



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

The Spiral

OCTOBER, 2008

President's Message

Gotthold Lessing (1729-81) the German Philosopher tells us that 'the search for truth is more precious than its possession', and Carl Sagan (1934-96) the American Astronomer advised that 'intellectual capacity is no guarantee against being wrong'. Let us examine how these two thoughts apply to our past and present endeavors.

In the first instance the Academy has been growing and serving the interests of its Members for eighteen years. You might say we possessed the truth in the fact that you, our customers, were registering, attending classes and finding satisfaction with the product.

Your curriculum committee, since last year, has been surveying Academy members for their input as to what topics and course materials they would have offered as choices. The committee found the answers you gave were less than completely in line with course categories and subjects being offered. They also learned that you wanted more substance; so much for having a corner on truth.

The Academy cannot offer enough credit to Publicity Co-Chairs Judy Perkins and Elizabeth Majors for developing the first 'questionnaire' and then improving it with subsequent revisions. Judy, Elizabeth and Curriculum Committee Chair Erna Arkin have analyzed the results over two semesters to identify your areas of interest. They presented their analyses to the curriculum committee. So armed, members of the committee search the campus professorial staff and our community to find experts to develop and present short courses for your enlightenment. As for substance, many of our courses now come with reading assignments and group discussion.

With regard to Carl Sagan's statement, we find that intellectual capacity abounds in the Aiken area and among Academy members. The breadth of that capacity becomes evident in listening to discussions by and with Dr. Elaine Lacy; "Mexican Immigration", with Dr. Harry Shealy; "Evolution: Theory or Reality", with Mr. Vince Coughlin; "Terrible Decisions", or Dr.

Steven Millies; "Islamic Political Thought". Lecturers continually report that Academy members attending their classes represent a 'breath of fresh air' because of member expressed interest, opinions, convictions and thoughtful inquiry.

It is a sure bet that during the course of instruction in these and other offerings this semester some, if not all, members will find their previously acquired knowledge, opinions and /or beliefs revised and reregistered in their intellectual vaults. It is also certain that the engaging, inquisitive, interpretive mind will question the results of its own intellectual pursuit, thus continuing life's precious search for truth.

Larry Peyser, Academy President

USCA International Efforts to be presented at October Academy General Meeting



Dr. Thomas L. Hallman, Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Aiken, will address the Academy at its General meeting for October. His topic will be USCA's efforts in "international" issues and their importance in our current world situation. Dr. Hallman will discuss such issues as study abroad and bringing international students to the Aiken

campus. He may include one or more faculty members to bring their perspective on the issue of how USCA prepares its students for the broader world we live in today.

The general public is welcome at Academy General Meetings, so bring a friend along to learn about the Academy and all it offers.

Join us at 2:00 pm October 10 in Room 106, Penland Administration Building on the USCA campus. Following the meeting will be a reception with refreshments.

Please Notify the Academy of Courses You Enrolled in but Cannot Attend

Due to the large number of classes being offered this term, a number of our classes must be held in smaller classrooms with limited seating, thus limiting the number of enrollees. As a result, a number of classes filled early, and additional hopefuls are on wait lists. If you find you cannot attend a class you have signed up for, please contact Laura Anderson to cancel the class, so that someone on the wait list will have a chance to attend. Contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

Courses and Events Beginning in October

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions. To enroll, return the form in the published catalog or contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

- **Short Story and Film: A Comparative Study** - This popular course taught by Dr. Robert Hart returns for another term. A short literary work is assigned each week which the student is expected to read before the class. A film version will be viewed in the class, followed by discussion.
Dates: 4 Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 1
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Cedar Creek Community Bldg.
- **America on Paper and Celluloid** – This series continues as Don Blount leads discussions at USCA of three great American novels, followed by Wednesday screenings of the film versions with Kevin Grogan at the Morris Museum. October's topic: Melville's *Moby Dick*.
Monday, Oct. 6, 3:00 – 3:50pm
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 12:30 – 3:30pm
- **History of Aiken County Then and Now** – Elliott Levy, Director, Aiken County Historical Museum, will coordinate a 4-part series held at the Museum.
Dates: 4 Mondays, beginning Oct. 6
Time: 10:00 a.m.
- **Horse Creek Valley Revisited** – Owen Clary, Chair of the Aiken County Historical Commission, will give a talk on the thirteen towns in "The Valley" for the first session. The following week he will lead a driving tour of the area. Class is limited to 35 students. [FILLED]
Dates: 2 Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 7
Time: 10:00 a.m.
- **South Africa – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow** – Rob Courtenay, a South African native now residing in Aiken, presents a series on South Africa history, geography, economy, government, and cities of this nation in transition.
Dates: 4 Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 8
Time: 10:00 a.m.
- **Baroque to Big Bands** – The USC Aiken Music Department will present recordings that provide us with examples and insights into musical genres from past to present. Jointly presented by Dr. Richard Maltz and Professor Bill Foss. Class size is limited to 60 students.
Dates: 6 Mondays, beginning Oct. 13
Time: 1:00 p.m.
- **Bus Trip to Historic Columbia (Event)** – Highlights will include the Governor's Mansion, Lunch at the McCutcheon House by the USC Culinary Institute, and three historic house tours. The trip is limited to 42 participants and has a cost of \$42 per person. [FILLED]
Date: Thursday Oct 16
Time: 8:15 am, USCA Parking Lot A
- **Genesis: The First Book of Moses** – Judith Evans will discuss the content of *Genesis*, the Judeo-Christian history of the early world, which contains many of the best known stories of the Old Testament.
Dates: 6 Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 21
Time: 11:00 a.m.
- **Help, I Need to Resell/Renovate/Reorganize My House!** - Jenny Jahn, owner of Functional Spaces, will present three sessions devoted to staging houses to sell, planning and executing remodeling, and getting organized.
Dates: 3 Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 21
Time: 1:00 p.m.
- **Horse Sense** – Three key members of the Aiken "Horse Community" will present: Cot Campbell (owner of Dogwood Stables), Larkin Steele (Aiken Horse Rescue), and Lellie Ward (Eventing). The 4th week, Ms. Ward will give Academy members a walking tour of her Paradise Farm horse farm.
Dates: 4 Wednesdays beginning Oct 29
Time: 3:30 pm
- **What Were They Thinking?** - Discussion of projects vying for funding with Aiken tax dollars. Topics covered: The Center for African American History Art, and Culture (T. Ella Strother), Aiken Railroad Depot (Tim Simmons), and the Aiken Design Board which approves or rejects submitted projects (Rosamond McDuffie). [FILLED]
Dates: 3 Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 29
Time: 11:00 a.m.
- **Horse Cents** – Learn about the Equestrian Industry and its effect on the Aiken County economy, with Associate Professor Sanela Porca.
Date: 1 Thursday, Oct. 30
Time: 12:00 p.m.

- **Fall Steeplechase (Event)** – Join your fellow Academy members at our railside space for the 18th running of the Aiken Fall Steeplechase. Bring a dish to pass and drinks to share. Cost is \$15/person. The track will also charge \$10/vehicle if you wish to park on the grounds.
Date: Saturday Oct 25
Time: Gates open 9:30 am, first race 1:00 pm

Highlights of September Board Meeting, 9/12

President Larry Peyser called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M. Present were Mary Ann Cavanaugh, Edie Mayer, Glenn Knowles, Kathy Schulz, Vince Coughlin, Erna Arkin, Elizabeth Majors, Judy Perkins and Dr. Elaine Lacy.

Dr. Lacy was introduced as the Academy's new faculty liaison. She said she was anxious to begin work to help us find instructors for areas that our membership had expressed interest, and also to bring forth subjects and instructors where the faculty has a particular strength.

The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Erna Arkin, Curriculum Chair, announced that for the Spring semester twenty two classes were pretty well defined, along with three special events and two trips. This must all be ready for the printer by October 8.

Elizabeth Majors, Public Relations, was called on next, and trips became the subject of a long discussion. First, the trip to Columbia this Fall is full, but a second is possible if a second bus is full by the close of business 9/15. Second, the issue of what to do with potential refunds for leaving clean buses after trips was raised. A motion was passed to keep any refunds for subsidizing future trips. (It was established that we could set up a separate account for this purpose.)

Continuing with Publicity, Elizabeth said there will be publicity regarding Fall classes that are still open. Judy advised the Academy will have a presence at the Senior Extravaganza at Odell Weeks September 17. Also, for the Spring, planning is well underway for a Garden tour, and an outing to the Cuban Restaurant (including entertainment by Academy members).

Kathy Schulz, Membership Chair, made a motion to have the University cater the receptions following general meetings at a cost in the neighborhood of \$2.00 per person, with Board review after each meeting. The motion passed. Larry will monitor atten-

dance and advise Mary Anne for estimating future reception attendance.

Under old business, Larry said the new microphone and lectern are in place. Reaction to the both was very positive. And Larry worked yesterday with today's speaker to fine tune the new sound system.

Larry pointed out we may have two Board positions to fill, Curriculum Chair Elect, and, the position of President Elect remains empty.

Under new business, Vince advised of a contact from a Mt. Vintage resident expressing interest in the Academy and asking us to go there to make a presentation. The discussion centered on what the contact really wanted to accomplish (courses taught there, etc.). Larry and Erna will follow.

Vince raised the issue of having two sessions of the same course. He pointed out the cost could become prohibitive when paying for the instructor. Scheduling is also a problem. It was left we generally do not want to have two session of the same course.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

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Academy Officers: Larry Peyser, President; Vince Coughlin, Immediate Past President; (Vacancy), President Elect; Glenn Knowles, Secretary, and Edith Mayer, Treasurer.

Chairpersons and Other Members of the Academy:

Board of Directors: Erna Arkin, Curriculum Chair; Geraldine Bankhoff, Curriculum Chair-Elect; Judy Perkins and Elizabeth Majors, Publicity Co-Chairs; Kathy Schulz, Membership Chair.

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

Academy on the Web:

www.usca.edu/conted/academy.html

ACADEMY CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Curriculum Committee</i> 9am [B Conf] <i>Mexican Immigration</i> 10am [P106] <i>Short Stories</i> 3:30pm [CC]	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Aiken History</i> 10am [Aiken Hist. Museum] <i>Russians, Spies, and Assassins</i> 11:30am [P110] <i>Islamic Political Thought</i> 1pm [P110] <i>America on Paper: Moby Dick</i> 3pm [P106]	7 <i>Horse Creek Valley</i> 10am [P110]	8 <i>So. Africa</i> 10am [P106] <i>Short Stories</i> 3:30pm [CC]	9	10 <i>Board Meeting</i> 12:30pm [P110] <i>General Meeting</i> 2pm [P106]	11
12	13 Columbus Day <i>Aiken History</i> 10am [Aiken Hist. Museum] <i>Baroque to Big Bands</i> 1pm [N114]	14 <i>Horse Creek Valley (drive tour)</i> 9:30am [P110]	15 <i>So. Africa</i> 10am [P106] <i>America on Celluloid: Moby Dick</i> 12:30pm [Morris Museum] <i>Short Stories</i> 3:30pm [CC]	16 <i>Columbia SC Bus Trip</i> 8:15am-5:30pm [USCA Parking Lot A]	17	18
19	20 <i>Aiken History</i> 10am [Aiken Hist. Museum] <i>Baroque to Big Bands</i> 1pm [N114]	21 <i>Genesis</i> 11am [P106] <i>House Help</i> 1pm [P106]	22 <i>So. Africa</i> 10am [P106] <i>Short Stories</i> 3:30pm [CC]	23	24	25 <i>Fall Steeplechase</i>
26	27 <i>Aiken History</i> 10am [Aiken Hist. Museum] <i>Baroque to Big Bands</i> 1pm [N114]	28 <i>Genesis</i> 11am [P106] <i>House Help</i> 1pm [P106]	29 <i>So. Africa</i> 10am [P106] <i>Aiken WWTT</i> 11am [B143] <i>Horse Sense</i> 3:30pm [CC]	30 <i>Horse Cents</i> 12noon [P106]	31 Halloween	

[Location Codes]

B = Business & Education Bldg @ USCA

N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA

P = Penland Bldg at USCA

H = Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg @ USCA

CC = Cedar Creek Community Building