

# life@ELON

SPRING 2020 – Wednesday Schedule

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

**February 12, 2020**

**Healthy Hearing in a Noisy World**

**Sherrie A. Pelkey, AuD**

This class will explore our sense of hearing and how most of us will eventually lose a significant part of it. You will gain an understanding of how the auditory system works and how to recognize the early signs of hearing loss. Learn how untreated hearing loss can affect you and your loved ones both personally and professionally. Dr. Pelkey will discuss groundbreaking research linking dementia and hearing loss; she will explore available treatment options, as well as debunk myths about hearing aid technology. Healthy hearing has become a recognized component of successful aging.

*For almost 18 years, Sherrie Pelkey, AuD has been the Audiology Director at Alamance Ear, Nose & Throat. During her 23-year career as an audiologist, she has taught at UNC Greensboro and North Carolina A&T University. She has a passion for working with seniors and improving their quality of life through better hearing. After receiving her Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Florida she began mentoring students yearly as they navigate their way through the educational path to become an audiologist.*

**February 19, 2020**

**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 U.S. 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 researchers about the plants they used in Vietnam and sharing the stories of their lives with them, 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 include 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 students on a whirlwind tour of all the life on Earth. Catherine lives in Greensboro with her husband and their 6-year-old daughter.*

**February 26, 2020**

**Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow**

**Charles Wissinger**

At the start of the Civil War, a thin young man named Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow wanted to enlist in the Confederate army, but was turned down in four different counties. In this exciting program, hear what

he did to join the cavalry and why he posed as a dentist, a merchant, and a woman. Learn why he was called “the most dangerous man in the Confederacy.” Actor and historian Charles Wissinger will leave you with a much deeper appreciation of this spy for the south.

*Charles Wissinger is a professional actor who loves history. He is the director of operations and a historical interpreter for the non-profit organization called Richmond Discoveries, a company in Richmond, Virginia with a description of “Living History: Educating through Entertainment.” He is a graduate of Ferrum College with a B.A. in Theatrical and Performing Arts, and he has worked on stage, in films, television, and commercials. Wissinger has combined his love for acting with his love for history by researching and creating an interpretation of historical figures, from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812 and World War II, that played significant roles in the development of the United States of America. Charles has been with LIFE@Elon in the past and portrayed Edgar Allan Poe and Marquis de Lafayette. We are excited to have him back for a third visit!*

**March 4, 2020**

**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, Courtney’s presentation will explore not only the history of the Holocaust, but also 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.*

**March 11, 2020**

**Hummingbirds in North Carolina  
Susan Campbell**

Historically the state of North Carolina has been home to an abundance of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from April through September. The breeding distribution and ecology of this species was poorly understood until relatively recently. Furthermore, it has come to light that our state also plays host to Western species of hummingbirds, mainly in the colder months of the year. The collection of reports and photos as well as banding of winter hummingbirds has painted a fascinating picture of an unexpected phenomenon. Come learn about the big picture as it relates to these tiny birds currently across North Carolina. Methodologies behind data collection will be explored and plans for future research will be discussed. Learn how you can contribute to this long-term, statewide effort.

*Ornithologist, Susan M. Campbell, received her M.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University in 1995 and she has been studying hummingbirds statewide since 1999. In 2005, she became a Research Affiliate with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Her work has involved dozens of volunteer assistants and hundreds of hosts – all of whom are invaluable “citizen scientists” supporting these exceptional birds.*

