



The Spiral

January, 2010

President's Message

Season's Greetings,

The holiday season is upon us and whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Saturnalia or Winter Solstice, I wish you the very best and a Happy New Year.

Classes will begin in just a few weeks and I'm certain that you will find something that will interest you in our course offerings. If you haven't signed up for classes yet, it's not too late to do so.

I hope that you all will make an effort to attend the first general meeting of the new semester on Friday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. in Penland 106. Our speaker is Dianne Parker, a patient safety advocate who will address the subject of the *Face of Medical Harm*. A social gathering will follow the talk in room 110.

The by-laws committee has completed its work and has prepared a draft of the updated by-laws which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and submitted to the members for approval. We hope to have the updated by-laws published in the February Spiral to facilitate voting on them in March.

Vince Coughlin, Academy President

Courses Beginning in January

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions (the Spring 2010 catalog is available on the web at <http://web.usca.edu/dotAsset/43789.pdf>). To enroll, return the form in the catalog along with any required payment. For questions, contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / laura@usca.edu).

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.

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 – JANUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6 Curric. Committee 9a [B conf] Football for Women 3p [CC]	7	8 Board Meeting 12:30p [P110] General Meeting 2p [P106]	9
10	11 Opera 11a [P 106] Polo 2p [P106]	12 Former Soviet South 2p [P106]	13 Football for Women 3p [CC]	14 Former Soviet South 2p [P106]	15	16
17	18 Opera 11a [P 106] Polo 2p [P106]	19 Former Soviet South 2p [P106]	20 Football for Women 3p [CC]	21 Relativity 10:50p [P106]	22	23
24	25 Curric. Committee 9a [B conf] Polo 2p [P106]	26 Former Soviet South 2p [P106]	27	28 Relativity 10:50p [P106]	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