



Senior Scholars at Queens



Website: www.seniorscholars.net
E-mail: sscholars@yahoo.com

February 2017 Newsletter

February 3

Dr. Sam Gaertner, a University of Delaware Trustees' Distinguished Professor Emeritus, will present ***"I am Not Prejudiced: Understanding and Addressing Unconscious Prejudice."***

Dr. Gaertner taught at the University of Delaware in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. His regular courses included the psychology of racism and intergroup relations.

He earned BA and MA degrees from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. from The City University of New York Graduate Center. He continues to study Aversive Racism (i.e., hidden biases) that exists among "well-intentioned" people, who often express negative racial attitudes in subtle, indirect and rationalizable ways that preclude them from recognizing their racial biases. In 2012 he received a Career Contribution Award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

February 10

Dr. John Bird, a professor English and director of the Winthrop University Teaching and Learning Center in Rock Hill, S.C., will present a program on ***"Critical Thinking."***

Dr. Bird teaches courses in American literature, critical theory, and critical thinking. His areas include Mark Twain, 19th- and 20th-Century American Literature, Critical Theory, American Humor and Critical Thinking.

He earned BS and MA degrees from Appalachian State University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Bird is the author of **Mark Twain and Metaphor** (University of Missouri Press, 2007), as well as articles on Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau, and American humor.

February 17 Great Decisions

Dr. Margaret Commins, an associate professor of Political Science and International Studies College at Queens University, will speak on the Great Decisions topic ***"Latin America's Political Pendulum."***

She will discuss the historical swing in these countries from the left to the right.

Dr. Commins specializes in U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America and U.S. trade policy. She earned a BA degree from Gettysburg College and a MA and Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has been named a 2016-17 Engaged Faculty Scholar by North Carolina Campus Compact.

February 24 Great Decisions

Dr. Loren Fauchier, Global Education Director at Providence Day School, will present ***"Conflict in the South China Sea."*** His talk will delve into the ongoing cat-and-mouse games between China and the United States, Japan and South Korea.

Before joining the staff at Providence Day, Dr. Fauchier taught for 17 years at Queens University of Charlotte in the Department of Political Science and International Studies.

In 2014 he was awarded the Global Citizen Award by the National Association of Independent Schools.

He earned his undergraduate degree in government at California State University, Sacramento, his Master of Arts in political science at the University of Arizona, and his Ph.D. in comparative politics at the University of Washington.

He is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University program in Nanjing, China, and completed his doctoral research in China. He regularly takes students to China.

President's Message



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

Greetings Senior Scholars,

The crazy... no snow show or yes, we got snow, which we had recently, got me to thinking. I was sure Charlotte used to get a lot more snow, so I did some checking. Actually one of our biggest snowfalls was February 26 in 2004 when we had 11.6 inches in parts of Charlotte and higher amounts south of uptown and up to 22 inches in Rock Hill. Our average snowfall is 4.3 inches. National average is 22.4 inches.

With Charlotte's weather on my mind, after my column in last month's newsletter, a few of you asked me if I am a meteorologist and how I got started in forecasting weather. No I am not a meteorologist. I was with Channel 36 when they first became a NBC affiliate in the 70's. Channel 36 was an independent TV station owned by Ted Turner. He sold it for this silly, silly thing called CNN, and this crazy thing of a 24-hour weather channel ... which will never succeed... right? WRONG! Charlotte at that time did not have an NBC affiliate and in order to qualify Channel 36 or WPCQ had to air local news.

At that time, a lot of television commercials and training films were shot in North Carolina, maybe they still are, and I worked on several of these projects. Because of that, I got to audition for a weather position. To my shock, I was selected! I tell people that I used to watch WBTV and WSOC-TV so I would know what to say! Actually, I would call AccuWeather in State College, Pennsylvania, and the meteorologist would walk me through the weather forecast. My call would go something like this ... "Okay, now go stand in front of the four corners ... do you know where that is located?" "Yes, I know where that is." Now remember this was VERY prior to computers and blue screens, so I would take my markers and he would walk me through where to draw (remember those drawn maps?) the cold fronts and warm fronts.

Channel 36 was located then in Hickory Grove on Fields Road. If you broke down at night you weren't afraid of bad guys but of wild dogs. Sometimes ice or snow storms would knock out the tower and we'd go off the air. I also produced a game show called "Quibble" starring my friend Larry Sprinkle. It was a public affairs show requiring a live audience and being in Hickory Grove, tough to achieve. So my three kids and husband would say, "Ugh, do we have to go again and clap?" Yup, I needed them!

A fun memory for me was when they would shoot wrestling match promotions and the guys would drive on Robinson Church Road in their pickup trucks with their costumes and masks on. They would grumble and yell at each other while shooting and after would say things like, "So how was your son's birthday party?" Great fun!

When I was with Discovery Place I did backup, backup weather for WSOC-TV. They would say, "Let's call what's her name" and see if she can fill in. It was mainly weekends when very few staff was around ... a couple of times they would have changed the weather computer and forget to tell me!

Now I have the honor to meet with you all once a week I am very fortunate and grateful.

----BG Metzler, president

Spring Wildacres Retreat Dates Set for April 24-27

Be sure to mark your calendars. This spring's Senior Scholars Wildacres Retreat dates have been set for April 24-27.

The program topic and speaker will be announced later.

Wildacres is a retreat center on a secluded mountaintop near Little Switzerland. For more info, check the Web site at www.wildacres.org.

Attend The Meet & Mingle For New Members February 3

WHAT: NEW MEMBERS Meet & Mingle

WHEN: February 3 at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Meet back by the coffee pots prior to the meeting on that date to a Meet & Mingle with other new members and board members.

WHY: We are continuing this informal get-together to provide new members with an easy way to meet other new members. Come join in the fun.

Pay Dues By February 3 To Be Included In 2017 Directory

If you want to have your name and contact information listed in the 2017 Senior Scholars printed directory, you must pay 2017 membership dues by Friday, Feb. 3. If you need to make any corrections to your listing from the 2016 directory, please send the information to seniorscholars@yahoo.com.

Senior Scholars Board

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BG Metzler
704-517-6262**

**First Vice President-
Bill Parker**

**Second Vice President -
Bill Thomas**

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Newsletter - Alice Thrasher
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Technical Services - Ed Tosto and David Shimberg
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At-Large Board Members: Mary Allen Todd - Drexel Andrews - John Ferguson - Ed Tosto - Bill Thomas - Sara Haymond - Sophie Marshall - Mary Leet - Alice Thrasher
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Queens Spring 2017 Cultural Calendar

Queens just released the electronic version of the Spring 2017 Cultural Calendar. I've had periodic requests for the calendar from the Senior Scholar membership and while we no longer print as many of them, I thought your membership might be interested in the link: <http://www.queens.edu/Arts-and-Culture/Cultural-Calendar.html>

Kathy Jirak
External Relations Administrative Assistant
Queens University of Charlotte



AN EVENING WITH CAPTAIN SCOTT KELLY *History-Making U.S. Astronaut*

Tuesday, February 28 | 7 p.m.

Knight Theater | Levine Center for the Arts

Tickets: \$45 at carolinatix.org or (704) 372-1000

Senior Scholars 20% Discount Code: LSSPRING

Back from his historic record-breaking Year In Space, NASA astronaut Captain Scott Kelly has laid the groundwork for the future of space travel and exploration, and continues to garner media exposure like no other pioneer of our time. From the cover of TIME to live interviews on TODAY to features in Forbes and on CNN to a Twitter following that is rapidly approaching 1 million, the world remains in awe as we celebrate a hero's return to the planet that is home, from an adventure that is extraordinary.

With life lessons and personal stories that reveal unique and valuable advice on pushing one's own limits, to insight on the leadership and teamwork required in such demanding conditions, and the challenges—such as long term deprivation from loved ones and Planet Earth—Kelly reflects on the choices and life events that paved his journey's path and brings audiences to the edge of their seats as he delivers a truly one-of-a-kind experience. An astronaut since 1996, Kelly's achievements over his illustrious 20-year career with NASA earned him the coveted position as America's first year-round astronaut. On his historic mission that spanned from March 2015 to March 2016, Kelly and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko conducted experiments, reconfigured station modules, and captivated the world with live interviews and never-seen-before photos from the International Space Station. The historic mission also included NASA's groundbreaking Twins Study, in which Kelly's identical twin brother, retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly served on the ground as a control model in an unprecedented experiment to understand how space affects the human body.

Prior to his career with NASA, Kelly served 25 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as an experienced aviator and decorated officer.