
NOVEMBER, 2009

President's Message

Greetings:

The fall semester is quickly drawing to a close and the holidays will soon be upon us. Your curriculum committee has completed its work for the upcoming spring semester and there is an interesting lineup of twenty courses and four special events, some of which, we hope, will please almost everyone. The course information has been sent to USCA Administration and it is anticipated that the Learning for Life Catalog will be mailed to members in early December. A preview of next semester's offerings will also be listed in next month's issue of *The Spiral*.

The results of the member survey, found elsewhere in this issue of *The Spiral*, provide guidance for the curriculum committee in selecting courses and instructors. Congratulations to Dick Baxter and Susie Sadowski and the other members of the committee for their fine work. A special thank is extended to Wesley Sloan for his dedicated work in editing and organizing the course descriptions for the Academy portion of the Learning for Life catalog.

We have learned that because of USCA budget constraints, fewer catalogs will be printed for the spring semester, however, all current members will be mailed a catalog. If you or a friend did not receive one last semester, call Laura Anderson and provide her with your current address. Also, we are working with the University administration to provide alternative methods of reaching others in the community. The web address for the Academy may be found elsewhere in *The Spiral*. We anticipate running an ad in the local papers listing the courses and, hopefully, a registration form for those who have not received a catalog.

Finally, the venue for this year's Holiday Luncheon is Houndslake Country Club. The cost of the meal is attractively priced at \$22.50 and soprano Maureen Simpson will provide the music. It is not too late to sign up by visiting Laura Anderson in her office. Telephone reservations cannot be accepted.

A Special Concern – Please Read:

As a retired attorney, I'm a strong supporter of free speech. But I also believe that Academy instructors,

while they encourage questions from the members, must be treated with courtesy and consideration. Twice in recent weeks, an Academy member used an overtly argumentative tone when posing questions to a USCA faculty member who had graciously agreed to teach one of our classes on a subject that is of considerable interest to our members. The instructor can certainly defend himself from such questions, but I believe that the attitude exhibited by the questioner was disrespectful and, therefore, reflects badly on the Academy.

The curriculum committee goes to great lengths to obtain instructors and to provide a wide range of topics that we believe will be of interest to our members. The tone of the questioning, especially in the October 15 session, was indefensible. We value the USCA faculty members who give of their time to the Academy and it is the least we can do to provide a welcoming environment.

Vince Coughlin, Academy President

No-Shows a Problem

Many of our courses are held in large enough classrooms that all who wish to attend can be accommodated. Some courses, however, must be limited in the number of enrollees that can be accepted, due to classroom space limitations or other factors. When limited capacity classes fill up, there generally is a waiting list of additional people who would like to take the course but could not get in.

If you are enrolled in one of these limited enrollment courses and find that you cannot attend, your empty spot can be used by somebody else on the wait list. Please let the Academy know so that arrangements can be made for somebody to take your place. Contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

Patrick Clayton to Speak at November 13 General Meeting

The speaker at our next General Meeting of Academy Members will be Special Agent Patrick Clayton of the Drug Enforcement Administration, US Department of Justice. He will discuss drugs as they

relate to Homeland Security. Agent Clayton has been with the DEA for about 20 years and has spent time with various law enforcement agencies, including NCIS, Charleston County Police, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Air Force Police.

The meeting will be Friday November 13 at 2 pm, held at Room 106 of the Penland Administration Building on the USCA campus. All members are encouraged to attend, and visitors are welcome. There will be a reception with refreshments following the meeting.

Classroom Change for *Health and Humor* Course

Dr. Linda Johnston'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.

Member Survey Results

72 people returned the Member Survey Form included in the Fall 2009 Course Catalog. This represents over 30% of our current members. This information will be very useful as the Academy plans future courses and events. Here's what the respondents said:

Number of years as an Academy member:

New Members: 27%	11-15 years: 4%
1-5 years: 49%	16-20 years: 1%
6-10 years: 19%	

What persuaded you to join the Academy?

USCA catalog mailed to you: 42%
Friend/neighbor: 28%
Article in Aiken Standard/Mature Times: 14%
Realtor: 7%
Brochure/catalog in public place: 1%
Senior Extravaganza at Odell Weeks: 1%
Other: 7% (mostly previous contact with University, spouse, or learned of it somehow before moving to Aiken)

Out of 7 possible, how many General (2nd Friday of the month) Meetings did you attend from Fall 2008 to Spring 2009?

Of the 53 responses to this question, an average of 2 meetings were attended per member. The range was 0-7, with 21 members or 40% of members never attending.

Which of the following would increase the likelihood of your attending a General Meeting:

Different day: 6 members

Different time: 8 members

Different topics: 10 members

Comments: Most responded that Fridays and afternoons were difficult times for them. Members wishing different topics wanted topics that were varied.

Have you taken a trip with the Academy?

Yes: 41%

No: 59%

Under what circumstances you would be most likely to take a trip? Options were ranked 1 to 8, where 1 is least important and 8 is most important (mean rankings shown):

Destination that interests me: 6.8

Destination I wouldn't go on my own: 6.0

Cost less than \$50: 5.9

Time on bus no more than half of total time: 4.8

Cost \$50-\$100: 4.3

Flexible refund policy: 4.0

Limited walking: 3.8

Likelihood of good weather: 3.2

Ratings of classes attended in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 terms (1=one of the worst, 2=not very good, 3=good, 4=very good, 5=one of the best; mean ratings shown):

America on Paper & Celluloid: 5.0

Bus Trip to Columbia: 4.9

Indian Cooking: 4.7

Great Decisions: 4.5

To Heller & Back: 4.4

Terrible Decisions: 4.3

A Night in Havana: 4.3

Plantation Life: 4.3

Horse Creek Valley Revisited: 4.3

History of Aiken County Then & Now: 4.3

Horse Sense: 4.3

Learning & Memory: 4.3

Genesis: 1st Book of Moses: 4.2

Aiken Garden Tour: 4.2

John Singer Sargent: Am. Painter: 4.1

Mexican Immigration: 4.1

Eastern Orthodox Christianity: 4.1

Metropolitan Opera Series: 4.1

Lost Sites in Aiken: 4.1

South Africa: 4.0

Horse Cents: 4.0

Wine Tasting: 4.0

American Sign Language: 4.0

Fall Steeplechase: 4.0

Modern War-Soldier & Society: 4.0

Evolution: Theory or Reality: 3.9
 Russian Spies & Assassins: 3.9
 What Were They Thinking: 3.9
 Declaration vs. the Constitution: 3.9
 Baroque to Big Bands: 3.9
 Dulcimers: 3.8
 What's the Pointe: 3.8
 Springing into Poetry Forms: 3.8
 Aging & Cognition: 3.7
 See the Pyramids along the Nile: 3.7
 Changes in India: 3.6
 Cardiac Health: 3.6
 ABC's of Water Features: 3.6
 Holiday Luncheon: 3.5
 Convocation Center: 3.5
 Islamic Political Thought: 3.4
 Aiken Co. Political Surveys: 3.3
 Help, I Need to RRR My house: 3.2
 Short Story & Film: 3.0
 International Exchange Rate: 2.9
 Interior Decorating: 2.9
 Health & Home Sweet Home: 2.5

Courses Beginning in NOVEMBER

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions (Fall 2009 catalog available on the web at web.usca.edu/dotAsset/30001.pdf). To enroll, return the form in the catalog along with any required payment. For questions, contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

- **Understanding Criminal Law** – (Vince Coughlin) 4 Tuesdays at 12:10pm, beginning Nov 3.
- **The Saga of Jacob's Family** – (Judith Evans) 4 Tuesdays at 1:30pm, beginning Nov 3.
- **Health and Humor** – (Dr. Linda Johnston) 3 Wednesdays at 1:00pm, beginning Nov 4. **Classroom change: Penland 106**
- **West Virginia Blenko Glass** – [Special Event] (Rick and Ellen Huston) Thursday, Nov 5, 1pm.

October 9 Board Meeting Summary

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

The minutes of the September 11, 2009, meeting were approved.

Jane Friis reported the checking balance is \$736.90 and the savings account balance is \$23,172.89. Everyone agreed that the report was clear and concise, and it was accepted. Jane asked that the fin-

ance committee not meet until she has sufficient time to become more familiarize herself with the data in the USCA accounting reports. Since no progress had been made thus far, it was agreed that this was a good idea.

OLD BUSINESS

- Survey Results – These will be published in the November issue of *The Spiral*. The main issue was the Friday General meetings and their poor attendance. Several questions on the survey addressed these meetings. Friday meetings will remain the same for spring 2010, since speakers have already been scheduled. However, in the fall, meeting dates and times could be altered, or we might limit Friday meetings to September, when we'll have registration and will ask Dr. Hallman to speak, the December Holiday Luncheon, and the Kaufman Recognition Award meeting in April.
- OSHER – Since the OSHER organization will be taking no action until the end of 2010, no progress has taken place with this committee. Many unanswered questions need to be addressed such as: What restrictions will be placed on our spending of the money? Will we have more for scholarships? Will we be able to offer honorariums to USCA professors? Will an off-campus location deter professors from teaching classes? The meeting time and place to discuss these concerns and many others is to be determined.
- Senior Extravaganza – Vince thanked volunteers Dick Baxter, LaVerne and Angelo Specca, Gerry and Marsha MacDonald, and Kathy Schulz for helping out. They distributed 80 catalogs and felt their visibility made attendance worthwhile.
- By-Laws – Glenn offered to chair this committee. It was agreed that our needs must be analyzed so that our new By-Laws will reflect them. Once changes have been made to the By-Laws, they will need to be voted on by the membership. Vince suggested that they be printed in *The Spiral* where members can tear off and submit their ballot.
- Compensation of Academy members and Curriculum Committee Instructors - After a great deal of discussion including the issue of a possible conflict of interest, it was decided that compensation might be optional for everyone, but the updated By-Laws will reflect the new procedure.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dick Baxter, the Curriculum Committee and Wesley Sloan were congratulated for organizing and describing 20 Classes, 3 Special Events, and 1 Trip for Spring 2010.
- Catalog Reduction – Due to USCA budget cut-backs, the printing of catalogs will be reduced from

over 43,000 to 11,000. Of these, 10,000 will be mailed and 1,000 will be kept on hand for local distribution to places such as the library, museum, and events such as the Senior Extravaganza. We will need to run an ad in the Aiken Standard and Augusta Chronicle with a listing of classes and a registration form just prior to registration. We also need to be assured that the University's web site will have accurate and current information on our classes. Doug also mentioned that the creation of an independent web site was an option.

- Dr. Hailat Reimbursement – Appendix B, Section 1. b) iii. of the Academy Policies and Procedures permits reimbursement of instructors for instructional materials. The Board agreed to reimburse Dr. Hailat for expenses incurred in obtaining brochures and a movie for his Islam class.
- Class No-Shows for Limited Classes – This continues to be a problem. It was decided that Doug will

write another article in *The Spiral* concerning this issue.

- Kathy asked for an announcement be made at the October Friday meeting that Steeplechase tickets would be mailed to those who registered and that they should have them by the week of October 12. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m..

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, and 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 Specia, 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 – NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 <i>Criminal Law</i> 12:10p [P 106] <i>Jacob's Family</i> 1:30p [P 106]	4 <i>Health and Humor</i> 1:00p [Change: P 106]	5 <i>Birding</i> 1p [P 106] <i>Blenko Glass</i> 2:30p [P 106]	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Criminal Law</i> 12:10p [P 106] <i>Jacob's Family</i> 1:30p [P 106]	11 <i>Health and Humor</i> 1:00p [Change: P 106]	12 <i>Birding</i> 1p [P 106]	13 <i>Board Meeting</i> 12:30p [P110] <i>General Meeting</i> 2p [P106]	14
15	16	17 <i>Criminal Law</i> 12:10p [P 106] <i>Jacob's Family</i> 1:30p [P 106]	18 <i>Health and Humor</i> 1:00p [Change: P 106]	19 <i>Birding</i> 1p [P 106]	20	21
22	23	24 <i>Criminal Law</i> 12:10p [P 106] <i>Jacob's Family</i> 1:30p [P 106]	25	<u>26</u>	27	28
29	30					

[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