



Senior Scholars at Queens

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April 2017 Newsletter

April 7

Ron Maccaroni, a member of Senior Scholars for six years, will speak on "**The Federal Debt: What Role Do Entitlements Play?**" (He spoke at Senior Scholars about the federal debt in 2014.) Ron retired from the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service Corps in 2005 after 35 years of service. He was the Comptroller of the Defense Information Systems Agency, overseeing the agency's more than \$6 billion budget. Since retiring from the federal government Ron has been an adjunct instructor for two organizations in Washington, teaching and developing courses to federal employees on the subjects of federal budgeting, accounting, financial management, internal controls, and decision support. Ron received his B.A. in accounting from Catawba College in Salisbury and attended the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA.

April 21

Dr. Bob Whalen, the Carolyn G. and Sam H. McMahon Jr. Professor of History at Queens University, will speak on "**Where's Europe Headed?**" Dramatic changes are underway in Europe: Britain is scheduled to leave the EU; Scotland might leave the UK; nationalist and anti-immigrant movements dominate the news in many European states; and Russia is emerging as a major European power. Dr. Whalen's talk will examine all this and more, and try to figure out "Where's Europe Headed?" Dr. Whalen received a B.S. in Psychology from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. in History from Cornell University. He has published five books on European and American history. His most recent book is *Murder, Inc. and the Moral Life. Gangsters and Gangbusters in La Guardia's New York* (N.Y.: Fordham University Press, 2016).

April 14

Dr. Brian Jones, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and a James B. Duke Distinguished Associate Professor of History at Johnson C. Smith University, will present a lecture on "**The Inexperienced President: Eisenhower in the Age of Trump.**" Dr. Jones received the CATO Par Excellence Teaching Award on "Eisenhower's Nuclear Philosophy" at the Eisenhower Academy. He is the author of the 2011 book *Abolishing the Taboo: Dwight D. Eisenhower and American Nuclear Doctrine, 1945-1961*. He earned a bachelor's degree at Appalachian State University, a master's in history from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Ph.D. in History from Kansas State University. He has taught at Johnson C. Smith since 2007 and has accompanied students on a study abroad trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

April 28 - Great Decisions Topic

Dr. Justin Conrad will speak on the Great Decisions Topic "**Nuclear Security.**" He is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and studies international security issues, including terrorism and interstate conflict. Dr. Conrad is a key researcher at the [Resources and Conflict Project](#) and co-editor of the "Future of Global Security" book series at the [U.S. Naval Institute Press](#). His work has been published in leading academic journals, including *International Organization*, the *Journal of Politics* and the *British Journal of Political Science*. He has appeared in, and his research has been cited by, a variety of international media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Slate France*, *Salon*, and *Voice of America*. Professor Conrad received his Ph.D. from Florida State University and a master's degree from UCLA.

President's Message



**BG Metzler,
President of
Senior Scholars
at Queens**

Greetings Senior Scholars,

Have you ever been curious about sayings that seem to be passed down forever? Bob and I often look at each other and ask, "Where did that come from?"

Take a look at some of these common sayings. I am sure you have some that you use or hear others say and think just as we do ... "That doesn't make sense; where did that come from?"

Such as, "**You're pulling My Leg!**" Meaning to tease someone or jokingly lie to them, "pulling one's leg" actually has sinister origins, rooted in the criminal world of the 18th century. Street thieves would literally pull victims down by their leg in order to more easily rob them.

How about, "**You can't hold a candle to,**" Before electricity, workers needed a second set of hands to hold a candle for them. Holding a candle was clearly a less challenging job, so someone who isn't even qualified to provide light to a competent worker obviously wouldn't be able to perform the task himself.

You were close, but no cigar! Now what the heck does that mean? Carnivals used to give out cigars as prizes, so almost winning would get you close to achieving a cigar, but not quite. The phrase evolved in meaning and now refers to coming close to a goal but falling short

Did your mom ever tell to "**Mind your "p's" and "q's"** ? In the 17th century, pubs served beer in pints and quarts. If a patron was getting unruly, the bartender might warn them to mind their "p's" and "q's." Now the term simply means to mind your manners, and behave yourself!

Have you ever heard he needs to "**eat some humble pie**" ? During the Middle Ages, the lord of a manor would hold a feast after hunting. He would receive the finest cut of meat at the feast, but those of a lower standing were served a pie filled with the entrails and innards, known as "umbles."

Therefore, receiving "umble pie" was considered humiliating because it informed others in attendance of the guest's lower status.

Someone says, he is "**three sheets to the wind!**" Sailors had a lot of terms for being drunk and they all related to the ship. Being tipsy was "a sheet in the wind's eye" and being hammered was a full "three sheets to the wind." The sheets in question were actually the ropes that held down the sails, so if all three ropes were loose, the sails would billow about like a drunken sailor.

Now let's mention a few brand new "hip" terms to impress your grandchildren or friends on how "with it" you are....by the way, where did the expression "with it," come from?

YOLO - "You Only Live Once," excuse for something stupid that they did ... Also, one of the most annoying abbreviations ever.

Throwing shade - Insulting a person in a way that they don't even realize it.

DAD - Adjective meaning "un-cool" or "not with it." *Example:* "Your record collection of 1980's dance hits is so dad."

Mobbing - Having a great time with you and your closest friends!!!

Great fun doing this column.....now I am **very dank!!** (Adjective meaning good, cool, great, tremendous!) :))

---BG Metzler, president

Meet & Mingle For New Members On April 7

What: Meet & Mingle for New Members

When: April 7, before the meeting

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Meeting room, near the coffee tables

Who: All members are welcome to come meet newcomers

---Drexel Andrews, Hospitality Chair

Theatre Production at Queens March 23-26

"These Shining Lives" A Queens Theatre Production, March 23 - 26, Hadley Theatre, Queens University of Charlotte (Located at the back wing of Myers Park Traditional School, 2132 Radcliffe Avenue). The school is behind the Queens Campus.

TICKETS: Cash or check accepted at the door; \$11 for general public; \$6 for students.

Queens Theatre presents a performance by Queens students. "These Shining Lives" is a true story chronicling the determination and strength of women who were sickened by radium rich paint in the 1920s watch factory where they worked.

Show times are Thursday, March 23-Saturday, March 25, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m.

Senior Scholars Field Trip To Muddy River Distillery in Belmont

John Ferguson, head of the field trip committee, has arranged a trip to Muddy River Distillery in Belmont, April 5. You will need to sign up ahead of time. Meet at the Queens Sports Complex parking lot at 10 a.m. to carpool. Cost is \$5, which includes tasting samples of five kinds of rum. Lunch on your own at a Belmont restaurant. The tour will start at 11. For more information, contact John at aeolus3rd@aol.com or (704) 523-9478.

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Spring Wildacres Retreat Dates Set for April 24-27

This spring's Senior Scholars Wildacres Retreat dates have been set for April 24-27. Registration is open now for the annual retreat. Cost is \$230 per person in a double occupancy room. Cost includes lectures, three nights lodging, eight meals, evening happy hours with wine and light snacks, an evening talent show and opportunity to enjoy nature and meet other members.

Wildacres is a retreat center on a secluded mountaintop near Little Switzerland. For more info, check the Web site at www.wildacres.org or check the Senior Scholars Web site at www.seniorscholars.net and click on the Wildacres tab.

The program schedule allows time to hike on trails and explore attractions in the area. Check in after 4 p.m. on Monday, April 24, and check out is Thursday, April 27, right after breakfast. Get registration forms from the Senior Scholars Web site or at meetings.

Spring Wildacres Retreat Speaker and Program

Dr. Shepherd W. McKinley is a Senior Lecturer at UNC Charlotte. He is the author of *Stinking Stones and Rocks of Gold: Phosphate, Fertilizer, and Industrialization in Postbellum South Carolina* (2014), winner of the 2014 George C. Rogers Jr. Book Award (South Carolina Historical Society, best book of South Carolina history). He is also the co-author of *North Carolina: New Directions for an Old Land* (2006), and the co-editor of *North Carolina During the First World War, 1914-1922* (forthcoming spring 2018). He earned a bachelor's degree at Duke University, a master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Ph.D. at the University of Delaware. He is a member of the South Carolina Historical Society, the Historical Society of North Carolina, the Southern Historical Association, and the Organization for the Study of Southern Economy, Culture, and Society.

Southern Industrialization and the First New South (with an emphasis on the Carolinas): Politics, Economics, Class, and Race, 1865-1934.

Lectures include: The South – Capitalism – and the North, Southern Industrialization, Farmers Revolt, Jim Crow, Industrialization in Postbellum South Carolina, Convict Lease and Chain Gang, Textiles and Labor - Strikes, and Demagogues.