

LIFE@ELON

2015 Spring Schedule – Tuesday Classes

Morning: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

February 17

A Novelist at Work

Drew Perry

Drew's latest novel, *Kids These Days*, was published last year by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. He will read passages from it, and describe his evolution as a writer in the context of Southern culture and fiction. How does the craft of writing evolve? What makes "Southern literature?" Does it have the vital characteristics today which it did historically? He will also describe his work in presenting these complexities to Elon students and their efforts to succeed in publishing.

Drew Perry is the author of two novels. This is Just Exactly Like You, (Viking Press) was shortlisted for the Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize and was an Atlanta Journal-Constitution best-of-the-year pick. His second novel, Kids These Days, was featured as a 'Best Bet' for winter 2014 by Kirkus Reviews and as a January 2014 Best Book of the Month by Amazon. His work has appeared in The Huffington Post, The Oxford American, Our State, New Stories from the South, and many other journals, magazines, and anthologies. He has taught at Elon University since 1999. He is married and has a dog, two cats and two sons.

February 24

Craft Breweries in North Carolina

Margo Knight Metzger and Erik Lars Myers

How did North Carolina become the top state for craft beer in the American South? Learn about the meteoric rise of craft brewing in the Old North State with a sudsy history lesson and a survey of the 120 breweries that make up the industry today.

Margo Knight Metzger is executive director of the NC Craft Brewers Guild. She previously directed the public relations program for VisitNC and also served as executive director of the NC Wine & Grape Council. She holds a B.A. in Journalism from UNC-Chapel Hill and serves on the board of directors for Pinecone, The Piedmont Council of Traditional Music.

Erik Lars Myers is the President of the North Carolina Craft Brewers Guild, the author of North Carolina Craft Beer and Breweries, and the Founder and CEO of Mystery Brewing Company.

March 3

"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 Les Miserables, Annie Get Your Gun, Carousel, The Odd Couple and the world premiere of the comedy, Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens. Later in 2015, David will be directing Steel Magnolias for the High Point Community Theater, as well as Big River and Always... Patsy Cline, for the Paramount Acting Company.

March 10
Lumen Scholars Present Their Research

The work of Lumen Prize winners represents the highest achievements of Elon University's premier undergraduate researchers. The Lumen Prize supports students' ambitious and serious intellectual goals, providing \$15,000 grants to fund two-year research projects guided by faculty mentors.

At each LIFE@Elon session, three different Lumen Scholars will present their research from various fields. The students' class schedules will determine which Lumen Scholars will speak at each session. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling!

March 17
Artisans in our Midst

Part one: Jeff Hackney

Are you aware of the many talented artisans living and working in our local area here in North Carolina? Prepare to meet three informative and interesting local artists who will share their craft with us. In our first hour you will be introduced to Jeff Hackney, of *Jeff Hackney Design, Sculpture and Creative Works*. He is a metal sculptor who will share a presentation of images that chronicle his evolution as a self-taught artist. From finding the art in a restoration of old structure to creating new art, the evolution is about looking for art in his trade versus looking for art in himself.

Jeff comes to us from Hillsborough, North Carolina where his studio is located. His works range in budget from a few thousand dollars to over a million dollars. Jeff was born in Sausalito, California and spent part of his childhood in Mexico City, San Miguel de Allende and Tepoztlan, Mexico. He has since lived in Wisconsin, Alaska, and Georgia and for the last twenty years in Hillsborough, NC. Until becoming a sculptor he worked as a graphic designer and artist, also doing historic restoration and building.

Part two: Carolyn and Jim Teague

Jim will discuss the beauty and the ease of using watercolor. He will explain the types of watercolor, pigments, the types of paper and the brushes used to get the effect you wish to have in watercolor. He will describe some of his paintings and how he achieved the results he desired. He will explain the ease of using watercolor as opposed to using oils and acrylics. He will tell you how he became interested in art and of how Carolyn evolved into her style of painting. While Jim is discussing the ease of this subject, Carolyn will be demonstrating to the group the simplicity of painting a flower and representing how to make some flowers with ruffled edges materialize on the paper. She plans to give one painting to a fortunate member of LIFE@Elon at each of the lectures.

This team, both teachers of art and fine artists in their own right, reside in Burlington and have been here for the past forty-five years. Jim realized his talent for drawing at a very young age and has practiced, developed and expanded his ability to include pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics and oil painting. The majority of his art reflects his love of the land, sea and the animals that inhabit both of these. He has taught privately and also at Alamance Community College for many years. His art hangs in numerous collections around the world. Jim is the charter member of the Burlington Artists League that began in 1972.

Carolyn Teague's expertise first began as a hobby where she experimented with various mediums until she developed a realistic impressionistic style all her own. She adapts this style to watercolor, acrylic and oils as she paints her favorite subjects - birds and flowers. She presently teaches classes in Watercolor at Alamance Community College and has done so for the past eight years. Carolyn is also a charter member of the Burlington Artists League, where she has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and other chairperson positions. The Teague's have two children and two grandchildren.

March 24

**The Idea of America: How Values Shaped Our Republic and Hold the Key to Our Future
Bill White**

At the heart of America is a great debate. At the heart of that debate are our shared values: law and ethics, freedom and equality, diversity and unity, common wealth and private wealth. Bill White describes these values and demonstrates how the tensions between them have shaped and continue to shape our history.

Dr. William E. White holds a Ph.D. in American studies from the College of William and Mary. He co-authored The Idea of America: How Values Shaped Our Republic and Hold the Key to Our Future. He serves as the Royce R. and Kathryn M. Baker Vice President of Productions, Publications, and Learning Ventures for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, leading the organization's educational media outreach programs to inform and expand citizenship education. Colonial Williamsburg is a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to teaching American history and citizenship, the operation and preservation of the restored 18th-century Revolutionary capital of Virginia, and telling the inspirational stories of our nation's founding men and women.

March 31

**Understanding the Middle East News
Jan Fuller and Ron Shive**

There is a political problem in the Middle East that has radicalized an element of Islam and polarized the whole region. In this session we will briefly outline the foundation and history of the Israel/Palestinian conflict, with attention to its effect on radical Islam, introducing you to the stories of people who live within this conflict and its wars. We will end by proposing what Americans might do to be helpful.

The Rev. Dr. Jan Fuller has served as University Chaplain at Elon since September 2011. Jan grew up in the Middle East, is fluent in Arabic, and has experience studying, teaching, and working with followers of the religions of the Middle East. Chaplain Fuller holds degrees from Hollins College, Yale University, and Wesley Theological Seminary. She knows that respect between religions is necessary to the survival of the human race. As a young adult, she engaged in a long search for a spiritual home, and eventually settled in the Episcopal Church. Along the way she found many things to appreciate in lots of different spiritual communities. Jan is a certified trainer for Crucial Conversations, a way of using conflict to enhance conversation. She is an experienced counselor and likes to laugh. Jan's son, Sam, is a student at Radford University, and she lives in Burlington with her dog, Little Bit.

The Rev. Dr. Ron Shive is the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington. He grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee and then studied at Auburn University, graduating with a degree in Microbiology. He holds a Th.M. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, studied additionally at Erskine Theological Seminary, and received his Doctorate of Ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Ron served three churches in South Carolina prior to coming to Burlington in 2002. He is very involved in local, national, and international ministries for social justice and peace. Ron has travelled extensively in the Middle East, and has recently worked to establish Middle East policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He is married to Pamela Young Shive, who is an educational consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. They have two grown children, and one granddaughter.

April 7

**Changing the Climate: Healing, Humanity & Hope for a Heated Planet
Robert Musil**

Our complex world is examined from many angles including: Global warming; how Americans can find hope; why students are ready now to lead us; the new environmentalism: beyond polar bears and penguins. How Washington really works and how to effect change; opposition to the Iraq war: how the media missed the story. Ending America's dangerous dependence on oil; campus sustainability and how to get there; green business, green investing. Can science and faith find the same wavelength?

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D, MPH, is Scholar in Residence and Adjunct Professor in the School of International Studies at American University where he teaches in the Nuclear Studies Institute and the Program on Global Environmental Politics. Dr. Musil was Executive Director and CEO of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and its Director of Policy and Programs from 1992-2006. He is a graduate of Yale and Northwestern Universities and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and has been a Visiting Honorary Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and of Pembroke College, Cambridge University. Currently, he is a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Visiting Fellow.

April 14

**High Altitude Mountain Climbing: Experiencing the Mt. Everest 2014 Catastrophe
Shane Jones**

Shane will discuss his preparation and experience in climbing the world's highest mountains. His only attempt to scale Mt. Everest was last spring. He'll discuss his training, bringing 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. The rest of the Everest climbing season was cancelled, and Shane will describe those consequences in Nepal and in the international climbing culture. 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 Keever 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.

April 21

**My Life Journey: The Birth of a New Perspective
Toorialey Fazly**

Most of us cannot imagine growing up in a land plagued by war, violence and uncertainty. We cannot imagine walking carefully to avoid land mines, sporadic machine gun fire, bombings and grenades. We simply have no idea what it would be like to grow up in Kabul, Afghanistan during the past three decades. Toorialey Fazly knows intimately what this is like. It was his experience every day, and his family sacrificed a lot, including his father's wealth, health and finally his life when he died during Fazly's 17th year. Also proud and patriotic citizens of Afghanistan- before the Soviet invasion, before the civil war which led to NATO and U.S. intervention, before the tyranny of the Taliban, Fazly's dream was and still is to be a diplomat representing a peaceful Afghanistan. But somehow in all that turmoil and treachery, Toorialey Fazly found opportunity. He will be sharing with us what that opportunity was, who has inspired him and how his dreams found fruition through his experience at Elon.

Toorialey Fazly was fueled by hope and an intense desire for an education. He continued his education amidst danger and turmoil, polished his English in order to land a job with an American company that provided law enforcement in Kabul, which in turn brought him to the attention and subsequent employment of President Karzai, and which led to a random event connecting him to Elon and, eventually, admission to the university in 2010. His story is amazing; his talent extraordinary. "Perhaps his greatest gift", according to Susan Klopman, former Vice President at Elon, "is his capacity to love - to love in spite of loss, adversity and isolation". Fazly graduated in 2014 with degrees in economics and international studies, with a concentration on the Middle East.

April 28
London's Immigrant Communities
Ken Hassel and Safia Swimelar

Ken and Safia will present their experience of having taught a Winter Term course called "Multicultural London: Community Fieldwork Through Images and Words." Exploring London's immigrant communities, particularly the South Asian immigrants in Southall (including many Sikhs from the Punjab region of India), they hope to help dispel long-held notions that immigrant communities simply embody their historic traditions and remain isolated. Such notions reinforce negative stereotypes and cast the immigrants as others, not our neighbors. Indeed, communities like Southall are filled with multiple narratives, blended traditions and even quite radical change.

Ken Hassell recently retired as an associate professor of art and art history after a 23-year career at Elon University. He was born in a suburb of Chicago, and attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign until dropping out. He worked odd-jobs in Chicago, San Francisco, and Wisconsin. Ken eventually returned to school and received a bachelor degree from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, as well as a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. After he and his wife moved to North Carolina, Ken received a part time job teaching at Elon and eventually became a full time professor. During his tenure, he founded both the photography and digital art departments. He taught many interesting courses as well as leading a winter term study abroad to London, England each January to teach a course on immigration communities. He has presented research at conferences in Liverpool and Budapest. His recent retirement has not dulled his interests or his intellectual inquiry.

Safia Swimelar joined the Elon faculty in 2008 after teaching several years at the University of the South-Sewanee and completing her Ph.D. in political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2003). Her main areas of both research and teaching are: international relations, comparative politics, international human rights, international law, European politics, post-communist politics (specifically the Balkans, e.g. Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia), nationalism and identity politics, democratization, and LGBT rights and politics. One of the main avenues of her research has been to examine the process of norm change in Europe and how new ideas and principles diffuse to the domestic sphere. She had an opportunity to examine these issues as a Fulbright Scholar in Sarajevo, Bosnia in 2006-07. She recently published an article examining post-war Bosnia's challenges to promote human rights and tolerance within a segregated and nationalistic education system.

May 5
Bob Knox, the Executive Chairman, will hold the LIFE@Elon annual business meeting
followed by
Modern Magnetism 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.

Lunch for our Tuesday class members will take place between the two LIFE@Elon sessions.
As we get closer to the end of the semester, more details will be available and responses for the lunch will be taken.

Please note, presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.

Book Club

***Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali**

Wednesday, March 4 1:00 – 2:30 Johnston Hall, Rudd Room
Thursday, March 5 10:30 – noon Johnston Hall, Snyder Room

***A History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage**

Wednesday, April 29 1:00 – 2:30 Johnston Hall, Rudd Room
Thursday, April 30 10:30 – noon Johnston Hall, Snyder Room

From the Voices of Discovery Speaker Series:

Spring Convocation

Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

Alumni Gym

Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Ph.D. Astrophysicist and Frederick P. Rose Director, Hayden Planetarium,
Research Associate, Department of Astrophysics, American Museum of Natural History

The partnership of FOX Broadcasting Company and the National Geographic Channel in producing the popular hit series “Cosmos: A Space-Time Odyssey” is a clear indication that science is slowly becoming more mainstream — and more cool. Of course, it helps to have a science rock star like Neil DeGrasse Tyson as the series host. Tyson was captured by astronomy at about age 9 while spending time stargazing from the rooftop of his Bronx home, especially after a visit with his parents to the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. “The stars came out, and I was hooked. How could you not be?” he says. Tyson’s curiosity and passion to learn about the workings of the universe led to earning a bachelor’s degree in physics from Harvard University and a doctorate in astrophysics from Columbia University. He then became the director of the Hayden Planetarium, the very same special place that helped to kindle his passion for astronomy and science. As an astrophysicist, Tyson’s research interests include star formation and the structure of the Milky Way galaxy. He has authored 10 books, including *Death By Black Hole* and *Other Cosmic Quandaries*, and has written many articles. He has been the recipient of numerous recognitions and awards, such as the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal and two presidential appointments related to determining national policy about aerospace industry and exploration. Tyson is best known for promoting excitement about astronomy and science among non-scientists. Through his many popular writings, the hosting of televised science documentaries and providing significant interviews about science, Tyson has told the great stories that engage, enlighten and inspire curiosity about the grandeur and workings of the universe. He is considered a modern day ambassador on a mission to “transform how we think about science.”

Tickets are free to Elon Society donors and general admission price is \$13.00.

LIFE@Elon members will be able to purchase a discounted convocation ticket for \$10.00, but only one each.

Please see Kathryn at class, call 278-7431, or email her at kbennett9@elon.edu to purchase a ticket.