



# ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Academy of Lifelong Learning  
University of Delaware

March 15, 2010

## JUNE IS COMING!

It's that time again! It's time to reserve your spot for the June Lecture Series at the Academy. The series runs from June 14 - June 18. Registration will start Monday, March 22 from 9 a.m. until 1:50 p.m. and continue through Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lobby. Cost is \$50. All registrations after spring break will be through Ellen Saienni in the Academy Office.

Our speakers once again will be varied, new to the Academy, and both interesting and fun. You will leave thinking "I didn't know that," which is our goal every year.

We will open with a Winterthur day: four lectures by Winterthur staff, covering the museum's assets both inside and out.

Tuesday, we will learn from Drs. Don Sparks and Anthony Aufdenkampe about the new Delaware Environmental Institute and its collaboration with the Stroud Water Research Group. Dr. Debra Hess Norris will then discuss photographic restoration.

Wednesday, Mary Shelley's manuscripts will come alive in the hands of Dr. Charlie Robinson, followed by part two of Jane Flitner's popular American Illustrators talk of 2009.

Thursday, the Delaware Natural History Museum (Halsey Spruance and Don Miller) will turn us into local paleontologists. Next Diane Talarek, Christiana Care's chief nursing officer and Senior VP, will give us the inside story on nursing: what was it...what is it...what's next?

Friday is music day with Teal Wintsch from the Dave Bromberg Studios on how to make music from a few pieces of wood turned into a violin. To cap it off, the youngsters from the Cab Calloway School of the Arts will present their special 2010 Disney World program to send us off for summer!

Come, relax, enjoy and learn. Please join us this year.

The June Lecture Series Committee

## SPRING PERFORMING ARTS AND SPEAKERS PROGRAM: FRIDAYS AT 1 P.M.

The series continues with these programs which are open to all Academy members and to the public.

March 19 Prof. David L. Ames, UD Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) **Is Delaware Architecturally Challenged? How to Find Architectural Joy in Delaware**

April 9 Brian Stone, Robert Brandt & students from UD Opera Theatre's Opera Workshop  
Two one-act operas: Gian-Carlo Menotti's **The Telephone** and Lennox Berkeley's **A Dinner Engagement**

April 23 Composer and Pianist Scott Ward, Minister of Music at the First Unitarian Church, Wilmington and four professional soloists **Musical Interludes of the poems of ee cummings**

April 30 Nancy Wolfe, **East Germany: What it was like to live in a Communist country**

## SUMMER COURSES, JULY 6 TO 29

Classes are Tues., Wed. & Thurs. mornings. Cost is \$75 for six courses.

Courses include: **Art Appreciation** (Dali, Man Ray, Wyeths and the Vogel Collections); **Political Science and History** (Great Decisions, States Rights, Franco American Relations, Kosher Nostra, Herod the Great, Pirates and Legal Eagle interviews); **Philosophy** (Chaos and Complexity, Jung, Philosophy Of Religion), **Literature** (Thomas Hardy, Sophocles, Readers Theatre 2) and much more.

Pick up a registration booklet and register at the front table in the lobby right after the Spring break. Volunteers will be there from Monday, April 5, through Friday, April 16, in the mornings only. **And, try something new**, the jug band jam!

*Academy Newsletter*  
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Schedule for the *Academy Newsletter*

<u>Submittal deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
Mon., April 5	Mon., April 19

Submit articles to [rehrllich@udel.edu](mailto:rehrllich@udel.edu), or place in the Newsletter mail box in the Reception Area.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSICIANS WANTED**

One of the Academy's strengths is its music program. We have over 100 performers, many of whom play in more than one group. Even with this number, there are always unmet needs. Specifically, the orchestra needs people who play string bass, trombones, violins, and other instruments. The brass ensemble needs another trumpeter or two. The jazz ensemble needs percussionists. If you are interested, the instructor/conductor would like to talk to you. There is always room for more players of different skill and experience levels.

If you have the time and the desire to participate, the Academy offers an opportunity to renew or expand your musical pleasure. We have an intermediate band which welcomes people who haven't played for many years, and a beginning instrumental program for those who have never played. In addition to these and the ones mentioned above, there are other groups for various instruments. For more information, contact any instructor or put a note in the Music slot behind the Reception Desk.

## **ACADEMY ARTISTS**

The Academy Artists exhibit at the Lorelton, 2200 West Fourth Street, continues through March 25. Hours are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Some art will be for sale.

Kay Young and Cree Hovsepian  
Exhibit coordinators

## **ACADEMY BUS TRIP TO P.T.T.P./REP**

The Ides of March are here today; yesterday Daylight Savings Time began; Saturday is the first day of spring. With all those portents, can the Spring Academy-P.T.T.P./REP bus trip be far behind?

We will go back in time to 1936, to the fictional town of Ballybeg in County Donegal. Hard times in a hard place. We will visit the five Mundy sisters, and experience the tensions between Sunday church services in the morning and the Festival of Lughnasa in the woods at night dedicated to Lugh, ancient God of Light.

The play is the Tony award winning "Dancing at Lughnasa" by Brian Friel. We will be attending the 2 p.m. performance by the REP Company on Saturday, April 24, 2010 in the Thompson Theatre in the Center for the Arts (CFA). There will be a Prologue giving context and background to the play 45 minutes before curtain time.

To accommodate the prologue, the bus will leave from the upper parking lot promptly at 12:30 p.m. and will return immediately after the performance. For those who prefer to drive, there is a parking garage adjacent to the CFA.

Costs are \$8.00 for the performance, and \$9.00 for the bus. Tickets will go on sale in the Arsht Hall Lobby at noon, Monday, March 22, for one week only. The REP Company offers an exciting theatrical experience, and performances are being sold out. Don't miss your chance to pull up a chair and visit with the Mundy sisters.

Irv Engleson

## **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

We are planning a silent auction as part of the 30th Anniversary luncheon on Oct. 1.

Some suggestions include:

- Car wash coupons
- Computer consultation
- Jewelry

Consider contributing through your contacts, generosity, and creativity. Contact Ethel Foley, Sheila McGill, Linda Miller or Nancy Smith with your donations and questions.

## **COMPUTERS! COMPUTERS! TO UPGRADE OR NOT UPGRADE? THAT IS THE QUESTION.**

The people who make computers and software are in business to make money. You may read in the newspaper, hear on television or have your friends tell you that you need to upgrade your computer. Do you really need to? Before you decide to upgrade, evaluate your needs. If you are dissatisfied because your computer has slowed down over the years, you may need to simply "clean up" your personal computer. The Academy has three courses (Windows in Practice, Vista in Practice and Computer Management, Advanced) to show you how to "clean up" your computer. If you want to upgrade, remember that you will probably need to adjust to a new operating system. The Academy offers courses to help you learn how to use what can be a confusing new operating system. The bottom line is, if your present computer meets your needs, you do not need to buy a newer computer.

Kenneth Mulholland

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

- Make sure that you have an updated hang-tag for this semester. If you registered in the Fall for the whole year, your 09-10 sticker is still valid.
- Park within the lines.
- Clear snow from the top of your car. It is dangerous to you and others on the road.

## **GARDENING SPEAKERS**

Academy members are invited to attend individual programs that interest them. The class meets Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in Room 108.

**3/16 Water Conservation**, Eva Oehler, Master Gardener

**3/23 Bees** Peter Lindner

**4/6 Restoring a Woodland Ecosystem**  
Betsey Ney, Tyler Arboretum

**4/13 Vertical Gardening** Tom Maddux

## **THE BEST KEPT SECRET**

When I signed up as a volunteer at the Academy, I thought I was making an offering of spare time to help out. The offering was valid. As an educator, I not only had some skills that were useful, but also had some insights that resonated with the needs of this community. It felt good to serve, to make a difference, to live into the founders' vision of a learning cooperative. I was fortunate enough to be elected to serve on the Council, chair a committee and become part of the team that sustains this place. All this is good.

No one told me that volunteering is a gift hiding in plain sight. As we worked together, I discovered community...warmth and compassion among the members here, people willing to share bits of their story, both triumphs and tragedy. I also felt valuable, blessed beyond my fondest dreams, at an age when life could have passed me by. But it didn't.

This is my invitation to each one of you. Find a way to become a volunteer. Choose something that appeals to you and make an offering to the Academy.

Pick up a volunteer form at the Reception Desk. Make a commitment to serve. You might even discover the best kept secret, this extraordinary gift hiding in plain sight. Your offering will not only enrich the Academy, but will confirm your sense of worth as well.

The Academy...What a gift!

Bobbette Mason  
Volunteer Development Co-Chair

## **BOOK GROUP**

The Academy's Book Group has selected an interesting assortment of books to read and discuss for the rest of the school year and the start of the fall session.

On April 7 we will discuss *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen. We'll finish on May 5 with *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Over the summer we'll read *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel and be ready for a lively discussion in September. Everyone is welcome, so please join us the first Wednesday of the month at 3:20 p.m. in room 224.

Mary Lew Bergman

## THIRTY CHEERS FOR THE ACADEMY A PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY

While at the Academy during the registration period in early January 2010, I was sitting with a group of friends talking and another member joined us. He got the group laughing and talking when he said: "When I was a child I hated going to school and when vacation time came around I loved vacation time. Now that I am a senior citizen attending the Academy, I love going to school and I hate the vacation time." At the Academy there is always something interesting going on. If you are not in class you can sit and drink coffee or go to the Reading Room, or talk with a friend, or just sit outside and enjoy the beauty.

I have been attending the Academy continuously for twenty years and it seems like just yesterday when I first joined. My wife Vivian has been a member since the first year the Academy opened 30 years ago. During my twenty years there is one class that I have signed up for each year, namely "Yesterday for Tomorrow." I have enjoyed writing short stories of my life experience and I believe I have produced more than 250 stories. Several members of the class have been attending for ten years or more. Copies of my stories are put away in a box. I did put the first 100 in a booklet entitled "Things Remembered." I feel that as long as I can get to the Academy, I will be enrolled in that course and still trying to write stories. I have enjoyed doing this and my family members tell me to keep on writing because they get information from time to time that they would never have known about.

There are about 30 students in the class and it is estimated that each student produces ten stories a semester. Just think how much interesting and useful information could be produced if all 2000 plus students of the Academy would be writing their life experiences in short stories.

You can see that the Academy of Lifelong Learning is a great place to be.

Leonard J. (JOE) Young, Sr.

## ACADEMY ORAL HISTORY

During the summer of 2009, Academy students enrolled in a beginning "Oral History" course in which they learned techniques for creating oral histories. They listened to pieces of oral histories, watched a few video tapes of oral historians at work, engaged in practice interviewing techniques and walked away with a short tape of their own histories.

One of the suggestions for celebrating our 30th anniversary was to interview people who were in the beginning group of students, teachers and staff. The class members were asked if they would help with these interviews. The answer was "yes."

Twelve people were identified to be interviewed. Five members from the Oral History class (Christine Fraser, Cynthia Kuespert, Joseph Skwish, Pat Pheris and instructor Debbie Haskell) plus Joanne Woodward from an earlier Oral History Summer class agreed to do the interviews. Not all have been completed at this time.

Interviewed to date are: members, Glen Barbaras, Robert Carter, Margaret Hardin, Martha Newlon, Bert Spivey, Agnes Dignam, and former staff member, Jeanne Kennedy. A portion of Martha's interview appears in this issue of the Newsletter. More interviews will appear in future issues.

## MIND ALERT

An article by Program Coordinator, Ruth Flexman, *2009 MindAlert Award Winner Wraps Up an Artful Year*, was published in the Nov-Dec. 2009 issue of the American Society of Aging newspaper, *Aging Today*. The article gives an overview of our performing arts programs for which we received the 2009 MindAlert Award.

H1N1



### 30 YEARS AGO

Martha Newlon started teaching at the Academy due to the pressure of a good friend, Nancy Aldrich, the first administrator of the Academy engaged in the Academy's formation. Martha says "I had told her this can't work, for what teacher would be foolish enough to pay to teach when they had been earning an income from teaching before? So Nancy invited me down to the University for lunch and brought in the heavy weight, Associate Provost Rich Fischer. I was persuaded to teach one term as an experiment. I found that my Academy yoga students were intensely interested and game to try something new with no self-consciousness or embarrassment when things didn't go right with a posture. Their enthusiasm and conviction that yoga was making a big difference in improving their health made teaching a joy and satisfying. It was worth the tuition cost. So I was hooked and eventually left my private classes for which I was paid, as Academy classes grew in size and numbers of classes. Happily several of my wonderful private students took teacher training and recruited some other outstanding teachers."

"In teaching yoga at the Academy I was able to stay out of the way and teach in the spacious CARPETED ballroom at Wilcastle. We continued our classes in the summer at various churches which, unfortunately, had some very hard floors. Interestingly, the early classes attracted 10% or more of the total enrollment of the Academy enrollment – as is still the case each semester."

"A decade ago I eased out of teaching Yoga and jumped into joining the start-up of an Academy Band. My degree as a music educator was useful." For help Martha called the Delaware Symphony and explained, "We have started a band for seniors. I have started learning to play a trumpet although I'm over 80 years old. Here at the Academy there are some people coming



back to their instruments after 40 to 50 years and others would like to learn a new instrument. We need someone who knows how to put a band together." Martha adds, "We were able to interest a colorful 'band man' named Joe Lofland - the right man at the right time. He and the outstanding conductors who followed have done a fabulous job. We also had some professional musicians teach master classes. The talented, energetic team of charter member players plus later additions has made the band very successful and developed ensembles that are making a great contribution in the community."

"If you don't feel you're making a difference and helping someone, you're just wasting your time...but if you are doing it because you see what benefits come to others, then it's rewarding. Yoga yielded this for me. The music connection also has been inspiring."

The now 70+ member band has grown from the original 12 to 19 and spun off many other performing groups, and Martha is still teaching, her 51st semester of teaching at the Academy.

Looking at the experience and advice of Nancy Aldrich, Martha concludes, "The Academy will succeed if a strong 'hands on' Council (of volunteers) continues to really run things with volunteer teachers."

*Based on an interview conducted by Pat Pheris on Oct. 27, 2009 with additions by Martha.*



Gene Klug's 1980 Shakespeare class. He had to bring his own tape and record players and we went to a student's home to watch plays on TV  
Glen Barbaras



# Schedule of Events



## SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAYS 12:40-1:45 P.M. IN ROOM 105

These programs are for all Academy members – there is no registration required.

### 3/17 Haiti Beth Miller

**NewsJournal** reporter Beth Miller accompanied and reported on the Delaware medical mission to Haiti.

**3/24 The Presidents: How They Have Failed and Succeeded** Tom Evans, Former Delaware Congressional Representative and Former Co-Chair of the Republican National Committee

### 3/30 No Program. Spring Break

**4/7 Current News and Issues, Washington and the World** David Hoffman and Ralph Begleiter

David Hoffman, Contributing Editor to the **Washington Post**, has just finished his second book, "The Dead Hand," which covers the chilling history of the cold war arms race. David has had a distinguished career with the **Post**, from White House reporter to Assistant Managing Editor for Foreign News. Ralph Begleiter, Distinguished Journalist in Residence, and Rosenberg Professor of Communications, has recently been asked to direct a new Center for Political Communication at UD. In addition, he continues to teach courses in journalism, communication, and political science.

### 4/14 The Modern Family

Suzanne J. Cherrin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Womens Studies and Latin American Studies, University of Delaware

**4/21 The Journey of a Lifetime** Barbara Deutsch

Ms. Deutsch describes her interesting adventures in traveling to China, where she met and adopted her daughter, Maya, who was a new-born infant at the time. Her father, Dr. Thomas Deutsch, who accompanied her, is a student at the Academy. Barbara Deutsch is executive director of a national organization based in Washington, DC.



## 2010

Mon., March 29 to Fri., April 2 – Asheville and the Biltmore Estate

Sat., May 15 – Mt. Vernon

Sat., July 10 – New York *The Addams Family*

Mon. Aug. 9 to Fri., Aug 13 – Niagara Falls/Shaw Festival

For more information on these and other Academy travel opportunities, visit the Travel Desk in the Lobby, Monday through Thursday, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL

Join your fellow members for coffee, cookies, and conversation. Meet in the Lobby starting at 1:30 p.m. on Wed., March 17

## ACADEMY CALENDAR

### 2010

Mon, March 29 to Fri., April 2 .. Spring Break

.....NO CLASSES

Fri., May 14..... Spring Semester ends

Tues., June 1 - Fri., June 4..... ALLSTEL

Mon., June 14 - Fri., June 18

..... June Lectures

Tues. July 6 - Thurs., July 29

.....Summer Courses

Tues.-Thu., July 27-29 ..... P.M. Registration

Mon.-Fri., Aug. 2-6..... A.M. Registration

Tues., Sept. 7 ..... Fall Semester begins

Tues., Nov. 2 ..... Election day (no classes)

Thu. Fri., Nov. 25-26..... Thanksgiving

.....NO CLASSES

Fri., Dec. 10 ..... Fall Semester ends

### 2011

Mon., Feb. 7..... Spring semester begins

THE ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE TO PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PEOPLE 50 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY.