

# life@ELON

Fall 2019 – Tuesday Schedule

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

**September 10, 2019**

**Battle of the Ironclads**

**John V. Quarstein**

The Battle of Hampton Roads, Virginia is the most famous and important naval engagement of the Civil War. This two-day battle, spanning from March 8-9, 1862, featured the Confederate ironclad CSS VIRGINIA (MERRIMACK) sinking two major Union wooden warships. The Confederate ram seemed unstoppable. On the second day, the USS MONITOR, which had arrived in Hampton Roads the night before, fought the CSS VIRGINIA to a draw and saved the rest of the Federal fleet. This first engagement between iron warships thereby proved the power of iron over wood and forever changed naval warfare.

*John V. Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author of 18 books. He is director emeritus of the USS MONITOR Center at The Mariners' Museum & Park in Newport News, Virginia. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal.*

**September 17, 2019**

**Elon University Sustainability Initiatives**

**Elaine Durr**

**Kelly Harer**

Elon University has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Green Building Council Piedmont-Triad Branch, among others, for its sustainability initiatives. The University's Director of Sustainability and Assistant Director of Sustainability will provide an overview of the campus's many sustainability initiatives. They will include a virtual tour of the solar farm as well as the Loy Farm and the many student-focused efforts happening there. They will conclude the session with a discussion on sustainable lifestyle choices.

*Elaine has been at Elon since May 2008, when she was hired as the University's first full-time sustainability professional. She leads the University's sustainability efforts, which have operational and educational components. Prior to arriving at Elon, Elaine was a sustainability consultant for a small engineering and consulting firm in Decatur, Georgia where she managed the certification process for several LEED projects. She received her bachelor's degree in environmental science and biology from Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois and has a master's degree in earth and environmental resources management from the University of South Carolina School of the Environment.*

*Kelly began her journey as a Phoenix in July 2017. She is responsible for developing and implementing programs to increase the practice of sustainable behaviors and to enhance awareness of sustainability initiatives and accomplishments throughout the Elon community. Prior to Elon, Kelly worked at Coastal Carolina University where she taught the University's Introduction to Sustainability class and was an assistant director of admissions. She earned her bachelor's degree from Coastal Carolina University in*

*business management and a master's degree from Western Kentucky University, specializing in social responsibility and sustainable communities.*

**September 24, 2019**

**Exploring the Ethnobotany and History of the Indigenous Tribes of the Central Highlands of Vietnam (the Montagnards)**

**Catherine Bush**

The Montagnards ("mountain people" in French) include many tribes that were indigenous to Vietnam. They fought alongside American forces in the Vietnam War, and many immigrated to the US in its aftermath. Today, Greensboro, NC, holds the second-largest population of Montagnard community members outside of Southeast Asia. For over three years, Montagnard community members have been teaching my colleagues and I about the plants they used in Vietnam and sharing the stories of their lives with us, illuminating a complex time in history as well as providing insights into the biological legacy of Agent Orange.

*Catherine Bush has been an adjunct professor in the biology department at Elon University since 2012. Her passions are learning from the Montagnards, working with them to improve their quality of life here in the US, and teaching -- particularly one of her favorite classes, Biodiversity, where she takes her student on a whirlwind tour of all the life on Earth. Catherine lives in Greensboro with her husband and their 6-year-old daughter.*

**October 1, 2019**

**Twenty Million Cancer Survivors: Survivorship Care and Research**

**Stacy Wentworth, MD**

**John M. Salsman, PhD**

It is estimated that there are 17 million cancer survivors in the United States today, which represents 5% of the population and is projected to exceed 20 million people in a few short years. In 2019, almost 20% of survivors have survived 20 years or more and over 60% of survivors are over the age of 65. As oncology treatments and care have improved, we have learned more about the needs of cancer survivors and their desires for everything from continued monitoring for cancer recurrence to lifestyle coaching to help reduce cancer risk.

Come and learn more from leading experts in the field of cancer survivorship research about developing and delivering the best care possible to a growing population of cancer champions. A framework that includes the history of the disease, policy issues, and the impact on the medical field will also be discussed.

*Dr. Wentworth is an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology and the Medical Director for Survivorship at Wake Forest Baptist Health. In clinical practice, she saw the need for a smoother transition of patients from illness (cancer treatment) to wellness. Dr. Wentworth graduated from Wake Forest School of Medicine in 2004 and has been in practice for 15 years.*

*Dr. Salsman is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy at the Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Director of Clinical Research in Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology, and the Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Wake Forest University. Dr. Salsman has been continuously funded by*

*the NIH since 2006 and has served as a principal investigator on NCI-funded work since 2011. He holds a BA from Asbury College, an MA from Asbury Theological Seminary, and MS and PhD degrees from the University of Kentucky.*

**October 8, 2019**

**The Sound of Politics in Myanmar**

**Gavin Douglas, PhD**

Music is not simply something that reflects society but is a strategic tool used by people to shape their world. In this presentation, Gavin will examine the significance of music (and a variety of other sounds) in Myanmar's political transformation from dictatorship to fledgling democracy. Over this recent history music is used to reinforce the policies of the oppressing dictatorship (1962-2011), to galvanize pro-democracy resistance movements, and to cultivate Buddhist nationalism. From state-sanctioned national unity festivals to monastic revolutions and from education policy to pro-democracy Internet campaigns, music and sound have been used as a tool for many different agents throughout this transition. This talk introduces the story of Myanmar's recent political transformations through the lens of music. The presentation will include audio, video and live performance.

*Gavin Douglas holds a PhD (ethnomusicology) from the University of Washington, Seattle. He joined the UNCG School of Music in 2002. His research interests include nationalism, politics, globalization and cross-cultural aesthetics with a primary focus on Myanmar. He is the author of Music in Mainland Southeast Asia (Oxford University Press, 2010), a text that explores diversity, political trauma and globalization across Burma, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Douglas' ongoing fieldwork in Myanmar (Burma) focuses on the state patronage of traditional music, ethnic minority traditions, and the soundscapes of Theravada Buddhism.*

**October 15, 2019**

**Confronting Major Challenges in Intercollegiate Athletics**

**Debbie Yow**

Based on her successful career in intercollegiate athletics, Debbie Yow will describe her winning strategies for building a healthy and achieving culture. Her analysis offers concrete steps one can take in the culture of any organization under the broad headings of Establish the culture, Reinforce the culture, and Act with integrity when the culture is threatened – known as the ERA document. Yow created the ERA document in 2008 and utilized it in her distinguished service as Athletic Director at North Carolina State University.

*Debbie Yow grew up in a family of six in Gibsonville, North Carolina. Her parents introduced their children to physical activity at an early age, which led Debbie to play basketball. After high school, she attended nearby Elon College, as it was known then. Following graduation in 1974, as an English major, she began her career coaching high school women's basketball. She then moved to collegiate athletics, successfully leading the women's varsity basketball teams at the University of Kentucky, Oral Roberts University, and the University of Florida before moving into administration. Her professional career culminated in her position as Athletic Director at North Carolina State University, having previously been AD at St. Louis University and then The University of Maryland. Yow was the longest serving AD in history at Maryland and won 16 NCAA Championships during those 16 years before coming home to NC. She inherited a program at NCSU that had just finished #89 in overall competitive results. The highest finish during her tenure was #15 nationally in July, 2018. They also recorded the three highest Graduation*

*Success Rates while she was there. In March of 2019, just before her retirement, she was the recipient of the 53<sup>rd</sup> James J. Corbett Memorial Award, the highest honor one can achieve in collegiate athletics administration. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Elon College she also holds a master's degree from Liberty University, and has been awarded honorary doctorates for professional achievement from Elon, Liberty and the United States Sports Academy. Since 2006, Debbie has served her alma mater as a member of the Elon University Board of Trustees and in 2009 she was named the Distinguished Alumna of the Year.*

**October 22, 2019**

### **Iconic Images of the South**

**Julie Trotter**

William Faulkner's famous quote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past," summarizes the value of examining iconic images as one way of learning about the South. Oftentimes, the South is erroneously treated as if it is one monolithic entity. Instead, we will explore our region through the lens of a variety of photographers to witness it as "a local" -- what poet Robert Creeley means by the term when he says, "The local is not a place but a place in a given man -- what part of it he has been compelled or else brought by love to give witness to in his own mind." Finally, we'll survey some contemporary Southern photographers to see how they are shaping our current understanding of the South.

*Julie Trotter is an English and humanities instructor at Alamance Community College in Graham, North Carolina, and also serves as co-advisor of Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP). She received her BA degree from UNC Chapel Hill and her MA degree from North Carolina State University. Trotter is a member of several professional organizations; most recently serving on the National Humanities Center's Teacher Advisory Council for 2018-2019. When not grading papers, she can be found with camera in hand photographing visionary artists and their work.*

**October 29, 2019**

### **Formation and Persistence of the Deadhead Community**

**Rebecca G. Adams**

The Grateful Dead were a rock band that grew out of the hippie culture in San Francisco in the 1960s. They played together as the Grateful Dead until their lead guitarist, Jerry Garcia, died in 1995. The original members have continued to play together in various combinations since Garcia's unfortunate passing. Although the summer of 2015 was billed as their last series of shows together as the Grateful Dead, various remaining members have continued to play together, and their fans have continued to maintain a collective identity. The Deadhead community is remarkable among fan communities, not only due to its long-lasting presence, but also because of its wide geographic distribution and the intensity of its fans. This presentation will describe the characteristics of this community that have led to its persistence.

*Rebecca G. Adams, a sociologist who is Professor and Undergraduate Gerontology Coordinator at UNCG, co-edited Deadhead Social Science (2000) and has written more than a dozen articles on Deadheads. In the summer of 1989, Rebecca taught a pair of sociology courses, Applied Social Theory and Field Research Methods, known as "Deadhead Sociology." And this past spring she taught an online course on the Grateful Dead Legacy. She regularly presents on the topic of Deadheads at the Grateful Dead Caucus of the SWPCA, at the meetings of other professional organizations, and to student audiences at various colleges and universities. She has written popular press articles about Deadheads, published a fictional piece situated on Dead tour, conducted audience research for Grateful Dead Productions, and*

*served as associate producer and narrator for a video for Deadheads an American Subculture, shown on PBS in 1990 and subsequently. Her first of approximately 100 Grateful Dead shows was on September 20, 1970, and she continues to attend as many performances of the remainders of the Grateful Dead, jam band shows, local live music concerts, and festivals as possible.*

**November 5, 2019**

**Through My Grandmother's Eyes: The Veit Simon Family during the Holocaust**

**Courtney Doi**

Courtney Doi will share the story of her grandmother, Judith Klein, the youngest of six children, who left Berlin, Germany on the Kindertransport in December 1938 just after Kristallnacht. Judith's father, two aunts, and two of her siblings died in concentration camps. Judith passed away in 2016, and Courtney inherited 30 years of her personal journals. Featuring old family photographs and firsthand accounts from her grandmother's writing, Courtney's presentation will explore not only the history of the Holocaust, but the nature of personal memory and the ways in which we preserve family history.

*Courtney Doi is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. She is a member of the Holocaust Speakers Bureau for The Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education of North Carolina and has taught writing at Alamance Community College, Elon University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. She lives in Mebane with her husband, two daughters, and their dog.*

**November 12, 2019**

**The Forgotten Women Pilots of World War II**

**Lorelei Kraft**

When the U.S. was attacked on December 7, 1941, the military which had fought having women pilots knew they now desperately needed them, to ferry troops and supplies, deliver new airplanes, etc. in order to free the male pilots for combat. 25 thousand women applied, but getting wings was so grueling that only 1,074 women made it. They flew 60 million miles and 38 of them were killed in service, however, the discrimination they faced throughout their careers was appalling. When the war ended, the Department of Defense classified all records of their service for 33 years, so no information was available for people to know or write about what this remarkable group of women did. Come learn about the often forgotten history of these female pilots.

*Lorelei Kraft is an author, speaker and coach who is a transplant to North Carolina from Minnesota. She was inducted into the Minnesota Women Business Owners Hall of Fame, received the National Association of Women Business Owners "Vision Award," Powerful Women International "Courage Award," and won the Governor's Entrepreneurship Award. She has appeared on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, and PBS.*

*Lorelei has written numerous books; two that she coauthored became #1 best sellers. Lorelei usually speaks on business topics but for today's program, she is going to speak on a subject dear to her heart.*

**November 19, 2019**

**Why Does George Orwell Still Matter? Getting Beyond *1984* and *Animal Farm***

**Rosemary Haskell, PhD**

The late great critic Christopher Hitchens, in two excellent essays from 2002 and 2007, asked “Why does George Orwell still matter?” In this session, I hope to offer some answers to this question by providing analysis and evaluation of Orwell’s life and career, with specific references to selected works. Orwell (1903-1950) did a lot more than produce *1984* and *Animal Farm*. From his late twenties, he framed himself as a political and social rebel, a malcontent, and, on occasion, a dropout from the British upper-middle class he was born into. More than almost any other major author, he lived his writings, and wrote his life. His nonfiction texts *Down and Out in Paris and London*, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, and *Homage to Catalonia* illuminate the course of his political and social criticism. His texts are also portals through which we can see key moments of twentieth-century British and World history---the Great Depression, the Spanish Civil War, World War II, and the opening of the Cold War--- as Orwell himself saw them.

*Rosemary Haskell was born and raised in England and gained her BA in English at the University of Durham, England. After coming to the USA, she gained her MA in English at Clark University, Worcester, MA and her PhD in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She teaches first-year writing and British and World literature in the Elon University English Department. Her course repertoire in 2019-2020 includes courses in African Literature and on the life and works of George Orwell.*

**December 3, 2019**

**Reading Emotions through Literature: End of Life Work with Patients and Families**

**Jehanne Gheith, LCSW**

This presentation focuses on how literary depictions of cognitive decline can provide unique perspectives on people who are in hospice and those with dementia. Works such as Lisa Genova’s *Still Alice* and Part II of Ulitskaia’s *The Kukotsky Engima* are examples of how a close reading and sense of literature can draw and even invite broader connections between the humanities and therapeutic relationships in healthcare, especially at the end of life.

*Jehanne Gheith is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and tenured professor at Duke University in Russian literature and in the Program in Education, teaching courses on Medical Ethics and End of life care. As an LCSW, she has worked for Duke Hospice and Bereavement Services and currently has a small private practice in psychotherapy focusing on trauma, grief, and pet loss. Despite or because of all that, she enjoys life quite a lot. Her published works include: *Finding the Middle Ground*, “*The Superfluous Woman*,” and, coedited with Katherine Jolluck, *Gulag Voices* (the first book of interviews with Gulag survivors to be published in English).*

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

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