

life@ELON

SPRING 2022 – Thursday Schedule

ZOOM Class: 10:00 – 12:00

A Few Reminders about the Zoom Class Format

Zoom connection

On Wednesday afternoon, an email will be sent with a link for the Thursday morning class. If the presenter has a handout, it will be attached to the email. Twenty minutes before the start of class (9:40) on Thursday the meeting will be open so you can click on the link to join. Kathryn Bennett, the Program Coordinator, a student worker, or a class volunteer will be there to greet members as they are logging on. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom or need a refresher, material will be available to assist you before the first class.

Announcements and Introduction

At 10:00, the class will begin with updates and announcements about LIFE@Elon. Then a volunteer member of the class will introduce the speaker.

Presentation

To minimize distractions during the presentation, all participants will have their cameras turned off and voices muted.

Virtual break

About halfway through the class there will be a ten-minute break. A virtual timer will play on the screen while you stretch your legs, get more coffee or water, or go to the restroom. When the timer sounds, be ready to watch the rest of the presentation.

Questions

Questions for the presenter can be entered into the chat box at any time. When the presenter is finished, there will be additional questions and discussion. At that time, you may turn your video on and unmute yourself to ask a question directly or make a comment.

February 17, 2022

The Past and Present at Glencoe Mill Village

DeLayne Jolly

This presentation will discuss Historic Glencoe Mill Village-Textile Heritage Museum. The Village was founded in 1880 by James and William Holt and continued for more than seventy years. It is one of the most complete surviving mill villages in the South. Although mill villages were company-owned towns and workers often struggled under exploitative conditions, the close-knit nature of the village contributed to the creation of a unique mill culture. Unable to compete with larger companies taking advantage of newly invented synthetic fabrics, Glencoe Cotton Mill closed its doors in 1954. Because of its somewhat remote position, the majority of the mill buildings and homes remained relatively undisturbed until 1999. Since then, dozens of historic mill homes have been restored for families to live in, and the former company store and office building house the Textile Heritage Museum whose mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the Southern textile industry and the cultural heritage of the Southern mill village.

DeLayne Jolly is a 2020 graduate of Elon University, where she majored in Art History and History. Her interest in museums began through her education and participation in Elon College Fellows. As a Fellow, DeLayne completed a research project on the function of nostalgia in North Carolina's County history museums. She began volunteering at the Textile Heritage Museum as a sophomore in 2018 and was hired by Alamance Parks as a historic interpreter. She worked at the Textile Heritage Museum for three years and while there, she helped to create museum interpretation, organized community events, and published newsletters and other museum content. She remains enthusiastic about local history and small museums and plans to attend graduate school to earn a degree in Public History.

February 24, 2022

What it Takes to be a Rockette Dancer in New York City

Katie Walker

Wearing sparkling costumes and big smiles, the Rockettes entertain us with their delightful dancing and amazing high-kick line. They make it look easy, but the rigorous training and hard work needed is not always recognized by the audience. **Katie Walker** will take us behind the scenes and give us a full picture of this iconic group.

*Growing up in Burlington NC, **Katie Walker**'s love of dance led her to study at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts from eighth grade through high school with a major in ballet. Her summers were spent training with the American Ballet Theater and The Boston Ballet. After graduating in 2004, She danced at Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet in New York City. In 2008 Katie fulfilled her new dream when she joined the Rockettes and has been dancing with them ever since. She has performed in numerous events with the Rockettes, including Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting. Katie also had the opportunity to be the dance captain and assistant choreographer to Warren Carlyle on the New York Spring Spectacular and Mia Michaels on the New York Spectacular. For the last nine years Katie has been a swing for the Christmas Spectacular and dance captain for numerous events at Radio City.*

March 3, 2022

The American Revolution: A New York Lady Merchant's Experience

Karen Cherro Quinones (appearing as Mrs. Q)

What was it like to live through the events of the American Revolution? From the Stamp Act of 1765 to the final armistice of 1783, the people of the British colonies in America found themselves caught up in world-changing events. When we study American History, we remember the leaders and military commanders. However, often overlooked were the working people: lawyers, merchants, artisans, ship captains, dockworkers, farmers, tailors, printers, and all the other occupations that enabled the colonies to function. Mrs. Q, a successful merchant in New York City, will take you through the events as she lived them, offering her observations on how and why the colonies came to separate from the British Empire. Mrs. Q is a fictional character based on women who lived in New York and worked as merchants during the colonial era. All the events she will discuss were real, as were the participants, based on original source documents from the 18th century.

***Karen Cherro Quinones** is a historian, author, and tour guide based in New York City, specializing in New York's role in the American Revolution and Founding period. She conducts historical tours of New York City and is a regular contributor to Travel Channel's "Mysteries at the Museum." Ms. Quinones is*

also the author of Theodosia Burr: Teen Eyewitness to the New Nation, a young adult biography of Aaron Burr's exceptionally brilliant daughter.

March 10, 2022

The Case for Reparations in the United States

Peter Murray, PhD

The case for reparations looks at the historical roots of African Americans' demands for both acknowledgment of and compensation for slavery and discrimination throughout U.S. history. The death of George Floyd recently energized the Black Lives Matter movement, but it also reminded many people that the African American experience has been and still is enormously different from the experience of most white Americans. Inequality is poorly understood by many who know little about how systemic and continuous the denial of rights has been. The presentation examines the arguments for reparations and the forms it may take.

Dr. Peter Murray, a native of South Carolina, lives at Twin Lakes in Burlington. He recently retired after teaching US history at Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C. for thirty-two years. Before coming to Methodist University, he received his PhD at Indiana University-Bloomington in 1985 and taught for three years at Indiana State University at Terre Haute. In 2004, the University of Missouri Press published his book, Methodists and the Crucible of Race. Dr. Murray specialized in teaching 20th-century American history and the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

March 17, 2022

Irish Identity: Mythology, Art, and Politics from the Iron Age to the 20th Century

Tricia Maddatu

Cultures around the world have long used myths and stories to explain life's mysteries and inspire change. This talk will explore the connections between Irish mythology, art, and politics dating from the Stone Age to the 20th Century. Specifically, this presentation will explore the portrayal of the epic hero Cu Chulainn as he appears in "The Tain" and in artistic depictions throughout the Troubles of the 20th century.

Tricia Maddatu is a federal librarian in the United States House of Representatives. She graduated from Catholic University of America with a BA in History in 2014 and an MS in Library and Information Sciences in 2017. While pursuing her BA in History, she concentrated on Irish History, specifically on the Troubles in Northern Ireland. She recently traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland, where she was able to visit many of the important sites in the Irish Revolution and subsequent Troubles. Mrs. Maddatu currently lives in Washington, DC with her husband Mat and their many house plants.

March 24, 2022

Reveal: The Art of Reimagining Scientific Discovery

Prof. Rebecca Kamen

This presentation will investigate how art, scientific special collections, and the process of discovery provide inspiration to re-imagine a variety of scientific phenomena from black holes to the coronavirus. Prof. Kamen will also discuss *Reveal*, a collaborative research project exploring how crisis, curiosity, and the creative process not only generate unexpected opportunities for discovery, but also inform artwork which fosters new connections between art and science.

Prof. Rebecca Kamen, Professor Emerita from Northern Virginia Community College, currently serves as visiting scholar and artist-in-residence at The Computational Neuroscience Initiative and the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania. She has also completed research for collaborative art and science projects at the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard University, the Kavli Institute at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the National Institutes of Health. The recipient of many fellowships and awards, Prof. Kamen has exhibited and lectured both nationally and internationally. Her work has recently been featured in Creative Resilience: Art by Women in Science, an exhibition sponsored by UNESCO at their headquarters in Paris. It includes women in science from 31 countries creating work inspired by the coronavirus.

March 31, 2022

Redistricting and Gerrymandering: What You Need to Know

Jennifer Bremer, PhD

What reform earns rousing support from the party out of power in the legislature—whether Democrats or Republicans—but is then roundly condemned by that same party once it's in power? Gerrymandering! When Democrats controlled the Congress and state legislatures, GOP leaders, such as Ronald Reagan, Mitch McConnell, George Bush, and, here in NC, Phil Berger, Tim Moore, and David Lewis, all condemned gerrymandering and proposed reforms. Democrats ignored them. Now the roles are reversed. This bipartisan standoff is not a recipe for reform success, yet few reforms are more urgently needed. We must act now to avoid another decade of rigged maps, costly court cases, and elected officials whose seats are so safe that voters cannot hold them accountable. This engaging, informative, and strictly nonpartisan talk will explain how gerrymandering works, demonstrate how it undermines our democracy, and show how North Carolina can create a "reasonable redistricting reform" commission to end this conflict of interest once and for all.

An experienced speaker and activist working for redistricting reform, Dr. Jennifer Bremer, holds a PhD in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School. She led the creation of the Fair Districts NC Coalition and served on the board of the NC League of Women Voters from 2019 to 2021. Before she retired, she directed the Washington Center of the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, part of UNC's Kenan-Flagler School of Business.

April 7, 2022

Booker T. Washington and the Virginian Railway

Charles "Dutch" Tubman

This presentation will focus on a 1909 request by Standard Oil and railroad magnate Henry Huttleston Rogers to Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute; the two were introduced by a mutual friend, Mark Twain. Rogers wanted Washington to tour his newly opened railroad from Norfolk, VA, to the coal fields of West Virginia in an effort to promote race amity among the railroad workers and communities along the route of the Virginia Railway. However, because the tour took place in segregated Virginia, an unusual plan was required to make it work.

(This program was originally presented at the Christiansburg Public Library in Virginia in 2013 to celebrate the Christiansburg Institute's association with Booker T. Washington, an advisor of the Institute in 1896. As part of his tour in 1909, Dr. Washington spoke to an audience of 5,000 black and white citizens at the Institute.)

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Charles “Dutch” Tubman has a wide scope of interests, focusing on railroad history, and has especially enjoyed researching the Washington Virginia tour. Holding a BS in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and an MBA in Transportation and Marketing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, he retired from Norfolk Southern Railway in 2019 after a 31-year career.

April 14, 2022

**Opportunity and Tragedy in Afghanistan: The Taliban Takeover and Its Impact on Education, Women’s Rights, and the American University of Afghanistan
C. Michael Smith, PhD**

Through the lens of the American University of Afghanistan, this class explores recent developments in Afghanistan. You will follow the efforts of the university as it became a symbol of hope for younger Afghans, especially for women. You will also understand the challenges the university and its students have faced. The university was attacked by the Taliban in 2016 with tragic loss of life. Five years later, as the Taliban gained control of the country and swept into Kabul, the university campus was overrun. Many students and staff are still trying to escape Taliban rule.

Dr. C. Michael Smith was president of the American University of Afghanistan from 2009 through 2014. He previously served as founding dean and later as president of the American University of Nigeria. His career in education and non-profit management has included positions as director of the Commission on Academic Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates, executive director of education foundations in Philadelphia and Tampa, director for quality assurance at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and vice president and acting president of Winthrop University (then Winthrop College).

Dr. Smith earned a BA in English and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a MA and PhD in British and American Literature from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Now retired, his first college teaching position was at Elon from 1967-1970, when Elon was still a small college.

Please note: Dr. Smith gave a wonderful talk to the Tuesday classes last year about the American University of Afghanistan. Because of the many member requests for his return to talk about Afghanistan today and the newsworthy content of his presentation, the link to this Zoom class will be sent to all students. In addition, a link to the recording of Dr. Smith’s first talk will be sent by email the week prior.

April 21, 2022

**Undergraduate Research Presentations
Various Elon Students**

Join us for a riveting exploration of new scholarship from Elon's brightest young voices. Undergraduate Research is one of five learning requirements promoted by the University. Research offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in inquiry in their chosen field of study and to experience first-hand what professionals in a chosen field do. The research presentations of these students will encourage you to think about the world in ways you had not contemplated.

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 class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling.

April 28, 2022

**Carriers of Hope: The Elon University School of Law Legal Services Program
Margaret Dudley, Esq**

In 2016 Elon University School of Law received a grant to establish the Emergency Legal Services program to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Partnering with the Family Justice Centers in Guilford and Alamance Counties, the law students offer civil legal consultations and help draft complaints for restraining orders and child custody issues. In this session we will learn about the program and meet the dynamic woman who directs it.

Attorney Margaret Dudley is a lawyer who has practiced at all levels of the North Carolina Court System. A native Carolinian raised in Beaufort, Attorney Dudley received a BA in English from Howard University in Washington, DC, and a JD from the Howard University School of Law. Her extensive experience includes seven years as Deputy County Attorney of Guilford Count, general practice law focusing on civil litigation and family law, and twenty-one years as an Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law in the Department of Political Science at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. While at the County Attorney's office she handled the legal work for many departments, including Social Services, Mental Health, and Child Support Enforcement. Moving into private practice, Attorney Dudley eventually established her own law firm. In 2017 she became the Supervising Attorney and Director for the Elon Law Legal Services Program.

May 5, 2022

**50 Years of Ballet in Mainstream America
Virginia Freeman Dupont**

Originating in Renaissance Italy in the 15th century, ballet has leapt into mainstream American culture, achieving significant prominence and visibility over the past fifty years. Ms. Freeman will discuss the history of ballet in America, focusing on those who established the art form in major cities across the country and how their leadership created devout supporters and grassroots success. Learn about how ballet companies engage their communities through arts and culture while continuing to breathe life into this centuries-old dance style.

Virginia Freeman Dupont is a professional dancer, choreographer, and educator from North Carolina. She holds both a BFA and MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography as well as a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A former Greensboro Ballet company member, Ms. Dupont has had the good fortune of participating as a performing artist in works by many choreographers. In 1995 she became a company member of the Gamble/Van Dyke Dance Company and has remained a company member of both the John Gamble Dance Theater and the Van Dyke Dance Group. She currently teaches ballet as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is also the Artistic Director and owner of Burlington Academy of Dance & Arts as well as a trustee of the Van Dyke Dance Group. Ms. Dupont continues to explore her crafts by performing, creating, and teaching throughout North Carolina.

All classes will be held on Zoom.

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

Classes canceled for any reason will not be made up, and no refund will be given.