

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Cocktail Party Kick-Off

Enjoy an evening with fellow members and guests at the Pinehurst Members Club. Attire: Coat and Tie

OCTOBER 14, 2015

Allan Wolf

“New Found Land: Lewis and Clark Write Themselves into Existence”



You will relive history with Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, their courageous crew, and others as they attempt to find an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean. Allan Wolf makes the journey come to life through historical paintings, “artifacts,” songs, and dramatic readings from his award-winning novel in verse, *New Found Land: Lewis and Clark’s Voyage of Discovery*. He uses a multi-voice format - an approach Mr. Wolf calls ‘narrative pointillism.’

Allan Wolf is an author, poet, performer and educator who lives in Asheville, NC. Allan spent fifteen years as the educational director of Poetry Alive!, and is considered one of the founding fathers of the National Poetry Slam movement. His poetry has appeared in *Lady Bug Magazine* and the *NC Literary Review*. Wolf’s many books showcase his love of history, research, and poetry; including *Zane’s Trace* and *New Found Land, More Than Friends: Poems from Him and Her*, and *Immersed in Verse*. He has published four historical novels in verse. His latest, *The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic*, was awarded the Claudia Lewis Poetry Award for best poetry book of the year by Bank Street College. With hundreds of memorized poems, Wolf presents author visits, poetry shows, and inspirational talks for all ages.

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Hodding Carter, III

“Will the West be One?”



Hodding Carter, III attended Princeton University, and is a distinguished journalist, statesman, educator and long-time civil rights leader. He was active in the presidential campaigns of Johnson and Carter, serving as Asst. Sec. of State for Public Affairs during President Carter’s administration. Nationally, he is best known as the spokesman for the U. S. State Dept. during the Iran hostage crisis in the late 1970’s. Carter is a four-time Emmy Award winner for outstanding journalism, and is the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow award for broadcast journalism. He is past President and CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and was until recently Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at UNC. His presentation will focus on “leadership in the public sector.”

DECEMBER 9, 2015

**Jefferey Reaser
and
Walt Wolfram**



“Talkin’ Tar Heel”

A tandem presentation by Walt Wolfram and Jeffrey Reaser on “Talkin’ Tar Heel.”

Walt Wolfram is a William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor at North Carolina State University, where he also directs the North Carolina Language and Life Project. He has pioneered research on social and ethnic dialects since the 1960s, including early research on the descriptive status of African American English and later work on regional distribution. His current research focus is on the development of AAE in the early lifespan based on a unique longitudinal database spanning the first 17 years.

Jeffrey Reaser, Associate Professor of English at NC State University coordinates the secondary English education program and contributes to the NC Language and Life Project. He served as the lead developer for the Do You Speak American? Secondary School Curriculum (2005) and College-Level Curriculum (2005) (PBS). In 2011, in conjunction with members of the NCLLP and the Ocracoke Preservation Society, he compiled the oral history project *Ocracoke Still Speaks: Reflections Past and Present*. His research examines the effectiveness of formal and public education linguistics projects, including the development and testing of the nation’s first state-based dialect awareness program, *Voices of North Carolina: Language and Life from the Atlantic to the Appalachians* (Reaser and Wolfram 2007). He recently co-authored with Walt Wolfram the book, *Talkin’ Tar Heel: How Our Voices Tell the Story of North Carolina*(2014). He was awarded the CHASS Outstanding Advisor Award in 2009, the CHASS Outstanding Teacher Award in 2010 at which time he was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Teachers at NC State, and the CHASSS Outstanding Undergraduate Professor Award in 2013. He is currently chair of the Language in the School Curriculum Committee of the Linguistics Society of America.

JANUARY 13, 2016

Omar H. Ali

“The Many Faces of Islam”



Omar H. Ali is a historian of Islam and the African Diaspora. He is Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and his books include *Islam in the Indian Ocean World: A Documentary History* (Bedford St. Martin’s Press) and *Malik Ambar: Abyssinian Defender of India’s Deccan* (Oxford University Press). A graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science, he received his Ph.D. in History from Columbia University. In 2013 he helped to establish the Islamic Studies Research Network at UNCG to promote awareness and understanding of Islamic history. Among other news and media outlets, he has appeared on CNN, NPR, PBS, and Al-Jazeera.

FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Elliott Engel

“Scarlett Fever: Greatness of Gone With The Wind”



Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. Engel is a Dickens Scholar who now lives in Raleigh. He has taught at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA, he won the University’s Outstanding Teacher Award. He has written ten books published in 4 countries. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS TV stations around the country. His articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines including *Newsweek*. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and on every continent including Antarctica. Four plays he has written have been produced during the last ten years. Recently, he was named Tar Heel of the Week for his 30 years of delivering public programs in the humanities and sponsoring state and national literary contests for high school students.

MARCH 10, 2016 (THURSDAY)

Mark Schneider

“Lafayette in the American Revolution”



Mark Schneider was born and raised in Setauket New York on Long Island. Mark received his B.A. in History from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. Mark joined the U.S. Army and served as a Cavalry Scout performing Armored Reconnaissance for the 1st Armored Division in Germany and the United States. Upon completion of his service, Mark started working for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1997. Mark has performed in a variety of jobs such as Theatrical Interpreter and now for the Revolutionary City Program. Mark is in the Nation Builder program where he performs as the Marquis de Lafayette. While at Colonial Williamsburg, Mark has performed as a variety of different characters ranging from Mark Antony, James Madison, Benedict Arnold, Le Comte de Rochambeau and others. Mark also portrays Napoleon Bonaparte internationally and has appeared since 2005 in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, and Russia. *Photo courtesy The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

APRIL 13, 2016

Evelyn Wrench Speaker TBA

Named in honor of the English-Speaking Union’s founder, the Evelyn Wrench Speaker Program sends eminent British and American speakers across the country each year to the ESU Branches who host their presentations. Wrench speakers address topics relating to current events, history, language and literature, art and architecture, and travel. Regional tours of Wrench speakers are underwritten by the ESU National Headquarters, planned in cooperation with the Branches.

MAY 11, 2016

Captain Carl Newman
“Cowboys Don’t Fly in Hurricanes”



Captain Carl Newman is an officer in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, one of America’s seven Uniformed Services. He currently serves as the Executive Officer of NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service. Captain Newman recently finished 14 years of hurricane flights in the NOAA Hurricane Hunters (WP-3D Orion) - the world’s premier research aircraft. This includes over 230 hurricane eye wall penetrations, and over 5,500 flight hours. His aviation experience has taken him from the shores of the U.S., to the Persian Gulf, Asia, Antarctica, Alaska, Europe and the far reaches of northern climes conducting airborne science experiments. He is a 1989 graduate of the United States Naval Academy.