



# ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Academy of Lifelong Learning  
University of Delaware

April 14, 2008

## A TIME OF TRANSITION

In the September newsletter, I wrote of the challenges and opportunities facing us this year. I am happy to report that we have met these challenges and made the most of our opportunities. We can move into the future with confidence thanks to the work of the many leaders and committee members who have kept the Academy working smoothly this year. A special thanks to the retiring members of the council, Nancy Peters, Jerry Hapka, James L. Patton and Bob Ehrlich. Each has contributed in unique ways to the life of the Academy. Nancy organized the June Lecture series for two years; Jerry was Vice Chair for Membership for two years and, this year, an enthusiastic server of cookies at the socials; Jim served as University Liaison as well as chair of the Curriculum Committee; Bob, in addition to his job as editor of the Newsletter, has been Secretary of Council for five years. They are to be commended for the many hours of service they have given to all of us.

April is a time of transition. By the time you read this, Steve Dombchik will have taken over as Council Chair. Steve has served as Executive Vice Chair for the past year. Previously he was Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee as well as Financial Officer for the Academy. You will also know him as an instructor of the popular Great Decisions course. I know you will give him all the support he needs. Welcome also the five new members of council: Kate Bowen, Joan Ellis, Bob Faatz, Eleanor Wilderman, and JoAnne Woodward.

Reflecting on my term as Council Chair, I realized that what I enjoyed most was the opportunity to work with so many enthusiastic Academy members. I thank you for the chance to serve for this time and look forward to seeing many of you in the classes I teach as well as those I plan to take.

Irene Farrance

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

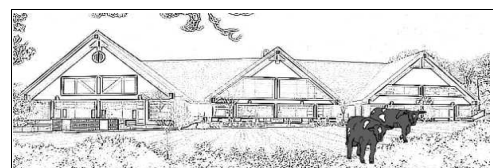
Last fall, the Council initiated the Academy Fund to give members a way to make tax-deductible contributions for support of ongoing Academy programs. For the first time, the Academy's budget includes \$15,000 of projected income from Academy Fund donations. I am pleased to report that, since last fall, Academy members have contributed more than \$13,000 to this fund. Thanks to each of our members who made a donation.

However, there's still work to do. Membership participation is one key measure required to obtain serious consideration from outside funding organizations. Funders judge how well an organization supports itself through contributions from its members. The time and effort of more than 600 instructors and other volunteers are an important and impressive Academy asset, but we also need to demonstrate a high level of participation in giving to the Academy Fund. It's not only the collective value of our gifts, but the number of gifts that will help us succeed with long-range fund raising efforts on behalf of vital Academy programs.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift of any amount and be counted as an Academy Fund supporter. Contributions can be made in the Academy Office by credit card or check, payable to the University of Delaware. Please speak with Basil Maas if you have questions or require additional information. Your contribution makes a huge difference to the Academy—well beyond its dollar value.

Steve Dombchik  
Executive Vice Chair, Council

## End of the Semester Party (see p. 2)



*Academy Newsletter*  
[www.academy.udel.edu/newsletter](http://www.academy.udel.edu/newsletter)

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Schedule for the *Academy Newsletter*

<u>Submittal deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
Fri., Aug. 8	Mon., Sept. 8

Submit articles to [rehlich@udel.edu](mailto:rehlich@udel.edu), or place in the Newsletter mail slot on the rear wall in the Reception Area.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

These are the final lectures in this exciting series based on Transformation Grants to UD faculty aimed at catalyzing "life-changing" educational experiences for students. All lectures start at 1 p.m. and go to 2:30 with plenty of time for questions.

April 18 – "The Power of Peers: Transforming College Writing Within and Beyond the Classroom." Melissa lanetta, Director, University Writing Center.

The immense value of learning to write well is commonly acknowledged among educators. Colleges face a resource challenge in offering individualized writing instruction to all students. "The Power of Peers" describes one response to this challenge. In this presentation, two undergraduate students and their faculty mentor detail the ongoing transformation of undergraduate writing instruction at UD through the use of peer writing tutors.

April 25 – "Young, Privileged, and Global. American and Asian University Students Talking Across Twelve Time Zones." Patricia Sloan-White, Asst. Professor, Department of Anthropology.

What happens when twenty-one UD students and twenty-one university students at the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia engage in a real-time, cross-cultural,

video-conferenced dialog on the nature of global and local youth cultures and the role they play in creating and conceptualizing the future? The two groups of students, using UD's global satellite communications technology, engage in a cross-cultural exploration of their shared and separate beliefs, values, traditions, and identities in a globalized world.

May 2 – "How Blacks Use Their Blackness in a Predominately White University." Yasser Payne, Asst. Professor, Black American Studies.

For the past two years, a research collective of students, entitled The Black American Studies Participatory Action Research (BAMS PAR) team, has been evaluating the experiences of Blacks at the University of Delaware. This project organized five Black undergraduate students into a PAR design to document the lived experiences of Black students, staff and faculty at the University of Delaware. This study, based on focus groups of Black students, staff and faculty, examines "use" or the everyday functions of Blackness. Analysis reveals strong support for Cross, Smith & Payne's (2001) theory on the utility of Blackness. Specifically (1) bonding, (2) code switching, and (3) individualism emerge as dominant codes.

## PARTY ON THE ACADEMY FARM

Our final social event of the semester will be on the last day of classes, May 9. We will have a buffet luncheon in the Lobby at 12:15 p.m. There will be a performance by a group from the Academy Band at 11:45. The luncheon will be at 12:15, and then during dessert, the Circle Singers will perform. It will be a fun-filled musical event, as well as a tasty lunch. Our theme will be "The Farm," so dress accordingly. In other words, it is not a dress-up event. Please save the date now and plan to attend with your friends and classmates.

Linda Miller  
Chair, Socials

**SUMMER COURSES** First Registration ends May 9. Check the course booklets for the many new and repeat offerings.

## JUNE LECTURES

Speaking of lectures...

- A lecture series is as good as its lecturers.
- The better lecturers are masters of their subjects.
- The best subjects are important and relevant and entertaining.

All of which suggests that the June Lecture Series will be good – better – best!

There are five more weeks of school and five more weeks of opportunity to become part of this newly designed lecture series. The fee is \$50 and Ellen Saienni in the Academy office will be happy to enroll you. Ask any member of the committee to assist you. Remember, come relax, enjoy, and learn the week of June 16 - June 20, right here in Arsht Hall, doors opening at 9:00 a.m. with coffee & tea and we guarantee you will be on your way to a lovely summer's afternoon by 12:15 p.m. each day!

JoAnne Woodward  
Chair, June Lectures

## ALLSTEL 2008

The March 7th registration deadline has come and gone and once again we have a full house for our program. Fortunately, we were able to accommodate everyone who applied without having to run a lottery; and we currently have no wait list.

We're looking forward to an exciting year. We have planned varied and interesting sessions that have minimal overlap with regular A.L.L. programs. This year we have scheduled talks on: The History of the C&D Canal, Influence of the Press on Elections, Life & Music of Jenny Lind, Delaware in the Civil War, Newark Symphony Brass Quintet, American Indians, An Evening Songbook, and Presidential Abuses of Power.

For those of you who have signed up, we've ordered warm, sunny weather; and we're looking forward to four days of relaxed, intellectual stimulation with lots of fun and camaraderie.

Chuck Hober  
Chair, ALLSTEL

## NEW COURSES FOR FALL, 2008

Each semester the members of the Curriculum Committee are amazed at the number, variety and quality of courses created by members of the Academy. I would like to provide a preview of some of the new titles. Look for the catalog in mid-July. The following courses are a sampling chosen from different areas of the curriculum. They represent only about one-fifth of the new offerings we will have to choose from in the Fall.

"DNA I: Discovery of the Double Helix" --  
Howard Hoffman

"Science Behind the Universe" -- Joel  
Goldberg

"Winston Churchill: His Life" -- Carl Schnee

"Myths: Sex, Science, and the Sacred" --  
Parry Norling

"North Pole – South Pole" – Peter  
Wellington

"Musicals: The History from Broadway to  
Hollywood" – Hal Davis

"England: Victorian 1815-1914" -- Bob  
Ehrlich

"Yiddish for Beginners" -- Ruth Fisher  
Goodman

"Q, The Jesus Gospel" -- Gerard Smit

"Vista, Office 2007, and Google APPs" --  
Ken Mulholland

The courses listed above and many others that will appear in the Fall catalog will enrich the Academy program and provide new challenges for all its members. We owe a great deal to those who spend time and do the work involved in the process of shaping a brilliant idea into a form that works as a three-month course. As Curriculum Chairman, I wish to thank all those who submitted Fall course proposals, and I invite anyone who has a good idea for a future course to go ahead and develop it.

Jim Cosgrove

## COURTESY IN THE HALLS

While waiting for your next class, be aware that loud conversations just outside the doors may be distracting to those on the other side who are hanging on every word of the instructor.

## ACADEMY COUNCIL

On March 10, 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.

**Kate Bowen** has a BA from Hollins University and an MA from the University of Kansas. Her career in communications and public relations included serving as Public Relations Director for Winterthur, Tourism Director for the State of Delaware, and Communications and Government Affairs Director for the New Castle County Board of Realtors. Currently she is a member of the Academy's Curriculum Committee and an Instructor of writing classes.



**Joan Ellis'** education includes courses in Business Administration, Psychology, Sociology, and Real Estate. She has held supervisory positions in banking and office management, and has served on the volunteer boards of Hadassah, Hillel (UD) and the Jewish Federation of Delaware (current). At the Academy she chairs the Member Relations committee and is active with the Ambassador project and ALLSTEL.



**Bob Faatz** studied at Keystone Junior College (AA), Eastern Baptist College (BA and Master of Divinity from the EB Theological Seminary), and the University of Delaware (courses in educational administration). He has been a teacher, counselor, and human relations specialist in the Delaware public school systems, as well as a pastor and volunteer. At the Academy, he has been an active member and now Chair of both the Music and the Band committees.



**Eleanor Wilderman** has a BA from the University of Delaware. Her business career includes 45 years of running her own successful corporation (Marble Craft Co., Inc.), which provided commercial tile and marble installations for buildings in five states (including Arshat Hall). Since joining the Academy she has been active as a computer instructor and teaching assistant.



**JoAnne Woodward** holds degrees from Albright College (BS) and Drexel University (MS), with continuing education at the University of Delaware and Penn. She has worked as a technical librarian and has had a long volunteer career with the Christiana Care Health System (Junior Board, Board of Trustees), Winterthur and other nonprofit organizations. A member of the Academy since 2002, she currently chairs the June Lecture Series and became interested in the Academy through her husband of 50 years, Dick Woodward. Jo and Dick enjoy folk art, especially Southern folk pottery, and are the grandparents of five in MA and GA.



## THANK YOU JEAN B. WHYTE

The Academy was the recipient of a \$71,000 endowment gift from the Jean B. Whyte Trust, received upon the death of Ms. Whyte. A long-time Academy member and Art instructor, Jean's wish was that her generous gift would provide support for future Academy building needs.

Academy endowment funds are particularly suited to bequests, wills, charitable trusts, and other planned giving options, where endowment income is used to support Academy programs according to the donor's wish. Planned giving can be structured to benefit both the donor and the Academy. Feel free to stop in the Academy Office to speak with Basil Maas if you are interested in exploring planned giving to one of the Academy's endowment funds.

Steve Dombchik

## UD AND THE ACADEMY CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

We are currently nearing the midpoint of the International Polar Year 2007-2009, a period in which there is sustained and concentrated scientific, policy, and cultural focus on Antarctica and the Arctic. The current effort is the fourth in a series of International Polar Years (IPYs) that began in 1882-83 as an effort to interject scientific investigation into voyages of exploration. Subsequent IPYs took place in 1932-33 and 1957-58. The current IPY differs from previous ones by emphasizing education, culture, and art, in addition to scientific undertakings. It has particular emphasis on the impacts of climate change. There is an informative website at [www.IPY.org](http://www.IPY.org).

UD is a major player in these projects. The W. S. Carlson International Polar Year Events, named for a former UD President who was active in Arctic work, is a year-long series of lectures, seminars, films, exhibits, and other events, all with polar themes—watch the Academy Bulletin Board for announcements this year. A website covering UD's role in the IPY is at [www.udel.edu/research/polar](http://www.udel.edu/research/polar).

The Academy will have a course this Fall on the Polar Regions—a mixture of geography, exploration history, lectures by UD scientists on the current research at the Poles, and a detailed look at the climatology of the Polar Regions in this period of climate change.

Pete Wellington

## JEFFERSON AWARDS

Academy members, Frank & Veronica ('Roni') Romanelli, have been selected as finalists for the 2008 Jefferson awards to be given April 23.

The Jefferson Awards, given by the American Institute for Public Service and sponsored locally by the News-Journal, honor individuals who make a difference in the community in which they work and live. Frank and Roni volunteer with many civic and cultural groups in New Castle County. Frank has created the website where Academy course syllabi are posted and teaches Academy computer courses.

## SPECIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAYS PROGRAM NOTES

(continued from page 6)

### 4/30 Academy Band Spring Concert

Come enjoy the varied sounds of the Academy Band. Carroll Humphrey will conduct the Academy Band as they perform a Dixieland version of *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*; a *Gershwin Portrait* including *Embraceable You*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, and *Strike Up the Band*; as well as a *Russian Sailor's Dance*. This is always a stirring event – one that will get your toes a-tappin.'

### 5/7 Academy Chorus Spring Concert

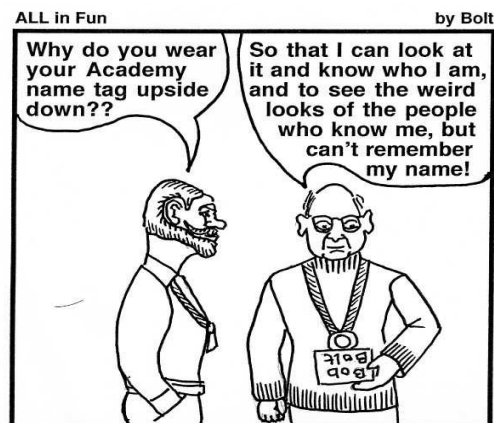
The seventy voice strong Academy Chorus will be directed by Marilyn Haas. This mixed voice group will perform songs such as *The Armed Forces Salute*, *As Time Goes By*, *God Bless the USA*, *Jerome Kern: In Concert*, and *Moon River*. Marian Chau keeps us on the beat as our accompanist. Come hear us perform as another great semester at the Academy of Lifelong Learning comes to a close.

### ART OF KENTON R. OSBORN (1929-2006)

A special comprehensive exhibit of paintings by Ken Osborn will be presented in room 105 from April 16 thru 18. The opening reception will be on Wednesday, from 2:30-5 p.m.

The exhibit contains over forty paintings selected and generously loaned by ken's wife, Lois, and family. These beautiful watercolors will present a wonderful opportunity for all to view Ken's work and his amazing use of color and form. Every member of the Academy is invited to share this tribute to one of our outstanding artists who gave so much to all who knew him.

Ken's fellow artists at the Academy





# Schedule of Events



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

All programs are open to everyone here at the Academy - just come and enjoy every week or those weeks that the programs interest you!!

Lyn Newsom  
Chair, Special Events Wednesdays

### 4/16 Ralph Begleiter & David Hoffman - International News

Ralph Begleiter, UD Distinguished Journalist in Residence, and David Hoffman, Washington Post's Foreign News Assistant Managing Editor, return to the Academy for their annual update and analysis of International News. Ralph and David possess some interesting perspectives on foreign news, and, as they have in the past, promise to stimulate our thinking about the current international situation. There will be time for Q and A.

### 4/23 Academy Follies: A Musical Review on Aging – Two Shows 11:30 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.

If you have an 11:30 a.m. class, please attend class and go to the 12:45 p.m. performance. If you regularly attend the 12:45 Special Events Wednesdays, please attend at 12:45. All others are asked to attend the 11:30 performance. Thanks!

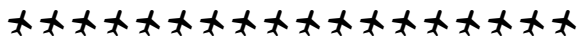
The Follies are back with a bunch of new songs by Ray Bock and Henry Gass. This time around, they smile at geriatric relationships, obsessive travel, and cosmetic surgery. This Road Company musical was produced by Gerri Ross and features vocals by Ellie Munson, Lu Soukup, Joanne Knowles, Gene Stecca, Herb Wolfson, and Ray Bock, accompanied by Henry Gass and Carroll Humphrey, with visuals by Joe Horwitz. The last time the Follies were performed at the Academy, both shows were SRO. Come and enjoy this Musical Review of Aging. This has become an Academy tradition; one you will not want to miss.

[Continued on page 5]



- Sat., May 3 – Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA
- Sat., May 10 – New York, musical "Curtains"
- Tues., June 24 to Thurs., June 26 - Connecticut River Valley
- Tues., Aug. 5 to Sat., Aug. 9 – Vermont and Lake George
- Sat., Sept. 20 – New York, musical "A Catered Affair"
- Thurs., Nov. 6 – Return Day, Georgetown
- Tues., Dec. 16 to Thurs., Dec. 18 – Greenbrier Resort, West Virginia
- Wed. Jan. 14, 2009 to Sat., Jan. 24 – Southern Caribbean on the "Norwegian Gem" (Norwegian Cruise Line)

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.



## AFTERNOON SOCIAL

The last social this semester will be on Thurs., April 17 at 1:30 p.m. If you like to bake, please bring cookies for these events. You may sign up at the Reception Desk.

Linda Miller, Chair, Socials

ACADEMY CALENDAR	
2008	
Fri., May 9.....	Spring Semester ends
Mon., June 16 to Fri., June 20..	June Lectures
Tuesdays through Thursdays, July 8 - July 31	.....Summer Courses
Mon., Sept. 8.....	Fall Semester Begins
Tues., Nov. 4.....	Election Day
.....	ACADEMY CLOSED
Thurs., Fri., Nov. 27-28.....	Thanksgiving
.....	ACADEMY CLOSED
Fri., Dec. 12.....	Fall Semester ends