



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

www.aikenlearning.org

The
Spiral

NOVEMBER, 2016

President's Message

Honored! The USCA Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALLL) was awarded a significant honor at the annual American Association of University Women (AAUW) Aiken Branch's "Named Gift Recipient Recognition Dinner" on October 3, 2016. The AAUW recognized the Academy in the category of Community Programs/Organizations as a volunteer-run organization that provides seniors and retirees in the Aiken, SC area with learning opportunities tailored to their needs and interests. The ALLL also was honored for its 25th anniversary year; for evolving into a multi-faceted program using the guiding principles of fellowship, knowledge, and adventure; and for the publication of *The Spiral* and hosting the annual Kauffman Award. President Jan Van Slyke and Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt attended the dinner and proudly accepted the award on behalf of the Academy. Amy will have the award framed.

Please continue to check your emails and the updated calendars and notifications frequently. Our Academy for Lifelong Learning website (www.aikenlearning.org) is updated each time a date or time for a class has to be changed and is your most current resource. We also will make advance notifications of changes as we receive them during the start of each "regular" class.

Remember, if you have an idea for a course for Spring or Fall 2016, please notify Amy, Harriet Haynes, Jan Van Slyke, or someone else on the curriculum committee and give us a brief course description to discuss at the curriculum committee meeting in November.

We have had a great deal of positive feedback from our instructors regarding your interest and enthusiasm for their classes.

Jan VanSlyke, Academy President

November 7 Classes to be Relocated

A University need for use of the Penland 106 auditorium on November 7 is forcing us to find another location for Academy class sessions scheduled for that

date. The affected courses are:



The Dangerous South, and ***The Evolution of Terror in the Middle East***.

Our options for alternate sites are limited as we need a sizeable venue to accommodate the large enrollment in these popular courses.

The November 7 sessions ONLY for these courses will meet in the upstairs mezzanine of the Student Activity Center. This is the building at the end of Parkng Lot A, just northwest of the Penland Administration Building, where Starbucks and the Pacer Shoppe are located. Volunteers will be present to help guide you to the classroom.

The remaining sessions for these courses will be held in Penland 106 as originally planned.

Hurricane Matthew

Hurricane Matthew caused the USCA campus to be closed October 6 and 7. Fortunately, the only Academy event scheduled on campus either of those days was a Curriculum Committee meeting, which was quickly rescheduled for the following week.



There was one off-campus event that had to be rescheduled due to the hurricane. ***Ecologist For A Day***, held at the Savannah River Ecology Lab Conference Center, has now been rescheduled for **November 18 at 9am**. If you are registered for this event but cannot attend on the new date, please let Amy Westra (803.641.3741 / info@aikenlearning.org) know so somebody on the wait list can take your place.

THE ACADEMY HAS A WEBSITE !!



This is hardly news to many of you. We've had our own website independent of USCA for five years now, but the number of comments heard recently from people who were unaware our site exists has been surprising.

The web address for the Academy website is www.aikenlearning.org. You'll find the latest Academy news there, plus a downloadable copy of the current semester's catalog, an up-to-date list of changes since the catalog was published, a full online Academy calendar, and much more.

The Academy website is your best source for the latest information about Academy activities, as it is revised as soon as new information becomes available – often weeks before the next issue of *The Spiral* is due for distribution. The Academy site was a source of valuable and timely information recently during the disruptions caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Visit the Academy website often to stay up to date on current happenings.

Academy Enrollment

The Academy has shown a major increase in enrollment over the last two years. Figures effective Sept 29, 2016:

Semester	Members	Course Registrations
Fall 2014	173	1100
Spring 2015	208	1393
Fall 2015	216	1715
Spring 2016	240	1868
Fall 2016	279	2044

Each of the last four semesters showed increases, a gain of over 60% in the number of members over the last two years, and almost a doubling of course registrations.

Credit for this increase must be attributed to several factors:

- The large and varied assortment of interesting courses offered each semester thanks to the excellent work and dedication of the Curriculum Committee.
- The outstanding coverage Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt has obtained in local media over the last two years.
- Increased awareness and use of the Academy website.
- Word of mouth promotion by you, our members. Keep up the good work

Courses Beginning This Month

Please see the published catalog for full descriptions and additional information. (You can download the current catalog from the Academy website at <http://www.aikenlearning.org/catalog/>). To enroll, return the form in the catalog along with any required payment. For questions, contact USCA Department of Continuing Education at USCA (803-641-3741 / info@aikenlearning.org).

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

LINE DANCING

Date: 6 Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7

Time: 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Location: Business & Education Bldg., 2nd fl. Gym

SEX AND THE NEW NORMS

Date: 3 Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17

Time: 2:00-3 pm

Location: Alan B. Miller Nursing Bldg., Room 121

THE DANGEROUS SOUTH

Date: 6 Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12

Time: 1:00-2:15 pm

December 5 ONLY – 2:00-3:15 pm

Location: Penland Administration Bldg., Room 106

November 7 ONLY – Location: Student Activity Center, upstairs mezzanine

THE EVOLUTION OF TERROR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Date: 4 Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 2:30-3:45 pm

Location: Penland Administration Bldg., Room 106

November 7 ONLY – Location: Student Activity Center, upstairs mezzanine

SARATOGA WARHORSE

Date: 1 Tuesday, November 15

Time: 1:40-2:55 pm

Location: Business & Education Bldg., Room 116

TAIWAN'S DEMOCRACY PROGRESS RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Date: 1 Thursday, Nov 17

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: Alan B. Miller Nursing Bldg., Room 121

ECOLOGIST FOR A DAY**RESCHEDULED DUE TO HURRICANE MATTHEW****Date: Friday, November 18****Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm****Location: UGA Conference Center****Fall Steeplechase**

It was a fine, sunny, blue-skied South Carolina autumn day for the 25th running of the Aiken Fall Steeplechase on October 29. And once again the Academy was there for its annual Steeplechase party.



Approximately 30 Academy members and guests enjoyed socializing and tailgating, with the occasional horse race to spice up the proceedings.

May 2016 Board Meeting

[Editor's Note: The last Board meeting of the Spring semester was held in May. The Board did not meet again until September 30th, which was the first opportunity to approve the May Minutes. The October issue of *The Spiral* had already been distributed, so this is the first opportunity to report on the May Board Meeting.]

MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2016 BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 pm by President Doug Cook.

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held April 8, 2016, were approved as previously distributed.

TREASURERS REPORT – Amy Westra

With the year winding to a close, there are about \$2100 known expenses that must yet be paid from our operating account. There will also be a temporary charge for the Kauffman luncheon of about \$1500 which will then be reimbursed from the Kauffman endowment. Thanks to increased enrollment this year, income nicely exceeded expenses, leaving us with a healthy carryover balance for next year.

There was a short discussion that this carryover is larger than is needed to assure smooth operation next year and that we might consider increasing our USCA scholarship support or adding to one of the endowments next year. It was decided to defer discussion of the carryover for one more year since we have increased our instructor fee structure for next year and we want to have a full year of operation under our belts under this plan to determine the effect on our overall finances.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Jan VanSlyke

The course and event list for next fall is pretty well set. Harriet, Jan, Doug C, and Amy will be meeting shortly to put together date, time, and classroom assignments. Target date for publication is August 1.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy's article about the *Murder and Mayhem in Edgefield* field trip was carried in the *Mature Times* supplement to the *Aiken Standard*. [Editorial addition: the article Carl submitted regarding the Kauffman Luncheon and Nancy Meinhardt receiving the Kauffman Award for 2016 was carried in the same edition of *Mature Times*.] Nancy's next anticipated submission will be later this summer to promote the new fall catalog.

OLD BUSINESS***Honoraria when there is an admission fee charged***

There was a discussion of whether we should pay instructor honoraria when the attendees are charged an admission fee. This was brought to a head by the recent local Audubon tours where attendees were charged \$5 each. Since a per-session honorarium was paid for the two Edgefield tours which also charged admission fees, it was agreed that we would pay similar honoraria for Audubon this year once they have turned in the required forms.

For the future, when courses or events with admission fees are being set up, the liaison will give the provider the option of charging admission fees or receiving our normal per-session instructor fee. Note that this applies only to per-participant admission fees, not fees to cover expenses such as for painting or cooking classes. The Curriculum Committee is revising their liaison information packet, and this will be included.

NEW BUSINESS

USCA Veteran and Military Student Success Center

Some time ago the Academy donated \$5000 to USCA to support the "Honor Wall" in a new Veterans Center which was to be constructed in Penland 109 to replace the small room in use at that time in the Gregg-Graniteville Library on campus. The program was delayed and the center has now been redesigned and installed in Penland 107 instead of 109. Carl reported on representing the Academy at the Veterans Success Center rededication event on April 7. Mike Thornton, Medal of Honor Awardee spoke at the event, which was also attended by South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson.

The Honor Wall has not yet been finished but construction is planned, and credit for our contribution will be on display. Currently there is only a certificate of past contributors on display, transferred from the old room at the library.

Policies and Procedures Document

Doug W proposed a revision to Board's Policies and Procedures as discussed last month. Several wording changes to his proposal were discussed. As a result of today's meeting, the section on instructor honoraria will be modified to reflect our decision regarding events with admission charges. Doug W was given the go-ahead to incorporate the wording changes and issue the revised document.

Hopelands Garden Concert

Doug C will be out of the country and not available to introduce the Academy-sponsored summer concert in Hopelands Gardens in August. Doug W volunteered to fill in. Nancy will contact the Board and Curriculum Committee to get two or three volunteers to pass out programs, rack cards, and fans at this event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm. Incoming President Jan VanSlyke will schedule the next meeting as needed as we approach the fall semester.

September 2016 Board Meeting

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 BOARD MEETING

[Approved at October 21, 2016 Board Meeting]

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Jan VanSlyke.

Present: President Jan VanSlyke, Past President Doug Cook, Secretary Doug Wilson, Treasurer Amy Westra, Curriculum Chair Harriet Haynes, Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt

Visitor: John Meinhardt

MINUTES

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held May 20, 2016, were approved without change.

TREASURERS REPORT – Amy Westra

The carryover balance from the 2015-2016 year was approximately the same as for the previous year, meaning our income and expenditures were in balance last year.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Harriet Haynes

The committee is currently working on over 40 proposed classes for the Spring 2017 semester. About 25% have the required information submitted, several are on hold or being delayed to the Fall 2017 semester, leaving about half waiting for the required information. When it all comes together there will likely be 25-30 courses/events for the Spring 2017 semester.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Nancy Meinhardt

Nancy continues to submit an article every month to the Mature Times supplement to the Aiken Standard.

National Lifelong Learning Day on October 15 was created and promoted last year by the Road Scholar organization, but as far as we can determine, it is not being promoted by them this year. Last year we observed this in conjunction with the celebration of the Academy's 25th anniversary. After a short discussion it was decided not to hold an observance of National Lifelong Learning Day this year.

Nancy's supply of the promotional fans we have handed out at our sponsored Hopelands Concerts the last several years is down to 119 fans. Nancy will contact Linda Soyers, former Publicity Chair, to see if she knows how many were originally ordered to help assess whether we should be buying more at this point.

OLD BUSINESS

Playhouse Ad

As approved last March, over the summer Doug W designed a quarter page ad and contracted with Aiken Community Playhouse to include it in their playbills for the 2016-17 season. We have confirmed the ad was in place for the playbill for the first production of the season, *Beauty and the Beast*.

NEW BUSINESS

Registration Prioritization

There was a lengthy discussion of the current practice of giving Board and Curriculum Committee members priority when entering course registrations to reward them for the time and effort they donate to the Academy. For some courses/events with very limited enrollments, it is possible for non-Board and -Curriculum members to be shut out completely. It was decided that Amy would see if she could work out a system that would not greatly complicate her enrollment-entering process that would allow her to not extend priority to Board and Curriculum members *for those courses with severely restricted enrollment limits*.

Wait Listed Members Showing Up at Classes

We have a problem in which people on wait lists for oversubscribed courses are showing up at classes without

having received notice from Amy that a place has opened up for them. When creating the attendance sheets for each course, Amy will now also include an up-to-date wait list sheet to show these wait-listed members they cannot attend the class or function. The liaisons will be asked at the next Curriculum meeting, Friday Oct. 7, to enforce this better in the future.

Online Registration

Our class registrations, as part of USCA Continuing Education, are managed via commercial Student Manager software. This software is very cumbersome, difficult, and time consuming when entering registrations, especially when a course's enrollment limit has been reached and a wait list must be established. This is becoming a bigger and bigger problem as the number of Academy registrants has increased over 60% in the last two years, and with the larger number of classes we offer, the number of entries that must be made has almost doubled. Amy has located a module (already in use by the USC Beaufort and Augusta University) that can be added to Student Manager that would give us the capability for Continuing Education students, such as Academy members, to register themselves online. Online registration is something the Academy has desired since migrating to our own website five years ago. The Board voted to purchase this module for Continuing Education, contingent upon school

approval. Amy will draft a letter to Continuing Education outlining this proposal for signature by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 1:00 pm in B&E 102.





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: Jan VanSlyke; Past President: Doug Cook; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: Doug Wilson; Treasurer: Amy Westra.

Committee Chairpersons: Curriculum Chair; Harriet Haynes; Curriculum Chair-Elect: (vacant); 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>

ACADEMY CALENDAR – NOVEMBER 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Spain After Franco</i> 3:20p [P 106]	2 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym] <i>Election Process</i> 2:45p [P 106]	3 <i>Sex & New Norms</i> 2:00a [N 121]	4 <i>Turkey</i> 9:00p [P 106] <i>Patriotism</i> 10:15a [P 106] <i>More Balloons</i> 2:00p [P 110]	5
6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 	7 <i>Dangerous South</i> 1:00p [P 106] [SAC Mezzanine] <i>Terror in Middle East</i> 2:30p [P 106] [SAC Mezzanine]	8 ELECTION DAY [No Classes Today]	9 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym] <i>Election Process</i> 2:45p [P 106]	10 <i>Sex & New Norms</i> 2:00a [N 121]	11 <i>Patriotism</i> 10:15a [P 106] <i>More Balloons</i> 2:00p [P 110]	12
13	14 <i>Dangerous South</i> 1:00p [P 106] <i>Terror in Middle East</i> 2:30p [P 106]	15 <i>Saratoga Warhorse</i> 1:40p [B 116] <i>Spain After Franco</i> 3:20p [P 106]	16 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym] <i>Election Process</i> 2:45p [P 106]	17 <i>Taiwan Democracy</i> 1:00p [N 121] <i>Sex & New Norms</i> 2:00a [N 121]	18 <i>Ecologist for a Day</i> 9:00a [UGC] <i>Board</i> 1:00p [B 102] <i>More Balloons</i> 2:00p [P 110]	19
20	21 <i>Dangerous South</i> 1:00p [P 106] <i>Terror in Middle East</i> 2:30p [P 106]	22	23 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym]	24 	25	26
27	28 <i>Dangerous South</i> 1:00p [P 106] <i>Terror in Middle East</i> 2:30p [P 106]	29	30 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym]			
<p>[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 SAC = Student Activity Ctr @ USCA UGC = Univ of GA Conference Center, Savannah River Site</p>						