

**2/19/14**

**Jim Pace, “Archaeological Adventures in the Kingdom of Jordan”**

Archaeology is one of the tools used by scholars to understand the context and culture behind the literature of the Bible. Jim Pace will introduce us to archaeology in the Middle East: how archaeologists excavate, the important artifacts they find, the contributions they make, and the everyday activities of an excavation in this part of the world.

*Jim Pace earned a B.A. in Latin from Birmingham-Southern College, an M.Div. from Emory University, and a Ph.D. in religion from Emory with a specialization in Old Testament studies. He is now Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, having retired in 2010 after teaching for 37 years at Elon. His research and publications have been in the area of archaeology. He has excavated sites in Israel and Jordan and is now co-director of the Karak Resources Project, which is currently excavating an Iron Age fort (7th century B.C.) in central Jordan. He is a tour lecturer for Middle East Travel Seminar, which introduces second-year divinity school students to the geography, history, politics, peoples, and religions of the Middle East.*

**2/26/14**

**Rett Davis, “The New Leaf Society”**

In 2007, New Leaf Society founders began its groundbreaking work in Alamance County. The mission of this non-profit organization is to enhance quality of life and increase economic prosperity in Burlington and Alamance County by the beautification of the community. Through a unique public and private cooperation the group seeks to transform the landscape of one of North Carolina’s fastest-growing regions. In 2009, New Leaf Society completed its first major beautification project: Rockwood and University Drives in Burlington. The group’s green thumb has touched some of the most visible corridors and green spaces in Alamance County. As of 2013, New Leaf Society has planted more than 5,000 trees and shrubs on 50 landscape projects. The organization is governed by a board of directors and is the creation of Allen Gant, Jr., CEO of Glen Raven Mills.

*Rett Davis is the president of New Leaf Society. A graduate of N.C. State University with B.S. and M.S. degrees, he began his career as an agricultural extension agent in Montgomery County. In 1985 he became director of the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Service, responsible for horticultural and forestry educational programs and services. After retiring in 2007, Mr. Davis began work with Henderson Forestry Consultants and is actively involved in the management of privately owned forest land. Drawing on more than 40 years of field experience, Rett Davis writes a weekly gardening column for the Burlington Times-News. He was recognized by N.C. State for outstanding leadership and received a National Distinguished Service Award for his extension work. He is a member of the N.C. Order of the Longleaf Pine and was Alamance County Man of the Year in 2011.*

**3/5/14**

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

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.*

**3/12/14**

**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.

Three Lumen Scholars will present their research in a variety of fields including chemistry, political science, French history, psychology, English, music, and international studies. No matter which students speak to our class, the presentations will be compelling!

**3/19/14**

**“Five Places to Visit Before You Die”**

Different from anything we have offered before, this presentation will feature LIFE@Elon class members sharing the thrill and excitement of memorable trips. Each class will hear from four presenters who have traveled to destinations such as China, Russia, the Grand Tetons, Morocco, Thailand, or Sicily. Jenna Johnson will moderate. Visual aids will enhance the presentations. Feel free to question our speakers about their travels or their planning processes. Sit back and enjoy a session of armchair adventures, and be inspired to plan your own excursions.

**3/26/14**

**Seena Granowsky, “The Second Fifty Years: Aging in the 21st Century”**

Seena Granowsky will integrate current information on aging with traditional lifespan theories. Audience members will be invited to share their experiences of aging in the 21st century.

*Professor of Psychology Emerita Seena Granowsky, Ed.D., taught at Elon University for 30 years. She was the first chair of the Department of Psychology and taught courses in many areas of psychology, including life-span development, psychology of aging, and issues in aging. Her continuing area of interest focuses on how issues of adjustment and growth change with aging.*

**4/2/14**

**Father Gerry Waterman, “St. Francis of Assisi: A Saint for All People”**

The life of the medieval saint, Francis of Assisi, is a fascinating one, for his personal hopes, dreams, and aspirations collided with the will of God. This discussion will show that, as with St. Francis, a simpler lifestyle is possible for each and every person—even in a chaotic and technologically complex world.

*Father Gerry Waterman has been a Conventual Franciscan (follower of Francis of Assisi) since 1975. He has had many and diverse ministerial experiences as a Franciscan, from 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 campus minister to the Catholic students at Elon University.*

**4/9/14**

**Alan Russell, “Math and Origami”**

Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding, has ties to art, history, science, mathematics, and more. Several of these connections will be highlighted throughout the session. You will leave with a better sense of how folded paper can change the world. You may also leave with a butterfly or a bird to share with loved ones.

*Dr. Alan Russell is an associate professor in Elon's Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He is currently in his 17<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Elon. He has taught numerous courses, including statistics, mathematics for teachers, the Global Experience, Life Stories, and math origami.*

**4/16/14**

**Lamar Bland, “Scrip: The Peoples’ Money in North Carolina Country Stores”**

As Lamar Bland learned how to use the Internet in the 1990s, he became interested in how communities and individuals used private coinage (tokens or scrip) for barter and personal exchange. His presentation will focus on people and places associated with commerce in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century North Carolina country stores and textile mills.

*Lamar Bland, who grew up in a small western North Carolina town, taught full-time in Elon’s English department from 1967 until his retirement in 2010. His literature courses focused primarily on American fiction. In later years several of his courses were cross-listed for credit in Gender Studies, including Hemingway and Masculinity and Gendered Behavior in the Novel. He taught Elon’s first film criticism course in 1974. His academic degrees are from Wake Forest College, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UNC-Greensboro.*

**4/23/14**

**Dave Gammon, “Stem Cell Research and the Future of Health Care”**

We all think we have been alive for decades, but the reality is that most cells in our bodies began living only recently. Understanding the regenerative process that takes place constantly inside our bodies requires an understanding of stem cells. What are stem cells and how do they work? Could they really revolutionize health care as some scientists think? What are the ethical arguments for and against stem cell research?

*Dave Gammon is an associate professor in biology and coordinates Elon’s general 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. He is particularly interested in the interface between science and society, and recently completed a graduate certificate program in ecological economics.*

**4/30/14**

**Karl Green, “Costume Design in Dance, Theatre and Musical Theatre”**

Karl will present a selection of his dance, theatre, and musical theatre costume design work, speaking about the variations in the creative process for each and what it means to collaborate within the performing arts. This will be an open forum and the audience will be encouraged to ask questions about process and product and what it means to devote one’s professional career to this art form.

*Karl Green is in his fourth year at Elon University as Assistant Professor of Performing Arts, costume designer, and costume shop supervisor. He usually designs and builds costumes for Elon’s fall play, Winter Term musical, and spring dance concert, while assisting with all other productions. He has had an eclectic career. He began sewing at the age of five. He produced his first wedding gown at age twelve and continues to make one-of-a-kind couture wedding gowns as time permits. He holds three degrees: a B.F.A. in crafts, specializing in fabric design; a B.F.A. in fashion design; and an M.F.A. in theatre costume design. His master’s thesis focused on Russian theatre history. Before coming to Elon, he was an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. In the past 26 years, his work has been seen throughout the U.S., in Scotland, and in France.*

**5/7/14**

**LIFE@Elon End-of-the-Year Wrap-up**

**Business Meeting led by Bob Knox, Executive Chairman**

**Rod and Marilyn Fox, “Dixieland and Other Music of the Early 1900s”**

Enjoy live music played on the banjo, saxophone, keyboard, and other instruments. The Foxes will share brief historical information, and the audience will be invited to sing along. Dancing is also encouraged!

*A native of southern Indiana, Rod Fox holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in botany, both earned at Indiana University. In 1994, he began Questra, Inc., a company specializing in commercial embroidery and advertising specialty products. He plays four-string banjo (used in Dixieland music), guitar, clarinet, and baritone saxophone. He has performed with the Rose City Banjoliens (Portland, Oregon), the Old South Dixieland Band (Greensboro), and the pit orchestras of many local musical theater shows. After earning a bachelor of music degree and an M.A. in music education from Appalachian State University, Marilyn Fox taught*

*music in the Alamance-Burlington School System for more than 34 years, primarily at Elon Elementary. She has been pianist for Shallow Ford Christian Church for the past 17 years and has been music director and/or piano accompanist for numerous area musical theater productions. Both Foxes are charter members of the Alamance Jazz Band, which is still going strong after 26 years!*

### **Lunch under a tent on the front lawn of Johnston Hall**

As we get closer to the end of the semester, more details will be available and responses will be taken.

## **Offerings in Addition to Our Wednesday Classes**

### **History Book Club**

**2/12/14, 2:00 p.m. or  
2/13/14, 10:30 a.m., Johnston Hall**

*Empire of the Summer Moon: Quannah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, by S. C. Gwynne

**4/9/14, 2:00 p.m. or  
4/10/14, 10:30 a.m., Johnston Hall**

*The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic - and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*, by Steven Johnson

**3/27/14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Johnston Hall**  
**World War II: On the Front Lines and on the Home Front**

Led by WWII veterans and women from the home front; moderated by Rod Fox

**4/17/14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall**  
**Poetry and the Uses of Memory**

Led by Bob Demaree