

life@ELON

FALL/WINTER 2020/2021 – Wednesday Schedule
Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

September 30, 2020

The Magic of Audrey

Janna Trout

(Extra session added to our regular schedule, to practice using Zoom.)

The essence of chic and a beautiful woman, Audrey Hepburn, brought a certain “magic” quality to the screen. Synonymous with oversized sunglasses and the little black dress, many are unaware of the hardships she endured while growing up in Nazi-occupied Holland. Starring in classic movies such as *Sabrina*, *My Fair Lady*, and of course, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Audrey Hepburn brought effortless style and grace to the silver screen.

Following the many Zoom training opportunities offered in the last two weeks of September, let's put our training to the test! The Technology Team recommended we conduct the first zoom class without a live presenter so we can ensure that everything is working correctly to set us up for a successful semester. Below is the format of our first LIFE@ Elon class on Zoom – enjoy this documentary about the one and only Audrey Hepburn!

Open Class

On Wednesday mornings, you will receive an email with a link for the class. (If the presenter has a handout, we will attach it to the email.) Twenty minutes before the start of class (9:40 or 1:10), we will have the meeting open so you can click on the link to join. Kathryn Bennett, the Program Coordinator, will be there to greet members as they are logging on, and Katie Mars, the Technology Specialist, will be present, as well. Joining this class early is entirely optional.

Announcements and Introduction

At 10:00 for the morning class and 1:30 for the afternoon class, Kathryn Bennett will begin by giving us updates and announcements about the program. Andy Mangano, Executive Committee Chair, will welcome everyone and say a few words about our transition to a virtual program. Janna Trout, Executive Committee member and leader of the Technology Team, will introduce the program and get us started.

Presentation

To minimize distractions during the presentation, all participants will have their cameras turned off and voices muted.

Virtual break

About halfway through the documentary, we will take a ten-minute break. During this time, enjoy great music that will be playing on the screen while you stretch your legs, get more coffee or water, and go to the restroom.

Presentation

Watch the remainder of the program.

When the program ends, we will leave the Zoom meeting open for members who want to connect with others to continue the conversation. Think of this time as chatting on the way to the parking lot. After the first week, we will have discussion boards where you can also share thoughts and ideas with other members.

Please note, we will follow this structure, which mimics our in-person classes as closely as possible, throughout the semester.

October 7, 2020

Past, Present, and Future of Glen Raven, Inc.

Allen E. Gant, Jr.

Glen Raven, Inc., was recently defined by an article in the *Triad Business Journal* on August 21, 2020, as “an advanced and technical fabric maker, the grandfather of industry in Alamance County, which not only survived, but thrived, amid the textile exodus that devastated the county and regional economies for nearly a decade.” Hear insights, experiences, and stories from their Chairman of the Board and former CEO, Allen E. Gant, Jr.

Allen E. Gant, Jr. leads the company that was founded by his grandfather in 1880 and continues to operate as a family-owned company. He joined Glen Raven in 1971, holding many positions before being named president and CEO in 1996. With 45 years of service, he continues as the chairman today.

Gant, who attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was honored with a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Elon University, is a global business and textile industry leader. He is also active with numerous community and educational organizations. Allen and his wife Denise have two children and one grandchild.

October 14, 2020

The Sound of Politics in Myanmar

Dr. Gavin Douglas

(Rescheduled from Spring 2020, after COVID-19 cut our semester short.)

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, Professor of Ethnomusicology at the UNCG School of music holds a PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle. 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.

October 21, 2020

Bloodshed before the Revolution: The Regulator Movement and the Battle of Alamance

Jeremiah DeGennaro, Dr. Ted Henson, and Lisa Cox

(Rescheduled from Spring 2020, after COVID-19 cut our semester short.)

Two hundred fifty 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. They will also 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.

October 28, 2020

Bluebirds, Chickadees, Nuthatches and more: Providing for our Cavity Nesting Birds

Susan Campbell

Want to know more about our feathered friends that use nest boxes? Interested in adding more housing for a greater variety of avian species but unsure how to go about it? Wondering who the little critters are that pop in and out of the holes in nearby snags? Which of these birds might be attracted to feeders? Join Susan to find out the answers to these questions and more. She will discuss the distribution and ecology of local cavity nesting species. Nest box designs will be shared as well as the basics of necessary maintenance. Common pitfalls resulting in poor nesting success will also be addressed.

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.

NOTE: There is no class the week of the 2020 Presidential Election. If you need a ride to your voting location, please contact Kathryn and she will help make arrangements for you. Please be sure to vote!

November 11, 2020

The Technology of Participation and How Mayors are Evolving Democracy

Ian Baltutis

The world of civic engagement has evolved significantly over the past decade. Today, people are re-engaging with local government in new and innovative ways that are rapidly reshaping the policies and priorities of communities across this county. Learn how Burlington is leading the way in engaging residents in the civic conversation and how that work is changing amid the Coronavirus pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, and North Carolina’s accelerating growth.

Mayor Ian Baltutis, first elected in 2015, is now in his third term as the Mayor of Burlington, North Carolina. He is a 2008 Business Entrepreneurship graduate of Elon University. He has worked for businesses, both large and small, in roles that ranged from customer service to technical support to logistics and management. He has been involved in over a dozen business startups and acquisitions aimed at revitalizing communities, enabling new technologies, reducing recidivism, and empowering adults with disabilities.

Currently, he divides his time between managing his business ventures, inventing new products, serving as Mayor, and applying his leadership skills on a number of state and national boards. In his spare time, he enjoys restoring old cars and houses, hiking with his two dogs, and brewing beer. He and partner Kristina also recently became foster parents.

November 18, 2020

The Irish Bagpipe: Yes, those ARE real pipes

Travis Hicks

(Rescheduled from Spring 2020, after COVID-19 cut our semester short.)

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’s presentation will include a survey of uilleann pipes history, a demonstration of the instrument, and a performance on pipes and whistles.

NOTE: There is no class the week of Thanksgiving. Please enjoy the holiday safely!

December 2, 2020

Pretending in Public

Todd Ristau

Meet Todd Ristau, who has been making things up for people to watch since he was a kid. He’ll tell you about how he turned an overactive imagination into a pretty respectable career as a theatre artist and

educator. He'll tell you about being in a theatre company that only performed in prisons and how he's been in over 170 correctional facilities across the United States and Canada. He'll crack wise about how he went to London in the 80s to be in a garage band—crossing the ocean with only \$300, a possibly fraudulent work permit and a left-handed bass guitar. He'll probably mention that he met Paul McCartney, cut a record, and just as he was making it small the band broke up. Todd came back to the US and became a playwright, and he'll brag about plays he has written being performed in venues from church basements to London's West End. He'll explain that No Shame Theatre started in the back of his pickup truck. He might chat about following a certain red-headed librarian to Virginia where he was asked to invent an MFA program. And, dollars will get you donuts, he will throw in a couple of playwriting exercises for you to try yourself, so you can put those voices in your head to work turning some memories and flights of fancy into little pieces of theatre you can use as the world's most hated icebreaker—"Will you read my play?"

Todd Ristau designed and launched the Playwright's Lab at Hollins University and has served as program director since its launch in 2007. He is a distinguished graduate of the Iowa Playwright's Workshop. His work has been performed in theatres across the U.S. and England, including London's West End. He founded No Shame Theatre in 1986 and oversaw its evolution into a national network of venues for new works in dozens of cities. He has an extensive theatre background, with expertise in acting, directing, and design. He worked with Mill Mountain Theatre for six years as coordinator of their second stage and as literary associate overseeing new works programming. Ristau served as the first artistic director of Studio Roanoke, a storefront theatre space dedicated to new works development in downtown Roanoke. Ristau is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. He has served as chair of playwriting for the South Eastern Theatre Conference, Getchell New Play Award Committee, and KCACTF Region IV's Chair of the National Playwriting Program.

NOTE: Winter break – we will see you in 2021. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

January 13, 2021

The Goldsboro Broken Arrow: America's Brush With Nuclear Disaster

Joel Dobson

Sixty years ago, a U. S. Air Force B-52 bomber disintegrated in mid-air near Goldsboro, North Carolina. Two enormous H-Bombs, with the combined destructive force of more than 500 Hiroshimas, fell to earth. One of the bombs came very close to a nuclear explosion that would have killed thousands and changed the coastline of North Carolina. It would have been America's only accidental nuclear detonation.

Joel Dobson earned his bachelor's degree from David Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tennessee. He was an Air Force officer in personnel and security with SAC, the Strategic Air Command, for four years during the 1960's including the Cuban Missile Crisis. His Division had B-58 Hustler bombers on the flight line and Titan II ICBMs in their underground silos.

*After the Air Force, he had a career with Burlington Industries and other organizations in industrial engineering and management. During his career, he found time to fly and obtained his commercial pilot's license with an instrument rating. He retired in 2006 and is the author of *The Goldsboro Broken Arrow*, and co-author along with James Oskins, of the book *The Nuclear Weapon Chronicles*.*

January 20, 2021

Religious Cults and the Media

Dr. Anthony Hatcher

What do Jim Jones and Jonestown, David Koresh and Branch Davidians, and Scientology all have in common? All three have been labeled cults by various media; all three have been scrutinized by various media; and leaders of all three have manipulated various media. Come find out more about these and other cults in this session by Anthony Hatcher, Associate Professor of Communications.

Anthony Hatcher, Ph.D., has been an associate professor of Communications at Elon University since 2002. As a journalist, Hatcher worked at The Winston-Salem Journal, The Thomasville Times, The Daily News (Jacksonville, North Carolina), and was editor of The Clemmons Courier. He is also a former Faith & Values correspondent for The Charlotte Observer. Prior to teaching at Elon, he chaired the Communication Studies Department at Pfeiffer University. Hatcher is co-editor of a textbook, Mass Communication in the Global Age. His primary areas of research are issues in journalism and the intersection of religion, media, and culture. He is currently working on two books, one a media writing textbook, and the other a study of religion and media. He earned a B.A. in English and M.Ed. in Speech Communications at UNC-Greensboro and his Ph.D. in Mass Communications Research at UNC-Chapel Hill.

January 27, 2021

Cradles of the Game: Baseball in North Carolina and the Dominican Republic

Dr. Mark Cryan

Join Mark Cryan for a discussion of his book that brings to life the unique qualities of baseball in North Carolina. The book is a combination travel guide and city-by-city history of baseball in North Carolina featuring the ballparks, communities, and people that bring them to life. It also includes an in-depth interview with long-time major league manager Jack McKeon, and former Durham Bulls owner Miles Wolff discussing the ultimate baseball movie, Bull Durham. During his discussion with LIFE@Elon, Mark will also include current topics in minor league and major league baseball, as well as a brief look at his current research into baseball in the Dominican Republic.

Mark Cryan, Ph.D., spent four years as General Manager of the Burlington Indians, the Cleveland Indians affiliate in the Appalachian League, and worked for five years as athletic director for the Burlington Recreation and Parks Department. He has also worked for the N.H.L.'s New Jersey Devils, the Raleigh IceCaps minor league hockey team, and as a founder of the summer collegiate Coastal Plain League. Mark holds an M.B.A. from N.C. Central University and a Ph.D. from UNC-Greensboro. He has been teaching at Elon for seven years. Every January he takes a group of students to the Dominican Republic to study the business of baseball and visit a number of baseball academies that feed talent into U.S. major league teams.

February 3, 2021

India: The World's Largest Democracy in 2021

Brian Pennington, Ph.D.

Since its independence from Great Britain in 1947, India has developed into one of the world's most important and influential nations. It has long ranked as the world's largest democracy and it currently boasts the world's fifth largest economy. In addition, its highly successful diaspora communities all over the world, including in America, have spread Indian culture and economic influence to almost every continent. Today, India is deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, populist nationalism, border

tensions with China, and religious division. This talk will give an overview of what India means to the world in 2021 and explore the events and issues that are currently driving national discussion there.

Brian K. Pennington is the Director of Elon's Center for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society and Professor of Religious Studies. A scholar of modern Hinduism, he is the author or editor of three books about religion in India. He is currently writing a fourth book about Uttarkashi, a pilgrimage city in the Indian Himalayas.

February 10, 2021

A Plague of Piracy on the Chesapeake and in the Carolinas

John V. Quarstein

A dazzling array of swashbuckling pirates, privateers, and sea rovers once harried the coast from Cape Charles to Cape Fear preying upon innocent merchants who labored to make these colonies economically viable. The Golden Age of Piracy featured colorful evildoers like Stede Bonnet, Blackbeard, Charles Vane, William Dampier, and a host of others who made merchants fear for their well-being and many a colonial official wealthy beyond comparison. Nevertheless, the life of a pirate was harsh, and most ended their lives on the gallows. They did leave behind glorious tales to tell from the days of yore.

John V. Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author of 19 books. He is director emeritus of the USS MONITOR Center at The Mariners' Museum & Park in Newport News, Virginia. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal.

All classes will be held on Zoom.

Presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.

Classes canceled for any reason will not be made up, and no refund will be given.