



Senior Scholars at Queens



Website: www.seniorscholars.net

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September 2016 Newsletter

September 9

Dr. Luther Wade, a Southeastern Louisiana University professor emeritus, will present **"WHY Was Bonnie Prince Charlie?"** For 17 years, Dr. Wade was the producer and host of *Viva Voce*, a weekly radio program on WDAV, Classical 89.9 FM. Dr. Wade earned four degrees, including a doctorate from Louisiana State University. He completed additional graduate work at the University of Minnesota as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. He has also taught at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and has contributed to *Opera News* magazine.

September 16

Amy Burkett, *WTVI PBS Charlotte's general manager*, will present a program titled **"Rebuilding a Community Treasure."** Burkett was executive vice president and station manager of WLVT-TV PBS 39 in Bethlehem, Pa., prior to coming to Charlotte's public television station in late May 2013. She had joined PBS in 1999 to create and host its weekly news magazine show, "Tempo." During her tenure, Burkett and her team earned four national public television awards, eight Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards, 28 regional Emmy nominations, and six Emmys.

September 23

Mayor Jennifer Roberts will give an **"Update on Charlotte."** She graduated from East Mecklenburg High School in 1978 and was selected as a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After earning a degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, Roberts earned two masters degrees in international affairs from the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Toronto. She worked as a diplomat for four years with the U. S. Department of State, serving in the Dominican Republic as a consular officer and then as a political officer on the Mexico Desk before returning to Charlotte. During her years in Charlotte, Roberts has been Director of the Mayor's International Cabinet, a lending officer in International Corporate Banking at First Union, and executive director of the Charlotte World Affairs Council. Roberts has served on numerous boards and advisory groups in the region. She is a recipient of the Maya Angelou Women Who Lead award.

September 30

Brenda Tindal, *staff historian for the Levine Museum of the New South*, will present **"What Our Common Past Had Done To Us: Wives and Widows of the Civil Rights Movement."** A Charlotte native and graduate of UNC-Charlotte, Tindal received her M.A. in American Studies at Emory University in 2005. She continues work towards a doctorate in History and Culture within the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory. Tindal was a lecturer in the Department of History and Honors College at UNCC before beginning her new position at the Levine Museum Sept. 1, 2015.

President's Message



**Gene Zhiss,
President of
Senior Scholars
at Queens**

Greetings Senior Scholars,

My wife, with ample justification, accuses me of being a “news junkie.”

Every evening, I watch the local news, listen to at least one - and frequently more than one - network evening news program, and I never miss the PBS news. On weekends, I listen to several of the Sunday morning news programs, - “Meet the Press,” “Face the Nation” and “This week with George Stephanopoulos.” I rarely miss “CBS Sunday Morning” (although I do miss Charles Kuralt) and, later in the day, I tune in to “60 Minutes.” I tape all of these and other news programs and make sure I listen to them before the news turns stale.

I hate to admit it, but I’m not an avid viewer of sports programming. I don’t follow basketball, hockey or baseball (probably a carryover from the time that the Dodgers left Brooklyn and relocated to Los Angeles, leaving a permanent scar on the team’s fans). I do enjoy watching golf and our Panthers.

During the year, I never watch synchronized diving, rugby or rowing. I avoid watching marathon swimming, track and field meets, gymnastics and beach volleyball. I never turn the dial (oops, I’m giving my age away) to water polo, weight lifting or wrestling.

However, in August, when NBC airs nearly 7,000 hours of summer Olympics programming, all of this suddenly changes.

Why do the Olympics hold such a fascination for me and so many others? (NBC estimates that 146.3 million viewers tuned in to the programming during the first five days).

Is it the unimaginable scale of having 42 different sports and 306 events taking place over a period of 19 days? Or is it the competition among the 11,551 athletes representing 207 countries competing for 306 sets of medals? Is it the vicarious pleasure of walking on the sandy beaches of Rio de Janeiro or looking down on the Olympic village from the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking the city or looking at the familiar site of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Possibly it’s the sense of witnessing history being made in real time; witnessing Michael Phelps, possibly the greatest swimmer of all time, competing in his final Olympics, or watching Katie Ledecky, a new name and face, accepting the mantle as the world’s greatest female swimmer.

Is it Simone Biles and other Olympic gymnasts performing their routines and seemingly defying gravity. Or is it Usain Bolt effortlessly proving once again that he is the fastest man alive. Is it possibly a sense of national pride with the U.S. leading the world in total medals, or the pleasure of watching a home town favorite Brazil team beating the United States in beach volleyball and going on to compete for the Olympic gold medal?

Frankly, one, all, or none of these may account for my interest. I don’t profess to have the answer.

What I do know for certain is that my wife can’t wait until the Olympics are finally over and her husband reverts to his familiar role as a “news junkie.”

Well, the summer Olympic games are over and many of the student athletes are returning to their respective colleges and universities. I doubt that many of them realize at this point in their lives that learning is a lifelong endeavor. Who knows, at some point in the future, a few of them might be sitting where you are today and the future Senior Scholars president will say to them, as I’m saying to you now, “Welcome back to Senior Scholars. I promise you a semester filled with great speakers and an opportunity to learn.”

Ready, on your mark, let the semester begin !

----- **Gene Zhiss**

Field Trip To Discovery Place Education Center Sept. 29

As a follow-up to the February lecture by Dr. Robert Corbin, vice president, Learning Experience at Discovery Place, field trip chairman John Ferguson has arranged a visit to tour the center on Sept. 29.

WHAT: Visit to the Discovery Place Education Center to learn about its mission and see a demonstration of a 3D Printer. The center is at 300 N. Popular St. Parking is at the Discovery Place parking deck next to the center. Validation for parking available.

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 29. Sign up at one of the Senior Scholars meetings in September or contact John Ferguson at aelous3rd@aol.com

TIME: 10 a.m.

COST: Free admission

New Senior Scholars Directories Available

The 2016 membership directories have been printed and are being distributed at the registration desk at the weekly meetings. Please take only one per household. If any errors are found in the directory, please send an e-mail with the information to sscholars@yahoo.com.

Senior Scholars Board

**President -
Gene Zhiss
704-553-8110**

**First Vice President-
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MSC 1409, Charlotte, NC 28274**

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Queens University Classes For Audit and Fall Campus Events

Classes at Queens – Registration for the Fall 2016 semester is now open for Senior Scholars at Queens.

The cost is \$300 per course and registrations will be accepted through Sept. 1. Courses are for audit; not for a grade toward a degree. The 19 courses include: Art History III: Exploration to Rev, Sculpture, Elementary Chinese I, Fundamentals of Microcomputers, Intro to Communication Studies, Public Speaking, Writing for Communication, Sports Media, Introduction to Creative Writing, Introduction to Public Health, Intro to Human Service Studies, Digital Photography I, Philosophy Through Film, United States Government, Campaigns and Elections, Global Conflict, General Psychology, Religion in a Global Context, Basics in Biblical Studies.

Questions? Contact Erin Morgan at morgane@queens.edu or (704) 337-2251, Mondays – Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Queens Events

The Queens University of Charlotte **Fall 2016 Social Calendar** is available on line at <https://cloud.3dissue.com/115727/116080/135985/cultural-calendar-16-17/index.html>

Queens Considers

-5:30 PM in the Duke Energy Auditorium, Rogers Hall - Free

A series of panel discussions focused on varying, important issues leading up to the election. Using the expertise of local and national colleagues, Queens looks to engage Charlotte voters in thought-provoking discussions about these issues.

- **9/14 - Elections and the Economy: Understanding the Implications of the 2016 Elections**
- **9/21 - The U.S. and the World: Understanding Major Foreign Policy Issues**
- **10/9 - Watching the Presidential Debate: Broadcast from Washington University in St. Louis**
- Questions? Contact Margaret Commins at comminsm@queens.edu or [704-337-2573](tel:704-337-2573)

BB&T Leaders in Action Series

- 5:30 PM in Ketner Auditorium, Sykes Learning Center – Free, registration required at www.Mccollschool.edu.

- **9/20 - Debra Plousha Moore** is one of the nation's foremost authorities in the fields of leadership development, human resources, diversity and inclusion, and organizational development. She serves as Chief Human Resources Officer and Executive Vice President at Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS)-one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive healthcare organizations. In 2015, Forbes included CHS on its list of America's Best Employers. Named Charlotte Businesswoman of the Year in 2015 by Queens, Moore has also been honored by the Leadership Excellence Award from the National Diversity Council.
- **10/13 - From Santiago Chile, Rodrigo Jordan** is the Founder and President of Vertical S.A. Widely recognized in the development of leadership, innovation and high performance teams his work includes the Wharton Leadership Ventures program, the McColl School of Business' BB&T Leadership Challenge and MSB's Leadership Expedition to Chile. Jordan is one of Chile's most accomplished mountaineers with successful expeditions to Everest, K2, Mount Lhotse, Antarctica and Greenland. He also directs the not-for-profit Fundación Vertical, serving underprivileged students from the poorest schools in Chile, and promoting the enjoyment, responsible use and conservation of the environment. Jordan holds a Ph.D. from Oxford University.