



ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Academy of Lifelong Learning
University of Delaware

September 10, 2007

MEET BASIL MAAS, OUR UNIVERSITY COORDINATOR



Basil Maas joined the Academy staff on August 16 as our new University Coordinator, replacing Linda Osoinach who has become Financial and Information Technology Manager for the Division of Professional and Continuing Studies. Ruth Flexman will continue as Program Coordinator. Basil views the position as the third phase of a career that “connects the dots” of his prior experience.

A native of Baltimore, Basil spent thirteen years as a member of the Maryland Jesuit Province. In that position he was involved as an educator and administrator at the high school and undergraduate levels. His own educational background includes master's degrees in divinity and theology from Boston College and in philosophy and social service administration from Saint Louis University.

After a stint as a manager of Children and Family Services in California, he returned East in 1991 to take up management positions at MBNA, becoming a First Vice President. He also served as Director of Donations and Community Education with the MBNA Foundation. He is proud of the efforts of MBNA volunteers who raised the reading scores in a local school by two grade levels and who, through one-on-one efforts, enabled school teachers and administrators to utilize district-provided computer technology.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning a new year at the Academy is always exciting – new courses to inspire us, new friends to make as well as old friends to greet. This year we also welcome a new University President, Dr. Patrick Harker, and here at the Academy, a new University Coordinator, Basil Maas. Assisting Basil will be Betty Gail Timm, the new Staff Assistant. These new Academy employees join our six continuing staff members [see page 4 for more information about our staff].

New beginnings bring both opportunities and challenges. The Strategic Planning Committee has identified areas on which we need to focus in order to move into the future with confidence that the Academy will continue to meet the needs of members. We plan to work hard to take advantage of the opportunities and to meet the challenges with the enthusiasm and commitment which are the hallmark of the Academy.

To friends old and new, welcome. Enjoy all that the Academy has to offer: academics, art, music, special events, healthful activities, and most of all, the opportunity to share the experience with so many like-minded people

Irene Farrance
Chair, Council

Basil lives in Kennett Square with his wife, Jackie, and daughters Juliette (16) and MacKenzie (13). Juliette is headed to Barcelona under a Rotary exchange program and the family is taking in a student from Zaragoza, Spain. For relaxation, Basil enjoys reading and getting outside in the garden, a legacy of eight years as a youth working for a landscaper.

Basil's extensive experience in administration and working with all educational levels will enable him to fulfill his goal of helping people accomplish what they need for an enriched life.

Academy Newsletter
www.academy.udel.edu/newsletter

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Schedule for the *Academy Newsletter*

<u>Submittal deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
Mon. Sept. 24	Mon. Oct. 15
Mon. Oct. 22	Mon. Nov. 12

Submit articles to rehrlich@udel.edu, or place in the Newsletter mail slot on the rear wall in the Reception Area.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
WED., SEPT. 12, 12:45-1:45
ROOM 108/109

New members are invited to hear members of the Academy Council and staff give information regarding the Academy. The history of the Academy, its relationship to the University and how courses and instructors are chosen will be covered.

Learn how you can get involved and make new friends. Discover the special benefits you can receive as an Academy member such as a free internet connection, get instructions on how you may use the University Library or learn how to participate in Academy trips.

This is a meeting that all new members can't afford to miss — see you there.

Feel free to bring lunch.

Joan Ellis
Chair, Member Relations

ACADEMY SOCIALS

We will have three socials this semester. The first one is Tuesday, September 25, 1:30 - 2:15. We invite all Academy members (and guests) to attend and partake of delicious homemade cookies, as well as coffee and tea, and much conversation. This is a good way to meet others! We welcome anyone who likes to bake to bring cookies for this event. You may sign up to bake cookies at the Reception Desk.

Our other socials will be Wednesday, October 17, and Thursday, November 15. We are also scheduling a breakfast on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31. More details about this will follow, but mark your calendar now.

It may seem far away at this point, but our closing luncheon on the last day of classes, will be on Friday, December 14. We hope you will attend all of these events if your schedule permits. We hope to meet and greet you!

Linda Miller, Socials Chair

ACADEMY FLYERS

Academy fliers such as the Newsletter and This Week are now available on the second shelf of the bookcase outside the Office.

BRING A FRIEND WEEK
SEPTEMBER 24-28

Make someone happy and create a lifelong opportunity. Don't just tell your friends and co-workers about the Academy, do much better by inviting them to visit during "Bring a Friend Week" which will be held from Monday, September 24 through Friday, September 28, 2007. Enjoy a social with homemade cookies on Tuesday September 25, at 1:30 p.m. This will give your friends an opportunity to experience the Academy's stimulating classes, its impressive facilities, and its interesting people. Your efforts are important in helping to maintain membership and ensuring an exciting Academy in the future.

As an incentive for your friends to join the Academy this semester, they can register during "Bring a Friend Week" for up to five classes that are still open for enrollment. Membership fees for these new registrants will be reduced from \$200 to \$150 to reflect the classes missed.

Jerry Hapka and Bruce Morrissey,
Marketing Committee

STRATEGIC PLANNING: A PATH TO OUR FUTURE

Last year 16 Academy members and staff met monthly to review the current state of the Academy and develop plans for its future. We focused on membership, academics, facilities, and finances. Our recommendations were approved by Council last May. Committees are in the process of formulating plans to address each of the identified areas, many of which are noted below.

We want the Academy to grow, and believe we have the capacity to easily absorb the 90 members per year increases seen prior to the year 2000. We want to improve the diversity of our membership and to attract younger members. We believe expanded volunteer participation will aid membership retention in addition to serving the needs of the Academy.

Our academic program has evolved significantly over the life of the Academy to meet the needs of our members. Last semester 99% of our members were able to take at least four requested courses. Computer and art classes have the largest wait lists. We still have empty computer classrooms; we simply do not have enough teachers and assistants to meet demand. Art courses use two dedicated rooms to capacity; we need to be creative and equitable in offering more opportunities for our members to take various art classes. New courses need to be developed to attract the desired diverse and younger membership. The need to recruit new instructors is ongoing; particularly as 15% of our instructors are over 80 years of age. We plan on exploring alternative class period lengths and number of course meetings per semester. We expect to expand instructor training to enhance classroom experiences.

The availability of Arsht Hall is a strong positive for our program. It has significant capacity to meet most of our needs into the future. Long term capacity at Arsht is related to parking spots, not classroom space. We share the Wilmington site with Continuing Education and Conferences and we need to work with these organizations to make the best use of the campus and to minimize costs.

Historically our budget was solely covered by membership fees. This year our \$870,000 budget required a larger than normal increase in fees, even though we used \$80,000 in income from our endowment to offset a portion of the increase. We encourage members to apply for need-based scholarships through the confidential process already in place. We are committed to minimizing future member fee increases by working more closely with the University's Administration to control costs while we seek new alternative near and long term funding for the Academy.

I would like to invite you to the first Special Events Wednesdays presentation on September 12 to hear a more detailed review of our Strategic Planning efforts by Jerry Hapka, Irene Farrance, and myself. You will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Steven A. Dombchik
Executive Vice-Chair of Council
Chair, Strategic Planning

EXPECT AN EVACUATION DRILL

The Academy practices evacuation drills each semester in keeping with the directives of the University Fire Marshal. When you hear the alarm this fall, do not be alarmed — expect a drill. The ground floor will exit through exit doors in the lobby, ground floor classrooms and south stairwell and move 200 feet away from Arsht Hall. (Look for signs which say "Rally Spot.")

Members on second floor exit down the stairs at either end of the building. Elevators do not operate during emergencies. Those who cannot use the stairs should wait in the stairwells under the signs which read "Area of Refuge."



COURSE PROPOSALS FOR SPRING 2008

It is amazing to see the ingenuity and creativity of the members of the Academy. Just look at the latest catalog, which lists thirty-eight new courses. Here are a few of the new titles: Comedy: from Chaplin to Woody Allen, Stress and Pain Management, Navajo Spirituality, Web Searching: Beyond Basics, Spanish for the Fearless, DNA: Persons and Passions, and Bill of Rights in 2007. These new courses and many others will greatly enrich the Academy curriculum.

Even though the semester is just getting underway, it is already time to start working on courses for the Spring semester. The deadline for submission of curriculum proposals is coming: October 10, 2007. Forms will soon be distributed to all current teachers, and they will also be available to all Academy members in the main office. Any member of the Academy who is interested in teaching during the Spring semester is entitled to submit a curriculum proposal. Those who have never taught here before should consult with the appropriate curriculum coordinator listed in the catalog before submitting their proposal.

New courses keep the Academy young and exciting. Why don't you write a proposal?

Jim Cosgrove
Chair, Curriculum Committee

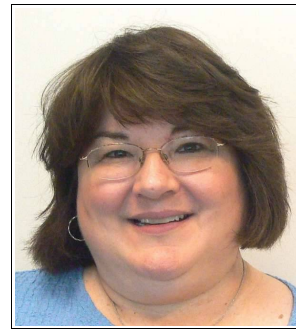
OFFICER PAIGE IS HERE TO HELP

Public Safety provides "lockout service" if you left your keys in the vehicle or "jump-start" if you left your lights on.

In a medical emergency call 911 and then have the Reception Desk or Office call Officer Paige or the officer on duty. The officers are trained in CPR and is equipped with first aid equipment and a defibrillator.

Should accidental damage to cars in the parking lot occur, such dented fenders, broken headlights, etc., or even injuries, report it to the Office. The Office will inform those involved and contact our Officer Paige, who will help where he can. You can help by being careful in the parking lots, parking within the lines, watching out for pedestrians, and stopping fully at the Stop sign.

MEET BETTY GAIL TIMM



Betty Gail joined the Academy in July as Staff Assistant, replacing Paula Germack who has moved to Professional and Continuing Studies Financial and IT department. Betty Gail will be in charge of all phases of catalog preparation from instructor proposals to finished product.

Betty Gail started as a true liberal arts student with majors in history and political science and minors in English and education. She spent over twenty years as a childcare director in the community before coming to UD as associate director of the University's Early Learning Center, then moving to the Center for Disabilities Studies as a Program Specialist.

Betty Gail was eager to apply for the Academy position because her husband, an Academy member, was enthusiastic and because it is near her home.

She has two grown children and seven grandchildren. In her leisure time she enjoys singing and reading.

She is delighted with the beautiful facility and friendly people "who do a lot of smiling." Keep smiling when you meet Betty Gail.

CONTINUING STAFF

Ruth Flexman, Program Coordinator, works with the Curriculum Committee, instructors, and scheduling courses. Ellen Saienni, Senior Secretary, will continue to supervise registration and cash management for Academy activities. Joan McMahan and Rita Martucci share a Senior Secretary position, providing quick answers and coordinating requests for space. Bon Fong and John Martin continue to provide audio/visual equipment support.

RECEPTION DESK

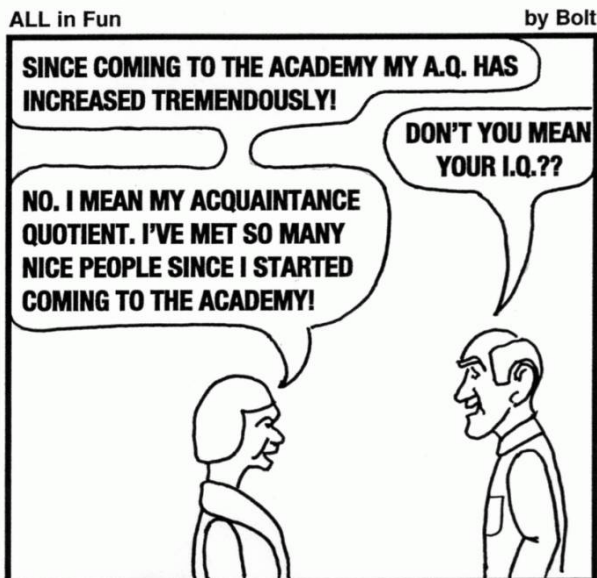
Our Academy Reception Desk is a "safe haven" for new as well as "seasoned" members. The Volunteers who staff the desk are quite knowledgeable. Whether your question is, in your mind, trivial or serious, they will do their best to assist you. Every member is a part of the Academy support system. If you have a suggestion which might improve the atmosphere and workings of the Academy please make use of the Suggestion Box on the Reception Counter. Be sure to sign your name, as we might need clarification. According to Webster the definition of "reception" is the manner of receiving people. The example given is "a warm reception." This is what we endeavor to extend to all who enter Arsht Hall.

Mary Ann Dowd, Joy Scott

MEMBER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The mission of the Member Relations Committee is to organize and carry out a program that has as its primary goal to welcome new members to the Academy. Committee members wear a blue ribbon attached to their name tag. If you are interested in joining the committee please let one of the committee members know or put a note in the Member Relations Committee mail box located in the Reception Desk area. We would welcome you and your ideas.

Joan Ellis
Chair, Member Relations



MARKETING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Marketing Committee identifies opportunities to communicate Academy objectives and promotes the benefits of membership to the public. In recent years it has developed print and radio ads and made special efforts to diversify Academy membership. At least 300 new members register each year which ensures intellectual vibrancy and fiscal stability at the Academy. The Marketing Committee welcomes additional members. Please email Bruce Morrissey at brucem@udel.edu or drop a note in his instructor mailbox to be invited to the next meeting.

Bruce Morrissey, Jerry Hapka
Co-Chairs, Marketing Committee

VOLUNTEERING: WHAT'S NEW?

Last week your committee chairs gathered to launch another year at the Academy. Good energy abounded...new people joined the corps of seasoned leaders, explored some new approaches to serve the community better, and displayed renewed optimism about engaging our membership in a host of activities. The source of all these promises is hardly new. It springs from all the volunteers who choose to sustain the founders' vision of a dynamic educational community enriched by its members.

What's new? This is a chance to add your name to the list of over 473 volunteers who have selected appealing activities that match their interests to the Academy's needs. Although some of you may have signed up at registration, others will choose to wait before committing to serve. It is never too late to volunteer. Someone at the Reception Desk will help you complete the simple form, "Volunteering at the Academy of Lifelong Learning." You can also sign up during Volunteer Week, October 8 -12.

What's new? Your delight in discovering why we say, "The Academy...What a gift!"

Bobbette Mason
Chair, Volunteer Development

JUNE LECTURES

The 87 members who attended the Summer Lecture Series from June 18-22 were pleased with the diversity of subjects. Attendees heard from two outstanding physicians. Glen Barbaras spoke on the Manhattan Project from his own experience and recent disclosures. The week finished with a concert by the Academy band and a luncheon.

SUMMER COURSES

Academy members who made the trip to Arsht for Summer Courses traveled the world, explored contemporary problems, and learned new skills. They could venture back to ancient Sumer with Gilgamesh, visit India with the Mughals, see early 20th century Vienna through the loves of Alma Mahler or World War II Vienna through the eyes of one who 'got by' in the years, 1938-1947, find that contemporary China is more than rice and noodles, or meander along the Mason-Dixon line. They could discuss current events or Great Decisions 2007, ponder whether civilization is sustainable, explore the gender communication gap, or examine fashion for women over 50. On the lighter side they explored humor's many faces or laughed along with humor and music.

Many people said that this was the best Summer Courses session yet.

BOOK AWARD TO RUTH GOODMAN

Ruth Fisher Goodman, an Academy instructor, was awarded her third first place award for her book, **The Jewish Pope**, by the Delaware Press Association at their awards banquet on April 24, 2007, at the Whist Club.

The two other awards are for **Pen Pals** and **Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet**. **Pen Pals (What it Means to be Jewish in Israel and America)** is for children 9-13. Her second book, **Easy Steps to the Hebrew Aleph Bet**, was inspired by the members of her Academy class on the Hebrew alphabet in 2000.

Ruth notes, "In my Hebrew Aleph Bet class at the Academy, I was handing out sheets of the exercises we were doing and the students suggested that I put it in a book. So I did."

ALLSTEL

This spring's program in Rehoboth Beach was fun and exciting for all. The weather was unbelievable and the talks stimulating. If success is judged by repeat participation, we must be doing something right. As usual, many of the attendees had participated in previous years; and in the evaluation forms, almost all indicated that they would plan to attend again.

But we're not sitting back on our laurels. A committee is already in place to address next spring's program. The May 27th through May 30th dates in 2008 have been reserved at Brighton Suites and planning is underway.

Much of the success of the program depends on you, the participants. So anyone who enjoys the educational opportunity ALLSTEL offers, along with an environment conducive to great social interaction, should consider joining us next spring.

We are facing the challenge of developing a program as good as this year's. Wind Farms, the Delaware Secretary of State, Nixon Revelations, and Classroom History were just some of the sessions we will have to match in quality. Each year we attempt to have topics that are not covered during the normal Academy school year. We'll keep you informed of next year's plans through future newsletters.

We plan to have the ALLSTEL sign-up flyer and a preliminary program available after the Thanksgiving break. So, talk with your friends who have participated, and, if ALLSTEL is for you, remember to get your application in on time.

Chuck Hober, ALLSTEL Chair

BOOK SALE

Thousands of people have spent the summer reading and accumulating books, puzzles and CDs in eager anticipation of the "Academy International Book sale".

The actual sale will be held the week of Nov. 5th. Books will be collected the weeks of Oct 22nd and 29th. Do not bring books before these dates as we have no place to store them.

Howard Smith

SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAYS (PROGRAM NOTES)

Special Events Wednesdays are programs in Room 105 for all Academy members. You can attend every week or when the topic interests you. Food is available for purchase, you can bring your own lunch, or just attend and be enriched by a variety of speakers.

During announcements from 12:40-12:45 p.m. we attempt to put a face on the Academy by making introductions or providing information we all need to be aware of. Programs follow from 12:45-1:45 p.m.

On the back page of the Newsletter is a listing of all programs for this semester. Further information on our programs through mid-October, is below. Come and enjoy!

Lyn Newsom

Chair, Wednesday Special Events

September 12: Steve Dombchik “The Academy’s Strategic Plan – A Path to Our Future”

See page 3 for details.

September 19: Ralph Archbold as Ben Franklin “Your Greatest Legacy”

Ralph Archbold began portraying statesman, author, and inventor Benjamin Franklin in Dearborn, MI, in 1976. He moved to historic Philadelphia in 1982 and performs as Ben Franklin about 500 times per year including at the Constitution Center, on the Today show, The History Channel, and Good Morning America, and was written up in Time magazine. Why does Ralph choose to portray Franklin? The values Ben taught and his many accomplishments make him someone we can all admire. Ralph Archbold as Ben Franklin will present an inspiring and humorous message on **The Legacy We Leave**. You will not want to miss seeing and hearing Ben!

September 26: Al Santoro & the Hi-Liters

Al Santoro & The Hi-Liters have been entertaining in the Delaware Valley for many years and have played for over 4000 weddings and many other affairs. The Hi-Liters feature Al Santoro on saxophone, John Kay on guitar, Stan Kay on drums, and Frank Dobson on bass. The band will focus on songs from each decade from the thirties to the present. Come listen and enjoy or dance your heart away!

October 3: Joe DiPinto “Casinos in Wilmington”

Joe DiPinto is known for his work as a Delaware State Representative for the past nineteen years. His new role is Director of Economic Development for the City of Wilmington with the goal of making Wilmington a more vibrant and productive city. Director DiPinto will update us on Riverfront development including an update on casinos as well as other business and job development efforts. Attend and find out what is happening in our city.

October 10: Ralph Begleiter “The Ethics of Photojournalism”

Ralph Begleiter is the Rosenberg Professor of Communication and Distinguished Journalist in Residence at the University. A picture is worth a thousand words...or is it? Ralph will educate us about pictures that are not what they seem. These photographs that are fakes go back to portrayal of the dead on a battlefield of the Civil War. What role has Photoshop played in truth in photojournalism? What can we believe? “The Ethics of Photojournalism” is thought provoking and has implications for how we interpret what we see in newspaper and magazines as well as on television and on-line. Is what you see what you think you see?

October 17: Gerry Bricks “An Inconvenient Truth - Global Warming Update”

Gerry Bricks is a volunteer presenter for The Climate Project. Gerry and 800 volunteers have been trained by former Vice-President Al Gore to educate groups in their local communities on Global Warming. Gerry has slides from *An Inconvenient Truth* and other sources such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Come for an update on the latest information about global warming and climate change.

CALLAHAN LECTURE

University of Delaware Professor Emeritus Raymond Callahan will present the fourth annual Callahan Lecture on Friday, October 19 at 1 p.m. in Arshat Hall. Professor Callahan is a popular speaker at the Academy. The provocative title is, “Do Guerrillas Always Win? Insurgency and Counterinsurgency Through History.” This lecture is open to the public, so invite your friends.



Schedule of Events



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

Join us for special events that will be sure to enrich your day. Attend one Wednesday or every Wednesday to fit your schedule and interests. See page 7 for details on the programs through mid October.

Announcements begin at 12:40

- 9/12 Steve Dombchik **Academy Strategic Plan: A Path to Our Future**
- 9/19 Ralph Archbold as Ben Franklin **Your Greatest Legacy**
- 9/26 Al Santoro and the Hi-Liters
- 10/3 Joe DiPinto **Casinos in Wilmington**
- 10/10 Ralph Begleiter **Ethics of Photojournalism**
- 10/17 Gerry Bricks **An Inconvenient Truth - Global Warming Update**
- 10/24 Carol Prodan **Classical Pianist**
- 10/31 Reba R. Hollingsworth **Growing Up in Segregated Delaware**
- 11/7 Andrew Hoffman **Adult Stem Cells: Update and the Future**
- 11/14 Danielle Rice, Executive Director, Delaware Art Museum
- 11/21 No Program
- 11/28 **Toward Between Israelis and Palestinians – Two Sides of a Dilemma**
- 12/5 Academy Band **Fall Concert**
- 12/12 Academy Chorus **Fall Concert**

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, Sept. 12 in Room 108/109
Questions and answers about your Academy. Feel free to bring a lunch,



2007

- Sat., Sept. 29 – A Day in New York
- Sat., Oct. 13 - Peddler's Village and Moravian Pottery & Tile Works - Doylestown, Pa.
- Sat., Nov. 10 – Washington: National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Sat., Dec. - 2007 Christmas Show at American Music Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., National Christmas Center in Paradise, Pa., lunch at Netherlands Inn in Strasburg, Pa.

2008

- Wed., Jan. 16 to Sat., Jan. 26 – Caribbean Cruise
 - Tues., June 24 to Thurs., June 26 - Connecticut River Valley
- For more information, visit the Travel Desk in the Lobby, Monday through Thursday, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
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ACADEMY CALENDAR	
2007	
Mon.-Fri., Sept. 24-28.....	Bring a Friend Week
Thurs., Fri., Nov. 22-23.....	Thanksgiving
.....	ACADEMY CLOSED
Fri., Dec. 14.....	Fall Semester ends
2008	
Mon., Feb 4.....	Spring Semester begins
Mon, March 31 to Fri., April 4.....	Spring Break
.....	NO CLASSES
Fri., May 9.....	Spring Semester ends