



Fall 2016-2017 Tuesday Classes  
Morning: 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Afternoon: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**September 13, 2016**

**Propelling Our Economy Through Aviation**

**Dan Danieley**

Once a quiet grass air strip, the Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport has grown to be an integral part of the air transportation system. The airport's economic impact continues to soar. Be it aerospace manufacturing, connecting businesses with distant markets, moving time sensitive cargo, or lifesaving missions, the airport touches almost everyone—fliers and non-fliers alike.

*Dan Danieley has been associated with the Burlington-Alamance Airport Authority for 35 years, serving in the capacities of Airport Manager, Board Member, Airport Authority Chairman and currently the Authority's Executive Director. Born in Marietta, Georgia, Dan was no stranger to aviation; his father worked for Lockheed Aircraft before moving to Alamance County where Dan has spent the majority of his life. Since graduating from Alamance Community College—he was awarded the title of Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2008—he has been active on various state and local boards. He currently participates in several Alamance County and North Carolina programs that help make aviation and the area as a whole a better place for all to live.*

**September 20, 2016**

**Alamance County and Thriving Schools: What is Happening, and Why it Matters**

**Gerry Francis**

With the recent emphasis on shaping our future, America's public schools have become a hot topic of discussion. This session will focus on our local public schools and the plans for the future. We will discuss the work of the ABSS Facility Task Force, share new district program initiatives, talk about the current redistricting plan and learn how participants can help support thriving public schools in our communities.

*Gerry Francis retired from Elon University after serving as a mathematics professor, Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Executive Vice President. He is currently engaged with ABSS on their Facilities' Task Force and is serving on the Board for Alamance Achieves, an organization focused on strengthening children's pathways experiences from cradle to career. He is a Washington, DC native, and an Appalachian State undergraduate with graduate degrees from Appalachian and Virginia Tech. Gerry is married to artist Laine Francis, and most importantly has three grandchildren in the ABSS schools.*

**September 27, 2016**

**Burlington to Hollywood: A First Hand Experience**

**Dean Jones and Christopher G. Powell**

In a unique firsthand perspective, Alamance County Natives, now Hollywood filmmakers, bring their movie making lifestyle to light by sharing experiences, photos, video footage, art work, and film memorabilia.

*Dean Jones, a native of Alamance County, is a two-time Emmy award winning, six-time nominee, filmmaker and film director. Dean has written numerous film scripts and currently has three films in development and two television series. Two of these films are historical dramas associated with Alamance County history. Along with his brother Starr Jones, they have over one hundred sixty-five film and television credits. Dean is a former officer with the Los Angeles police department, and an active open water scuba diver. The brothers own and operate the Hollywood Horror Show located in Snow Camp, North Carolina. They are active in the scouting program, and the Rotary and Ruritan Clubs of Alamance County.*

*Christopher G. Powell is a native of Burlington and a graduate of Wingate University, with a business degree and a minor in Psychology. Since graduating from college, he has continued his education by becoming a certified instrument rated private pilot, a TIG welder, an assistant scout master, and an advanced open water scuba diver. Powell compassionately serves for the Alamance County Historical Museum, the Alamance Battleground Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and is on the Board of Visitors for Wingate University. Professionally, Christopher dedicates his time to his many endeavors: he is the head leasing officer for his family's real estate business, the founder of an active audio video tech company as well as a coastal vacation management firm. Most recently, he launched an independent full feature film studio and accepted the CEO position of a start-up cosmetics manufacturing company.*

**October 4, 2016**

**Edgar Allan Poe**

**Charles Wissinger**

Born the child of actors in Boston, Edgar came to Richmond, Virginia with his talented mother. Upon her death, he lived with the Allans. Poe showed remarkable talent as a young boy for poetry and prose, and went on to be America's first great native-born author. Hear about his eccentric and often-tortured life and enjoy readings of some of his best works. Actor and historian Charles Wissinger as Poe will leave you with a much deeper appreciation of this great American man of letters.

*Charles Wissinger is a professional actor who loves history. A graduate of Ferrum College with a BA in Theatrical and Performing Arts, he has worked on stage, in films, television, and commercials. Wissinger has combined his love for acting with his love for history by researching and creating an interpretation of historical figures, from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812 and World War II, that played significant roles in the development of the United States of America. Since then, he has started working in living history as a re-enactor, with a repertoire as vast as James Madison, Francis Scott Key, and Benjamin Franklin.*

**October 11, 2016**

**A Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand**

**Carol Thornell**

Dr. Carol Thornell served as a one of eight baby boomer Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand from January 2011 through March 2013. Wonderfully, Thai culture teaches the Thais to show respect for older people and educators. Carol will share some of her adventurous experiences with geckos, scorpions, rainy seasons and the heat! She will tell about living in a remote area and adapting to cultural differences. Carol will also share the three goals of the Peace Corps from selection thru being an RPCV – a returning Peace Corp Volunteer.

*Carol Thornell was born in San Diego as a military brat and left there after three months for several years in the Pacific. She hasn't stopped traveling since! After receiving her doctorate degree at North Carolina State University, she began a second career in organizational development and management training across the United States. Upon retirement, she joined the Peace Corps in Thailand for 27 months. Carol now lives in Burlington near her family and friends, and has been a member of LIFE@Elon for three years.*

**October 18, 2016**

**In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone**

**Randell Jones**

Daniel Boone could be described as an endless list of things: market hunter, frontier guide, wilderness scout, master woodsman, expert marksman, Indian fighter, militia leader, surveyor, land speculator, judge, sheriff, coroner, elected legislator, merchant, tavern keeper, prisoner of war, Spanish syndic, husband, and father. He led one of the fullest and most eventful lives in American history, 21 years of which he spent in North Carolina before moving on to Kentucky. Daniel Boone is an important part of our state's heritage, a history that every American should know. Randell will share with us intriguing stories about Daniel Boone, America's pioneer hero.

*Randell Jones is an award-winning, non-fiction author and storyteller. Since 2007 he has served as an invited member of the Road Scholar Speakers Bureau of the North Carolina Humanities Council, and he speaks throughout the Southeast on the history and heritage of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods. He has published seven books, one DVD, and produced a 40-minute video since 2004. His 2012 book, "Trailing Daniel Boone," received a Kentucky History Award from the Kentucky Historical Society. In 2013, he received the national History Award Medal from the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution for his body of work during the last 10 years. Randell completed his MBA at Chapel Hill and currently lives in Winston-Salem.*

**October 25, 2016**

**Fracking Below, Shining Above, and Our Energy Future**

**Dave Gammon**

You have probably heard lots of buzz locally and globally about fracking and solar power, but how do they work; what impacts do they have economically and environmentally; and will either play a large role in our energy future?

*Dave Gammon is an associate professor in biology and coordinates Elon's general interdisciplinary science program. His primary role is to take science to the non-scientist masses, which he does through his teaching, newspaper editorials, and community science programs such as Tectonic Plates: Alamance County's Science Café, a monthly program held from 7-8 p.m. on second Tuesdays at Fat Frogg Bar and Grill. He is particularly interested in the interface between science and society, and recently completed a graduate certificate program in ecological economics.*

**November 1, 2016**

**The Long Lonesome Road: From the British Isles to the Blue Ridge, in Story and Song  
India Cain and Keith Allen**

Behind every song, there is always a story. Our presenters will provide backstories of the historical significance related to many of the songs they will later perform, as well as some of their own stories related to writing and performing music over the past fifty years. Finite is not an appropriate adjective: the repertoire of this class will satisfy all musical palate, covering many styles and topics. Among these are traditional folk songs from England, Scotland, Ireland and North America with special emphasis on the musical and historical traditions of Virginia, North Carolina and the Blue Ridge. The thread of tradition will continue to run deep with performance of blues and bluegrass tunes, along with selected songs from the folk era of the 1960s and 1970s.

*India Cain and Keith Allen are artists who specialize in traditional and 1960s/1970s- style folk, blues and bluegrass music. Music is not the extent of their artist pursuits; each has found love within diverse crafts. India, a retired Director from Duke University's Medical Center's Department of Ophthalmology, works with collage and jewelry. Keith, similarly, after retiring from university professorship, has pursued furniture making and design. They perform in central North Carolina, primarily in Alamance, Orange, Chatham and Wake Counties.*

**November 8, 2016**

**The Life and Death of Wyatt Outlaw  
Walter Boyd**

Wyatt Outlaw (c. 1820-70) was born a biracial slave in Alamance County, and later became a local civil rights leader and town commissioner. He was lynched in Graham during the Ku Klux Klan violence that rocked Alamance and Caswell counties. This program will specifically cover Wyatt Outlaw's connections to several of Elon's founders and members of its early faculty, including its founder, Dr. William S. Long.

*Walter Boyd is a native of Elon, where his family has resided since before the University came to the area. A fourth generation attendee, he graduated from Elon University in 1976. Walter also has a master's degree from UNCG, and a law degree from the George Washington University. After practicing law in Washington, DC for 20 years, he returned to his home in Elon in 2004. Since then he has been researching and writing the histories of Burlington and Elon.*

**November 15, 2016**

**Leadership and Corporate Governance: Biscuitville and other Public Companies**

**Phil Johnston**

Phil Johnston has written articles on corporate governance for national publications. Two of his newest books are *Biscuitville – the Recipe for Building a Sustainable Competitive Advantage* and *True South, Leadership Lesson from Polar Extremes*. Esquire said *Success in Small Business is a Laughing Matter* is “the best book ever written about small business”. Phil will present his ideas on leadership and corporate governance based on his experience leading companies, raising capital, and serving as an SEC financial expert.

*Phil Johnston, J.D., is currently Vice Chairman and co-founder of Koolbridge Solar. He attended Harvard and Stanford Universities, and is a graduate of Duke University, UNC Law School, and NYU Business School. In his past, Johnston has been the CEO of two public and twelve private companies. He was also a director of five publicly traded companies. Included in his repertoire, Johnston was the Founding Director of NCTA, which is now the largest trade association in North Carolina. His accolades include being named the CED Entrepreneur of the Year in 1997.*

**November 29, 2016**

**Issues and Ideas for Post-Retirement Decision Making**

**Pam Fox**

Decision making about where to live, how to access appropriate healthcare, and what to do about end-of-life planning are all issues that can be overwhelming in the second half of life; but with information about available options, these decisions become easier to navigate. As a lawyer and a certified public accountant, with valuable first-hand experience, this presenter will consider the issues and needs facing older adults in general. Her talk will not focus on the organization for which she works but instead the vast knowledge she has to share.

*Pamela Sarsfield Fox is the chief executive at Twin Lakes Community. Prior to joining Twin Lakes, she spent twenty years practicing law as an estate planning attorney and providing wealth management services to affluent clients at a firm in Greensboro, North Carolina. Fox is currently an attorney and CPA. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her law degree from Washington and Lee University. She has been active in the community, having served on a number of civic and professional boards including Hospice of Alamance and Caswell Counties. (Please Note: Despite Pam’s affiliation with Twin Lakes, this program will consider the issues surrounding post-retirement decision making; we promise it will be free from commercial bias.)*

**December 6, 2016**

**Challenges and Opportunities of Operating One of the World’s Largest Natural Habitat Zoos**

**Pat Simmons**

Located on nearly 2200 acres of land—only 500 acres have been developed—the NC Zoo is home to nearly 1600 animals and attracts 750,000 visitors annually. While Pat Simmons became the zoo director just one year ago in September 2015, she has already made a significant impact on the zoo’s operation with recently opened new exhibits and adventures designed to allow visitors to become more directly

engaged with the animals. Pat will provide us with some insight on how her future plans for the zoo will act as an economic force, animal conservation vessel, educational tool, and a source of entertainment for visitors.

*L. Patricia Simmons is the Director and CEO of the North Carolina Zoo. Pat arrived in North Carolina with over 30 years' successful experience in zoological management. Her experience in zoos is extensive: previous to her position with the NC Zoo, Pat was President and CEO of the Akron Zoological Park in Akron, Ohio. Pat also has a long history with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), serving on many committees and boards. She is nationally and internationally recognized and has received many awards and appointments.*

\*Please note, presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change. Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made up.

### **~ LIFE@Elon Book Club ~**

New members are welcome to join our book club! The group reads two non-fiction books per semester and offers a choice of two discussion dates for each book. If you are already a member of the book club, there is no need to sign up again. To sign up, please email Kate Hickey at [hickey@elon.edu](mailto:hickey@elon.edu).

#### ***Seabiscuit: An American Legend*** by Laura Hillenbrand

Discussions: Monday, September 26, 1:30 p.m., Snyder Room, Johnston Hall  
**OR** Thursday, September 29, 10:30 a.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall

*Old and young, near and far, sports enthusiasts and adversaries alike—the 1938 success of a racehorse turned Seabiscuit into a household name for everyone. It is the story of an underdog—or should we say, underhorse—who, against all odds, transformed from a crooked-legged racehorse into a national champion. Laura Hillenbrand's award winning book Seabiscuit: An American Legend chronicles this horse's historic journey with accuracy, historicity, and valor. Allow this true account to take you by the reins as you sit atop the back of the most famous racehorse in history.*

#### ***Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood With Britain in its Darkest, Finest Hour*** by Lynne Olson

Discussions: Thursday, November 10, 10:30 a.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall  
**OR** Monday, November 14, 1:30 p.m., Snyder Room, Johnston Hall

*History, they say, is written by those who win it: subjective, weighted, and in most cases, incomplete. World War II has captivated the globe with heroic tales of triumph for the Allies and shameful defeat for the Axis; but what would one world power look like through the eyes of another? Lynne Olson's compelling best-seller Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in its Darkest, Finest Hour sets out to do exactly that. Discover the similar but distinct circumstances in London, a fellow Allied power, through the unbiased eyes of three American men who found themselves at home overseas, and learn that history, it seems, is not without its complications.*