COMINGS AND GOINGS

April is change-over month for our volunteer governing board, the Academy Council. Members who have completed their terms step down and five new members begin three years of service. This year, the new members include Bob Boger, Don Grimes, Deb Haskell, Saul Reine, and Carl Schnee.

I will also be stepping down. By the time you read this, Irene Farrance will have become Council Chair for 2007-2008. Her past leadership on the Curriculum Committee and her experience on the Council make her a fine choice for this position. And even better, those of you who have enjoyed Irene’s classes over the years will be delighted to know that she will still be teaching in the Fall.

I am very grateful for all the support I’ve received from Council members this year, particularly from those who have completed their terms and are leaving. As Chair of our Facilities Committee, Dick Hartman led us through numerous successful fire drills and maintained a cooperative relationship with University grounds personnel. Sara Lu Schwartz, our Marketing expert for so many years, most recently managed the Reading Room with the help of Marcie Bierlein. Don von Schriltz, as Academic Vice Chair, was our liaison between the Council and our various program committees and provided sound advice throughout. And Pete Wellington and Jack Schmutz, respectively Former Chair and Advisor to Council, brought continuity and experience to our deliberations. All of them deserve our thanks.

So many people bring talent and enthusiasm to our Academy, making it a pleasure to join and to volunteer. As our Volunteer Development Chair, Bobbette Mason, always reminds us, “his place is a gift!”

Nan Norling
Chair, Academy Council

(Profiles of the new Council members are on page 4)

NEW UNIVERSITY CHARGES WILL INCREASE ACADEMY COSTS AND FEES

The Council recently learned that changes in university costs and accounting procedures will affect future membership fees. These will increase by a greater amount next year than has been our experience in the past. Next year’s annual fees will be $360 if paid by the year, or $200 per semester. These increases primarily result from higher energy costs and revised projections of repair and replacement costs for Arsht Hall facilities.

We have all seen energy prices rise significantly in the last several years. Commercial customers, such as the Academy, have seen a 100% increase in energy costs in the past year. The Academy must now budget $92,000 for utilities compared to the $28,000 budgeted in 2004.

In addition to these increases, the University Facilities Committee has determined that the costs, projected for repair and replacement charged to the Academy each year and included in our budget, must be adjusted upward. As a result, beginning with this year and going forward, we will be charged an additional $40,000 a year for this purpose.

To cover ‘06-‘07 year’s increases, we are able to use accumulated reserves. For the ‘07-‘08 year, the Council approved the use of income from Academy endowment funds to offset a significant portion of the increase. However, we find that we must ask our membership to shoulder part of the burden of these increased costs.

The Council recognizes that such increases may be overly burdensome to some of our members. Scholarships are available; applications for these are confidential. Please contact the University Coordinator in the Office for more information.

(Continued on page 2)
NEW UNIVERSITY CHARGES  
(Continued From Page 1)

Members who are financially able might seriously consider gifts to the Academy’s endowment fund. Such gifts are tax deductible and will help ensure the Academy’s continued financial security.

These changes are a matter of great concern to the Council, as they are to all members. In the months ahead, we will be exploring various options for managing our costs and raising additional revenue through our ongoing Strategic Planning project, as well as in other ways. We will continue to work to mitigate your future cost increases.

SUMMER COURSES

You will find something of interest when you take time to check through the green Course Listings for the Academy’s summer session. There are 43 courses to choose from, ranging from "Is Civilization Sustainable?" to "Key Decisions in Managing Money" and on to "Many Faces of Humor."

The listings are available at the Reception Desk and in the Lobby. Registration will continue in the lobby through the week of April 16. Following this week you will be able to register in the main office. For the $65 fee you may register for six courses. Courses will meet once a week for four weeks each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. to noon from July 10 through August 2. Several extracurricular classes will meet in the afternoon.

There are a number of last year’s favorites being repeated. For example, Kitty Byk is repeating her popular "Vienna 1938-1947, Getting By." "Great Decisions 2007" will be on the schedule as well as the ever popular "Current Events." Look for computer courses and a digital camera offering. There is something for everyone.

SPRING FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES  
REVISED SCHEDULE

The Friday afternoon series of public lectures continues through April 27. The series is hosted by Gary May, professor of history and director of the MALS program at the University of Delaware.

The final speakers in the series are:
April 20 – Professor Carol Haber (UD), author of "The Trials of Laura D. Fair: Sex, Insanity, and Murder in Victorian America," and  

Friday afternoon lectures begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. They are open to everyone, so bring a friend.

JUNE LECTURE SERIES (JUNE 18- 22)

We will be registering folks for the June lectures until the end of the semester. You may register at the table in front of the fireplace from 8:15 a.m. until 9 a.m. and again at lunchtime from 11:30 a.m .to 1:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We have some wonderful speakers on topics including heart surgery, Winterthur and H.F. DuPont, the Manhattan project, and more, all plus a great lunch for $55.00. Please sign up early.

Nancy Peters  
Chair, June Lectures
ALLSTEL MAY 29- JUNE 1, 2007

Spring has come in like a lion and the 110 folks that signed up for the ALLSTEL program at Rehoboth Beach will be looking forward to lots of sunshine and spring going out like a lamb. We have a full house anticipated at our late spring event at the Brighton Suites. Fortunately, we did not have to run a lottery this year but were able to accommodate all who applied by March 9th.

We are planning an exciting program that includes talks on such diverse topics as: “Alternate Energy Sources,” “Abraham Lincoln, Economic Revelations in the Nixon Papers,” and “Introducing a New Drug.” Those of you who have been to ALLSTEL can confirm that it is a relaxed, fun, sociable program. Many of you return each year. For those who have not attended, speak with some of the participants for their feedback... maybe you’d still like to join us. We can accept a few more; applications are available at the reception desk.

Chuck Hober
ALLSTEL Chairman

SPRING IS HERE!

Arsht Hall is such a wonderful facility that we sometimes overlook the remarkable campus that surrounds it. Come springtime, though, the grounds virtually demand to be noticed and appreciated. At this time of the year, the flowering shrubs beyond the terrace explode into color. Magnolias and flowering cherries lead this extravaganza. Don’t settle for the view from the terrace, no matter how pleasing. Wander over to Goodstay Gardens and celebrate the annual rebirth of a very special garden. Look for Virginia bluebells, spring beauties and wild columbine in the Park, admire the ancient wisteria blooming on the fence, and marvel at the daphne that traveled from Winterthur to Martha’s Vineyard to Goodstay.

This remarkable garden continues to bring joy to visitors because a group of dedicated volunteers work with University staff to maintain the beds. If you enjoy this garden and would like to help, call Marlene Snelling at 302-478-3869. They’re a fun group to work with.

ROBERT W. AND SHIRLEY P. GRIMBLE PROFESSORSHIP

On February 9, Provost Dan Rich announced that Christine Leigh Heyrman, Distinguished Professor of History, will become the Robert W. and Shirley P. Grimble Professor of American History.

Christine Leigh Heyrman specializes in early American and cultural history. She is the author of Southern Cross, The Beginnings of the Bible Belt, winner of the 1997 Bancroft Prize for the best book about American history. She is also the author of Commerce and Culture: The Maritime Communities of Colonial Massachusetts, 1690-1750, and Nation of Nations, a survey of Colonial times. Her current research focuses on the first cohort of American Protestant missionaries in the Middle East and their encounters with Islam from 1820-50.

Bob Grimble taught at the Academy for over 40 semesters. He led members through Renaissance Rome and Florence. With him, members followed de Tocqueville across America and he introduced us to the giants of the Renaissance. Bob spearheaded the campaign that matched the Arshts' initial gift to build the Academy’s home, Arsht Hall.

AWARD WINNING AUTHOR

Academy instructor, Jean Lamensdorf, was the 2006 Awardee of the Penn’s Grant Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVII Century for her book, Write Home for Me. She recently won First Prize in the 2007 Delaware Press Association’s Communications Contest. The prize will be presented at an Awards Banquet in the Ballroom of the University & Whist Club in Wilmington on April 24. Write Home for Me, published by Random House Australia, has had glowing reviews from the media, and from Dr. Robert J. O'Neill, former Professor of the History of War, All Souls College, Oxford. Jean presented highlights from her experience as a Red Cross volunteer during the Viet Nam War at last summer’s June lecture series.
ACADEMY COUNCIL

On March 12, the Council affirmed five new members whose backgrounds are summarized below. They will serve three-year terms beginning with the April meeting.

If you would like to know more about what Council has been doing, the minutes of Council meetings are available in notebooks at the Reception Desk and in the Reading Room. These notebooks also contain the Academy By-Laws and Operating Policies.

Robert Boger received a Ph.D. in theoretical and applied mechanics from Cornell University. He retired from the engineering department of the DuPont Co. Hobbies include digital photography, birding, golf, and the Academy where he has taught digital photo editing and is chair of the Facilities Committee.

Don Grimes has a BSME from the University of Maryland and a Master of Commerce from the University of Richmond. He retired from DuPont after 37 years in marketing, management, and manufacturing positions. He has been at the Academy since 2001 and has been active in new member recruitment, currently as Vice-Chair of the Marketing Committee and leader of the “Bring A Friend Week”. Don is active in his local church, and enjoys his grandchildren, traveling, and playing golf.

Deb Haskell received a Ph.D. in mass communications from NYU. She taught speech and communications courses at various colleges including Hunter College. She was Executive Director of Delaware Heritage Commission. She particularly enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, tennis and swimming, and is ending a two-year term as President of the Wilmington Trail Club. She enjoys reading good fiction and is getting ready for her daughter's wedding this June. Her daughter was born while Deb was living in Uganda in 1970. At the Academy she has taught Delaware history and initiated the Ambassadors program.

Saul Reine has a B.S. in biology, and an M.S. Equivalent in microbiology from Long Island University. He retired in 2000 after 38 years in education as a biology teacher/high school assistant principal in NYC public schools and Director of Science, Plainview-Old Bethpage County School District, Long Island, NY. Since 1983 he has been involved in integrating computers into science education. A self-taught computer nerd who loves teaching science, digital photography, tinkering with cars and houses, and roaming Civil War battlefields, Saul teaches computer courses and co-chairs the computer coordinating committee.

Carl Schnee received his law degree from Villanova and an M.A. in liberal studies, from the University of Delaware. He has practiced law in Delaware since 1962 as assistant public defender for the State, trial attorney in all courts, senior partner, and U.S. Attorney for the District of Delaware during the Clinton administration. He is currently with Bifferato, Gentilotti, Biden and Balick, specializing in alternative dispute resolution (mediation and arbitration). Carl has been a leader in many community groups including the YMCA Resource Center, the Delaware Children's Campaign, and the Committee for the Arts at Ferris School. At the Academy he has taught Current Events, government and law courses, as well as a course on Abraham Lincoln.

WOW! WHAT A YEAR

Our banner hanging on the fireplace wall in the lobby is spilling over with names of people who have made a connection here. Each name represents a unique commitment. The sum total captures the essence of this place.

At the center there are 256 instructors who enlighten, inspire and challenge us, bringing the fullness of their life experiences to each offering. Surrounding them are 367 volunteers...
who support, sustain and enrich the program with a host of activities that make this place truly extraordinary.

Our banner celebrates every level of commitment throughout the year. Each person’s name signifies a gift. Without knowing it, we have fed each other…literally and figuratively. To the instructors and volunteers, “You made it happen. Thank you.”

The Academy…What a gift!

Bobbette Mason
Chair, Volunteer Development

SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAYS
12:45 TO 1:45 PM IN ROOM 105

PROGRAM NOTES

Special Events Wednesdays programs are for all those attending the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Attend one Wednesday or every Wednesday to fit your schedule and interests. Announcements begin at 12:40 p.m. and each program begins at 12:45 pm. We look forward to enriching your day!

April 18 Longwood Gardens - Back to the Future, Dave Thompson and Amy Shearer

Longwood Gardens, near Kennett Square, PA, has been a focal point of the Brandywine Valley for one hundred years. Attend this entertaining and informative presentation to test your knowledge of Longwood’s great history and traditions, learn about recent and planned changes in the Gardens facilities and programs, and ask the questions you wish to know about Longwood, the world’s premier horticulture display garden.

April 25 The Academy Players – “For Your Ears Only---As Radio Used to Be” Ray Bock, Director, Gerri Ross, Producer

Do you remember Fred Allen, Mrs. Nussbaum, Easy Aces, and the Bickersons? Well, even if you don’t, you can still laugh with them at this Special Events Wednesday.

May 9 Spring Concert Academy Chorus
Marilyn Haas, Conductor; Lu Soukup, Conductor; Paula Gardiner, Piano Accompanist

The Academy Chorus is back in swing now with about 70 voices strong. This semester, Lu Soukup, a soprano in the chorus, will be conducting some of our music. Some of the bouncy numbers we will be singing at our concerts in the Spring are “Music, Music, Music,” “Mississippi Mud,” and “The Rock Island Line.” The more gentle songs are “Try To Remember” from The Fantasticks, “What A Wonderful World” from Good Morning, Vietnam, and “May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You” - a Meredith Willson number. If you remember, Meredith Willson is the composer of The Music Man. We’re also singing “Theme” from “Ice Castles” and “Where Or When,” composed by Rodgers and Hart, and a few others that we will let you find out for yourselves.

This is the last semester that Paula Gardiner will be our accompanist. She is moving to South Carolina during the summer. We will definitely miss her. She has been with the Academy Chorus for a long time and keeps us on the beat.

UPCOMING IN THE FALL
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 12 Steve Dombchik will update us as to the work of the Academy Strategic Planning Committee. This work is very important for the future of the Academy and your questions and comments are needed to inform the committee.

September 19 “Ralph Archbold as Ben Franklin.” Ralph began portraying statesman, author, and inventor Benjamin Franklin in 1976. Ralph is the official Ben of the Constitution Center and he portrays Ben with an inspiring and humorous message.

September 26 Al Santoro and the Hi-Liters were snowed and iced out on Valentine’s Day but are back by popular demand. Come join us for wonderful music through the decades of the 20th century and maybe even dance if you wish.

Lyn Newsom
Chair, Special Events Wednesdays
ACADEMY ART SALE

Redecorate for spring. Works by Academy artists will be on sale from April 23-27 in the Lobby. Look for class exhibits in the South Hallways.

SOCIAL HOURS

The last Social Hour of the semester is on Wednesday, April 25.
The Social Hour offers coffee, tea and delicious homemade cookies. Socials start at 1:45 p.m. There will be time for conversation with old friends and to make new ones.

RESERVE THE DATE
END OF SEMESTER LUNCHEON

The Academy will finish the semester with an end of semester luncheon on Friday, May 11. Look for more information on posters and in This Week at the Academy.

Gerald Hapka.
Luncheon Committee Chair