

life@ELON

Spring 2022 – Tuesday Schedule

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

February 15, 2022

The Life and Music of Duke Ellington

Gary Hastings

This class celebrates the life and music of Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, one of the greatest figures of American jazz music. As a noted bandleader, pianist and prolific composer, Duke Ellington is still popular today and his compositions have become standard tunes in the repertoires of jazz musicians. Mr. Hastings will take us into the background of this great American musical icon, playing original recordings of his performances and his own trumpet performances of many of the great Duke Ellington tunes accompanied by a master keyboard player, Turner Battle.

Gary Hastings is an accomplished jazz trumpeter who has performed in jazz settings across the country and around the world. For 10 years he was the lead trumpet in the US Airways Jazz Orchestra and for over 25 years he toured with the Guy Lombardo Royal Canadians. He has also performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and the Nelson Riddle Orchestra. Also an authority on the music of Louis Armstrong, Mr. Hastings has performed many musical tributes to Armstrong’s life and music. In addition, he is a retired Assistant Chief of Police in Greensboro, North Carolina, and has authored a popular criminal investigation textbook plus five police detective novels.

February 22, 2022

New Leaf Society: Transforming Alamance County

Rett Davis

New Leaf Society is a private, non-profit organization focused on beautification and community partnerships in the heart of central North Carolina. North Carolina is known for its scenic attractions and the efforts of New Leaf Society are enhancing the charm of and the quality of life in Alamance County. The identified gateways, corridors and public areas enriched through partnerships and targeted resources will have a long-lasting effect on our community. Rett Davis will lead us through ongoing projects and future possibilities in this wonderful part of our state.

Rett Davis is the President of New Leaf Society. A graduate of N.C. State University with BS and MS degrees, he began his career as an agricultural extension agent in Montgomery County. In 1985 he became director of the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Service, responsible for horticultural and forestry educational programs and services. After retiring in 2007, Mr. Davis began work with Henderson Forestry Consultants and is actively involved in the management of privately owned forest land. Drawing on more than 40 years of field experience, Rett Davis writes a weekly gardening column for the Burlington Times-News. He was recognized by N.C. State for outstanding leadership and received a National Distinguished Service Award for his extension work. He is a member of the N.C. Order of the Longleaf Pine and was Alamance County Man of the Year in 2011.

March 1, 2022

FDA, Drug Approvals, and Medicare Part D

Michael H. Hinckle, Esq.

The Food and Drug Administration is tasked with ensuring that the nation's drugs are safe and effective. In this lecture, we will cover the basic structure of FDA, how it operates, and how it reviews and approves drugs. We will tackle common questions like: (i) why does its cost so much to get a drug on the market; (ii) why are generic drugs so much cheaper; and (iii) are generic drugs really the same as their brand counterparts? This lecture will also provide some basic background on drug price issues and Medicare, including answers to questions such as, (a) why are their different copays for my drugs; (b) how does Medicare Part D work; (c) why are my drugs covered under some Medicare Part D plans and not others?

Attorney Michael Hinckle is a partner in the FDA Practice group of K&L Gates LLP and is located at the law firm's Research Triangle Park, NC office. He is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and has been practicing FDA regulatory law for twenty-five years. Attorney Hinckle represents numerous FDA-regulated entities on matters involving premarket approvals, market exclusivity, and enforcement compliance matters. As a former in-house General Counsel, he also assists his clients with transactional, due diligence, regulatory strategy, and government pricing matters.

March 8, 2022

The Role of Immigration in Our Community

Jodie Stanley, Education and Outreach Coordinator

When community members recently heard that Greensboro would receive Afghan refugees, it was with some apprehension. Many residents do not know that Greensboro has been a refugee resettlement community since the early 1980's when the Montagnard of Vietnam, who helped the US military during the war, were granted asylum status. About 11% of Greensboro's residents are foreign born and speak a primary language other than English, and over 120 languages are spoken in Guilford County Schools. We are home to the elected International Advisory Committee and the Doris G Henderson Newcomers School, two unique community models that excel in enhancing immigrant integration and leadership. Join us to learn more about our community's international demographics, how we are organizing to address Afghan refugee needs, and how being a diverse community benefits everyone.

Born of second-generation missionaries with roots in Japan and Canada, Jodie Stanley was raised in Bolivia, South America. Her ability to speak Spanish led her to a career with the City of Greensboro Human Relations Department in North Carolina where her current responsibilities as Education & Outreach Coordinator include Language Access, supporting the City's human rights commissions, coordinating Fair Housing outreach efforts, providing inclusion and diversity training, and organizing reentry support efforts for those with criminal records through an initiative called Thrive GSO. Recalling the feeling of being an outsider and understanding the power of effective communication, Ms. Stanley found the most fulfillment in managing the City of Greensboro's Language Access Plan. Over the course of three years, her ability to create, network, and inspire empathy resulted in the successful implementation of effective employee training, creative problem solving, and increased awareness about the needs of Greensboro's immigrant residents.

March 15, 2022

Global Warming- Where Are We, How Did We Get Here, Where Are We Going?

Parke Rublee, PhD

It has been over 200 years since the Industrial Revolution began contributing carbon dioxide to earth's atmosphere, and nearly as long since scientists first noted that atmospheric gases affect global temperatures. The occurrence of global warming was first documented in 1938. Continued use of fossil fuels has resulted in about 2°F global warming over the last 200 years, mostly in the last 50 years, with predictions of additional warming that will cause sea level rise, extreme weather, mass migrations, and societal disruption. Limiting global warming is possible but will require the will of people and governments to address and follow through on challenging solutions.

Dr. Parke Rublee, an aquatic ecologist, received his MS and PhD from North Carolina State University. After postdoctoral positions at the University of Miami and the Smithsonian Institution, he taught at Whitman College for eight years and then at UNCG for 28 years. In 1997, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Rublee now lives in Greensboro and spends summers in Maine.

March 22, 2022

Commercial Theatre and the Broadway Model

Prof. Bill Webb

Have you ever thought about what it takes to launch a Broadway production? This session will explore the process of getting a show produced on Broadway and what it takes to keep it running on the Great White Way. Prof. Webb will examine the personnel, expense, risk and reward of staging a theatrical production at the highest level in the US. Having worked for seven years with the Elon in New York summer program, he has had the opportunity to go deep inside the world of Broadway and is excited to share his observations.

Prof. Bill Webb is an Associate Professor of Performing Art at Elon University, serving as the department's Lighting Designer and Production Manager, and has been a member of the Elon University community since 1996. He received his BA from Alfred University in 1988 and his MFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 1994. Prof. Webb's active professional career in theatrical design and production has given him the opportunity to travel extensively, working with companies such as Cirque Du Soleil, Mill Mountain Theatre, and the Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

March 29, 2022

Fiddles or Violins?

Mara Shea

This presentation will provide an overview of violins and fiddles and explain the important role the fiddle plays in our favorite music, especially dance music. She will talk about how fiddles evolved in different ways in different countries, as well as how they came to North Carolina with Scottish immigrants. Ms. Shea will show us some pictures of different kinds of violins, and will play a few tunes on her own instrument, highlighting the Scottish/North Carolina tradition.

Mara Shea has been a dance fiddler for almost thirty years for Scottish, contra, and English country dance. She is also a teacher; her fiddle students range in age from 7 to 87. She studied classical violin

until she was 20, when she abandoned the violin entirely. Fifteen years later she picked it up again to become a dance fiddle player. Ms. Shea studied ethnomusicology and folklore in Scotland for a year at the University of Aberdeen and loves to write and do research about tune histories. She has lived in North Carolina for 35 years and now resides at Twin Lakes in Elon, NC. She travels throughout the US and UK playing for dance events and teaching workshops.

April 5, 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 the Norfolk Southern Railway in 2019 after a 31-year career.*

April 12, 2022

**A Novel Is a Question
Terry Roberts**

Join Terry Roberts for a discussion on how the challenging process of writing a novel is like living with a deep and probing question over an extended period—often for years. Roberts will focus his presentation on the question that drove the creation of his most recent novel, *My Mistress’ Eyes Are Raven Black*, and how that question fed choices about almost every element of the story, especially setting and character. In addition, he will explain the deeply human questions that led to the creation of his previous novels. Finally, he will give us a preview of *The Sky Club*, a new and different book scheduled for release this summer.

***Terry Roberts** is the author of three celebrated novels: A Short Time to Stay Here, That Bright Land, and The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival. His novels have received numerous awards, including The Willie Morris Prize for Southern Fiction, The Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, the Thomas Wolfe Literary Award, and the James Still Award for Writing About the Appalachian South. His fourth novel, My Mistress’ Eyes are Raven Black, was released in July 2021, and his fifth, The Sky Club, will be published in July 2022.*

Mr. Roberts is a native of the Western North Carolina mountains. His ancestors include six generations of mountain farmers, as well as the bootleggers and preachers who appear in his novels. He was raised

by his grandmother, who instilled in him the magic of the past along with the grit and humor of mountain story telling. Currently, Roberts is the Director of the National Paideia Center in Ashville, North Carolina, a nonprofit program dedicated to teaching skills and attitudes that encourage learners to become responsible citizens and “pursue a meaningful life.”

SPECIAL ZOOM EVENT

April 14, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 (Thursday)

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 19, 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 26, 2022

Detective Series from Your Childhood: The Enduring Mystique of Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys

Prof. Kathelene McCarty Smith

Believe it or not – it has been almost one hundred years since the first mystery was solved by the incomparable Nancy Drew and Frank and Joe Hardy. The stories of these young detectives were churned out by a series of ghostwriters and this creative output resulted in a business model that would last for decades, but at the heart of it were engaging mysteries solved by stylish, sassy teens that still sell millions of copies annually. This presentation will revisit the history of these beloved books and address how the amateur sleuths have remained popular, including how the characters were marketed to generations of children in the United States and throughout the world.

Prof. Kathelene McCarty Smith is currently serving as Interim Head of the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives at UNC Greensboro. She is also an assistant professor and, until this appointment, served as Instruction and Outreach Archivist. Prof. Smith earned both her BA in History and MA in Art History from Louisiana State University. She also holds a MA in Library and Information Studies from UNC Greensboro. Her research has involved the role of academic libraries in fostering life-long learning, the mobilization of North Carolina's women's colleges during World War I, and girls' books in series.

May 3, 2022

Der Fuhrer's Face: World War II Music and Popular Culture

Jo Ann Williford

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries wars have inspired music, both vocal and orchestral. This class combines lecture with music and popular culture to examine major themes of World War II: military, social, and political.

Jo Ann Williford has a BA in History and teacher certification from Meredith College and a MA in American History from UNC Greensboro. Ms. Williford worked for over 30 years at the Office of Archives and History, including nine years as Education Coordinator for the State Capitol Building. Her last 15 years were spent as state coordinator for National History Day in North Carolina, an in-school academic program for students in grades 6-12. Ms. Williford has also taught in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at NC State.

Presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.
Classes cancelled for any reason will not be made up and no refund will be given.