

# Elon faculty, staff receives promotions

Janae Frazier  
Reporter

Several Elon faculty and staff were promoted while students enjoyed their summer.

Among the promotinos were Connie Book, Angela Lewellyn-Jones, Tim Peebles, Mary Wise and Peter Felten.

Although all of them have been at Elon for more than four years, they expect to face some challenges with their new positions. Felten, who has been at Elon for five years, is the new assistant provost. Felten's challenges involve taking care of his new responsibilities while still fulfilling his existing responsibilities as an associate professor of history and as the director of the center for the advancement of teaching and learning. He also has to get accustomed to working with the writing center and working effectively with his colleagues.

Wise, who has been at Elon for 14 years, has been promoted from assistant vice president for academic affairs to associate vice president of academic affairs. She is also an associate professor of communications. One of her new responsibilities will be to coordinate Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reviews every 10 years.

Peebles has been at Elon

for 12 years and has been promoted from associate dean of Elon College, the college of arts and sciences, to associate provost for faculty affairs. Some of his challenges include learning about new things such as national fellowships and external grants. Peebles said he is up for the challenges because he has "the opportunity to work with excellent people who are all committed to their work and to the institution's mission and strategic goals, and by the fact that I love to learn."

Jones has also been at Elon for 12 years and has been promoted to associate dean of Elon College of Arts and Sciences. In the past, she was a full-time faculty member in the department of sociology and anthropology, department chair and also the academic coordinator for the Civic Engagement Scholars program. Some challenges she expects to face with her promotion are "a steep learning curve and helping my family adjust to my new work schedule."

Book has been at Elon for 11 years. She was the associate dean in the school of communications and an administrative faculty fellow in the president's office. She is now an associate provost for academic affairs.

"I have so much more to learn about operations as a whole at the university and how those operations intersect with the student's experience," Book said. "At the center of my new position is supporting an enriching experience for the students who attend Elon."

In spite of the excitement of a promotion, there are things these faculty members will miss about their old positions. The momentum and great faculty and staff in the school of communications will be greatly missed by Book. Jones will miss working closely with her home department. Peebles will miss the great people he will "no longer work with directly and on a day-to-day basis." Luckily for Felten, he does not have to miss anything about his old position because he still holds those responsibilities. Still, Felten said he is excited about getting to work with a lot of different faculty and learning new things.

One thing the faculty and staff shares is a love for Elon. Book's favorite thing about Elon is the community and Elon's enthusiasm and commitment to academics. Jones loves the strong sense of community within the "Elon family," and also the "commitment to civic

engagement where we focus on how we can give back or be of use to address social issues and problems in our local community as well as abroad, and a commitment to providing an excellent educational experience for our students." Wise said she likes everything about Elon and how every day brings something different. She

"most of the work we do at Elon reflects a deep commitment to excellence in education and enhancing what we do even further. That commitment and the work we do is, also, shared. In much of higher education, people, departments and divisions work for and think only about themselves. Elon works much more like a democratic

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boasts it is a great atmosphere with cooperative people who are all trying to do the best for the students.

Peebles' favorite thing about Elon is everyone's commitment to excellent higher education.

"From the highest-level conversations about strategic planning to the most mundane day-to-day discussions," he said,

polis, discussing, planning (and) working together."

Felten loves the students. He strongly believes Elon has great students who are smart and committed to doing great things for the world.

These faculty are all excited about their new promotions and are especially excited to continue working at Elon.

## Internships vital to students' success after Elon

Edith Veremu  
Reporter

**36** percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported acquiring job leads through their internships

**88** percent of 2010 Elon graduates had completed an internship

**81** percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported utilizing career services

**19** percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported acquiring job leads through alumni

**17** percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported going directly to graduate professional school

**15** percent of 2010 Elon graduates reported they would be working with a service organization.

As the government continues to question the legality of unpaid internships, students have come to the realization that experience is needed, especially during this economic recession. Elon students continue receiving internships, which fulfill their Experiential Learning Requirement. According to the 2010 Cap & Gown survey by Career Services, 88 percent of the Class of 2010 completed an internship.

During the past four years, the percentage of Elon students receiving internships has increased from 80 percent to the most recent 88 percent, said Pam Brumbaugh, director of Experiential Education.

"It's been a steady march through the years," Brumbaugh said. "More and more Elon students are doing internships." She credits this rise to workshops and career fairs designed by Career Services, as well as Elon's alumni program, which contributes in finding internships for students.

Career Services offers seminars and classes that ensure students are ready for their internships, as well as helping them polish their interviewing and communication skills. Some business and communications classes even require students to create or update

their résumés.

"Students can best differentiate themselves from other applicants by taking advantage of other opportunities which will provide practical application of the skills and theories taught in their classes," said Nagatha Tonkins, director of internships in the School of Communications.

In addition to Career Services, students can get help finding internships in the internship and career offices in the School of Communications and School of Business. The Communications Internship Office releases a weekly list that includes a list of employers who are looking for interns.

Elon's alumni program is another tool that students use to get internships. "A lot of our employers are alumni," Brumbaugh said. "We have a great alumni and parent network." Brumbaugh added that Career Services puts students in touch with alumni within the field of the student's internship search.

To the average student, working during a semester or during the summer and not being paid isn't ideal, but for Cedric Pulliam, a junior political science and international studies major, interning provides the time management and professional skills he needs to become a paralegal. Pulliam said he used Career Services and networked with Elon alumni to get an internship at a law firm in Washington, D.C., as

well as a volunteer position with the Congressional Black Caucus PAC.

"Networking is the best tool in the world to have," he said. "An Elon alum guided me through the paralegal route and worked hard to get me a secure internship."

Brumbaugh and Tonkins agree that internships may lead to jobs. "Folks who have done internships are hired by their company at about a 50 to 60 percent rate," Brumbaugh explained. "A lot of employers are hiring from their internship pools and the retention rate is higher because interns know what they are getting into. It's very clear to me that doing an internship leads to a job."

The law firm at which Pulliam is interning has guaranteed him an internship next summer. He said the law firm has said that it would like to have Pulliam work for them next summer. Furthermore, the firm plans to pay for Pulliam's paralegal certification, which he will begin after graduation, he added.

"On a scale from one to one hundred, internships are very important," Brumbaugh added. "It brings a lot of professional wisdom. It is an excellent way to test the career waters, an excellent way to become more confident in the skills that you have and an excellent way to network and find more leads for your next internship."

## iMedia program begins second year, reflects on the past

Edith Veremu  
Reporter

For one set of Elon students, graduation marked the end of the inaugural year of a graduate program. Thirty-six students in Elon's Interactive Media program completed the 12-course program, which incorporated digital media and communication courses with individual and group projects.

"It was exciting for all of us to be a part of something new and experimental—an inaugural class," said Neemah Clark, a communications professor. "The students were very positive, and it was a good experience for them. It was also a good experience for the faculty to kind of test the waters."

Although most of the graduates were communications majors as undergraduates, other students were English, art, business and even biology majors, said Clark. This diverse background allowed students and faculty to work together on different projects using skills students acquired in the program, she added.

For their fly-in projects, students traveled to

England, Costa Rica and Panama in Winter Term and shot documentaries for non-profit organizations. Clark called this a "huge bonding experience" where students worked in teams to serve the public good.

"It was a very moving and good experience," said iMedia graduate Brook Corwin. Corwin and his team produced multimedia for OI Panama, an organization that raises awareness about Osteogenesis Imperfecta.

The graduates' plans are uncertain, said David Copeland, the program's director. He said he believes graduates may pursue professions in fields that will allow them to put their new skills to work. Such fields, he said, may be advertising or environmental studies.

Clark agreed students have a variety of fields to choose from. She said students may get jobs in traditional media organizations or be webmasters with the added skill of web development or work in PR firms. "A few students have thought about opening their own businesses," she added. Corwin, a 2004 UNC Chapel Hill journalism and history major, is currently working at a PR firm in Raleigh and said he plans on developing online courses at UNCG.

"iMedia opens up a whole lot of possibilities than I thought I had before," Corwin added. "It gives you a whole new range of skills and was everything I needed to learn for my career path in public relations."

Copeland and other professors look forward to the Class of 2011 of the iMedia program.

"This class sounds really excited to come," Clark said. "The students are from different majors."

Although there are fewer Elon graduates in the Class of 2011 than in the Class of 2010, other students come from a range of universities, including the University of Maine, Miami University and Brigham Young University. The new class's overall GPA and standardized test scores are higher than those of the inaugural class, said Copeland.

"This program teaches interactivity," Copeland said. "It may be used in communications, of course, but interactivity is used by all sorts of businesses and professions. Communicating is the key to what the program is about, but it teaches students the theoretical and practical aspects of the importance of the two-way possibilities that exist with today's media tools."