



Fall 2016-2017 Wednesday Classes

Morning: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Afternoon: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

September 14, 2016

Morning Class:

Sackcloth and Ashes: The Story of a Vietnam War POW

Porter Halyburton

Porter Halyburton was one of the longest-held POW's of the Vietnam War—captured after parachuting from a Navy Plane on which he was navigator. For a year or more, he was believed to have been killed in the crash of his plane. The story he will share is one of torture, loneliness, and hunger—and also one of compassion and lifelong friendship with his cellmate of another race. It is a compelling story in its detail—and in lessons learned from his experience.

Porter Halyburton grew up in Davidson, NC, attended Sewanee Military Academy, and graduated from Davidson College in 1963. He joined the Navy and finished flight training in 1965. He deployed for Vietnam with VF-84 flying F4B Phantoms aboard the USS Independence. After flying 75 combat missions, Porter's aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam and he spent seven and a half years as a POW. Initially declared Killed in Action for a year and a half, his family learned that he was alive in 1967. He was released with the first group of POWs on February 12, 1973. Porter retired from active service in 1984 and served as Professor of Strategy on the faculty of the Naval War College in Newport, RI until his retirement in 2006. He and his wife Marty have three married children, and now live in Greensboro, NC.

Afternoon Class:

The Search for Life in the Universe

Steve Danford

Few questions are more baffling to astronomers than whether or not we are alone in the universe. Currently, we do not know whether or not other forms of life may be found in various parts of our galaxy, or even among the planets that orbit the Sun with us. Much research is under way on this problem, and we can expect major breakthroughs in the next century. Few questions are more important to our understanding of our place in the universe. We will survey the solar system and talk about the satellite searches for life that are currently underway on Mars and some of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn. We will also discuss the recent successes in the search for planets farther out in the universe, where life might conceivably be found someday.

Stephen C. Danford is an Associate Professor and Director of Observatories, Emeritus in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UNC Greensboro. He has an A.B. in Physics from

Dartmouth College, an M.S. in Physics from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from Yale University. He is a native of Racine, Wisconsin and currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. Steve was the Co-Director of the project to establish the Three Colleges Observatory, located in Graham, North Carolina. Its 32-inch telescope ranks as one of the largest in the southeastern United States.

September 21, 2016

This Is A Good Way, Get Up and Dance:

The History of Powwow Culture in American Indian Communities

Clyde Ellis

Every weekend across this country, American Indian communities celebrate a form of gathering that evolved in the early 20th century in what we now call powwow culture. A vibrant mix of traditional and contemporary practices, powwows offer us an interesting window into the maintenance of important social, ritual, and cultural expressions through song, dance, and performance.

Dr. Clyde Ellis is Professor of History and University Distinguished Scholar at Elon. He has lived and worked for 30 years in Native communities on the Southern Plains in Oklahoma where his research and scholarship have focused on the maintenance of Native identities. He has authored several books from the late 90s to present day which have amassed a wide range of awards and recognitions. Dr. Ellis has served as a referee for the Guggenheim Fellowships, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation; and he was a consultant to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. In 2002 he taught at Dartmouth College as the Gordon Russell Visiting Associate Professor of Native American Studies. He is a current recipient of an Elon Senior Faculty Research Fellowship, which he is using to examine the role of American Indian activism in the 1988 Robesonian Newspaper hostage crisis; his next book is Tipis, Council Fires, and Indians Galore: The Indian Hobbyist and Indian Lore Movement in the United States, to be published by the University Press of Kansas. November 30, 2016.

September 28, 2016

Dean and Starr Jones

From Burlington to Hollywood: A First-Hand Experience

In a unique first-hand perspective, Alamance County natives, now Hollywood filmmakers, bring their movie making lifestyle to light by sharing experiences, photos, video footage, artwork, 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 two television series and three films in development. 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. Starr Jones is an experienced makeup artist who has worked on over 80 films, and more than 200 television episodes. 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.

October 5, 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 B.A. in Theatrical and Performing Arts, he has worked on stage, in films, on television, and in 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 12, 2016

North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Kate Dixon

North Carolina's state trail, which stretches 1,175 miles from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks, provides an extraordinary way to explore new areas and learn about our beautiful, diverse state. In this class, you'll learn about special places you can see along the trail, and about the history and excitement entailed in building a project of this magnitude—the people involved, challenges faced, and plans for the future.

Kate Dixon is Executive Director of Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a citizen group working to build, protect, and promote North Carolina's state trail. Before joining Friends in 2008, Kate was Director of Land for Tomorrow, a partnership of North Carolina organizations and citizens encouraging the NC Legislature to increase state funding for land conservation. From 1992 to 2003, Kate served as the first Executive Director of the Triangle Land Conservancy. She has also worked in land conservation in Arizona, Pakistan, and Washington, DC. Kate has an M.S. in Watershed Management from the University of Arizona, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Hamilton College. She currently lives in Raleigh with her husband, Dan Wilkinson.

October 19, 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 M.B.A. at Chapel Hill and currently lives in Winston-Salem.

October 26, 2016
Morning Class:
The Search for Life in the Universe
Steve Danford

Few questions are more baffling to astronomers than whether or not we are alone in the universe. Currently, we do not know whether or not other forms of life may be found in various parts of our galaxy, or even among the planets that orbit the Sun with us. Much research is under way on this problem, and we can expect major breakthroughs in the next century. Few questions are more important to our understanding of our place in the universe. We will survey the solar system and talk about the satellite searches for life that are currently underway on Mars and some of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn. We will also discuss the recent successes in the search for planets farther out in the universe, where life might conceivably be found someday.

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**Afternoon Class:
Academic Libraries in the 21st Century –
What’s in? What’s out? What’s left? And what’s next?
Joan Ruelle**

Library research today lives somewhere between the past of paper card catalogs and the imagined future of “everything is on Google.” College students and faculty will always need to read scholarly research and literature to be successful. In this session, you will learn how those resources have changed, and how academic libraries are also changing to keep up with evolving information demands.

Joan Ruelle has served as the dean and university librarian at Elon University since June, 2012. Prior to coming to Elon, Ruelle was university librarian at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA which received the ACRL excellence in college libraries award during her leadership. She has a B.A. in English from the University of North Dakota, a first master’s degree in women’s studies from Mankato State University and a second master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Iowa. Joan is also an Ex-Officio member on the LIFE@Elon Executive Board.

**November 2, 2016
High Altitude Mountain Climbing: Experiencing the 2014 Mt. Everest Catastrophe
Shane Jones**

Shane will discuss his preparation and experience in climbing the world’s highest mountains. His most recent attempt to scale Mt. Everest was just this summer! He’ll discuss his training, tell us about his most recent trip and bring some gear for “show-and-tell.” After a short history of earlier Mt. Everest expeditions, he will describe what it was like to experience the April, 2014 catastrophe. Sixteen Sherpa support staff died in an ice avalanche, the greatest loss of life in Everest history. The avalanche occurred a thousand feet above the team’s base camp and the rest of the Everest climbing season was cancelled. Shane will describe those consequences in Nepal in 2014, and the earthquake of 2015 and share about the international climbing culture. Breathtaking photographs will accompany his narration.

While at Elon, Shane served as Student Body President. During his tenure, he initiated the personal contacts which resulted in the following campus speakers: former President Gerald Ford, US Senator William Proxmire, Congresswoman and first woman presidential candidate Shirley Chisholm, and bestselling author Joe McGinniss. After graduating in 1989, he worked for non-profit companies addressing health, poverty, and children’s issues. In 2000, he started Kever and Jones, LLC, one of the most respected employee benefits consulting firms in North Carolina. He lives in Durham, NC, with his wife Barbara (also a high altitude climber) and two cats.

November 9, 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 about writing and performing music over the past fifty years. Finite is not an appropriate adjective: the repertoire of this class will satisfy all musical palates, 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 artistic 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 16, 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.)

November 30, 2016

From Local to National: A Farmer, a Conservationist, and a Photographer

Jane Iseley

Jane Iseley is the owner and operator of Iseley Farms, and she passionately wears two hats: farmer and photographer. During the growing and harvesting seasons of the year, Jane operates the farm that has been in her family since 1790. Iseley Farms has been recognized as a North Carolina Century Farm, and was the recipient of the North Carolina State Soil and Water Conservation Farm Family of the Year in 2013. While the Earth lies fallow, she turns to the arts. As a photographer, Jane's photographs have been included in thirty seven books, one of which is *Low Country Plantations Today*.

N. Jane Iseley's life journey has taken her from the family farm in Alamance County – located just a stone's throw from the Elon University campus – to The New York Institute of Photography and Sotheby's. Along the way she made important stops in Colonial Williamsburg, and Charleston, South Carolina; during this time she also published thirty seven books. She has earned awards for both her photography and her farming practices. One of her Community Projects, "Sharing What We Reap," is a reflection of her belief in caring for nature and our communities. Jane was a 2014 Leading the Way nominee, which recognizes the leadership and outstanding accomplishments of women in our community.

December 7, 2016

The Middle East and the Refugee Crisis: A View from the Ground Up!

Karen Linehan Mroz

The refugees flooding Europe are but a small part of the bigger picture for Syrian refugees remaining behind in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. What concerns lie ahead for the region that are often not covered in the press? Why are the children of this crisis called a "lost generation," and what does this mean for the future of the region? What interventions on the ground appear to have the most positive impact? Creating hope through education, women's empowerment and innovative community service.

Karen Linehan Mroz is the President of the Roscommon Group Associates and a newcomer to both Burlington and Life@Elon. She has traveled and worked in the Middle East since the late '70s. For the past 16 years she headed non-profits working in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, West Bank, and Gaza—the focus of which was creative and innovative programs primarily for women and children. Recently in Jordan, her work was providing education programs focused on preparing Syrian refugee children for entry in to Jordanian schools and underprivileged Jordanian children with supportive education to remain in school. She was the founding executive director of the Friends of UNRWA USA and president of the Middle East Children's Institute (MECI).

*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

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.