



Academy for  
**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

[www.aikenlearning.org](http://www.aikenlearning.org)

The  
*Spiral*

SEPTEMBER, 2015

### **From the President's Desk**

The 2015 fall semester for the Academy is nearly here! Through the efforts of our terrific Curriculum Committee, we have 27 courses and 4 events scheduled for this term! So check out the class offerings, and sign up today!

2015 is also a momentous year for the Academy for LifeLong Learning in Aiken: our 25th year of offering courses to our "mature" members! On October 15, we will celebrate the first annual national "Life Long Learning Day". Watch for a later announcement of our plans for this event!

This year also brings many changes to our organization, operations and processes.

The first change is a new set of employees working with us on the USCA campus. Since Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor, left last spring, Dr. Jeff Priest has assumed her role. Mary Anne Cavanaugh's position has now been filled by Ashley Moore, as Director of External Programs, and Amy Westra has replaced Laura Anderson, as Administrative Assistant, in the USCA Continuing Education office.

Another major change is the implementation of a new classroom scheduling system for all of USC. For the Aiken campus, this is overseen by Amy Westra. The change began on August 1, 2015, and will impact all of the classroom and lecture hall schedules for undergrads and others (such as the Academy!). USCA serves the undergrad students as their first priority, and if there is a classroom need for them, we may have to move to another location for an Academy course. This will require our members to be vigilant, by checking their emails for any possible meeting room changes for our courses. Amy Westra and Jan VanSlyke, Curriculum Chair, have done an amazing job identifying open classrooms available at the time the catalog was constructed. But some classroom assignments may be changed as the semester progresses. So, everyone, **please**

**check your emails for any messages relating to room changes before the first session of each course!**

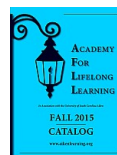
Doug Wilson, our webmaster, also spent time this summer totally revamping our website ([aikenlearning.org](http://aikenlearning.org)). This was necessary to make our website "mobile compatible" for tablets and phones.

On August 24, 2015, the Fall Catalog went in the mail, and the first class is scheduled for September 21, 2015. The catalog is available to all on our website at: "[aikenlearning.org](http://aikenlearning.org)". We anticipate many more members this school year, as publicity has brought a new awareness of what we offer to the residents in the area.

Sign Up! Attend! Enjoy! Make New Friends, and most of all, Have Fun!

**Doug Cook, Academy President**

### **The Fall Catalogs Are Here!**



This semester the Academy is offering a record high 27 short courses and 4 special events. You may download a copy of the catalog from the Academy website at [www.aikenlearning.org](http://www.aikenlearning.org).

Copies of the catalog were also emailed to those with email addresses on file. Every year, numerous emails are returned as undeliverable. If you need to update your email address in our records, please contact Amy Westra at USCA (803-641-3741 / [info@aikenlearning.org](mailto:info@aikenlearning.org)).

### **A New Face at USCA**

For the past fifteen years, Administrative Assistant Laura Anderson was the USCA representative with whom most of us dealt for Academy matters. Laura has now retired and her duties have been assumed by Amy Westra.



Amy was originally from Sioux Center, a small town in northwest Iowa, and still returns there to visit family a couple of times a year. She went off to attend college in Grand Rapids, MI, where she received a B.S. in Urban Studies and Sociology from Kuyper College and a Masters in Management from Cornerstone University.

After doing social work in Grand Rapids for 15 years, she moved to Columbia, SC, where she became Communications Coordinator to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Columbia International University. When USCA posted the job for Administrative Assistant in the Continuing Education Department, Amy applied and was accepted. She started at USCA in mid-spring, giving her a chance to overlap several months with Laura Anderson before she left.

As much as the Academy would like to keep Amy all to ourselves, we have to share her with the entire recently-reorganized External Programs and Continuing Education Department, where she has a wide variety of responsibilities. Beyond her in-department duties, Amy also manages a new classroom assignment system for the entire Aiken campus and must train all who use it. She says she'd rather have a variety of activities than being tied down doing the same thing all the time; her wish is being granted in spades. And with all these responsibilities she has an official job title that barely fits on a business card.

Amy moved to Aiken in June. She finds she likes Aiken's small town atmosphere, yet finds that it's still surprisingly cosmopolitan and enjoys interacting with the wide variety of people that have been attracted to come here.

In her free time, Amy says she can often be found in the campus Wellness Center. At home she enjoys reading, usually magazines because she doesn't have time for long novels, and lots of outdoor activities like gardening.

In the time your Academy staff has had to work with Amy preparing the fall semester, we've found her to be very friendly and pleasant to deal with, a dedicated hard worker, farsighted, and impressively efficient.

When you're in the Business and Education Building, please feel free to stop into room 113 to get acquainted and to welcome Amy to the Academy.

### Courses Beginning This Month

Please see the published catalog for full descriptions and additional information. (You can find the Fall 2015 catalog on the Academy website at <http://www.aikenlearning.org/catalog/>). To enroll, return the form in the catalog by mail or in person,

along with any required payment. For questions, contact USCA Department of Continuing Education at USCA (803-641-3741 / [info@aikenlearning.org](mailto:info@aikenlearning.org)).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do NOT attend these classes or events unless you have both pre-registered AND received written confirmation of your registration from USCA.

#### EXPLORING EASTERN AIKEN COUNTY

Date: 4 Mon. sessions, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12  
Time: 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.  
Location: Business and Education Bldg., Rm. 124

#### THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF GREENVILLE COUNTY

Date: 4 Mon. sessions, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12  
Time: 11:00-11:50 a.m.  
Location: Business and Education Bldg., Rm. 124

#### HISTORY IN HEADSTONES

Date: 4 Mon. sessions, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12  
Time: 3:00 - 3:50 p.m.  
Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

#### THE ANATOMY OF AGING: SOME PITFALLS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Date: 4 Tues. sessions, Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13  
Time: 9:25 – 10:40 a.m.  
Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

#### INTRODUCTION TO POETRY WRITING

Date: 4 Tues. sessions, Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13  
Time: 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m.  
Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

#### NAVIGATING THE EBAY CRAIGSLIST HIGHWAYS

Date: 1 Tues. session, Sept. 22  
Time: 12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 110

#### LIFE ON REDCLIFFE PLANTATION FOLLOWING THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR

Date: 3 sessions Wed., Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7  
Time: 3-3:50 p.m.  
Location: Penland Admin. Bldg., Rm. 106

#### THE WORLD OF GEORGE ELIOT'S MIDDLEMARCH

Date: 4 Thurs sessions, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15  
Time: 9:40-10:40 a.m.  
Location: Business & Education Bldg., Rm. 124

#### THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Date: 4 Thurs. sessions, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15  
Time: 3:15-4:20 p.m.  
Location: Penland Administration Bldg., Rm. 106

#### WHATCHA' GONNA DO WITH THE STUFF?

Date: 1 Tues., Sept. 29  
Time: 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.  
Location: Penland Administration Bldg., Rm. 110

**DANTE (the conclusion)**

Date: 5 Wed. sessions, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28  
 Time: 11:00-11:50 a.m.  
 Location: Business & Education, Room 124

**Photo Gallery: Academy Sponsors Aiken Summer Concert**

For the second consecutive year, the Academy for Lifelong Learning sponsored an Aiken City Summer Concert in August to help promote community awareness of the Academy and our upcoming Fall term. This year's concert was an August 17 performance by Aiken County Sheriff's Pipes and Drums.



*Despite bad weather and relocation of the concert to the Odell Weeks Center, 222 intrepid souls came out to see the Sheriff's Pipes and Drums and hear about the Academy.*



*Thanks to inclement weather August 17, the concert was moved from Hopelands Gardens indoor to the Odell Weeks Center.*



*Academy volunteers were on hand to pass out programs and Academy literature. L to R: Nancy Meinhardt, Jan VanSlyke, Doug Cook, Sherry Wilson, John Meinhardt, Doug Wilson. Not shown: Linda Soyars, Carl Fields (behind the camera).*

*Academy President Doug Cook told the audience about the Academy and its upcoming Fall term before introducing the evening's performers.*



**August 12 Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Doug Cook.

Present: President Doug Cook, Past President Carl Fields, Secretary Doug Wilson, Curriculum Chair Jan VanSlyke, Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt

Also attending: Amy Westra, USCA Continuing Education Administrative Assistant

Absent: Treasurer Laura Anderson

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held March 20, 2015, were approved without change.

**TREASURERS REPORT – Amy Westra, acting for Laura Anderson**

Our USCA account balance begins the year with roughly the same amount as last year. This indicates we managed to balance income and expenses nicely last year.

**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Jan VanSlyke**

For the Fall semester we have 27 courses, and 4 events, starting September 21. The catalog has gone to the printer, with an expected mailing date of August 24. The catalog states that registrations will be accepted starting August 25. We have volunteers signed up to help Amy with in-person registrations that first week.

Nearly all our classes for the fall have been scheduled for Penland 110 and B&E 124. A number of classes had to be moved from P 110 at the last minute because Admissions wants to use this room for orientation meetings with prospective students visiting the campus on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and Thursday afternoons. These changes happened in time to get into the catalog before it was printed. Ashley Moore is permitting us to use B&E 124 without charge this semester.

Jan requested that rooms be reserved for this year's Curriculum Committee meetings on the second Friday of the month.

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Nancy Meinhardt**

It had been discussed last semester that purchasing advertising in the Mature Times monthly supplement to the Aiken Standard might make the paper more receptive to printing our submissions. After the advertising rates were received, by email vote this summer the Board

decided not to buy this advertising. Nancy has submitted an article for August publication regarding the upcoming Fall schedule.

Over the summer our second article was submitted to *Life in Woodside* magazine. This is for the September issue and regards our Fall schedule and highlights Woodside resident Doug Wilson's involvement with the Academy. Nancy hopes to place an article in the sister publication for Cedar Creek in the future.

The Hopeland Gardens concert is on track for August 17. We have sufficient volunteers to help hand out our rack cards and programs.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### *Membership Meeting April 23, 2015*

In the Membership Meeting following the Kauffman Award Luncheon, the proposed Bylaws amendment which eliminated the Membership Committee was approved by the membership. The Board had pre-approved a revision to our Policies and Procedures document, pending the Bylaw revision, so the revised Policies and Procedures document is now in force. Both documents were made available on our website following the Membership meeting.

Also at this meeting, a slate of officers for the 2015-2016 academic year was elected. They are: Doug Cook, President; Doug Wilson, secretary; Laura Anderson, Treasurer; Jan VanSlyke, Curriculum Chair; Nancy Meinhardt; Publicity Chair. Carl Fields automatically progresses from President to Past President. The President-Elect and Curriculum Chair-Elect positions remain unfilled.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### *Meeting with USCA 7/2/2015*

Doug Cook and Jan VanSlyke met with the revamped Continuing Education Department to familiarize them with the Academy: who we are, what we do, how we interact with USCA, and our support needs from USCA. Attending from USCA were Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeff Priest, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Timothy Lintner, Director Office of External Programs, Ashley Moore, and Administrative Assistant Amy Westra.

Doug and Jan highlighted some concerns, including lecture hall space and timing of availability. They also showed USCA how our timeframe for implementing a catalog and registration is dependent on those issues. They learned the process that the Curriculum Committee uses to develop the list of topics and speakers for each semester, and were surprised at the complexity of it.

One thing that came out of the meeting was that Jeff Priest said that it would not be permissible for a USCA employee to hold an Academy officer position, nor to be a signatory on the Academy checking account. In a subsequent conversation with Doug Cook, Joe Sobieralski, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, said that we could not compel a USCA employee to be our Treasurer, but an employee COULD serve as an officer of an outside group such as ours if willing to take on the responsibility.

##### *Treasurer Vacancy*

Laura Anderson's position as part-time Administrative Assistant for the Academy and McGrath Center has been eliminated. Amy Westra will be handling Laura's duties at USCA, among plenty of other responsibilities. Since Laura is no longer employed at USCA she does not wish to continue as Treasurer. Vacancies occurring between elections can be

filled by the Board. It is the Board's wish that Amy replace Laura as Treasurer, and she is willing to do so. We just need to get a formal resignation from Laura.

##### *Checking Account*

The signatories on our checking account are still Mary Anne Cavanaugh and Laura Anderson. We need to have this updated as neither of them is still involved with the Academy. As we know now, Amy Westra cannot be a signatory. We moved and approved that we should have multiple signatories to allow for availability fluctuations when checks need to be issued. For the current year, these will be Doug C and Doug W. Doug C will set up a meeting at Security Federal with Doug W, Mary Anne and Laura to get the account changed over.

##### *National Lifelong Learning Day*

October 15 will be the first annual National Lifelong Learning Day. We explored the possibility of tying in some sort of observation with our two classes scheduled for that day. Doug C pointed out that this semester marks the 25th anniversary of regularly scheduled classes at the Academy, and that we could possibly tie this in as well. Amy will get catering estimates and explore the possibility of getting a Lifelong Learning Day notice placed on the electronic signs at the campus entrances.

##### *Aiken Senior Extravaganza*

USCA will have a table at the Senior Extravaganza this year. In past years we have not found our participation to be worth the effort. We will make sure USCA has a supply of our rack cards on their table.

##### *Website – Doug Wilson, Webmaster*

Website access has really picked up in the last few weeks. This is probably due to people checking to see if the new catalog has been posted yet. We will not put the catalog up on the website until the physical catalogs have been placed in the mail.

In the near future Google has announced they will penalize sites which are not mobile friendly with poorer positioning in web search results. Over the summer, the Academy's website was rebuilt to adapt to mobile devices via the web-building software provided by our server. Amy has paid our annual renewal to our host, so we are paid up until next August.

Doug reminded folks that we have a dedicated page on the website where we can make course materials (handouts, whatever) available for download.

##### *Future Board Meetings*

Tentative dates for upcoming sessions are September 18 and October 16 at 10 am, and November 20 at 9 am to avoid conflict with the Muslim Women class. Doug C will ask Amy to reserve rooms.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.



### Academy on the Road



*Nancy and John Meinhardt took their Academy shirts along when visiting King Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein Castle in southwest Bavaria this past summer.*

To have your travel pictures shown in *The Spiral*, take your Academy Logo apparel or accessories with you when you travel. Then take a photo in some interesting locale featuring you with a visible and recognizable Academy logo. Attach the photo to an email and send it to [spiral@aikenlearning.org](mailto:spiral@aikenlearning.org).

**Corrections:** In an earlier edition of this issue the captions for the Academy on the Road and concert volunteers photos mis-identified John Meinhardt as Bill Meinhardt. *The Spiral* apologizes to John and regrets the errors.



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[www.cafepress.com/A4LLL](http://www.cafepress.com/A4LLL)

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**Academy Officers:** President: Doug Cook; Past President: Carl Fields; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: Doug Wilson; Treasurer: Amy Westra.

**Committee Chairpersons:** Curriculum Chair; Jan VanSlyke; Curriculum Chair-Elect: (vacant); Publicity Chair: Nancy Meinhardt

**Ex-officio Members:** Dr. Tim Lintner, Faculty Liaison; Dr. Jeff Priest, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Ashley Moore, Director Office of External Programs

**Academy on the Web:** <http://www.aikenlearning.org>

ACADEMY CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>E. Aiken County</i> 10:00-10:50a [B 124]  <i>Greenville County</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>Headstones</i> 3:00-3:50p [P 110]	22 <i>Anatomy of Aging</i> 9:25-10:40a [P 110]  Ebay/Craigslist 12:15-1:30p [P 110]  <i>Intro Poetry Writing</i> 11:00-11:50a [P 110]	23 <i>Life on Redcliffe</i> 3:00-3:50 [P 106]	24 <i>Eliot's Middlemarch</i> 9:40-10:40 [B 124]  <i>Industrial Revolution</i> 3:15-4:20 [P 106]	25	26
27	28 <i>E. Aiken County</i> 10:00-10:50a [B 124]  <i>Greenville County</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>Headstones</i> 3:00-3:50p [P 110]	29 <i>Anatomy of Aging</i> 9:25-10:40a [P 110]  <i>Intro Poetry Writing</i> 11:00-11:50a [P 110]  <i>Stuff</i> 12:30-1:45p [P 110]	30 <i>Dante</i> 11:00-11:50a [B 124]  <i>Life on Redcliffe</i> 3:00-3:50 [P 106]			
[Location Codes]    B = Bus & Educ Bldg @ USCA    H = Hum & Soc Sci Bldg @ USCA    RP = Ruth Patrick Sci Ctr @ USCA N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA                    P = Penland Bldg @ USCA            CC = Cedar Creek Community Building						