

SENIOR COLLEGE HISTORY, THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

In the late 1980's, The University's Aging Studies Program, directed by Hermine McCleran, received an invitation from a St. Louis based foundation to submit a proposal to develop a University-based set of programs for aging citizens in our area. That foundation had funded the national Senior Olympic Games to encourage seniors to remain physically active and was now interested in funding a demonstration program that would encourage seniors to stay mentally engaged. As a member of the Aging Studies Program, Al Hood included several projects in the proposal, one of which was to develop a program which would have paid retired University of Iowa professors to teach brief academic courses for senior citizens.

The University received a site visit and the officers seemed favorably impressed, however, the grant went to another institution.

Several years later Al mentioned to Gordon Strayer the type of program he had in mind. Gordon, who was on the Board of the University of Iowa Retirees' Association (UIRA), invited Al to a meeting of that Board to present his idea but the Board was not interested and presented several criticisms of it. Al heard afterward that several members of the Board were quite involved in the activities and the governance of Iowa City's new Senior Center and may have felt that any such program should originate there.

A couple of years later, in 2001, Al, now retired, was elected to the Emeritus Faculty Council and at his first meeting found that that body had been exploring such a concept - at least Sam Becker had. Sam was particularly interested in pursuing the idea and had approached the Alumni Association for support. But Sam now realized that the Emeritus Faculty Council had been discussing it for several years and he was disappointed that he did not get much support from the rest of the Council members. Thus Sam moved that the Emeritus Faculty Council quit its efforts to pursue further action along these lines. But Al Hood quickly suggested that he had been interested in that topic and volunteered to explore it further and the Council members were happy to encourage him to do so with their blessing.

In the spring of 2001, Al sent an e-mail briefly describing the general purpose to members of the University's Aging Network and to other potentially interested persons known to him. A meeting time was set in the Emeritus Faculty quarters on the third floor of the Iowa Memorial Union. About a

dozen folks who had retired from the University, showed up for the first meeting. Various types of programs were explored, and during the 2002 spring meetings a number of decisions were made: (1) AI would explore the previous offer of support from the Alumni Association. (2) It would begin by offering five or six courses each semester meeting 5 to 8 times. (3) Costs would be minimal, perhaps around \$25 and faculty would be paid \$100 -\$500. (4) The program would be named "Senior College". (5) The first classes would not begin as originally proposed in the fall semester of 2001 as there did not seem to be enough time to get organized for the fall term. (5) Parking on campus was not convenient for the Committee so the decision was made to meet instead in members' homes.

Of those who attended the early planning meetings, nine agreed to continue on the active coordinating committee - five emeritus faculty: Dick Dustin, AI Hood, Chair, and Bill Oglesby from Education, Hermine McLeran, Aging Studies, and Dean Dave Vernon of the Law School; and four retired staff members: Judy Hendershot, Education Placement, Marilyn Holland, University Hospital, Lee Shope, Information Technology and Jean Kendall, Director of the Memorial Union. AI approached Vince Nelson, Director of the University's Alumni Association, for support and he generously agreed to provide a great deal of assistance including the design, printing and mailing of the Senior College brochures as well as receiving registrations for the various courses.

Marilyn Holland hosted the first Committee meeting in a home and she served coffee and homemade coffee cake, providing a pattern for the Committee meetings that continued for many years. The monthly meetings were relaxed but purposeful and made more enjoyable by the humor provided by Dick Dustin and Judy Hendershot. Later, Peggy Houston from the University's Conference Center joined the Committee.

Spring - 2002

Four courses were proposed for the spring of 2002: The Solar system; Modern Art; Sherlock Holmes; and Music Theory, with classes scheduled for two hours on Fridays for four weeks in each of the four months of February, March, April, and May

(See attached list of course offerings with instructor's names and full course titles compiled by Sharon Scheib.)

The Registrar's Office agreed to assign classrooms if the Senior College could be flexible. The Committee decided to charge a registration fee of \$30 per four session course. Al obtained four classroom sites - Van Allen auditorium, Art Museum, Oakdale Auditorium, and Parkview Church - that could accommodate at least 90 registrants. A brochure was designed and mailed to all of the Alumni Association members in the neighboring counties and to several other mailing lists that were provided, and Al sent promotional material to several internet sites and to the media.

The mailings took place immediately after the holidays with the Committee concerned about whether there would be enough interest for a successful Senior College program. There was also concern about the possibility of small numbers in big auditoriums. These questions were answered when a call was received from an anxious Jan Rigotti in the Alumni Office telling us that registrations were pouring in by mail, phone, and internet. The instructors were notified to expect large class sizes. The courses went smoothly and were received with enthusiasm, with several seniors coming from as far away as the Quad Cities and Burlington.

The Solar System and Sherlock Holmes courses were the ones which received the most reservations and the only problem encountered was at the Oakdale Campus Auditorium. The Iowa Public Health Laboratories located there were perceived as a possible terrorist target (it was a few months after 9/11) so that all entering the Oakdale complex, including those attending the Sherlock Holmes course, were subject to passing through a security check, delaying the start of the classes.

A procedure needed to be worked out regarding paying the honoraria (\$500) to the instructors and other non-Alumni expenses as the Alumni Office could not do this.

Al learned that the University of Iowa Foundation was a University organization that could do this, but only if the Senior College had an official connection with the University. Al then, made the pitch that since the Emeritus Faculty Council was one of the sponsors of the Senior College, and the Emeritus Faculty Council was sponsored by the University Provost's Office, that gave it enough of an official connection so that it eventually did receive the status of an organization with "official University Affiliation" from the University Comptroller's Office. This enabled the Senior College to establish an endowment fund with the University Foundation to handle the dispersal of Senior College funds. The Alumni Office, therefore, kept enough of the

registration funds to cover the design, printing, and mailing of the brochures and sent the remainder to the Foundation.

Fall - 2002

The Senior College Committee immediately began planning for the upcoming fall 2002 semester and would offer six courses: four 4 week courses - Football, the Middle East, Opera, and Iowa History; one on Using Investment Resources for six weeks (fee would be \$45), and National Park Geology offered on Mondays and Fridays for two weeks in January. Additional Committee members now included Reg Cooper from Orthopedics and Jim Jakobsen from the Graduate College. The Committee mourned the death of Dave Vernon.

All of the six courses were successful. The instructors found that teaching enthusiastic, interested students, with no papers to read, no exams to administer, and no grades to give - to be an enjoyable experience that they were happy to repeat. Three of the instructors for the Football, Middle East, and Iowa History courses gave at least one future Senior College course. The enthusiastic reception for the National Park Geology course led Emeritus Professors Baker and Swett to present two future courses on different National Parks. Their format continued with classes offered twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday mornings for two weeks in January. Arthur Cantor developed a following of seniors and presented courses on opera during four of the next seven fall semesters.

Spring 2003

Dick Dustin thought that the Committee should collect student evaluations of the courses and he developed a one page form to be completed by participants at the last course session. That form, with some minor modifications, continued to be used for all future courses. Later, similar evaluation forms were eventually developed to be completed by the Committee's course coordinator and by the instructor. Bob Soper from Surgery joined the Committee and Jim Jakobsen resigned from it.

The number of Senior College courses increased to seven for the spring semester: (1) Shakespeare, the first of many to be presented by Miriam Gilbert, (2) Gandhian Philosophy, (3) Global Climate Change, (4) Egyptian History, (5) Iowa City History and two by instructors who had given two of the first four courses when the Senior College first began (2002) - (6) Rural Art with Pamela Trimpe and (7) Medicine in Literature with Richard Caplan. Several of the

courses extended well into May and last minute room changes were necessary when large classrooms were taken over for the final exams for multiple-section courses.

Peggy Houston and Al Hood were invited to a meeting with two staff members of the University's Center on Aging. The Center on Aging staff had learned of the Bernard Osher Foundation which was in the process of establishing centers for the continued education of seniors throughout the country. They had written a proposal for Osher financial support and had included the Senior College in it.

Peggy and Al learned that an Osher supported program required annual membership dues, the Osher name, and had other requirements that the Senior College did not. Also there appeared to be nothing that the Senior College would gain as the proposal had all of the support going to the Center on Aging. The decision of the Senior College Committee was not to be included in the Osher project

Fall 2003

The number of courses offered for that semester grew to 8. A course on International Literature was introduced for the first time and it continued to be offered every fall. Writers from all over the world are invited to attend an International Writers Workshop at the University each fall. The Workshop's Director chooses the eight with the most proficiency in English, to present their writing and talk about their native country. Two present at each of the four class sessions. A course in practical politics was offered by Richard Meyers who had many years of service in local, county and state government. There was a popular course on Genes and Genomes with Jeff Murray in which he distributed many pounds of different colored M&Ms to illustrate genetic principles. Three courses were offered for a second time - Football, Opera, and Other National Parks by the Two Old Geologists. Two additional courses were Silver Screen Cowboys and the History of Testing (cancelled due to low enrollment).

The winter edition of the University's newsletter "The Spectator" featured the Senior College with a picture and a full page spread. Each semester Al sent copies of the brochure to the University President and Provost and typically received return letters of encouragement/congratulations especially from President Boyd.

Brief notes were sent to deans or department chairs regarding active faculty members when their courses received Senior College acclaim.

The Alumni Office had begun a different brochure format several semesters before which included pictures of an elderly man on the cover. The Committee objected as the men pictured were engaged in activities that had no relationship to the Senior College. The Alumni Office then sent a photographer to several courses to obtain photos for future brochures. Bill Hausler from Public Health and Terry Powell from the Conference Center joined the Committee which now numbered 13.

Spring 2004

The Winter/Spring schedule offered seven widely varying courses in various venues. The Natural History course took place at Kent Park, an Art course in the University's Art Museum and the Shakespeare course with Miriam Gilbert at the Riverside Theatre with its Directors. The other four courses were: Southern Africa and AIDS, Obesity and Obesity Surgery, Astronomical Surprises, and Camille in Literature/Film/Opera. There was also an open invitation to Senior College members from History Professor David Schoenbaum to attend a large semester-long credit course on the United States in World Affairs with a number of distinguished speakers. Many seniors attended different lectures depending upon the specific subject and speaker.

Fall 2004

In June, a letter was sent to previous Senior College participants giving them a "heads up" promoting the nine topics and instructors planned for the fall semester. The Jazz course ended up being dropped due to Tom Davis' developing health problems, so eight courses were offered for the fall of 2004. The course on Herbert Hoover took place at the Hoover Library in West Branch, the Middle East course at the North Ridge Pavilion in Coralville and the Politics of Testing course included a visit to the NCS/Pearson complex. A course on The Varieties of Medical Imaging organized by Bill Stanford included nine different instructors from various medical specialties. Other courses included International Literature, World War II, Troubled Presidential Elections and the third and last course with the two old geologists covering More National Parks - on Mondays-Wednesdays in January. Paul Collins from the Dental College joined the Committee.

Attached is copy of a summary of the course subjects in broad categories

offered during the first five semesters of the Senior College (February 2002 to May 2004).

Spring 2005

Eight courses were offered in that spring semester. One was on Basketball taught by Sam Alford, a retired coach, who was the father of the then University of Iowa basketball coach. A second was on the Devonian Fossil Gorge meeting out at the Coralville Dam. The Shakespeare course was not taught by Miriam Gilbert but at the Riverside theatre by its founders, Jody Hovland and Ron Clark. There were courses on Philosophy and Religion, Medical Ethics, and The Aging Heart taught by three cardiologists. Art Cantor gave another Opera course and a course on Art, Film and Musical Images of Iowa was presented by Tom Dean, the University President's speech writer. The Coordinating Committee then numbered 15 with the addition of Ian Smith, Internal Medicine, Charles Barfknecht, Pharmacy and Tom Conway, Biochemistry.

Fall 2005

The eight courses that fall included Movie Serials, International Literature, The European Union, Enduring Ideas in Literature, and the first of Laird Addis' philosophy courses - Philosophy and the Arts. A course on Non-traditional Healthcare Therapies was taught in the Dental Science auditorium, and another on the emerging topic of Digital Photography took place in the University Library's Information Arcade classroom. A course on Diseases of Lifestyle Choices was taught by Richard Lynch in the Pathology Department. There were two sections of 12 students each- one on Monday afternoons and one on Wednesday afternoons.

All students donned latex gloves upon entering the classroom as the course involved sitting around a table examining archived human organs preserved in formaldehyde. Peggy Houston became the Chair of the Committee. Dick Dustin rejoined the Committee and Jean Kendall and Charles Barfknecht left it.

Spring 2006

There were seven courses offered that semester, including two that dealt with medical subjects. One, presented by three epidemiology faculty covered Iowa Public Health Issues and the other with seven faculty from various medical

specialties presented Milestones in Medical Research. Miriam Gilbert returned to discuss the two summer Shakespeare plays and Chris Grant, the former women's athletic director offered a course devoted to Women's Intercollegiate Sports. Mars and Cosmology, Iowa and World Migration, and Birds and Birding out at Kent Park, were the other three. Eleanor Anstey from Social Work joined the Committee and Terry Powell left it.

Fall 2006

In that semester there were three literature related courses: (1) the eight writers from the International Writing Program, (2) Exploring Satire and Humor, and (3) Contemporary Poetry with poet, Marvin Bell. Two dealt with photography - Travel Photography, and Introduction to Digital Photography (with Photoshop) that was again held in the Main Library's Information Arcade. The remaining three courses included Football (3rd time), Existentialist Philosophy, and Biblical Women and Men, the first of a number of biblical courses to be taught by Kenneth Kuntz. Gordon Strayer from University Relations joined the Committee.

**Senior College Course Offerings
Spring 2002-Spring 2007
(By semester)**

<u>SPRING 2002</u>	Name of Course	Date
Caplan, Richard C.	Exploring the World of Sherlock Holmes	S-02
Davis, Thomas L.	Having Fun with Music Theory-101	S-02
Gurnett, Donald A.	A Tour of the Solar System	S-02
Trimpe, Pamela W.	March Madness 1: Understanding Modern Art	S-02

<u>FALL and WINTER 2002</u>	Name of Course	Date
Baker, Richard & Keene Swett	Exploring Our National Parks with Two Old Geologists	W-02
Canter, Arthur	The World of Opera	F-02
Honey, Rex	Increasing Our Understanding of the Middle East	F-02
Horton, Loren	The Story of Iowa	F-02
Ringgenberg, Clayton	Football in Plain English	F-02
Stevenson, Richard	Using Investment Information Resources	F-02
<i>Swett, Keene</i>	<i>(see Richard Baker)</i>	<i>F-02</i>

<u>SPRING 2003</u>	Name of Course	Date
Caplan, Richard	Medicine in Literature	S-03
Edwards, Kathleen A. & Pamela W. Trimpe	March Madness II: Rural Artistry	S-03
Gilbert, Miriam	Making Love and Making War	S-03
Hibbs, Robert	A Hundred Good Stories: Vignettes That Make Iowa City History Come Alive	S-03
Schnoor, Jerald	Global Change and Sustainable Development	S-03
<i>Trimpe, Pamela W.</i>	<i>(see Kathleen A. Edwards)</i>	<i>S-03</i>
Walz, Tom	Gandhian Thought: Applications for the 21st Century	S-03
Williams, Ruth	Pharaonic Egypt: Life and Death on the Nile	S=03

<u>FALL and WINTER 2003</u>	Name of Course	Date
Assorted	International Literature Today	F-03
Baker, Richard & Keene Swett	Travels with Two Old Geologists II:-- National Parks and More	W-03
Canter, Arthur	The World of Opera	F-03
Hoover, H.D.	History and Politics of Testing (not offered)	F-03
Kelly, Martin	The Silver Screen Cowboys: A Ride Down Memory Lane	F-03
Murray, Jeff	Genes and Genomes: Science and Ethics: a Post-Sequence Era	F-03
Myers, Richard	Seminar in Practical Politics	F-03
Ringgenberg, Clayton	Football in Plain English	F-03
<i>Swett, Keene</i>	<i>(see Richard Baker)--</i>	<i>F-03</i>

<u>SPRING 2004</u>	Name of Course	Date
Ascroft, Joseph	Understanding Southern Africa and AIDS	S-04
Clark, Ron and Jody Hovland	The Making of the Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival	S-04
Dean, Thomas	Literature, Opera, Film: <i>La Traviata</i> and <i>Camille</i>	S-04
Edwards, Kathleen Dale W. Fisher, Pamela W. Trimpe	March Madness III: American Tableau	S-04
<i>Fisher, Dale W</i>	<i>(see Kathleen Edwards)</i>	<i>S-04</i>
Freidhof, Brad	Iowa, A Living Tapestry	S-04
Gayley, Ken	Astronomical Surprises	S-04
<i>Hovland, Judy</i>	<i>(see Ron Clark)</i>	<i>S-04</i>
Qadier, Khurram	An Obesity Epidemic in a Consumptive Society	S-04
<i>Trimpe, Pamela</i>	<i>(see Kathleen Edwards)</i>	<i>S-04</i>

<u>FALL and WINTER 2004</u>	Name of Course	Date
Assorted	International Literature Today	F-04
Baker, Richard and Keene Swett	Geology of National Parks, Part III	W-04
<i>Chaloupka, John</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
<i>Franken, Tony</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>

<i>Graham, Michael</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
Hawley, Ellis W.	Herbert Hoover and the Hoover Presidency	<i>F-04</i>
Holtum Ed	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
Honey, Rex	Challenges in the Middle East	<i>F-04</i>
Hoover, H.D.	History and Politics of Testing	<i>F-04</i>
<i>Kuehn, David</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
Olin, William H.	Reflections of Pre-to Post-World War II Germany	<i>F-04</i>
Peters, Richard	Troubled Elections of the 19th Century	<i>F-04</i>
<i>Smoker, Wendy</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
Stanford, William & Tony Franken, Michael Graham Ed Holtum, Alan Stolpen Wendy Smoker, David Kuehn, John Chaloupka	Taking the Mystery Out of Medical Imaging: What Now and What of the Future?	<i>F-04</i>
<i>Stolpen, Alan</i>	<i>(see William Stanford)</i>	<i>F-04</i>
<i>Swett, Keene</i>	<i>(see Richard Baker)</i>	<i>F-04</i>

<u>SPRING 2005</u>	Name of Course	Date
Alford, Sam	Round Ball Roundup: The World of College Basketball	<i>S-05</i>
Canter, Arthur	A Survey of Operas	<i>S-05</i>
Caplan, Richard	Some Challenges in Medical Ethics	<i>S05</i>
Clark, Ron and Hovland, Jody	Page to Stage with the Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival	<i>S-05</i>
Cummins, Phillip	How Philosophy Freed Itself from Religion	<i>S-05</i>
Brown, Donald Wayne Richenbacher, Richard Kerber	The Aging Heart	<i>S-05</i>
Dean, Thomas	Images of Iowa	<i>S-05</i>
Glenister, Brian F.	The Devonian Fossil Gorge: A Window on Iowa's Ancient Tropical Seas	<i>S-05</i>
<i>Hovland, Jody</i>	<i>(see Ron & lark)</i>	<i>S-05</i>
<i>Kerber, Richard</i>	<i>(see Donald Brown)</i>	<i>S-05</i>
<i>Richenbacher, Wayne</i>	<i>(see Donald Brown)</i>	<i>S-05</i>

<u>FALL 2005</u>	Name of Course	Date
Assorted	International Literature Today	F-05
Addis. Laird	Philosophy and the Arts	F-05
Baker, Karen	Controversial Issues in Traditional and Non-Traditional Healthcare Therapies	F-05
Croft, Jerry	The European Union	F-05
Kelly, Martin	Saturday Afternoon Movie Serials	F-05
Lynch, Richard G.	Diseases of Lifestyle Choices	F-05
Rajagopal, "Raj"	The Power of Enduring Ideas	F-05
Sjolund, Richard	Digital Photography	F-05

<u>SPRING 2006</u>	Name of Course	Date
<i>Calarge, Chadi</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06
<i>Dungy, Claibourne</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06
Gilbert, Miriam	Shakespeare: Parents and Children	S-06
Grant, Christine	Women's Intercollegiate Sport: Learn to Love It!	S-06
Honey, Rex	Migration Causes and Consequences	S-06
Kent, Tom	Birds and Birding	S-06
<i>Kuperman, Samuel</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06
Lynch, Charles F. and Jennifer G. Robinson, Linda Snetselaar	Iowa's Public Health	S-06
<i>Marshall, Al</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06
<i>Nelson, Karen</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06
Polgreen, Philip and Ronald G. Strauss, Samuel Kuperman, Karen Nelson, Chadi Calarge, Al Marshall, Claibourne Dungy	Milestones in Medical Research	S-06
<i>Robinson, Jennifer G</i>	<i>(see Charles F. Lynch)</i>	S-06
<i>Snetselaar, Linda</i>	<i>(see Charles F. Lynch)</i>	S-06
Spangler, Steven	Astronomically Speaking	S-06
<i>Strauss, Ronald G.</i>	<i>(see Philip Polgreen)</i>	S-06

<u>FALL 2006</u>	Name of Course	Date
Assorted	International Literature Today	F-06
Addis, Laird	Existentialist Philosophy	F-06
Bell, Marvin	Reading Contemporary Poetry	F-06
Kuntz, J. Kenneth	Women and a Few Men in Biblical Narrative	F-06
Rajagopal, R. "Raj"	Exploring Satire and Humor	F-06
Ringgenberg Clayton	Football in Plain English	F-06
Sjolund, Richard	Introduction to Digital Photography	F-06
Solomons, Gerald and Solomons, Hope	Travel Photography	F-06
<i>Solomons, Hope</i>	<i>(see Gerald Solomons)</i>	S-06

<u>SPRING 2007</u>	Name of Course	Date
Baker, Karen	Controversial Issues in Traditional and Non-Traditional Healthcare Therapies	S-07
Caplan, Richard	Music for Non-Musicians	S-07
Gayley, Ken	Reality in Astronomy: Truth and Consequences	S-07
Gilbert, Miriam	King Lear: Text and Performance	S-07
Hurtig, Judith and Swanson, Charles	Behind the Scenes at Hancher	S-07
Kent, Tom	Birds and Birding	S-07
Robinson, Marilynne	Genesis in its Mediterranean Context	S-07
Sjolund, Richard	Introduction to Digital Photography	S-07
<i>Swanson, Charles</i>	<i>(see Judith Hurtig)</i>	S-0
Vitosh, Mark and Wehde, Dave	Iowa Prairies and Forests	S-07
<i>Wehde, Dave</i>	<i>(see Mark Vitosh)</i>	S-07

THE FIRST FIVE SEMESTERS OF THE SENIOR COLLEGE

HUMANITIES - 15

5	Literature	(2 Shakespeare, Sherlock Holmes, International Writers, Medicine)
4	Music	(2 Opera, Music Theory, La Traviata)
3	Art	(At Art Museum)
2	Movies	(Cowboys, Camille)
1	Philosophy	(Ghandian Thought)

SCIENCE - 9

3	Medicine	(Genetics, Obesity, Literature)
2	Environment	(Global, Iowa-Kent Park)
2	Astronomy	(Solar System, Universe)
2	Geology	(National Parks)

SOCIAL SCIENCE – 7

3	History	(Iowa, Iowa City, Egyptian)
2	Geology	(National Parks)
2	Politics	(Practical, Foreign Policy)

SPORTS - 3

3	Sports	(Understanding Football)
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BUSINESS - 1

1	Business	(Investing)
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