

life@ELON

Fall 2019 – Wednesday Schedule

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

September 11, 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 18, 2019

Disclosing an Experience of Sexual Assault: Ethics and the Role of the Confidant

Ann J. Cahill, PhD

Dr. Cahill's research explores the ethical dimensions of a fraught and promising moment: the moment when a survivor of sexual assault discloses their experience to a trusted person, a confidant. Cahill's research suggests that this moment involves various types of vulnerability, and in doing so demonstrates that vulnerability is not only the openness to harm, but is also a necessary condition of world-making. Legal or institutional encroachments upon this moment of disclosure, (such as those now common in universities and colleges in the US) undermine the moment's potential and render survivors even more vulnerable to invasive bureaucratic procedures. Come learn about how understanding the ethics of listening to survivors of sexual assault can help us develop better institutional approaches to this persistent problem.

Ann J. Cahill is a professor of philosophy at Elon University. She is the author of Rethinking Rape (Cornell University Press, 2001), Overcoming Objectification (Routledge, 2011), and many scholarly articles on issues such as beautification, miscarriage, and sexual assault. She holds a BA from the College of the Holy Cross and her PhD is from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Cahill joined Elon's faculty in 1998 and received Elon's Distinguished Scholar Award in 2011. She is currently on sabbatical, working on a project regarding the social, political, and ethical aspects of voice as human generated sound.

September 25, 2019
Economics of Environmental Justice
Brooks Depro, PhD

Join us for an introduction to a contested area of environmental policy: the economics of environmental justice. Dr. Brooks Depro's discussion will examine ways in which environmental injustice may arise out of discriminatory behavior and market forces. He will also provide an introduction to common economic frameworks used to explain and document unequal pollution exposure and reviews the existing evidence for and against competing explanations of injustice.

Brooks Depro joined Elon University's full-time faculty as an assistant professor of Economics in 2017. He has over 20 years of experience in economic consulting working at RTI International, a non-profit research organization located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He has extensively researched environmental regulation, housing choices, and environmental health risks. His work in the areas of the economics of environmental justice has been published in the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Land Economics, and the edited volume of The Political Economy of Environmental Justice.

October 2, 2019
Go Flight! The Unsung Heroes of Mission Control
Rick Houston

At first glance, it looks like just another auditorium in just another government building. But among the talented men (and later women) who worked in mission control, the room located on the third floor of Building 30 – at what is now Johnson Space Center – would become known by many as “the Cathedral.” The members of the space program were the brightest of their generations, making split-second decisions that determined the success or failure of a mission. The flight controllers, each supported by a staff of specialists, were the most visible part of the operation, running the missions, talking to the heavens, troubleshooting issues onboard and, ultimately, attempting to bring everyone back home safely.

Rick Houston is a full-time writer who lives in Yadkinville, North Carolina with wife Jeanie, a district court judge, and their twin thirteen-year-old sons, Adam and Jesse. Rick worked under contract for the University of Nebraska Press to document the US Space Program. His third project, co-authored with longtime Shuttle Flight Director Milt Heflin, resulted in Go Flight! The Unsung Heroes of Mission Control, 1965-1992. Rick also worked as a co-author for Man on a Mission: The David Hilmers Story with the four-time Space Shuttle astronaut. In all, Rick has authored eight books, including several that focus on NASCAR.

October 9, 2019
The Outer Banks: a North Carolina Coastal Treasure
Tom Connelly

North Carolina's Outer Banks is known as a national tourist destination, but more than that, it is a real storybook tale of United States history from 1500 a.d. through modern day. The English, French, Italians, Spanish, and even the Germans have visited these shores by sea over time leaving stories and bits of unique history behind. Today's program will take a travelogue approach to exploring the Outer Banks through history, geography, stories, and visuals.

Tom Connelly was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. He and Mary Lou have lived in the Southern Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain sections of the state. Tom's first trips to the Ocean Coast were in the mid-1950s where he developed a "fanship" for the region. With no certifiable expertise, he enjoys acting as an OBX tour guide for anyone who will sit still long enough to hear him. Tom holds a BA from Hampton Sydney College, an MHA from Duke University and an EdD from the University of Kentucky. He spends as much time as possible on the coast to continue decompressing from a 38-year career of teaching and administration in higher education.

October 16, 2019

Governors of North Carolina

Phil Kirk

During this session, Phil Kirk will speak on the ten governors he has served with in his illustrious career. He will concentrate on humorous experiences with the Governors and will discuss a few issues thrown in along the way. Also, there will be a discussion about specific examples of bi-partisan co-operation between the two political parties that Phil has experienced during his life.

Phil Kirk, a native of Salisbury and a graduate of Catawba College, has 55 years of experience in education, business, government, and politics. He served as Chief of Staff for Governors Jim Holshouser and Jim Martin and U. S. Senator Jim Broyhill. For 16 years, he was the President/CEO of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry (NCCBI), the state chamber of commerce and state manufacturing association and Publisher of the NORTH CAROLINA magazine. He has twice served as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the largest department in state government. In 1970, he became the youngest State Senator in North Carolina history at that time. Among his other former jobs are English and journalism teacher, radio announcer, newspaper reporter, vice president of a nursing home management firm, and assistant to the Dean of the College of Management at North Carolina State University.

October 23 2019

Issues Affecting Outcomes and Societal Costs of an Aging Workforce

Susan Letvak, PhD, RN

There is a shortage of qualified workers and many older workers cannot or choose not to retire. It is predicted that one in four workers will be over the age of 55 within the next few years. Working into later years, however, has personal costs, especially for workers with chronic health problems. Additionally, there are societal costs as older adults are often the volunteer workforce and provide direct care to grandchildren, and often their own parents. This session will discuss these issues and will offer the opportunity to debate topics such as mandatory retirement and proposals to reduce social security and Medicare to those adults who choose to continue to work.

Dr. Susan Letvak has over 30 years of experience as a registered nurse and has been a university professor for over 20 years. Her research has focused on the health and safety of older nurses and she has a special interest in healthy aging and retaining older workers in the work force. Originally, from New York, she raised her children in the Elon/Burlington area. She currently lives here with her husband and two "rescued dogs."

October 30, 2019

Sustainable Medical Outreach: Lessons Learned in Guatemala

Rebecca Neiduski, PhD, OTR/L, CHT

Medical outreach to underserved countries is the subject of great debate. “Mission trips” and “voluntourism” continue to increase in popularity despite the lack of sustainable outcomes. This session will review the opportunities and challenges faced in building a sustainable healthcare partnership in Guatemala over the past 14 years. Efforts in education, hand surgery, therapy, and community outreach will be discussed.

Rebecca Neiduski, PhD, OTR/L, CHT received a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis and a PhD in Education from Saint Louis University. Becky started her career in St. Louis, including 15 years of clinical practice as a certified hand therapist and 10 years as a full-time faculty member at Maryville University. She then served as the Occupational Therapy Department Chair at Concordia University Wisconsin for 4 years prior to beginning her role as the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Elon University in June of 2017. Professionally, she was elected to the board of directors of the American Association of Hand Surgery and has served as both the Research Division Director and Annual Meeting Program Chair for the American Society of Hand Therapists. She has educated therapists in Guatemala, Romania, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa, and has contributed to medical missions in Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Cambodia. Becky was honored with the ASHT Paul Brand Award of Professional Excellence in 2014 and the ASHT Nathalie Barr Lectureship Award in 2016. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation, Alamance County YMCA, and Hospice and Palliative Care of Alamance-Caswell.

November 6, 2019

Community Foundations: Planting Trees We Will Never Sit Under

Gavin Sands Stevens

Join the leader of a local foundation as she discusses philanthropy in the modern age. Charitable giving can run the gamut from making a first donation to building a multi-generational family legacy, but it always has the capacity to impact lives and shape communities. Learn about the role of the individual in modern-day philanthropy and what tools exist can help make investing in local communities easy, impactful, and (dare we say it?) even fun.

Gavin Sands Stevens serves as the executive director of the Alamance Community Foundation (ACF). Founded in 1991, the ACF is a charitable organization dedicated to strengthening Alamance County for current and future generations. The foundation manages \$15 million in assets and partners with donors to build permanent endowment funds and shape effective responses to community issues and opportunities. Prior to taking on her current role in her home community, Gavin was the senior director of Resource Development at the United Way of Greater Greensboro. Previously, she has worked for the Macy's Merchandising Group in New York City and for her alma mater, Elon University. Gavin is a founding board member of Reconsidered Goods, a creative reuse center in Greensboro, North Carolina. She holds a B.A. in Art and an M.B.A. from Elon University, as well as a Certificate of Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She lives in Elon with her husband and young daughter.

November 13, 2019
Civil Military Relations in the United States
Bob Shea

Less than one percent of the American population serves on active duty in the Armed Forces; leading to misunderstanding by the civilian populace, policy makers and elected officials. This presentation will focus on why the burden to defend freedom falls on so few of America's sons and daughters. Join the discussion on why and how this civil military divide has become a concern for our democracy.

Bob Shea is the vice president for Business, Finance and Technology and CFO at Elon University. Prior to coming to Elon in 2017, he was NACUBO's senior fellow for finance and campus management, where he led the Higher Education Economic Model Project and the Endowment and Debt Management Forum. He spoke extensively across the nation on the sustainability of economic models in higher education. Before his second career in higher education, Shea had a career in the US Navy, retiring as a Navy captain after 25 years as an aviator and financial management executive. Culminating his naval career with three years on the faculty at the Naval War College, he taught leadership and resource allocation. He holds a Masters of Business Administration from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Bob and his wife Tracey reside in Burlington with their chocolate lab, Hobie. They have two grown sons who both earned degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

November 20, 2019
From the Earth: A Look at a Modern Pottery Studio
Curry and Sarah Wilkinson

North Carolina is sometimes called the pottery capital of the United States. Seagrove is a major location and boasts the Pottery Center Museum of N.C. Several Western NC communities are noted for pottery making, but did you know that Alamance County has a long history of pottery production? Join Curry and Sarah Wilkinson as they take us behind the scenes of their pottery studio to discuss historical references to pottery making in Alamance County and how it relates to their work. They will share how they create a piece of pottery from start to finish, how they wood-fire the piece and how they decorate their work.

Curry and Sarah are both graduates of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Curry is a seasoned potter who, in addition to his degree, completed a three-year apprenticeship with a Mark Hewitt trained potter. (Mark Hewitt is the much-recognized Pittsboro NC potter who hails from England). Curry also teaches pottery classes at the Art Center in Greensboro. Sarah makes slab pottery and serves as the researcher and manager for their business. They have two kiln openings each year – fall and spring.

December 4, 2019
Rising Star: The Meaning of Nikki Haley, Trump's Unlikely Ambassador
Jason Kirk, PhD

Nikki Haley rose to national visibility in 2010 as the first woman and first person of color elected as governor of South Carolina. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, drew national attention again in 2015 as she led her state's response to the massacre of nine African Americans by a white nationalist terrorist at historic Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, which culminated in the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the capitol grounds in Columbia. Once a sharp critic of Trump's presidential campaign in 2016, Haley joined the Trump cabinet as ambassador to the United Nations, serving through 2018. She is widely hailed as a "rising star" in the GOP and a future presidential contender—so what does

