



Fall 2025 – Tuesday Schedule

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

September 9

The Future of Business Journalism

Chris Roush

Business owners, consumers and employees have long relied on the news to make financial decisions — what to buy, whom to hire, and which products to sell. Today, however, only well-heeled corporations and executives can afford expensive subscriptions to *The Wall Street Journal* and *Bloomberg*, for example, while most consumers and small business owners are left scrambling to find the news they need to succeed and thrive. This "dissemination divide" is the result of various factors, including the demise of the daily newspaper and the increasing value placed on news and data used to make millions for investors and companies. We'll explore how this happened, and how the problem can be solved.

Chris Roush is a former journalist who has covered business news for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Tampa Tribune, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Bloomberg News and Business North Carolina magazine. He has written five books about business journalism, including The Future of Business Journalism: Why it Matters for Wall Street and Main Street. He has taught business journalism on five continents and started the business journalism program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Roush has won national, state, campus and school-wide teaching awards and was named the "Journalism Professor of the Year" by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in 2010. He's the former dean of the School of Communication at Quinnipiac University.

September 16

Engaged Learning for Life: Curiosity, Knowledge, and Application

Jessie L. Moore, Ph.D.

Engaged learning entails actively and intentionally participating in our own learning, not only at discrete moments but rather as an ongoing, lifelong activity. How do we remain curious about the world around us, open to building on our prior knowledge, and committed to putting what we're learning into practice? This class explores key practices for engaged, lifelong learning, and draws on international research projects facilitated by Elon University's Center for Engaged Learning.

Jessie L. Moore is Director of the Center for Engaged Learning and Professor of Professional Writing & Rhetoric at Elon University. She leads the Center's research seminars, which support multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary inquiry on teaching and learning. She also produces the Center's multimedia resources, including concise online guides on research-informed practices for engaged learning, videos, and podcasts. She is the author of Key Practices for Fostering Engaged Learning and co-editor of five additional books on engaged learning in higher education.

In 2021, Jessie received Elon University's Distinguished Scholar Award, and her professional service was recognized with the 2019 International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) Distinguished Service Award.

September 23

Exploring North Carolina, Naturally Eleanor Spicer Rice, Ph.D.

North Carolina is part of a global biodiversity hotspot. That means that parts of our state have a diversity of plants and wildlife so tremendous that we are on par with the Horn of Africa and Madagascar with the abundance of life that thrives here, and that depends on us for its survival. Eleanor Spicer Rice, Ph.D., will take you on a tour of our state's astonishing natural world, from the last seventeen wild red wolves on the planet to the loggerhead turtles that travel thousands of miles to rest in our soft sand. We will get an ant's eye view of our state's natural wealth.

Eleanor Spicer Rice, Ph.D., is an entomologist, award-winning author, and passionate science communicator who connects people with the natural world through books, podcasts, and media appearances. She earned her Ph.D. in entomology at North Carolina State University and has since authored ten books, including the acclaimed DEADLIEST series and Ants: Workers of the World. Eleanor is the host and writer of North Carolina, Naturally, a print, video, and podcast series for Our State magazine, showcasing the state's remarkable biodiversity. Her work has been featured on NPR's Science Friday, CBC's Quirks and Quarks, Discovery's What on Earth, and more. Whether writing about belly button ecosystems or homing pigeons, she inspires audiences to fall in love with, and care for, the natural world. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, two sons, dogs, a lizard, and a valiant flock of homing pigeons.

September 30

The Alamance County Community Remembrance Coalition Loy Campbell and Carole Troxler, Ph.D.

During this age of reckoning with America's past and present racial injustice, learn about the local history of Alamance County. The Alamance County Community Remembrance Coalition memorializes documented victims of racial terror, fosters meaningful dialogue about race and justice, and educates our county about our history, using Equal Justice Initiative projects and community events in collaboration with relevant organizations. This program will provide a discussion of the three known lynchings that took place in Alamance County from 1870-1920 and the efforts today by community members to honor their lives.

Loy Campbell is an occupational therapist with a special interest in dementia care. She works mostly in the hospital setting, as well as dementia care training for caregivers, first responders, faith communities, and the general community. Outside of her day job, Loy is the co-convener of the Alamance County Community Remembrance Coalition, sending many emails and getting folks organized. In her free time, Loy enjoys traveling to National Parks, cheering on the Virginia Tech Hokies, playing tennis, and reading as much as possible.

Carole Troxler has lived in Alamance County since 1969 when she and her husband came here to teach at Elon University. (They were children). In 2003 she retired from teaching, but not from researching and writing history. Most of her books and articles are not about Alamance County, but since the 1990s, when she studied and co-wrote Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina, its issues keep tugging at her. The strongest pull has been the Reconstruction period, and now she is researching the triumph of white supremacy in Caswell and Alamance counties from the end of the Civil War to about 1920. Her work with the Alamance County Community Remembrance Coalition centers on detailing and documenting two 1870 murders and their contexts. Carole says she messes with plants, plays the dulcimer, and nurses her aches and pains when she is not writing.

October 7

Heartbeats - Rhythm and Regulation

Bonny Buckley

Rhythms occur throughout our lives, including heartbeats, breath, steps, and the flow of our thoughts and words. During times of distress, our rhythms can feel very dysregulated. The use of therapeutic rhythm can be a useful and fun strategy in self-regulation. Learn how making music together is connected to empathy, oxytocin, dopamine, and decreases in cortisol (connected to stress). Bonny will share some original songs and participants will have the opportunity to create music together while exploring a 'petting zoo' of instruments including a variety of drums, gongs, singing bowls, tuning forks, chimes, and whatever else Bonny can fit in her van! Bring your curiosity and prepare to have fun!

Bonny Buckley, with Counseling Services at Elon, is a proud Elon alum and first-generation college graduate. After earning her BFA in Music Theatre with minors in Psychology and Dance (2001), she received a master's degree in Expressive Therapies and Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health-Counselor Supervisor (LCMHCS) and a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and spent 20+ years working within nonprofit community mental health as well as providing clinical supervision and presenting at conferences.

October 14

Bitter Blood: An Insider's Look

Ned Cline

Come get a behind-the-scenes perspective on one of North Carolina's most shocking and tragic true crime stories, the basis for the New York Times bestselling book *Bitter Blood: A True Story of Southern Family Pride, Madness, and Multiple Murder* by journalist Jerry Bledsoe. Ned Cline, who was managing editor of the *Greensboro News & Record* during the time of the murders, personally assigned Bledsoe to the story. He will explore the life of Justice Susie Sharp, the first woman to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court during the first part of our class. In the second part, he will discuss the devastating family tragedy that followed: a violent series of murders committed by her nephew and his lover, who was also her niece. Cline offers unique insight into this chilling case and its impact on the state and the media.

Ned Cline is a veteran journalist who has chronicled the lives of North Carolina's political and public figures for more than four decades. A former reporter, editor, and managing editor, he has authored eight biographies on individuals who shaped the state's progress. A graduate of Catawba College with a degree in political science, he was also a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

October 21

Southern News, Southern Politics: How a Newspaper Defined a State for a Century

Rob Christensen

Rob Christensen's latest book, *Southern News, Southern Politics: How a Newspaper Defined a State for a Century*, is the story of *The News and Observer* of Raleigh and the family dynasty that owned the newspaper for more than a century. The book and the talk contain several threads: state and national politics, race, and the rise and decline of newspapers. The Daniels family served as political lieutenants to William Jennings Bryan, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. They made and unmade governors. It follows the paper's early days as a voice of white supremacy to its denunciation by segregationist Jesse Helms for "selling out the South."

Rob Christensen wrote about North Carolina politics for The News and Observer for 45 years. He has appeared on more than 600 television or radio programs such as the CBS Evening News, ABC's Nightline, CNN's Inside Politics, MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews, PBS's Jim Lehrer Newshour, NPR's Diane Rehm, ABC Radio with Mitch Albom and Don Imus in the Morning. He is the author of two award-winning books – The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics and The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys, both published by UNC Press. Christensen, recently widowed, lives in Cary, North Carolina.

October 28

Echoes of myth and legend in Celtic tunes

Mara Shea

Not just Ireland and Scotland, the Celtic world includes places like Wales, Isle of Man, Brittany, a bit of northern Spain, and Nova Scotia, especially Cape Breton. They all have linguistic connections with each other, and each has myths and legends – stories to explain the world around us and how we got here. This presentation will explore a little of this Celtic music world and how in many cases the titles and structures of the tunes reflect the importance of places and landscape, seasons, beliefs, and rituals. Mara will not only talk about the tunes but will play some of them to illustrate their moods and musical stories.

Mara Shea has been a dance fiddler for about 30 years – for Scottish, contra, and English country dance. She is also a teacher; her fiddle students range from 7 to 87, with most being between 50-75. She studied classical violin for the first part of her life until she was 20, when she abandoned the violin entirely, picking it up again 15 years later to become a dance fiddle player. She studied ethnomusicology and folklore in Scotland for a year at the University of Aberdeen, and she loves to write and do research about tune histories. She has lived in North Carolina for 35 years and now lives at Twin Lakes in Elon. She travels throughout the United States and the United Kingdom

playing for dance events and teaching workshops. Should you want to know more, you can go to Mara's website – marashea.com

November 4

National Parks: A Great Place to Visit!

John Wimmer

In today's travel landscape, filled with beaches, cruises, mountain getaways, and luxury resorts, it's easy to overlook one of our greatest national treasures: the United States National Parks. In this engaging presentation, John Wimmer will guide you through the many vacation opportunities offered by the National Park system. He'll highlight the pros and cons of various park experiences and shine a light on a few lesser known "hidden gems" that offer unforgettable adventures.

John Wimmer is the former Chief Information Officer of Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the largest park concessioner in the United States, where he led technology strategy, team development, and major acquisitions across a diverse portfolio including national parks, resorts, and cruise lines. He also served as an adjunct professor and advisory board member in Business Analytics at the University of Denver.

Since retiring in 2019 and relocating to Burlington, North Carolina, Wimmer has continued teaching, now serving as a lecturer in Management Information Systems at Elon University. He helps students and community members build essential tech skills, including leading Excel certification workshops. He also plays a key role in developing Elon's new Cybersecurity minor and serves on both the Advisory Board for the Inn at Elon and the Board of Directors for the Downtown Burlington Corporation.

November 11

Chaco Canyon, the Chacoans, and their Amazing Astronomy

Larry Wakeford

Chaco Canyon is a National Historical Park in Northwest New Mexico. It was the home of Ancestral Puebloans for 300 years, 800 CE-1100 CE. The spectacular ruins of their civilization have been restored and amaze visitors from around the world. Many questions remain about this complex of buildings, kivas, and other artifacts. Who were these people? What was their city in Chaco Canyon used for? Where did they go after leaving Chaco?

Another remnant of these people was their well-developed understanding of the night skies—moon, sun, and planets. How could a society without written language gain and maintain this knowledge over centuries? To modern day Native Americans Chaco is a sacred place. For many others it has a mystical feeling about it. Larry Wakeford has visited it seven times and never ceases to be awed, so he is excited to share the amazement with our members.

After graduating from Manhattan College, Larry Wakeford served for two years in the Peace Corps in Colombia, introducing new science curricula to Colombian elementary and secondary teachers. He then completed the MAT program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and

began his teaching career at Walpole High School in Massachusetts. He became the director/clinical professor of Science Education and senior lecturer in the Brown University Teacher Education Program in Providence, Rhode Island, for fifteen years. His last teaching position was as an adjunct instructor at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque.

Wakeford has received Brown University's Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning. He was chosen as the North Carolina Region 5 Teacher of the Year, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Teacher of the Year, and the Kaiser Permanente Chair for Science Teaching.

November 18

Enjoying Cookbooks and Family Recipes as Literature, History, Humor, and Accidental Archives

Sheri Castle

The first known cookbooks were clay tablets from Ancient Mesopotamia, dating back to around 1700 BC. Today they're seemingly everywhere, from straightforward self-published memoirs to techy chef-driven tomes to flashy celebrity publicity sensations. Almost all of us have at least one cookbook on our shelves or a sleeve of recipes tucked in a drawer. Cookbooks provide recipes, of course, but there's more to them than cups and spoons. Cookbooks are full of stories, both deliberate and implied, and some are so richly wrought that they qualify as literature. Sheri will guide us through a discussion of the role that recipes, foodways, and cookbooks can reveal insight into our lives, families, communities, and culture. Sheri asks that all attendees bring at least one of their favorite cookbooks or family recipes to class.

***Sheri Castle** is the host of The Key Ingredient, an Emmy-winning cooking show from PBS. She is also an award-winning professional food writer, recipe developer, and cooking teacher known for melding stories, humor, and culinary expertise. She's authored a tall stack of cookbooks, and her writing and recipes appear in a long list of publications, including her role as featured monthly columnist of Our State magazine and Contributing Editor for Southern Living. In 2024, the Southern Foodways Alliance presented Sheri with their prestigious Keeper of the Flame Award given to a "foodways tradition bearer of note." The SFA also named her one of 20 Living Legends of Southern Food, calling her The Storyteller. Sheri grew up in Watauga County, North Carolina in her beloved Blue Ridge Mountains and now lives in Chatham County, North Carolina.*

November 25

THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 2

Classical Pianist Goes Gospel

Robert Buxton, Ph.D.

After receiving a rousing reception this past year when he shared violin music transcribed to the piano, members enthusiastically requested to have Robert Buxton return. When asked if he had

other programs he would be interested in presenting, he suggested a personal favorite. His dad loves southern gospel music and introduced it to Robert at an early age. So, when Robert began taking piano lessons at age four, playing it came naturally. He will present a program of Southern Gospel music, which has roots in African American spirituals, 18th century English hymns, Appalachian bluegrass music, and many more forms, together rendering a musical style unique to the southeastern United States.

***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 Buxton 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 master's and doctorate degrees studying under Vladimir Virago at the University of North Texas.*

Spring 2026 Dates

February 10, 17, 24

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14, 21, 28

*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.*