the program. Curricular developments included piloting two new courses, The Art & Science of Your College Journey Part I and II, which serve students participating in any of the pathways as well as the broader Elon undergraduate population.

New co-curricular opportunities included the first Nonprofit Leadership Career Trek, offered in collaboration with the Student Professional Development Center. The half-day experience included a luncheon with the Elon-Alamance Health Partners fellows and their supervisors at Impact Alamance and site visits and meetings with Impact Greensboro and Hospice & Palliative Care of Greensboro. The career trek was designed to help students learn more about opportunities within nonprofit organizations and ways to approach their Elon experience to prepare them for nonprofit work. The point-people at each site were Elon alumni, which provided a rich and specific conversation about translating the Elon journey to post-graduate plans.
Department of Political Science and Policy Studies brings politicians and diplomats to campus, sponsors Model United Nations

- Visits from former members of Congress, Reps. Glenn English, D-Okla., and Peter Roskam, R-Ill., and the diplomat in residence for the mid-Atlantic region, Kathryn Crockart, afforded students opportunities to discuss Congress, American government and careers in the U.S. Department of State. Crockart will return to campus to speak with students in fall 2019 about the Foreign Service Officer Test.

- Students in Elon’s Model United Nations academic club and faculty adviser Assistant Professor Baris Kesgin attended six intercollegiate conferences this year and returned with multiple awards. The quality of Elon’s MUN recently earned it recognition as one of the Top 50 clubs in North America.

Environmental Studies students learn by joining with professors to serve others

- Blawesome is a small business that specializes in cultivating and delivering locally grown bouquets of flowers, conceived and operated by a young man with a disability. aC+a (Atelier Charest + Associates) is a design-build architecture studio founded by Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Robert Michel Charest that focuses on responsibly designed-built community projects. The two have come together to create a master plan for a 2.5-acre organic farm and to build a responsible farmhouse, barn and greenhouse to support Blawesome. Students in numerous design-build courses have contributed to the project, and several are apprenticing this summer to help complete the new farmhouse.

- The department’s senior seminar course, led by Professor Janet MacFall and Lecturer Michael Strickland, afforded four teams of students the opportunity to work on varied projects with community clients from the area. These included the

“Model UN taught me to search for new perspectives on different topics and to always ask questions in order to come to my own conclusions. This knowledge and these skills have led me to be selected as an intern at The Carter Center this summer.” — Pearl Sullivan ’20
Alamance Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Hillsborough, Greensboro Parks and Recreation, and Uwharrie Charter Academy.

- Strickland’s Garden Studio class once again partnered with the Burlington Housing Authority, helping residents with their gardens and running teaching events. The class supplied seedling plants for the gardens, and at Loy Farm, the department partnered with Campus Kitchen to supply several thousand pounds of food for Allied Churches of Alamance County to serve in its shelter over the year.

**Human Service Studies courses link students to the local community**

Numerous Human Services Studies courses require students to complete semester-long service-learning projects. Linking service to the local community with academic content, they create an experiential learning environment as a method to expand students’ understanding of the course. And by creating opportunities for students to engage with the local community, these courses help them to develop meaningful life and workforce skills, such as handling issues of human difference, resolving ethical challenges and enhancing their sense of collective action and social participation. These projects prompt students to discover innovative ways to connect with the community around them, and they highlight the exceptional nature of the people that Elon’s campus calls neighbors.

**Public Health Studies offers life-changing experience in Winter Term**

PHS 381: Public Health Studies Practicum offers a field experience designed to orient students to various areas of public health work. Three weeks of observation and practice at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) in Jamkhed, India, and discussions with staff and volunteers allow students to explore various aspects of public health practice. Among its programs, CRHP was one of the first to use village health workers, women trained in basic health care and community development. The highly successful approach has been emulated worldwide. Students have faculty-led class meetings as well as site visits and trainings conducted by CRHP staff while they explore local culture, history, political structures and the role of NGOs in the developing world.

**STEM students engage in community outreach**

- Elon students enrolled in EGR 176: Engineering in the Village guided participants in the “It Takes a Village” Project in immersive engineering experiences. Each curriculum unit features one of several engineering disciplines and is based on a storybook, which aligns with the project’s mission to provide supplemental reading instruction for children in the community. The course allowed Elon students to explore the ways that engineering professionals serve society and the methods they use to identify and address societal issues. It also gave the young “It Takes a Village” students an opportunity to develop interest and confidence in their STEM abilities and to envision careers in these fields.

- Professor of Biology Dave Gammon’s SCI 121: Science Without Borders students designed original, museum-style science demonstrations and presented them to third, fourth and fifth graders at the local Boys & Girls Club of Alamance County.
• Once again, a group of computer science students offered The Hour of Code for the children of Alamance County. The nationwide initiative introduces students to all that computer science encompasses through games and activities. Elon students coordinated all aspects of the local event and shared not only their knowledge but their passion for computer science with more than 50 participating children.

Students engage with local immigrant communities

Elon students interact with local immigrant communities through internships, Lumen Prize projects, the Leadership Prize program and undergraduate research, either in a single semester or through projects that span one or more years. Assistant Professor of Anthropology Mussa Idris has connected students to his ethnographic research on refugee resettlement and microenterprise initiatives in collaboration with the North Carolina African Services Coalition. Students in Idris’ classes have done internships with the NCASC, fulfilling an experiential learning requirement and often collecting data for senior seminar papers.

World Languages and Cultures expands opportunities on campus

• Through courses that emphasize linguistic proficiency, intercultural competency and critical thinking, the Department of World Languages and Cultures is committed to ensuring Elon students gain an appreciation of various cultures and an understanding of their innate differences. The department again hosted guests from other schools at the Undergraduate Conference on Languages and Cultures, during which a dozen current Elon students made presentations in French, Spanish or German. Six alumni spoke on professionalism panels, detailing how a second language has played a role in building their careers.

• Lecturer in Chinese Binnan Gao’s dedication to student learning and enthusiasm for sharing Chinese culture ensured that students from numerous organizations joined to celebrate this year’s Chinese Lunar New Year festival. This spring also marked the first offering of CHN 376: Business Chinese, designed to help prepare students for work and travel in Chinese-speaking communities. By studying cases of multinational companies that have used intercultural knowledge to adapt to markets abroad, students not only develop their critical thinking skills and intercultural competence, but they gain basic knowledge of business terms.

• Since Lecturer in Arabic Shereen Elgamal began teaching at Elon in 2007, the number of students taking Arabic has more than tripled, now averaging 35-50 students per semester. Since 2014, Elon Arabic students have been competing in the Critical Language Scholarship Program, an intensive language study program sponsored by the State Department. Six Elon students have won the scholarship to date and have spent summers in Morocco, Jordan and Oman.

• ITL 375: Italian Literature and Video Games is part of a new four-course sequence that will ensure a challenging 300-level Italian course is offered each term. In ITL 375, students study and play games with audio and subtitles in Italian to analyze the literary elements of their complex narratives. Other courses will focus on cinema, cuisine and contemporary Italy, with each course offered every other year.

• The German program offered a new course, GER 331: Heimat, Identity and Space, as it continues to roll out its new 300-level courses in a reimagined curriculum. Other course topics include stereotyping, contemporary affairs, media studies, post-1945 Germany and East Germany.

• Associate Professor of French Olivia Choplin engaged students in the Winter Term course FRE 349: French Theater in Production, studying the role of theater in French society and creating an original class production. This year, students had the opportunity to work closely with critically acclaimed Haitian-Québécois author Marie-Célie Agnant to create and perform an original piece of thought-provoking theater. In addition to assisting the students in this course and delivering a public talk about her life and work, Agnant also spoke about Haiti with the cast of Elon’s production of the musical “Once on This Island.”
ELON COLLEGE AWARDS

Excellence in Mentoring

Buffie Longmire-Avital, associate professor of psychology, routinely mentors multiple undergraduates who present their research at regional and national conferences. She also consistently publishes with her undergraduate mentees, most recently having two articles accepted for publication with student co-authors Ruthie Robinson ’16 (“Young, depressed and Black: A comparative exploration of depressive symptomatology among Black and White emerging adult women”) and Elyse Bierut ’16 (“Race and exercise engagement: Investigating the high-calorie-burning activities of White and Black collegiate women”). In addition to her mentorships within the Elon community, Longmire-Avital mentors and supports both graduate students and early career professionals from historically underrepresented minority groups across the country. Recently, she was the invited keynote speaker for the Black Doctoral Network, a national networking organization for minorities navigating higher education.

Excellence in Scholarship

Chad Awtry, associate professor of mathematics and associate director of undergraduate research, is the author of two recently successful grant proposals. The first, provided by the Mathematical Association of America, supported his work with two Williams High School mathematics teachers in providing enrichment activities to the 45 students in the Williams High School Math Club. The second provided funding from the National Security Agency to enable eight students to conduct original, mentored research at Elon in summer 2018. These students were folded into the summer’s SURE program and represented approximately 15 percent of its participants. Awtry also publishes research papers in high-quality journals and presents at national and regional conferences every year. He recently concluded a three-year term as the A.L. Hook Emerging Scholar in Science and Mathematics.

Associate Professor of Spanish Mina Garcia-Soormally’s scholarship agenda connects her with collaborators at a number of other universities and research groups, perhaps most notably with the Universidad de Malaga, Spain. Her book, “Idolatry and the Construction of the Spanish Empire,” was published by the University Press of Colorado last fall and another book is currently under review. Her recent writings have appeared in several notable journals, and she regularly presents at national and international conferences. She is editing with colleagues from a number of schools a volume that considers social injustice in early modern Spain. Additionally, with support from CATL and the Office of the Provost, she founded a Faculty Research Series at Elon, open to all and focused on the research process.

Excellence in Service-Leadership

Professor of English Paula Rosinski has coordinated the implementation of Elon’s Writing Excellence Initiative as the director of the Writing Across the University program since fall 2015. In this role, she has collaborated with colleagues on building the Center for Writing Excellence Disciplinary Consultants/ Course Embedded Consultants program, which pairs experienced consultants with faculty members working to strengthen disciplinary writing in their courses. She has also co-led summer writing institutes, organized and led several workshops across the academic year on writing topics
for faculty, and served on the University Writing Excellence Committee, the Undergraduate Research Committee and the Elon Core Curriculum Council. She also serves on the Department of English programming committee, special projects committee, and professional writing and rhetoric committee.

Safia Swimelar, associate professor of political science and policy studies, has led and organized numerous on-campus speakers and events to support global engagement and interdisciplinary critical thinking. She serves on department search committees and mentors the new junior faculty colleagues who arrive as a result of those searches. She is an active member of the Peace and Conflict Studies advisory board and serves on the Global Education Center advisory board as well as on the Global Neighborhood Committee. In addition, she continues to lead the international and global studies major. In this capacity, she began offering study abroad lunches for returning and future students to help them integrate their international living learning experiences with their coursework upon return to campus.

Excellence in Teaching

Polly Butler Cornelius, senior lecturer in music, serves as coordinator of voice lessons for more than 150 students each semester, teaches private classes related to vocal studies and has taught the opera workshop course in Florence, Italy, the past two summers. She approaches voice development in a broad context that includes not only functional training but also instruction in styles, theory, history and health. A significant element of Cornelius’ role as a teacher is preparing and mentoring students for end of term jury exams, performances, and auditions for jobs and graduate school. She also spends considerable time attending student performances so she can provide feedback, and her own successful professionalism enables her to model the professional process in a meaningful way.

Shannon Duvall, associate professor of computer science, teaches many challenging upper-level courses including Programming Languages, Discrete Math, Graphics and Game Programming, Analysis of Algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence. She develops and tests creative pedagogies such as team building, developing 3D games and providing students with regular access to “second chance points” to enable them to fix errors akin to what they would find in the real world. Borrowing from a program management strategy known as “scrum,” she recently piloted an approach she calls “Scrumage” in her Discrete Math class. It allows students to choose their preferred learning strategy for the course material; they can select an individual or team approach and a flipped or traditional learning style.

UNIVERSITY AWARD WINNERS

The Ward Family Excellence in Mentoring Award

Associate Professor of Religious Studies Amy Allocco’s mentoring has been central to many students’ pursuit and attainment of high-quality employment, Fulbright Fellowships, positions with Teach for America and graduate studies at some of the finest institutions in the world. She teaches courses that investigate the religions of South Asia, particularly Hinduism, as well as Hindu goddesses, ethnography and gender in Islam. Her research focuses on vernacular Hinduism, especially contemporary Hindu ritual traditions and women’s religious practices in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where she has been studying and conducting ethnographic fieldwork for more than 20 years. Allocco has also served as a faculty-in-residence for the Global Neighborhood, mentored the South Asia Research Group at Elon and founded and currently directs the Multifaith Scholars program.
As noted in the 2018 Provost Report, the faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences published 11 books and 160 articles and/or book chapters. Our faculty also made 297 presentations at scholarly meetings/conferences and 40 artistic exhibitions and performances. Nine faculty members also secured grant support for research projects. A few examples to illustrate the work of the College’s prolific scholars include:

**Books**

**Cassie Kircher** (professor of English), “Far Flung: Improvisations on National Parks, Driving to Russia, Not Marrying a Ranger, the Language of Heartbreak, and Other Natural Disasters (In Place),” West Virginia University Press, 2019.


**Stephanie Baker** (assistant professor of public health studies), “It’s like you don’t have a roadmap really: Using an antiracism framework to analyze patients’ encounters in the cancer system,” with Black, Lightfoot, Schall, Mouw, Yongue, Samuel, Faustin, Ackert, Akins, Foley, Hilton, Mann-Jackson, Robertson, Shin, Yonas, and Eng, in Ethnicity & Health (December 2018): 1-21.


PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, ARTISTIC EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

In Memoriam: LM Wood

We note, with deep sadness, the passing of LM Wood, professor of art, on March 9. Wood was a dedicated artist and compassionate teacher who was hired at Elon to start a digital art (intermedia) program. The program and department thrive today, with many thanks to Wood’s vision, passion and dedication. She will be greatly missed by students, alumni and colleagues.

Selected Grants, Awards, Accomplishments

Clyde Ellis, professor of history, received a grant from the Native American Rights Fund for his research, “The Impact of the Boarding School Era on Native Americans.”

Scott Wolter, associate professor of engineering, received a grant from Duke University, Northeastern University and the Department of Homeland Security for his research on characterizing, modeling and mitigating texturing in X-ray diffraction imaging.

Eric Hall and Caroline Ketcham, professors of exercise science, received a grant from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Injury Prevention Research Center and the National Football League for their research, “The Role of Rehabilitation in Concussion Management: A Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Faculty Retirements in 2018-19

Brian Digre, professor of history

David Powell, professor of computing sciences and business administration

Linda Sabo, associate professor of performing arts

Selected Exhibitions/Performances

Kevin Boyle, professor of English, gave a poetry reading at Poets House in New York City on Nov. 9, 2018.

Jen Guy Metcalf, associate professor of performing arts, participated in the Women’s Independent Film Festival in Los Angeles on April 7, 2018.

Mike Sanford, professor of art

Donna VanBodegraven, associate professor of Spanish

Clay P. Stevenson, senior lecturer in music, served as music composer, sound designer and music editor for FIFA World Cup Public Service Announcements, sponsored by the United Nations, which aired in many nations and screened at numerous film festivals.

In Memoriam: LM Wood

We note, with deep sadness, the passing of LM Wood, professor of art, on March 9. Wood was a dedicated artist and compassionate teacher who was hired at Elon to start a digital art (intermedia) program. The program and department thrive today, with many thanks to Wood’s vision, passion and dedication. She will be greatly missed by students, alumni and colleagues.
NEW FACULTY & STAFF IN 2018-19

Jennifer Carroll, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology

Vanessa Drew-Branch, assistant professor of human service studies

Kevin Hoffman, visiting assistant professor of performing arts

Christina Horsford, assistant professor of human service studies

Ryan Mattfeld, assistant professor of computer science

Jessica Merricks, assistant professor of biology

Andrew Monteith, assistant professor of religious studies

Robert Perdue, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology

Heidi Jo Schiemer, costume designer and cutter/draper for the Department of Performing Arts

Aaron Sparks, assistant professor of political science and policy studies

Jonathan Su, assistant professor of engineering

Liza Taylor, assistant professor of political science and policy studies

Mark Weaver, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics

Allison Wente, assistant professor of music
The following outstanding graduates of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences were honored during a special awards ceremony May 2, both for the contributions they have made to their professions and for the manner in which they have represented to the world the values of Elon College and the university. Honoring this year’s recipients, Provost Steven House spoke about the joy he finds in sharing alumni stories with students and prospective students because they exemplify the value of an Elon education. “You make Elon a better place by what you have accomplished and by allowing us to tell your stories,” he said. “You make Elon proud.”

Jeremy B. Jones ’04 was an English and religious studies double-major at Elon. He has accomplished as much in the field of creative nonfiction as many professionals twice his age. He is the author of “Bearwallow: A Personal History of a Mountain Homeland,” which won the Appalachian Nonfiction Book of the Year Award, the Gold Medal for autobiography/memoir in the Independent Publisher Book Awards and five other awards. He is currently finishing his second book of nonfiction focusing on the role his paternal grandfather played in the changing landscape of North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains. His individual essays have been named Notable in Best American Essays and published in several journals and magazines. Jones directed the Writing Center at Charleston Southern University before beginning a tenure-track position at Western Carolina University, where he is now an associate professor. He serves as the series co-editor for a literary nonfiction book series from Vandalia Press, the creative imprint of WVU Press.

Sandra Reid ’85 graduated from Elon with a double major in human services and psychology. Reid has remained deeply engaged with Elon, sitting on Elon’s National Alumni Executive Board, serving as president of the African American Alumni Group and mentoring human service studies majors in their practicums and internships. During her distinguished career in the North Carolina juvenile justice system, Reid supervised 10 judicial district court programs, served on the management team for statewide juvenile services and had more than 200 employees under her supervision. Since joining Elon’s faculty in 2006, she has served as chairperson of the North Carolina Juvenile Justice Planning Committee and as a member of the critical Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee. She has also served on the Governor’s Crime Commission and the Governor’s Youth Accountability Task Force. Her talents have been tapped both in her department and throughout the university in programs such as Elon Academy, the Odyssey Program, service learning, study abroad and the residential campus initiative.

Wallace C. Sawyer ’64 (Wally) earned his bachelor’s degrees in physics and mathematics from Elon in 1964. An associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Sawyer began his NASA career in 1965 as an aerospace engineer at the Langley Research Center. Other positions in which he served include director of the High Speed Research program office; head of the Concepts Analysis Section, Fundamental Aerodynamics Branch, Supersonic/Hypersonic Aerodynamics Branch; assistant head of the Supersonic Aerodynamics Branch; and assistant chief of the Advanced Vehicles Division. He served as the deputy director at the Langley Research Center; the deputy director of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California; and special assistant to the director of Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Among the numerous awards and recognitions that he received are the NASA Equal Employment Opportunity Medal, a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal and the rank of Meritorious Executive.
CELEBRATE! 2019

The annual Celebrate! offered a week of opportunities to observe and honor the many achievements of Elon’s students. The week hosted the induction ceremony of Phi Kappa Phi, the Leadership Awards Ceremony sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa, the elondocs Documentary Showcase in Turner Theatre and the Elon Jazz Ensemble’s Spring Concert, among other events. The Celebrate Stage was back for its second year. This free outdoor lunchtime stage enjoyed beautiful weather all four days and featured performances by numerous Department of Music ensembles, dance students and the Instant Laughter and Please Clap improv comedy troupes, as well as a Kickbox winners presentation, readings of poetry and prose from the new edition of Colonnades, and more. As always, the Tuesday of Celebrate! was Elon’s annual Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, where student researchers shared their findings in a day devoted to poster sessions and oral presentations.