Elon Welcomes Brooks Depro

The Elon Department of Economics is pleased to welcome Brooks Depro, a senior economist with nearly 20 years of experience in applied policy analysis and economic consulting. Depro received his Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University in 2009. As an undergraduate, he studied Economics (B.A.) at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Depro’s areas of expertise include Economic Consulting, Applied Microeconomics, Environmental Economics, and Local and Regional Economics.

Dr. Depro specializes in economic analysis of the costs of environmental regulation and he has done extensive research on housing choices and the role these choices play in determining households’ exposure to environmental health risks or education opportunities. After working for RTI International for over 10 years, Dr. Depro is now teaching full-time in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. He is currently teaching Principles of Economics, as well as a new Economic Consulting class for upperclassmen.
After 27 years, **Greg Lilly**, associate professor of economics, retired from Elon. He took away from his experience at Elon a “deep appreciation of the risk-return trade-off.”

“You will not improve unless you take - often scary - risks,” Lilly said.

During his tenure, he taught undergraduate economics courses, the first-year seminar Global Experiences and the Business and Culture of Vietnam study abroad course. He served as chair of the Department of Economics from 1999-2005. He has published multiple peer-review journal articles and has been a frequent collaborator with his colleagues in the Love School of Business.

Lilly’s favorite Elon moments involve working with his department colleagues to move “Elon Economics” (faculty, curriculum, teaching and research) in positive ways. “The 2017 version of ‘Elon Economics’ is so much better than the 1990 version,” Lilly said. “I feel very fortunate to have worked with colleagues I trust, respect and like.”

His retirement plans include a bicycle tour of Vietnam with his sons.
Jen Platania, associate professor of economics and chair of the Department of Economics, has been appointed associate dean for the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and began her new position on June 1, 2017. She succeeds Associate Professor Scott Buechler, who retired at the end of May.


Committed to mentoring, Platania served as a faculty mentor to Elon’s College Fed Challenge team from 2011 through 2016, served as advisor to the Economics Club from 2004 through 2017, and has mentored 31 senior economic theses.

Platania’s research interests are in applied macroeconomics. Her work has been published in the Journal of Sports Economics, Global Education Journal, Applied Economic Letters and Northwest Florida Economy. Platania has both a doctorate and master’s degree in economics from Florida State University and bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and economics from West Virginia University.
2017 Economics Graduates

Steve Bendit is working at LiveIntent in NYC.

Justin Bellinger is working in Sales at Oracle in Boston MA.

Holly Brueggman is working at NERA Economic Consulting as a Research Associate in the Antitrust division in Houston, TX.

Andrew Brailey is pursuing his MA in Statecraft and National Security Affairs at the Institute of World Politics.

Jack Cove is working at Ernst & Young as a Staff analyst in National Tax practice within the Quantitative Economics and Statistics (Quest) group.

Ken Crew is working as an Acquisition Analyst at Toll Brothers Subsidiary: Gibraltar Capital in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

Patrick Dowd is moving to Bogota, Colombia, to teach English.

Alec Goodman is working for Accenture.

Nick Groll is playing his 5th year of football in Fall 2017 and is planning to attend law school.

Zach Lyons is pursuing his MS in Economics.

Hadley Lucas will be working as an associate sales consultant for Staples Business Advantage in Denver, CO.

Paige Lorton will be a year-long Intern at Passion City Church in Atlanta, GA.

Justin Morin is working in the Investment Banking Division doing corporate credit risk at Credit Suisse in NY, NY.

Jared Mactas will be a professional golfer.

Nick Rhyne is working at Credit Suisse.

Corey Theiss will be an Analyst in Client Development and Transaction Services with Accenture in Chicago, IL.

Andrew Van Hoof is working at Ernst & Young in the Transfer Pricing department in Washington DC after graduation and is planning to get his MBA after a year or so of working at EY.

Nick Suarez will be volunteering for the Peace Corps.

David Wallach is working at Goldman Sachs in Salt Lake City, UT.
Several economics students in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business presented their thesis research at the Eastern Economic Association’s annual conference, held Feb. 23-26, 2017, in New York. Seniors Danielle Brown, Holly Brueggman, Ken Crew, Seth Gatto, Justin Morin, Annie Ray and Andrew Van Hoof participated in the conference’s 12 undergraduate research sessions sponsored by Issues in Political Economy (IPE). This was the 24th consecutive year the IPE sponsored conference sessions. Sixty-five students from 29 colleges and universities throughout the country participated in two days of sessions. The seven Elon papers presented were:

**Danielle Brown ’17:** “Shifting Regional Wealth and the Market for Latin American Art” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)

**Holly Brueggman ’17:** “Examining the Impacts of Debt on First-Time Home Buying Decisions” (mentor: Jen Platania)

**Ken Crew ’17:** “Congestion makes it Harder to Breathe: Do High Occupancy Toll Lanes Reduce Emissions?” (mentor: Tonmoy Islam)

**Seth Gatto ’17:** “The Effects of States’ Expansion of Medicaid on Health Insurance Market Competition” (mentor: Steven Bednar)

**Justin Morin ’17:** “The Relationship between Income and the Hospitalization Rates of Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions” (mentor: Katy Rouse)

**Annie Ray ’17:** “Labor market outcomes of German immigrants: An empirical analysis of wage discrimination between Turks and Germans” (mentor: Steve DeLoach)

**Andrew Van Hoof ’17:** “The Effect of Adolescent Physical Education on Future Obesity Outcomes” (mentor: Katy Rouse)

*Issues in Political Economy* is the leading undergraduate research journal in economics and is co-edited in its entirety by undergraduates at Elon University and the University of Mary Washington. Elon has co-edited the journal since 1998. The IPE is indexed in *Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Economics & Finance*. Steve DeLoach, professor of economics, serves as the journal’s faculty advisor.
Student Awards

Four economics majors were presented with awards during the Love School of Business annual awards program on April 21, 2016. This year’s awards and recipients include:

**John Kappas Economics Award**
*Holly Brueggman*
*Danielle Brown*
This award goes to the senior economics major who best demonstrates enthusiasm for economics, potential for leadership, and classroom excellence. It is named in honor of the late John Kappas, a 1985 Elon graduate.

**Student Achievement in Economics Award**
*Kenneth Crew*
This award is given to a senior economics major who has shown enthusiasm and success in his or her courses as well as promise for future achievement.

**The David O. Bowden Economics Scholarship**
*Amanda Feldman*
Established by David Bowden ’70, the David O. Bowden Economics Scholarship is awarded to a rising senior majoring in economics who has been active in the department and demonstrated potential for future success. At Elon, Mr. Bowden was a double major in business administration and economics. He went on to earn his J.D. from the University of Miami.

**The Department of Economics Endowed Scholarship**
*Katelyn Roache*
This scholarship was established in 2005 by members of the Department of Economics for an economics major with a record of academic excellence within the major who exhibits a commitment to social responsibility.

The department extends its congratulations to this year’s LSB award recipients!
Senior Economics and International Economics Majors Present Theses

Twenty-nine seniors majoring in economics or international economics successfully presented their undergraduate research theses to faculty members in the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business’ Department of Economics.

The senior thesis is the culmination of the economics major and serves as the students’ required comprehensive evaluation in the major field of study. For this research project, economics majors work individually with a professor to build on work done in previous courses, culminating in a work of presentation quality. The completed work is presented before the Department of Economics, as well as in public forums such as Elon’s Spring Undergraduate Research Forum and the Eastern Economic Association’s annual conference.


ODE Welcomes 2017 Inductees

Steven Bendit  
Christopher Boericke  
Harrison Conner  
Nicholas Groll  
Stephen Idol  
Jacob Jimenez  
Quinn Kennedy  
Nicholas Kyle  
Katherine Lamb  

Megan McCaffrey  
Tierney McDonnell  
Luz Mendoza  
Calvin Mincer  
Adrian Pomeroy  
Catherine Ray  
Lauren Ray  
Alexandra Stone  
Sean Webber
Steve Bednar


Jayoti (Tina) Das


Steve DeLoach

Steve DeLoach (cont)


Brooks Depro


Cassandra DiRienzo


Cassandra Dirienzo (cont)


Andrew Greenland


Tonmoy Islam


Mark Kurt


Katy Rouse


Katy Rouse (cont)


Brandon Sheridan


Vitaliy Stroshush


Hello, Econ Alumni!

Do you remember your senior thesis and the ting of uncertainty over how you were going to come up with an idea for it, much less complete it? Or what you were going to do after you completed the thesis and walked across the stage at graduation?

We believe that we can create more support for our students and we are hoping you can be a part of it. Over the next year, we will be developing the Elon Economics Network. The goal is two-fold.

First, it connects alumni with rising seniors to provide a bit of guidance regarding your process of discovery through the senior thesis. Second, share your experiences about where the economics degree has taken you, provide advice or simply listen.

As you know the Economics degree is a highly versatile degree, which takes our alumni down many varied and unique paths. Hearing about your path can be helpful and inspire confidence.

You have a powerful voice and we hope you are willing to be involved in creating stronger connections with each other.

Contact:
Mark Kurt
mkurt@elon.edu
(336) 278-5915
Hello Elon Econ Alumni!

Our department has undergone a number of changes in recent years. Tiemann, Barbour and Lilly have retired and we have added Islam, Sheridan and Depro to our family. DiRienzo stepped down as Associate Dean, but then Platania has now stepped into that office. Alas, I am department chair for a while!

This is an exciting time for our department. We have a new BSBA major in Economic Consulting to complement the strong BAs in Economics and International Economics. With the help of many of YOU, our recent graduates have experienced tremendous success in the job market.

There are many ways to keep up with us now. Check our new Facebook page and keep up with us on Twitter!

Steve