

# Arts & Humanities

## FALL 2026



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS... 2026

October

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### MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

**Micah Cash**

*The View from a Booth: Waffle House Vistas and the Art of Paying Attention*

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

**Brett Whalen**

*The End of the World as We Know It? A Medievalist's Perspective on the Apocalypse*

*In Partnership with Carolina Public Humanities*

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

**Jeff Williams**

*Debunking the Myths of Midway Faculty Spotlight*

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

**Elliot Engel**

*Ladies First: The Incredible Life of Dolley Madison*

*All programs are free and do not require registration unless stated in the brochure. For programs which require registration, the fee is non-refundable.*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

phone: 919-739-7017  
email: [wcc-foundation@waynecc.edu](mailto:wcc-foundation@waynecc.edu)  
website: [waynecc.edu/foundation](http://waynecc.edu/foundation)

P.O. Box 8002  
Goldsboro, NC 27533-8002

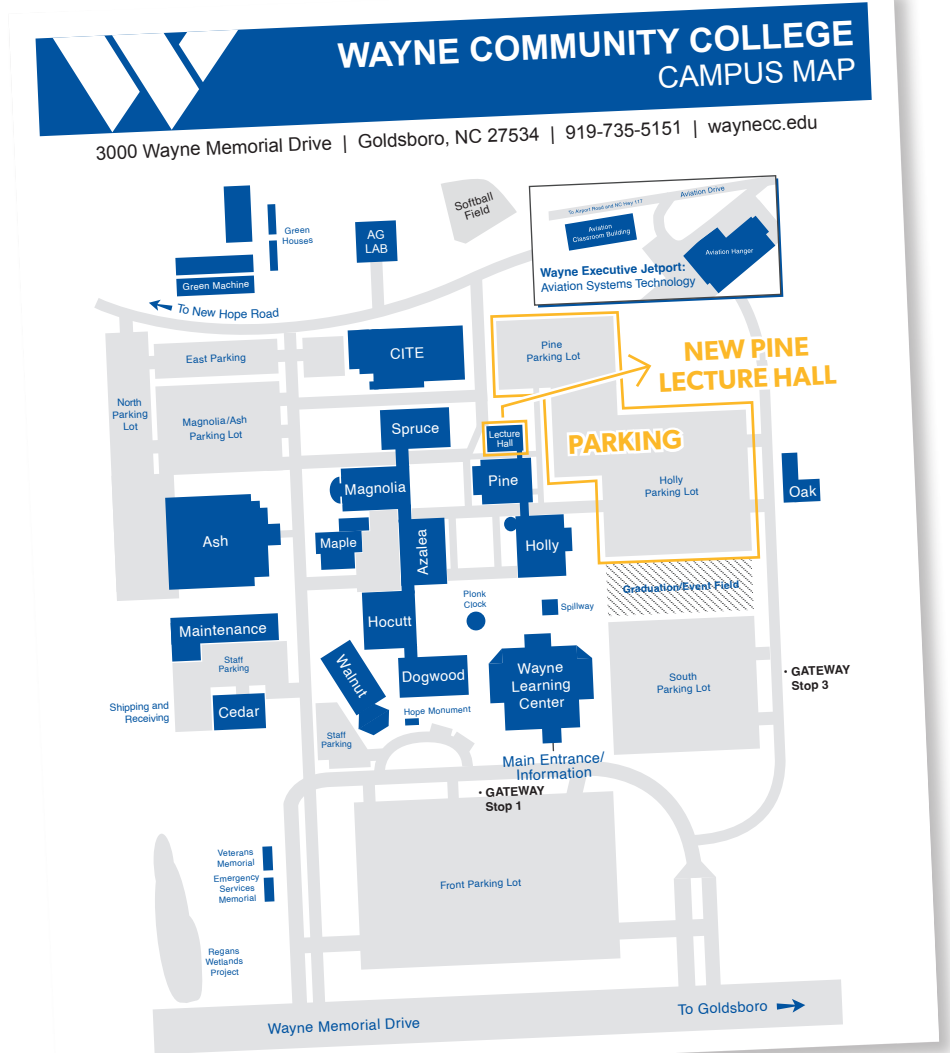


## NEW LECTURE LOCATION!

The Wayne Community College Foundation's Arts & Humanities Series has a new home! This fall, programs will be held in the **newly renovated Pine Building Lecture Hall**, offering a fresh, welcoming space for our community events.

**Parking:** Guests should park in the Pine or Holly parking lots. Please see highlighted map below.

*We look forward to welcoming you to our newly renovated space!*



Please visit our website, [waynecc.edu/foundation](http://waynecc.edu/foundation) where you will find recordings of all Arts and Humanities lectures.



3000 Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27534  
919-739-7022 | [waynecc.edu](http://waynecc.edu)



The Foundation of Wayne Community College encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing accommodation or have questions about access, please contact the Foundation at 919-739-7022 or [jekannan@waynecc.edu](mailto:jekannan@waynecc.edu). Please allow sufficient time to arrange accommodation.

THE VIEW FROM A BOOTH: WAFFLE HOUSE VISTAS AND THE ART OF PAYING ATTENTION

Micah Cash | Monday, October 5 | 5:30 p.m. | Pine Building, Room 147



What can a view through a Waffle House window tell us about the places we call home? In this illustrated talk, North Carolina artist and photographer Micah Cash shares the story behind *Waffle House Vistas*, his critically acclaimed photographic project and book. The photographs document the built environment of the American South as seen through the windows of Waffle House restaurants. Rather than photographing the restaurants themselves, Cash directs his camera outward, using the windows as frames through which to study highways, parking lots, residential neighborhoods, and other features of the vernacular landscape that become larger narratives involving mobility, commerce, labor, economic precarity, and regional identity.

Cash will place the project within the broader context of his artistic career and discuss how sustained observation, documentary practice, and an engagement with the built environment inform his work. At its heart, this talk is about learning to see more carefully. By turning his camera toward places that are familiar enough to disappear from view, Cash invites us to reconsider the environments we encounter every day.

The lecture will also explore *attention* as both an artistic method and a way of understanding the world. By reconsidering places that are frequently overlooked, *Waffle House Vistas* invites viewers to recognize how everyday environments carry social meaning, reflect cultural values, and shape our collective experience of place.

Micah Cash is a visual artist, educator, and nonprofit strategist. His projects use the visual languages of landscape and architecture to investigate narratives of culture, utilization, and economics. He has published two photography books, including the second edition of the internationally acclaimed *Waffle House Vistas*, published by The Bitter Southerner in 2022. His first monograph, *Dangerous Waters: A Photo Essay on the Tennessee Valley Authority* was published in 2017. Micah exhibits internationally, and his work is represented in private and public collections throughout North America and Europe. Micah received his MFA from the University of Connecticut and his bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina.



DEBUNKING THE MYTHS OF MIDWAY

Jeff Williams | Monday, October 19 | 5:30 p.m.  
Pine Building, Room 147

Faculty Spotlight

“This is the west, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”

– The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance

THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT? A MEDIEVALIST’S PERSPECTIVE ON THE APOCALYPSE

Brett Whalen | Tuesday, October 13 | 5:30 p.m. | Pine Building, Room 147  
In partnership with Carolina Public Humanities



For almost two millennia and counting, Christians have awaited the end-times promised by Jesus Christ in the gospels and prophesied in the Book of Revelation. Historically speaking, prophets, preachers, and theologians in the past have viewed various historical events—the fall of the Roman Empire, the rise of Islam, the crusades, the Mongol invasion of Europe, the “discovery” of the New World, and more—as signs that the apocalypse was indeed at hand. So far, they’ve all been wrong. That doesn’t change the fact that such apocalyptic visions have formed an important and enduring part of western history from the Middle Ages down to the present age. Speculating about the end of all things, Christians have expressed their views about politics, society, culture, other religions, and the meaning of history itself. Ideas about the future apocalypse thereby provide a key to understanding the hopes, fears, and anxieties of the present. Indeed, with the year 2033 around the corner, marking two-thousand years since the crucifixion of Christ as traditionally dated, one suspects that apocalyptic worries and yearnings are about to surge yet again.

In this talk, Brett Whalen, a professor of medieval religious history at UNC-Chapel Hill, will discuss some of the ways that Christians have made sense out of the world around them by speculating about the end of days—and how some of them might so again as the apocalyptic year 2033 draws near. Among other works, Whalen is the author of *Dominion of God: Christendom and Apocalypse in the Middle Ages* (2009) and *The Two Powers: Church, Empire, and the Struggle for Sovereignty in the Thirteenth Century* (2019). Whalen presently holds the Zachary Smith Distinguished Term Professorship and is serving as the lead editor of *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*.

LADIES FIRST: THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF DOLLEY MADISON

Elliot Engel | Monday, October 26 | 5:30 p.m. | Pine Building, Room 147



Although there have been 44 First Ladies, Dolley Madison is the only one whose charisma has kept her famous for over 200 years. Through anecdotes, analysis, and large doses of humor, Dr. Engel brings to life this amazing woman whose political savvy made her almost as influential as our early presidents.

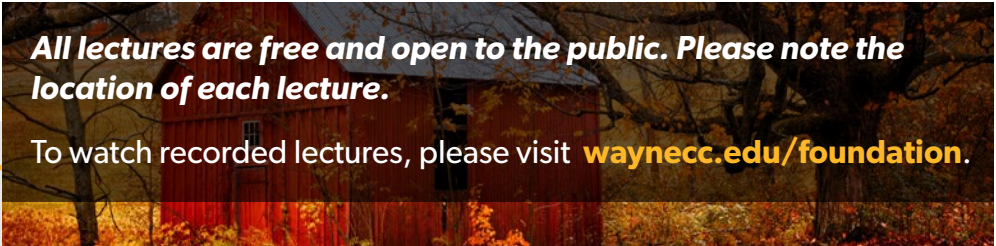
Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Dr. Elliot Engel now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he has taught at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at UCLA. While at UCLA he won that university’s Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Engel has written ten books published in England, Japan, Turkey, and the United States. His mini-lecture series on Charles Dickens ran on PBS television

stations around the country. His articles have appeared in numerous newspapers and national magazines including *Newsweek*. He has lectured throughout the United States and on all the continents including Antarctica. Four plays which he has written have been produced during the last ten years. In 2009, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in England for his academic work and service in promoting Charles Dickens.

For his scholarship and teaching, Dr. Engel has received North Carolina’s Adult Education Award, North Carolina State’s Alumni Professorship, and the Victorian Society’s Award of Merit. Most recently, he was named Tar Heel of the Week for his thirty years of delivering public programs in the humanities and sponsoring state and national literary contests for high school students.

Since 1980, Dr. Engel has been President of the Dickens Fellowship of North Carolina, the largest branch of this worldwide network of clubs. The sales of Dr. Engel’s books, CDs, and DVDs have raised funds for The Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital which Dickens helped found in London in 1852.



All lectures are free and open to the public. Please note the location of each lecture.

To watch recorded lectures, please visit [waynecc.edu/foundation](http://waynecc.edu/foundation).

Jeff Williams has taught English at Wayne Community College since 1998 and has also co-edited WCC’s *Renaissance* magazine since 2006. His creative work has appeared in *Renaissance*, *The Broad River Review*, and *The Southern Quill*. However, he has long been fascinated by history and The Battle of Midway in particular, having first discovered the conflict through the Midway film from 1976 as well as a book—*The Battle Of Midway Island*—found at an elementary school bookfair.