

# Study Abroad, Study USA on the rise

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Elon University's Global Education Center saw a record number of students participating Study USA this Winter Term. "We had six [courses] this year, three of which were returning courses and three brand-new ones," said assistant professor Mark Dalhouse, director of Study USA. "I have at least two new ones in the offerings for next year, so I'm thinking that we'll stabilize the set around seven or eight courses."

Dalhouse is constantly looking to increase Study USA participation by offering something for students across all majors.

"One of the things I want Study USA to do is branch out and offer options for students from whatever major," Dalhouse said. "It's really fun as director of Study USA, because part of my job is to try to create and dream up new courses."

The Study Abroad program has also seen an upward trend of student enrollment during the winter.

Director of Study Abroad Rhonda Waller said that while there were not many new programs offered internationally this Winter Term, there has been a steady increase in students traveling abroad in fall and spring semesters.

**"IN YOUR FOUR YEARS, WE REALLY WANT YOU TO HAVE A GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE."**

**RHONDA WALLER**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDY ABROAD

With studying abroad as a core component of the Elon Commitment, Waller explained that her mission is to provide 100 percent access to global engagement opportunities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD LANDESBERG

Students in GBL 207: 'The Trail Starts Here: The Iowa Caucuses' Winter Term class pose with Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

"We're trying to get every student to consider it as a way to enhance their time at Elon and to enhance their degree," Waller said.

Because of major requirements, Waller recognizes some students feel limited and unable to spend a semester in another country. She said Winter Term is a viable alternative for all students.

"We're always promoting Winter Term," she said. "We're not necessarily trying to drive people towards Winter Term. We're just thinking about the big picture and going, 'Hey, in your four years, we really want you to have a global engagement experience.'"

Sophomore Courtney McKelvey is currently abroad in India and will participate in Elon in DC in the spring. McKelvey said Winter Term was the perfect time to immerse herself in a culture completely dif-

ferent than the one she grew up in.

While she plans to do a semester abroad, she might not have had another opportunity to go to India. She said that because full semesters abroad often align with major credits, Winter Term allows students to have the flexibility to study issues outside their majors.

"I'm studying education in India with a focus in science, so as a policy and international studies major it's cool to learn about teaching methods and engage in science experiments with Indian students," she said.

According to Waller, part of the department's success can be attributed to the popularity of the current courses among students and its recognition in various national lists.

For example, in the Open Doors 2014 report, the Institute of International Ed-

ucation ranked Elon No. 1 for the total number of students who studied overseas during the 2012-13 academic year.

"We're really lucky here at Elon to have a culture where students already are really highly aware that study abroad is an option," Waller said.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### Study Abroad:

2012-13: 678 undergraduate students  
2013-14: 697 undergraduate students  
2014-15: 725 undergraduate students

### Study USA:

2012-13: 70 undergraduate students  
2013-14: 50 undergraduate students  
2014-15: 51 undergraduate students

# 'Burst the Bubble' classes compete for enrollment

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Elon University students are taking additional courses outside the classroom during Winter Term. These courses offer no credit and provide no homework. Winter Term "Burst the Bubble" classes allow students to take non-academic courses that pique their interest.

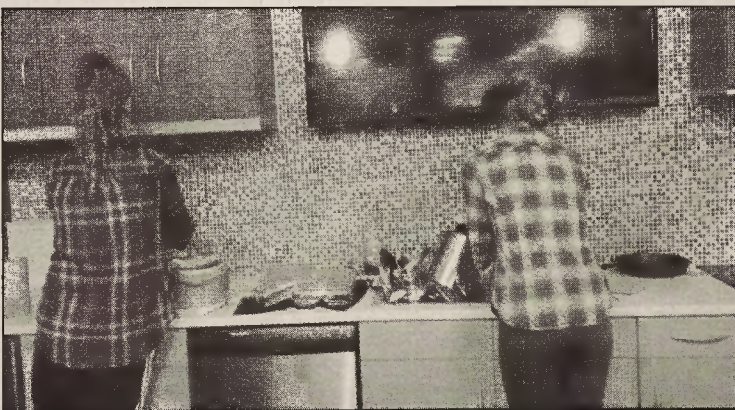
The topics for classes this year range from beatboxing to the Middle East to whiskey. In 2007, the first year of Burst the Bubble classes, students conducted a total of 12 Burst the Bubble classes. This year, there are 26.

Seniors Laura Orr and Dawson Nicholson are presenting about Southern foods in their "Burst the Bubble" class "Biscuits, Grits, and Pecan Pie: Food Made in the South." They were both raised in the South — Orr is from North Carolina and Nicholson is from Tennessee.

During this Winter Term, these two students are teaching eight fellow students how to make traditional Southern dishes.

Students in this class have made butter-milk biscuits, sweet potatoes, baked mac and cheese and green bean casserole.

"I just love cooking and I think at Elon there's not a lot of Southern food," Orr said. "There are plenty of dishes that students can



MICAH SPOERNDELE | Senior Reporter

Seniors Laura Orr and Dawson Nicholson clean up after their 'Burst the Bubble' class called 'Biscuits, Grits and Pecan Pie: Food Made in the South.' They teach fellow students how to cook classic Southern food.

easily make, but they just don't know how to fix them."

This hands-on class not only teaches students how to cook the food but also provides the supplies and equipment for them in the Moseley Kitchen.

Other classes discuss more serious subjects.

Senior Emma Mankin and junior Kyle Porro, representatives from Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge and Success (SPARKS), are holding a class on sexual assault and rape on college

campuses.

Mankin and Porro said they want to motivate students to start a conversation with friends about these topics.

Their larger goal is to remove the negative connotation some people have about taking an active role in sexual activity by being more upfront about communicating expectations and preferences.

A similar class about safe sex was also held last year by Elaina Vermeulen '15 and '15 Matthew Johnston, which attracted more students than this year's class.

"There was more hype around this subject last year, and consent and rape were more of hot-button topics," Porro said.

Lack of participation in classes this year is common, according to junior Aislinn Gherman, who is teaching the Burst the Bubble class, "Psychopathology in Modern Society: Business Leadership and the push for manipulative behavior."

Gherman's class originally had 12 participants sign up before Winter Term began, but only two attended her first class.

Gherman's class takes a psychological and sociological perspective on business leadership, analyzing the growing habit of businesses operating under selfish motives.

Recent cases from companies like Volkswagen, Enron and Johnson & Johnson are presented and discussed in the class to take a look at why unethical business management is growing in popularity.

"This class was more about the intersection of ethics and the businesses that show up all over the news," Gherman said.

She explained her method of teaching through a combination of presenting cases about modern businesses through podcasts like "This American Life," videos like TED Talks and news articles.

Like Gherman, any student has the ability to start a Burst the Bubble class through applying online in November after receiving an email from burstthebubble@elon.edu.