

LIFE@ELON

Fall 2015 Wednesday Schedule
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

September 16, 2015
Lost in the Limelight
Jared Allen

Based on the life of a fictional character created by Charlie Chaplin, *Lost in the Limelight* is a one-man show that brings to life the turbulent career of a lauded Vaudeville comedian of the 1920s and 30s. The original show portrays the major events of the character's life, including eight separate people who influenced the course of his career. Due to the constraints of Johnston Hall as a performance space, Jared has modified the show into an engaging exploration of Vaudeville, bringing in some of the characters and performances from *Lost in the Limelight*. Even new characters will appear! Expect an amusing presentation.

As an actor, singer, saxophonist, violinist, and dancer, Jared Allen entered Elon University as an Honors Fellow but not, at first, into the theatre program. Yet he tenaciously followed his dream and after another audition was accepted into this competitive program. For his Fellows research project, he traveled to Italy to study at the Cineteca di Bologna, where he was inspired to write his one-man show, Lost in the Limelight, in tandem with a research paper on the decline of Vaudeville in the early twentieth century. That project is the basis of this program for LIFE@Elon. After graduating in 2014, Jared moved to New York City where he has worked as an actor and writer, as well as for a talent agency. These experiences each helped Jared forge new goals to continue writing and working within the entertainment business.

September 23, 2015
“Where Do You Get Your Ideas?”: A Playwright’s Inspiration, in Three Acts
David Anthony Wright

The story of three plays, “Ruthie”, “The Last Encampment”, and “The Hermit of Ft. Fisher”, from the moment the idea is born through opening night. Video excerpts from each play will highlight how the work evolves and how the original inspiration is carried forward to completion.

David Anthony Wright has been Managing Director of The Paramount Theater of Burlington since 1997 and Artistic Director of The Paramount Acting Company since 1998. A member of the Dramatists Guild of America, he is the author of six produced plays. David has directed over seventy productions, which in the last year include the world premiere of the comedy, Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens, Steel Magnolias for the High Point Community Theater, Big River, and Always...Patsy Cline for the Paramount Acting Company. His latest directorial effort is Children of Eden for the Gallery Players, (which runs September 25-27 and October 2-4 at The Paramount). David’s newest play, Wyatt Outlaw, will receive its premiere production at The Paramount in November.

September 30, 2015
The Love of Wisdom: Plato and Aristotle - Insights for Our Times
John G. Sullivan

This presentation will explore two of the towering thinkers from ancient Greece: Plato and Aristotle. Plato, like a flame ever-moving upward, is the mystic. Aristotle, a biologist, remains anchored to the wonders of the natural world. Revisiting them will allow us to see anew how they speak to us today.

John Sullivan is a native of Newport, Rhode Island. He holds two earned doctoral degrees, one from the Lateran University in Rome, Italy and a second from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. John, Powell Professor of Philosophy Emeritus and Elon's first Distinguished University Professor, taught philosophy at Elon for 36 years, retiring in 2006. John is the author of four books: To Come to Life More Fully, Living Large, The Spiral of the Seasons, and The Fourfold Path to Wholeness.

October 7, 2015
Fracking for Dummies Plus
Dave Gammon

You have probably heard lots of buzz about fracking, but what is it, how does it work, and what impacts will it have economically and environmentally? Come and get your basic questions about fracking answered as well as learn about solar energy as a long-term alternative.

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 the second Tuesday, 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.

October 14, 2015
Religion in India: Past and Present
Brian Pennington

India is one of the world's most religiously diverse nations. While its Hindu majority is numerically dominant, it is also home to very significant Muslim, Christian, Sikh, and Jain minorities as well as other smaller groups. In spite of its tremendous pluralism and occasional conflict, throughout its history India has been a society in which inter-religious harmony and cooperation have been the norm. In many respects, India is a model that the rest of the globalizing world could emulate as we all develop more diverse populations. This talk by one of Elon's scholars of South Asian religion will introduce these various groups and discuss their relationships to one another.

Dr. Brian Pennington is the Director of Elon's Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society. He is the author of Was Hinduism Invented?: Britons, Indians, and the Colonial Construction of Religion and the editor of Teaching Religion and Violence, both published by Oxford University Press. Currently, he is completing a collection of essays that will appear in the book, Ritual Innovation in South Asian Religions that he is co-editing with Amy Allocco of Elon's Religious Studies department. His study of religious change in the Indian Himalayas, entitled God's Fifth Abode: Entrepreneurial Hinduism in the Hindu Himalayas, is built on over a decade of research in North India. He regularly teaches a Winter Term course in South India, most recently in January of this year.

October 21, 2015
In vino, ~~veritas~~ caritas (In wine there is ~~truth~~ love)
Father Gerry Waterman

Franciscan Friar, Father Gerry Waterman, will share with us his passion for making wine, as well as types and styles of wine, people's preferences, food pairing, etc. He will explore the breadth and depth of winemaking, wine paring and sharing. He will also explore the regions of wine making, both here in the new world and in the old. He has a soft spot for French and Italian wines, but the Rutherford area of Napa, California, known for their velvety rich Cabernet Sauvignons, and the Sonoma, California Zinfandels are also near and dear to his heart.

Father Gerry Waterman has been a Conventual Franciscan Friar (follower of Francis of Assisi) since 1975. He has had many and diverse ministerial experiences as a Franciscan, from parochial and vocation ministry, high school and seminary professor and mission procurator (involving travel to missions in Ghana, Honduras, and Costa Rica) to wine maker! He currently serves as Associate Chaplain for Catholic Life at Elon University.

October 28, 2015
Intercultural Competence
Brooke Barnett

This session will look at the knowledge, skills and attitudes one needs to become more interculturally competent. We will talk about habits of mind to help on the journey and points of controversy such as unconscious bias, microaggressions, political correctness and freedom of expression.

Brooke Barnett is a Professor in the School of Communications and Associate Provost for Inclusive Community at Elon University. She was the founding director of the Elon Program for Documentary Production. Prior to coming to Elon in 2001, she worked as news director, documentary producer, reporter and host/producer in public television and taught at Indiana University. Her films have won awards, screened at festivals and aired on public television. She is a frequent guest on public radio on media and film subjects. A recent film looked at the role native southern journalists played during the civil rights movement. That film was accepted at five competitive film festivals, has won four awards, and aired on five state-wide public television stations. She has been published in many journals and has written four books. Her most recent book project is the co-edited volume Intersectionality in Action, a Guide for Faculty and Campus Leaders for Creating Inclusive Classrooms and Institutions, with her colleague, Peter Felten.

November 4, 2015
Walking in the Footsteps of our Founding Fathers
Pat and Tom Ernest

Why would a 21st century mom, dad, and three daughters spend eighteen weekends a year in the embrace of 18th century living history? Please join class members, Pat and Tom Ernest, as they weave a tale of their experiences as a Revolutionary Militiaman's family. For more than twenty years, the family journeyed to battlefields, historic sites, schools, and communities to portray the life and times of the ordinary American foot soldier and his accompanying family. The Ernests will wear their period clothing and bring along some of their handmade "artifacts" that brought history to life for young and old alike.

Pat and Tom were both born and raised in New York. Tom is a graduate of Appalachian State University. After thirty five years as an award winning middle and high school art teacher, in a district just outside New York City, he realized his dream of retiring back to North Carolina in 2011. In the interim, all three of their daughters graduated from North Carolina State University. Pat, also a NYS certified teacher, taught elementary school, enjoyed several years as an active stay at home mom serving on the PTA Board, and as a religion teacher at their parish school. Upon re-entering the work force, Pat opened herself up to a new career as a Museum Educator. She became the Director of Education at The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden in Manhattan and then moved closer to home as Director of Education at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx. For many years, Pat and Tom have led special living history events at NYC National Park Service Sites including Governor's Island, Grant's Tomb, Federal Hall, Morris-Jumel Mansion, and St. Paul's Church.

November 11, 2015

Modern Magnetics of Destination Design: Museums, Zoos and Aquariums

Glenn Dobrogosz

Timeless museum collections are facing changing times. In an era when students and families can travel the world in ten swipes of an iPad, museums, zoos and aquariums must out create, out compel and out compete in striving to attract engaged visitors who seek science-focused fun in an economy of diminished disposable income. In 2013, the Greensboro Science Center was one of six national museums featured in an AAM, American Alliance of Museums, published book, *Magnetic: The Art and Science of Engagement*. Learn about the Center's unique vision, means, and methods in trying to reconnect a new generation with the life and science of our changing world.

A North Carolina native, Glenn Dobrogosz's career spans life-changing adventures as a Peace Corps volunteer (1985-1988) to five national accreditations at zoos and museums in four states. Dobrogosz has served as executive director at diverse and growing institutions since 1996. He also currently serves on the AZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Accreditation Commission.

November 18, 2015

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Steam Engines

Albert H. Spinks

Steam engines of the late 1800s to early 1900s will be described. Included will be some of the large engines developed and constructed between 1941 and 1945, especially the "Big Boy", claimed to be the largest of the large, eight of which still exist on display. An introduction will be given on how a steam engine works, and some of its major parts will be described. A Lima-Shay locomotive, designed to operate in a timber environment, will also be discussed. It was seeing this type of engine back in 1938, at his grandfather's lumber mill in southern Mississippi that began our presenter's lifelong fascination with steam engines. This talk promises not to be too technical, but packed full of good information everyone should know to appreciate these machines.

Albert H. Spinks grew up on a farm in Bolivar County, Mississippi. He earned two Bachelor's degrees from Mississippi State (Agriculture and then Electrical Engineering) and an MS in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University. His post-college career included two years in the United States Army (Anti-Aircraft; Ft. Bliss, Texas) and several years as a self-employed farmer. In 1961, he began a twenty eight year career as an engineer for Bell Systems in North Carolina and New

Jersey. Al is now retired and lives in Burlington. He is an honorary Member and former Secretary of Burlington Rotary Club. His hobbies include traveling and genealogy.

December 2, 2015
Gang Activity in Alamance County
Paul E. “Chip” Cobb III

The mafia of New York may be what is remembered as a “gang” but the gangs which impact our local communities today are very different. They are street gangs which include, but are not limited to, outlaw motorcycle gangs, criminal street gangs, and sovereign citizens. We will explore the current trends and the increase of gangs and criminal activities. We will summarize the future direction of these criminals and the impact they have on our way of life. We will also explore their attempts to threaten our law enforcement, and some potential security measures that are being implemented to disrupt their activities.

Sergeant Paul E. “Chip” Cobb III is with the Alamance County Sheriff’s Office; he is a lifelong resident of Alamance County. He graduated from Walter Williams high school in 1988 and then attended Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Chip has three children ages ten, four and two. He has been in law enforcement for eighteen years and feels fortunate to have had many different and interesting assignments. He has worked on patrol, been a K9 officer, and been a criminal detective investigating a wide range of crimes from property theft to homicide. He also spent time in the CSI unit processing evidence and crime scenes. He and the three other members assigned to the Gang Crimes task force have travelled over North Carolina for the last five years. Currently, he is assigned to the criminal investigations division as a supervisor in the major crimes and arson investigation section.

Joining Sergeant Cobb will be co presenters, Sergeants Zeb Stroup and Sean Bridges of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. Both are specialists in outlaw motorcycle gangs and their interaction with the motoring public. Both Sergeants are currently assigned to the North Carolina ISSAC fusion center in Raleigh, which receives, validates and distributes information throughout the 100 counties in North Carolina.

December 9, 2015
The History and Customs of the Moravian Church
Bob and Sara Peterson

The Moravian Church, which dates from 1457, is the oldest Protestant denomination still in existence today. Bob and Sara Peterson will share the history and customs of their denomination with special emphasis on the celebration of Advent and Christmas, including the Moravian lovefeast.

The Reverend Robert E. Peterson was ordained a minister of the Moravian Church in 1976 and has served congregations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. He is currently pastor of Leaksville Moravian Church in Eden. Sara Paden Peterson has been an Elon staff member since 1993 and is presently the university’s Director of Donor Relations. Sara served as an ex officio member on the LIFE@Elon Executive Board for two years.

Bob and Sara are both graduates of Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Bob earned a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Sara has a master’s of library science from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Their son, daughter, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law are all Elon graduates. Two exceptional grandchildren complete their family.

LIFE@Elon Book Club Discussions

New members are always welcome! The location for each discussion is still to be determined, but will most likely take place in one of the conference rooms in Johnston Hall, where our classes are held.

The selection committee chooses non-fiction, history books.

Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II

by Vicki Constantine Croke

1:30-3:00 Wednesday, October 21

10:30-12:00 Thursday, October 22

Marti Lipsky, facilitator

Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America

by Gilbert King

1:30-3:00 Wednesday, December 9

10:30-12:00 Thursday, December 10

Helen Mackay, facilitator

Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919

by Stephen Puleo

1:30-3:00 Wednesday, January 20

Liz Gore, facilitator

Wednesday Dates – Spring 2016

February: 17, 24

March: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April: 6, 13, 20, 27

May: 4