

LIFE@ WESTERN CAROLINA

2020 Fall Schedule

Cullowhee & Biltmore Park Groups

Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm

9/16/2020

Lauren Bishop & Dana Brown, “Sustainability-WCU Campus Theme”

Biography:

Lauren has been serving at WCU since 2005. She became the Energy Manager for the Facilities Management Department in 2007. In 2014 she transitioned into her current role as Chief Sustainability Officer. Her focus includes taking a holistic approach to integrating sustainability and waste reduction systematically across the campus and community. It is a dynamic goal that includes utilizing campus as a living-learning laboratory for student engagement, research, and high impact learning. Her family includes her husband Blair and two young boys, Harper and Myles. In her free time, she likes to enjoy time outside with her family, hiking, traveling, playing in her garden, and being a mom.

9/23/2020

John Quinley, “History of Carl Sandburg”

Biography:

Dr. John W. Quinley, a retired college administrator and faculty member, currently volunteers as a house docent for Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site and teaches American History for A-B Technical Community College. John directed planning and research offices for a graduate school, a national association, and for community colleges in four states. He presented at dozens of academic conferences and authored chapters in several books. He transitioned to full-time teaching with classes in history, government, and humanities, at the end of his career. John holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration and a M.A. in Humanities, among other degrees.

Presentation Outline:

As a young man of 19 years of age, Carl Sandburg left his home in Illinois for a brief odyssey as a hobo. Not always knowing the how's and where's, he traveled some 2,000 miles finding whatever jobs and beds he could along the way. This was the beginning of his perennially traveling, seeking, and experimenting. Carl would later follow many paths—poet and performer, biographer and lecturer, folk song collector and singer, author of children's books and poems, film critic and screen writer, political activist and freewheeling labor and political newspaperman, and more. His achievements were pioneering, and he often pursued these at the same time during his long life. Sandburg's personal narrative captured the public imagination and made him a natural and national media figure. “Except for Walt Whitman, no other American poet has been so immediately responsive to the convolutions of American life,” writes his biographer Penelope Niven. “From 1900 until 1967, Sandburg's voice addressed the pivotal events of this century.”

The LIFE@Western Carolina lecture, “History of Carl Sandburg,” will trace Carl’s personal life history and his many achievements couched in his core beliefs and the historical context of the times. The lecture will employ images, quotations, and visual and audio recordings by Sandburg and by those that wrote about his life and work or knew him personally. Time for questions and discussion will be planned throughout the presentation. The audience can expect to develop new understandings of the depth and breadth of Sandburg’s work.

9/30/2020

Carolyn Callaghan, Executive Director of Educational Outreach “Colonial Williamsburg: Behind the Scenes”

Biography:

Carolyn Callaghan is currently the Executive Director of Educational Outreach at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. Previously, she served at Shippensburg University for 15 years in professional, continuing and distance education in numerous roles from off-campus coordination to Dean. Her academic career includes roles in teaching and administration at public, private, non-profit and community colleges such as The College of William and Mary, Medical Career Institute, Illinois Wesleyan University, Illinois State University, and Carl Sandburg College.

Callaghan has a B.S. in Social Sciences and History and an M.S. Ed. in College Student Personnel from Illinois State University. She completed a doctorate (D.Ed.) in Adult Education from The Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation was Culturally Diverse Cohorts: The Exploration of Learning in Context and Community.

Callaghan is active in the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA), and has served numerous leadership roles.

Callaghan has been active in Rotary and community service projects. She is an advocate and believer in lifelong learning. Her hobbies include history, hiking, gardening, and exploring waterfalls. She spends as much time as she can in Williamsburg, VA, her favorite place to reboot and refresh.

Presentation Outline:

Learn about Colonial Williamsburg from a “behind the scenes” perspective from someone who worked at Colonial Williamsburg and The College of William and Mary and lived in the town. Learn about the educational missions, notable stories and facts, and special hidden spots of historical significance and beauty.

10/7/2020

Larry Conger, “The Mountain Dulcimer: A Historical Perspective”

Biography:

Larry Conger is a graduate of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and has been involved with music as a vocation for almost 40 years. Besides being a popular instructor at various dulcimer workshops around the country, Larry also served as a church music director for several churches during the late 1970s through the 1990s. He has been a participating artist for the Tennessee Arts Commission's Arts in Education program as well as the Kentucky Arts Council's Teacher Incentive Program, bringing dulcimer music

into the public schools. He and his wife Elaine are co-directors of Dulcimer U at Western Carolina University. They also host their own Duet Dulcimer Retreat and the September On The Mississippi Dulcimer Retreat each year. In 1995, Larry won the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Championship in Mountain View, Arkansas. Three years later in 1998, he won the prestigious National Mountain Dulcimer Championship in Winfield, Kansas. Larry has authored fifteen dulcimer books and has numerous recordings to his credit.

Presentation Outline:

The mountain dulcimer is a truly American musical instrument, having been first built somewhere deep within the southern Appalachian mountains. This presentation traces the instrument's roots and development throughout the 19th century, the contribution of the German and Scotch-Irish settlers, and the types of music commonly associated with the instrument.

10/14/2020

Spriggly's Beescaping and Nature Education Company, "WNC Wildlife and Restoring Lost Habitat"

Biography:

Spriggly's Beescaping is a nature education company focused on beneficial insects and habitat restoration. With a special focus on the 4,000+ species of native bees in North America, Spriggly's works to increase environmental awareness through educational workshops, interactive exhibits, garden installations, and other services. Spriggly's is a husband and wife team, Brannen Basham and Jill Jacobs, whose mission is to educate individuals and businesses on appreciating and supporting the world around them.

10/21/2020

Anne Fitten Glenn, "History of WNC Beer"

Biography:

Award-winning writer Anne Fitten Glenn has been writing for publication since she was the "Dear Annie" columnist for her fifth grade newspaper at Atlanta's The Lovett School. Glenn moved to Asheville in 1997, where she had a couple babies, taught college and worked with non-profits, before returning to journalism, her first love.

She currently pens the "Mountain Brews" feature for Edible Asheville and hosts a weekly radio show and podcast called "Imbibe Asheville." Glenn has written for and had photos published in numerous media outlets, including USA Today, All About Beer, Paste, Smoky Mountain Living, WNC Magazine, Charleston Magazine, Edible Aspen, Explore Asheville, Vanity Fair, 750 Daily, Virginian Pilot, and CraftBeer.com. Glenn wrote well-loved regular columns for Western North Carolina newspapers for many years, including the Sunday "Small Business of the Week" feature for the Asheville Citizen-Times, a weekly parenting column called "Edgy Mama," and a weekly "Brews News" column (both for Mountain Xpress).

The History Press published Glenn's non-fiction book, Asheville Beer: An Intoxicating History of Mountain Brewing, in 2012. Her second beer book, Western North Carolina Beer: A Mountain Brew History, was released in November 2018. She worked as the East Coast marketing director for Oskar Blues Brewery for three years, and has consulted to

numerous regional and national breweries in the realm of communications. Her alter ego, Brewgasm, spends too much time on social media dishing about beer, dogs, bikes, and history.

Presentation Outline:

Over the past two hundred years, Western North Carolina has evolved from a mountainous frontier known for illicit moonshine production into a renowned destination for craft beer. I'll present its story from the wild days of saloons and the first beer makers of the 1870s through Prohibition to the opening of the region's first modern breweries and explosion into a beer mecca. We'll also discuss the effect of the pandemic on the area's breweries and how, while the business of beer attracts jobs, tourists, and dollars, it also is rife with mixed emotions, legal conundrums and entrepreneurial challenges.

10/28/2020

George Ellison & Brent Martin, "Horace Kephart, Back of Beyond"

Presentation Outline:

This presentation will focus on the life of Horace Kephart as written by George Ellison and Janet McCue in their 2019 publication, *Back of Beyond: A Horace Kephart Biography*. We will explore his early life, influences, difficulties, and years spent advocating for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Participants will leave with an awareness of his significance in Appalachian history, and of his importance as an advocate and documentarian for the area's inhabitants.

11/4/2020

Alex Macaulay, "Nashville, the New Breed and Country Music in the Late 1960s and Early 1970s"

Biography:

Alex Macaulay is an associate professor of history at Western Carolina University. A South Carolina native, he and his family have lived in Sylva since 2004. He graduated with a BA in history from The Citadel, received an MA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and earned a PhD from the University of Georgia. He is the author of *Marching in Step: Masculinity, Citizenship and The Citadel in Post-World War II America*.

Presentation Outline:

This program will be a mixture of lecture, images, video, and audio that focuses on the emergence and impact of what some dubbed a "new breed" of Nashville singer-songwriters from the mid-1960s and early 1970s who broadened and redefined country music's image, audience, message, and appeal. It examines the early careers of Kris Kristofferson, Tom T. Hall, Mickey Newbury, and John Hartford who wrote, sold, and performed "progressive" country music at a time when "Okie From Muskogee" and "Fightin' Side of Me" dominated people's impression of the genre and the audience for which it supposedly spoke.

11/11/2020

Chris Cooper, "2020 Election Analysis"

Biography:

Christopher A. Cooper is Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor and Department Head of Political Science and Public Affairs at Western Carolina University. He has received Western Carolina University's highest awards for research (University Scholar, 2011) and teaching (Board of Governors Teaching Award, 2013) and was named the 2013 North Carolina Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Cooper's published academic research features over 50 refereed journal articles and book chapters on NC politics, state politics, southern politics, and political behavior. He is also co-author of *The Resilience of Southern Identity: Why the South Still Matters in the Minds of its People* (University of North Carolina Press) and co-editor of *The New Politics of North Carolina* (published by the University of North Carolina Press).

Cooper is a frequent source for news stories about North Carolina, as well as national politics and he has been quoted hundreds of times in a variety of media including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Herald*, *Al Jazeera*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Asheville-Citizen Times*, *The Hill*, *National Journal*, *Raleigh News and Observer*, North Carolina Insider National Public Radio (All Things Considered and Morning Edition), *USA Today*, CNN, FOX News, WUNC, Blue Ridge Public Radio, WFAE (Charlotte) ABC News, and *ESPN.com*. He has been called "obsessive about North Carolina politics, but in a good way" by the New Yorker Radio Hour and "the Yoda of local political experts" by WLOS.

11/18/2020

Elaine Conger, "Old Rosin, the Beau: A Song Traipse Thru Time;"

Biography:

Elaine Conger is a lifelong musician and music educator. She holds an undergraduate degree in music education, a master's in elementary education, and a Master Level Certificate in Orff-Schulwerk, a philosophy of music education that focuses on experiencing music before understanding it. Her years as a professional musician include playing keyboards and singing back-up vocals for country artist Faith Hill and performing on the General Jackson Showboat in Nashville. She and her husband, Larry, now make their home in Gatlinburg, Tennessee where she serves as music director at Trinity Episcopal. Together, they serve as artistic directors for the WCU Educational Outreach program, "Dulcimer U." In a normal world, you'd find them out on the road performing on the mountain dulcimer and teaching at numerous festivals and workshops. You're most likely to see them nowadays teaching and performing on Zoom!

Presentation Outline:

"Old Rosin the Beau:" A Song Traipse Through Time -- An interesting and informative session tracing the use of this well-loved tune as it has been used over the course of history from its 17th century Irish beginnings to its use throughout American history for political causes and much, much more. Pete Seeger has dubbed it the "Universal Folk Song" because of how much the tune has been parodied.

12/2/2020

Danny Bernstein, “Hiking in WNC/Dupont Forest”

Biography:

Danny Bernstein is a hiker, hike leader, and outdoor writer. She’s written five outdoor books – her latest is *DuPont Forest: A History* published by The History Press.

In her previous life, she was in computer science, way before computers were cool, first as a software developer, then as a professor of computer science. Danny’s motto is “No place is too far to walk if you have the time.”

Presentation Outline:

In Western North Carolina, the landscape is more than a scenic backdrop; it literally shapes the culture. Every trail has a story. We’ll meet Moses H. Cone and George Masa, climb Chimney Rock, visit the elk in the Smokies and trek the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

In the second hour, we’ll uncover how DuPont Forest, a former industrial site, became a forest attracting hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers from all over the United States. The story involves Southern Appalachian self-reliance, a multinational company’s generosity, and the tenacity of local heroes. What does DuPont Forest offer now?

12/9/2020

Dr. Michelle Sorensen, “Gender Roles and Gender Status in Muslim Traditions”

Biography:

Dr. Michelle J. Sorensen is an assistant professor at Western Carolina University. She completed her Ph.D. in Religious Studies at Columbia University in New York under the supervision of Dr. Robert A. F. Thurman. In complement with her academic work, Michelle has spent over five years traveling, studying, and doing textual and ethnographic research throughout Asia, including the Muslim majority countries of Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia, as well as in India and Thailand, which have significant Muslim populations.

Presentation Outline:

According to the *Quran*, the most authoritative text in Islam, women and men are moral and spiritual equals. Since women and men fulfill the same religious duties, one might think they have equivalent gender status in society. However, gender roles and gender status in Muslim cultures are not specifically stipulated in the *Quran*, and they are often refracted through interpretations of Quranic ideals by male elites. Such interpretations reflect prevailing patriarchal norms in Muslim societies. Gender roles and gender status are at least partially determined by variations in rights, responsibilities, and mobility in private and public spheres. This talk will consider variations in gender roles and gender status across Muslim societies, suggesting that gendered disparities in status often correlate with disparities in access to and participation in the public sphere.