February 17, 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 24, 2021
Aging in the 21st Century
Stephen P. Fleming

This presentation will explore the changing demographics of our nation and implications for our older citizens. We will examine the 21st Century challenges of growing old in the U.S. from savings rates to cost of care, including the dilution of public safety nets for middle- and lower-income Americans. We will present possible alternative service models and financing plans to maintain a post-Medicare/Medicaid level of service. Lastly, we’ll explore implications, disruptions, and opportunities from advancing technology to assist older adults maintain independence. Stephen P. Fleming, NHA, MBA is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Well+Spring Group. The Well+Spring Group is a multi-modal aging services provider serving over one thousand individuals and their families. Services provided by Well+Spring include Life Plan Communities, Adult Day programs, caregiver educational services, Home Care, PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) and Management Consulting Services.
Stephen P. Fleming is a member of the LeadingAge Board of Directors and was its immediate past Chair. He is Chair of the Appalachian State University’s Beaver College of Health Sciences Advisory Board, past Chair of LeadingAge North Carolina, and the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators. Fleming is active with the Greensboro Airport Rotary Club and is a past President. Fleming received a B.S. in Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill, an MBA from Appalachian State University, and a Graduate Fellowship in Strategic and Financial Planning from Harvard University. Fleming is a frequent speaker on older adult and aging services issues, including a sought-after keynote at LeadingAge state affiliate annual meetings. Throughout his 34-year career in aging services, he has mentored more than a dozen professionals who eventually became aging services professionals.

March 3, 2021
From Page to Stage: The Process of Launching a Live Theatrical Production
Bill Webb

This presentation will focus on the many elements that come together to launch a live stage performance successfully. Using an Elon University production as a case study, we will investigate the creative process that theatre artists undertake in order to bring a work of theatrical literature to life.

Bill Webb is an Associate Professor of Performing Art at Elon University, serving as the department Lighting Designer and Production Manager. Webb has been a member of the Elon University community since 1996. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Alfred University in 1988 and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 1994. Webb has had an active professional career in theatrical design and production and has had the opportunity to travel extensively working with companies such as Cirque Du Soliel, Mill Mountain Theatre, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Bungalow Scenic Studios, and I Weiss Inc.

March 10, 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 17, 2001
Irish Identity: Mythology, Art, and Politics from the Iron Age to the 20th Century
Tricia Maddatu

Cultures around the world have long used myths and stories to explain life’s mysteries and inspire change. This talk will explore the connections between Irish mythology, art, and politics dating from the Stone Age to the 20th Century. Specifically, this presentation will explore the portrayal of the epic hero Cu Chulainn as he appears in “The Tain” and in artistic depictions throughout the Troubles of the 20th century.

Tricia Maddatu is a Federal Librarian in the United States House of Representatives. She graduated from Catholic University of America with a BA in History in 2014 and an MS in Library and Information Sciences in 2017. While pursuing her BA in History, she concentrated in Irish History, specifically on the Troubles in Northern Ireland. She recently traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland, where she was able to visit many of the important sights in the Irish Revolution and subsequent Troubles. She currently lives in Washington, DC with her husband Mat and their many house plants.

March 24, 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 31, 2021
Mobilization, Sacrifice, and the Vote: North Carolina Women Fight Back
Kathelene McCarty Smith

With the declaration of war in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson’s administration realized that the nation must mobilize the homefront, as well as its military forces, to fight an overseas war in Europe. Yet, the government’s push to mobilize was not always accompanied by notions of wartime gender roles, such as the concept of female patriotic service. With reliance on both government and non-government leaders to promote the war effort, a temporary political and social space opened that allowed women to shape their wartime public roles and identities. This new collective public identity resulted in a strong post-war commitment to winning the right to vote. This presentation will focus on how the women of North Carolina fought back, in both their mobilization effort and their struggle for the vote.
Kathelene McCarty Smith is currently serving as Interim Head of the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives at UNC Greensboro. Smith is an Assistant Professor and until this appointment, served as Instruction and Outreach Archivist. She earned both her bachelor’s degree in History and master’s degree in Art History from Louisiana State University. She also holds a master’s degree in Library and Information Studies from UNC Greensboro. Smith’s research has involved the role of academic libraries in fostering life-long learning, the mobilization of North Carolina’s women’s colleges during World War I, and the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

April 7, 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 Universities Studying Slavery.

April 14, 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
April 21, 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 28, 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 5, 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.