
October, 2009

President's Message

This will be rather short since you will find elsewhere in *The Spiral* information concerning courses which begin in October as well as a summary of the Minutes of the Academy Board of Director's meeting of September 11.

My concern is that very few of our members attend the monthly general meeting which is held on the second Friday of each month, except for December, when we have our Holiday luncheon, and April when we have the Kauffman lecture. The purpose of the general meeting is to convey information to our members and to provide a speaker who will discuss a topic that, we believe, furthers the Academy's mission of informing our members about current events.

This past Friday we were fortunate to have Dr. Donald Portnoy, the former conductor and musical director of the Augusta Symphony as our speaker. Dr. Portnoy is currently the Director of Orchestral Studies and Conductor of the USC Symphony and Chamber Orchestra in Columbia, SC. Dr. Portnoy related antidotes about his recent conducting experiences in China and discussed the upcoming program for the USC Symphony. He also told us about the Donald Portnoy International Violin Competition that will be held on September 24 and 25 at the Maxwell Theatre, Augusta State University, where twelve semi-finalists, of various nationalities, will compete. The turnout to hear Dr. Portnoy was disappointingly small.

Your curriculum committee and officers work to provide you with a broad and diversified list of courses and events. You can show your appreciation by supporting our efforts and attending the general meetings.

In October, Chancellor Thomas Hallman will address the Academy members on October 9 at 2 p.m. in the Penland auditorium, room 106. Dr. Hallman's topic will be, "A Champagne Education on a Beer Budget." For those of you who may have missed the article in the Aiken Standard or in U. S. News and World Report, USC Aiken was listed as the number one public university offering baccalaureate degrees in

the South. USC Aiken also has been ranked as one of the top three public baccalaureate schools in the south for twelve consecutive years. As Academy members, we are fortunate to have USCA as our sponsoring institution. Let's show our appreciation for Dr. Hallman by attending his talk on October 9th.

Vince Coughlin, Academy President

Catalog Update

Please update your copy of the course catalog to reflect this change: Next month's *Health and Humor* course, beginning on November 4, will meet in the Penland Administration Building on the USCA campus, Room 106, NOT in the Nursing Building as listed in the Catalog.

Courses Beginning in October

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions (available on the web at <http://web.usca.edu/dotAsset/5157.pdf>). To enroll, return the form in the published catalog or contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

- **Islamic Culture and Muslims** – (Dr. Mohammad Hailat) 4 Thursdays at 1pm, beginning Oct 1.
- **Japanese Flower Arranging -- Ikebana** – (Hideko Rainey) 4 Thursdays at 2pm, beginning Oct 1.
- **Native Americans and the Law** – (Dioné Carrol) 4 Tuesdays at 10am, beginning Oct 6.
- **Don't Kill That Critter on Your Doorstep!** – (Sean Poppy) 2 Thursdays at 10am, beginning Oct 8. Held at Savanna River Ecology Lab.
- **Wilderness Writing** – (Dr. Jill Brady Hampton) 3 Wednesdays at 11am, beginning Oct 14.
- **Fall Steeplechase** – [Special Event] Saturday, October 24.
- **Taste of the Valley** – [Special Event] (Owen Cleary) Tuesday, October 27, 10am to 2pm.
- **Birding, Birdwatching, and Twitching** – (Chuck Braun) 4 Thursdays at 1pm, beginning October 29.

AARP Driver Safety Program Offered to Local Seniors in November

The following is presented for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of this program by the Aiken Academy for Lifelong Learning.

The American Association of Retired People (AARP) has offered driver safety programs to seniors and other interested parties for 30 years. The current course, geared for drivers of age 50 and older, is designed to develop a greater appreciation of driving challenges and how you can avoid potential collisions and injuries to yourself and others, in consideration of common age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time. Insurance companies in South Carolina are required by law to give a premium discount to those insureds 55 years of age and older that have successfully completed the course.

The class will be held at Aiken Regional Medical Center on Friday, November 6. It begins promptly at 8:30 am and lasts through mid-afternoon with a "working lunch". Students may bring a sack lunch or may purchase lunch in the cafeteria. Cost of the class is \$14 (AARP members with a member card pay \$12), payable on the day of class. Make check payable to AARP.

Advanced registration is recommended to assure your space. To register for the class call Aiken Regional Medical Center at (800) 882 7445.

For further information, the AARP Driver Safety Program web page can be found at http://www.aarp.org/families/driver_safety/.

September 11 Board Meeting Summary

President Vince Coughlin called the meeting to order. Those present were Doug Wilson, Kathy Schulz, Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Jane Friis, Erna Arkin, LaVerne Speca, Vince Coughlin, Dick Baxter, Susie Sadowski, Wesley Sloan, and Glenn Knowles.

The minutes of the March 13, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Jane Friis reviewed Roy Wright's Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2009. The balances then were \$8,236.65 for savings and \$511.90 for checking. The balances are currently \$5,886.65 and \$736.90 respectively. These will change significantly as membership dues are reflected in future account reports from USCA and needed expenditures are made for the new year. Vince commented that the

By-Laws indicate the existence of a finance committee. Jane, Susie, Wes, and Vince will form that committee and will meet at a mutually agreeable time to discuss issues concerning categories to be delineated and balances to be kept, along with any other concerns and will report back to the board at its next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mary Anne said she received a thank you note from Dr. Deidre Martin for the Academy's donation of \$2,000 to the program endowment fund. Due to increased money in the account, we voted last year to increase this amount to \$4,000 this year. There was animated discussion concerning our donations of \$2500 to the Retention Scholarship and \$1000 to the ALL Scholarships this year. It was decided that we will defer payment of these to next month after we get an updated balance that reflects this year's dues payments. We will continue to allow the University to select the recipients, as we have been pleased with the results thus far.
- Susie will report the Survey results along with a summarization of comments to Doug so that he can publish them in the Spiral. Susie will report on the results at the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- OSHER - Vince, Mary Anne, Deidre, Judith, Dick, Larry, Glenn, and possibly Adele O'Connell will be involved in researching the pros and cons of applying for a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. OSHER Grant. There are four other such programs in South Carolina (Clemson, Furman, Beaufort, and Coastal Carolina). Generally the memberships are much higher than ours; however they combine Continuing Ed, Senior Net, and ALL classes. Also, many of their classes are one session only and the cost to members is higher. There are many unanswered questions which need to be addressed by this committee. They will collect information and weigh the results and report back to us.
- Senior Extravaganza – Dick, Laverne, Connie, Vince, and Gerry, and Marsha MacDonald will man our table (booth #53) on September 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Kathy will set up the day before. Vince and Mary Anne will discuss the possible use of a display board.
- Membership – Kathy reported our enrollment is currently 230 members. We noted that the number usually goes up during the second semester. She also said 37 people are signed up for the three rail spaces she has reserved for this fall's Steeplechase.

- By-Laws – Vince formed a committee with Doug, Kathy, and Glenn and/or Larry to meet with Mary Anne and Laura to update our by-laws. We will then be able to make them available to our membership online through the University or at the library. The availability of hard copies will be determined.
- AARP Drivers' Course – We will publicize this course in *The Spiral* for informational purposes for the benefit of our membership. We are not endorsing it nor providing any type of support for it.
- New Member Name Tags - Mary Anne brought new member name tags to be distributed during the general meeting.
- *The Spiral* – If committees have anything to publicize in *The Spiral*, they should give their information to Doug. His deadline is the 20th of the month so he can submit his material to Laura by the 25th.
- Courses taught by Members – There was a great deal of discussion concerning whether or not

Academy members and/or Curriculum Committee members should be paid for teaching courses. Most members decline the honorarium we offer. There is no policy regarding this currently in place, but since there could be a conflict of interest, it needs to be addressed. Due to time restraints, Vince moved and Kathy seconded that we table this discussion until the next meeting.

The Spiral is published monthly, except June, July, and August, by the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the University of South Carolina – Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. 803-641-3587. Doug Wilson, Editor

Academy Officers: Vince Coughlin, President; Larry Peyser, Immediate Past President; Glenn Knowles, President Elect; Erna Arkin, Secretary; Jane Friis, Treasurer.

Chairpersons and Other Members of the Academy:
Board of Directors: Richard Baxter, Curriculum Chair; Susan Sadowski, Curriculum Chair-Elect; Gladys Olson and LaVerne Speca, 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: <http://web.usca.edu/conted/academy/>

ACADEMY CALENDAR – OCTOBER 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Islamic Culture</i> 1p [P 106] <i>Ikebana</i> 2p [P 110]	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Native American Law</i> 10a [P 110]	7 <i>Curriculum Cmte.</i> 9a [B Conf] <i>Sri Lanka Rebel</i> 11a [P 106]	8 <i>Don't Kill That Critter</i> 10a [SREL] <i>Islamic Culture</i> 1p [P 106] <i>Ikebana</i> 2p [P 110]	9 <i>Board Meeting</i> 12:30p [P110] <i>General Meeting</i> 2p [P106]	10
11	12	13 <i>Native American Law</i> 10a [P 110]	14 <i>Wilderness Writing</i> 11a [P 106]	15 <i>Don't Kill That Critter</i> 10a [SREL] <i>Islamic Culture</i> 1p [P 106] <i>Ikebana</i> 2p [P 110]	16	17
18	19	20 <i>Native American Law</i> 10a [P 110]	21 <i>Wilderness Writing</i> 11a [P 106]	22 <i>Islamic Culture</i> 12:30p [P 106] <i>Ikebana</i> 2p [P 110]	23	24 <i>Fall Steeplechase</i>
25	26	27 <i>Native American Law</i> 10a [P 110] <i>Taste of the Valley</i> 10a [Graniteville Shopping Center]	28 <i>Wilderness Writing</i> 11a [P 106]	29 <i>Birding</i> 1p [P 106]	30	31

[Location Codes] B = Business & Education Bldg @ USCA H = Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg @ USCA
 N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA P = Penland Bldg @ USCA CC = Cedar Creek Community Building
 SREL = Savanna River Ecology Lab