



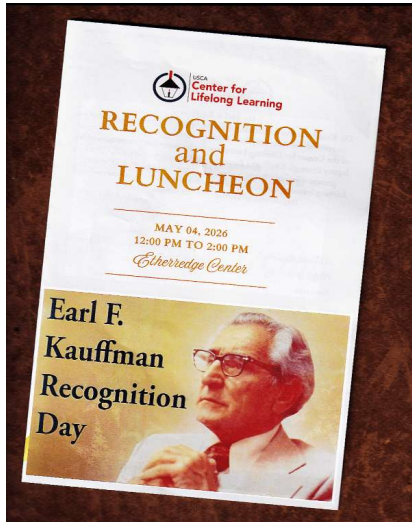
The Spiral

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

MAY, 2026

SPECIAL KAUFFMAN REMEMBRANCE ISSUE

Center for Lifelong Learning Kauffman Remembrance Luncheon



In a tradition going back to 1992, the Center for Lifelong Learning holds a luncheon each year to honor the memory of Dr. Earl F. Kauffman, the driving force behind the beginnings of Senior education in Aiken and the creation in 1989 of the Center's predecessor at USCA, the Academy for Lifelong Learning.

This annual event is open to all current registered members of the Center for Lifelong Learning and is funded in part by an endowment from the family of the late USCA Professor James Kauffman, to perpetuate the memory of his father.

This year's event took place at the USC Aiken Etherredge Center on May 4 with Aiken Mayor Teddy Milner giving the invocation.



Family of James Kauffman: Wife Ann, son and daughter-in-law Greg and Renee



President Tisarrani

Center for Lifelong Learning Advisory Board President Jim Tisarrani's opening remarks highlighted the Center's successful 2025-26 academic year. He reported the offering of a record number of quality courses that were attended by nearly 1000 combined students over the two semesters, saying "It's like a good wine, we're getting better, and better, and better".

The keynote speaker was USC Aiken Chancellor Daniel Heimmermann. His talk gave an update on the current state of the University and its place in the community. He provided a look into developments at the USCA campus like the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative partnership with the US Department of Energy and the upcoming South Carolina National Guard DreamPort Cybersecurity Center.



Chancellor Heimmermann

This year CLL again sponsored two scholarships to USCA LIFE, a post-secondary program that teaches employment and independent living skills to college students with intellectual and development disabilities. Program Director Melissa Martin introduced this year's recipients, Audrey Latham Blessing and James Hutchinson, who attended the luncheon along with their families.

2026 Kauffman Award

The highlight of the Kauffman Remembrance Day observation is the presentation of the Kauffman Award, given to an individual or group that has made significant contributions to the organization, as selected by the Center's Advisory Board. The recipient for 2026 is Harriet Haynes.

Harriet has been a long standing dedicated and hard working volunteer for the Center for Lifelong



Harriet Haynes

Learning and for its predecessor organization, the Academy for Lifelong Learning. Already serving on the Academy's Curriculum Committee, she assumed the Committee's Chair-Elect role for the 2015 academic year, then moved on as Curriculum Chair for 2016 and 2017. She followed that with three consecutive terms as the Academy's President from 2018 to 2020.

When the difficult task of merging the existing Academy with the McGrath Computer Learning Center arose in 2021, Harriet designed the committees needed to work on the merger and kept everyone's nose to the grindstone until the framework for the new organization was hammered out. She was the backbone of planning and execution that ensured the fledgling combined Center for Lifelong Learning would get a solid running start.

Following the completion of the merger, Harriet took on the task of Catalog Coordinator, leading the streamlining of the process for formulating each semester's curriculum and optimizing the process for bringing together the publication of the Center's catalog.

Harriet went on to serve as the 2024 CLL Vice President and had once again agreed to fill the Presidential slot in the Fall of 2025, but was forced to bow out for health reasons. Thankfully, she is back with us now, if only presently taking classes as a student.

For her many years of outstanding dedicated service, the Center proudly names Harriet Haynes as its 2026 Kauffman Award recipient.



CLL Vice President Debbi Brooks presents the 2026 Kauffman Award to Harriet Haynes

For More Information

To learn more about related topics, see these pages on the [CLL website](#):

[Early CLL history](#)

[Kauffman Award and prior recipients](#)

The Spiral is published throughout 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.

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