

life@ELON

Spring 2022 – Wednesday Schedule
Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

February 16, 2022

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 23, 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 30 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.

March 2, 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 9, 2022

The Role of Immigration in Our Community

Jody 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. Guilford County is 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. This presentation will explore 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 born and raised in Bolivia, South America. Her ability to speak Spanish led to a career with the City of Greensboro Human Relations Department where her current responsibilities as Education & Outreach Coordinator include implementing the Language Access Plan, 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. Her management of the Language Access Plan has resulted in the successful implementation of effective employee training, creative problem solving and increased awareness about the needs of Greensboro's immigrant residents.

March 16, 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 rising sea levels, 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 8 years and then at UNCG for 28 years. In 1997 he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He now lives in Greensboro and spends summers in Maine.

March 23, 2022

Introduction to Lemur Care and Conservation

Anna Lee

What is a lemur? Why are there 200 of them in North Carolina? What can we learn about ourselves by studying them? Since 1966, the Duke Lemur Center in Durham, NC, has used non-invasive research to better understand lemurs, from what they need to thrive in human care to how best to protect their native habitat in Madagascar. While the lemurs won't be making the trip, this conversation will feature plenty of videos showing off some of the world's most adorable, and most endangered, primates.

Anna Lee is an education and communications specialist at the Duke Lemur Center. She has been involved with the Durham Lemur Center since 2016 when she started as a work-study student while pursuing her undergraduate degree from Duke University. When she is not talking to people about lemurs in person, she is talking to people about lemurs on the DLC social media platforms.

March 30, 2022

The Horticulture Technology Program at Alamance Community College: Preparing Students to Excel in the Horticulture Industry

Liz Riley, PhD

The Horticulture Science Department at ACC is a first-rate program providing instruction, hands-on learning, and inspiration to prepare students for a multitude of careers in horticulture. The program offers a variety of options: Degree, Associate in Applied Sciences and Horticulture Technology Associate in approximately two years; Diploma, landscape design and installation or nursery production in one year; and Certificate, horticulture-related courses in one semester. You will learn about the successes students at ACC are having as well as tidbits about your personal plants and gardens.

At a young age while working in the gardens surrounding her grandmother's home, Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Riley discovered how much she enjoyed being outside, working with plants and the landscape. Her passion for horticulture continued to grow, which inspired her pursuit of higher education in Horticulture Science. She holds a PhD, MS, and BS degrees in Horticulture Science from North Carolina State University. In addition, Dr. Riley has extensive experience in nursery and greenhouse plant production and teaching.

Dr. Riley is now the Department Head for Horticulture Technology at Alamance Community College. She is an enthusiastic instructor and a department head with the vision to continue growing the Horticulture Technology program while moving it forward in an ever-changing industry. She strives to keep the

program on the cutting edge by assuring that the courses reflect current industry practices as well as exposing students to opportunities in the rewarding field of horticulture.

April 6, 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 13, 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. He 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, Mr. Roberts 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 Asheville, 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 20, 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 before.

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 27, 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 4, 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.