



SPRING 2018 – Tuesday Schedule

Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

**February 13, 2018**

**LIFE@Elon 101**

**Kathryn Bennett and friends**

Raise your LIFE@Elon IQ with this newly designed class! This first class of the spring semester will be different than any we have had in the past. It will be an opportunity to bring us all up to speed on what is happening with our program and to answer any questions you may have. We will take a walk down memory lane to see how much we have grown and changed in the seven years since the program was founded. The class will include information on our newly proposed mission statement as well as a welcome coffee with ice breakers to help us meet new friends. Most importantly, this will be a time to learn more about offerings around campus and ways you can become involved with our program to get the most from your membership. We will have door prizes and a few other surprises!

*In March, Kathryn Bennett will be celebrating 10 years of employment at Elon. Over the last seven years, she has been privileged to coordinate LIFE@Elon, the lifelong learning program that began in 2011. She grew up in the Town of Elon and actually lives next door to her parents, on the lot where her treehouse was when she was a little girl. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from UNC-G in 1989, but she feels more like an Elon alum since she has been around to see the incredible growth of the university over her lifetime. She is married to Clark, an Elon alum, and they have two daughters, Emerson and Kennedy, and a Shih Tzu named Charlie. Kathryn has a heart for Haiti and just completed her second mission trip to the beautiful country.*

**February 20, 2018**

**Polar Bears: Icons of the Arctic**

**Steve Gerkin**

Polar bears are supremely adapted to life in the Arctic where temperatures can get down to -50°F. These many adaptations serve them well in the Arctic, but limit the conditions in which they can thrive. On a warming planet where their very habitat, the sea ice, is disappearing, the survival of these magnificent bears could be in jeopardy. There is still hope for these sea bears, but we need to act now to limit our impact on the Earth's thin atmosphere. During this class, Steve Gerkin will share the natural history of the polar bear and its incredible adaptations. In addition, we will talk about the changing conditions on the planet, what some of the causes are, and why we still hope to mitigate our impact and save the sea bear.

*Steve Gerkin has worked in formal education settings for 26 years and informal settings such as zoos and museums for 22. He graduated from Marietta College with a B.A. in Psychology, and later earned his M.Ed. in Secondary Science Education from Auburn University in Alabama.*

*Mr. Gerkin has been privileged to work at zoos across the country, including: the Alaska Zoo, the Baton Rouge Zoo, the Oglebay's Good Zoo, and the North Carolina Zoo, where he has been with the public education team for over 10 years. He is happily married to his wife of 14 years, and they have one daughter, four step-kids, and nine amazing grandchildren.*

**February 27, 2018**

**Exploring Judaism**

**Rabbi Meir Goldstein**

Join Rabbi Meir for an engaging, informative, and fun exploration into the roots, reasons, and inspirations that are found in Jewish practice and peoplehood. Judaism is one of the oldest continuously practiced religions in the world. As a sister religion to Christianity and Islam, Judaism guides nearly half of the world's population, and shapes many global traditions, texts, and rituals. Yet, with over 3,000 years of history, it can be difficult to know where to begin and of whom one can ask questions. We will explore some of the major Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, and critical moments in Jewish history. Rabbi Meir has a long history of teaching to all different students and audiences. Please come, bring your open heart and your open mind, and bring all your questions.

*Rabbi Meir Goldstein is the Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life at Elon University where he shares his time with Elon Hillel and with the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. He provides rabbinic guidance and leadership to Elon's Jewish community and works with other chaplains, students, and faculty for multi-faith opportunities on campus. He attended the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University where he earned an M.A. in Rabbinic letters in 2003 and Rabbinic Ordination in 2006. He has taught, lead congregations, and been on the leadership team at a Jewish day school. Rabbi Meir's passion for learning, community building and justice have lead him out into the streets to do outreach with homeless youth and to help start an inter-faith clergy group working to combat domestic violence. He brings experience as religious program director at the Arizona State Hillel. Rabbi Meir is proud to be a fellow with Rabbis Without Borders. He believes deeply that "if you save one person, you save an entire world," and seeks to elevate the human dignity within each of us. Rabbi Meir lives in Burlington with his wife, Laura, and their Shih Tzu, Koofi.*

**March 6, 2018**

**Stopping the Cycle of Child Abuse: One Child at a Time**

**Valerie Chaffin, J.D.**

Addressing the issue of child abuse is more successful when the community cares. The Guardian ad Litem program uses community volunteers to bring the needs and wishes of abused and neglected children to court. These little ones that are in the judicial system because of the actions of others are the most vulnerable participants in a child abuse matter. GAL advocates make sure they are heard and have a say in their futures.

*Valerie Chaffin is the District Administrator for the Alamance County Guardian ad Litem program. She received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from East Carolina University in 1979, and went on to receive her Juris Doctor degree at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy. Her honors include serving as a GAL Volunteer in Wake County, being named the Wake County GAL Volunteer of the Year, being one of the first volunteers to be certified to train new GAL volunteers, and being asked to meet the President of the United States at his stop in Raleigh on the airport tarmac in 2004. For 5 years, she served as the Executive Director of a non-profit animal rescue organization in Columbia, Missouri. At the end of 2015, Valerie left Columbia to come back to North Carolina and assumed the duties of District Administrator for the Alamance County Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program.*

**March 13, 2018**

**Writing the Story of Your Life**

**Rev. Richard W. McBride**

Future generations will someday ask: “Where did I come from?” “Who are my People?” This session will offer recommendations about how to begin to tell our stories, based on questions that students often ask about the life experiences of their elders. For 16 years Chaplain McBride taught an interdisciplinary course “Life Stories” for college seniors, inviting them to explore the key life events and relationships that shaped their lives. He has also led a weekly discussion with faculty and staff exploring similar questions. This session will inspire you to communicate the legacy that your life experiences provide for your family.

*The Rev. Richard McBride, Chaplain Emeritus, spent the last twenty-five of his thirty-nine year career in campus ministry at Elon. He also served at Wake Forest and Gardner-Webb Universities; prior to that he taught high school English. A native of Virginia, he graduated from the University of Virginia and prepared for ministry with degrees from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and Duke Divinity School. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Hillsborough and have four children and eleven grandchildren.*

**March 20, 2018**

**Magnificent Snails, Venus’ Fly Traps, and Enigmatic Carolina Bays:**

**Observation-Based Insights from a Conservation Ecologist**

**Andy Wood**

In this fun and informative program, ecologist and conservation educator Andy Wood carries participants along a compelling virtual trek through bottomland swamp, Carolina bay, and longleaf pine savanna habitats in the coastal plain eco-region known as southeastern North Carolina: a global Biodiversity Hotspot supporting more than 1,000 plant species that in turn support hundreds of species of wildlife, including many found nowhere else on Earth. For more than three decades Andy has explored this region’s natural places with special attention to the smaller beings that dwell in tea-colored pond water, including a critically-imperiled aquatic snail that Andy has all but single-handedly protected from extinction for more than 25 years. With the aid of live plants and animals and other visual tools, Andy shares examples and images of his subjects to help convey meaningful and sometimes amusing information.

*Ecologist and conservation educator, Andy Wood, is a fourth-generation biologist and graduate of Texas A&M University. A lifelong educator, Andy joined the modern environmental movement with Earth Day 1970, helping organize and conduct stream cleanups, paper drives, and river monitoring. These formative experiences channeled his conservation career, which includes 12 years as Curator of Education for the North Carolina Aquariums, 11 years as a State Education Director for the National Audubon Society, and 28 years as a Volunteer Nature Commentator for public radio station WHQR. Andy is the Director of Coastal Plain Conservation Group – a non-profit organization he founded to protect rare and imperiled habitats and the plants and wildlife they support. He is also the Project Manager of Habitats Environmental Services, LLC (HABITATS); a community conservation consulting company owned and operated with his wife Sandy.*

**March 27, 2018**

**DNA Testing – Do You Really Want to Know?**

**Dr. Dave Parker**

A genomics revolution is sweeping over our society. Sequencing DNA is now extremely cheap and fast. In fact, for around \$100, anyone can spit in a tube and find out a few weeks later the secrets of his/her DNA. What would you do if you found out you had a gene that predicted a terrible disease? This is the case for Dave Parker, who recently learned he has a genetic mutation that predicts Alzheimer's disease. In his talk, Dave will describe DNA, discuss the interpretation of genetic tests that can impact your future health, and talk about how his genetic test results have impacted his life.

*Dave is a Lecturer and Lab Coordinator in the Biology Department at Elon University. He holds a B.S. in Biochemistry and Applied Molecular Biology from the University of Manchester UK (1994) and both an M.S. (2002) and Ph.D. (2006) from the University of Michigan. After Postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan and Duke University, Dave joined the Biology Department at Elon University in 2013.*

**April 3, 2018**

**Origami<sup>2</sup>: A Second Helping of Math and Origami**

**Dr. Alan Russell**

If you attended Alan's first session, this will be new information. If you haven't seen him before, you will not start at a disadvantage. He will share another glimpse into the world of paper folding and mathematics. The class will explore more ties between origami and art, history, science, and mathematics. You will leave with a better sense of how folded paper impacts the world. You may also leave with folded models 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 21st year of teaching at Elon. He has taught numerous courses, including statistics, mathematics for teachers, the Global Experience, Life Stories, and Math Origami.*

**April 10, 2018**

**Through the Eye of the Artist**

**M. Bruce Shields, M.D.**

Throughout the ages, artists have expressed their love of beauty by recording on their canvases the colors, lighting, textures and emotions of our world. By studying the work of prominent artists, we can look through their eyes to better understand the agony of visual impairment, when the beauty of their world began to fade. Our story will take us from ancient to modern times, as we discover the influence that various diseases of the eye may have had on their vision (and can have on ours) and how biomedical research has led to answers for many of these conditions, while other causes of visual loss wait for continued research to find answers for the preservation of sight.

*Dr. Shields is a retired ophthalmologist, who spent his career as a Professor at Duke University and Professor and Chairman at Yale University. His career spanned clinical practice, research and education. As a clinician and surgeon, he was listed for more than a quarter-century among the "Best Doctors in America." His research led to over 200 scientific papers and book chapters. As an educator, he taught medical students, residents and fellows in the clinic and operating room and through lecturing locally, nationally and internationally. He wrote or edited ten books on glaucoma, and his Textbook of Glaucoma is currently in its 6th edition.*

**April 17, 2018**

**Elon Students Present Their Research**

**Various Students**

Do you want to study harder? Dig deeper? See the world from a new perspective? Ask these questions to an Elon student conducting undergraduate research and the answer will undoubtedly be, "Yes!" Join us to learn what pushes these students to work hard and go the extra mile to see the world from a new perspective. You will also learn about a variety of fascinating topics as they share their research.

*At each LIFE@Elon session, three Elon students will present their research from various fields across the University. Each class will feature different student presentations, as their class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling!*

**April 24, 2018**

**Paperhand Puppets**

**Donovan Zimmerman**

Join Artistic Director of Paperhand Puppet Intervention, Donovan Zimmerman, for an interactive and informal exploration of his group's puppetry, style, and techniques. Donovan will bring a wide variety of masks and puppets from Paperhand's rich and colorful history to share as he showcases the basics of his craft. Learn about the award-winning troupe's wild and whimsical

path to their current place in the North Carolina theater world. Voted best live theatre in the Triangle by Indyweek for the past two years, this is a special treat for members of our LIFE@Elon community.

*Donovan Zimmerman has been the artistic director and co-founder of Paperhand Puppet Intervention based in central North Carolina for the past 20 years. For 27 years, Donovan has been creating and performing with masks, giant puppets, stilts, shadows, and more throughout the South East and beyond. He studied art and drama at the School for Creative and Performing Arts and The Art Academy of Cincinnati. Donovan spent many years traveling the world drawing in sketch books and doing public/community art projects. He uses primarily papier-mâché, cloth, bamboo and house paint to create the puppets themselves, then brings them to life in sweeping pageants, intimate shadow boxes, huge parades, multi-disciplined productions and theatre spectacles of all kinds. His award winning work has been widely acclaimed and celebrated for its vivacious originality and whimsical beauty.*

**May 1, 2018**

**North Carolina's Mountain-to-Sea Trail**

**Betsy Brown**

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, the challenges faced, and the plans for the future.

*Betsy Brown is the Outreach Manager for the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a citizen group working to build, protect, and promote North Carolina's state trail. Before joining the staff full time in 2015, Betsy helped organize the Friends' annual meetings and the trail town conference. She has worked in the music and outdoor industries in New York and Washington D.C. as project, events and marketing directors with companies including Cat's Cradle, Yep Roc, Merge Records, SnowSports Industries America, and Mammoth Records. She received a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from UNC-Chapel Hill. Betsy was born in Greensboro, and she and her husband Doug live in Raleigh with their two children.*

*Presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.*

*Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made up.*

## Additional Offerings

### *Special Seminars*

More details and sign up information for both special seminars will be shared at class.

**Shakespeare's Sexy Language and Why We're Still Learning Lessons from the Elizabethans  
Thursday, March 1, in Johnston Hall 10:00 a.m. – noon**

*As Elon prepares to mount a production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, please join us as Dr. Susanne Shawyer and Professor Kim Shively (both of the Performing Arts Department) share intriguing insights into the Elizabethans as well as tips and tricks for playing Shakespeare for a contemporary audience. (Please see the Cultural Calendar for more information about the actual performance and the date the tickets go on sale. We will not be offering discounted tickets to this show.)*

**Estate Planning and the New Tax Code**

**Thursday, March 22 in Johnston Hall 10:00 a.m. – noon**

*An expert in the field will lead a discussion on the basics of estate planning including a discussion of new changes to the tax code.*

***Discounted tickets (\$5) will be offered to the following cultural events:***

**Tuesday, February 13**

**Carrie Newcomer with Gary Walters, piano**

McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Elon University Lyceum Series

*Newcomer is a folksinger and Grammy Award winner who toured with Alison Krauss in Europe, and Nickel Creek recorded her song "I Should've Known Better." With more than a dozen recordings of original music to her credit, Newcomer is recognized as an influential artist who cuts across secular and spiritual boundaries. Gary Walters, an active musician working in a variety of genres, is a long-time collaborator and will accompany on piano. Tickets are already available at the Center for the Arts Box Office – tell them you are with LIFE@Elon. For information, call 336-278-5610. (If you have already purchased tickets for this event, they will refund you the difference at the box office.)*

**Thursday, February 22**

**The Mountaintop**

McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Elon University Lyceum Series

*April 3, 1968 was the day before Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis. He spent his last night in Room 306 at the Lorraine Motel. Katori Hill's The Mountaintop imagines what that night might have been like. L.A. Theatre Works touring production is directed by Shirley Jo Finney and performed by Karen Malina White and Gilbert Glenn Brown. Note: contains mature language. Tickets will be available February 1 at the Center for the Arts Box Office – tell them you are with LIFE@Elon. For information, call 336-278-5610.*

**Wednesday, April 11**

**Jill Lepore, "The Rise and Fall of the Fact"**

Whitley Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

James P. Elder Lecture

*Jill Lepore is a staff writer at The New Yorker, where she writes about American history, law, literature and politics. Lepore is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and an affiliated faculty member at Harvard Law School. Tickets will be available March 21 at the Center for the Arts Box Office, or at one of our classes. For information, call 336-278-5610.*

