



Spring 2017 Tuesday Schedule

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

February 14, 2017

A Director's Perspective: *You Can't Take It With You*

Fred Rubeck

*What are the challenges in finding the relevance of a historic play for a modern audience? Professor Fred Rubeck, director of Elon's recent production of *You Can't Take It With You*, will share his preparation, insight, and choices he faced in bringing the production to life. This presentation will provide a unique "peek behind the curtain" of how a theatre production happens. Time will also be devoted to questions about the play and the production.*

Fredrick J. Rubeck is Department Chair and Professor of Performing Arts at Elon where he has directed many productions, including *Antigone*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Angels in America - Part One*, *Millennium Approaches*, *Cloud Nine*, *Getting Out*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Psycho Beach Party*, *Noises Off!*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Music Man*. He also played Beverly Weston in our production of *August: Osage County*. Originally from Genoa, IL, Fred earned his BFA in Acting & Directing at Illinois Wesleyan University and his MFA in Directing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has directed professionally across the United States and in London. Other directing credits include: *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Greater Tuna*, *Evita*, *State Fair*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Sound of Music*, *Company*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Hair*.

February 21, 2017

Praise... A Story of Racism and Change

Rodney Parks

How does one overcome being socialized as a racist? More importantly, how can we get those we love the most to overcome their own racist misconceptions? Hatred and fear of those who are different continues to be a pervasive, almost palpable part of our culture. At our own family gatherings we are often reminded of how different our values and beliefs can be. Join Dr. Parks for his rousing story of race, reckoning, and redemption, followed by a group discussion of the growing challenges we see emerging in today's culture.

Dr. Rodney L. Parks is the University Registrar and Director of Summer College at Elon University where he has served since 2013. Dr. Parks also serves as an Assistant Professor of Human Service Studies and Sociology. Parks earned his Ph.D. in Counseling from the University of Georgia and has published numerous studies and book chapters focused on unique student populations and their challenges navigating higher education. He is also a veteran of the US Navy, having served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in the early 90's.

February 28, 2017
Climate Change Politics
Eileen Claussen

Join us to learn how politics have shaped our response to the climate change issue. We'll look at past efforts, internationally and in the United States, to tackle and respond to climate change. Our class will also take a look at where we are now and gain insights into what the future may bring for the ever changing world of climate change.

Eileen is the founder and former President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solution, formerly known as the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Her government experience includes serving at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more than two decades, as an Assistant to the President at the National Security Council, and as an Assistant Secretary of State for International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. She is currently an Executive in Residence at Elon University's Love School of Business.

March 7, 2017
Brexit Impact on Global Economics
Vitaliy Strohush

An incredibly relevant topic in the global news as of late, Dr. Strohush will share important information on the effects of the Brexit. He will focus mostly on the possible economic effects of the Brexit on trade and capital flows between U.K., Europe, and the rest of the World. Dr. Strohush will also discuss potential implications on the labor market in the U.K. and Europe with particular focus on the effects on labor market mobility. This information will prove invaluable, as we are all citizens of a global world.

Dr. Vitaliy Strohush is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Elon University. He is originally from Ukraine, and received his Ph.D. from Boston College. Dr. Strohush's research interests include International Finance with the focus on Global Imbalances, and Tax Havens, student debt, and the effects of macroeconomics news on financial markets.

March 14, 2017
Islam: Faith, Culture, and Roles
Amal Khmour

In a compelling and culturally-relevant presentation, Amal Khmour will explain the faith traditions that are at the heart of the Islamic religion. We will touch on how the Islamic faith influences ideas about traditions and gender roles, as well as examine the differences and similarities in the Islamic culture and the religion that include ideas of equality and integration. To help further explain traditions and aspects of the Islamic religion, Amal will also provide a historical overview of Islamic history, from its conception to modern day.

Amal Khmour is a community activist with ties all over the Triad. She is a teacher in Arabic and Islamic Studies and the principal at the local Burlington Sunday School. She is also the

coordinator and founder of Al-Aqsa Community Clinic. During her downtime, she is a devoted mother and wife living in Whitsett.

March 21, 2017

Stories from the Field: Camera Trapping in Eastern North Carolina

Maggie Ernest

Eastern North Carolina ranks among the most wildlife-diverse regions of the country. It has the largest population of black bears on the east coast; it is a hotspot for reptiles and amphibians; and it is home to some of the most endangered mammals in the world. North Carolina is truly considered one of the best wildlife viewing spots in the East. Through a camera trap project on the Albemarle Peninsula, an array of stunning images begin to tell the story of the wildlife, the land, and the people that call this unique place home. Maggie will take us on a journey to the North Carolina coast, where we will explore the species and ecological dynamics of this rich habitat and discuss the challenges to capturing the secret world of native wildlife. Most importantly, she will teach us how we can deploy a camera trap project in our own backyards.

Maggie Ernest serves as Landscape Conservationist for Wildlands Network, a conservation nonprofit committed to reconnecting nature in North America. In this role, Maggie coordinates the Eastern Wildway Network, conducts research on the effects of roads and habitat fragmentation on wildlife, and assists in a camera trap field project in eastern North Carolina. Before joining Wildlands Network, Maggie served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana, West Africa and interned as a park ranger at B. Everett Jordan Dam & Lake with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Maggie earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Technology from North Carolina State University and her master's in Environmental Management from Duke University.

March 28, 2017

Courage is Abundant in the Abstract: Take Your Dreams from Abstract to Reality

Selena Einwechter

Courage is Abundant in the Abstract is the story of a well-scrubbed plan and a dedication to seeing it through. It discusses challenges, setbacks, and disappointments; and it is the story of the importance of faith. Selena will remind us that pursuing our dreams is a lifelong process. Dreams may change with time, but it's always possible to take a dream from the abstract to reality. Selena will share her personal narrative about following her dream even when it seemed impossible, and how each person can do the same.

After spending more than thirty years in corporate America, Selena Einwechter decided to take a leap of faith and pursue her dream: building her own bed & breakfast. In June of 2009, Selena opened the doors of Tiffany Hill, a B&B in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. Selena loves to tell the story of how her dream became a reality; in fact, she finds that most of her time is spent sharing the process she created with others.

April 4, 2017
Scams and How Scammers Get Their Money
Randy Jones

Have you ever wondered how scammers achieve success? Furthermore, have you ever worried that you could fall victim to one of their stunts? If so, Randy Jones has the answers you've been looking for. He will discuss scams, identity theft, and similar types of fraud. As a class, we will explore how the crooks work their businesses so successfully and what makes it difficult to catch and persecute them. Today's presentation will be helpful in ensuring that no one else falls victim to them in the future, a peace of mind that is invaluable.

Randy Jones spent nearly four decades with local law enforcement and will bring his experience to the class. Over thirty years of his time was spent with the Burlington Police Department in Criminal Investigation where he actively investigated fraudulent crime and eventually reviewed the work of others as Commander /Assistant Chief. Randy now serves as Public Information Officer for the Alamance County Sheriff's Department, and also serves as a consultant to other organizations; these two roles keep him in close touch with the world of scams and fraud. He earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice at Durham Community College, and a BA in Social Science from Elon University. He has been a student and an instructor at specialized law enforcement academies and frequently speaks to citizen groups on scams and related issues.

April 11, 2017
New Vision for Burlington
Ian Baltutis

Cities are complex organisms; each grows and develops in a unique local ecosystem. Join us to learn about innovative strategies that Burlington is exploring and implementing to steer positive growth in the community. Find out about the full spectrum of new urban projects, from recreation to economic development, all from the perspective of Burlington's new mayor.

Ian Baltutis was elected as the City of Burlington's youngest mayor in November of 2015. He is a member of Elon University's class of 2008, where he majored in entrepreneurship. Since graduation, he has founded multiple businesses ranging from product engineering, import/export, and craft brewing. He is a passionate community leader who has dedicated his service to improving the historic Downtown core of Burlington, North Carolina.

April 18, 2017
Myth's Memory: Classical Allusions in Art Across the Ages
Kristina Meinking

The myths and legends of antiquity have influenced art across the centuries that separate our modern world from that of the cultures who fashioned these tales of creation and transformation. But why, and how have these stories changed or have they been changed? We will begin our epic journey by exploring the stories of classical mythology — its gods and goddesses, monsters,

heroes, and more. From there we will investigate the ways in which these fantastical accounts appeared in classical, Renaissance, and Baroque art.

Dr. Kristina Meinking holds a Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Southern California. She arrived at Elon in 2010 and has taught courses in Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Mythology, and the Ancient Mediterranean Cultures. In addition to directing Elon's interdisciplinary program in Classical Studies, Dr. Meinking advises the Classics Club and is involved with a number of committees and groups on campus. Her scholarship is focused in two areas: intellectual culture in late antique North Africa and hybrid pedagogies for language learning.

April 25, 2017

Choral Music of Finland and the Baltic States

Allan Friedman

Come explore the choral music of Finland and the Baltic states. Allan Friedman will lead our class in an examination of the linguistic, historic, and cultural factors that helped to shape this unique repertoire, and in turn, how this music shaped the history of these countries. We'll listen to and talk about the music of Paert, Rautavaara, Sibelius, Tormis, and others. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite for enjoying this lecture; it is sure to have something that leaves everyone walking away enriched.

Dr. Allan Friedman has earned music degrees from Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Boston University. He is the Music Director at Judea Reform Congregation in Durham, the Artistic Director of Women's Voices Chorus, and the Founding Director of SONAM. He also composes and teaches at a variety of places in the Triangle.

May 2, 2017*

Morning Class:

Science of Happiness

Alexis Franzese

What contributes to personal and collective happiness and well-being? This session will provide an overview of recent discoveries in the scientific study of happiness and situate the study of happiness within historical and cultural context. Utilizing literatures from across disciplines, Alexis Franzese will describe how happiness is defined and measured, whether and why some individuals and cultures experience more happiness than others, and whether happiness is biologically determined. You will gain an understanding of the challenges and difficulties inherent in the scientific study of happiness. As a class, all will be invited to engage in exercises designed to help apply the state of the science on happiness to personal circumstances.

Alexis T. Franzese is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Elon University. Dr. Franzese completed doctoral degrees in Sociology and Psychology (Clinical) at Duke University. Her clinical internship was completed at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her research is at the intersection of medical sociology and social psychology and addresses issues of self and identity, and the mental health consequences of

inauthenticity. Her publications appear in journals including *Demography, Aging and Mental Health*, and *Sociology Compass*. She has contributed to edited volumes, including *Authenticity in Culture, Self and Society* and *The Handbook of Social Psychology*.

May 2, 2017*

Afternoon Class:

The Search for Life in the Universe

Steve Danford

Few questions are more baffling to astronomers than whether or not we are alone in the universe. Currently, we do not know whether or not other forms of life may be found in various parts of our galaxy, or even among the planets that orbit the Sun with us. Much research is under way on this problem, and we can expect major breakthroughs in the next century. Few questions are more important to our understanding of our place in the universe. We will survey the solar system and talk about the satellite searches for life that are currently underway on Mars and some of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn. We will also discuss the recent successes in the search for planets farther out in the universe, where life might conceivably be found someday.

Dr. Stephen C. Danford is an Associate Professor and Director of Observatories, Emeritus in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UNC Greensboro. He has an A.B. in Physics from Dartmouth College, an M.S. in Physics from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from Yale University. He is a native of Racine, Wisconsin and currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. Steve was the Co-Director of the project to establish the Three Colleges Observatory, located in Graham, North Carolina. Its 32-inch telescope ranks as one of the largest in the southeastern United States.

*On the last day of the semester, we will hold our annual business meeting at the beginning of each class.

Please note, presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.
Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will not be made up.

**Spring Cultural Events with Special Ticket Pricing
for Our LIFE@Elon Members**

FREE

Olga Vocal Ensemble ~ February 9, 7:30 p.m.
Whitley Auditorium

Since our class does not start until after this event, please mention at the door that you are with LIFE@Elon, and you will be admitted at no cost.

\$5.00 Tickets

Koresh Dance Company ~ Friday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.
McCrary Theatre

An Evening with Diane Rehm ~ Thursday April 6, 6:00 p.m.
Whitley Auditorium

For details about each event please see the cultural calendar, or Elon website.

Pay by cash or check at class

Additional Offerings this Semester

LIFE@Elon Book Club

New members are welcome to join our book club! The group reads two non-fiction books per semester and offers a choice of two discussion dates for each book. The location for each discussion will be in one of the conference rooms in Johnston Hall, the building where our regular classes are held. If you are already a member of the book club, there is no need to sign up again. To join the mailing list, please email Kate Hickey at hickey@elon.edu.

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II
by Denise Kiernan

Discussion: Monday, March 6, 1:30 p.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall
OR Thursday, March 9, 10:30 a.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall

Oak Ridge, Tennessee – ever heard of it? Chances are, the answer is no. Hidden just twenty five miles west of Knoxville, this city once had a secret. It was home to 75,000 residents who worked tirelessly in factories, day and night, with one goal in mind: to end World War II. In The Girls of the Atomic City, Denise Kiernan reveals the story of this secret town through the voices of the women who lived it. While their lives might have come and gone, their stories are powerful enough to endure the test of time.

Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built The Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869
by Stephen Ambrose

Discussion: Monday, April 24, 1:30 p.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall
OR Thursday, April 27, 10:30 a.m., Rudd Room, Johnston Hall

Whether we recognize it or not, we owe much of who we are as a country to trains. Something as simple as a steam engine once built the United States economy, influenced westward expansion, and changed politics forever. In this compelling narrative, Stephen Ambrose delves into the lives of the men who built the Transcontinental Railroad that built our country. Readers will experience history come to life and make connections that reveal why the United States is the nation it is today.

Tour the new School of Communications Building March 16 and 17

Join us for a private tour of the new state-of-the-art School of Communications. The 45,000 square-foot building complex includes both the newly constructed Dwight C. Schar Hall and Steers Pavilion, as well as the recently renovated McEwen Building. Facilities include additional classrooms, computer labs, video and audio editing suites, television studios, new collaborative student media and organizations, faculty offices and student engagement spaces, the 220-seat Turner Theatre, and the Snow Family Grand Atrium. The tour, which will be followed by time for conversation about the impact of facilities on the academic program, will be conducted by

Dr. Don A. Grady, Associate Dean in the School of Communications. Please sign-up during class for one of the times below:

Thursday, March 16, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, March 17, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Participants should meet promptly in the School's Grand Atrium located at the corner of Williamson and Lebanon Avenue. The tour will take approximately two hours.

A Visit to Glencoe Mills, led by Jerrie Nall March 27 Day Trip 1:30 – 3:00

Please join us for a short road trip to Glencoe on Monday, March 27. We plan to be there from 1:30-3:00 in the company of Jerrie Nall, who has been instrumental in transforming the textile mill into a historic property.

We will start in the conference room to watch a short video about Alamance County's several textile mills. The viewing will be followed by a visit to the original mill store which houses local artifacts and records. As we walk, Jerrie will describe the stages of envisioning and restoring the Glencoe property that we experience.

The tour will be limited to twenty five visitors, as Jerrie does not have an assistant to help with the tour. The rooms we visit are handicap accessible.

Please sign up on the clipboard at class and then plan meet at 1:00 p.m. at Johnston Hall to car pool over together. We will need several drivers if we have full enrollment, so there will also be a place on the sign-up sheet where you can indicate if you are willing to drive and how many people can ride with you.