

May, 2012

President's Message

As I write this, our semester courses have been completed except for "Great Decisions" which will continue through May 3. It has been a successful semester with interesting, informative and well attended lectures.

The Kauffman award was given to Vince Coughlin, who was an Academy President twice and who taught several courses relating to Constitutional law. Vince did an excellent job in both those areas and was a very deserving honoree.

The general meeting held on April 20 was of particular interest. Judith and Greg Goodwin sang a splendid rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. The guest speaker, Mr. Bruce Capers, Men's Head Basketball Coach and Director of Student Life at Aiken Technical College, gave an inspirational talk on student life. Several members of the Academy joined Bruce in a spirited demonstration of basketball handling. The meeting ended with socializing and refreshments.

The Curriculum Committee has done an outstanding job in developing courses for the past two semesters, as well as identifying lectures for this coming Fall. A special thanks to Laura Anderson and Mary Anne Cavanaugh for their tireless efforts in making the Academy system work. The catalog describing Fall courses is scheduled for issue in August.

As a reminder, the Academy still has 3 unfilled positions: President-Elect, Curriculum Chair-Elect and Public Relations. Please volunteer. The Academy needs you.

Dick Baxter, Academy President

Vince Coughlin Receives the 2012 Kauffman Award

The Academy presents the Kauffman Award annually in memory of Dr. Earl Kauffman who founded the Academy over twenty years ago. The award is given to recognize outstanding individual contributions

to the organization. This year's honoree is Vince Coughlin.



Following a stint in the Army, Vince graduated from Bucknell University with a degree in Physics. He began his post-graduate work at William & Mary and completed his Masters in Physics at Franklin & Marshall while working in the Engineering group at RCA in Lancaster, PA. After a

few years there Vince decided to further his education, this time in the field of law at the University of Toledo. Following his studies, Vince applied at the RCA Corporate Law Office at Princeton, eventually becoming Resident Patent Council for RCA, and later GE. When Dickenson School of Law initiated a Masters program, Vince couldn't resist the call and attended night school to obtain a Masters in Tax Law. In addition to his work responsibilities, Vince also found time to teach courses at a local community college.

Upon retirement, Vince and his wife Connie settled in Hilton Head for a few years. They acquired a boat, and with typical Coughlin dedication, Vince served with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and as President of the Hilton Head Plantation Yacht Club.

Fortunately for the Academy, Vince and Connie eventually moved to Aiken, seeking a location with a more vibrant town center and broader cultural opportunities.

Vince became involved with the operation of the Academy for Lifelong Learning where he has made significant contributions, serving not just one term but two as one of the Academy's most dynamic and active Presidents. Vince also created and taught several highly popular courses revolving around the US Constitution and significant precedent-setting court cases.

Vince and Connie moved from Aiken to a retirement community in Macon, GA in 2010. While most people in that situation would have just said "Sorry, I've moved away", Vince returned to Aiken regularly to fill out his responsibilities as Immediate Past President of the Academy for the 2010-11 Academy year.

Once established in Macon, in typical Coughlin fashion he set about establishing the Wesleyan Academy for Lifelong Learning (WALL) at Wesleyan College.



Vince Coughlin accepts the 2012 Kauffman Award from Past President Glenn Knowles.

Vince has made a lasting mark on our Academy, for which we are extremely grateful. It was a treat to have Vince and Connie back one more time for the Kauffman Award celebration, and we hope nothing but good things and happy times for them in the future.

April Curriculum Committee Highlights

- Welcome to new members Norma Shawber, Carl Fields, Doug & Kathy Cook, and Sara Lightner, as well as recent member Tami Schaeffer.
- A "course interest:" survey of 134 Academy members was conducted by President-Elect Gerald McDonald. Of those contacted, 75 responded. Respondees were asked to rate numerous topic areas in terms of interest. The top four selected were: history, literature/poetry, world affairs/culture and music. The data will prove to be very useful in selecting courses for the future.
- Seventeen courses and three special events are planned for the Fall 2012 semester. Full details will be released when the Fall catalog is published in August.
- The Spring 2013 term is in the planning stages. Academy members are encouraged to inform the Committee of any suggestions for courses or events.

Board Action

The last meeting of the Board was in February. Since then the Board approved via email the formation of a Finance Committee consisting of incoming President Jerry McDonald, outgoing President Dick Baxter, Treasurer Mary Anne Cavanaugh, and Doug Wilson. The Committee will review our monthly Level 1 reports from the USCA accounting system as

a guide to managing the Academy's income and expenditures.

Fall 2012 Offerings

The Spring 2012 semester is nearly complete and there are no additional courses or events beginning in May. The Curriculum Committee has assembled an interesting schedule for the Fall semester beginning next September. Here's a quick peek at the planned Fall offerings:

Courses

Dixie Fish
 Spanish Novelist
 Germanic and Scandinavian Mythology
 Exploring Italian Language and Culture
 Three Women of Science
 Acrylic Painting
 Financial and Life Planning
 Fashion after 50
 Human and Animal Natural Well Being
 Exploring the Heavens
 Early History of SC
 Audubon
 Paella Cooking at Rio Blanco
 Birds: Here and There
 Four Arts
 Nutrition and weight management
 Circling the Savannah with focus on Columbia

Trips and Events:

Visit to Hopeland Farms- Aiken Horse Farm
 Fall Steeplechase
 Holiday Luncheon

All offerings should be considered to be tentative at this point. The final catalog will be published this August with full details of all courses and events.

Address by Bruce Capers Highlights the April General Meeting

The meeting began on a high note, literally, with the National Anthem being sung by Judith and Greg Goodwin.



Following the presentation of the Kauffmann Award to Vince Coughlin, Past President Glenn Knowles introduced the keynote speaker for the meeting, Bruce Capers.

Mr. Capers currently is Head Men's Basketball Coach and Director of Student Life at Aiken Technical College. He holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology from

