Summer 2015 Course Offerings

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’s noncredit college-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.

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 2015.

Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. Cherie Carl, Dean of College Advancement, Executive Director of RCC EFI

RILL Volunteer Executive Committee
Ellen and Peter Bennett, John Bott, Ginny Burnette, Bette Dillehay, Lindsy Gardner, Rob Gates, Llew Samuel, Ron Saunders, and Marilyn South
Sometimes described as “the mother of all conspiracies,” the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, has passed into American folklore in many of its elements: the single bullet, the marksman on the “grassy knoll,” and the mysterious deaths of persons involved. The present course will examine the question of who killed the President; the Warren Commission conclusion that the guilt rests on a single gunman (Lee Harvey Oswald), and a variety of conspiracy theories, will all be critically evaluated.

Jack Moore earned his bachelor of arts degree at Gardner-Webb College and his master of arts from Old Dominion University, as well as graduating from Regent University School of Law. He practiced law in the Tidewater area until joining RCC as an assistant professor of criminal justice and history. His master’s thesis consisted of a “Historiographical Survey of Kennedy Assassination Literature,” and he traveled to Dallas eight times between 1990 and 2013, capping his lifelong interest in the assassination by taking part in a solemn memorial observance on its 50th anniversary (November 23, 2013). He is still very much interested in the Kennedy assassination regarded as a historical mystery.

Is “life as we know it” on Earth unique in the universe, or are there sites beyond Earth that harbor some form of life? Students of this course will use an astronomical approach—resting on the strengths and limitations of human science—to explore this fascinating question. Earth and its biology will be the starting point for investigating other Solar System sites that may have developed their own organic species. Further considerations will include the nature of the stars in our galaxy, and the search for extraterrestrial planets there. Finally, statistical methods will help the class to estimate the possible number of intelligent civilizations in the Milky Way.

Greg Boeshaar 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 the development of the Hubble Space Telescope, atmospheric data archives, and assessment of NASA planetary exploration missions. Currently he teaches astronomy at RCC, dabbles in writing (non-fiction), and enjoys working with his therapy dog Ari-Gato to provide services to senior citizens and elementary school reading programs.