



Fall 2024 – Wednesday Schedule
Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

September 11

Kingdom of Madness: The Strange Story of Religious Insurrection in Münster, Germany, 1534

Jeffrey C. Pugh, MDiv, PhD

Why do three metal cages still hang on the steeple of St. Lambert's Cathedral in the city of Münster, Germany? Jeffrey C. Pugh will tell the story of those cages and the religious insurrection that changed history. Based on his historical novel, *Cages: A Tale of Insurrection*, Dr. Pugh will share the story of how a city fell under the spell of deluded prophets and conniving kings to institute a theocracy destined to change European history.

Dr. Jeffrey C. Pugh explores the intersection of culture and religion in search of how Christianity has shaped and continues to inform our world. Dr. Pugh received his MDiv from Wesley Theological Seminary and his PhD from Drew University. He joined the faculty of Elon University in 1986. A former Maude Sharpe Powell Professor of Religious Studies and Elon University Distinguished Professor, Pugh has written on topics as diverse as religion and science, the end times, and dissenting theologians in Hitler's era, Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he continues to write and publish.

September 18

What do Wordle and Entropy have in Common?

Jeff Clark, PhD

Wordle is a very popular word game and there are many strategies for playing it. One strategy, known as entropy, applies to many other situations including medical diagnoses and other laboratory tests. This talk will be a very gentle introduction to entropy, using Wordle as our main example but also discussing less playful applications.

Jeff Clark is a Professor of Mathematics at Elon where he has taught for 35 years. He has taught most of the math classes Elon offers and has a special interest in recreational mathematics and what it can teach us about more serious topics.

September 25

"The Man", the myth, the legend: Taylor Swift

Emerson Bennett

There is not a person in this world who does not know who Taylor Swift is, but there are some people who do not fully understand her greatness. The 14-time Grammy Award Winner has recently surpassed

Frank Sinatra, Paul Simon, and Stevie Wonder by being the first woman and first person EVER to win "Album of the Year" four times! Come learn more about Time's 2023 Person of the Year and the "Mastermind" behind the \$1.04 billion concert tour: "The Eras Tour". Using her eras to guide us, we will learn how she became the world's most impactful pop star, one of the greatest poets of our time, and the best builder of bridges (read: musical bridges).

Emerson Bennett, oldest daughter of Kathryn and Clark Bennett, graduated from Elon in 2020 with her BS in Exercise Science. Following her graduation from Elon, she went on to Wake Forest to pursue her masters in Health and Exercise Science with a focus on heart failure. After a brief career in orthopedic medical sales, she went on to become the Program Coordinator for the Duke Anatomical Gifts Program for whole body donation. Emerson has been listening to Taylor Swift since she was in the 3rd grade when Swift came out with her debut album in 2006 (her favorite song at the time was Teardrops on my Guitar!). Lucky for her, she grew up listening to all of Swift's albums, but she now has a newfound appreciation for Swift's work, the Swiftie lore, and admiration of the Eras Tour!

October 2

He Knew the Dangers Before Him: Elon graduate Dewey Hooper in World War II

Randall Bowman

This session will tell the story of Dewey G. Hooper, a 1940 graduate of Elon College who served during the Second World War. Hooper enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces. In 1942, 2nd Lt. Hooper was killed when his B-24 Bomber crashed in a remote area of Australia during bad weather. A half-century later, an Australian named Ron Deering recovered Hooper's Elon College class ring from the wreckage. Deering contacted Elon; college employees got in contact with members of Hooper's family to tell them of the find. The ring and other items from the crash were brought home to the family and are now in the Dewey Hooper Collection in the Archives & Special Collections, Carol Grotnes Belk Library at Elon University. This session will also discuss the creation of a virtual exhibit on Hooper's story for Belk Library using Omeka, an online platform for sharing digital collections and virtual exhibits.

*Randall Bowman is an Archivist & Assistant Librarian in the Archives & Special Collections at Elon University's Belk Library. He was hired by Elon in 2000 and became a part of Archives & Special Collections in 2015. A native of North Carolina, he grew up in Durham and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Randall works with archival collections related to Elon's church history, as well as the university's history in general. He has a personal interest in military history, particularly American military history. This interest led him to research Dewey Hooper and create the online exhibit about the pilot. Randall lives in Elon with his wife and cat Lily, and enjoys reading, researching family history, and watching college basketball. In 2016, Randall presented *Skeletons in the Closet: Genealogy for Beginners* to our LIFE@Elon classes and he is often here with Belk Library's book mobile.*

October 9

Classical Pianist Goes Rogue

Robert Buxton

Robert Buxton will present a lecture/recital on arrangements of violin repertoire for solo piano by Franz Liszt, Ferruccio Busoni, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and others. The somewhat forgotten art of piano arrangement was especially prominent in the nineteenth century. Like literary translation, a musical arrangement or transcription preserves something of the original work while being elaborated on by the translator or arranger. This program is a tribute to the great violinists of the past such as Ivry Gitlis, Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, and Yehudi Menuhin.

Robert Buxton brings music from the past to life today as a performer and public speaker. He offers a unique improvised lecture-recital combination with humor, personal stories and dazzling piano playing. As a soloist and chamber musician Robert has performed in New York (Carnegie and Alice Tully Halls), Europe, and Japan and his interviews and recordings have been featured on major classical radio stations. He received his Masters and Doctors degrees studying under Vladimir Virago at the University of North Texas.

October 16

The Gold Industry - Exploration, Discovery, Development and Mining of World-class gold deposits

Patrick Mallette

For thousands of years, gold has been prized for its unique metallurgical properties, its beauty in fabricated art objects and jewelry, and as a form of international currency. This presentation will provide an overview of the gold mining industry from an exploration geologist's perspective. We will discuss methods used to explore for and identify new prospects; development of promising prospects; mining and gold recovery methods; as well as case histories of world-class discoveries (>10-million ounces gold reserves.) Patrick will address questions like: Where does gold come from? How do geologists know where to look for new deposits? Can you see it? What separates an economically viable gold deposit from a gold "occurrence"? How is gold used in modern society? Can anyone look for and find gold?

Patrick Mallette worked for Newmont Mining Corporation for 30 years as an exploration geologist and manager before retiring in 2017. During his career, he was involved in the discovery, development and mining of world-class gold deposits in the western United States, Mexico and Peru. Patrick earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology from East Carolina University in 1982 and a Master of Science in Geology from the same university in 1986.

October 23

The Ocean is Calling – Are You Listening?

Park Rublee, PhD

2021 – 2030 has been declared the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The emphasis in this class will be to describe the current and future state of the oceans including plastic and nutrient pollution in the oceans, changes in fisheries and other natural resources, changing ocean circulation patterns, and consequences of climate including shifting geopolitical relationships.

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. He now lives in Greensboro and spends summers in Maine.

October 30

Lynchpin' - The Long Road to the Opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the world's first commercial railway

Dutch Tubman

This presentation is about one of the great innovations in transportation history, the opening of the first commercial railway line in the world, the Stockton & Darlington Railway, in Great Britain. It was designed and constructed by George Stephenson, an indefatigable inventor, engineer, and visionary, who is now acknowledged as the 'Father of the Railways'. While there had been a few mining and industrial railway lines opened in Great Britain in the early 1800's, there was none that offered service – either freight or passenger – to the general public. His son Robert went on to help oversee the spread of railways throughout the Commonwealth and North America.

*A native of Cleveland, Ohio, **Charles “Dutch” Tubman** has a wide scope of interests, focusing on railroad history. 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. He is the husband of Pamela Hale, a Wednesday morning LIFE@Elon class member.*

Dutch will be making this same presentation at the Lexington Group for Transportation History at its annual meeting next October, to be held in Miami. He and his wife Pamela, along with thousands from around the globe, plan to attend the 200th celebration of the Stockton & Darlington in England in 2025.

November 6

Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity: The Rosenwald Schools

Tom Lassiter and Jere Snyder

The documentary, *Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity*, reveals an important chapter of North Carolina history that has been largely ignored by our history books and which is remembered by an ever-dwindling number of citizens. African Americans in the Jim Crow South of the early 20th century, especially those living in rural areas, did not have adequate access to education. There simply were not enough public schools and qualified teachers for the number of students. White-controlled school boards, despite North Carolina's constitutional mandate for equal funding of schools for White and Black students, simply spent the majority of tax funds on schools for White students. It took a plan devised by Booker T. Washington, one of the nation's best-known Black educators, and Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist whose parents emigrated from Germany, to initiate fundamental change for African American children in the South. The 30-minute film was produced by Longleaf Productions, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Truist. Carolina K-12 lists the film as a resource for high school educators teaching the history of Black education in the state. The documentary first aired on PBS-NC in February 2023.

Tom Lassiter holds a journalism degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been a reporter, photographer, and editor for daily newspapers in North Carolina and Virginia. As a freelancer, he has collaborated with director and videographer Jere Snyder for more than 25 years. In 2015, Lassiter and Snyder formed non-profit Longleaf Productions to develop the Rosenwald Schools project. Two documentaries have resulted so far, with a third in development.

November 13

American Revolution Battles Which Took Place in Alamance County

Dr. Samuel C. Powell, Ph.D.

The skirmishes in Alamance County were very important to the outcome of the Revolutionary war. Powell asserts that the battles weakened General Cornwallis' army when he fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse which ultimately led to his defeat in Yorktown which ended the war.

Sam Powell is a well-known Alamance County native. After graduating from Williams High School, he earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Virginia Military Institute, his master's in biochemistry from Old Dominion University, and his doctorate in biochemistry from Loyola University of Chicago. After finishing his formal education, he moved back to Burlington where he assisted his brother in starting Biomedical Reference Laboratories which eventually became Laboratory Corporation of America, a Fortune 500 Company with \$28 billion in sales. He was also instrumental in starting a second family business, MedTox Scientific, Inc. specializing in testing for illicit drugs. Today, Dr. Powell is President of Powell Enterprises which is engaged in real estate management. He has served on the Burlington City Council and as an Alamance County commissioner. His contributions to the community are too numerous to list. He has received many awards including "Best Community Leader" by write-in vote to the local newspaper and "Citizen of the Year" from the Burlington Kiwanis Club.

Sam has always been interested in promoting local history. He has been a member of the Alamance Battleground Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) since 1998 and served as the Chapter President from 2003 to 2005. He developed an interest in the SAR while working to establish monuments for three Revolutionary War battles fought in Alamance County: the 1781 Battle of Clapp's Mill, the Battle of Pyle's Defeat, and the Battle of Lindley's Mill. Research done for the Battle of Clapp's Mill resulted in a Certificate of Achievement by the American Association of State and Local History. At the state level, Sam has served the SAR as Piedmont District Vice-President and North Carolina State President, and he currently serves as State Treasurer. At the National Level, he served as South Atlantic District Vice-President General for the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. He also served as SAR National Trustee for the State of North Carolina. He also served as President of the SAR Foundation, Inc. for 9 years. Under his direction, the SAR Foundation exceeded its \$10 million capital campaign goal by over \$2 million dollars. He was awarded the prestigious Sons of the American Revolution national "Minuteman" award in 2011.

November 20

A Walk Across North Carolina

Jonathan Giles

North Carolina's Mountain-to-Sea Trail was envisioned 40 years ago as a 1,200-mile journey from Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks. This

presentation will showcase Jonathan’s experience hiking through our state’s unique geographic features (state forests, mountains, rivers, bay lakes, beaches) as well as its diverse history (battlefields, historic small towns, large cities) and its varied peoples (Native Americans, generational North Carolinians and the 20th/21st century influx of other citizens).

Jonathan Giles is retired from Duke University where he served as Vice President for Development, Organization for Tropical Studies, a non-profit consortium of almost 60 universities and research institutions in the U.S., Latin America and Australia dedicated to providing leadership in education, research and the responsible use of natural resources in the tropics. Since 1976, the headquarters of OTS has been at Duke University. In his 24 years as a fundraiser for OTS, Giles has helped bring in nearly \$25 million in grants from the National Science Foundation and almost as much in grants and gifts from individuals and private foundations to help fund courses in tropical biology and support the organization's three research stations in Costa Rica.

November 27

THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 4

Sports in North Carolina, and Beyond

Webb Durham III “Trip”

Trip Durham, a native and lifelong resident of the Old North State, shares stories and perspectives from what he affectionately calls his "sports life." Using the lenses of event operations, branding, fan engagement, and leadership, Trip's experiences will give a sense as to where we have been and where we are headed in the athletics industry.

Trip Durham is a Burlington native, a graduate of Williams High School and a graduate of East Carolina University with a B.S. in English. His interest in sports started when he was a sophomore in high school and the director of athletics asked him to do the public address at a JV football game. Upon graduation from college, he served as a clubhouse manager for the Burlington Indians for 4 years and as director of Event Operations for Winston-Salem Baseball for 4 years. During the next 14 years he worked at Elon University as Associate Director of Athletics. He has been the public address announcer for Duke football and basketball since 2009. In 2010, He founded 2D Consulting LLC that is designed to assist colleges and conferences with improving their external relations operations. He is currently the new Executive Director of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, housed in the Museum of History in Raleigh. Trip has served in many volunteer leadership positions in the community, most notably chair of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce.

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.