
May, 2008

President's Message

Greetings,

It's difficult to believe that another academic year has flown by. Three courses remain on our calendar for the balance of April and May. Mike Lythgoe will continue to lead the discussion on the Cold War spy novel, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, while Suzanne Broderick, the designer of the Labyrinth at Hopelands Gardens will describe the realm of myth and sacred geometry of the Labyrinth. The final course of the semester, and another addition to our presentation of the major religions of the world, is Hinduism, presented by Dr. Niren Vyas. I hope that you've enjoyed this year as much as I have and that you're looking forward to September and an even greater number of interesting courses.

For those of you who missed it, our last General Meeting on April 18th honored Chuck Braun with the Kauffman Award, presented annually to the Academy member whose service to the Academy has extended over a period of many years. Chuck recalled that in the Academy's early years the total number of courses offered for the entire year was nine. Well, this coming fall semester the Academy will be offering twenty courses as well as several special events. Chuck has served on the Curriculum committee since its inception and is responsible for much of the growth and success of the Academy. We thank Chuck for his enthusiasm and leadership over the years, and we thank the Kauffman family for making this award, as well as a special luncheon and speaker possible.

Finally, I'd like to offer congratulations from all the Academy members to Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, and our main contact with the administration of USCA. Deidre is being honored with a Woman of Excellence Award by the Central Savannah River Council of the Girl Scouts of America.

Vince Coughlin, Academy President

PRESIDENT-ELECT POSITION STILL VACANT FOR 2008/2009 TERM

The President-Elect performs the duties of the President in his/her absence, oversees the formation and election of the Nominating Committee and guides its activities in an ex-officio capacity, and accepts assignments from the President, including ex-officio membership on designated committees. The President-Elect assumes the duties of the President the following year.

We very much need a willing Academy member to be President-Elect for next year. Won't you please consider offering your services to the Academy by agreeing to fill this position? Contact Doug Wilson, Nominating Committee Chair at 643-9187 or email spiral@email.toast.net.

CHUCK BRAUN RECEIVES KAUFFMAN AWARD FOR 2008



The Academy presents the Earl Kauffman Award to recognize outstanding individual contributions to the organization.

This year, Chuck Braun is being honored for his long service to the

Academy, his volunteer spirit, his active participation as a member of the Curriculum Committee, his generally positive attitude, and creative, congenial spirit.

After graduation from the University of Buffalo, NY, Chuck Braun was employed as a chemist by Dupont and, later, Westinghouse. In 1953 he was transferred to the Savannah River Plant;

CHUCK BRAUN (CONTINUED) ..

Aiken has been his home since then.

Chuck retired in 1995--giving him more time to pursue his many interests, particularly Birding. Chuck sought to see and photograph at least one member of each species in each family of birds world-wide. He has accomplished that. Now he continues to add to his list of 6,544 species. He has long shared his birding adventures by teaching classes and has served the Academy since the early 1990s. Chuck has presented many programs to groups in the Augusta and Aiken areas, including the Augusta Audubon Society where he has been an active member since the 1960s. Chuck writes a column for the quarterly magazine BioPhilately entitled "New Birds in the Philatelic Aviary." This is an extension of his collection of birds on stamps.

As an Academy volunteer in the last 5 years alone, we know Chuck to have been a recruiter of instructors and coordinator of courses ranging from Bridge to Islam, from Art History to Great Decisions.

Chuck is an example to all who would continue learning for a lifetime. He also collects coins, plays chess and duplicate Bridge, and is a member of the Astronomy Club. He will be birding in Ghana in May. He loves to tell stories about the people he meets on his trips. We also salute his wife Joyce, who also is an actively participating Academy member.



L to R: Larry Peyser - Academy President 2008/09, Chuck Braun, Joyce Braun, Vince Coughlin – Academy President 2007/08

FIRST LOOK AT NEXT SEMESTER'S OFFERINGS

The dates and times of these courses are fixed; however, in some instances, the room assignments will not be finalized until the catalog is released in early August 2008.

An **Open House** will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008 in the Business and Education Building on the USCA campus. Time and room number for the Open House will be announced in the Aiken Standard. You will be able to register for courses at the Open House or by returning the form in the catalog.

Terrible Decisions – presented by Vince Coughlin will consider several Supreme Court decisions that either have had a tragic result or are of questionable Constitutional basis. 4 Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 @11:00 to 11:50am.

A Living History of Plantation Life: History, Architecture, and Art – Joy Raintree, Manager of Redcliffe Plantation at Beech Island will explain the Redcliffe Plantation site. The second class will be held at the Plantation and the third class at the Morris Museum, in Augusta. 3 Tuesdays, Sept. 9, 16 and 23 @ 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Evolution – In a series of three lectures, Dr. Harry Shealy of USCA will explain some of the historical background that gave rise to the ongoing debate over evolution, including what is science and what is not science. He will offer some of the historical and current explanations for the mechanisms of evolution. He will also discuss various views on the current debates and controversies about teaching evolution verses the "balanced" approached of teaching Darwinian evolution and Intelligent Design. 3 Wednesdays, Sept 10, 17 and 24 @ 11:00 – 11:50am.

Islamic Political Thought –presented by Dr. Steve Millies. This course focuses on the forces that have shaped the political traditions of the Muslim World and examines key figures from the time of the Prophet Muhammad until the 20th century. 4 Mondays, Sept. 15, 22, 29 and a brown-bag lunch on Oct. 6. First three classes 10:00 to 10:50am, Oct. 6 @ 1:00pm.

Russians, Spies and Assassins – The Literature of Espionage. Three novels will be discussed and the purchase or sharing of these books is highly suggested to facilitate class discussion. Mike Lythgoe will be the instructor. 4 Mondays, Sept. 15,

22, 29, and Oct. 6 @ 1:00pm for the Sept. classes and 11:30am for the Oct. 6 class.

Literature with a film at the Morris Museum – this series continues our association with the Morris Museum in Augusta. One Monday each month a novel will be discussed by Don Blount on the USCA campus and a film version of that novel will subsequently be shown at the Morris by Kevin Grogan. The novels are *The Scarlet Letter*, *Moby Dick*, and *Intruder in the Dust*. Discussions on Monday, Sept. 15, Oct. 6 and Nov. 10 @3:00 to 3:50pm with films on Wednesday, Sept 17, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19 @ 1:00 to 3:50pm at the Morris Museum.

Cardiac Health – presented by Joyce Pompey, RN and a member of the USCA faculty of the School of Nursing. This three-session course will address important cardiac health issues important to both men and women. 3 Tuesdays, Sept. 16, 23 and 30 @ 2:00 – 2:50pm.

Lifelong Learning Wine Tasting – Lorraine Riley of Riley's Whitby Bull will delight your palette with a selection of Spanish wines and tapas. This will be of interest both to novices and experienced wine tasters. A "corking fee" of \$25 is required for excellent food and wine. This course will fill up fast! One session only: Monday Sept 22 @ 3:00 – 3:50pm at Riley's Whitby Bull 801 East Pine Log Road. **Class size limited to 20 members.**

Short Story and Film – Dr. Robert Hart will present four short stories in both print and film. The works will be by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, Willa Cather, and Ring Lardner. Class participants are strongly encouraged to read each week's short story before class to facilitate discussion of the work after the film. 4 Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22 @3:30 pm at the Cedar Creek Community Center.

Life and Legend of Aiken County – Elliott Levy, the Director of the Aiken County Historical Museum at Banksia will coordinate a 4 part series at the Historical Museum. The sessions include: "Ladies of Aiken County," followed by "A Child's Life When . . ." presented by Mary White. The third session will feature Lynn Thompson in period dress that will transport us to the South Carolina of the late 18th century. The final session will be a tour of Banksia, including the beautiful grounds, the schoolhouse and the log cabin. Admission to the Museum is free! The classes will be held on 4 Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 @ 10:00am at Banksia.

Horse Creek Valley – Owen Clary, Chairman of the Aiken County Historical Commission will conduct a

two-session class on an unusual area of Aiken County called Horse Creek Valley. The first session will be a lecture about the people and towns in "The Valley." The second session will be a car-pool driving tour of "The Valley" with stops at oddities and unusual eateries described in the first session. 2 Tuesdays, Oct. 7 and 14. The lecture on Oct. 7 is at 10:00 am and the carpool driving tour is at 9:30 am on Oct. 14.

South Africa – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – Rob Courtenay, a native of South Africa and now a U.S. citizen, presents an interesting 4 part series on South Africa. The course will look at present-day South Africa and explore its history and the turmoil it experienced as a result of wars between the indigenous people and European settlers, as well as the Boer War. The course will discuss apartheid, the eventual destruction of that system and South Africa's potential for developing into a modern industrial and democratic State . . . if it can overcome the challenges it faces. 4 Wednesdays, Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29 @ 10:00 – 10:50 am.

Baroque to Big Bands – Dr. Dick Maltz and Adjunct Professor Bill Foss who will provide examples and insights into musical genre from the earliest organized bands, starting in 1910 through the Big Band era ending in the late 1960's, will present a series of 6 classes jointly. Also discussed will be the resurgence of the Big Band in the 1990's. 6 Mondays, Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10 and 17 @ 1:00 to 1:50pm.

Genesis: Judith Evans will present The First Book of Moses –. Genesis recounts the Judeo-Christian history of the world from the creation to the descent of the children of Israel into Egypt. The course will be taught in 6 sessions on six successive Tuesdays, Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25 @ 11:00 to 11:50 am.

Help! I Need to Sell (Renovate) My House! Jenny Jahn, owner of *Functional Spaces*, has been renovating and selling homes in Aiken for the past twenty years. Ms. Jahn will reveal tricks and techniques for staging houses to sell faster, for top dollar. Other sessions will discuss what to consider when planning remodeling and how to get organized. 3 Tuesdays, Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4 @ 1:00 – 1:50pm.

The Economics of the Aiken Equestrian Community – Associate Professor, Dr. Sanela Porca will describe the Aiken County economy and profile the equestrian industry and its effects on the local economy. Dr. Porca specializes in public finance and

urban and regional economic development. This one session class will be held on October 30th @ noon.

Horse Industry – Three topics will be covered in this three-session course. Session one will discuss equine rescue, session two will describe equestrian events such as dressage, cross-country and show jumping. Cot Campbell, the owner of Dogwood Stables will present the last session. 3 Wednesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12 @ 3:30pm at the Cedar Creek Community Center.

What Were They Thinking? This course will give you a perspective on three recent controversial projects in Aiken. Topics include the rebuilding of the Aiken Railroad Depot, the African-American Cultural Center and an insight on why the Design Review Board approves some unusual things and, yet, rejects other seemingly innocuous things. 3 Wednesdays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12 @ 11:00 to 11:50 am.

The Mystery of the Christian East – Eastern Orthodox Christianity – Dr. James Cutsinger will lead a three-session course on the basic doctrines of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The course will consider art, forms of worship and contemplative methods. The course will meet for 3 Mondays, Nov. 10, 17 and 24 @ 10:00 to 10:50 am.

Can Politics and Honest Statistics Mix? Robert Botsch, Professor of Political Science at USCA will present a four session hands on analysis of political surveys. Dates and time to be determined. Class size will be limited to 20 students.

Special Events

Fall Steeplechase – Join your fellow members of the Academy for the 18th running of the Fall Steeplechase. Admission cost is \$15 per person and parking on the grounds is an additional charge of \$10 per vehicle. Date, Saturday Oct. 25, gates open at 9:30 am, First race is 1:00 pm. Everyone should bring a dish to pass and drinks to share.

Meet the Author – Bernard Kearse – Mr. Kearse is a practicing attorney in Atlanta. His latest book, “Bethany: Adventures of the Mighty Mustard Seed” is a book that dares to unlock the adventure of the Old Testament. Friday, Sept. 19 @ 2:00 to 2:50 pm.

John Singer Sargent: An American Painter in Europe – From Portraits to Venice, from Madame X to Spain. Art Historian John Elliott of USCA will focus on the American painter, John Singer Sargent (1856 – 1925) who was a successful portrait painter as well as a gifted landscape painter and water colorist. His European paintings include scenes of Venice and Spain. The class will meet on Nov. 10th at 2:00 to 2:50 pm in the Humanities Building, room 103.

Fall Bus Trip to Historic Columbia, SC – This trip includes a visit to the Governor’s Mansion, as well as to the Caldwell/Boyston Gardens and the Lace Home. Lunch is included at the USC Culinary School Dining Room. Price, a modest \$42. Date: Thursday, Oct. 16. We will board the bus at 8:15 am in parking lot A, USCA.

Holiday Luncheon – Woodside Plantation Country Club. Social with cash bar begins at noon followed by lunch at 12:30 pm. The “Heart Throbs” will provide music. Price, \$26.50. Date: Friday, December 12th.

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Academy Officers: Vince Coughlin, President; Mike Lythgoe, Immediate Past President; Larry Peyser, President Elect; Kathy Reiter, Secretary, and Roy Wright, Treasurer.

Chairpersons and Other Members of the Academy:

Board of Directors: Jack Perkins, Curriculum Chair; Erna Arkin, Curriculum Chair-Elect; Judy Perkins and Elizabeth Majors, Publicity Co-Chairs; Elayne Kantor, Membership Chair.

Non-Members: Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Director of Conferences & Continuing Education; Dr. Bill Brockington, Faculty Liaison; Dr. Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

Academy on the Web:

www.usca.edu/conted/academy.html

ACADEMY CALENDAR – MAY 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 10am <i>Walk the Labyrinth</i> [HG] 11:30am <i>Walk the Labyrinth</i> [HG] 1pm <i>Tinker, Tailor</i> [P106]	6 11am <i>Hinduism</i> [P110]	7	8	9	10
11	12 <u>Rain Date</u> for <i>Walking the Labyrinth</i> [HG] 1pm <i>Tinker, Tailor</i> [P106]	13 11am <i>Hinduism</i> [P110]	<u>Classes End</u> Remember – Academy Open House, August 14 th , look for time and location in the Aiken Standard.			

[Location Codes]

P = Penland Building at USCA
HG = Hopeland Gardens

CC = Cedar Creek Community Building