

## Sienerth to assume undergraduate research post in June

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that pretty much helped us to see this could provide the most seamless transition between one director and another."

Sienerth began teaching at Elon in 1998 and immediately became an unofficial member of the undergraduate research advisory committee, assisting the group during the Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), until he became an official member in 2000.

"He's been in the trenches, mentoring students and comes with a great perspective, encouraging quality work," Levesque said of Sienerth.

And for the last two years

Sienerth has served as co-chair of the Student Undergraduate Research Forum.

"I think undergraduate research is a vital part of my teaching and scholarship," Sienerth said. "It is a vital part of teaching students. And I see it as one of the primary Elon experiences."

Sienerth's students have presented at SURF and National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and at other regional and professional conferences. And he was selected as the first Japheth E. Rawls professor, awarded for a three year term to support faculty-student collaborative, scientific research. He is also a member of the Council on

Undergraduate Research, which advocates for the importance of undergraduate research.

"Clearly you want someone who is involved in the research process, actively engaged with students in the research process and has a good record as a mentor to students," Midgette said. "Here, (Sienerth) was an excellent choice."

In addition to making Elon's program a model for other institutions, Sienerth said he envisions a lot of interaction between fellows programs and the Undergraduate Research Program.

And because of the new fellows programs and research requirements, Levesque said it was a good

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— Karl Sienerth, associate professor of chemistry

time for him to step down.

"I think it's an exciting time with the new fellows programs," Sienerth said. "There will be a lot of interaction between them because imbedded in those programs is undergraduate research."

Sienerth said he also wants to find ways to work with the administration in innovative ways.

"I want to work with the administration to find ways to provide faculty with time to do

research," he said.

And Levesque said he believes the program will continue to grow, getting more faculty and students involved in undergraduate research.

"(Sienerth) was an obvious and great choice to sort of spearhead the next phase of the program," he said.

Contact Erin Cunningham at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.

## Elon graduate Jack McKeon returns home after World Series win

### McKeon's humor, 'tough love' fuels Marlins' World Series run

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Fresh off dozens of interviews with national media, McKeon, who's also managed for Kansas City, Oakland, San Diego and Cincinnati, relished the attention. "I think we ought to take a collection," he said, upon surveying the capacity crowd.

It was this kind of humor that helped fuel the Marlin's World Series run, said Alderman Phoebe Harrison. "All his team's players said he made them enjoy what they do. You can see from tonight he made it fun."

McKeon also credits "a lot of tough love" to the success of the young team.

"They set their own goals," he said. "You basically just had to set them in the right direction."

Mayor Beth Schmidt also presented McKeon with a certificate of recognition and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Keziah presented McKeon's wife, Carol, a certificate recognizing her as "the first lady of Major League Baseball."

"You've brought recognition

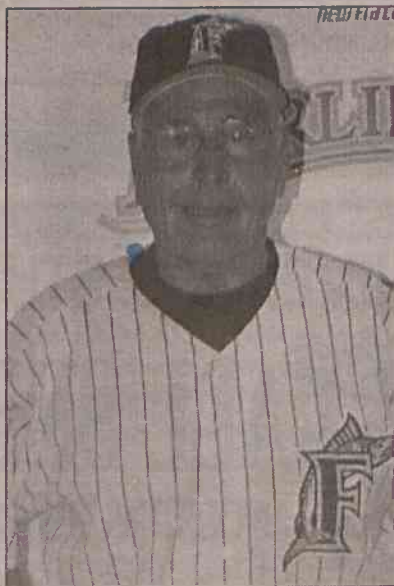


Photo courtesy of University Relations

Jack McKeon, Elon resident and 1963 Elon alumnus, led the Florida Marlins to their second World Series championship with a 4-2 series win last month.

and honor to this small community," Schmidt told McKeon during the ceremony. "We want to recognize in some small way the kind of pride we have for you and your accomplishments."

Contact Steve Earley at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.

### McKeon active in Elon community throughout career

Jay Dorne  
Reporter

The Florida Marlins may be the World Champions after their win over the Yankees in last month's World Series, but their manager, Jack McKeon, an Elon alumnus and Alamance County resident, is a local hero in the community.

McKeon was given the key to the city at a Board of Alderman meeting in Burlington Monday. The ceremony, which took place at the Town Hall, was one of the first major local ceremonies that McKeon has attended since winning the championship.

According to Dan Anderson, director of University Relations, McKeon has made tentative plans to visit Elon to be honored in mid-November, despite his busy schedule. Plans for McKeon's visit include a question-and-answer session with students and faculty in Whitley Auditorium on Nov. 14. There will also be a ceremony at halftime of the Elon football game the following day to recognize his achievements and contributions to the community.

McKeon first came to Alamance County after meeting his wife while playing baseball with the Bur-Gray Pirates, a minor

league team for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He enrolled at Elon the following year, but spring baseball prevented McKeon from being a full-time student. Having already forfeited his amateur status, McKeon was not able to play baseball for Elon, but assisted in coaching after meeting Athletic Director Doc Mathis.

When McKeon finished his coursework in 1957, he was unable to attend commencement ceremonies because of baseball traveling. Because of his hectic schedule, McKeon did not receive his actual Elon diploma until 1963.

Despite the demands of professional baseball, McKeon maintains a close connection with the local community, according to Anderson. Among community events that he has attended throughout the years, McKeon has participated in the Hot Stove League, a group that carries on the Southern tradition of meeting during the off-season to talk about the upcoming year in baseball. In 1998, Elon hosted the group's meeting, which was also attended by past Elon baseball successes, including major league umpire Drew Coble '74, former major league pitcher Greg Harris '87 and McKeon's son-in-law Greg

Booker, a pitching coach for the San Diego Padres.

McKeon and his family are very well tied into the community, according to Trip Durham, assistant director for marketing, promotions and home events management at Elon. McKeon had been active in working with the Western Alamance High School baseball team, which his grandson plays on.

McKeon has continued to support Elon baseball and attends many of the team's events. According to Durham, he is always willing to help when there is a favor that needs to be done.

"When he came to Elon in the late '50s and early '60s, he saw the sense of community and small town pride and it really took to him and he to it. Coming from the Northeast, it offered him a great new look on life and he has embraced it for the last 30 years," Durham said.

"It's fun having Jack around. Whether it's for baseball or just seeing him in passing, I think there is a special place in his heart for the school and the athletic program," Durham said.

Contact Jay Dorne at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.