February 16, 2021

*Sonic Sea*

Hon. Steven S. Honigman and panelists

Join a stellar group of experts, many of whom appeared in the *Sonic Sea* film, to learn about how the threat of man-made noise and other growing environmental concerns impact marine life and the global seas. Please be sure to view the film in advance of our class. The site and password will be sent to all members by email.

“As the recent Emmy Award-winning nature documentary ‘Sonic Sea’ demonstrates for marine animals, sound is life. Whales, dolphins, and many species of fish rely upon sound to find food, locate mates and offspring, maintain social bonds and navigate and orientate themselves in the sea. But their ability to function is under increasing threat from fast-rising levels of man-made noise in the ocean.” (Viewpoint “Quiet the Oceans” 08/01/2019 by Steven S. Honigman and Joel Reynolds)

*Our moderator for the presentation is the Hon. Steven S. Honigman, a former General Counsel of the Navy, a founder of the environmental consulting firm Quieter Oceans, LLC and a graduate of the Yale Law School. Panelists joining Steven are:*

- **Michael Jasny, Esq.** – Director, Marine Mammal Protection Project for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- **Dr. Francine Kershaw** – Staff Scientist, NRDC Marine Mammal Protection & Oceans, Nature Project
- **Joel Reynolds** – NRDC Western Director, Senior Attorney, Marine Mammals, Oceans Division, Nature Program
- **Dr. William J. Parker III** – National security and international trade consultant and retired naval surface warfare officer who served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Naval Surface Forces, as a Commodore in command of a squadron of warships and as commander of navy warships

February 23, 2021

*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 N.C. 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 2, 2021
India: The World’s Largest Democracy in 2021
Brian K. Pennington, PhD

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 discussions 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.

March 9, 2021
Rebounding River - A history of the health of the Haw
Anne Cassebaum and Emily Sutton

The People of the Haw followed animal trails across the land to the Haw River and people have lived by the Haw and its streams ever since. Some of us may not have noticed, but we all live by the river or one of its streams and have a river address. This program will focus on how humans have impacted the Haw from times past to the present. Anne Cassebaum, author of Down Along the Haw, will discuss the history of that human-river relationship and how it gives us cause for both hope and concern. Emily Sutton, the Haw Riverkeeper with Haw River Assembly will tell us about the study of our waters today and how the pollution we deal with is both new and old.

As Riverkeeper, Emily Sutton does advocacy work, water quality monitoring, and pollution reporting throughout the Haw River watershed. She has lived in the Piedmont region of North Carolina for six years and has a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian State University in Sustainable Development. She grew up paddling rivers in the Ozarks of Missouri and continues to find ways to get out on the water.

While teaching in the English Department at Elon for 25 years, Anne Cassebaum found ways to study and paddle with students in the Everglades, Alaska, and on the Haw River. A sabbatical at Elon started her off researching Down Along the Haw. She lives between Travis and Tickle Creeks and paddles in rivers around the area.

March 16, 2021
Fire and Burn Safety for Older Adults: What you need to know to keep you safe in your home
Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN

Fire and Burn injuries to individuals over the age of 60 occur with a frequency that is disproportionate to that of all other victims except the very young. Burns continue to remain a major healthcare problem in the U.S. and globally. As seniors age, their potential for suffering a fire or burn-related injury increases because of the aging process, comorbidities, and limited financial means. These factors describe a vulnerable population in need of protection and safety. This talk will assist seniors to recognize the characteristics and vulnerability of the older adult as related to a burn injury and take the necessary preventative steps to remain safe in their homes.

Currently the president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN, has more than 36 years of nursing and leadership experience. Grant is an internationally recognized burn-care and fire-safety expert, and until his retirement in November of 2018, he served as the burn outreach coordinator for the
North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospitals in Chapel Hill. In that role, Grant oversaw burn education for physicians, nurses, and other allied health care personnel and ran the center’s nationally acclaimed Burn Prevention Program, which promoted safety and worked to reduce burn-related injuries through public education and the legislative process. Grant continues to serve as adjunct faculty for the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing, where he worked with undergraduate and graduate nursing students in the classroom and clinical settings.

March 23, 2021
Conversation About Cultural Differences
Binnan Gao, PhD

Our cultural heritage affects the way we approach everything from family names, education, and relationships to holiday celebrations, fame and good fortunes. There are nearly one billion native Mandarin Chinese speakers in the world; most of whom are living in China, but also in Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia. In addition to being an integral player in the business world, Chinese culture and politics are also rising in importance. China has over 4,000 years of history, art and culture, making it one of the world’s oldest civilizations. Binnan will discuss with us how Chinese culture differs from the culture in the United States.

Binnan Gao received her PhD in second language acquisition from the University of Iowa in 2009. She was formerly employed at Harvard University before joining the Elon faculty in 2014. She believes in engaging students with meaningful and real-life tasks in the language classroom and is passionate about teaching Chinese language and culture through films. Her scholarly interests include second language reading and writing, second language acquisition of grammar and vocabulary, and heritage learners. Her hometown is Harbin, the capital city of the farthest north province of China, Heilongjiang province. She misses its cool breeze and picnics on the Songhua riverside in the summer, beautiful ice-sculptures in the winter, and the local cuisine and snacks, such as the wine filled chocolate and sourdough.

March 30, 2021
Reflections on the Humanitarian Imperative
Tom Arcaro, PhD

What responsibility do we have to aid those suffering from natural and/or human-made disasters? What is the difference between those who are merely moved and those who are moved to act? Should our responses be as individuals or as local, regional, national, or international organizations? What is the difference between giving and partnering? How can we recognize the neocolonial and/or white [global north] saviorism? Must we/can we respond to those in need in Yemen, Myanmar, Syria, Palestine, Ethiopia, or Alamance County? How can we know for certain the line between helping and hurting?

Coming from the perspective of research with and about humanitarian aid and development workers across the globe, this conversation will address the above questions. Emphasis will be placed on (1) the history of the so-called ‘humanitarian imperative,’ (2) how this term has been used both formally and informally within the humanitarian sector, (3) how this imperative has been critiqued by those from the majority world, and (4) the current controversies within the humanitarian sector. Ample use will be made of statements and observations from around the world.

Notes:

1. Current students in Dr. Arcaro’s Global Social Problems class will help prepare and present this discussion.
2. LIFE@Elon members who wish to prepare for this discussion are welcome to visit my blog (Dr. Arcaro). This post specifically talks about the humanitarian imperative.
Tom Arcaro is a sociology professor at Elon University and teaches courses in introductory sociology, sociology through film, classical theory, being and becoming a global citizen, and many others. He founded the Periclean Scholars program in 2003 and mentored the inaugural class, the Class of 2006. Arcaro has been researching and studying the humanitarian aid ecosystem and related aid and development issues for nearly two decades. His most recent work is on local aid workers in Jordan, Iraq, and Bangladesh.

He earned a B.A. degree in Sociology from Ohio State University, an M.S. degree in Anthropology from Purdue University, and a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology from Purdue University. Arcaro has published numerous books and produced many films. Some of his awards include Carnegie Foundation United States Professor of the Year for North Carolina, 2006; Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2005; Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Service/Leadership Award, 2005; Student Government Association Teacher of the Year, 1986-87 and 1987-88; and a Fulbright Study Tour in India, 1990.

April 6, 2021
Race, History, and Memory in Higher Education
Charles F. Irons, PhD

After the publication in 2013 of Craig Steven Wilder’s Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America’s Universities, faculty, staff, and students at colleges and universities began to study how their own institutions might have worked to harm Black Americans or to silence their contributions. In 2015, participating schools formed what soon became an international coalition, Universities Studying Slavery, to allow “institutions to work together as they address[ed] both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education and in university communities.” Member schools, now numbering about 75, have proposed ambitious programs of restorative justice and literally changed the landscape of higher education. They have, for instance, set up new research centers, renamed buildings, set up new monuments, and launched the biggest private program of reparations in American History. This presentation will survey the movement, with which Elon has also affiliated, and provide an opportunity to discuss how institutions of higher education ought to respond to revelations of historic injustice.

Charles F. Irons is Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History and Geography at Elon University. He teaches courses on early American History, and his scholarship is on the interplay between race and religion in the United States South. He chaired the Committee on Elon History and Memory and is co-chair of “The Black Lumen Project,” Elon’s affiliate of Universitites Studying Slavery.

April 13, 2021
Epic Tomatoes from YOUR Gardens: stories, history, and tips for success from seed to harvest
Craig LeHoullier, PhD

This colorful, comprehensive tour of the world of tomatoes shares key elements of Craig LeHoullier’s near 40-year garden journey. The first half of the presentation will guide you through the remarkably diverse selection of tomatoes available to gardeners today and provide guidance for ensuring your own gardens will produce varieties that will bring a smile to your face. After a brief breather for your questions, Craig will dig into the nitty-gritty of tomato growing success, from successful seed starting through a variety of gardening approaches, ending with seed saving and a few of his favorite things to do with the harvest. Craig will be happy to then take all questions that come to mind.

Craig LeHoullier lives and gardens in Hendersonville, North Carolina as of January 2020. LeHoullier achieved his PhD in chemistry at Dartmouth College, which resulted in a 25-year career in pharmaceuticals that ended in 2008. LeHoullier’s gardening obsession, which started the year he and Susan were married (and grew their first garden, in 1981), is passing through several stages. His love of heirloom tomatoes began with his joining the
Seed Savers Exchange, an organization for which he continues to serve as adviser for tomatoes, in 1986. He is responsible for naming and popularizing many well-known tomatoes, such as Cherokee Purple. In 2005 he added amateur tomato breeding to his garden resume, and continues to co-lead the Dwarf Tomato Breeding project, responsible for creating 125 (and counting) new compact growing varieties for space-challenged gardeners. His writing career kicked off with a 2012 request from Storey Publishing to write a book on tomatoes, resulting in Epic Tomatoes (2015). His second book, Growing Vegetables in Straw Bales, soon followed (2016). Book 3, focusing on the Dwarf Tomato Breeding Project, is in progress and should be completed during 2020 as a self-published creation.

April 20, 2021
What the Heck are Plant Based Foods and Why Should I Eat Them?
Janna Trout, HC, AADP and Luigi Orlando

Eating a plant-based diet is becoming increasingly mainstream. More and more consumers are choosing healthier foods and sales of plant-based ingredients are skyrocketing in all categories. A plant-based diet is a diet consisting mostly or entirely of foods derived from plants and with few or no animal products. There is growing evidence that plant-based diets are associated with benefits like lower blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and reduced body weight. Eating more whole, plant-based foods could help lower the risk of some health conditions and might even help people live longer. We will learn the basics about following a plant-based diet and how Luigi reversed his Atherosclerosis and was able to eliminate his medications by following a plant-based diet.

As a Certified Health Coach, Janna Trout provides healthy eating lectures and cooking classes to local businesses in the Triad area. She received her holistic health coach training from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. Trout received a B.S. in Dietetics and Hospitality Management from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Food Marketing from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

Luigi Orlando established a support group and interfaced with the Dr. Dean Ornish Plant Based cardiac program at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. He attends medical conferences on prevention of disease and is a student of medical advances in the prevention and reversal of chronic diseases. Orlando received his B.S. in Microbiology and Chemistry from Syracuse University and had careers with Johnson & Johnson and Reckitt Benckiser.

April 27, 2021
Opportunity and Conflict: Establishing an American University in Afghanistan
C. Michael Smith, PhD

Establishing a university is a challenge anywhere, but in a conflict zone where violence is prevalent and educational opportunities limited, it is especially difficult. Students risk their lives getting to classes. Once on campus, they must master English—their second or sometimes third or fourth language—so they can pass courses taught entirely in English. They also must fit their academic work into the conflicting demands of jobs, economic hardship, family obligations, and deep-rooted cultural and gender biases. Faculty and staff also must function in a threatening environment in a country marred by 30 years of civil strife. In this course, you will learn, from a personal account, about Afghanistan’s conflicts, American University of Afghanistan’s challenges, and the school’s success in growing from 300 students to nearly 2,000, with women making up nearly half of the student body. You will also learn about the violence that continues to threaten the university’s existence and, indeed, democracy itself in this brave, culturally rich, yet conflicted and fragile country.

Michael Smith is a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University and holds a doctorate in British and American Literature from the UNC, Greensboro. He earned his master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in British and American Literature and has a bachelor’s degree
from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in English and Political Science. Smith served as president of the American University of Afghanistan from 2009 through 2014. Previously he served as Founding Dean and later as President of the American University of Nigeria. His career in education and non-profit management has included positions as Director of the Commission on Academic Accreditation in the United Arab Emirates, Executive Director of education foundations in Philadelphia and Tampa, Director for quality assurance at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and Vice President and Acting President of Winthrop University (then Winthrop College). Retired now, his first college teaching position was at Elon from 1968-1970, when Elon was still a small college.

May 4, 2021
Not a Pet, Not for Profit, They are Wild
Katie Cannon

The tiger population in the wild is estimated to be about 3,800 individuals. The tiger population in the United States is estimated to be between 5,000-10,000 individuals with about 95% of them residing in the hands of private owners, roadside zoos, and the entertainment industry. Carolina Tiger Rescue is the only federally accredited and GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries) accredited wild cat sanctuary in North Carolina. Currently home to over 45 animals, Carolina Tiger Rescue is committed to the lifelong care of the animals it rescues, educating the public about the challenges these animals face, and ultimately ending the exploitation of wild cats.

Katie Cannon, Education Director at Carolina Tiger Rescue, is a graduate of Appalachian State University. She has worked at Carolina Tiger Rescue for six years overseeing education programs, including field trips, summer camp, adult day camp, and most recently, virtual field trips and tours. Cannon is a former teacher who has always had a love for animals and decided to make the leap to the Rescue after five years in the classroom.

All Classes will be held on Zoom.
Presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.
Classes cancelled for any reason will not be made up and no refund will be given.