



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

aikenlearning.org

The
Spiral

FEBRUARY, 2020

President's Message

Welcome to the new spring semester! It was heralded in with a lovely new catalog, and a great list of new classes. We hope you are enjoying some of your favorite types of classes, and have also branched out to try one or two in a genre that you don't normally sign up for. Since learning is exercise for the brain, you are doing cerebral calisthenics by taking a few spring classes!

And while you are enjoying the classes and the fellowship of other members, take a moment to think about how all this comes to fruition each semester. It's not by magic! The Curriculum Committee is a group of ACADEMY MEMBERS (just like YOU) and it is this committee that is the backbone of the academy. The committee decides what subjects might be of interest to the members, whom they could approach to teach such subjects, and finally which subjects are to be offered for the semester. They are the members who are completely responsible for the catalog that comes to the membership each semester. And they are always needing new members (just like YOU)! If you would like to join the committee (or are just curious about how it works!), come to the next Curriculum Committee meeting as a guest (February 20, 1:00 pm, at B&E room 102). Or for more information, contact Kathy Rachick, Curriculum Chair, at curric@aikenlearning.org.

I hope to see you at the meeting! If three or more of you let Kathy know you will be attending, I'll buy donuts!

Harriet Haynes, Academy President
pres@aikenlearning.org

Spring Semester Registration in Progress

Registration for the Spring semester opened on January 7, with classes beginning January 13.

As this is written in late January, over 250 people have registered, with over 200 of them signing up the first

day. All told, the registrations break down as follows:

Online	50%
In person	35%
Mail In	15%

Only a few short courses have started at this point, so there is still plenty of time to sign up to be sure you don't miss out on the courses yet to come. The [Register](#) page on our website will show you how.

Do You Have an Academy Member Card?

There are a number of benefits you can realize on the UofSC Campus when you show your Academy card.

- Library Privileges – You may borrow books and use the computers at the Gregg-Graniteville Library
- Bookstore – Receive a 10% discount in the Student Activity Center Bookstore on all logo merchandise including drinkware, apparel, and gift items. Not applicable to textbooks, technology or other general merchandise.
- Food Discount – Pay the reduced faculty/staff price for all meals in the Café at the Student Activity Center.

To get your Academy Member Card, stop into B&E 111 and see Katie or Kim.

There are some other benefits available to seniors at UofSC Aiken independent of the Academy. All are detailed in the downloadable [Academy Info Packet](#), a link to which was included in your registration confirmation email.

More French for Fun

This semester's French for Fun course quickly filled and instructor Maureen Sbordone has agreed to add a second course to accommodate demand. It will be held February 6, 13, 20, 28 at 10:15-11:15 am in B&E 102.

Answering Sensational Demand

Thanks to the overwhelming popularity of Dr. Gary Senn's **Sensational Sky Stories** course, he has

agreed to offer repeat sessions of this course. The original two 2:00-3:00 pm classroom sessions on February 17 and 24 will be immediately repeated at 3:15-4:15 pm for additional registrants.

The third session as originally planned was to be an evening observatory session in the Ruth Patrick Observatory. Two additional observatory dates have now been added. During the classroom sessions, registrants will be able to sign up for one of the March 2, 3, or 4 observatory sessions.

This expansion still cannot accommodate the entire wait list. *If you have received a registration confirmation for this course but find you cannot attend*, please let the Continuing Education office (803-641-3563 / info@aikenlearning.org) know so your place can be offered to somebody else.

Keep Current With Any Scheduling Changes

It's a fact of Academy life that sometimes dates, times, or classroom assignments must be changed from what was initially published in the catalog. These changes are listed here in the *The Spiral* if known before publication, but this is only available on a monthly basis. For the latest and most up to date developments, make a habit of regularly checking the Academy web page at aikenlearning.org, especially before the first session of a class.

Newly announced updates:

Sensational Sky Stories – see article above for details.

Combating Food Waste meets March 9, not March 2.

Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy first session meets March 25, not March 18.

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 aikenlearning.org/Catalog.php).

To enroll, register online at campscui.active.com/orgs/UniversityofSouthCarolinaAiken1?season=2733306, or return the form in the catalog along with any required payment. For questions, contact UofSC Aiken Department of Continuing Education (803-641-3563 / 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 UofSC Aiken.

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE: THREE CENTURIES OF NOTABLE SOUTH CAROLINIANS

Dates: 4 Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

Time: 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 116

BANISHING BELLY FAT

Date: 1 Wednesday, February 5

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 124

TALES FROM THE SIGNAL CORPS MUSEUM

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 116

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AIKEN COUNTY

Date: 1 Wednesday, February 5

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 124

FRENCH FOR FUN

Dates: 4 Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 102

CHARACTER DANCE – A STYLE OF BALLET

Dates: 4 Fridays, February 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 116

TEA, THE BEVERAGE

Date: 1 Thursday, February 13

Time: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Business & Education Bldg. 124

SENSATIONAL SKY STORIES

Sessions 1 & 2

Dates: 2 Mondays, February 17, 24

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., repeated 3:15-- 4:15 p.m.

Location: Ruth Patrick # 217

Session 3

Dates: March 2, 3, or 4 (sign up for one during classroom sessions 1 & 2)

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Ruth Patrick Observatory

AIKEN REMEMBERS THE TITANIC**Date: 1 Wednesday, February 19****Time: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.****Location: Business & Education Bldg. 116****THOROUGHBRED RACING HALL OF FAME TOUR "HOME OF AIKEN'S RACING CHAMPIONS"****Date: Thursday, February 20****Time: 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.****Location: 135 Dupree Pl. off Whiskey Road next to Hopelands Gardens****GARDENING ON THE CHEAP****Date: 1 Friday, February 21****Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.****Location: Business & Education Bldg. 116****PLUTONIUM AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY****Dates: 3 Thursdays, February 27, March 5, 12****Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.****Location: Business & Education Bldg. 124****November Board Meeting**

[Note: There was no Board meeting in December. November minutes were approved at the January 24 Board Meeting.]

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by President Harriet Haynes.

Present: President Harriet Haynes, Past President Jan Van Slyke, Treasurer Joel Aitchison, Webmaster Doug Wilson, Curriculum Chair Kathy Rachick, Publicity Chair Jeanmarie Bronson

Absent: Curriculum Chair-Elect David Tavernier

Guests: Administrative Assistant Katie Cromer.

MINUTES

Minutes of the prior Board meeting, held October 18, 2019, were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT – Joel Aitchison

The balance in our university operating account is sufficient to handle all anticipated expenses.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT – Kathy Rachick

A draft of the Spring catalog has been sent to the liaisons for review and approval. At this point about half the liaisons have reported back.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT – Jeanmarie Bronson

Jeanmarie's deadline for submission to the December Mature Times supplement is two days before our Holiday Drop-in Reception. She is trying to get an extension so that the December article can cover the Reception as well as generate interest in the upcoming semester. She requests that any of us that take pictures at the event send her copies post haste.

An ad will be placed in the Aiken Standard the Friday before

registration begins, containing a registration form, similar to what was done before the Fall semester. We will try to get Chamarra to do the graphic design.

OLD BUSINESS*Holiday Drop-in Reception Planning*

The Board agreed on the catering items to order from Aramark. One email reminder has been sent out to the membership on the need to RSVP, and a second mailing is planned two days before the cutoff date. This also has been mentioned in The Spiral and on the website.

Continuing Education Department Staff

Joel is cutting back his University time to 10 hours/week next year and will be working on new programs and grants. Kim Steele has been hired to replace Joel, starting November 18, so she will have some time to overlap with Joel. Kim will share office 111 with Katie.

With Joel's reduced hours, he announced his resignation as Treasurer for the Academy. Katie Cromer agreed to take over the position, and the Board unanimously voted to install her as Treasurer.

Steeplechase

Doug presented receipts for incurred incidental expenses (ice, tablecloths, tableware, etc.) in the amount of \$45.75. The Board approved reimbursement via the Academy checking account.

The frame for the 12x12 ft canopy used at Steeplechase broke this fall and the canopy had to be discarded. Joel will research replacements and can request purchase approval via email. In the future the canopy will be stored at ContEd to avoid possible negative effects of storing in Wilsons' hot attic.

Class Attendance

Discussion continues regarding the low attendance we experience with some classes compared to the number of people signing up for them. This puts undue pressure on room scheduling and can be insulting to our instructors. Some have suggested that classes extending beyond four sessions are just too long so that many lose interest and Kathy suggested we amend our policies to limit classes to a maximum of four sessions. But aside from attrition in later sessions, we also have a problem with people who sign up but then don't come at all.

Our fee structure was again discussed, as there is no penalty for people to sign up for all sorts of classes but not attend. If one paid a fee for each registered class, it is felt there would be more of a commitment to attend.

Further discussion was tabled until January following the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

Scholarship Planning

We scheduled Mary Driscoll, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Affairs, to come at 3:15 to help set up our scholarship contributions for the 2020-21 academic year, but she was unable to appear.

Last year we contributed \$3000/year toward this year's scholarships: a \$1500 one slated for a "non-traditional" student, and two \$750 ones designated for military veterans. Harriet has heard from Ms. Driscoll that a \$500 amount for veterans would be sufficient to help cover their book needs, and that a smaller amount would allow our contribution to go to more students. We tentatively agreed to keep the \$1500 non-traditional scholarship and fund four \$500 veteran scholarships, resulting in a \$3500 commitment, a \$500 increase from last year, pending agreement with Advancement that that this would meet student needs. We hope to meet with Ms. Driscoll at the January Board to confirm the commitment.

As we consider the possibility of changing our class fee structure, we are not comfortable with increasing scholarship contributions beyond this amount until we have some experience under our belt as to how a fee structure change would affect our finances.

Further scholarship consideration was tabled until a future meeting when Ms. Driscoll or her designee can attend.

Consolidation with McGrath

The combined catalog for next semester is just a first step. Harriet will be scheduling additional meetings to explore the concept next semester.

NEW BUSINESS

Academy Secretary Position

Lucy Sutter resigned as Academy Secretary, citing job commitments. Doug proposed that the remaining Board members rotate responsibility for producing the Board Minutes on a monthly basis until the office is filled. Doug volunteered to take the current meeting. There is no December meeting. Harriet will take January, Jan February, Kathy March, and Jeanmarie April.

Harriet will again try to get someone from the Curriculum Committee to volunteer as Secretary, and Doug will place a plea in the newsletter and on the website.

Microphones for Sound System

The two clip-on microphones used with our portable PA systems have quit working. The Board approved the purchase of two replacements, one clip-on and the other over-the-ear, with an anticipated expenditure of \$80.

Spring Semester

Joel is preparing the emails announcing registration for the

Spring semester. For online registration he will just link people to the Register page on our Academy website which then contains all the information and links necessary.

Classroom availability will be tighter next semester than in the past. This may limit our ability to move popular classes to larger venues when necessary.

ContEd is preparing a catalog for the Winter/Spring term which contains sections for offerings from the Academy, McGrath, and Continuing Education itself. Chamarra is working on the layout and graphics. Projected timing is for submission to the printer in early December, mailed copies to go out in mid-to-late December, and availability from the ContEd office after the first of the year. They are attempting to sell some advertising in the catalog to help cover the cost of printing. Electronic download of the Academy section will be available from our website when the design is finalized and sent to the printer in early/mid December.

Registration will open January 7 at 9am. The Registration Open House will be held that day from 9am to noon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53. The next Board meeting will be in January.



Visit the ACADEMY LOGO SHOP
Apparel and other items with the
Academy for Lifelong Learning Logo
www.cafepress.com/A4LLL

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Academy Officers: President: Harriet Haynes; Past President: Jan Van Slyke; President Elect: (vacant); Secretary: (vacant); Treasurer: Katie Cromer (UofSC Aiken), Web Master: Doug Wilson

Committee Chairpersons: Curriculum Chair; Kathy Rachick; Curriculum Chair-Elect: David Tavernier; Publicity Chair: Jean-Marie Bronson

Ex-officio Members: Faculty Liaison: Dr. Tim Lintner; Director Office of External Programs: Karen Edgington

Academy on the Web: aikenlearning.org

ACADEMY CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 <i>Kazuo Ishiguro</i> 9:30-10:30a [B 116] <i>Not'ble S Carolinians</i> 11a-12p [B 116] <i>H'dstones: Animals</i> 1-2p [B 124] <i>Aiken Opinion</i> 2:14-3:15p [B 124]	4 <i>French for Fun A</i> 9-10a [B 102] <i>Live from the MET</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 124] <i>Four Arts</i> 2:15-3:15p [B 124]	5 <i>Belly Fat</i> 9-10a [B 124] <i>Signal Corps</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 116] <i>Falun Dafa</i> 1-2p [B 116] <i>SC Paleontology</i> 2-3p [B 124]	6 <i>Exercise is Medicine</i> 9-10a [B 147] <i>French for Fun B</i> 10:15-11:15a [B 102]	7 <i>Character Dance</i> 10:30-11:45a [B 116]	8
9	10 <i>Kazuo Ishiguro</i> 9:30-10:30a [B 116] <i>Not'ble S Carolinians</i> 11a-12p [B 116] <i>H'dstones: Animals</i> 1-2p [B 124] <i>Aiken Opinion</i> 2:14-3:15p [B 124]	11 <i>Live from the MET</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 124]	12 <i>Signal Corps</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 116] <i>Falun Dafa</i> 1-2p [B 116]	13 <i>Exercise is Medicine</i> 9-10a [B 147] <i>French for Fun B</i> 10:15-11:15a [B 102] <i>Tea, The Beverage</i> 1:30-2:30p [B 124]	14 <i>Character Dance</i> 10:30-11:45a [B 116]	15
16	17 <i>Kazuo Ishiguro</i> 9:30-10:30a [B 116] <i>Not'ble S Carolinians</i> 11a-12p [B 116] <i>Sennsational Sky A</i> 2-3p [RP 217] <i>Sennsational Sky B</i> 3:15-4:15p [RP 217]	18 <i>Live from the MET</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 124]	19 <i>Titanic</i> 9-10a [B 116] <i>Signal Corps</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 116] <i>Falun Dafa</i> 1-2p [B 116]	20 <i>T'bred HOF Tour</i> 10a-12p [Hopelands Gardns] <i>French for Fun B</i> 10:15-11:15a [B 102] <i>Curriculum Comm.</i> 1:00-3:00p [B 102]	21 <i>Gardening Cheap</i> 9:30-10:30a [B 116] <i>Character Dance</i> 10:30-11:45a [B 116]	22
23	24 <i>Not'ble S Carolinians</i> 11a-12p [B 116] <i>Sennsational Sky A</i> 2-3p [RP 217] <i>Sennsational Sky B</i> 3:15-4:15p [RP 217]	25 <i>Live from the MET</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 124]	26 <i>Signal Corps</i> 10:30-11:30a [B 116]	27 <i>French for Fun B</i> 10:15-11:15a [B 102] <i>Plutonium</i> 2-3p [B 124]	28 <i>Character Dance</i> 10:30-11:45a [B 116]	29
[Location Codes @ UofSC Aiken] B = Bus & Educ Bldg P = Penland Bldg C = Convo Center H = Hum & Soc Sci Bldg RP = Ruth Patrick Sci Ctr N = Nursing Bldg						