



2015 Spring Schedule – Biltmore Park Classes
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

01/28/15 – Les Saucier, “Nature Photography”

Les Saucier is a professional nature photographer and educator who has taught nature photography workshops all over the country for over thirty years. Les lives in the Southern Appalachian Mountains where he offers digital workflow, digital printing and creative vision workshops locally and nationally. Les is also the creator of the Flowerpod, an amazing tool for macro photographers. He guides and inspires creative seekers on their journeys. He also offers photographic tutoring for those who are camera manual-challenged.

02/04/15 – Steve White, “Memorable Times in WCU Athletics”

Steve White, a 1967 graduate of Western Carolina, served for over four decades in the University's athletics department before retiring in April, 2010. He officially took over as the school's sports information director in 1970, a capacity he held until 1998. White wrote millions of words publicizing WCU's student-athletes, coaches and teams, helping 35 football, basketball and baseball players to attain All-America honors; hundreds to become All-Southern Conference; and several football and baseball teams to achieve national rankings. During his storied professional career, White witnessed over 400-consecutive Catamount football games, one of the longest consecutive-games streaks in the profession. He was one of 12 recipients of the Southern Conference's Distinguished Service Award. He was also an eight-time recipient of the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) awards for "Outstanding Press Box Service."

02/11/15 – Tom Belt, “Origin and History of the Mounds in Cherokee, North Carolina”

Tom Belt is the Western Carolina University Cherokee Language Program Coordinator. Mr. Belt is working to create a state-of-the-art Cherokee language program at the university level. Mr. Belt teaches the first four semesters of Cherokee language and he co-teaches courses on Cherokee grammar and Cherokee language literature. Mr. Belt, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, is a fluent Cherokee speaker and he works closely with speakers from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to produce culturally-based Cherokee language learning material. Before joining the Cherokee Language Program, Mr. Belt worked as a counselor's aide in a local treatment center for native youths with chemical dependencies. He attended the Universities of Oklahoma and Colorado and taught the Cherokee language at the Cherokee elementary school in Cherokee, NC. Mr. Belt has also served as a consultant to various cultural archives and to various indigenous language programs in public schools and on the post-secondary level.

02/18/15 – Denise Medved, “Ageless Grace® – 21 Simple Tools for Lifelong Comfort and Ease”

Denise Medved, creator of Ageless Grace®, a brain fitness program, is a woman with a vision formed by a lifetime of facing struggle with optimism, grit and perseverance. Based on the cutting-edge science of neuroplasticity, Ageless Grace® is a brain-body fitness program that activates all 5 functions of the brain and addresses all 21 physical skills necessary for lifelong optimal function. This unique program uses games and

childhood, and to develop new neural pathways by practicing physical movements that are unfamiliar. Done seated to stimulate the core and central nervous system, all ages and all abilities can benefit from the exercises, and the program is also highly adaptable to those with special needs such as Parkinson's, dementia, Alzheimer's, MS, post-polio, strokes and partial paralysis.

02/25/15 - Jack Sholders and Various Students, Controlled Chaos Film Festival, "Creating a Film: The process and final product"

WCU established the Film and TV Production Program in 2006 and launched the festival in 2009 as a way to celebrate student work throughout the year. The event was named "controlled chaos" – the phrase Jack Sholder, director of the program, uses to describe the process of filmmaking. Students in WCU's School of Stage and Screen write, direct, perform, film, edit and produce the films and incorporate musical compositions created by students in the Commercial and Electronic Music Program and title sequences developed in the School of Art and Design.

03/04/15 – Patricia Cowen, "History of the Biltmore Estate"

Patricia Cowen worked in the Continuing Education department and taught Elderhostel Programs for Western Carolina University between the mid 1980's to 2000. While her field is in International Politics and Economics, Patricia was also given the opportunity to learn about the history of the Biltmore House. For nine years, she taught for Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, with their winter Elderhostel Programs. Patricia has also been able to teach with Stetson College in Deland, Florida with their winter Road Scholar Programs.

03/11/15 – Dan Pierce, "Insiders vs. Outsiders in Western North Carolina: A Historical Perspective"

An author, a professor of History, and Department Chair, Dan Pierce resides in Asheville, North Carolina where he works at UNC Asheville. Dan received his Ph.D in History at the University of Tennessee. At UNCA, he teaches classes in Appalachian and Southern History, the Civil War, Writing and History, and Environmental History. His research focuses on the Great Smoky Mountains, Southern Appalachian history, the history of Moonshining, and NASCAR history.

03/18/15 – Ila Hatter, "Incredible Edibles and Traditional Medicinals"

Ila, known as *The Lady of the Forest* is an interpretive naturalist, artist, wildcrafter, and gourmet cook with more than 25 years experience teaching the cultural heritage of native plants. Ila Hatter's mission is to tune people in to the many ways they can make Mother Nature's pantry and medicine cabinet their own. Hatter does not forage the woods in the hope of making a profit. "In my case, I'm not gathering things to sell but instead am using them for education – teaching people what these plants are, how to identify them, what the traditional uses are, what the potential market might be for them. I combine my knowledge of the flora with folklore, telling interesting stories that go with the botany of what I do."

03/25/15 – Judy Neubrandner, "Educating Today's Nursing Professionals"

Dr. Judy Neubrandner received her Masters of Science in Nursing, with a focus in adult health and nursing education from the University of Kansas in 1994. In 2002, she received her doctorate in Adult and Community College Education from North Carolina State University. She is a certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse and a Palliative Care Fellow from Harvard School of Medicine. Judy became an ELNEC trainer in 2001. She became a certified nurse educator in 2006 and she completed her certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner in May of 2009. She currently teaches courses in nursing theory, roles and issues, ethics, nursing education, test and measurement and dying and palliative care. She served as the interim Associate Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences and is currently serving as the Director of the School of Nursing at Western Carolina University. Her areas of interest and research include end-of-life care, gerontology, international missionary/volunteer services and adult education. One of her

04/01/15 – Ashley Vandewart

An Asheville native, Ashley Vandewart Lasher has a deep love for Western North Carolina. She wants Buncombe County residents to have the same fulfilling community experience that she grew up with, so she chose a career in non-profit leadership. Ashley is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and a minor in Women's Studies. She has worked in nonprofit fundraising and leadership in Buncombe County since 2005. Her first introduction to the Literacy Council was as a guest at the original Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction. As a lifelong reader and writer, she was immediately drawn to the Literacy Council's mission and program impact. After nearly three years as the Literacy Council's Development Director, she became the Executive Director in Nov. 2012. Ashley believes that the Literacy Council provides essential services to Buncombe County, the impact of which is leveraged by effective board leadership, diversified funding, creative partnerships, and empowered staff and volunteers.

04/08/15 – Herb Bailey, Making Charitable Giving Count for you and your Charity

Herb Bailey, CFRE is an experienced development professional with 35 years of fundraising experience directing foundation work, developing major and gift planning programs within diverse sectors of the nonprofit industry throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S., including medical, health, social services, human services, religious, public and private higher education organizations. Herb was declared a Certified Fundraising Executive in 1995 by the CFRE International Board. He is a Past President of both the North Carolina Planned Giving Council (2000) and the Virginia Gift Planning Council (1996), a 2001 elected Delegate to the National Planned Giving Committee Assembly of Delegates (now PPP), was twice a Partnership for Philanthropic Planning National Board Nominee (2008 & 2010), and has been invited to present at AFP International, Regional and Statewide NCPGC and VGPC Conferences as well as at CASE National Webinars. He is an expert in philanthropic planning, incorporating charitable gift planning into financial and estate planning strategies enabling most folks to either: make the same gift as intended while keeping more hard earned dollars in the donor's own pocket or help them make a larger/more gifts than they thought possible.

04/14/15*[Please note this is a Tuesday] – John Boyle, “Life of a Reporter: Memorable Encounters”

John Boyle known as “The Answer Man” at the Asheville Citizen Times, has been invited to speak at our joint meeting on Western Carolina University's main campus on the Concourse of the Ramsey Center. There will be a luncheon to follow. Guests are welcome but must pre-register to attend.

*Shuttle to WCU's main campus will be available to those who pre-register for a ride as we will need to know how many vehicles to bring to Asheville. Please let us know by April 8th if you would like to ride on the shuttle. Feel free to follow in your own car if you prefer.

** Shuttle will depart from Asheville at approximately 9:40am. The luncheon will be from 11am – 1pm and the shuttle will begin loading shortly after 1pm to return to Asheville.