



# Senior Scholars at Queens



Website: [www.seniorscholars.net](http://www.seniorscholars.net)  
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March 2017 Newsletter

## March 3 Great Decisions Meeting at Providence United Methodist Church

**Dr. Joseph Ellis**, associate professor, Department of History and Political Science at Wingate University, will speak on *"The Future of Europe."*

This timely discussion will cover Brexit as well as other crises that Europe is facing. Dr. Ellis earned a bachelor's degree from Winthrop University. He received both his master's degree and his doctorate from Temple University.

## March 10

**Dr. Barry Robinson**, associate professor of history at Queens University and chair of the College of Arts and Sciences, will present *"Local and Regional Legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade."*

Dr. Robinson earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and history from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He earned both a master's in history and a doctorate in Latin American history from Vanderbilt University. He co-edited a volume on the African Diaspora in the Americas, entitled [\*Slaves, Subjects, and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America\*](#).

## March 17

**Ann B. Clark**, Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, will present *"State of Our Schools."*

She has worked with CMS since 1983 and will serve as superintendent until June. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Davidson College and a master's in special  
(See next column)

## March 17 (Continued)

Education from the University of Virginia. She was named National Principal of the Year (1994) by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. In addition to her work with CMS, Clark has served on multiple boards, including Communities In Schools, the Davidson College Board of Visitors and A Child's Place.

## March 24

**Speaker to be announced later due to a cancellation.**

## March 31

**Dr. Greg Pillar**, chair of the Environmental Science and Chemistry Department at Queens University of Charlotte, will **present** *"The Hidden Chemistry in Our Daily Lives."*

Dr. Pillar earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Minnesota, a master's in agronomy (soil science) from Kansas State University and a doctorate in agronomy (environmental chemistry) from the University of Georgia. His expertise is in global food security, environmental impact assessment and agriculture resources management. He holds the William S. Lee Endowment Chair and has won the William S. Lee Distinguished Professor Teaching Award.

# President's Message



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

Greetings Senior Scholars,

Sitting in 70 degree weather in February makes me realize that spring and summer are knocking at the door! Today I want to talk a little bit about warm weather, all of us getting outside and maybe volunteering with our time and talent for a nonprofit. Here are a few senior and child oriented nonprofits that may fit into your schedules with time to help others.

Let me qualify this by saying I have worked with or been approached by all of the below. These are suggestions from me and not the Senior Scholars Board. Having worked with and volunteered for so many nonprofits, I know how invaluable it would be to any nonprofit to have you as a volunteer.

1) The first one is Augustine Literacy Project where you can make a difference in a child. Become a literacy tutor. Tutor a struggling reader and join the over 115 Augustine Tutors in our community who are changing students' lives, one lesson at a time. Provide free, one-on-one instruction in reading, writing and spelling to struggling low-income students. Augustine Literacy Project will train and support you and give you the tools for successful tutoring. To find out more, save April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Augustine Literacy Project Informational Coffee, from 10-11AM at Sterling Elementary School, 9601 China Grove Church Road, Pineville, NC. [www.alpcharlotte.org](http://www.alpcharlotte.org) (704-749-6162).

2) Volunteer Transportation Services fills the gap for older adults, veterans and adults with permanent or temporary disabilities. VTS is operated by Centralina Connection NC, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help residents throughout a nine-county region. You will have training to become a certified driver. If you can't drive, you can still volunteer by becoming a VTS ambassador and spreading the word about VTS! <http://centrlinavts.org/> (1-844-887-7433).

3) Mecklenburg County Senior Centers provide individuals 55 years and older various opportunities to improve their physical and cognitive health, expand their support systems, and find services they need to remain independent. They provide an abundance of services from health, chronic disease self-management and many other opportunities, including volunteering. Their main campus is right next to the Queens University Center Tyvola Athletic Center at 2225 Tyvola Road, (980-314-1320); North Mecklenburg Senior Center, 102 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC, (980-314-1127); Shamrock Senior Center, 3200 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, (980-314-1123). [https://apm.activecommunities.com/mecklenburgparks/Activity\\_Search](https://apm.activecommunities.com/mecklenburgparks/Activity_Search)

4) Finally, The Council On Aging is having a program on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM-3:30 PM at the Learner Hall at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, located at 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte. You will learn about **Transition with EASE. Empowerment Activity Support Engagement.** You will find out about opportunities for navigating transportation, embrace lifelong learning, and explore volunteering and employment. [www.pacesp.com](http://www.pacesp.com) (704-887-3840)

----BG Metzler, president

## **March 3 Meeting Will Be at Providence United Methodist Church**

*The Senior Scholars regular weekly meeting on March 3 will be held at Providence United Methodist Church, 2810 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC. The church is located at the intersection of Providence Road and Sharon Amity Road.*

*The change for that date is necessary because Queens University needs the Conference Center space for a meeting.*

## **Queens University 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

## **Senior Scholars Field Trip To Post Office Distribution Center**

John Ferguson, head of the field trip committee, has arranged a trip to the large Post Office Distribution Center near the airport on March 2. You will need to sign up ahead of time. Meet at the Queens Sports Complex parking lot at 9:30 a.m. The tour will start at 10 and if we need to break up into two groups, 10:30. You can contact John by Friday, Feb. 24, at [aeolus3rd@aol.com](mailto:aeolus3rd@aol.com) or (704) 523-9478.

## **Senior Scholars Board**

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704-517-6262**

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**Newsletter - Alice Thrasher**

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**Website: [www.seniorscholars.net](http://www.seniorscholars.net)**

**E-mail address: [sscholars@yahoo.com](mailto:sscholars@yahoo.com)**

## ***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](http://www.wildacres.org) or check the Senior Scholars Web site at [www.seniorscholars.net](http://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.