



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
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The
Spiral

DECEMBER, 2016

President's Message

The holiday season is already here, and we have almost completed our Fall 2016 semester of Academy for Lifelong Learning courses. We look forward each semester to new, interesting course offerings, and it seems they are over before we realize it.

However, we do have great Spring 2017 offerings that again include something of interest for everyone. A few of our spring courses include *North Augusta History*, *Aiken Veterans of WWII*, *Masters' Tournament History*, nature, fitness, ballet, *Current and Future Missions at Savannah River Site*, literature, *The Wolf Among Us* (a look at man's best friend), and many more.

This brings us to registration time for Spring 2017. Catalogs should be in the mail and available online about December 2. The first day of registration begins December 5 at 9 a.m. in B&E 124. Registration hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. December 5 and 6. You also may register by mail any time or in Amy's office after December 6.

I want to say thank you to our ALLL board and Curriculum Committee for their hard work this semester and for the support and feedback of our members.

Stay safe, and enjoy your family and friends during the holiday season.

Jan Van Slyke, Academy President

Line Dancing Extended to December 14

A Chancellor's event at USCA forced cancellation of the *Line Dancing* session for November 30. This is being made up by extending the class one week to December 14.



Spring Catalog About to Arrive



The Curriculum Committee has put the finishing touches on another full schedule of offerings for Spring 2017. Planned are 27 short courses and 3 special events. The catalog has been sent to the printer, with a target release date of December 1.

Once the catalog is released, you can also download a copy from our website catalog page at: <http://aikenlearning.org/Catalog.php>

Beginning 9 am December 5, you may mail in the registration form from the catalog to the address on the form, or you may deliver it in person to USCA Office of Continuing Education, Business and Education Building, Room 113.

In addition, Academy Volunteers will be on hand to accept your registration in Business and Education Room 124 according to the following schedule:

- Monday, Dec 5 – 9 am to 3 pm
- Tuesday, Dec 6 – 9 am to 3 pm

No registrations will be accepted before Monday, December 5, 9 am.

No Courses Beginning This Month

No courses begin in December, with just a few final sessions remaining for *The Dangerous South* and *Line Dancing*.



The final event of the calendar year, our *Holiday Wine and Cheese Drop-In Reception* takes place on December 8 from 4 to 6pm.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reservations for this event closed on November 23.

HOLIDAY WINE AND CHEESE DROP-IN RECEPTION

Date: Thursday, December 8

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg., Room 116

RSVPs closed November 23

Amy Westra Moving On



Amy Westra, our Administrative Assistant in the USCA Continuing Education Department, has accepted a new position out of state. Her last day at USCA was November 29.

In her three semesters here with the Academy Amy has proven herself to be a tireless and dedicated worker who never failed to go the extra mile for us. Thanks to her initiative to get courses moved to larger classrooms when needed, wait lists for most classes have become a thing of the past.

While USCA searches for a replacement for Amy, Laura Anderson, who retired from Continuing Ed. in 2014, has agreed to fill in temporarily to help with registration for the upcoming Spring semester.

Amy believes this is a good career move for her, and although we will sorely miss her and all she did for us, we support her in her future endeavors and wish her nothing but the best.

Don't forget us, Amy. We won't forget you!

Academy Takes to the Woods



Group photo courtesy Savannah River Ecology Lab

The *Ecologist for a Day* field session at the Savannah River Ecology Lab that was postponed due to Hurricane Matthew was held on November 18.

The Academy members who were able to reschedule to the new date met at the SREL conference center where Sean Poppy and Carol Eldridge presented information about the lab, its purpose, and history.

The group then took to the woods to see what examples of site wildlife they could find. Due to the late season and cool temperatures it wasn't the best time to find local fauna.



Buckets in the ground serve as pitfall traps to collect small creatures moving along the fence.

SREL photo



The traps mainly caught millipedes and spiders, but we did snare one green anole.

SREL photo

Returning to the conference room, Sean and Carol brought out a number of live specimens representing animals native to the area.



Coyote "Scooter" that Sean has raised from an orphaned pup.



Carol with Great Horned Owl



John Palmer bravely holds a corn snake specimen. Don't worry, it's harmless (the snake, not John).



Academy President Jan Van Slyke with newfound friend – a four year old alligator.

For the photo gallery SREL assembled from our visit, go to <http://tinyurl.com/zbzqftz>.

October 2016 Board Meeting

[Editor's note: These October Minutes were approved at the November 18, 2016 Board Meeting]

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 pm by President Jan Van Slyke.

Present: President Jan Van Slyke, 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 September Board meeting were approved without change.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Amy Westra

Available balance in the operating account looks good at this point. Outstanding expenses yet to be charged total about \$760 for catalog mailing and steeplechase expenses. No instructor fees have been paid yet.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Harriet Haynes

Things are coming together well for the Spring semester. Full data has been submitted for nearly all anticipated classes, with a number of courses being pushed back to next Fall. When it all comes together we will have “twenty-something” courses for the Spring. We are aiming for an early December catalog publication date, so the deadline for submitting course data to Amy is Monday November 7. The last Curriculum Committee meeting prior to this is November 4.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Nancy Meinhardt

The October *Mature Times* supplement to the *Aiken Standard* carried Nancy's article about the Academy receiving an award from the Aiken chapter of the American Association of University Women, citing the Academy's efforts for senior education as significantly contributing to the mission of AAUW. The award was presented at a banquet attended by Nancy and Academy President Jan Van Slyke. The award certificate has been given to Amy for framing and display.

OLD BUSINESS

Images from Academy Activities

Tabled item last month:

The request by an outside agency to record video relating to our *Falun Dafa* course and instructor Dr. Frank Xie led to privacy concerns on the part of the University. This was handled by having Dr. Xie interviewed in his office with no course participants present, and giving participants the opportunity to not be included in any recording taking place during the actual class session.

This led to a discussion of the broader topic of privacy issues arising from usage all images taken during Academy activities. It was decided that we would include wording in the

catalog to the effect that by submitting the registration form one was granting the Academy permission to use their likeness for promotion and publicity purposes. Amy had used similar verbiage at her previous position at Columbia International University and will incorporate it in the next catalog.

It was further decided that we would establish a policy that external agencies would only be permitted to photograph or record Academy activities by submitting written requests for approval in advance, with details to be worked out at a later date.

Handling Waitlists

As decided last month, Amy has started providing a copy of the wait list along with the attendance checkoff list for those courses/events with wait lists for the purpose of helping the class liaisons to manage unauthorized attendees.

Online Registration Software

Amy reported that earlier that week Jeff Priest had given the go ahead for us to purchase the online registration module for the Continuing Education Department's Student Manager software. The Department will pay the ongoing registration/maintenance fees. Amy has already been in contact with the software company to lay the groundwork. It is not likely to have this in place for Spring 2017, so target date will be Fall 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Continuing Education Department

USCA has started the interview process for acquiring a new Director of External Programs & Continuing Education, replacing Ashley Moore who left last year. It is hoped that when there is a new Director in place, it will reduce Amy's work load, as she currently has been forced to manage the office by herself.

Hurricane Matthew Aftermath

The USCA campus was closed October 6 & 7 due to Hurricane Matthew. Fortunately the only Academy activity scheduled on campus those dates was a Curriculum Committee meeting that was quickly rescheduled for a later date. The Savannah River Site also closed, so our October 7 Ecologist for a Day event, hosted at the Site, was rescheduled for November 18.

The University is taking back the use of Penland 106 on November 7 to accommodate an event that was rescheduled due to the hurricane, so we will have to relocate the two class sessions we had planned for that room. As the two courses affected, The Dangerous South and The Origins of Terror in the Middle East, are large classes, our two options at this point appear to be the VIP room at the Convocation Center, and the mezzanine at the Student Activity Center. At this time we have not heard back from the Student Activity folks as to whether we can use their room. In either case, we

think we'll need to station volunteers to help our members find their way to these unfamiliar locations. [Editor's comment: SAC has now confirmed we can use the room so we have opted to do so, feeling our members are more familiar with main campus locations than the Convocation Center.]

In a similar vein, although unrelated to Hurricane Matthew, the University will be using Penland 106 for student final exams on December 5 and they can't assure us use of the room before 2 pm. This conflicts with our 1 pm session of The Dangerous South. The instructor will be contacted to see if we can move the December 5 session back to 2 pm. [Editor's comment: Nancy has heard back from the instructor and moving to 2 pm is okay.]

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18 at 1 pm.



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 Van Slyke; Past President: Doug Cook; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: Doug Wilson; Treasurer: (vacant).
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 – DECEMBER 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <i>Curric Comm</i> 1:00p [B 102]	3
4	5 <i>Dangerous South</i> 4:00p 2:00p [P 106]	6	7 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym]	8 <i>Holiday Wine & Cheese</i> 4:00-6:00p [B 116]	9	10
11	12 <i>Dangerous South</i> 1:00p [P 106]	13	14 <i>Line Dancing</i> 11:00a [B Gym]	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE
[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						