February 12, 2020
Healthy Hearing in a Noisy World
Sherrie A. Pelkey, AuD

This class will explore our sense of hearing and how most of us will eventually lose a significant part of it. You will gain an understanding of how the auditory system works and how to recognize the early signs of hearing loss. Learn how untreated hearing loss can affect you and your loved ones both personally and professionally. Dr. Pelkey will discuss groundbreaking research linking dementia and hearing loss; she will explore available treatment options, as well as debunk myths about hearing aid technology. Healthy hearing has become a recognized component of successful aging.

For almost 18 years, Sherrie Pelkey, AuD has been the Audiology Director at Alamance Ear, Nose & Throat. During her 23-year career as an audiologist, she has taught at UNC Greensboro and North Carolina A&T University. She has a passion for working with seniors and improving their quality of life through better hearing. After receiving her Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Florida she began mentoring students yearly as they navigate their way through the educational path to become an audiologist.

February 19, 2020
Exploring the Ethnobotany and History of the Indigenous Tribes of the Central Highlands of Vietnam (the Montagnards)
Catherine Bush

The Montagnards ("mountain people" in French) include many tribes that were indigenous to Vietnam. They fought alongside American forces in the Vietnam War, and many immigrated to the U.S. in its aftermath. Today, Greensboro, NC, holds the second-largest population of Montagnard community members outside of Southeast Asia. For over three years, Montagnard community members have been teaching researchers about the plants they used in Vietnam and sharing the stories of their lives with them, illuminating a complex time in history as well as providing insights into the biological legacy of Agent Orange.

Catherine Bush has been an adjunct professor in the biology department at Elon University since 2012. Her passions include learning from the Montagnards, working with them to improve their quality of life here in the US, and teaching -- particularly one of her favorite classes, Biodiversity, where she takes her students on a whirlwind tour of all the life on Earth. Catherine lives in Greensboro with her husband and their 6-year-old daughter.

February 26, 2020
Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow
Charles Wissinger

At the start of the Civil War, a thin young man named Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow wanted to enlist in the Confederate army, but was turned down in four different counties. In this exciting program, hear what
he did to join the cavalry and why he posed as a dentist, a merchant, and a woman. Learn why he was
called “the most dangerous man in the Confederacy.” Actor and historian Charles Wissinger will leave
you with a much deeper appreciation of this spy for the south.

Charles Wissinger is a professional actor who loves history. He is the director of operations and a
historical interpreter for the non-profit organization called Richmond Discoveries, a company in
Richmond, Virginia with a description of “Living History: Educating through Entertainment.” He is a
graduate of Ferrum College with a B.A. in Theatrical and Performing Arts, and he has worked on stage,
in films, television, and commercials. Wissinger has combined his love for acting with his love for history
by researching and creating an interpretation of historical figures, from the Revolutionary War, the Civil
War, the War of 1812 and World War II, that played significant roles in the development of the United
States of America. Charles has been with LIFE@Elon in the past and portrayed Edgar Allan Poe and
Marquis de Lafayette. We are excited to have him back for a third visit!

March 4, 2020
Through My Grandmother’s Eyes: The Veit Simon Family during the Holocaust
Courtney Doi

Courtney Doi will share the story of her grandmother, Judith Klein, the youngest of six children, who left
Berlin, Germany on the Kindertransport in December 1938 just after Kristallnacht. Judith’s father, two
aunts, and two of her siblings died in concentration camps. Judith passed away in 2016, and Courtney
inherited 30 years of her personal journals. Featuring old family photographs and firsthand accounts from
her grandmother, Courtney’s presentation will explore not only the history of the Holocaust, but also the
nature of personal memory and the ways in which we preserve family history.

Courtney Doi is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. She is a member of the Holocaust Speakers
Bureau for The Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education of North Carolina and has
taught writing at Alamance Community College, Elon University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. She lives in
Mebane with her husband, two daughters, and their dog.

March 11, 2020
Hummingbirds in North Carolina
Susan Campbell

Historically the state of North Carolina has been home to an abundance of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
from April through September. The breeding distribution and ecology of this species was poorly
understood until relatively recently. Furthermore, it has come to light that our state also plays host to
Western species of hummingbirds, mainly in the colder months of the year. The collection of reports and
photos as well as banding of winter hummingbirds has painted a fascinating picture of an unexpected
phenomenon. Come learn about the big picture as it relates to these tiny birds currently across North
Carolina. Methodologies behind data collection will be explored and plans for future research will be
discussed. Learn how you can contribute to this long-term, statewide effort.

Ornithologist, Susan M. Campbell, received her M.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University in
1995 and she has been studying hummingbirds statewide since 1999. In 2005, she became a Research
Affiliate with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Her work has involved dozens of volunteer assistants
and hundreds of hosts – all of whom are invaluable “citizen scientists” supporting these exceptional birds.
March 18, 2020
50 Years of Ballet in Mainstream America
Zalman Raffael

Originating in Renaissance Italy in the 15th century, ballet has leapt into mainstream American culture, achieving significant prominence and visibility over the past 50 years. Zalman Raffael will discuss the history of ballet in America, focusing on those who established the art form in major cities across the country and how their leadership created devout supporters and grassroots success. Learn about how ballet companies engage their communities through arts and culture while continuing to breathe life into this centuries-old dance style.

Zalman Raffael (Artistic Director/CEO), known familiarly as Zali, was born and raised in New York City. He received his formal dance training at the School of American Ballet, during which he performed in productions with both the New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theater, and worked with choreographers such as Christopher Wheeldon and Benjamin Millepied. In 2005, Zalman Raffael joined Carolina Ballet. During his tenure with the company, he performed diverse roles in the repertoire, including works created by Robert Weiss, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon, Attila Bongar and Christopher Stowell. By the end of his third season as Carolina Ballet’s first Resident Choreographer, he will have created 21 pieces for the company. He has taken up residency at East Carolina University (2015) and Manhattan Youth Ballet (2015), and participated in The Young Choreographers Workshop (2011) and Columbia Ballet Collaborative (2011). In addition to choreographing for Carolina Ballet, Zalman has re-staged works choreographed by Robert Weiss and Lynne Taylor-Corbett.

March 25, 2020
Formation and Persistence of the Deadhead Community
Rebecca G. Adams

The Grateful Dead were a rock band that grew out of the hippie culture in San Francisco in the 1960s. They played together as the Grateful Dead until their lead guitarist, Jerry Garcia, died in 1995. The original members have continued to play together in various combinations since Garcia’s unfortunate passing. Although the summer of 2015 was billed as their last series of shows together as the Grateful Dead, various remaining members have continued to play together, and their fans have continued to maintain a collective identity. The Deadhead community is remarkable among fan communities, not only due to its long-lasting presence, but also because of its wide geographic distribution and the intensity of its fans. This presentation will describe the characteristics of this community that have led to its persistence.

Rebecca G. Adams, a sociologist who is Professor and Undergraduate Gerontology Coordinator at UNCG, co-edited Deadhead Social Science (2000) and has written more than a dozen articles on Deadheads. In the summer of 1989, Rebecca taught a pair of sociology courses, Applied Social Theory and Field Research Methods, known as “Deadhead Sociology.” This past spring she taught an online course on the Grateful Dead Legacy. She regularly presents on the topic of Deadheads at the Grateful Dead Caucus of the SWPCA, at the meetings of other professional organizations, and to student audiences at various colleges and universities. She has written popular press articles about Deadheads, published a fictional piece situated on Dead tour, conducted audience research for Grateful Dead Productions, and served as associate producer and narrator for a video for Deadheads an American Subculture, shown on PBS in 1990 and subsequently. Her first of approximately 100 Grateful Dead shows was on September 20, 1970, and she continues to attend as many performances of the remainders of the Grateful Dead, jam band shows, local live music concerts, and festivals as possible.
April 1, 2020
The Sound of Politics in Myanmar
Gavin Douglas, PhD

Music is not simply something that reflects society, but is also a strategic tool used by people to shape their world. In this presentation, Gavin will examine the significance of music (and a variety of other sounds) in Myanmar’s political transformation from dictatorship to fledgling democracy. In recent history, music has been used to reinforce the policies of the oppressing dictatorship (1962-2011), to galvanize pro-democracy resistance movements, and to cultivate Buddhist nationalism. From state-sanctioned national unity festivals to monastic revolutions, and from education policy to pro-democracy Internet campaigns, music and sound have been used as a tool for many different agents throughout this transition. This talk introduces the story of Myanmar’s recent political transformations through the lens of music. The presentation will include audio, video, and live performance.

Gavin Douglas holds a PhD (ethnomusicology) from the University of Washington, Seattle. He joined the UNCG School of Music in 2002. His research interests include nationalism, politics, globalization, and cross-cultural aesthetics with a primary focus on Myanmar. He is the author of Music in Mainland Southeast Asia (Oxford University Press, 2010), a text that explores diversity, political trauma, and globalization across Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Douglas’ ongoing fieldwork in Myanmar (Burma) focuses on the state patronage of traditional music, ethnic minority traditions, and the soundscapes of Theravada Buddhism.

April 8, 2020
The Irish Bagpipe: Yes, those ARE real pipes
Travis Hicks

There are dozens of different types of bagpipes played around the world. The Great Highland Bagpipes from Scotland are the most prevalent and recognizable in the United States. The highland pipes, which first appeared on the battlefield as an instrument of war, frequently appear in pipe and drum bands, parades, marches, weddings, and funerals in North Carolina. A less common form of bagpipe, native to Ireland, are the uilleann pipes. “Uilleann” is the Irish Gaelic word for “elbow,” as the bag on a set of Irish pipes is inflated using a set of bellows strapped to one’s elbow, not one’s mouth. Dating to the early 18th century, uilleann pipes are considered one of the most complex musical instruments and one of the most challenging varieties of bagpipe ever developed. Uilleann pipes, unlike war pipes, are generally played indoors, in a seated posture, either solo or with other traditional Irish or modern instruments. Reels, jigs, hornpipes, polkas, and airs form the basis of traditional Irish tunes that are typically played on the uilleann pipes; however, modern pipers have taken the instrument in a multitude of directions and genres.

Travis Lee Hicks, Associate Professor of Interior Architecture and Director of the Center for Community-Engaged Design at UNC Greensboro, is an architect and designer who left a full-time architectural practice to teach at UNCG in 2010. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Georgia Tech and a master’s degree from Princeton, and he recently published his first book, No Match for Her, a memoir about his experience as a pediatric cancer father. A native of Eatonton, GA, Hicks is one of the few uilleann pipers in the state of North Carolina. After graduate school, Hicks attended a Chieftains concert and fell in love with the uilleann pipes, the primary instrument played by Chieftains’ leader, Paddy Moloney. Hicks learned to play tin whistle and uilleann pipes beginning in 1999. Hicks’ presentation will include a survey of uilleann pipes history, a demonstration of the instrument, and a performance on pipes and whistles.
April 15, 2020
Schemes & Scams: An Overview of Financial Exploitation Trends
Ken Elder

Scams to access and deplete your financial accounts are on the rise, both in terms of their variety and the depths to which the scammers will go to get your money. This session will explain techniques fraudsters use to obtain your personal information and their efforts to use that information for illicit purposes. Join a seasoned professional of the financial services industry to learn about the current schemes, federal and state efforts to combat these issues, and steps you can take to protect yourself.

Ken Elder is the Vice President and Enterprise Anti-Money Laundering Officer at Lincoln Financial Group, where he has spent 25 years investigating fraud and other financial crimes. Ken is a Certified Public Accountant who resides in Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a B.S. in Accounting, and worked at Price Waterhouse LLP in Raleigh upon graduation before moving to Greensboro to join Jefferson-Pilot Corporation's internal auditing department. Ken grew up in Gastonia, North Carolina, but made many trips to his grandparents’ house on Haggard Avenue in Elon. His mother and his oldest son are proud Elon alumni.

April 22, 2020
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 new and different ways.

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 their class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling!

April 29, 2020
Bloodshed before the Revolution: The Regulator Movement and the Battle of Alamance
Jeremiah DeGennaro, Dr. Ted Henson, and Lisa Cox

250 years ago, a protest movement in the North Carolina piedmont called the Regulator Movement went from unrest to uprising. Learn about the roots of this important historical moment with presentations from staff and volunteers from the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site. Attendees will get the chance to meet Regulator Rednap Howell and learn more about the root causes of the unrest in colonial North Carolina, learn more about the campaign to put down the Regulators at the Battle of Alamance, and explore the records that have allowed many to trace their family history back to this popular movement.

Jeremiah DeGennaro is Site Manager at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site. He has been employed by the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites since 2008, and has worked at Bennett Place and Historic Stagville in Durham. He also serves on the board of the North Carolina Museums Council and lives in Graham with his daughter.
Dr. Ted Henson is retired after a forty-year career as an educator and historian. He is former President of the North Carolina Council for the Social Studies, The North Carolina Geographic Alliance, the National Social Studies Supervisors Association, and the Alamance Battleground Friends. He resides in Burlington where he is a volunteer in numerous community organizations.

Lisa Cox is the Historic Interpreter at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, where she serves as staff genealogist. She is active with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Alamance County Historical Association, and the Alamance Battleground Friends, Inc.

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

NOTES
Please use this area, along with the margins, to jot down thoughts after each class. These notes will be helpful when filling out your survey at the end of the semester. Thank you!