



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
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www.aikenlearning.org

The *Spiral*

DECEMBER, 2015

President's Message

Well, the holidays are upon us, and the last month of the calendar year has begun. This past semester was one of the most active we have had at the Academy since I have been involved! Our 27 courses and 4 events involved a total of 230 members. We hope everyone has enjoyed the range of courses and instructors in the fall semester.

As I write this, the new catalog for the Spring 2016 semester is on its way to the printer. We expect that the catalog will be in mailboxes and emails beginning December 5, 2015. Registration for Spring 2016 will be accepted starting 9am on December 7. Those wishing to register in person can bring their registration forms and payment to Room 124 of the USCA Business & Education Building, beginning Monday, December 7, 2015, from 9am to 3pm. Those not wishing to register in person are welcome to mail theirs to the address on the form. We look forward to another great list of topics and courses for spring, with another great list of Events and Trips planned.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year in 2016!

Doug Cook, Academy President

Holiday Wine and Cheese

Reservations for the Holiday Wine and Cheese Drop-In Reception closed on November 26. If you signed up, don't forget to drop by the Pickens Salley House on the USCA campus Friday December 4 between 4:00 and 6:00 pm.

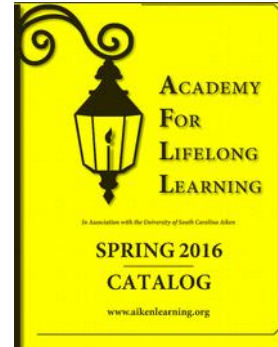


An End and a Beginning

The Fall semester is winding down, with no new courses and only *December Rituals* and *Line Dancing* having remaining sessions in December, but the next semester is right around the corner. There are a record 28 courses and four events planned for the

Spring 2016 term.

The Spring catalog has gone to the printer and should be issued in early December, shortly after you receive this newsletter. Copies will be emailed to all those on the Academy's email list as well as being made available on our website at www.aikenlearning.org. For questions, contact USCA Department of Continuing Education (803-641-3741 / info@aikenlearning.org).



ERROR IN PRINTED SPRING CATALOG

Please note there is an error in the upcoming PRINTED version of the Spring 2016 Catalog. **The Acrylic Painting Class will meet on January 12, 19, 26; February 2, not on the dates shown in the printed catalog.** If you receive a printed copy of the catalog, please update it accordingly. This has been corrected in the electronic copies to be emailed to members and posted on our website.

Meet the Curriculum Committee

The group that arranges for our excellent short courses and events is the Academy's Curriculum Committee. The Committee is currently chaired by Jan VanSlyke, with Chair-elect Harriet Haynes set to take the reins next year. Fourteen additional Academy members voluntarily give their time and effort to bring our offerings to fruition. The current Committee roster is:

Jan VanSlyke	Sara Lightner
Harriet Haynes	Marcia McDonald
Coach Abshire	Nancy Meinhardt
Erna Arkin	John Meinhardt
Chuck Braun	Phyllis Pelarin
Doug Cook	Kathy Rachick
Howard Doughty	Tami Schaeffer
Carl Fields	Linda Soyars

So if you're looking to thank someone for the courses

and events being offered, look no further than this hard working committee.

New eyes and fresh views and opinions are always welcome. If you think you'd like to help out, or maybe just learn more about the Committee's activities, feel free to attend a Curriculum Committee meeting to see what it's all about. The Committee meets the first Monday of most months at 10:00am in room 102 of the USCA Business & Education Building. Due to the New Years holiday, the January meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2016.

Aiken Fall Steeplechase

Hosting of a railside site at the Aiken Fall Steeplechase has become an annual Academy event. As the race fell on Halloween for the first time in recent memory, the site was decorated with skulls, spiders, flying bats and other Halloween symbols. About thirty Academy members and guests assembled to enjoy the event, the day, and each others' company. Several Academy members even came in Halloween costumes.



The event has been described as a tailgate party occasionally interrupted by horses galloping by.



The group gathers at the rail to watch the races.



A Halloween potluck provided lots of good "eats".



Do you recognize this colorful Halloween duo?

Elizabeth Majors and Doug Wilson



Academy member Pixie Baxter was one of the participants in the carriage parade. Pixie was one of the instructors in this Fall's "Rein In On Carriage Driving In Aiken" short course.

MTU Plant Tour



On November 9, approximately 40 Academy members took advantage of a plant tour offered by the MTU America Aiken plant.

MTU is a German based firm that manufactures large commercial diesel engines for non-highway applications. The Aiken plant produces diesels ranging from around 600 to nearly 4700 horsepower. They are used as propulsion for yachts and heavy land, rail and defense vehicles, in the oil and gas industry. They also drive power generation equipment for remote off-grid locations and backup power for hospitals, communication, and other services.

The Aiken plant was opened in 2010 with 74 employees and now employs over 300.



Jens Baumeister, Director of Operations, welcomes Academy members to the MTU America Aiken plant prior to the tour.

November Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 am by President Doug Cook.

Present: President Doug Cook, Past President Carl Fields, Secretary Doug Wilson, Treasurer Amy Westra, Curriculum Chair-elect Harriet Haynes

Absent: Curriculum Chair Jan VanSlyke, Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt

MINUTES

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held October 16, 2015, were approved without change.

TREASURERS REPORT – Amy Westra

The University reports are now showing credits and debits since the beginning of the school year correctly. Carryover balance from last year is still not being reported.

Steeplechase incidental expenses (tableware, ice, decorations, etc.) in the amount of \$64.51 were paid via the checking account.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Doug Cook for Jan VanSlyke

Room availability continues to be a problem for scheduling classes for the Spring semester. University academic classes have priority and the school's usage won't be set in stone before the second week of the semester. In addition, the Admissions Department now is making some use of Penland 110. Amy continues to struggle with this as we attempt to put the catalog to bed. We may need to explore alternate dates and times with some of the instructors. It was mentioned that the Science Building is not a desirable location for our classes because of the relatively long steep walk from the nearest parking area and the steepness of seating area of the lecture hall, both of which are difficult for some of our members.

We are targeting a catalog release date of the first week of December and hope to have this all put to bed in time to make this target.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Doug Cook for Nancy Meinhardt

Rack cards for the Spring semester have been printed and will be distributed to our usual locations.

Nancy achieved several placements in the Aiken Standard this past month. National Lifelong Learning Day received good coverage with a photo of Aiken Mayor Fred Cavanaugh and several Academy Board

members at the signing of the Mayor's proclamation of Celebrate Lifelong Learning Day in Aiken, plus a second more general article on Lifelong Learning Day in which the Academy was prominently featured. In addition, there was photo coverage of October's Walk With The Spirits tour of Augusta's Magnolia Cemetery, the Carriage Driving class trip to the Hopelands Gardens Carriage Museum, Vicki Gibbony and the Dulcimer class, and a full page in Mature Times with photos of three classes.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Center

One of the Academy's endowments is the Program Endowment Fund. This endowment was set up giving the University control of how to spend the proceeds from the fund. At last month's meeting the USCA Advancement Department mentioned a \$5000 commitment announced last February which was to be taken from this fund to help finance the USCA Veterans' Center, but which had not yet been transferred because the plans for the Center had yet to be finalized. Carl Fields located copies of our Treasurer's reports from January and March of 2015 which showed the spendable balance for this endowment as follows:

January	\$6859.79
<u>March</u>	<u>1859.79</u>
Difference	\$5000.00

Thus it appears likely that the \$5000 commitment has already been fulfilled. This needs to be reviewed with the University to be sure all are in agreement that the Academy's portion has already been paid. President Doug Cook will communicate with Mary Driscoll of the USCA Advancement Department on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Wine and Cheese at Pickens Salley House

Judith Goodwin will again present the history of Pickens Salley House. We anticipate, with all our new members this year, that many will not be familiar with Pickens Salley's fascinating past.

The University's Aramark catering service charge for this event is escalating significantly from last year.

Non-members Attending Academy Classes

There was a short discussion of three instances in which non-Academy members attending our classes. It was decided that this is not so frequent an issue that a defined policy needs to be formulated, but is something that the liaisons can review with their instructors on a case by case basis, i.e. the ability to invite others will depend upon the capacity and student load of the room.

Kauffman Award and Luncheon

The Kauffman Award is the main responsibility of the Past President. Carl solicited input from the rest of the board on possible awardees. This led to a discussion regarding recipient selection. Selection has usually been a past board member or other individual that has devoted significant time and energy to the Academy. Traditionally current board members have not been named, but there is no restriction on this, nor is there a prohibition against honoring an individual more than once although this had never been done.

A tentative date for the Kauffman Luncheon was set for Thursday April 21. Amy will attempt to get an appropriate room for that date.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48. There will be no Board meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 15, with time to be determined.

The Spiral is published monthly during the academic year by the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. 803-641-3741. Doug Wilson, Editor

Academy Officers: President: Doug Cook; Past President: Carl Fields; President Elect: Jan VanSlyke; Secretary: Doug Wilson; Treasurer: Amy Westra.

Committee Chairpersons: Curriculum Chair; Jan VanSlyke; Curriculum Chair-Elect: Harriet Haynes; Publicity Chair: Nancy Meinhardt



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

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



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www.cafepress.com/A4LLL

ACADEMY CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2 nd Floor Gym] <i>December Rituals</i> 1:00-1:50p [P440] [N 121]	3	4 <i>Wine & Cheese</i> 4:00-6:00p [Pickens Salley House, USCA]	5
6	7  HANUKKAH (1st day)	8	9 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2 nd Floor Gym]	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a-12:15p [B 2 nd Floor Gym]	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25  CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29	30	31		

[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