



ELON UNIVERSITY

VISUAL ARTS
SPEAKERS
MUSIC
SPRING
CULTURAL
PROGRAMS
2025

■ THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Vernice Armour, “Harness a Breakthrough Mindset”

Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7 p.m.

Baird Lecture

How one reacts to personal and professional obstacles, adversity and disappointment is a choice. It also determines their future. Black, female, gay and a child of divorce, Vernice “Fly-Girl” Armour learned this early in her pioneering journey from motorcycle cop to the Marines to becoming America’s first Black female combat pilot. The author of “Zero to Breakthrough: The 7-Step, Battle-Tested Method for Accomplishing Goals that Matter,” she launched VAI Consulting and Training LLC after her completion of two tours in Iraq. Armour’s energy rocks the house as she recounts her challenges, adventures and ultimate triumph. Her authenticity, enthusiasm and positivity inspire people to get gutsy and finally reimagine what’s possible.

Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning February 20 at ElonTickets.com.



■ THURSDAY, APRIL 3

James P. Elder Lecture with Frederick M. Lawrence

Whitley Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Frederick M. Lawrence is the 10th secretary and CEO of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation’s first and most prestigious honor society. An accomplished scholar, teacher and attorney, Lawrence is one of the nation’s leading experts on civil rights, free expression, bias crimes and higher education law. He is the author of “Punishing Hate: Bias Crimes Under American Law,” which examines bias-motivated violence and how such violence is adjudicated in the United States. Lawrence is a Distinguished Lecturer at the Georgetown Law Center, and has previously served as president of Brandeis University, dean of the George Washington University Law School, and visiting professor and senior research scholar at Yale Law School. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning March 13 at ElonTickets.com.**



■ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Mac Stone, “The Wonder of Wetlands – Stories from the Field”

Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Liberal Arts Forum Lecture

In this talk, award-winning conservation photographer Mac Stone will discuss the interface between the human and natural world and share exciting stories about his trials and tribulations in bringing awareness of this topic to a broader public. Stone grew up exploring the springs, swamps and hammocks of North Central Florida. At a young age, he developed a passion for photography and conservation. Today, Stone is a contributing photographer for National Geographic Magazine, a NatGeo Society Explorer and Senior Fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers.



ELON.EDU/SPEAKERSERIES

The Elon University Speaker Series welcomes distinguished thought leaders and change-makers who are actively taking on society’s most pressing issues. Their bold ideas inspire our own intellectual curiosity and challenge us to make a difference in the world. This year’s Speaker Series thematically explores “Foundations for Leadership and Innovation.”

SPEAKERS & EVENTS

VOICES OF DISCOVERY SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Kate Brauman,
“Water Security: Making Sense of Global Trends in Water Availability and Water Use”

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

Kate Brauman is the deputy director of the Global Water Security Center at the University of Alabama. The center supports government offices, NGOs and industry, aiming to bridge the gap between environmental research and policy development and implementation. Her research has included the assessment of global trends in water use and best practices for managing watershed ecosystem services. Brauman was the coordinating lead author for the 2019 Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and a section lead for the 2021 United Nations Environmental Program Global Synthesis Report, “Making Peace with Nature.”



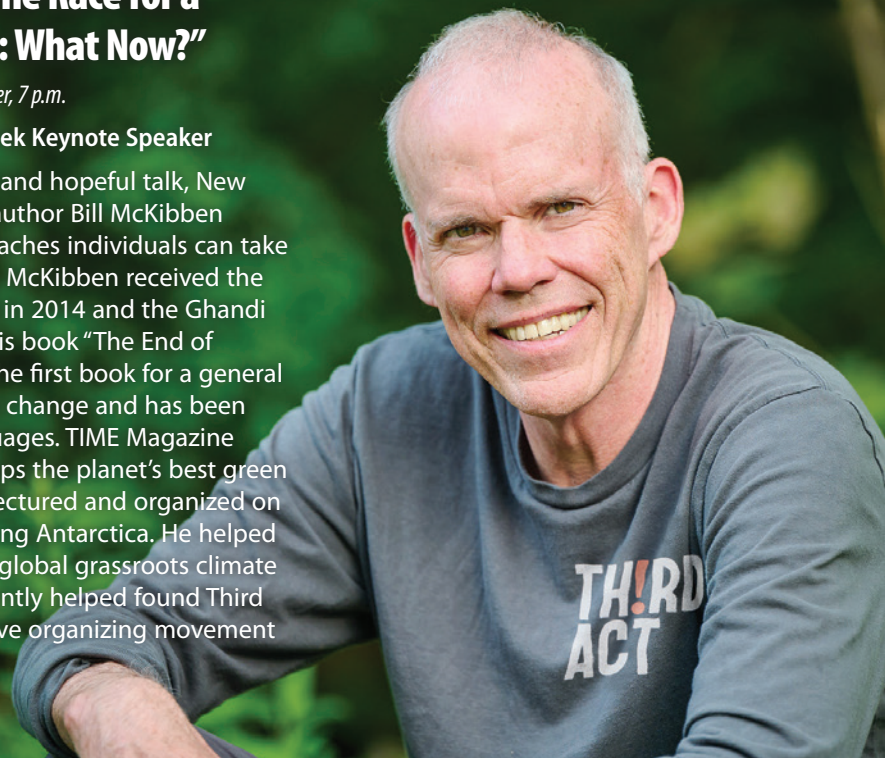
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Bill McKibben, “The Race for a Working Climate: What Now?”

Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7 p.m.

Elon University Earth Week Keynote Speaker

In this urgent, heartfelt and hopeful talk, New York Times bestselling author Bill McKibben provides realistic approaches individuals can take to help save our planet. McKibben received the Right Livelihood Award in 2014 and the Ghandi Peace Award in 2013. His book “The End of Nature” is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change and has been translated into 24 languages. TIME Magazine called McKibben “perhaps the planet’s best green journalist,” and he has lectured and organized on every continent, including Antarctica. He helped found 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign, and has recently helped found Third Act to build a progressive organizing movement for people over age 60.



THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Maysoon Zayid,
“Find Another Dream: An Evening of Comedy and Questions”

Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Liberal Arts Forum Lecture

Renowned comedian, actress, writer and disability advocate Maysoon Zayid jokes that if there were an “Oppression Olympics,” she would win gold — “I’m Arab, I’m Muslim, I’m a woman of color, I’m divorced and live in New Jersey.” Zayid is the co-founder and co-executive producer of the New York Arab American Comedy Festival and The Muslim Funny Fest. A current Princeton University Arts Fellow, Zayid teaches in-demand courses on comedy and collaboration. She has performed around the world, including headlining the Arabs Gone Wild Comedy Tour and The Muslims Are Coming Tour, in which comedians perform throughout the U.S. to counter Islamophobia.



PERFORMING ARTS



■ FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 2

Department of Performing Arts presents “Paradise Lost” by Erin Shields

Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West,
402 W. Haggard Ave.

Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 1-2 at 2 p.m.

Directed by Susanne Shawyer

A witty, modern, feminist retelling of John Milton’s epic poem about the cosmic battle between good and evil. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Reservations are highly recommended and will be offered beginning January 10 at elonperformingarts.com.**



■ THURSDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 3-5

Department of Performing Arts presents “The Grapes of Wrath”

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts | April 3-5 at 7:30 p.m.; April 5 at 2 p.m.

Based on the novel by John Steinbeck; Adapted by Frank Galati; Directed by Julian Stetkevych

When the Joad family heads West in search of a new life, they’re chasing more than just the American Dream. With stark simplicity and relentless honesty, this adaptation explores the fight for dignity, survival and the courage to keep going. Through every challenge, act of kindness and moment of hope, the Joads’ journey is a story for today — a reminder that even in tough times, the human spirit can’t be broken. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning March 13 at ElonTickets.com.**

■ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Mike Wiley Productions, “Blood Done Sign My Name” with special guest gospel vocalist Jennifer Evans

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Elon University Lyceum Series

In this production based on the award-winning memoir by Timothy B. Tyson, Mike Wiley brings to life Tyson’s recollections surrounding the 1970 murder of Henry “Dickie” Marrow in Oxford, North Carolina. Tyson, who was 10 at the time and living in Oxford, recounted how the conflagration of events shaped his life, offering audience members an opportunity to examine their roles in the complex and often confusing racial fabric of America.

Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning February 4 at ElonTickets.com.



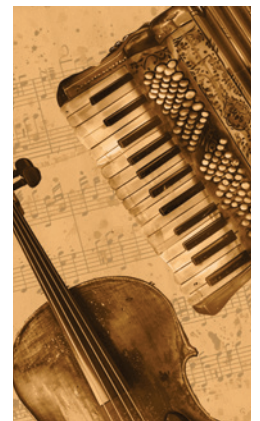
■ FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7-9

Department of Performing Arts presents “Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812”

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts | Feb. 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 8-9 at 2 p.m.

Directed by Alexandra Joye Warren; Musical Direction by Chris Rayis; Choreography by Jacob Brent

From the celebrated and award-winning composer Dave Malloy comes “Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812,” an electropop opera based on a scandalous slice of Leo Tolstoy’s “War and Peace.” Young and impulsive, Natasha Rostova arrives in Moscow to await the return of her fiancé from the front lines. When she falls under the spell of the roguish Anatole, it is up to Pierre, a family friend in the middle of an existential crisis, to pick up the pieces of her shattered reputation. Following a critically exalted premiere at Ars Nova in New York City, a subsequent off-Broadway transfer and an acclaimed run on Broadway, this award-winning musical expands the possibilities for the genre with its daring score and bold storytelling. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning January 17 at ElonTickets.com.**



■ FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 2-4

Department of Performing Arts presents “Merrily We Roll Along”

Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West, 402 W. Haggard Ave.

May 2-3 at 7:30 p.m.; May 3-4 at 2 p.m.

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; Book by George Furth; Directed by Jacob Brent

“Merrily We Roll Along” begins in the present and moves backward, tracing the lives of wealthy, jaded composer Franklin Shepard and his two estranged friends through each milestone of their personal and professional lives. The show ends with a touch of rueful irony, as the three best friends at the start of their careers face a bright future. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Reservations are highly recommended and will be offered beginning April 25 at www.elonperformingarts.com.**



DANCE

VISUAL ARTS



■ FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 7-9

Department of Performing Arts presents
“Emanation – The Spring Dance Concert”

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts | March 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.; March 8-9 at 2 p.m.
Artistic Direction by Jasmine Powell

Out of the dark void, a spark ignites, sending ripples of energy that come to life on the McCrary stage. “Emanation” is an evening-length performance that explores the transformative power of movement and the flow of creation. This dynamic concert showcases the work of faculty and special guest choreographers Kara Janelle Wade and Wesley Williams Jr., featuring the talent of dance program majors and community members. It’s sure to be an evening of innovation, expression and the captivating rhythms of the human body in motion. **Admission: \$15 or Elon ID. Tickets available beginning Friday, February 14 at ElonTickets.com.**

■ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Melissa Wilkinson,
“A Light That Never Goes Out,”
artist talk and opening reception

Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m.

In this exhibition, Melissa Wilkinson focuses on a new series of paintings titled “Queens and Monsters,” which include appropriated images sourced from disco, private Tumblr accounts and late 1970s/early 1980s “tomboys” that have informed her identity and personal sense of self. Influenced heavily by glitch art and data moshing, Wilkinson creates meticulous watercolor and ink wash paintings to investigate the line that straddles abstraction and representation. Exhibition continues through March 13.



■ MONDAY, MARCH 31

Liz Ensz,
“The Climate Sublime,”
artist talk and opening reception

Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m.

Liz Ensz’s Anthropocene Era commemorative textiles and metalwork contrast human-scale and geological-scale time and space. Her installations include large-scale sheer silkscreened “tarps,” cast metal plaques and a curated collection of locally sourced



discarded materials that are arranged differently each time they are displayed. This contemplative combination of materials becomes existential, questioning the solidity and permanence of both nature and culture and implicating the local community in a global conversation about materials. Exhibition continues through May 2.

■ FRIDAY, MAY 9

Senior Thesis Exhibition,
artist talk and opening
reception

Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m.

Part of the senior capstone experience, these exhibitions represent the culmination of graduating art majors’ art-making endeavors at Elon. During the opening reception, each exhibiting artist will present a brief statement that offers context to their thesis. Exhibition continues through May 23.



MUSIC

■ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Nathaniel Gumbs, organ recital

Whitley Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Organist Nathaniel Gumbs of the Yale University music faculty returns to Elon for a concert in celebration of Black History Month. His performance will include the music of Florence Price, Black composer of classical organ works.



■ TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Ken Waldman and Jeremy Jones

Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.



Ken Waldman, author of 20 books and composer/performer of 12 CDs, teams with North Carolina musician Jeremy Jones for an evening of literary reading, Appalachian string band music on fiddle and banjo, and storytelling on writing, music, North Carolina, Alaska and more.

■ TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Luminous Brass Trio: Music for Trumpet, Horn and Piano

Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Elon University Lyceum Series

An evening of chamber music featuring trumpet, horn and piano with a blend of rich tones and vibrant melodies as the ensemble presents a diverse repertoire, from classical to contemporary works by female composers. Each piece highlights the unique qualities of these instruments, creating an engaging experience for music lovers of all ages.



■ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Elon University Jazz Festival with guest artists Allison Miller and Carmen Staaf

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Directed by Alex Heitlinger

The Elon Jazz Festival culminates in a special performance by the Elon Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combos featuring guest artists Allison Miller and Carmen Staaf. Described by critics as a modern jazz icon in the making, Allison Miller won DownBeat magazine's 67th Annual Critics Poll for "Rising Star Drummer" and JazzTimes magazine's 2019 Critics Poll for "Best Jazz Drummer." She is a member of the all-female jazz supergroup ARTEMIS. Pianist/composer Carmen Staaf is a rising force in the New York and global music scenes, having performed and recorded with some of the most influential musicians of the modern era. Currently, she is the pianist and musical director for NEA Jazz Master Dee Dee Bridgewater.

■ TUESDAY, APRIL 29

"A Night at the Opera"

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

**Opera Workshop Director, Polly Cornelius
Conductor, Stephen A. Futrell**

In this collaborative event, Elon Opera Workshop will perform two one-act operas with the Elon Orchestra: "The Old Maid and the Thief" by Gian Carlo Menotti and "Down in the Valley" by Kurt Weill. The combined choirs of Elon, Chorale and Camerata, will also perform a number of classic, popular opera choruses with the Orchestra and Opera Workshop, including a grand finale featuring the closing scene/chorus of Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

"Down a Country Lane" – Elon Concert Band Spring Concert

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

The Elon Concert Band explores music that tells a story featuring the music of Aaron Copland, Henry Dorn and Julie Giroux.

■ THURSDAY, MAY 8

"Meditations" – Elon Wind Ensemble Spring Concert

McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

The Elon Wind Ensemble presents its final concert of the season featuring music by Aaron Copland and David Maslanka.



TICKETS & VENUES

Admission to programs is free and a ticket or reservation not required unless noted in the calendar. Prices include all applicable sales taxes. Patrons with valid Elon University identification may receive admission free of charge unless noted. **Tickets are nonrefundable unless the program is canceled.**

Seating: Seats for ticket holders will be held 10 minutes before the program begins. At that time, any seat that is unclaimed may be given to a waiting patron. As a courtesy to others, all patrons should be seated before any program begins.

Center for the Arts Box Office
Hours: Monday–Friday, 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (*Hours may change for holidays and dates of major university events.*)
Phone: (336) 278-5610

Online Ticketing: To purchase tickets, visit ElonTickets.com. Online tickets can be downloaded to a personal device and scanned at the doors. Ticket prices include all applicable sales taxes. A processing fee will be added at time of sale.

Walk-up and Phone Orders:
 The Center for the Arts Box Office will provide window service and accept phone orders to purchase tickets during normal business hours. Will Call will be offered beginning one hour before program start.

Roberts Studio Theatre Reservations:
 Please visit elonperformingarts.com to reserve seats for performances in the Roberts Studio Theatre. Reservations will begin seven days before the first performance starting at 9 a.m.

Gallery Hours:
Gallery 406: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Online Calendar » elon.edu/culturalcalendar
 View up-to-date details on campus events and ticket availability during the spring semester.

P Special Event Parking



CALENDAR

More Elon cultural events and complete, up-to-date schedules are online: elon.edu/culturalcalendar

■ SPEAKERS & EVENTS

■ PERFORMING ARTS

■ VISUAL ARTS

■ DANCE

■ MUSIC

- T** Tickets Required
- R** Reservations Recommended
- A** Admission at the Door
- P** Pre-registration required; see website for details

JAN./FEB.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Department of Performing Arts presents "Paradise Lost" by Erin Shields, Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West, 402 W. Haggard Ave., Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 1-2 at 2 p.m. **R**

Jan. 31 Joseph Bologne Gala Recital: Maya Kilburn, violin; Ray Kilburn, piano, Yeager Recital Hall, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 Nathaniel Gumbs, organ recital, Whitley Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Feb. 7-9 Department of Performing Arts presents "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, Feb. 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 8-9 at 2 p.m. **T**

Feb. 10 Melissa Wilkinson, "A Light That Never Goes Out," artist talk and opening reception, Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m. Exhibition runs through March 13

Feb. 13 Megan Squire, "Using Cybersecurity and Data Science to Understand Extremism," LaRose Student Commons 200, 4:30 p.m., Data Nexus Power of Women in Data Series **P**

Feb. 18 Elon Distinguished Scholar Lecture with Srikant Vallabhajosula, Gerald L. Francis Center Room 178, 5 p.m.

Feb. 22 Elon University Jazz Festival with guest artists Allison Miller and Carmen Staaf, McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 24 Deliberative Dialogues — Moving Forward as a Nation After the Election, Lakeside 212, 4:30 p.m., Active Citizen Series **P**

Feb. 25 Mike Wiley Productions, "Blood Done Sign My Name" with special guest gospel vocalist Jennifer Evans, McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m., Elon University Lyceum Series **T**

Feb. 27 Mac Stone, "The Wonder of Wetlands — Stories from the Field," Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Liberal Arts Forum Lecture

March

March 4 "The Color Purple," film screening and Q&A with actress Phylicia Pearl Mpsi '15, Turner Theatre, Schar Hall, 7 p.m., Global Film & Cultures Series

March 4 Ken Waldman and Jeremy Jones, Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 7-9 Department of Performing Arts presents "Emanation — The Spring Dance Concert," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, March 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.; March 8-9 at 2 p.m. **T**

March 10 Kate Brauman, "Water Security: Making Sense of Global Trends in Water Availability and Water Use," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7 p.m., Voices of Discovery Science Speaker Series

March 12 The U.S. Navy Band 2025 National Tour, Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7:30 p.m. **T**

March 13 Vernice Armour, "Harness a Breakthrough Mindset," Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7 p.m., Baird Lecture & Elon University Speaker Series **T**

March 27 Maysoun Zayid, "Find Another Dream: An Evening of Comedy and Questions," Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Liberal Arts Forum Lecture

March 28-29 Elon Music Theatre presents "Grand Night," Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. both nights (same show) **R**

March 31 Liz Ensz, "The Climate Sublime," artist talk and opening reception, Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m. Exhibition runs through May 2

April

April 1 Luminous Brass Trio: Music for Trumpet, Horn and Piano, Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Elon University Lyceum Series

April 3 James P. Elder Lecture with Frederick M. Lawrence, Whitley Auditorium, 6:30 p.m., Elon University Speaker Series **T**

April 3-5 Department of Performing Arts presents "The Grapes of Wrath," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, April 3-5 at 7:30 p.m.; April 5 at 2 p.m. **T**

April 11 Elon University Jazz Ensembles Spring Concert, McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 15 Elon Music Ambassadors, "Anthems of Social Change," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 18 Elon Electric Ensemble, "Music of the New Millennium: Hits of the 2000s," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 22 Art Lande and Alex Heitlinger, duo jazz recital, Elon Community Church, 217 N. Williamson Ave., 7:30 p.m.

April 23 Bill McKibben, "The Race for a Working Climate: What Now?" Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7 p.m., Elon University Earth Week Keynote Speaker

April 24 élan, "Sambadouro," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

April 25-26 "Instant Laughter," Yeager Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. both nights **A**

April 29 "A Night at the Opera," McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

May

May 2-4 Department of Performing Arts presents "Merrily We Roll Along," Roberts Studio Theatre, Scott Studios at Arts West, 402 W. Haggard Ave., May 2-3 at 7:30 p.m.; May 3-4 at 2 p.m. **R**

May 7 "Down a Country Lane" — Elon Concert Band Spring Concert, McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

May 8 "Meditations" — Elon Wind Ensemble Spring Concert, McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

May 9 Senior Thesis Exhibition, artist talks and opening reception, Gallery 406, Arts West, 406 W. Haggard Ave., 5 p.m. Exhibition runs through May 23

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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10:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
(336) 278-5610
417 N. Williamson Ave.

■ FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 7-9

"Emanation — The Spring Dance Concert"



SPRING 2025



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■ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

The U.S. Navy Band 2025 National Tour

Alumni Gym, Koury Athletic Center, 7:30 p.m.

The United States Navy Concert Band, Sea Chanters chorus and Cruisers popular music group join forces to create a dynamic musical production featuring traditional wind band repertoire, Broadway showstoppers, pop and patriotic favorites. In 2025, the United States Navy celebrates 250 years of defending freedom and protecting America's interests around the world. As the premier musical organization of the U.S. Navy, the United States Navy Band is honored to mark this historic milestone throughout the year bringing the Navy where ships can't go, representing the professionalism of more than 330,000 active-duty sailors serving across the globe. **Admission is free, but a ticket is required. Reservations will be taken beginning February 12 at ElonTickets.com.**

elon.edu/culturalcalendar