



FALL 2021 – Wednesday Schedule

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

September 15, 2021

Commercial Theatre and the Broadway Model

Bill Webb

Have you ever thought about what it take to launch a Broadway production? This session will explore the process of getting a show launched on Broadway and what it takes to keep it running on the Great White Way. We will examine the personnel, expense, risk and reward of producing a theatrical production at the highest level in the U.S.A. Bill worked for seven years with the Elon in New York summer program, and had the opportunity to go deeply inside the world of Broadway. He is excited to share his observations.

Bill Webb is an Associate Professor of Performing Art at Elon University, serving as the department Lighting Designer and Production Manager and has been a member of the Elon University community since 1996. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Alfred University in 1988 and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 1994. Bill has had an active professional career in theatrical design and production and has had the opportunity to travel extensively, working with companies such as Cirque Du Soliel, Mill Mountain Theatre, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Bungalow Scenic Studios, and I. Weiss Inc.

September 22, 2021

Confessions of a Tailhooker: My experience on an Aircraft Carrier

Dr. Terry McNeill

Terry spent his entire career in academics at the community college level. During his time at Alamance Community College, he had the incredible opportunity to land and spend the night on an aircraft carrier as a tailhooker. Through a partnership with ACC and the Navy, he was able to do something that so few people ever get to experience, and he will share that exciting educational experience with us.

Terry McNeill and his wife Susan were born and raised in West Jefferson, NC. They currently live in Burlington and have two adult daughters, two grandchildren, and a grand dog. The older daughter lives in Elon with her husband and family and is a Physical Therapist at ARMC. The younger daughter lives in Washington DC and is an analyst for a defense consulting company. Terry spent his career as a community college administrator with the majority of his time spent at Alamance Community College, where he retired as the Vice President for Strategic Growth. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biology from Appalachian State University and a Doctorate in Community College Administration from Virginia Tech. Terry enjoys traveling, golf, reading, and volunteer work. He is also a former member of LIFE@Elon, who hopes to return in the future, after he and his newly-retired wife travel and check more items off of their bucket list.

September 29, 2021

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. With the decennial redistricting starting in the fall of 2021, 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.

Dr. Jennifer Bremer, an experienced speaker and activist working for redistricting reform, holds a doctorate 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.

October 6, 2021

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 U.S. history at Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C. for thirty-two years. Before coming to Methodist University, he received his Ph.D. 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.

October 13, 2021

Schemes & Scams: An Overview of Financial Exploitation Trends

Ken Elder

Scams to access and deplete your financial accounts are on the rise, both in terms of their variety and the depths to which the scammers will go to get your money. This session will explain the techniques fraudsters use to obtain your personal information and their efforts to use that information for illicit

purposes. Join a seasoned professional of the financial services industry to learn about the current schemes, federal and state efforts to combat these issues, and steps you can take to protect yourself.

Ken Elder is the Vice President and Enterprise Anti-Money Laundering Officer at Lincoln Financial Group, where he has spent 26 years investigating fraud and other financial crimes. Ken is a Certified Public Accountant who resides in Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a B.S. in Accounting and worked at Price Waterhouse LLP in Raleigh upon graduation before moving to Greensboro to join Jefferson-Pilot Corporation's internal auditing department. Ken grew up in Gastonia, North Carolina, but made many trips to his grandparents' house on Haggard Avenue in Elon. His mother and his oldest son are proud Elon alumni.

October 20, 2021

The Science Behind Personalized Genetics

Linda Niedziela, PhD

Linda will talk about consumer genetics, which promises us personalized information about our health and ancestry based on our DNA. She will share the science behind personalized genetics and what companies like 23andme.com actually do with your saliva after you mail it to them.

Dr. Linda Niedziela holds a Ph.D. in Genetics and Developmental Biology with postdoctoral training in molecular genetics. She spent several years as a research geneticist, studying the mutagenic effects of environmental toxicants before combining her research with teaching. She received her Bachelor's degree in Pre-professional Biology from the University of Pittsburgh and her Doctorate from West Virginia University. She is an Associate professor of Biology at Elon and currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Biology. She received the Elon College Excellence in Teaching award in 2011.

October 27, 2021

The Burlington Boys' Choir: History and Practice

William Allred, DMA

This talk will cover the establishment of the boys' choir, its early accomplishments and travels, and its founding director, Eva Wiseman. Ranging in age from nine to fourteen, the boys in the choir are chosen not only for their musical ability, but also for their character and academic standing. The choir has traveled extensively abroad and in the United States, including several trips to the White House, and has performed in several operas and oratorios. In addition to explaining how the young men are recruited and what is learned in rehearsals, the presentation will include a recent concert video.

Dr. William Allred is the second director in the choir's history and has been with the choir for twenty-five years. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from the North Carolina School of the Arts, and a Bachelor's degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Allred also serves as the Director/Organist at the Guilford Park Presbyterian Church in Greensboro and volunteers as director of the resident handbell choir at Friends Homes, Guilford.

November 3, 2021

"Going Out Green": Natural Burial and Home Funerals (and what the heck is a Death Café?)

Anne Weston, Sara Williams, and John Jull

The current cultural aversion to death has many negative consequences, not the least of which is failure to know your rights when it comes to caring for your own dead. Home funerals can be done safely and legally. Learn how to take back the responsibility and privilege of bathing, dressing, and mourning loved ones in the privacy of your own home.

If you think that cremation is the cost-effective environmentally sustainable way to dispose of your body when you're through with it, think again. And conventional American-style burial? Probably the worst. Find out how we got where we are and how we can do better with some planning and conversation.

Anne Weston is a happy resident of Hillsborough and a graduate of Duke University with a BA in English and a Master's degree in Liberal Studies. She is founder of Green Burial Project and a former director of Green Burial Council International. She has spent her adult life desensitizing herself to her own mortality and in the last few years just decided—What the heck! Why not embrace it?

Green Burial Project is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit with no product to sell. Its sole aim is to educate the community about the environmental, financial, and spiritual benefits of returning our bodies to the earth in a manner consistent with our values and our heritage.

Sara Williams, M.A., of Shrouding Sisters, is a home funeral guide and funeral/memorial celebrant. She has been helping families care for their own dead since 2014, the same year she began hosting Death Café MEBANE. She is an emeritus Board member of the National Home Funeral Alliance and she hopes to get you thinking about why expensive, outgrown, and downright dysfunctional methods of caring for our dead no longer serve us.

John Jull is a woodworker and proprietor of Aldergrove Woodworks. He specializes in caskets for green burial. Over the years, John has built caskets, urns, and raised garden beds among many other things. Born in Detroit, John was raised in Hell, Michigan, and has made his home as an adult on San Juan Island, Washington, and in Hillsborough, North Carolina. He acquired a BA in Humanities on the 25-year plan shortly after pounding the final nails into the house that he built for his family. John has three adult children and three small grandchildren who have all slept in a cradle which he built.

November 10, 2021

Reflections on the Humanitarian Imperative

Tom Arcaro, PhD and Students

What responsibility do we have to aid those suffering from natural and/or human-made disasters? What is the difference between those who are merely moved and those who are moved to act? Should our responses be as individuals or as local, regional, national, or international organizations? What is the difference between giving and partnering? How can we recognize the neocolonial and/or White [global north] saviorism? Must we/can we respond to those in need in Yemen, Myanmar, Syria, Palestine, Ethiopia, or Alamance County? How can we know for certain the line between helping and hurting?

Coming from the perspective of research with and about humanitarian aid and development workers across the globe, this conversation will address the above questions. Emphasis will be placed on (1) the history of the so called 'humanitarian imperative,' (2) how this term has been used both formally and informally within the humanitarian sector, (3) how this imperative has been critiqued by those from the majority world, and (4) the current controversies within the humanitarian sector. Ample use will be made of statements and observations from around the world.

Notes:

1. Current students in Dr. Arcaro's Global Social Problems class will help prepare and present this discussion.
2. LIFE@Elon members who wish to prepare for this discussion are welcome to visit Dr. Arcaro's blog. This post (<https://blogs.elon.edu/aidworkervoices/?p=985>) specifically talks about the humanitarian imperative.

Tom Arcaro is a sociology professor at Elon University and teaches courses in introductory sociology, sociology through film, classical theory, being and becoming a global citizen, and many others. He founded the Periclean Scholars program in 2003 and mentored the inaugural class, the Class of 2006. Arcaro has been researching and studying the humanitarian aid ecosystem and related aid and development issues for nearly two decades. His most recent work is on local aid workers in Jordan, Iraq, and Bangladesh.

He earned a B.A. degree in Sociology from Ohio State University, an M.S. degree in Anthropology from Purdue University, and a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology from Purdue University. Arcaro has published numerous books and produced many films. Some of his awards include Carnegie Foundation United States Professor of the Year for North Carolina, 2006; Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2005; Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Service/Leadership Award, 2005; Student Government Association Teacher of the Year, 1986-87 and 1987-88; and a Fulbright Study Tour in India, 1990.

November 17, 2021

Creating Space for Real Connection

Heather Dugan

How have technology, virtual communication, and over-efficiency impacted our relationships? What is the real cost of digital reliance to our ability to understand and connect? Learn the true genesis of loneliness, the impact of even normal life transitions on social structure, and how isolation affects our perceptions and responses. What does a remote hiking trail in Utah have to do with connection? How can additional friendships strengthen our primary relationships, and in what ways can we use context and alternate possibilities to increase our openness to others?

Changes in the ways we communicate and engage with the world around us have taken an exacting toll on our relationships and overall connectedness, launching what has been rightly called an epidemic of loneliness. The self-perpetuating nature and pervasive toll of this condition demands our better understanding and a more cohesive community response.

Heather is the principal of Heather Dugan Creative. Heather is an award-winning author of The Friendship Upgrade: Trade Clickable Connections for Friendships that Matter and Date Like a Grownup: Anecdotes, Admissions of Guilt & Advice Between Friends, and the founder of Cabernet Coaches®, a social access group for women that fosters self-betterment through face-to-face friendships and social connection. Her talks, keynotes, and workshops are structured around building better business, community, and personal relationships. She addresses loneliness on both the personal and community levels and creates larger conversations on creating space for connection and stronger communities. She's also a fan of the total disconnect, and often disappears with her adult children to hike mountain trails; cell phones turned off and connection switched on.

NOTE: There is no class the week of Thanksgiving. Please enjoy the holiday safely!

December 1, 2021

**Barbecue and Other Comfort Foods: Exploration of North Carolina's Traditional Foodways
Bob Garner**

For many Tar Heels Bob Garner's name and face are synonymous with North Carolina barbecue. Garner is a beloved public television personality, restaurant reviewer, writer, barbecue guidebook author, and all-around ambassador for our state's food culture. Whether writing or cozing up to a TV camera, Garner's kind and authentic southern gentleman's personality shines through. His ability to connect with his audience and his legions of fans make him our state's version of fellow Carolinian Charles Kuralt. Bob will share his journey across our state as he explores the foods for which North Carolina is most noted.

*Bob Garner's career in broadcast journalism, film/video production, food writing, and television producing/hosting spanned 50 years. He is the author of four books on traditional North Carolina foods: North Carolina Barbecue: Flavored by Time; Bob Garner's Guide to North Carolina Barbecue; Bob Garner's Book of Barbecue; and Foods That Make You Say Mmm-mmm. He has been a regular contributor to *Our State* and other magazines and has been a guest on various national cable TV food shows, including appearances with Paula Deen and Bobby Flay.*

For over 30 years, Garner was a familiar face on PBS North Carolina's "North Carolina Now" and "North Carolina Weekend" as he reviewed eateries across the Tar Heel state, ranging from BBQ joints to fine-dining restaurants. He has spoken to audiences large and small from one end of North Carolina to the other.

December 8, 2021

**The Past and Present at Glencoe Mill Village
DeLayne Jolly**

This presentation will discuss the Historic Glencoe Mill Village-Textile Heritage Museum. The Village was founded in 1880 by James and William Holt and continued for more than 70 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 has since been hired by Alamance Parks as a historic interpreter. In her time at the Textile Heritage Museum,

DeLayne has helped to create museum interpretation, organize community events, and publish newsletters and other museum content. She remains passionate about local history and small museums and plans to attend graduate school to earn a degree in Public History.

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.