



Fall 2023 – Tuesday Schedule

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

September 12

Cyber Security in Today's World

John Wimmer

In today's world, technology is a part of how we live our lives. However, technology users need to learn how to use it properly and master techniques for securing data to ensure they are doing everything they can to protect themselves. In this workshop John Wimmer will lead a discussion on the security challenges which exist for technology users today and how to minimize the risks involved while using these tools. He will cover topics such as common hacking techniques, proper usage techniques for credit cards, passwords, anti-virus software, social media sites, online scams, and the dangers of IoT (Internet of Things).

John Wimmer served as Chief Information Officer of Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the largest national and state park concessioner in the United States, before retiring in 2019. In addition to his role as Chief Information Officer at Xanterra, Mr. Wimmer was as an adjunct professor in the MBA program at The University of Denver from 2015, teaching classes in both Information Technology and Business Analytics, as well as serving on the advisory board for the Business Information & Analytics program.

Upon retirement, Mr. Wimmer relocated to Burlington, North Carolina, and accepted a position teaching undergraduate classes in Management Information Systems at Elon University. He sees this an opportunity to teach the next generation of business leaders and help these students learn how to use technology to be successful in today's business world. In addition, Mr. Wimmer uses his technology skills to help better leverage the technology available at Elon within the class setting and he has been asked to lead in the development of a new Cyber Security minor.

September 19

The Art of Glenda Crawford: A Creative and Spiritual Journey

Glenda Crawford, PhD

Since retiring from Elon University, Glenda Crawford has pursued her passion for art. Studying in Italy and France, she discovered not only the importance of the fundamentals and technique of her craft, but also how art has enhanced her spirituality and her appreciation of life and beauty. Through her art, she has found her creative center.

Professor Emeritus Glenda Crawford had a distinguished career at Elon University. She taught for 30 years in the Elon School of Education, was the director of teaching fellows, and authored

five research-based books. Among her many honors and awards, Glenda was the 2011 Elon Professor of the Year and recipient of the Elon Medallion. In 2013 she started her 'Second Act' and pursued her love of painting. She has studied under many esteemed artists and art teachers, growing both spiritually and technically as an artist.

September 26

Climate Change: Causes and Consequences

G. Jay Lennartson, PhD

This discussion will focus on the causes of climate change, both natural and anthropogenic, as well as the current and future impact.

Dr. G. Jay Lennartson is Director of Undergraduate Studies and Senior Lecturer in the Geography department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also co-directs the Integrated Sciences major. His research specialties include air pollution meteorology, GIS (geographic information system), environmental planning, atmospheric hazards, aviation meteorology, and urban heat island effect.

After receiving a BA in Earth Science from Southern Connecticut State University, Dr. Lennartson went on to pursue a MS in Geosciences (Atmospheric Science) and a PhD in Geography (Climatology) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

October 3

Audie Murphy: World War II Hero and Actor

Charles Wissinger

Audie Murphy was one of twelve children born to a very poor family in Texas and he dropped out of the fifth grade to help support and feed the family. Hunting for food helped him become proficient with a rifle. After America was brought into World War II, Audie wanted to put his marksmanship skills to good use as a soldier. Even though he was wounded three times, he still quickly rose to the rank of First Lieutenant. Along the way he earned thirty-three awards, including the Medal of Honor and the Croix de Guerre, in over nine European campaigns, making him the most decorated American soldier from World War II. Audie would go on to write a book about his experiences called *To Hell and Back*. When James Cagney heard his courageous story, he helped Audie become an actor. Audie Murphy would make 44 feature films and even played himself in the movie based on his own book.

Charles Wissinger is pleased to return to LIFE@Elon. Mr. Wissinger has been on HBO, PBS, American Hero's Channel, History Channel, National Geographic, the big screen, films in museums, and multiple local theaters. He still works with the Historic St. John's Church Foundation, re-enacting Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech, as well as doing first person presentations as Francis Scott Key, Marquis De Lafayette, Edgar Allan Poe, among others. On the main stage his favorite roles include J. Pierpont Finch (How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying), Frank Butler (Annie Get Your Gun), Bob Wallace (White Christmas) and The Old Man (A Christmas Story: The Musical).

October 10

Cave Diving for Sports and Science

Jill Yager, PhD

Remember the dramatic rescue of the young footballers rescued from the underwater cave in Northern Thailand a few years back? They were saved due to the expertise of an international team of cave divers. It's not a sport for the faint of heart and can be extremely dangerous, but the rewards can also be...interesting.

Dr. Jill Yager received her PhD in Ecological Sciences from Old Dominion University, following a discovery she made in the underwater caves of the Bahamas. She is a research associate in the Smithsonian's Department of Invertebrate Zoology, a life member and Fellow of the National Speleological Society, and a member of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society. She has spoken with audiences around the world and is currently teaching Cave Ecology and Conservation at Warren Wilson College just outside Asheville.

October 17

Lumbering and the World of Wood: Hardwoods in North Carolina

Jeffrey Hanks

Wood is an essential part of our lives, both for its beauty and its utility. This class will discuss the softwoods and hardwoods of North Carolina. It will delve into the role wood plays in the North Carolina economy as well as the world economy. Current issues and opportunities will also be addressed.

Jeffrey Hanks grew up in a rural mountain community of 5,000 people in southwest Virginia where lumber and wood products were a large factor in the local economy. Mr. Hanks spent many years in corporate life devoted to finance, strategic planning, business development, operations, and general management. In the early 1990s, he joined the family lumber business in North Carolina, becoming the third generation of his family to be involved in this industry. Jeff is a past president of the North Carolina Forestry Association and the Hardwood Manufacturers Association. He received a BS from the University of Tennessee and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

October 24

Estonia: A Small Baltic Country, Making a Global Impact

Keyu Kay

This presentation will introduce you to the small country by the Baltic Sea that has grown tremendously since the collapse of the Soviet Union. You will learn about the history and culture of the country, the Singing Revolution, and e-Estonia (digital society). This session will be interactive and informative, interwoven with personal memories of growing up at a time when the country regained its independence.

Keyu Kay is a former member of the Estonian Women's National Basketball Team. After retiring from basketball, she moved to North Carolina, became a US citizen, and is now serving the

Greensboro community as a massage therapist. Having grown up in Estonia at a pivotal time in the country's history, she has vivid memories of the momentous events that shaped Estonia's independence and global recognition.

October 31

Speak, Memory: How to Write a Memoir

Allen Appel

Have you ever thought about creating and passing along a colorful account of your life to your family and mentioned the idea to said family - especially the young people – only to have been met with blank stares, or maybe even groans? Our speaker today is familiar with those stares, groans, and worse. While the bottom line will still be “Just sit down and write, dammit!,” he will also give you a large helping of encouraging and practical advice.

*Raised in West Virginia and a graduate of West Virginia University, **Allen Appel** is the celebrated author of many fiction and non-fiction books. The most well-known is Time After Time, the first in a series of novels featuring a time-traveling history professor named Alex Balfour who encounters actual historical people and events. That book and others in the series have been included in the American Library Association's lists of Best Young Adult Novels of the Year. (Mr. Appel also wrote The Christmas Chicken but doesn't get asked much about that.) For eight years he maintained a weekly blog identity called The Thriller Guy, who passed along tips about writing, yes, thrillers. Mr. Appel is currently the senior thriller reviewer for Publishers Weekly.*

November 7

Family History Stories That Bring Us Together: Genealogy and the FamilySearch Archives
Dave Gammon and Michele Doyle

People are often inspired to connect with their family histories across generations. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides FamilySearch free of charge to everyone, regardless of tradition, culture, or religious affiliation. FamilySearch resources help millions of people around the world discover their heritage and connect with family members. This presentation will explain how you can access the resources locally at the Elon Family History Center or how to utilize the FamilySearch.org website.

Dave Gammon will lead the discussion in the morning class. Michele Doyle will be the speaker in the afternoon class.

***Dave Gammon** is a professor of Biology at Elon, but his interest in family history began much earlier. Both his parents frequently shared stories of their ancestors with him. Now, as part of his unpaid church service, Dave leads a committee focused on family history work for his Burlington congregation. (You may recognize Dave's name – he is the coordinator of Tectonic Plates: Alamance County's Science Café, that several of our members attend each month!)*

***Michele Doyle** is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Genealogical Society. She has been involved with genealogy for over 30 years. For the past 12 years, she has been a volunteer with*

the Family History training team for her church, training other church members in the use of FamilySearch.

November 14

Discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope

Stephen Danford, PhD

The James Webb Space Telescope is the ‘big brother’ of the Hubble Space telescope. Launched 31 years after Hubble, and with 6x the light gathering power, Webb looks significantly farther back in time than Hubble and can teach us more about the formation of the first galaxies in the early universe, about the exoplanets that orbit other stars, and about the formation of stars and planets in our own galaxy. It is little more than a year and a half since Webb was launched and the early science is starting to pour in.

Dr. Stephen Danford taught physics and astronomy at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for 38 years before his retirement in 2014. An observational astronomer, he served as Physics Department chair for 8 years and as Director of Observatories with responsibilities for the UNCG telescopes and planetarium. He has worked with the 0.8-meter telescope at the Three College Observatory and was instrumental in its founding in 1977.

Dr. Danford was raised in Wisconsin and was educated at Dartmouth College (Physics) and Yale University (Physics and Astronomy). He enjoys biking, reading, and anything connected with telescopes. He is the author of numerous publications in the areas of A- and B-types stars, stellar spectroscopy, emission line stars and Population II stars.

November 16 – A SPECIAL ZOOM PRESENTATION OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Family is a Gift: Unwrapping Family Communications for the Holidays

Charlotte Williams

As the holiday season approaches, we have much to be thankful for as we prepare to end one year and enter a new year. Many of us receive and give gifts during this time of year. What about the gift of family? As we visit, have dinners, and attend gatherings, let’s unwrap the gift of family communication with care.

Family Well-being coach Charlotte Williams, MEd, CHC, will present practical approaches for building intentional family communication that cultivates healthy relationships. Participants will learn relationship-building strategies and simple coaching techniques that can be used to strengthen conversations in life, family, and work.

Charlotte Williams brings a background in public health to her understanding of higher education and the student life landscape. She serves as the Associate Director for Student Wellness at Elon University. In that role she works with her team to champion a campus culture of holistic well-being.

A native North Carolinian, she received a BS in Public Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a MEd degree in Health Education & Promotion from East

Carolina University. She recently completed the Leadership for Diversity Institute through the National Coalition Building Institute International. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Organizational Change and Leadership at the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education. Her research interests include restorative justice practices, women's leadership, employee well-being, and family dynamics.

November 21

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 28

The Tuscarora Indian Nation and their Role in North Carolina History

Arwin Smallwood, PhD

This class will cover the history of the Tuscarora of North Carolina and their impact on both North Carolina and American history from the 16th century to the present. It will also explore the relationship between the Tuscarora and the various Native Americans that traded, warred, were in alliance with them, and ultimately were absorbed by or intermixed with them. This presentation begins with the early migration of the Tuscarora to North Carolina and does a thorough investigation of early Tuscarora political and cultural developments and folk culture. It also explores the Tuscarora's role in North Carolina history including the "Great Tuscarora War" and their subsequent diaspora around the state, nation, and world. The major objective of this class is to help those in attendance better understand the evolution of the Tuscarora in North Carolina and America from before the period of European contact and settlement through the colonial and early antebellum period.

Dr. Arwin D. Smallwood is the Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro. Born in Windsor, North Carolina, and raised in Indian Woods, North Carolina, he received his BA in Political Science in 1988 and his MA in History in 1990 from North Carolina Central University and his PhD in Early U.S. and African American History from The Ohio State University in 1997. His academic career has taken him to Bradley University and the University of Memphis where he contributed to the building of the department's PhD program in African American History. He then became Chair of the Department of History at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and subsequently Chair of the Department of History and Political Science.

He is the author of several books and articles as well as archived papers. His research primarily focuses on the relationships between African Americans, Native Americans and Europeans in Eastern North Carolina during the Colonial and early Antebellum period. He also works on mapping African American, Native American, and Early American history to illustrate early historical interactions between the three groups and as a means of teaching history to all levels, including K-12.

The recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, and grants, including the National Endowment for the Humanities African American Research Fellowship, Dr. Smallwood has participated in the award-winning UNC-TV film documentary, "The Birth of a Colony: North Carolina." He also serves as the current President of the Historical Society North Carolina, member of the Executive

Council and chair of the Academic planning committee for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He is on several boards, including the Board of Directors for the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum.

December 5

What Would Socrates Do to Strengthen the American Education? The Ideal Way to Teach and Learn

Richard Courtright, PhD

After decades of educational "reform" movements, why have we failed to move the needle on student achievement? Do we need yet another "new" reform? The better option may not be something else new, but rather something very, very old - the Socratic mode of inquiry. This session will examine ways of teaching and learning that elicit in students a deep understanding and ignite a passion for lifelong learning - just what Socrates sought to do.

Dr. Richard Courtright is a lifelong educator, having served over a period of thirty-five years as an elementary and middle school teacher and as a district administrator in both Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County. Dr. Courtright earned his BA, MEd, and PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill. He retired from public education and subsequently worked at Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) as a research specialist. After twelve years there, he retired again. Dr. Courtright now serves as a consultant in gifted and special education, delivering presentations at national and international conferences. He has directed summer institutes for teachers at UNC-Wilmington, Wake Forest, and Duke University. For several summers he taught master's degree students in Elon's School of Education. (Part of a proud Elon family, Rick's daughter Laura, an Elon alum, teaches gifted and talented students in the Charlotte school system, and his brother Mark retired this summer from the Elon School of Business.)

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.