

Spring2025

12pm)

January15, 2025

Dr. Brian Railsback John Steinbeck and the cBT 0.4dkhf Re cBTI R(d)-6 (h)4 (v4l)R1 (n)4 (b)-6 th()10
Dean of The Honors College and Chair of the Faculty there. He teaches creative w
literature. He has published a novel, short stories, scholarly books, and numerous
twenty on John Steinbeck. He has lectured or taught courses in Cuba, Georgia, Hur
Mexico, Morocco, and Portugal. A Fiction Participant at the Bread Loaf Writers Co
2023 he was named the Steve Kemp Writer in Residence at Great Smoky Mounta
Park his essays about living there are in the Fall 2024 issue of Smokies Life Journ
essay, "Searching for 'True Things' with John Steinbeck," appeared last week in th
Steinbeck's Uneasy America: Rereading Travels with Charley (University of Alaba
2025).

Presentation Outline:

- Lecture on Steinbeck's life and major themes.
- Short story reading and group activity.

January 22 2025

Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) McRae Censored, Erased, and Whitewashed: Textbook, Library, and Curriculum Censorship in the 20th and 21st Century South

Biography:

Elizabeth Gillespie McRae is an associate professor and director of graduate studies in history at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. She is the author of *Mothers of Massive Resistance: White Women and the Politics of White Suprema*

Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

January 29, 2025

Dr. Sean Mulholland - Chutes and Ladders: On the Dynamics of Material Inequality and Mobility

Biography:

Mulholland is the Director of the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise and a Professor of Economics at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina where, in 2022, he and his colleagues successfully resurrected the degree in Economics. He is dedicated to cultivating a curious, creative, and compassionate intellectual community devoted to seeking truth and beauty through freedom of thought and expression. He has published research articles on a wide variety of topics, including human capital and economic growth, white supremacist groups and hate crimes, school competition and student performance, and Uber and drunk driving. His research has appeared in many journals, including the Journal of Economic Growth, Public Choice, Economics Letters, and Economics of Education Review. His paper, "Ride Sharing, Fatal Crashes, and Crime" was awarded the George Rosen Prize for the best academic article published in the Southern Economic Journal in 2018. His work has been covered by Ballotpedia, Politifact, National Review, and Tyler Cowen on marginalrevolution.com. Mulholland was awarded the 2019 College of Business Faculty Excellence Award, the 2018 & 2022 Honors College Board of Directors Faculty Excellence

Program at Western Carolina University. As a faculty member, Debby was recognized with a variety of university and college level teaching and service awards, presented at numerous conferences, led an array of professional development workshops, and collaborated with many community partners. Debby is also a certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide and Trails Consultant with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy (ANFT) and is a passionate advocate for the wellness benefits of time spent in and around nature. As an educator, outdoor leader, facilitator, and artist, Debby blends a unique perspective of science, creativity, connection, and joy into her presentations, workshops, and guided experiences. Debby's

Presentation Outline:

Clara and Abigail will discuss the Southern Environmental Law Center's work with a focus on public lands including the Nantahala Pisgah National Forest in Western North Carolina.

February 26, 2025

Dr. James Costa Darwin and the Art of Botany and Further Darwinian Experimental Adventures

Biography:

DR. JAMES (JIM) COSTA is professor of biology and executive director of the Highlands Biological Station of Western Carolina University (highlandsbiological.org), where he teaches biogeography, Darwin's Origin of Species, and, with WildSumaco Biological Station in Ecuigica) C(n)

You have read the books (Outlander), seen the TV shows (Outlander, again), watched the