



# ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Academy of Lifelong Learning  
University of Delaware

September 6, 2005

## WELCOME!

Academy Council extends greetings to our returning members and a welcome to our new members. It has been an unusually busy summer for the Academy and Council, with the advent of the Summer Courses program, the continuation of the Summer Lecture series, and in two other important areas:

### New Staff

Ruth Flexman has retired as University Coordinator and Linda Osoinach assumed that position on August 15. Ruth will continue to work for the Academy in the part-time position of Program Coordinator. Marya Dull retired as Senior Secretary and that position was filled on June 20 by Paula Germack. Come to the social on September 22 and meet Paula and Linda. More information about Linda will appear in the next Newsletter.

### Improvements to the Sound System

An effective sound system requires good speakers and amplifiers, good microphones, and lecturers who know how to get the most out of the equipment. This summer all speakers in the second floor lecture classrooms were replaced. In August, a plan for upgrading the sound systems in rooms on the first floor was activated. During the fall semester, we will be evaluating equipment upgrades for the microphones. These improvements will enhance our presentations here at the Academy. We look forward to completion of all of the projects (For more see page 5).

With our new staff lineup and new equipment we want this to be a banner 26th year at the Academy, and we invite your participation in making that happen.

Pete Wellington  
Council Chair



### MEET PAULA GERMACK

Paula joined the Academy at the quiet time following the end of the spring semester, and she was delighted with the lively environment of the summer programs and is looking forward to the fall semester. Before joining the Academy staff she was legal secretary for the law firm of Oberly, Jennings and Rhodunda where, she noted, many of the people she met were criminals or suspected criminals.

At the Academy Paula will take over the responsibilities of the Senior Secretary position previously held by Marya Dull. These include preparing the catalog and instructor manual and also assisting in the registration process.

Paula is a Delawarean through and through: born in Wilmington, raised in New Castle and living in Newark. She has worked for both key Delaware firms DuPont and MBNA.

Paula has a daughter who is entering the University of Delaware in engineering and another daughter who is a 15 year old Newark High School student. When not working with the "great group of people" she has found at the Academy she engages in her love of gardening, reading, and exploring philosophy and theology.

*Academy Newsletter*  
Academy of Lifelong Learning  
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Monte Haberman    Cree Hovsepian  
Anna Maria MacKeand Betty Garrigues

Schedule for the *Academy Newsletter*

<u>Submittal deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
Mon. Sept. 19	Mon. Oct. 10
Mon. Oct. 31	Mon. Nov. 21

Submittals may be sent to [rehrlich@udel.edu](mailto:rehrlich@udel.edu), or placed in the Newsletter mail slot on the rear wall in the Reception Area.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

The Member Relations Committee is offering New Members two orientation times to choose from. The days and times are:

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2005, 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2005, 11:50-12:20 p.m.

Please come to Room 108 to hear members of the Council and Staff explain the workings of the Academy, its relationship to the University of Delaware, and the many opportunities awaiting you as a member. The best way to feel at home here is to become involved.

If you have any questions look for those committee members with blue ribbons attached to their name tags. They'll be glad to help you.

Mary Ann Dowd  
Member Relations Committee Chair

**BRING A FRIEND WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 19 – 23**

Don't just tell your friends and co-workers about the Academy. Do much better. Invite them to visit during "Bring a Friend Week" which will be held from Monday, September 19

through Friday, September 23. This will give your friends an opportunity to experience the academy's stimulating classes, its impressive facilities and its interesting people. You can invite them to the social hour on Thursday.

As an incentive for your friends to join the Academy this semester, they can register during "Bring a Friend Week" for any class that is still available for enrollment. Membership fees for these registrants will be prorated.

Gerald Hapka  
Marketing Committee Chair

**GET INVOLVED - VOLUNTEER  
YOU ARE NEEDED**

If you registered by mail, you missed an opportunity to determine how you might become involved with activities at the Academy. People who registered in person may have stopped by the Volunteer Table to give us names and areas of interest.

There is still time - please let us know your interests and how you would like to be involved in volunteering at the Academy. We sometimes have a need in a particular area so a list of individuals and their interests can help our committee chairs. We also need others to help out at times - jobs such as cookie baking, telephoning, handing out notices, etc. Please stop at the Reception Desk in the Lobby, request a Volunteer Registry Form, fill it out and hand it to the receptionist on duty. If you have questions or want to register by phone or email, contact

Linda Miller - (302) 478-5161  
([Lindamac1936@AOL.com](mailto:Lindamac1936@AOL.com)) or  
Margaret Mitchell - (302) 234-1856  
([mitchma2@comcast.net](mailto:mitchma2@comcast.net))  
Volunteer Development Cochairs

**INSTRUCTORS WANTED!**

Once again we start a new semester with a wealth of choices in the course catalog. 53 of the 230 courses offered are new, and of the 215 instructors, 16 are teaching for the first time. It is great that we can explore new fields in our 26<sup>th</sup> year but we need to continue to do this. As a learning cooperative, we on the Curriculum Committee rely on you as members

of the Academy to keep our program flourishing as it has done in the past.

The following is a list of topics not currently offered at the Academy: Asian History (Japan, China, India); Quicken or Microsoft Money; The Story of Human Language (DVDs for a Teaching Co. course are available); Comparative Religion; Historical Jesus; History of American Politics; History of Impressionism; Botany/Plant Study; Engineering Principles (extensive material for such a course is available); Modern Triumphs/Failures in Engineering; Beginning Drawing; Modern Literature especially minority authors. Languages are popular and instructors are particularly needed for the introductory courses.

If you have an interest in teaching a course on any of these topics, please contact me by putting a note in my mail-box in the Reception area or speak to any member of the Curriculum Committee. We would be glad to help you get started. Also, look out for the course in Basic Course Development which will be offered again in the spring.

Irene Farrance  
Curriculum Chair

### **TIMES HAVE CHANGED**

The Reading Room is trying *something new* this semester. **On Wednesdays, volunteers will be monitoring for only one hour.** Now is the time for those of you reluctant to monitor or be a substitute for 1 ½ hours to consider volunteering for just an hour on Wednesdays. We'd love to see some new faces and this would give everyone an opportunity to try it. We still need monitors and substitutes on all the other days too. If you can find the time to help us keep the Reading Room open by volunteering, please leave your name and phone number at the Reception or Reading Room desk, or drop me a note in the Reading Room mailbox on the rear wall behind the Reception desk. Thanks!

Joyce Merges  
Reading Room Chair

### **TOM HANKS TO GRADS: "HELP" IS KEY WORD IN LIFE**

To quote Tom Hanks message to Vassar College graduates this past spring: "one four-letter word holds the answer to most of life's problems—HELP." We have no doubt this is true after attending classes Lifelong Learning for just one day and feeling the mood of all the caring volunteers. Tom also said that "any problem in the world can be solved as long as people are willing to help". He must have come to our Academy of Lifelong Learning! A perfect example of this thinking is to come for help at our Reception Desk. We will always try to know the answers or find the information you are requesting. Stop and visit us and pick up handouts including This Week, our weekly bulletin. To alert everyone to the help we provide, our volunteers will:

- Take your comments, and concerns
- Answer most questions concerning Academy activities, dates of bookstore openings, catalog requests, ordering new nametags when lost,
- Maintain a Lost and Found center
- Issue parking hang tags and renewal stickers to all members
- Contact University police whenever you have a problem in parking lots or emergency situations
- Help to get messages to instructors
- Provide forms to obtain ID card to gain access to UD campus library and other UD functions and purchases, including gym privileges at Carpenter Sports Center facilities on the Newark campus
- Provide forms to acquire a computer log-on account through UD
- Give refunds when you lose money in vending machines
- Keep a file of minutes of all Council meetings and financial reports
- Have guests sign our guest book and give them a yellow parking pass and stick-on name tag

Peggy DeCoursey  
Reception Desk Chair

## HI HO SILVER JUBILEE

The culmination of the Academy 25th Anniversary celebration was the Hi Ho Silver Jubilee on May 13, 2005.

This was a grand party beginning with a program in Room 105. Four people at the University of Delaware were instrumental in founding the Academy: Dr. Arthur Trabant, who was President at that time, Rich Fischer, Nancy Aldrich, and Jack Murray. Their work began in 1976 and the first classes were held February 6, 1980. Amazingly, the first three of these folks attended the program so we were able to honor them.

Speakers included United States Representative Mike Castle and United States Senator Tom Carper. Rich Fischer told poignant stories about how the Academy has enriched the lives of our members, and charter member Glenn Barbaras showed slides from the early days to the present. Jim Greathouse presented a video prepared by his MAC class, "When I'm Sixty Four."

The program concluded with, for the very first time, a combined performance by the Academy Chorus under the direction of Marilyn Haas and the Academy Band, directed by Joe Lofland - over 100 musicians. The music was magnificent, especially as they closed with God Bless America.

It was a marvelous demonstration of the tremendous progress of the Academy from its beginning in 1980 with 18 courses and 83 members. Today, 25 years later, the Academy is, we believe, the finest program of its kind in the world with a beautiful campus, outstanding facilities, a breath-taking array of 230 course offerings, and over 2000 members.

Following the program the fun continued with food, dancing and Goodstay Garden tours. The entire place was buzzing with excitement as 400 of us celebrated this highlight in Academy history. Things were supposed to finish at 5:00 p.m., but lots of folks stayed on to continue dancing.

Thanks to Ethel Foley and Nancy Cleary, Co-chairs of the Hi Ho Jubilee, Kay Young and Sue Poskitt for their fantastic decorations, Dick Holmes and Laura Bennett for organizing the dancing, Ellen Slade for arranging tours

through Goodstay Gardens, Don Von Schritlz and the Recorder group for providing music in the Gardens, The Four Winds for playing music at the beginning of festivities, Nancy Smith and Cynthia Miller who did the posters, and many, many thanks to all the volunteers who sold tickets and baked cookies for the party. A final thank you to Ruth Flexman for her wisdom and guidance throughout, and to the entire Twenty Fifth Anniversary Celebration Committee.

Ellie and Dave Munson  
Ethel Foley and Nancy Cleary  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## ART NEWS

There is growing enthusiasm within the Art Department--the quality of work just keeps getting better!

The Reading Room art exhibits change every two-weeks. The pictures not only enhance the walls, they also provide an opportunity for students to display their talent. Please stop by on your way to class and see progress being made in art expression. Jim Miller is the contact if you wish to sign up for an exhibit.

The following exhibits are planned for the fall:

September 6-9 The "Plein Air" summer art group will exhibit artwork in Room 105.

October 10-13 An art show (open to all students) and sale will be in Room 105.

November 14-17 The Holiday sale of student artwork will be held in the Lobby.

Twenty percent of all sales go to the Academy. Thus when you purchase a picture or a sculpture, you are really investing in your own experience.

Betty Murchison, Dot Garmus  
Cochairs, Art Exhibits

## CPR FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Do you know the warning signs of these life threatening emergencies?

heart attack                      cardiac arrest  
stroke                                choking

Would you know what to do if you saw the signs of one these medical emergencies?

"CPR for Family and Friends", offered as an extracurricular activity, will teach you.

This two-hour course will be given six times this semester at 2:00 p.m. on the following alternate Mondays, Sept 12 and 26, Oct.10 and 24 and Nov.7 and 21. (Please note that the courses are on Monday, not on Tuesdays as listed in the Academy catalog.)

Sign up in the office.

Tom Marshall and Bob Wuertz

### GATHER YOUR BOOKS

The annual Academy book sale will be held the week of Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time to start gathering together books, videos, and music CD's & tapes to donate to the sale. We will let you know when and where to bring them. Do **not** bring in your donations early – we have no place to store them.

Books make great gifts and many of the books in previous years were just like new. Proceeds from the sale go to the academy music and art programs

Howard Smith

### VOICES AND MUSIC

Hearing can become a challenge for many of us, who must rely on Academy audio systems for help. As we have considerably upgraded them this summer, it is opportune to note what these audio systems can --- and cannot -- do, and how we can help them.

Ideally, every seat in a room would provide the same listening experience. More practically we might wish to choose our seats. But volume in front rows may be deliberately reduced to help avoid feedback howls, while the rear, as in a concert hall, can suffer from sound reflections. Air-conditioning noises may appear at the sides, although reduced as much as practicable. However, new systems upstairs will give better room coverage, and the lunch room 105 system has been re-adjusted and improved despite technical difficulties of shape and size.

Music and pre-recorded matter, if the recording is good, is no great problem, but we

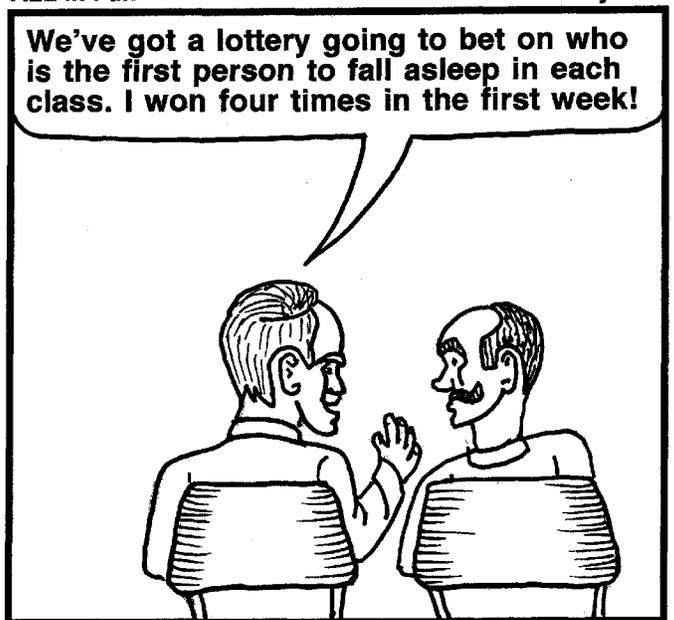
are not, generally, professional lecturers. Ability to project one's voice, even with a microphone, is not close to universal. No audio system can convert a weak voice into a strongly projected one, although it can help. If projection is not your strong point, there are ways to help. Clip-on microphones should be as close to the face as practicable. Speak into the end of hand-held microphones, not across the end. In difficult cases, the A/V techs may be able to help with special microphones. And in each re-equipped room a new volume control is convenient to the lecturer --- please adjust this for your (and your classes') best result.

Finally the vexing problem of microphone batteries. No batteries age gracefully. They die suddenly, unpredictably, and at the wrong moments. Our techs unfortunately cannot know if returned microphones were turned on or off for most of the day. Five hours or two hours? Daily replacement has been costed and proves remarkably expensive. We continually seek improvements, but a set-up tested out perfectly at the beginning of a class, can deteriorate and even die, well before the class ends.

Crawford MacKeand  
Equipment Committee Chair

ALL In Fun

by Bolt



## WHAT IS ALLSTEL?

What is ALLSTEL? It's intellectually stimulating, it's relaxing, it's good food, and it's great people. ALLSTEL is fun!

ALLSTEL is an Academy sponsored activity for members and their spouses. Each year during the Tuesday through Friday period after Memorial Day it takes place in Rehoboth Beach at the Brighton Suites Hotel. This facility is one block from the main street and one block from the beach.. The hotel's conference facilities are used for our lectures, our meals and our cocktail/social hours.

The purpose of ALLSTEL is to provide a summer enrichment activity in a setting that is educational and that fosters an opportunity for the attendees to get better acquainted. Eight lecture sessions provide the mental stimulation with topics chosen to have broad interest and minimum overlap with the normal Academy curriculum. Breakfast and dinner are catered by the hotel. Lunch time offers an opportunity to visit the many other eateries in Rehoboth Beach or the surrounding area. Free time allows ample opportunity to walk the boardwalk, sunbathe, visit the outlets or just hang out. Dinner seating limitations determine the number that we can accommodate. However, we have been able to satisfy a few more folks by offering a no-dinner option for the program. Footloose Tours serves as our travel coordinator and applications received by them on or before a March sign-up date (to be announced) are equally considered. Should the event be oversubscribed, a lottery is run after the March date.

Last summer's program was a great success. We had 118 attendees, excellent lectures, and very good food. The talks on Hoffa and Delaware in WWII were especially appreciated. The weather was unbelievable – warm and sunny throughout the week.

The applications (flyers) for the 2006 program will be available after the Thanksgiving break so that the snow birds have equal opportunity to apply. Join us!

Chuck Hober  
ALLSTEL Chair

## SUMMER LECTURES

The Academy's Summer Lecture series received its highest ratings ever this year. If you signed up, you heard Clyde Prestowitz summarize his latest book, *Three Billion New Capitalists*, on the rise of China's market economy and its disturbing implications for America's global future. Professor Bahira Sherif-Trask gave us some surprising data about modern families: Only 24% of them are traditional married couples with children under 18. Thirty one % are single parent families, most headed by women. Thirty one % of births occur outside marriage, many of them to older white women. And 31% of all households are composed of unmarried people living together. Times have changed! And on Friday, before our lunch, we were treated to a fine musical cabaret performance, straight from New York City. A polished professional end to an excellent series!

Nan Norling

## SUMMER COURSES DEBUT TO RAVE REVIEWS !

The Summer Courses program embarked with 313 intrepid Academy members ready to enjoy the maiden voyage of our newest program,. Participants were allowed to select up to 6 courses for a single fee of \$60, and they could choose from 44 courses. Several were given by members who were teaching at the Academy for the first time. The Summer Courses ran on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from July 5th through July 28th.

Students were able to study the correlation of Modern Art and Jazz, to paint from live models, to study gospels which were excluded from the New Testament, to traipse through meadows to find the stones put there by Mason and Dixon, to create a dramatic presentation of Delaware's history, to hear a first person account of surviving the Holocaust years in Vienna, and to learn about Native American plant remedies, and many, many more new and creative courses, as well as many old Academy favorites.

A satisfaction survey was distributed to all participants, and 175 were completed and

returned. These indicated a very high degree of satisfaction with the program in general, with the variety of courses offered, the quality of teaching, and the format and timing of the program. Fifteen individuals volunteered to teach next summer. The overwhelming impression was that attendees want this to become a permanent part of the Academy's summer session. Many positive and helpful comments and suggestions were made which will be used to tailor next year's program.

The large turnout of both teachers and students for this initial program, coupled with rave reviews, suggest that next year's program will be bigger and better, and marks this program's debut as an unqualified success.

Our thanks to all of the participants and instructors, to those who stepped up to the plate at the last minute to teach added sections, to all of the members of the Summer Courses Committee, the Council, the Office Staff, and to all of the other committees and individuals who helped to turn a good idea into a great program!

If you missed it this year, plan on it for next July!

Ellen Strober  
Summer Courses Committee Chair

### **WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE ACADEMY ALL SUMMER WHILE WE'RE GONE?**

We have been asked that question many times over the years. Some think the Academy office is closed all summer: others think we just relax and take it easy. The truth is we do plenty. Our office could be compared to the backstage of a play. You would be astounded to see what must be done behind the scenes to keep it all going.

During the summer months we catch up on all the things we need to do but have not had the time to do during the semesters. For example, after classes end in May, there are still four more weeks of work to be done on the catalog before it goes to print. The catalog requests are entered into the computer. We mail over 3000 catalogs for the fall and spring semesters. The registration program on the computer is updated and made ready to begin registration in August. All the files must be

checked and either retained in the office or sent to the records center in Newark as required by the University for storage or destruction. Equipment is inventoried, purchases made, systems repaired or replaced, bills paid, more paperwork and the list goes on and on.

The telephones continue to ring and we do our best to answer all the questions. This year we had our first Summer Courses program in July. Although it was only four weeks it required the same work as the other semesters, only on a smaller scale. August is here before we know it and fall registration begins. This is the most intense time for the staff.

And we can't forget the vacations. Summer is the time the staff takes their well deserved vacations. You know the phrase, "Use it or lose it." Well that works for university employees too. We earn a certain number of vacation days and once you reach your "max" any amount over that is lost. Not a happy thought.

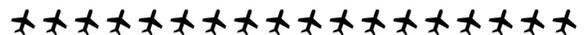
So next May when you are saying goodbye to us, remember we are preparing to move into high gear.

Jeanne Kennedy  
Assistant to the University Coordinator



- Sep 24 – A Day in New York
- Oct 29 – Baltimore, MD – Walters Art Museum and Inner Harbor
- Nov 15 – Washington, DC - National Museum of the American Indian
- Mar 27-Apr 2, 2006 – Charleston, Savannah

For more information, visit the Travel Desk in the lobby, Monday thru Thursday, 11:45 – 12:30



The Reception Desk provides a Suggestion Box for suggestions to Council.



## Schedule of Events



### LUNCH AND LEARN SPECIAL EVENTS

Come for lunch on Wednesdays at the Academy, and we'll make it special! Starting on September 14, you can hear a Special Events program in the lunch room (105) from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. each week while you eat

#### September 14 Dixieland Favorites

UUpeats Band with George Roewe

#### September 21 Update Your Living Will

Joan McLaughlin, Christiana Hospital

*Joan, the Hospital's Director of Patient Relations, will tell us how to keep living wills up to date and responsive to current issues.*

#### September 28 From Surf to Tsunami: Modeling Water Waves

Dr. James T. Kirby, Center for Applied Coastal Research, University of Delaware

*Dr. Kirby will discuss the way waves move, wrecking or creating beaches and changing with the tides. How do tsunamis form? Come and find out.*

#### October 5 Stem Cells and Therapeutic Cloning

Dr. Andrew Hoffman, Tufts University

*Hear the latest on this controversial issue.*

#### October 12 Hiking the Appalachian Trail

Jack Bergman,

*Take a hike along the Trail with longtime hiker and photographer, Jack Bergman.*

Look for the complete schedule of Wednesday Special Events programs on the Events bulletin board and on a poster near the main office.

Nan Norling  
Special Events Chair

### SOCIAL HOURS

The Academy will have three Social Hours this semester with tea, coffee, and delicious homemade cookies. There will be time for conversation with old friends and new ones. Mark your calendar with the time and dates:

- Thursday, September 22 1:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 18 1:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 30 1:45 p.m.

If you haven't already signed up to bring a batch of homemade cookies, please do so at the Reception Desk. Thank you!

Barbara Golin,  
Social Committee Chair

### ACADEMY CALENDAR

Tue. Sep. 6 – Fall Semester begins

Nov. 24-25 – Thanksgiving – CLOSED

Dec. 9 – Fall Semester ends

Jan. 3-11, 2006 – Spring Semester registration

Feb. 6, 2006 – Spring Semester begins

Mar. 27-31, 2006 – Spring Break – NO

CLASSES

May 12, 2006 – Spring Semester Ends

THE ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE TO PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PEOPLE OF RETIREMENT AGE. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY.