



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

www.aikenlearning.org

The
Spiral

MAY, 2017

President's Message

Brief Update on Academy happenings:

- Our new software proposal is currently at USC waiting for an approval. If we receive the approval soon, we hope to be able to register electronically online for Fall 2017 semester. Those without internet skills or access will still be able to register by submitting a paper form.
- The search for a replacement for Amy is in the final stages — interviews. Laura Anderson will remain to fill in for Amy for now.

In other news, we tentatively plan to distribute our Fall 2017 LLL catalog the first part of August, with classes to begin in September. More info to follow.

Summer is upon us, and I know many of you have out-of-town company or travel plans. To continue to be in the information loop, please be sure to check periodically our website www.lifelonglearning.org.

We're looking forward to an awesome Fall semester with many varied course options for you.

Jan Van Slyke, Academy President

The luncheon is financed by an endowment created in Dr. Kauffman's memory by his son Dr. James Kauffman, who was himself a noted Professor at USCA. We lost Jim Kauffman this year, but we were honored to have three generations of the Kauffman family present at this year's luncheon.

Academy for Lifelong Learning President Jan Van Slyke opened the proceedings with the pledge to the flag, then introduced Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon, who gave the invocation. Following lunch Past Academy President Doug Cook presented this year's Earl Kauffman Award for exceptional service to the Academy to retired USCA History Professor Dr. James Farmer (see separate article).



*President
Jan Van Slyke*



*Aiken Mayor
Rick Osbon*



*Past President
Doug Cook*

Kauffman Luncheon

The annual Earl Kauffman Remembrance Luncheon was held on April 13 on the USCA campus. This event is held in memory of Dr. Earl F. Kauffman, one of the individuals most responsible for the founding of the Academy 28 years ago.



Dr. James Kauffman's wife Ann, son Greg, grandson Jordan and daughter-in-law Renee



Dr. Jordan

USCA Chancellor Dr. Sandra Jordan then gave us a short update on the University and its recent accomplishments and programs.

The Luncheon concluded with the keynote speaker, Karen Edgington, new Executive Director of External Programs, Continuing Education, and Conferences for USCA, the department under which the Academy operates. As this was her first opportunity to address the Academy membership since taking office, Karen introduced herself, gave a little of her background history, and shared some of her visions for the future of the Academy and the Department as a whole.



*Director
Edgington*

Pictures from the Kauffman Luncheon are available for comment and download at the Department's Facebook page ([click here](#)).

And the Kauffman Award Goes To ... Dr. James Farmer !

Every year since 1992, the Academy for Lifelong Learning has recognized a group or individual that has provided outstanding service to the Academy. This year's recipient of the Earl F. Kauffman award, announced at the Kauffman Luncheon on April 13, is Dr. James Farmer.



Dr. James Farmer

Originally from Wilson, NC, Jim Farmer attended East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, where he earned a BS, Masters, and PhD., specializing in the history of the antebellum South. While a student at ECU, he was awarded the prestigious Brewer prize for the best National Doctoral Dissertation, as well as a book contract.

Jim taught in public high school for two years, and then one year back at ECU,

before accepting a position in the History Department at University of South Carolina Lancaster, where he spent the next nineteen years. Fortunately for us, he then took a position at USC Aiken where he remained until his retirement sixteen years later. While at USCA, he held the June Rainsford Henderson Chair in Southern and Local History Studies. Upon his retirement, he received the Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus Award as well as the June Rainsford Henderson Chair Emeritus award in 2008.

After retiring as an active USCA professor, Jim taught numerous courses for the Academy for Lifelong Learning, and became one of the Academy's best liked instructors. His classes always attracted a large number of students who signed up for every class he offered because they knew his offerings would be educational and interesting, and because they were always charmed by Jim's soft spoken delivery. Jim says he found teaching Academy courses was stimulating and rewarding for him because Academy members brought such a wide array of backgrounds, life experiences, and knowledge to his classroom.

Jim's last class exemplifies his dedication and consideration. Weakened by a medical procedure only three days previously, Jim went ahead and taught his last

class session as scheduled because he knew how difficult it would be for us to reschedule the classroom to a later date.

During his time here, if in no other way, Jim has made a lasting mark on our community by authoring a number of the historical marker signs found around the Aiken area.



The Long and Short of It: Jim Farmer accepts the Kauffman Award for 2017 from Past Academy President Doug Cook

Jim and his wife Judy have now moved from the Aiken area to Spartansburg SC to be nearer their family of two daughters and "four exceptional grandchildren". Jim now occupies his time chairing various symposia and conferences on American history, writing books and articles for several publications and textbooks, serving on the editorial board for *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, and many other activities. He currently has a contract to publish his latest book based on the diary of an Edgefield planter. Now that they are settled in their new home, Jim hopes to become involved with the Lifelong Learning program at Spartansburg's Wofford College — our loss is their gain. On top of everything else, he is an accomplished banjo player and offers his voice to his church choir.

Jim has been a good friend to the Academy for many years and already is missed by its members, so we were delighted he was able to return to us for this award presentation.

Officers for Next Year

The Academy for Lifelong Learning is a volunteer-run activity. We have support from the staff at USCA but it is up to the Academy to provide the volunteers to run the organization.

For next year, Kathy Rachick has agreed to fill the currently-vacant Curriculum Chair-Elect position for next

year to "learn the ropes" from Harriet Haynes, who has agreed to continue in her Curriculum Chair position.

Incumbents Jan Van Slyke (President) and Doug Wilson (Secretary) also have agreed to serve additional terms next year. Doug Cook will continue on the board as our most recent Past President.

In addition, Doug Wilson will continue to fill two non-Board positions: Webmaster and Editor of *The Spiral* newsletter.

That leaves two Board vacancies for next year:

Publicity Chair – we need someone to release timely information about the Academy to our local press outlets.

President-Elect – we need someone willing to serve on the Board for a year to become familiar with its operation and to take over as President the following year.

We are fortunate to have incumbents who have already served their terms willing to continue to serve beyond their commitments for one more year, but we really need people willing to volunteer some of their time to fill the vacant positions. If you value the Academy and want to be sure it is able to continue operating, please contact President Jan Van Slyke (pres@aikenlearning.org) to volunteer or for more information.

Field Trip This Month

With the Spring Semester winding down, there are no new classes beginning this month, and only a handful of class sessions yet remaining for courses already in session.

The only thing new on the calendar for May is a field trip to Edgefield, held in two identical sessions. Please see the published catalog for full descriptions and additional information. (You can find the current catalog on 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 either of these trips unless you have pre-registered AND received written confirmation of your registration from USCA.

OAKLEY PARK & IKE CARPENTER, AWARD-WINNING WOOD CARVER

Dates: Two identical Friday field trips May 12 & 19

Time: 9:15 at Oakley Park

Time: 10:45 a.m. at Ike Carpenter's Stand

Location: Edgefield, SC – see catalog for details

Sneak Peak at Fall Offerings



The Curriculum Committee is working on a record number of short courses offered for the Fall 2017 semester.

Here is a tentative list of the fall course titles:

- Preserving Savannah River Site History
- Winter Colony Profiles
- Conversational Spanish
- Energy Sources and Opportunities
- Tour Italy from Top to Toe
- Social Media and You
- Understanding the Judeo-Christian Faiths and Each Other
- Finding Shakespeare's Sisters
- Contemporary Poetry
- Monarchy in England 1000-1300
- Motion Illusion Devices & Dev
- Falun Dafa Meditation and Cultivation
- Line Dancing, Beginning & Advanced Classes
- The Symphony Orchestra - Behind the Scenes
- Southern Honor
- Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation
- Headstones - Gangsters Ever After
- Wither American Health Care
- Gerontology 101
- Famous and Amazing Akenites
- Judaism
- Electric Cars
- Appalachian Culture
- A Little More of Everything
- James Matthewes Legare: Aiken's 19th Century Man of Genius
- Live from the Met
- Conflict Resolution Through Conciliation in South Africa
- Susan Glaspell Trifles and A Jury of Her Peers
- Public Art in Aiken: Five Classic Examples

Full final details will become available when the new catalog comes out in August.

Maureen Simpson to Give Recital

Aiken's resident diva soprano and frequent Academy instructor on things operatic, Dr. Maureen Simpson, will be giving a recital along with organist David Brown on Sunday May 14 at 3:00 pm, at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Their program will be *Spanish and French Art Song of the 19th and 20th Centuries*. A \$10.00 donation is requested which will be divided evenly between the Museum and the Aiken Choral Society Scholarship Program



The Spiral Going On Vacation

The Academy's newsletter is only published during the academic year, so this will be the last issue for a while as we take the summer off. But never fear, *The Spiral*

will be back in the fall to keep you informed about happenings at the Academy for Lifelong Learning. Meanwhile, any breaking news will be found on the Academy's website at www.aikenlearning.org.

March 17, 2017 Board Meeting

[Approved by the Board April 21, 2017]

The meeting was called to order at 12:57 pm by President Jan Van Slyke.

Present: President Jan Van Slyke, Past President Doug Cook, Secretary Doug Wilson, Curriculum Chair Harriet Haynes, Publicity Chair Nancy Meinhardt

Visitors: Karen Edgington, Joel Aitchison, Katelyn Steed, John Meinhardt, David White.

MINUTES

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held February 17, 2017, were approved without changes beyond those originally reported back when the initial draft was circulated.

TREASURERS REPORT

In the absence of a current Treasurer, Doug Cook presented an update on our accounts obtained from Laura Anderson on March 10.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Harriet Haynes

Thirty-seven classes are being worked on for the Fall semester, which will probably be reduced to something in the twenties by the time the catalog is put to bed.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Nancy Meinhardt

A question was raised last month as to whether the Aiken Standard's sister paper, the North Augusta Star, also published the Mature Times monthly supplement that normally contains our submitted articles. Nancy has learned that it does not, but it does have a place on their website where one can submit an article. Nancy suggests it might be worthwhile to submit one article each semester to announce the courses being offered.

As suggested last month, emails were sent to Academy members taking the two writing-related courses this semester, trying to find someone to fill the Publicity Chair position for next year. A similar item was included in the March issue of *The Spiral*. To date, nobody has expressed interest.

OLD BUSINESS

Online Registration Software

Jan Van Slyke, Doug Cook, and Doug Wilson met with Continuing Education on March 1 to discuss our concerns about the putting on hold of plans to purchase a module for USCA's *Student Manager* software which would have given the department to ability to have its users register for courses, including the Academy's, online. We learned the Department was not constrained to work within the current *Student Manager* framework as we had thought, and that the project had been put on hold to allow the Department to examine other alternatives to *Student Manager* that

were more up-to-date and would better meet the Department's needs. Intern Joel Aitchison had been tasked with researching options and presented information on three systems he had found. All of the systems brought capabilities and efficiencies beyond those offered by *Student Manager*, while costing less. The Academy representatives endorsed this effort.

Joel and Department head Karen Edgington attended today's Board meeting and brought us up to date on the current state of these efforts. The two systems now being considered are *Active Network* and *ASAP Connected*. Joel is currently leaning toward *Active Network*. They hope to have a decision by the end of March, and anticipate having the new system in place in time for Continuing Education's summer programs.

Kauffman Luncheon

Kauffman Luncheon invitations were originally sent to Academy members in the form of attachments to an email with a subject line of "Information about 16ALLF001 - 2016-17 Yearly Academy Membership". Doug W phoned Karen Edgington with concerns that some of our members may well not even open an email with such a cryptic title and thus never see the invitation, or be reluctant to open the attachment. In addition, Laura Anderson had told Doug that when sending the emails, the error messages for non-deliverable messages scrolled by so fast on the screen that she did not know to which of our members the error messages applied. Karen agreed with our concerns and all members were then sent physical copies via postal mail. In addition, Doug W placed an article re the Kauffman Luncheon on our website and will include an article in the April issue of *The Spiral*.

In addition to all Academy members and other dignitaries, both of this year's Academy-sponsored scholarship recipients have been invited to attend.

Doug C reported that the awardee's memento has been ordered, and that Karen Edgington has agreed to be our keynote speaker. With Dr. James Kauffman's passing this past year, Jim's son Greg has expressed a desire to continue to have the Kauffman family represented at these events to carry on the memory of Earl Kauffman.

Hiring an Administrative Assistant for Continuing Education

Karen Edgington reported the Department has completed creating the Administrative Assistant job description and the position was posted by USC. Twenty qualified responses were received during the response period. Doug W has agreed to participate in the interview process, along with a representative of McGrath and a couple of USCA folks, to provide an Academy perspective. The applications will be reviewed, with interviews of the top three or four candidates possibly the first week of April.

NEW BUSINESS

Brandon Wilde

Laura received an email from Debra DiArenzo, Wellness Coordinator at Brandon Wilde Retirement Center in Evans GA, asking to be put on our mailing list and inquiring

whether any of our instructors might be willing to come there and speak to their residents. The Board has no objections if Brandon Wilde wishes to contact some of our instructors directly and make their own arrangements. Doug C said that Laura had already replied to Ms. DiArenzo.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 21, in room 118 of the Student Center.



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: 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; Karen Edgington, Director Office of External Programs

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

ACADEMY CALENDAR – MAY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Chess 101</i> 1:30-2:30p [P 110]	2	3	4 <i>Great Decisions</i> 1:00-2:30p [N 113]	5 <i>Curric. Committee</i> 1-2:30p [B 102]	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Great Decisions</i> 1:00-2:30p [N 113]	12 <i>Oakley Park</i> 9:15 [Edgefield, SC] <i>Curric. Committee</i> 1:00p [B 102]	13
14	15	16	17	18 <i>Great Decisions</i> 1:00-2:30p [N 113]	19 <i>Oakley Park</i> 9:15 [Edgefield, SC] <i>Board Meeting</i> 1-2:30p [B 102]	20
21	22	23	24	25	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