



2021-2022 Schedule

Cullowhee, Main Campus (Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm)

Asheville, Biltmore Park Site (Thursdays, 10am – 12pm)

NOTE: All fall 2021 sessions will be held online via Zoom. The format for spring will be evaluated throughout the fall semester.

FALL 2021:

September 15, 2021

Thomas Rain Crowe – The Baby Beat Generation

Biography:

Thomas Rain Crowe, a child of the Blue Ridge Mountains who literally lived on both ends of the Blue Ridge Parkway growing up, is an internationally-published and recognized author of more than thirty books, including the multi-award winning nonfiction nature memoir *Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods*); and collections of poetry including a volume of selected love poems titled *Learning To Dance* and *The Laugharne Poems*--written at the Dylan Thomas boathouse in Laugharne, Wales in 1993 and 1995, as well as a conversational memoir *Starting From San Francisco: Beats, Baby Beats and the 1970s San Francisco Renaissance*. He has been editor of major literary and cultural journals and anthologies and is founder and publisher of *New Native Press*—a small literary press founded in 1979. He is and has been on the boards of several environmental conservation organizations in western North Carolina over the last 40 years and has spoken widely to large and small groups on the subject of higher consciousness, sustainability and protection of the planet as a resident of western North Carolina and the Southern Appalachians. He lives in the Tuckasegee watershed and the “Little Canada” community of Jackson County in western North Carolina.

Presentation Outline:

Thomas Rain Crowe, is an internationally-published and recognized author of more than thirty books, including the multi-award winning nonfiction nature memoir *Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods*); and collections of poetry including a volume of selected love poems titled *Learning To Dance* and *The Laugharne Poems*--written at the Dylan Thomas boathouse in Laugharne, Wales in 1993 and 1995 and published in Wales; as well as a conversational memoir *Starting From San Francisco: Beats, Baby Beats and the 1970s San Francisco Renaissance*. He has been editor of major literary and cultural journals and anthologies and is founder and publisher of *New Native Press*—a small literary press founded in 1979. He is and has been on the boards of several environmental conservation organizations in western North Carolina over the last 40 years and has spoken widely to large and small groups on the subject of higher consciousness, sustainability and protection of the planet as a resident of western North Carolina and the Southern Appalachians. He lives in the Tuckasegee watershed and the “Little

Canada” community of Jackson County in western North Carolina. His literary archives have been purchased and are housed at the Duke University Special Collections Library.

September 22, 2021

Terry Van Duyn – Political issues from the perspective of an elected official, Medicaid

Biography:

In 1992, after 20 years in IT, Terry moved to Asheville where began a 2nd career as a community volunteer. She has served in leadership positions with several non-profit organizations including Meals on Wheels, The Council on Aging and Pisgah Legal Services. When the Affordable Care Act was introduced in 2010, Terry became a Healthcare Navigator and helped many people secure insurance, often for the first time in their lives. Long active with the Democratic Party, Terry served as President of the Buncombe County Democratic Women before being appointed to the North Carolina Senate after the death of her predecessor, Senator Martin Nesbitt, in 2014. Elected Democratic Whip by her peers in her freshman year, Terry worked hard to improve public schools, expand access to healthcare, and advocate for a more transparent and effective government.

Presentation Outline:

Expanding Access to Healthcare Coverage in North Carolina Outline:

Before serving 3 1/2 terms in the North Carolina Senate, Terry Van Duyn worked as a volunteer ACA Navigator, helping people get health insurance, often for the first time. Through that work she saw firsthand how people suffer simply because they can't afford to go to the doctor. She has been working to expand Medicaid ever since.

In her presentation, Sen. Van Duyn will outline the benefits of extending healthcare coverage, making the case that individual health, the vitality of our healthcare system, and the North Carolina economy in general, will all benefit from Medicaid Expansion. Emphasis will include the move to “managed care”, frequently referred to as Medicaid Transformation, as well as the incentives in the American Rescue Plan, two developments which she believes make the argument for Medicaid Expansion even more compelling, especially for rural North Carolina.

September 29, 2021

Ted Van Duyn – Bitcoin/cryptocurrency/investment trends

Biography:

Ted has been in the software side of the Information Technology revolution since graduating with a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Illinois. Why not a Computer Science degree? Back then, they didn't exist! He also holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Connecticut. Professionally, he most recently was the CEO of Geriatric Practice Management, a Software as a Service (SaaS) health care company based in Asheville, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) for Conceptual MindWorks, and Sr VP of Research and Development at BMC Software.

Presentation Outline:

We're going to take a look at the impact of crypto currencies from their effective start in 2009 to current manias. There are literally thousands of crypto currencies in “circulation”, even some created as a joke like the popular Dogecoin! We'll talk about their growing impact from

investors like you to legal tender in countries like El Salvador. News stories seem to pop up about these currencies daily, running the gamut from organized crime to foundational technologies like BlockChain to derivative applications such as Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs). What's it all about, where's it going? We'll talk.

October 6, 2021

Land of Sky & SW Commission – Broadband issues in the mountains and other regional issues

October 13, 2021

Jayne Zanglein – How Group of Women Explorers in the 1920s Fought for Compassion and Respect for All People

October 20, 2021

Chris Cooper – Political issues from an academic perspective

October 27, 2021

Mountain True – Naturalist

November 3, 2021

Jeffrey Vickery – Religious tolerance or intolerance

Biography:

Jeffrey Vickery is currently in his 17th academic year of teaching as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at WCU. He teaches courses regarding the history, thought, and practice of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In addition, Jeffrey serves as co-pastor of Cullowhee Baptist Church (located across the street from Hunter Library) with Rev. Tonya Vickery. Jeffrey and Tonya have been married for 32 years and have two daughters who are flourishing as adults with careers, relationships, and graduate education in either Chapel Hill or Portland, Maine.

November 10, 2021

Lisa Leatherman – History, present and future of Duke Energy

November 17, 2021

Nadine Charlsen

Biography:

An Asheville-based urban landscape watercolor artist and instructor, Nadine Charlsen is recent past-president of the River Arts District. She received a BS in Education from Kansas State Teachers College, MA from Wichita State University and MFA from Brooklyn College. Her 31-year career as a theatrical lighting designer in New York City taught her how to incorporate light, shadow, scale, color and texture to create artistic drama. Inspired by architecture, cityscapes and serene countryside settings, her work has gained wide recognition and in numerous publications. Nadine's artist statement reads: "My watercolors are improvised on the urban landscape — gritty, stark, rough — to engage a deeper emotion. My studio is the ever-changing world around me. I do long-distance bike trips and paint and photograph as I go. I love visiting noisy cities and bustling streets. Every day is a different wonder, a new world to live in

the moment. My career in theatrical design allowed me to work in many art mediums and explore scenic painting of large backdrops, sculpture and 3-D mixed media. My motivation to paint is for you and I to escape for a moment to another place and find joy in reliving the moment together.

December 1, 2021

Parking Sloan and Gayle Woody

December 8, 2021

Ricardo Nazario-Colon

During the 2016 Presidential Election, CNN sent reports to Welch, WV for a piece on why America's white working class feels left behind. The story painted Appalachia as a homogenous region populated only by poor white coal miners and farmers but when poet Dr. Ricardo Nazario-Colon traveled through the areas wooded, rural hills, he noticed something different.

SPRING 2022:

January 19 & 20, 2022

John Lane – Artistic/writer's perspective on environmental issues

Biography:

John Lane is professor of English and Environmental Studies at Wofford College. His books include *Circling Home*, *My Paddle to the Sea*, and *Coyote Settles the South*. He also coedited, with Gerald Thurmond, *The Woods Stretched for Miles: New Nature Writing from the South*. He has published several volumes of poetry, essays, and a novel, as well as a selection of his online columns, *The Best of the Kudzu Telegraph*. *Whose Woods These Are* is his most recent work.

Presentation Outline:

An investigative procedure, in this case in environmental writing, for assessing literary activity over time.

How do we figure out what our personal project has been over time?

As I move through my 60's personal curation of my "eco-literary project" has become more and more important to me. I would like to present brief selections from my published books ranging from 1970s to the present—poetry, creative nonfiction, and even my two novels—and associate each a creative practice or theme through a single word or phrase.

There will be discussion and interaction about methods you might use to arrange your own creative life work and relationship to nature in such a way.

January 26 & 27, 2022

Michelle Sorensen – Travel Experiences/Post-COVID travel

February 2 & 3, 2022

Boyd Owle – Governance of the Cherokee nation

Biography:

Boyd Owle was born and lived in Cherokee all his life and worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians before retiring after 42 years. After retirement, he was elected three times to the Tribal Council for the Birdtown Community. He enjoys being a member of the Tribal Council and representing his community and the tribe as a whole.

Presentation Outline:

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) live in the heart of Western North Carolina in part of their ancestral lands defined by the Qualla Boundary. What do you know about the tribe and their relationship with the United States? Boyd Owle, a member of the Tribal Council will talk about tribal governance, how they are organized and their interface with the county, state and Federal government. He will talk about how the EBCI with their casino and related businesses has brought great dividends to WNC in terms of the economy with approximately 4300 total positions. Additionally, he will explore the relationships among NC politicians, the EBCI, the Catawba Tribe and the state recognized tribe, the Lumbees.

February 9 & 10, 2022

Jonathan Marchal – Blue Ridge Naturalist program

Presentation Outline:

Community Science Needs You!

Native plant and animal populations in our state face a number of challenges, including habitat loss, climate change and invasive species. Conservation scientists are working to document the species across our state in an effort to understand how these organisms are impacted by these threats, however, there are not enough scientists to create a full picture. Community Scientists, also called citizen scientists, are everyday people who contribute observations of plants and animals to state, national and international conservation projects. Learn how you can use a smartphone as a powerful conservation tool as we explore mobile apps such as iNaturalist, eBird and Nature's Notebook.

February 16 & 17, 2022

Penny Smith – NC/SC in the Revolutionary War

February 23 & 24, 2022

John Boyle – Local journalism

March 2 & 3, 2022

Darin Waters – Racial equality/Black Lives Matter

March 9 & 10, 2022

YiQuing Yang – Immigration, culture, prejudice and aging

March 16 & 17, 2022

Bounty & Soul – Healthy eating and lifestyle

March 23 & 24, 2022

John C. Campbell School – Folk school history and culture

March 30 & 31, 2022

Rob Young – Climate Change

April 6, 2022

Luncheon at Lake Junaluska

Note to the membership:

The above are the topics and speakers selected by the Curriculum Committee. This may change based on speaker availability.