

Department	Faculty Member	Research Description
Accounting	Hani Tadros	<p>Attempting to understand why firms disclose environmental information, prior literature lands conflicting results. Proponents of legitimacy theory argue that environmental reporting is elusive and deceptive while advocates of economic theory believe that this type of disclosure – driven by investors need for information – is informative and value relevant. Using panel data analysis of firms’ environmental disclosures over a 14-year period, Hani Tadros examines whether an association exists between these disclosures and firms’ environmental performance. He tries to understand the determinants of firms’ environmental reporting to better understand the motivation of firms to disclose such information.</p>
Art, Environmental Studies	Samantha DiRosa	<p>Samantha DiRosa’s research investigates the intersections between art, activism, sustainability, environmental justice, and eco-spiritual practices. In 2008, serving as a Sustainability Faculty Scholar, she worked to integrate dialogues on sustainability into the Studio Art foundations curriculum. Her pedagogical research, which was further supported by a two-year fellowship from Elon’s Center for Advancement of Teaching and Learning, involves creating more visible bridges between Art and Environmental Science, while broadening the interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainability and the environment within the undergraduate curriculum. Additionally, her latest artwork, which has been shown extensively nationally and internationally, explores environmental degradation and our atomic legacy within the context of the Fukushima Daichi nuclear crisis.</p>

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Biology	David Vandermast	David Vandermast's research looks at the long-term dynamics of plant populations and communities in North Carolina. His research most often focuses on forest recovery from disease, plant population responses to changes in environmental conditions, competition between plants in forest communities via allelopathy, invasive plant abundance in forest communities, secondary successional processes in forests of varying composition and structure, the effect of beavers on riparian forest composition and invasive species abundance, carbon sequestration, and the structure and composition of patches of old forest in the NC Piedmont called "forests of continuity".
Biology	David Gammon	David Gammon's research interests are about the causes and solutions of large-scale environmental problems, such as climate change, and the global loss of biodiversity and other ecosystem services. He studies how economics and interdisciplinary thinking can be used to address modern environmental challenges such as these.
Biology	Mike Kingston	Mike Kingston's research focuses on the ecology of microscopic algae that live in sand beaches, estuaries, and on the banks of freshwater streams. A second area of research focuses on community ecology and the effects of climate change, introduced species, and predation on the colonization of subtidal hard substrates by invertebrate marine animals.
Biology	Linda Niedziela	Linda Niedziela's research interests include the toxicological assessment of human impact on aquatic environments. She has mentored many student projects looking at how toxic compounds released into the environment from industry, agriculture, or pharmaceutical use impact the survival, development or fertility of aquatic organisms. Understanding the toxicity of these contaminants can lead to the development of less toxic alternatives or stronger regulation of chemical use.

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Biology, Environmental Studies	Brant Touchette	Brant Touchette's research centers on wetland vegetation and the role climate change plays on wetland plants. This includes the impacts of elevated CO2 levels and sea-level rise on coastal marshes and the consequences of decreased precipitation on freshwater wetlands. Research also includes restoration of rare ecosystems such as coastal maritime swamps and lotic wetlands used by endangered species. He is also on the editorial board for the peer review journal Aquatic Biology.
Chemistry	Justin Clar	Dr. Clar's Research group focuses on the release and transformation of trace metals in both natural and engineered environmental systems. Since the industrial revolution, economic investments in research and development for new technologies has far outweighed the amount allotted to downstream environmental implications and human health concerns. As a result, environmental scientists are consistently put in the role of remediation and mitigation, as opposed to prevention. The goal of our research group is to understand how anthropogenic activity alters the cycling of trace metals in the environment, with special attention paid to changes in chemical speciation.
Chemistry	Jen Dabrowski	In a world with limited supplies of crude oil there is a growing need for alternatives methods of accessing the products responsible for the modern quality of life desired by society. Currently the majority of consumer products (e.g., medicines, plastics, electronics, etc.) are produced from non-sustainable petroleum-derived substances. Jen Dabrowski's research utilizes the principles of organometallic chemistry to design and apply more Earth-abundant catalysts to solve challenges in the creation of feedstocks for consumer products from biorenewable resources. Current efforts have focused on sugars as a rich scaffold for diversification.

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Chemistry	Anthony Rizzuto	Dr. Rizzuto's research lab focuses on the role of chemical species in various atmospheric and environmental processes. These projects include: 1. The study of microscopic atmospheric water droplets and how their chemical composition impacts cloud formation and evaporation rates. This information plays an important role in furthering our understanding of oceanic and atmospheric chemistry, which in turn can be used to develop more accurate climate models. 2. The study of carbonic acid (the centerpiece of the global carbon cycle) as it pertains to ocean acidification, nanoparticle sequestration and carbonation, and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.
Chemistry	Karl Sienerth	Karl Sienerth's research involves the synthesis of new compounds that have the potential to help humans mimic photosynthesis. Students in his research group collaborate to develop methods for making the compounds in the lab, and then use a wide range of instrumental methods to analyze the compounds. Once the basic structures of the compounds are confirmed, they are tested to see if they can make the conversion of carbon dioxide to other useful compounds more efficient. Not only does each compound studied have the potential to serve as a CO ₂ conversion catalyst, the research as a whole adds to the broader body of knowledge about CO ₂ chemistry, bringing humankind closer to a day when we can develop a complete carbon cycle to minimize the effect our fuel usage has on the planet.
Communications	Barbara Miller	Barbara Miller researches marketplace advocacy, a form of advertising and public relations used by corporations and industries to generate acceptance for industry-related issues, particularly those involving environmental and/or health risks. Miller explores the implications of this form of advocacy for industry, environmental efforts and public policy. Miller also researches public response to corporate social responsibility.

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Communications	Brian Walsh	<p>Brian Walsh's current research interest involves examining the present state of the funeral industry, and how its emphasis on 'traditional' means of interment cause soil, water and air contamination, as well as waste tremendous amounts of natural resources. Walsh explores alternative funerary rites that minimize environmental impact and aim to fundamentally change care of the deceased in America. He teaches in the iMedia graduate program.</p>
Economics	Casey DiRienzo	<p>Casey DiRienzo focuses on the economic and business country-level factors that contribute to a country's overall ability to meet environmental performance measures. During the 2000 Millennium Summit and 2005 World Summit, government and policy leaders pledged their countries' support for environmental sustainability and their commitment to meet the environmental goals established in these summits. Her research has focused on the economic, business and socio-economic variables that have led some countries to be more successful in meeting these goals than others. She teaches in the MBA and MS in Management programs.</p>
Economics	Tina Das	<p>Tina Das focuses on the economic and business country-level factors that contribute to a country's overall ability to meet environmental performance measures. During the 2000 Millennium Summit and 2005 World Summit, government and policy leaders pledged their countries' support for environmental sustainability and their commitment to meet the environmental goals established in these summits. Her research has focused on the economic, business and socio-economic variables that have led some countries to be more successful in meeting these goals than others.</p>

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Economics	Steve DeLoach	Steve DeLoach has published papers and mentored numerous student theses dealing with various aspects of sustainability. Much of this work has examined the role of international trade on environmental and working conditions across countries. His most recent work has examined the impact of access to microfinance on household decision-making in developing countries.
Economics	Brooks Depro	Brooks Depro is an environmental economist and examines the relationship between housing choices, environmental health risks, and environmental justice. His work in this area has been published in the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Land Economics and the edited volume of The Political Economy of Environmental Justice. His principles of economics classes cover environmental topics and he will also teach a course in the economics of environmental justice during the winter term 2020.

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Education & Wellness	Scott Morrison	<p>Scott Morrison’s research in environmental education is focused on ecologically minded teachers. Ecologically minded teachers are not necessarily trained in environmental education or required to integrate environmental issues into their classrooms, yet they do so because of their values and beliefs. He has written about the content and pedagogy of ecologically minded teachers as well as the responses of seven teachers to a professional development experience on eco-justice education. Dr. Morrison also mentors undergraduate research in environmental education. Amber Adams-Kuebler ’17 collected data from teachers at an elementary school with an ECO campus; she investigated their beliefs about environmental education and their use of the ECO campus. Laura Todd ’17 interviewed adolescents who identified as environmentalists; the purpose was to ascertain the sources of their pro-environmental values and whether sense of place played a role. Samantha Friedman ’18 studied the effects of outdoor learning environments on elementary students with autism. Nathan Hunnicutt ’19 is currently conducting a case study of three NC Green Schools of Excellence, specifically looking at the ways sustainability education is interconnected across the curriculum, campus, and community. Finally, Dr. Morrison is working with teachers at Eastlawn Elementary School and South Graham Elementary School to support their use of school gardens. He teaches in the Master of Education program.</p>

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English	Cassie Kircher	Cassie Kircher is a nature writer, writing about her seven years working and living in Colorado's Rocky Mountains as well as Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Wisconsin's lake country and the far west of Russia's Siberia valleys. Her first collection of essays, divided and defined by geographical and psychological space, will be published spring 2019 by West Virginia University Press. Titled <i>Far Flung</i> , the collection depicts a woman coming to terms with her adoration of the West and how it gave her strength to confront where she was from.
Entrepreneurship	Elena Kennedy	Elena Kennedy's research focuses on early stage decision making in social enterprises—organizations that combine business practices and the pursuit of a social and/or environmental mission—and how those decisions affect the organization's ability to achieve their mission to create impact. She has examined the role of legal structure on social enterprise survivability, governance practices to ensure the protection of organization's mission, the positioning of the beneficiary and its effects on the enterprise's ability to scale, measure impact, and the impact the organization has on its individual beneficiaries, and most recently how locally oriented entrepreneurs can cooperate to develop entrepreneurial communities that drive economic development in their local area. She teaches in the MBA program.
Environmental Studies	Amanda Chunco	Amanda Chunco's primary research interest centers on integrating field studies with geographic models to aid the conservation of rare and endangered species. Dr. Chunco's work focuses on the impact of human activity (particularly climate change and land-use) on the distribution and abundance of wildlife. She works primarily with mammals and amphibians, but the general methodology she uses is applicable to the conservation of biodiversity as a whole.

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Environmental Studies	Robert Charest	<p>Robert Charest's research and practice involve community oriented design build projects, including innovative urban structures, micro housing and interior product design. With community partnerships, Professor Charest offers students hands-on experience while participating in inner city revitalization. His scholarship and involves responsible design and stewardship towards the environment and includes activities within the framework of engaged and applied scholarship. Much of his research interests focus on the “gap” between fleshed design artifacts and their representational devices. Professor Charest has explored this chasm within both the realm of design apprenticeship [potential design] and of practice [practicable design]. He has published numerous papers, guest edited a journal issue and delivered peer-reviewed and invited presentations on his research.</p>
Environmental Studies, Biology	Janet MacFall	<p>Janet MacFall's primary research interest is in soil ecology, with a focus on the role of roots and the microbial community in soil processes. This is especially relevant to sustainability because these soil organisms are responsible for nutrient cycling/retention/conversion in soil. They affect the ability of soil to support plant growth (food and fiber production) and for soil/vegetation to regulate contaminants moving with water flow. Understanding the regulation of materials in surface and ground waters by soil communities is essential for management of clean surface waters. Clean water is critical for drinking, recreation, agriculture, commerce and ecological integrity. Again, this is relevant to principles of sustainability.</p>

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Finance	Chris Harris	Chris Harris teaches finance. His research focuses on firms' working capital management policies, and how those policies can either create or destroy firm value. His recent work includes an empirical study of how socially responsible companies adjust both working capital and capital structure policies to meet their social goals. Additionally, he created a study abroad course 'Sustainable Agriculture and Microfinance in Peru' which focused on creating sustainable policies agriculturally and financially for farmers in Peru as well as with their partners in the United States. He worked as a hedge fund analyst prior to entering academia. He teaches in the MBA and MS in Management programs.
Finance	Raj Gupta	Raj Gupta is developing a pipeline of ethics and sustainability research linked to his areas of expertise in finance and business administration. His ongoing and recent work includes an empirical study of financial performance and value creation, looking at the competitive advantage of sustainable companies, both domestic and global. His past work includes studying linkages between the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and other broadly-based financial indices. He teaches in the MBA and MS in Management programs.
History and Geography	Honglin Xiao	Honglin Xiao's research focuses on understanding the interactions of the societies, economies, governments and the environment, with separate research in China and the Piedmont region, in order to understand the driving forces of land-use change, develop diagnostic models of cover change and produce integrated models for future sustainable land use and environmental restoration. The study of land use land cover change is central to the study of global environmental change, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

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History and Geography, Environmental Studies	Ryan Kirk	<p>One of Ryan Kirk's research topics is water management in the Piedmont region. With expanding development, growing populations and increasing frequency of drought cycles in this region, sustainable water management is vital for future growth planning. His research focuses on the effects of development on water quality in Piedmont communities. Another research topic involves mapping and modeling land use and land ownership patterns in the Piedmont and Appalachian regions. Understanding the environmental legacies of past land use and modeling scenarios of future land use help us understand the extent and consequences of land owner choices.</p>
Human Service Studies	Carmen Monico	<p>Carmen Monico became a Sustainability Scholar in 2014. Her background in Social Work and International Economics, particularly in human services in global contexts, global civil society, international development, prevention of gender-based violence, and child welfare at home and abroad, led her to engage in integrated, multidisciplinary, multi-level, and sustainability scholarship. Dr. Monico is the first author of International Development, Humanitarian Aid and Relief, an article of the Oxford University Press Encyclopedia of Social Work. The 2014 article (updated in 2019) considers human rights, ecological, and feminist perspectives as well as cultural theories used in micro-macro practice, and presents case studies relevant international conventions and agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals. She expects to publish on her multi-year research linked to the Practicum Away course in Guatemala, which engaging students with AMA and the Highlands Support Project in the construction of improved stoves for women's empowerment, community health and environmental sustainability.</p>

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International Business	Carri Tolmie	Carri Tolmie focuses on corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability, in particular how these concepts are influenced by culture, consumer perceptions and identification. Some of Dr. Tolmie's recent projects look at how green firm-specific advantages can lead to both higher financial and environmental performance, as well as how formal and informal pressures are causing firms to engage in social responsible practices around the world.
Management	Susan Manning	Susan L. Manning, Ph.D. is Senior Faculty Fellow in Elon University's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. Her research focuses on the opportunities and challenges of sustainable development. Her most recent publication is "The Role of Management Education in Transdisciplinary Collaborations for Sustainable Social-Economic-Ecological Systems." In the <i>Handbook on Sustainability in Management Education: In Search of a Multidisciplinary, Innovative and Integrated Approach through University Leadership, Scholarship and Partnerships</i> . Edward Elgar Publishing Inc. (2017). She received the Ph.D. in organizational behavior from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Manning retired from Elon at the conclusion of the 18-19 academic year.
Management	Matthew Perrigino	Matthew Perrigino's research takes a multifaceted focus work-life balance (WLB) policies in organizations. Specific considerations include (a) employees' varied responses (both favorable and unfavorable) to the availability of different WLB policies, and (b) the ways in which supervisors' actions in terms of implementing WLB policies impact both individual employees and teams as a whole.

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Management	Rosey Bao	<p>Rosey Bao's current research focuses on the antecedents/predictors of corporate social responsibility (CSR) by exploring the specific firm level corporate governance conditions under which firms are likely to behave in socially responsible ways. Using a sample of firms across 26 different countries, the study examines and teases out the moderating effects of country level institutions on the relationship between firm level governance and CSR. It suggests that the relationship between firm level governance mechanisms such as insider and institutional ownership and CSR is moderated by country level institutions such as the presence of minority shareholder protection and regulatory quality.</p>
Management	Brittany Mercado	<p>From 2014-2018, Brittany Mercado led a large-scale data collection sponsored by Korn Ferry that involved eight academic research teams. They investigated personality and work behaviors in the U.S., Germany, South Korea, Japan, China, Mexico, and South Africa. Specifically relating to sustainable development, they assessed employees' green work behaviors, employees' behaviors that are linked with and contribute to environmental sustainability. These include efforts to conserve and recycle, for example, in the course of daily work. The study examines individual-level factors, such as personality and cognitive ability, that can be used to predict engagement in these desirable employee behaviors.</p>

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Management	Jay O'Toole	<p>The focus of Jay O'Toole's current research is to investigate the individual and contextual influences that shape ethical decision intentions related to renewable energy investments and consumption. The goal is to better understand why and how consumers make their individual energy consumption choices and why and how organizational and institutional decision makers make investment decisions in energy creation and consumption. A secondary goal of the research is to provide practical and policy guidance to help both Elon specifically and other organizations and institutions generally address issues related to climate change through their energy consumption and creation decisions.</p>
Management	Christy Benson	<p>Christy Benson teaches business law and ethics. Her research focuses on international trade and sustainable development. Her recent work includes an empirical study of financial performance and value creation, looking at the competitive advantage of sustainable companies. She practiced law for 10 years with major law firms in Washington, DC, specializing in international trade and transactions. She served in the Rules Division of the WTO Secretariat in Geneva in 2000, has advised numerous foreign government ministries in FTA negotiations and assisted a wide range of multinational clients on trade matters.</p>

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Philosophy	Martin Fowler	<p>Martin Fowler's current research on sustainability relates to his course, "To Boldly Belong: Space Exploration and Environmentalism as Sustainable Quests". The Earth Charter itself only briefly addresses orbital technology and space exploration to ensure that Earth's ecological integrity is preserved to "Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace." Networks of communication, environmental science, and military satellites have contributed to that peace for decades, and to our coming to know Earth as a single dynamic biosphere. Fifty years of accumulated debris in low Earth orbit is hazardous and needs to be addressed. Perhaps solar satellites transferring energy to Earth via microwaves would reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Earth is no longer a "spaceship" or closed system, and that is good news for sustainability. Our quest for evidence of life in the solar system is now strongly grounded in a cultivated care and commitment to Earth's life. Whether the Werner von Braun destination-driven paradigm of becoming a spacefaring civilization is itself sustainable is hard to say. But earth-embracing and star-reaching endeavors have taught people, in different terms, the fragility of life. Simply stated, no one seriously engineering human travel in deep space or habitation on another world can take the interdependence of human life within a sustaining environment for granted. Though this frame of reference seems quite distant from earth-care, it is not. This means being unable to take for granted the web of interconnections with life that keep us human. And that important lesson is one we can bring home.</p>

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Political Science and Policy Studies	Aaron Sparks	Aaron Sparks' research on sustainability looks at the measurement of sustainability literacy. The first step was the development of a measure of sustainability literacy. We quantitatively examine the concept of sustainability literacy. We find that while our measure does separate low and high knowledge students, there is not a clear, coherent structure to that knowledge. Initial results from a second project with Sulitest, a featured initiative of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, point to a similar claim: as a construct, sustainability literacy is very difficult to measure because there is not a coherent structure to the knowledge that individuals possess.

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Psychology	Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler	<p>Working with undergraduate researchers, Dr. Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler studies the development of young children's inquiry and discovery through joint participation with peers and adults in authentic, engaging activities in outdoor environments. Findings from one recent study indicated that working in a richly provisioned preschool garden provided numerous opportunities for the development of young children's gardening knowledge and ecological awareness, as well as mathematical and scientific thinking. In another study, longitudinal observations of children's responses to challenging environmental features in wild spaces supported the importance of accumulated experience in natural environments for fostering environmental stewardship behaviors, in addition to self-confidence and positive social interactions with peers. In a study in progress this year, we are investigating parental guidance of children's learning through activities in outdoor contexts as well as parental beliefs about the importance of spending time in nature for child development. Findings contribute to the growing momentum in programs and schools to make spending time in natural outdoor settings a priority for young children to foster developing skills and knowledge and to help ensure a future generation of environmental stewards.</p>

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Religious Studies	Toddie Peters	Toddie Peters' current work on reproductive justice is focused on reframing debates about pregnancy, child-bearing, and abortion in ways that reflect and respect that the tasks of reproduction and parenting extend much farther than the nine months that it takes to gestate and give birth. A framework of reproductive justice requires that we attend to the very real human and material needs of families to earn a just wage; raise children in healthy and sustainable environments; and live in safe and secure communities free from racial prejudice and violence. Reproductive justice recognizes the human right to maintain to have children, not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.
Religious Studies	Geoffrey Claussen	One of Geoffrey Claussen's research interests is the way in which Jewish values and practices may shape Jewish attitudes towards the environment. He is currently working on one research project which explores the way in which the Jewish holiday of Sukkot may shape attitudes towards the environment and towards sustainable agricultural practices.
Sociology and Anthropology	Rissa Trachman	Rissa Trachman has conducted archaeological research in Belize for over 20 years. Her research is conducted on a 250,000 acre conservation and management area and necessarily involves perspectives of environmental impact both of ancient Maya inhabitants and the modern impact of archaeology on its surroundings. The ancient Maya interaction with the environment was substantial and underestimated. Her two research projects in Belize, the Dos Hombres Archaeological Project and the Escarpment Springs Water Management project and explore these interactions and their subsequent social impacts as reflected in her recent publications.

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Sociology and Anthropology	Tom Mould	<p>The Voices of Welfare project (VOW) is a multi-year, collaborative ethnographic research project to bring community members, students and faculty together to address the issue of how narrative shapes our understanding of public assistance programs and the people who are the recipients of government economic aid. As a collaborative project, VOW has worked with local agencies and community groups to identify specific outcomes related to strengthening programming, connecting recipients to available resources, identifying ongoing needs, developing collaborative and sustainable solutions, and reducing the stigma surrounding the perceptions and realities of public assistance. Tom concluded his service at Elon at the conclusion of the 18-19 academic year.</p>
Sociology and Anthropology	Robert Perdue	<p>Dr. Robert T. Perdue, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is an environmental sociologist who examines the social, economic and ecological impacts of natural resource extraction. His current work focuses on prison construction as an economic development strategy following resource decline. A good overview of this work can be found in Environmental Justice, entitled "Linking Environmental and Criminal Injustice: The Mining to Prison Pipeline in Central Appalachia."</p>
Sport Management	Young Do Kim	<p>Young Do Kim's current research interest lies in the area of sustainability in sport. His ongoing research projects focus on formulating conceptual frameworks that illustrate key drivers and outcomes of sport organizations' environmental initiatives and empirically examining how sport teams, as leverageable assets, can influence the quality of local communities and sustainable behavior change through their environmentally responsible initiatives. In general, his research seeks to help sport organizations implement strategic environmental initiatives and continue their investment in the sport greening movement for socially and environmentally healthier communities.</p>