



The Spiral

December, 2009

President's Message

Season's Greetings

As I write this, the fall semester is rapidly drawing to a close and the holiday season soon will be upon us. The Learning for Life Catalog for the spring semester is scheduled to be mailed early in December and twenty courses as well as four special events will be offered. A brief summary of the offerings appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The courses in Japanese Cooking, Planning for Your Care in Your Later Years, Frank Lloyd Wright, Great Decisions, Carolina Bays, and the special events including the bus trip to Mepkin Abbey, and Wine Tasting at Riley's Whitby Bull are limited in class size so I urge you to sign up as soon as you receive your catalog. You must register either by mail or in person. Laura Anderson is unable to accept registration by phone.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Holiday Luncheon at Houndslake Country Club, and for those of you who are unable to join us for the luncheon, I wish you the very best for the holiday season and the new year.

Vince Coughlin, Academy President

Special Event in December

The academy monthly program for December will be our annual Holiday Luncheon. This event will be held this year at the Houndslake Country Club, Friday December 4 at 12:00 noon. Entertainment will be provided by Maureen Simpson.

Spring 2010 Courses and Events Announced

The Academy course and event schedule for Spring 2010 has been set. The catalog will be published and mailed in early December. Here's an advanced peek at the coming semester's offerings. All classes will be held on the USC Aiken campus, Room 106 of the Penland Administration Building, unless otherwise indicated. More complete descriptions, as well

as the **required registration form**, will be found in the published catalog.

Reminder: Some courses have limited enrollment due to classroom size or other factors. Most such courses will have wait lists of those wishing to take the course but who could not get in. If you are enrolled in such a class but find you cannot attend, please notify the Academy so your place can be offered to someone on the wait list.

Football for Women - This class will focus on football basics as we lead up to the Super Bowl.

Dates: 3 Wednesdays, Jan 6, 13, 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Cedar Creek Community Center

Metropolitan Opera Series – The Academy's own diva and Musical Director of the Aiken Choral Society, soprano Maureen Simpson, will present a tour of four of the six operas to be shown on a theater screen in Augusta, January through May.

Dates: 4 Mondays, Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The History of Polo in Aiken - Taught by Pam Gleason, active polo player, publisher of *The Aiken Horse* newspaper and editor of *Aiken Polo Club Magazine*, this course will explore the history of polo as it relates to Aiken

Dates: 3 Mondays, January 11, 18, 25

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

The Formerly Soviet South: The International Politics of the Caucasus and Central Asia - The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulted in eight newly independent states in the Caucasus and Central Asia. This course will explore the domestic and international politics of these, often unstable, newly independent countries on the southern periphery of Eurasia. Dr. Tom Wood, USC Aiken Department of History and Political Science, will teach this course. Dr. Wood has lived in former Soviet Central Asia and researches the region.

Dates: 4 Tuesdays, Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2

Time: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Relativity and the Genius of Albert Einstein - The course is structured around Einstein's "thought experiments," which ask very simple questions about common events leading to Einstein's profound conclusions. This instructor is George Hummert, Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon, an Electrical Engineer who spent most of his career at the Westinghouse Research Laboratory in Pittsburgh, and has lived and worked in Aiken since 1993. This course is intended for a general audience, and will *not* include mathematical descriptions.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4
Time: 10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Four Writers On Writing: Their Own Writing and Their Favorite Writers – Four local/regional writers, one per week, will discuss their writing and those of a favorite writer of their choosing. Vicki Collins, the course leader, is an instructor at USC Aiken and past president of the Augusta Writers Club. She will present the prose of Raymond Carver as well as some of her own creative work. Starkey Flythe, Jr. was the re-founding editor of the *Saturday Evening Post* in the 1980s, and won the University of Iowa Press award in 1989 for a collection of short stories, *Lent: The Slow Fast*, and published a collection of poems, *Paying the Anesthesiologist*, in 1995. Roy Seeger is a USC Aiken faculty instructor, and author of *The Boy Whose Hands Were Birds* published in 2008. He will select a favorite poet. Linda Lee Harper, is a former USC Aiken English professor and is the author of a prize-winning book of poetry *Kiss... Kiss*. She will be celebrating Linda Gregg, her favorite poet, as well as readings from her own books.

Dates: 4 Mondays, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Animal Behavior - Assistant Professor of Biology Michelle Vieyra will present a course on the fascinating world of animal behavior, including communication, predator-prey interactions and reproductive strategies.

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Japanese Cooking - Ami Carlson, a native of Japan, will share some of the basics and secrets of Japanese cuisine. Recipes will be provided at all four sessions. A \$20 fee covers the cost of food, paper products and utensils. **Class is limited to 15 students.**

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: First Presbyterian Church

All-stars of Psychology - Academy member and former Advanced Placement Psychology teacher Ken

Brace will examine contemporary research in Psychology. The work of Robert Sternberg, Philip Zimbardo, Martin Seligman and Howard Gardner will be reviewed. Topics to be discussed will include: Intelligence, Optimism, Obedience to Authority, and Reciprocal Determinism.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Cedar Creek Community Center

Planning for Your Care in Your Later Years- This class will present options to consider when planning for your future as you age. The topics explored will include living environments, level of care, statistics of the aging population, resources, and costs. What one can expect from Medicare, Medicaid, VA, private insurance, and private pay will also be discussed. Finally, you will be advised in how to be a caregiver for a spouse or family member and where you can seek help with this role. Kathy Crist, B.S. in Family Resources and owner/administrator for "Right At Home" will be the presenter.

Dates: 4 Tuesdays, Feb. 9, 16, 23, and Mar. 2
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Penland Admin., Rm. 106

Frank Lloyd Wright - Owen and Linda Clary are devotees of Wright's style and will relate some of the eccentricities of this brilliant, controversial architect. The presenters have visited and photographed over twenty of his structures around the country. They will attempt to qualify why he was 100 years ahead of his time and will show why many of his structures surviving today can be called "green."

Dates: 2 Tuesdays, Feb 23, Mar 2
Time: 10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Intelligence: What it is, How it Works and Doesn't

- Dr. David Andrews, retired professor of Psychology who specialized in the relationship between the brain and cognition, returns with another of his popular courses.. This course will examine the concept of intelligence, where it comes from, what we mean by it, how it is measured, various components that contribute to its work, the role of language, and areas where intelligence seems to not work well (e.g. learning disabilities). Genetics and experience (including prenatal) will be considered, as well as the relationship between intelligence and emotion and motivation.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, Mar 11, 18, 25, Apr 1
Time: 10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Great Decisions/Discussions - This Spring term favorite which always generates lively discussions returns again this year. Participants are expected to purchase the *Great Decisions 2010 Briefing Book*, which will be available through USCA Continuing

Education. Class members are asked to read the first chapter prior to the first class in order to facilitate discussion of the first topic. The remaining topics in the briefing book will be discussed in subsequent weeks with the discussion led by a class member.

Class size will be limited to 35.

Dates: 8 Thursdays, Mar 11, 18, 25, Apr 1, 15, 22, 29, May 6.
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location Penland 110

The Hydrogen Economy as a Fuel Source - Dr. Ragaiy Zidan, a research scientist at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), will discuss The Hydrogen Economy, a proposal for the distribution of energy by using hydrogen. Topics will include hydrogen production, storage, and utilization, and compares hydrogen to fossil fuels and other alternatives. The research work at SRNL will be discussed in detail.

Dates: 3 Tuesdays, March 16, 23, 30
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Carolina Bays - Carolina bays are elliptical depressions concentrated along the Atlantic seaboard from Delaware to Florida. David Scott from Savannah River Ecological Laboratory will share his knowledge about the plants and animals of these bays and the ecology of these vanishing wetlands. The first class will be at USC Aiken. The second class will meet at the Carolina Bay Nature Reserve in Aiken. **Class is limited to 25 students.**

Dates: 2 Wednesdays, March 17, 24
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Making of Edgewood: Stage of Southern History - Associate Professor of History, Dr. Maggi Morehouse, served as historical consultant and assistant producer/director for a recent docudrama produced by USC Aiken which will premier March 30th. Dr. Morehouse will lead a discussion of the film, which features the Pickens-Salley House, now located on the USCA campus, and tells the story of two influential women that lived there: Lucy Pickens, wife of South Carolina's secessionist governor, and Eulalie Salley, a suffragist and pioneering businesswoman. The course will highlight the "behind the scenes" research, history, and storyline crafting that went into the production. The film itself will not be shown during the class.

Dates: 2 Mondays, March 22, April 12
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Criminal Procedures – Academy President and retired attorney Vince Coughlin returns with another of his popular excursions into the Constitution and legal matters, this time concentration on criminal proced-

ures, such as the Miranda ruling and 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendment issues.

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, Mar 31, Apr 14, 21, 28
Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Cedar Creek Community Center

Human Rights in the Information Age - Natalia Poppeliers, Library Collections Coordinator at USC Aiken, examines basic concepts of the human rights framework and ways in which new developments in information technology have hindered, helped, or raised new issues for human rights actors and researchers. Readings will be drawn from a number of texts and will be available in the USC Aiken Library. Participants will be expected to complete weekly readings for discussion and monitor news sources for current examples of intersections between human rights and information technology.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, April 1, 15, 22, 29.
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm 106

The Art of the Narrative in Fiction – USCA Assistant Professor Andrew Geyer will teach the course. Topics include narrative forms, the origin of the short story, historical review of what makes a "well-told" story, and readings from Prof. Guyer's works.

Dates: 4 Mondays, April 5, 12, 19, 26
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Younger Next Year - Dr. Brian Parr of USC Aiken will offer a program to improve the quality of your life as you have moved into retirement age. Based on the popular books written by Chris Crowley and Henry S. Lodge, the program stresses that exercise should be a part of your life as you age. Professor Parr will highlight the advantages of following the Younger Next Year program regardless of your age.

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, April 14, 21, 28, May 5
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Special Events – In addition to the courses listed above, four "one time" special events have been scheduled. **Note that for events involving a fee, you are not considered to be registered until your fee payment has been received. Once fees have been paid, refunds cannot be made, so if you cannot attend you will need to find your own replacement.**

- **African Museum** – Sharon M. Brown Museum at Idylwood is the collection of the late Rev. Badon H. Brown. It is an exhibit of a life time of collecting from several continents featuring animal mounts, decoys, African Art, spiders and shells. "This is truly a hidden local treasure that most people are unaware of, and it is a real

treat that the Academy has been invited to experience it." **Class is limited to 25.**

Date: Tuesday March 9

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: 718 Hayne Ave. SW. Park on Chafee by the iron gates. (Only the carriage house will be open for the visit.)

- **From the Workshops of the Italian Renaissance: Leonardo da Vinci** – Dr. John A. Elliott, Associate Professor of Art History at USC Aiken, will discuss the relationship between Leonardo and his master, Andrea del Verrocchio, plus Leonardo's influence on other Renaissance masters, such as Giovan Francesco Rustici and Peter Paul Rubens.. Before the class date, please consider visiting the High Museum in Atlanta (www.high.org) to view the new exhibit entitled "Leonardo da Vinci: Hand of the Genius"(October 6, 2009 – February 21, 2010).

Date: Monday, Feb 1

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: to be determined

- **Mepkin Abbey Bus Trip** - Mepkin Abbey is an active Trappist Order monastery founded in 1949, located on the Cooper River, north of Charleston, South Carolina. There will be a guided tour of the church and the Nancy Bryan Luce Gardens. Lunch will be in a private room at Gilligan's, on the waterfront in Moncks Corner, where participants may choose from one chicken and three seafood entrées. The trip price does NOT include payment for lunch, which will vary according to your choice of entrée. **Limited to 52 participants.**

Cost: \$23 plus lunch cost

Date: Friday March 26

Time: 7:30 boarding to leave at 8:00 a.m.

(We plan to return to campus between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.)

Location: Parking Lot A, USC Aiken

- **Wine Tasting** - The Academy is again offering its popular wine tasting class. Lorraine Riley will delight your palate with Australian wines and appropriate heavy hors d'oeuvres. **Space is limited to 25 participants.**

Cost: \$25

Date: Tuesday, February 16

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Riley's Whitby Bull, 801 East Pine Log Road

November 13 Board Meeting Summary

President-Elect Glenn Knowles, called the meeting to order. Those present were: Glenn Knowles, Dick Baxter, Kathy Schulz, Erna Arkin, Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Elaine Lacy, Larry Peyser, Jane Friis, Doug Wilson, Wesley Sloan, and LaVerne Specia.

The minutes of the October 9, 2009, meeting were amended to show that "Kauffman" has two f's. They were then approved.

Jane Friis reported our savings account balance is \$20,265.35 and the checking account balance is \$736.90. The issue of a finance committee came up again as our By-Laws state that we are supposed to have one. It is to track our expenditures and income in a monthly report and prepare and recommend a proposed budget. Since our treasurer prepares a monthly report and decisions concerning our budget have been proposed by the board president and treasurer and voted on by the board, the By-Laws do not currently reflect our practices. Larry therefore proposed that the existence of a finance committee be deleted from the By-Laws. He suggested that the treasurer be charged with budgeting our money with assistance from another board member. They are then to present their findings which are to be voted on by the entire board. Glenn, who is the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, said he will take this suggested change under consideration so that the By-Laws do reflect our current practice.

Kathy asked for a check for \$100.00 to pay Leone Philbeck, the accompanist for the holiday luncheon.

OLD BUSINESS

- Steeplechase- Kathy reported a turnout of 40 people and said everyone seemed to have a good time. Doug and Sherry Wilson organized the betting. Doug said purchasing the third rail space worked well and might be considered for next year. With everything considered, this event broke even. John Novak supplied a tent/canopy this year which was easily assembled. Vince suggested that we purchase one of these for the future. This will be considered at a later date. Glenn complimented Kathy and thanked her for a job well done.

- Holiday Luncheon – Kathy reported there are 51 members and 4 guests registered for the Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 4, 2009, in the Ben Hogan room at Houndslake Country Club. There will be a piano in the room and Maureen Simpson will provide entertainment. Vince will donate two bottles of wine for door prizes and if Judy Perkins is successful in having Publix donate

a basket, which will be a door prize as well. Again, this event will break even.

- Curriculum Committee – Dick will issue a possibilities list with approximately 30 class suggestions and speaker ideas for next year. Elaine announced that Dr. Tom Mack is willing to offer a course or two for us. He has just published a book about the CSRA. Elaine also commented that the university is being encouraged to engage the community in discussions of controversial issues whereby civil discourse would be modeled. She wanted to know if the Academy would be interested in participating in such a program. Since there would be no fee involved, it was suggested that this might be a good fit with our Friday programs.
- Publicity – LaVerne needs to know when an ad will go in the paper. Mary Anne and Deidre will meet with Dee Taylor in December and will let LaVerne know. Doug has written an article re the Spring Course and Event Schedule as the basis for a *Mature Times* piece in December.
- By-Laws – Glenn reported that the By-Laws Committee is up to Article 9.

NEW BUSINESS

- Because of the poor turnout for General Meetings, the Board discussed possible ways to celeb-

rate the end of the Academic year, perhaps in May, with an event of some kind that hopefully would be well attended. The membership will be surveyed to gauge interest in various types of events.

- Doug asked to be notified when the catalogs will be available as he would like to delay the distribution of the December issue of *The Spiral* until after they come out. He also commented that there needs to be a link to the catalog online as soon as USCA can make it available, in light of the cutback in catalog distribution for spring semester.
- Larry moved to adjourn the meeting for non-board members which was seconded by Kathy.

The Spiral is published monthly, except June, July, August, and December 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 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 – December 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <i>Curriculum Cmte.</i> 9a [B Conf]	3	4 <i>Holiday Luncheon</i> 1p [Houndslake]	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	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