



# The Spiral

Newsletter of the Center for Lifelong Learning, University of South Carolina Aiken

MAY, 2025

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Students,

As our Spring semester comes to a close, we would like to thank you for your interest and participation in our curriculum. The Spring semester brought out 385 student members of our organization.

As you may know we recently held the annual Kauffman Award luncheon on April 15th. This year's awardees of this prestigious award were Susan Steinbis, and Katie Dixon. Susan and Katie are devoted volunteers who have given many hours of their time and have made significant improvements to the administration of our curriculum programming.

The event also provided the setting to recognize our two scholarship recipients enrolled in the USCA Life program, which is directed by Dr. Melissa Martin. Both recipients received \$2,500 each to defray their tuition expenses.

Also, at the event, Ms. Harriet Haynes was introduced as the new incoming board President. Harriet will take up her new responsibilities on July 1st. We wish her well in her new duties.

As we approach the end of our academic year, I will update you on timeframes associated with our catalog release and open house schedule for the new, Fall semester.

As always, I look forward to seeing old and new students alike on campus in the new Fall Semester.

Sincerely,

**David Tavernier, CLL Advisory Board President**  
[pres@aikenlearning.org](mailto:pres@aikenlearning.org)

## USCA Center for Lifelong Learning presents annual Kauffman Award and scholarships

[Aiken Standard article](#) by [Carl Dawson](#), reprinted by permission. Photos by [Spiral Editor Doug Wilson](#).

The USC Aiken Center for Lifelong Learning held its 34th Kauffman Recognition Day luncheon April 15.

The event honors "the memory of Dr. Earl Kauffman, who was a key individual responsible for the creation of the [Center's predecessor organization] in 1990. It is because of his hard work and foresight that we enjoy this great organization today," said David Tavernier, president of the Center for Lifelong Learning.



**David Tavernier**  
Current CLL President

The Kauffman Award is presented during the luncheon "to individuals that made significant contributions to the Center for Lifelong Learning."

Originated as the Academy for Lifelong Learning, in 2021 it merged with the McGrath Computer Learning Center and was renamed The Center for Lifelong Learning. Both predecessor organizations were associated with the Office of External Programs of USC Aiken.

On Jan. 11, 2024, the center formalized its relationship with USCA by executing an agreement making it part of the University's Office of External Programs.

Tavernier said there were 385 registered students in the center's 27 technical courses and 58 general studies courses. The center has offered courses in the use of Apple technology, dance, gardening, genealogy, topics of general interest, government, history, literature and poetry, topics of local interest and history, music, nuclear technology, personal technology, photography, science fiction and personal well-being.



**Dr. Daniel Heimmermann**  
USCA Chancellor

USC Aiken Chancellor Daniel Heimmermann, who has taught a history course through the center, called it "such an important program here at USC Aiken."

"As a former professor, there's nothing more gratifying than having students who are actually interested. That can't be taken for granted," he said.

During the luncheon Tavernier announced the awarding of two scholarships to students from USCA LIFE, a post-secondary program that teaches employment and independent living skills to college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Recipients Angus Macaulay of Chapin and Julianna Gray of Lexington were in attendance. "Thank you for the funding. This is a wonderful program. We're so proud of it. We're so proud of the students," said Melissa Martin, director of USCA LIFE.



*Melissa Martin*  
USCA Life Director



*Harriet Haynes*  
Incoming CLL President

Incoming Center for Lifelong Learning President Harriet Haynes, who will assume office July 1, presented the Kauffman Award to Katie Dixon and Susan Steinbis, two volunteers who helped revamp the center's catalog and scheduling, produced manuals for volunteers and made other improvements to the center's operation.

"They've been with us only a little over a year, and they've made a tremendous difference," Haynes said, recognizing Dixon and Steinbis "for their help, their energy, their new ideas and their accomplishments."

"I was really just looking to take some classes and do something with my spare time and I learned about volunteering here," Dixon said. "It has been so rewarding because of the people I get to interact with here every day."

"I love the program. I love what it stands for," Steinbis said. "I do want to see it do more. I want to see it grow."



*Susan Steinbis and Katie Dixon*  
Kauffmann Award Recipients

There's so much more we can offer."

Haynes recognized Tavernier's role as president by saying, "he's really an overachiever, and we've been so lucky to have him as president."

"We are grateful and thankful," she told Tavernier.

"Our success could not have happened without our university partners, and we are indebted to the administration for providing important support to the program each day," Tavernier said.

Tavernier thanked "all of our USCA professors and community experts who teach our classes and enlighten our lives with knowledge, and don't give homework [or] give tests. Without them, we would not exist."

### Looking Ahead to the Fall



The Center for Lifelong Learning Spring 2025 semester has now come and gone with just one remaining class session to be held in May. But work continues to put the finishing touches

on the curriculum for the Fall term. As it stands now CLL is planning more than 75 different courses for next semester, covering our usual wide range of subjects and interests.

Tentative dates:

Catalog availability, mid July.

Open House and Opening of Registrations, August 13

Classes begin August 18.

*The Spiral* is published monthly during the academic year by the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at the University of South Carolina Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. 803-641-3756.

#### Center for Lifelong Learning Advisory Board

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### CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING CALENDAR – MAY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2 1775 & The Shot Heard 11:00-12:00 [B 114]
5	6	7	8 CLL Advisory Board 2:00-3:30 [B 102]	9
[Location Codes] B = USCA Bus & Educ Bldg TC = CCL Computer Tech Ctr EC = Etherredge Center				