



Spring 2019 – Wednesday Schedule

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

February 13, 2019

Elon University Sustainability Initiatives

Elaine Durr and Kelly Harer

Elon University has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Green Building Council Piedmont-Triad Branch, among others, for its sustainability initiatives. The University's Director of Sustainability and Assistant Director of Sustainability will provide an overview of the campus's many sustainability initiatives. They will include a virtual tour of the solar farm as well as the Loy Farm and the many student-focused efforts happening there. They will conclude the session with a discussion on sustainable lifestyle choices.

Elaine has been at Elon since May 2008, when she was hired as the University's first full-time sustainability professional. She leads the University's sustainability efforts, which have operational and educational components. Prior to arriving at Elon, Elaine was a sustainability consultant for a small engineering and consulting firm in Decatur, Georgia where she managed the certification process for several LEED projects. She received her bachelor's degree in environmental science and biology from Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois and has a master's degree in earth and environmental resources management from the University of South Carolina School of the Environment.

Kelly began her journey as a Phoenix in July 2017. She is responsible for developing and implementing programs to increase the practice of sustainable behaviors and to enhance awareness of sustainability initiatives and accomplishments throughout the Elon community. Prior to Elon, Kelly worked at Coastal Carolina University where she taught the University's Introduction to Sustainability class and was an assistant director of admissions. She earned her bachelor's degree from Coastal Carolina University in business management and a master's degree from Western Kentucky University, specializing in social responsibility and sustainable communities.

February 20, 2019

Religion and Politics in India

Dr. Brian K. Pennington

India is the world's largest democracy and home to most of the world's Hindus. Yet, it is also a very religiously and economically diverse nation. As in many other places in the world, India has seen the rise of religious nationalism in the twenty-first century, and minorities and migrants in this pluralistic society have both been targeted as a result. This presentation will introduce the audience to basic Hindu ideas and to contemporary politics in India and help audience members interpret many important recent developments in what will soon be the world's largest country.

Dr. Brian K. Pennington is a historian of modern India and the author or editor of multiple books on Indian religion, including Was Hinduism Invented: Indians, Britons, and The Colonial Construction of

Religion. *He directs the Elon Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society and regularly teaches courses and conducts research in India.*

February 27, 2019

Through the Eye of the Artist

Dr. M. Bruce Shields

Throughout the ages, artists have expressed their love of beauty by recording on their canvases the colors, lighting, textures, and emotions of our world. By studying the work of prominent artists, we can look through their eyes to better understand the agony of visual impairment, when the beauty of their world began to fade. Our story will take us from ancient to modern times, as we discover the influence that various diseases of the eye may have had on their vision (and can have on ours) and how biomedical research has led to answers for many of these conditions, while other causes of visual loss wait for continued research to find answers for the preservation of sight.

Dr. Shields is a retired ophthalmologist, who spent his career as a professor at Duke University and professor and chairman of the Yale School of Medicine at Yale University. His career spanned clinical practice, research, and education. As a clinician and surgeon, he was listed for more than a quarter century among the "Best Doctors in America." His research led to over 200 scientific papers and book chapters. As an educator, he taught medical students, residents, and fellows in the clinic and operating room and through lecturing locally, nationally, and internationally. He wrote or edited ten books on glaucoma, and his Textbook of Glaucoma is currently in its 6th edition.

March 6, 2019

Nuclear Technology in a Modern Society

Rob Tayloe

Join Rob Tayloe for a discussion of the historical evolution of nuclear technology beginning with the early 1900s. The Manhattan Project during WWII led to the development of nuclear weapons. Issues associated with the disposition of these weapons are ongoing. The use of nuclear energy for propulsion by the U.S. Navy preceded the eventual use of nuclear energy for electrical power generation. North Carolina is one of the largest consumers of nuclear generated electricity in the U.S. The different types of nuclear reactors will be discussed along with risks and benefits associated with nuclear energy. In addition, Tayloe will discuss examples of how nuclear technology is used for medical and industrial purposes.

Rob Tayloe obtained a B.S. from North Carolina State University and a M.S. from the Ohio State University. He worked at the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant in Southport, North Carolina while at NCSU. After graduating from NCSU, he worked in the nuclear safety field for Goodyear Atomic, a contractor for the US Department of Energy in Ohio. He also worked for the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio on a variety of nuclear safety and security matters. He has consulted for government contractors and laboratories, such as the OSU Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, where he developed and taught a number of nuclear engineering courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

March 13, 2019

The Christmas Tree Industry in North Carolina

Avery Barr

Avery Barr will explore the growth and cultivation of the centerpiece of the Christmas season, the Christmas tree. Focusing mainly on the North Carolina Fraser fir, this journey will begin as the seed is planted and will continue until the tree is tagged and harvested for the Christmas season. Throughout this journey we will explore many of the different ways trees can be grown and harvested, and we will look at the ways farmers are trying to help protect and sustain the tree industry. We will also look at some issues facing the tree industry and current research that will help propel the industry forward.

Avery Barr is a third-generation Christmas tree farmer at Barr Evergreens in West Jefferson, North Carolina. He graduated from the UNC-Chapel Hill in 2016 with degrees in biology and history. He is the current chairman of the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association's Fraser Fir Promotional Board Public Education Committee, and last year he participated in a national campaign to promote real trees. He also plays the guitar, mandolin, and upright bass, and he enjoys playing golf and coaching football.

March 20, 2019

Magnificent Snails, Venus' Fly Traps, and Enigmatic Carolina Bays: Observation-Based Insights from a Conservation Ecologist

Andy Wood

In this fun and informative program, ecologist and conservation educator Andy Wood carries participants along a compelling virtual trek through bottomland swamp, Carolina bay, and longleaf pine savanna habitats in the coastal plain eco-region known as southeastern North Carolina: a global Biodiversity Hotspot supporting more than 1,000 plant species that in turn support hundreds of species of wildlife, including many found nowhere else on Earth. For more than three decades Andy has explored this region's natural places with special attention to the smaller beings that dwell in tea-colored pond water, including a critically-imperiled aquatic snail that Andy has all but single-handedly protected from extinction for more than 25 years. With the aid of live plants and animals and other visual tools, Andy shares examples and images of his subjects to help convey meaningful and sometimes amusing information.

Ecologist and conservation educator, Andy Wood, is a fourth-generation biologist and graduate of Texas A&M University. A lifelong educator, Andy joined the modern environmental movement with Earth Day 1970, helping organize and conduct stream cleanups, paper drives, and river monitoring. These formative experiences channeled his conservation career, which includes 12 years as Curator of Education for the North Carolina Aquariums, 11 years as State Education Director for the National Audubon Society, and 28 years as a volunteer nature commentator for public radio station WHQR. Andy is the Director of Coastal Plain Conservation Group – a non-profit organization he founded to protect rare and imperiled habitats and the plants and wildlife they support. He is also Project Manager of Habitats Environmental Services, LLC.

March 27, 2019

The Past is a Region

Terry Roberts

Join Terry Roberts for a discussion on how “the past is a region” much like a geographical setting. It provides the novelist a specific place and time related to the ideas that drive a narrative. Roberts will

discuss the historical and geographical setting for each of his three novels: *A Short Time to Stay Here*, *That Bright Land*, and *The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival* – with an emphasis on how setting creates dramatic tension and narrative intensity.

Novelist Terry Roberts is a native of western North Carolina, now living in Asheville. He has written two award-winning novels: 1) That Bright Land and 2) A Short Time to Stay Here. Both are set in the Hot Springs/French Broad River, western North Carolina mountain area. They are situated in different historical contexts: 1) – conflicts that remain in Madison County after the Civil war, 2) –World War I German internment camp at the Hot Springs Hotel. Both novels won the annual Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, given to the author of the best novel written by a North Carolinian. A third novel, The Holy Ghost Speakeasy and Revival, which is set during Prohibition, was just published in August of 2018. In each book, Roberts builds a fictional narrative around actual historical facts. His writing grows out of a base of thorough historical research.

April 3, 2019
Enter the Faun
Dave Mozgala

A documentary describing the unlikely collaboration between a veteran choreographer and a young actor with cerebral palsy. As Tamar Rogoff trains Gregg Mozgala to become a dancer, they make unprecedented discoveries about long-held cerebral palsy prognoses and brain elasticity. *Enter The Faun* is the story of a joyous, obsessed journey towards opening night. It challenges the boundaries of medicine and art, as well as the limitations associated with disability.

Class member Dave Mozgala, Gregg's dad, is an Eagle scout. He was a merchant marine shipboard engineer, a career Naval officer, a senior manager in a large corporation, and a teacher. He has four children, two boys and two girls. Gregg is his youngest son. Dave and his wife, Kathy, live in The Village at Brookwood. Between them they have eight children and 18 grandchildren.

April 10, 2019
America's Citizen Soldiers: The Military Reserve
Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Johnny Dwiggin

Join us to develop a better understanding of the composition, training, and capabilities of America's Military by highlighting our nation's reliance on the Reserves and National Guard. During this session we will explore the mix of Active Component compared to National Guard and Reserve within the Department of Defense. We will also discuss core competencies of each branch of service and how the military recruits, equips, and trains individuals and teams to prepare for all assigned missions. Finally, we will begin to evaluate how civilian-acquired skills translate to military needs and how military skills and training benefit civilian employers and communities by using examples of contributions to our national defense by North Carolina service members.

Johnny H. Dwiggin serves as an Army Reserve Ambassador for North Carolina. Ambassadors are appointed by the Chief, Army Reserve to serve as a bridge to the community. They are a focal point in building relationships and improving understanding and knowledge of the Army Reserve in communities throughout the state. They also serve as key link to Congressional leaders.

April 17, 2019
Undergraduate Research Presentations
Various Elon Students

Join us for a riveting exploration of new scholarship from Elon's brightest young voices. Undergraduate Research is one of five learning requirements promoted by the University. Research offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in inquiry in their chosen field of study and to experience first-hand what professionals in a chosen field do. Elon students' research presentations will encourage you to think about the world in ways you hadn't before.

At each LIFE@Elon session, three Elon students will present their research from various fields across the University. Each class will feature different student presentations, as class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling!

April 24, 2019
How Social Media Influences our Political Discourse
Dr. William Moner

Have you followed the news about Facebook selling your personal data? Are you concerned that Facebook may have influenced the way you voted in the 2016 election? Are you thinking of quitting Facebook? William Moner will lead you in an exercise that challenges the ethical decisions made in the distribution and circulation of social media information. He will challenge you to take an innovative look at how social media influences our political discourse.

Dr. Moner is an assistant professor of communications at Elon University. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Duquesne University, and a Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught web and mobile app design courses at Texas State University and digital media courses at the University of Texas at Austin. He was formerly Instructor of Web Design and Interactive Media at the Art Institutes (2005-2012). His research focuses on emerging methods of storytelling and interactive media production through open software platforms and systems. He has co-authored a book chapter titled "The Contours of On-Demand Viewing" in Connected Viewing (Routledge, 2013) and has presented research at ICA and NCA. Member of AEJMC, ICA, NCA and the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR).

May 1, 2019
The Legacy of Louis Armstrong
Gary Hastings

Gary traces the life of this great American trumpeter, singer, and composer from his boyhood days in New Orleans until his death in 1971. He highlights Armstrong's influence on modern music and the incredible success of his career. Known as the "Father of Jazz," Louis Armstrong is one of the most important figures in American musical history. Gary combines recordings of original Louis Armstrong performances with his own authentic interpretations of the classic tunes made world famous by Armstrong. Using a keyboard player and his own trumpet playing and singing, he brings an entertaining and educational program that should delight, inform, and entertain.

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

More details and sign up information will be shared at class.

Campus Tours with Nicole

Many of you already know Nicole, one of LIFE@Elon's student workers. She has been with us for four years now, but outside of LIFE@Elon she is very involved across campus. This past summer she had the opportunity to work as a University tour guide, and she wants to bring her training to her favorite group of people on campus – LIFE@Elon members! Nicole will be offering several campus tours throughout the latter part of the semester. Tours will start at Johnston Hall and last approximately an hour and a half, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes! Sign-up sheets will be located in the lobby during class so you can sign up for a date and time that is convenient for you. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to tour our growing campus and to let Nicole talk about her favorite place in the world.

LIFE@Elon Book Club

New members are welcome to join our book club! The group meets six times a year to discuss six different books. Commitment is minimal - you may read one book or all of them; you may come to as many or as few discussions as you wish. 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 list of books and discussion schedule for the fall semester can be found below. Please note that members are responsible for locating their own copy of each book.

Tuesday, January 22, 1:30 p.m.

One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw
by Witold Rybczynski.

This short, elegant book begins with Archimedes and Leonardo. Written by a man who built his own house with hand tools, Rybczynski enables us to see a seemingly simple tool in a whole new light.

Monday, February 25, 1:30 p.m., or Thursday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m.

True North: A Memoir
by Jill Ker Conway

Conway was raised on a remote sheep ranch in the Australian outback, went to Harvard, lived many years in Toronto, and eventually became the president of Smith College. This is the second of her gracefully written memoirs, which focusses on her early years in North America. For more, read *The Road from Coorain* to learn more about her Australian experiences.

Monday April 15, 1:30 p.m., or Thursday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.

The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History
by John M. Barry.

At Least 21 million people worldwide lost their lives in the influenza epidemic of 1918, an unprecedented disaster. Barry's comprehensive exploration of the medical, economic, and political paths of the disease, exacerbated by the travel and sanitary conditions of World War I, is fascinating and thought-provoking.

Discounted and Free Tickets

Discounted tickets (\$5) will be offered to the following cultural events:

Amernet String Quartet
Thursday, March 14
Whitley Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Florida International University's Artists-in-Residence, the Amernet String Quartet, is recognized as one of today's exceptional string ensembles. Their sound has been described as complex with an old-world flavor. The Amernet has always been committed to the music of our time and has commissioned works from many of today's leading composers and is also keen on collaborative projects recently appearing with Cantor Netanel Hershtik, jazz pianist Steve Allee, Josee Garant Dance, and the Kruger Brothers.

Thursday, April 4
Julia Gillard, "Engagement in the Asian Century: The Opportunity of Our Lifetime"
Alumni Memorial Gym, 3:30 p.m.
Elon University Spring Convocation

Gillard served as prime minister of Australia from 2010 to 2013. She was central to managing the Australian economy, the 12th largest in the world, during the global financial crisis and in 2012 generated worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life. During her tenure leading Australia, she delivered nation-changing policies including reforming the country's educational system from early childhood to university. Gillard played key roles in improving the delivery and sustainability of health care in Australia, creating a national system to care for people with disabilities, restructuring the telecommunications sector, and building a national broadband network