Spring 2016 Course Offerings

RAPPAHANNOCK INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (RILL)

A program of the Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation, RILL was designed by a group of volunteers to be a life-enriching and thought-provoking learning experience for adults who wish to keep their minds active.

MISSION: Recognizing that a vigorous mind is as necessary to a full life as are physical exercise and social relationships, RILL offers educational opportunities and intellectual enrichment for adults of any age. In a stimulating classroom study environment, participants can acquire new knowledge, explore thought-provoking ideas, and share their interests and experience with like-minded community members.

CLASSES: RILL noncredit-level courses are held in various locations within RCC's service region. Some instructors may suggest specific preliminary reading material to prepare students to get the most from the course; this information will be sent to registered students. The courses will include neither prerequisites nor tests. Evaluations by participants will provide feedback for future offerings.

For more information, or inclusion on our RILL mailing list, please contact Sharon Drotleff at sdrotleff@rappahannock.edu or 804-333-6707, or visit our website: www.rappahannock.edu/foundation

REGISTRATION: Completed registration forms (see tear-off panel in this brochure), with the appropriate tuition, must be received before the first class meeting. As class size may be limited, early registration is strongly advised. Tuition is neither tax-deductible nor refundable. Separate charitable gifts to the Foundation, designated for RILL, will help to defray program costs. These gifts are tax-deductible.

Thank You! The RCC Educational Foundation expresses its appreciation to the Bank of Lancaster's Golden Advantage program and Rappahannock Westminster Canterbury for their generous support of RILL 2016.

RILL Volunteer Executive Committee
Jennifer Hampton, Ellen and Peter Bennett, John Bott, Betie Dillehay, Lindsey Gardner, Rob Gates, Llew Samiel, Ron Saunders, and Marilyn South

Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
Sarah Pope, Director of College Advancement, Executive Director of RCC EFFI

#217: The In- and Outside Glass Class $35/$15
February 23, and March 1 and 8 (Tuesdays); 1-3 p.m.
Instructor: Laura Anne Brooks
Limited to 15 registrants

Keep a green spot in your home all year round with Instructor Laura Anne Brooks covers techniques for making these interior landscapes, as well as strategies for changes to provide variety and seasonal color. She also touches on many elements of arranging in- and outside glass. The first session will feature terrariums, the second will focus on dish gardens and pots-ets-flleurs, and the third will explore arranging with glass. Students must supply their own glassware.

A prize-winning horticulturist and flower arranger, Laura Anne Brooks is a fellow of the Washington National Cathedral School of Flower Arranging, a past president of the Garden Club of Virginia’s Middle Peninsula chapter, an instructor at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, and a frequent speaker at Virginia federated garden clubs and church altar guilds. Her work can be viewed through Ikebana of Richmond, and is often featured at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

#218: The Astronomical Search for Life in the Universe
March 22 and 29, and April 5 (Tuesdays); 1-3 p.m.
Gloucester Public Library, Gloucester
Instructor: Dr. Greg Boechar

Greg Boechar holds a Ph.D. in astronomy from Ohio State University, and has published research articles on the chemical composition and evolution of galaxies. He has performed optical imaging and spectroscopy, and radio interferometry, at United States observatories. His space science engineering experience includes work on the development of the Hubble Space Telescope, atmospheric data archives, and assessment of NASA planetary exploration missions.

#219: A Magical History Tour of New Kent County
April 7, 14, and 21 (Thursdays); 1-3 p.m.
Locations: RCC New Kent; Cumberland Plantation; St. Peter’s Church (Talleyville)
Instructors: LaVonne Patterson Allen, Stran L. Trout (guest speaker)

This three-part course covers the history of New Kent, one of the oldest counties in Virginia. Tour sites in the village of New Kent include a colonial smokehouse, a jail that has been restored as a museum and repository for county artifacts, and the original 1930s New Kent High School that was cited in the landmark Green vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case in 1968. Further afield, participants will visit Cumberland Plantation, and learn the part it played in the Civil War. Also featured is St. Peter’s Church at Talleyville, where Martha Dandridge Custis worshiped at the time of her marriage to George Washington. LaVonne Patterson Allen is the “sailor” and historian of the New Kent Historical Society. She has done extensive historical and genealogical research centering on New Kent County, and has co-authored four books. Author Stran L. Trout will join her as a guest instructor.

#220: Archaeology and Early Virginia Landscapes
April 6, 13, and 20 (Wednesdays); 1-3 p.m.
Three Gloucester County sites: Weroquocomo, Fairfield Plantation, and Rosewell
Instructors: Dr. David Brown and Thane Harpole

Historical archaeology can provide a new perspective on the physical layout and evolution of past landscapes. This course, repeated by popular demand, will allow students to visit three significant archaeological sites in Gloucester County: Powhatan’s 1607 capital at Weroquocomo, Lewis Burwell III’s 1694 manor house and plantation of Fairfield, and the magnificent early-18th-century ruin of Rosewell. Students will examine recent research and discuss archaeological findings from these sites.

Both Brown and Harpole received their undergraduate degrees from the College of William and Mary, and have conducted archaeological research and outreach in Gloucester County since 1994. They are co-directors of The Fairfield Foundation.

#221: Marilynne Robinson’s Quiet Genius: The “Gilead” Trilogy
May 2, 9, and 16 (Mondays); 1-3 p.m.
Gloucester Public Library, Gloucester
Instructor: Gail Kenna

Since winning the Pulitzer Prize for “Gilead,” Marilynne Robinson has written “Home” and the recent “Lila,” which completed her trilogy of novels set in 1950s Iowa. Noted as a writer of quiet genius, Robinson’s success is something of an anomaly in today’s publishing world. In three sessions, primarily of discussion among students, the novels will be analyzed for an understanding of Robinson’s philosophical depth and her exquisite artistry as a writer.

Gail Wilson Kenna is a former university professor and a published writer. A recent Donald Axinn fiction scholarship winner to the Broad Leaf Writers’ Conference, she credits Robinson as an influence on her writing and thinking. After her 2004 move from Peru to the Northern Neck, Kenna has taught numerous literature and writing courses for RILL.

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**Janet Yellen**, Chairwoman, The Federal Reserve

“In government institutions and in teaching, you need to inspire confidence. To achieve credibility, you have to very clearly explain what you are doing and why. The same principles apply to businesses.”

Janet Yellen, Chairwoman, The Federal Reserve

#211: Lee v. Burnside, the Battle of Fredericksburg

March 4, 11, and 18 (Fridays); 1-3 p.m.
RCC, Warsaw Campus, Room 118
Instructor: Jon Stallard

In the snow and bitter cold of December 1862, the new Federal commander Ambrose Burnside threw his army across the Rappahannock in a desperate lunge toward Richmond. Robert E. Lee was entrenched and ready, and the ensuing fight involved the largest concentration of troops fighting in any battle of the Civil War. This course examines the movements, motivations, and major personalities on both sides of the conflict.

Jon Stallard is a native of Richmond, Virginia. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science, history, and education from Virginia Commonwealth University. As well as being an author, lecturer, and genealogist, he is a co-owner and morning show co-host on WRAR Radio.

#212: Some Common Misconceptions about Important Economic Concepts

April 7, 14, and 21 (Thursdays); 1-3 p.m.
Rappahannock Westminster Canterbury, Irvington
Instructor: Dr. David G. Davies

The purposes of this course are: first, to provide explanations of two economic concepts about which there is considerable controversy; and second, to explore how these concepts should be used as a basis for public policy. The course will also try to clarify the roles of the federal government and the Federal Reserve System in national economic policy. It will list and define the concepts and how these concepts should be used as a basis for public policy.

Dr. Davies received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina. He has taught at UNC, Duke University, Harvard University, George Mason University, and the College of William & Mary. A Ford Foundation economic advisor to the governments of Nigeria and Kenya, he retired from the World Bank after two decades of work in Africa, Russia, and Asia.

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#213: John Wilkes Booth in King George County

April 8, 15, and 22 (Fridays); 1-3 p.m.
RCC, Warsaw Campus, Room 118
Instructor: Elizabeth Lee

The people who aided John Wilkes Booth attempted escape, and the route he took, have fascinated people for 150 years. Pilgrimages have been arranged from Ford’s Theater to the site of Garrett’s barn, where Booth was killed, and many books have been written about his assassination of Lincoln and subsequent flight. However, little has been said about his escape through King George County. What route did Booth and David Herold take? Who are Rosse Quickensberr, Dr. Richard Stuart, and William Rollins, and what were their interactions? Who else was involved? Students of this course will learn the answers to these and other key questions.

Elizabeth Lee graduated from King George High School and the University of Mary Washington. Until her retirement in 1994, she was employed at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren. Ms. Lee is a past president of the King George County Historical Society and director of the King George County Museum and Research Center. She is the author of several books on King George County, and is currently writing “The Last Hope, John Wilkes Booth’s 34-Hour Escape Through King George County, Virginia.”

#214: The Life and Times of Robert Carter III

May 4, 11, and 18 (Wednesdays); 1-3 p.m.
Historic Christ Church, Weems
Instructor: Robert Teagle

Robert Carter III (1728-1804) was the grandson of Robert “King” Carter, the wealthiest planter in early 18th-century Virginia. Carter settled at Nor- mini Hall in Westmoreland County, where he and his wife, Frances Tasker Carter, raised a large family while operating tobacco plantations, mills, and other industries. Raised in the Church of England, Carter converted first to the Baptist faith before becoming a Sweden-borgian in 1768. Three years later he drafted a “Deed of Emancipation” that provided for the gradual man- umission of over 500 slaves; this was likely the largest single emancipation in the United States before the Civil War. This course will examine Carter’s life from his childhood through all these events.

Robert Teagle is the education director and curator at the Foundation for Historic Christ Church in Weems. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the College of William and Mary, and a master’s degree in American history from Virginia Tech. His research and teaching interests focus on the history of colonial Virginia, including its architecture, the role of the Church of England, and the Carter family.

#215: Marilyn Robinson’s Quiet Genius: The Gilead Trilogy (NN)

May 5, 12, and 19 (Thursdays); 1-3 p.m.
RCC, Kilmarnock Center, Room 100
Instructor: Gail Kenna

Since winning the Pulitzer Prize for “Gilead,” Marilynne Robinson has written “Home” and the recent “Lila,” which completed her trilogy of novels set in 1950s Iowa. Noted as a writer of quiet genius, Robin- son’s success is something of an anomaly in today’s publishing world. In three sessions, primarily of discussion among students, the novels will be analyzed for an understanding of Robinson’s philo- sophical depth and her exquisite artistry as a writer.

Gail Wilson Kenna is a former university professor and a published writer. A recent Donald Axinn fiction scholarship winner to the Broad Loaf Writers’ Conference, she credits Robinson as an influence on her writing and thinking. After her 2004 move from Peru to the Northern Neck, Kenna has taught numerous literature and writing courses for RILL.

#216: Introduction to the Art and Architecture of the Egyptians

May 6, 13, and 20 (Fridays); 1-3 p.m.
Menokin, Warsaw
Instructor: Jay Atkins

Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for more than 3,000 years, and was characterized by a striking continuity. This was partly due to the fact that the majority of its imagery was governed by a sense of what was appropriate culturally rather than artistically. This class will give a broad overview of Egyptian art and architecture, and will try to promote an understanding of its purpose within the context of the society.

Jay Atkins was born in North Carolina and raised in Tappahannock. He earned a degree in art history with a minor in history, cum laude, from Virginia Commonwealth University, and has also studied abroad in England, Scotland, France, and Italy. In addition to lecturing in Richmond at the Valentine Museum and the Virginia Historical Society, he is on-again operations manager for Real Media, Inc., and hosts the afternoon show on River Country 107.5.