

# Become a Member

Membership entitles you to discounts off both the price of attendance for the Elder Learners Lectures and the fees for the Learning Unlimited courses

**Saturday morning lectures begin at 9:45 a.m. with mid-morning refreshments and a light-lunch follows each lecture**

**Learning Unlimited courses are normally held over four Saturday mornings, 9:30am to 12:00 noon**

Anyone can join regardless of age. Come and enjoy the fellowship and stimulating topics on lecture day and enrol in a course. A further advantage of membership is your invitation to join in the fun of the coach tours and visit interesting locations in the company of friends.

Saint Mary's University and Elder Learners are committed to programs for lifelong learning and striving to become more aware of the heritage, culture and tradition of not only Nova Scotia but also of Canada and the world.

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## Inclement Weather

For the most up-to-date information please call the Saint Mary's University Cancellation/Closure Hotline at (902) 491 -6264 or check the Saint Mary's website: [www.smu.ca](http://www.smu.ca).

If the university is closed due to poor weather conditions then Elder Learners is automatically cancelled.

**LECTURES AND COURSE FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER OR ILLNESS OF GUEST SPEAKER.**

## Executive 2016-2017

President- Mary-Jane O'Halloran  
Past President- Carmen Moir  
Vice-President- Linda MacDonald  
Treasurer- Elaine McCulloch  
Secretary- Davena Davis

## Members at Large

Ken Adams  
Lois Block  
Bessie Harris  
Noelle Murphy

## Contact

Elder Learners  
Continuing Education  
Saint Mary's University  
923 Robie Street  
Halifax NS B3H 3C3

Phone: (902) 420-5020  
E-mail: [conted@smu.ca](mailto:conted@smu.ca)  
Web: [conted.smu.ca](http://conted.smu.ca)

**“The Important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” Albert Einstein**

We are committed to programs for lifelong learning. We strive to deliver programs that raise awareness of the heritage, culture and tradition of not only Nova Scotia but also of Canada and the world.

We have sponsored over 130 lectures. Our fall and winter lectures are held on Saturday mornings with a wide-range of topics, most of which are submitted by our members. You will find yourself immersed in many of our fascinating lectures with well-informed presenters who make their stories come alive.

Elder Learners continues their initiative to offering a program of short courses on Saturday mornings in the fall and spring. Diverse topics and instructors from all professions make these courses unique.

**Interesting and exciting lectures have encompassed:**

- The Ghosts of Deadman's Island
- Titanic
- Fraud Prevention
- The Four Citadels
- Infectious Diseases
- Historical Dynamics of Clothing
- Nova Scotia's Role in the War of 1812

**Previous courses have included:**

- Music Appreciation
- Art and Medicine
- Genealogy
- Journal Writing
- Meditation and Spirituality
- Markets and Ethics
- The Canadian Constitution

# Senior Resources Association ElderLearners

*An Association of Life Long Learning*

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## Fall 2016 Lectures



**Financial Booms, Bubbles, or Busts**



**Astronomy - Beginnings and extremes of our universe. Big Bang and Black Holes**



**History of movie making in Nova Scotia**

## Fall 2016 Course

**Economists Debate Capitalism through History**



**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY** SINCE 1802

CONTINUING EDUCATION

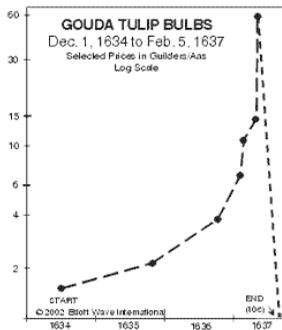
## Financial Booms, Bubbles, or Busts

Dr. Colin Dodds

Saturday September 24 2016  
McNally Theatre Auditorium

Money and finance go back over 7000 years and are at the core of everyday living. They can be both the beauty and the beast. They can act as an engine of growth, but when financial bubbles burst and markets and institutions crash, they leave a lasting legacy of unemployment and ruined lives. History is replete with financial crises whether the Tulip mania in Holland, banks runs and the big one- the 1929 crash that ushered in the Great Depression. Of course we can relate to the 2007-09 subprime crisis which led to the Great Recession in many countries from which we have still not fully recovered. We will explain the underlying causes of past bubbles which include greed and stupidity and discuss how we might mitigate the effects of the next global financial crisis.

**Colin Dodds** is a former President and Vice Chancellor of Saint Mary's University having served three terms from 2000-2015. Educated in the UK, he has taught at many universities in Canada and around the world and has published extensively on financial markets. He is a Director of the Bank of Canada, and sits on the boards of the Asia Pacific Foundation, World University Services and locally, the BBB, Discovery Centre and the Halifax Grammar School. He has received many awards, including both the Gold and Diamond Queens Jubilee medals. Currently he is a Professor of Finance in the Sobey School of Business.



## Astronomy - Beginnings and extremes of our universe. Big Bang and Black Holes

Dr. Robert Thacker

Saturday October 29 2016  
McNally Theatre Auditorium

From the Big Bang to black holes, our Universe is full of weird, wonderful and yet downright confusing things! Even simple questions like “What happened before the Big Bang?” or “Is there anything outside the Universe?” don’t have simple common sense answers. The answers tell us our common sense is limited to our realm of everyday experience.

This talk will take the audience on a journey from the beginning of time to some of the most extreme environments in our Universe. Beginning with the Big Bang, we’ll talk about what it really was and how we can get a better understanding of what happened. We’ll see how black holes really are exceptionally different to the way they are portrayed in movies and even newspapers. So-called “supermassive” black holes with masses up to a billion times the mass of the Sun exist in the centres of some giant galaxies and have had an enormous impact on the evolution of those galaxies. These ideas are now quite well established, although a great many details and some even more outlandish ideas remain to be explored!

**Rob Thacker** joined Saint Mary's University as a Canada Research Chair in 2007. He is driven by a passion to know what makes the universe tick, and a desire to share that enthusiasm with everyone. Combining the scientific insight of an internationally renowned astrophysicist with a flair for relating difficult concepts in everyday terms, he is as at home on television and radio--as Dr Rob on News 95.7--as he is presenting at international scientific conferences and leading national research plans.



## History of Movie Making in Nova Scotia

Ron Foley MacDonald

Saturday November 26 2016  
McNally Theatre Auditorium

Halifax and Nova Scotia have a rich and rather unexpected motion picture history. Since media production is usually concentrated in the largest population centres of countries, the large amount of activity here is worth looking in to and celebrating. In this brisk illustrated lecture--with plenty of room for audience involvement--we will look at the whole of the picture, from Nova Scotians who went away (mostly to Hollywood--Actor David Manners, producer Wallace MacDonald, dancer Ruby Keeler, director Dan Petrie) to homegrown productions (William D. MacGillivray, Andrea Dorfman) to filmmakers from away who chose to come here (Robert Frank, Thom Fitzgerald). We will also take a tour through the many strange references to Nova Scotia in the movies, from the opening of Preston Sturges famous comedy “Unfaithfully Yours” to the Spencer Tracy/Elizabeth Taylor feature “Father Of the Bride”. Finally, there will be special emphasis on World War Two when both Hollywood--Randolph Scott in particular--and government filmmakers came calling.

**Ron Foley Macdonald** is a motion picture producer from Halifax whose latest picture “Exit Thread” has been selected by multiple festivals around the world while winning awards in several competitions. He has been the Film Curator at the Dalhousie Art Gallery since 1986. He was the Senior Programmer at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax from 1986 to 2016. Macdonald has taught film history and documentary at NSCAD for 15 years (1986-2001) with shorter teaching stints at Dalhousie and MSVU. He worked for the National Film Board for more than a decade and has been an arts reporter for CBC radio. Macdonald was the music and theatre critic for Halifax Daily News; he has also written for The Chronicle Herald, the National Post and the Globe and Mail.

## Economists Debate Capitalism through History

Daphna Levit

Oct 22, Nov 5, 12, and 19  
Location TBA

Has Capitalism failed? Again and again we observe frantic efforts of central bankers and governments to control the global financial markets. Should we condemn Capitalism for being unjust and unstable? Or simply condemn the greed of individuals and institutions that seem to cause or exacerbate the scary sequence of crises? But how did this economic system become globally pervasive? What were the basic assumptions that gave it such widespread dominance? Theories of human organization, descriptive and normative, are the concern of philosophers, economists, social scientist, since the earliest records of history. From a philosophical concept Capitalism developed into the foremost economic system. Over the centuries, many critical thinkers have expressed forceful views about this widely practiced system. Although no one has yet presented a worthy alternative, the voices of dissenters have also grown louder. Has it failed? Has it been badly managed? Is it the fault of politicians? Is it fundamentally unethical? This course will examine through history, the basic assumptions and arguments about capitalism as expressed by the greatest Western thinkers.

**Daphna Levit:** After her Ph.D. in Comparative (Japanese) Literature at Indiana University, Daphna Levit went on to take graduate degrees in Finance (MBA) and East Asian Studies (Economics) from Cornell University. She spent much of two decades in Japan, a third in London, England and New York, employed as a financial analyst by some of the giant Wall Street firms that recently topped the headlines. She got out of the industry before the penultimate global economic crisis and went on to teach Finance and Economics to MBA students. Fourteen years ago she moved to Nova Scotia and has been teaching in various academic institutions. She has also co-authored a book on the Middle East and has given several talks on that subject all over Canada. She now lives near Lunenburg.