

Albion Area Lifelong Learners

A Lifelong Learning Experience in Cooperation with Albion College

Fall Term 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to AALL 2021-2022. As of this writing, we are planning our Fall Assembly and our Fall Classes to be in-person. That being said, when we are meeting at the Assembly in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Albion College sponsored spaces, or The Bohm Theatre, we are required to follow their COVID policies. THEIR POLICY REQUIRES THAT ATTENDEES MUST EITHER BE FULLY VACCINATED AND SHOW PROOF OF THIS, OR WEAR MASKS. There will be a statement on the registration form to indicate vaccination status, and people attending the Assembly will be asked to show proof of their status.

The Fall Assembly, September 9, 10:00 at First United Church Tennant Hall, features Dr. Matthew Johnson, the new President of Albion College, who will speak to us about his visions for the college and the community.

The Curriculum Committee has worked hard to organize six classes for Fall Term, and has considered new options. For the first time, one class is being offered in the evening. The chairs of the Curriculum Committee, Martha O'Kennon and Doug White, will be interested in your feedback, and any other suggestions.

Fall is the time to renew your membership. We are reinstating the former yearly fee of \$20. The membership fee includes one free class each term. There is a \$10 fee for additional classes. There may also be a "materials" fee for some classes. Registration can be accomplished by printing out the form found at the end of this Newsletter, completing it, and mailing it to the PO Box indicated, or you can register in person at the Assembly. The Board investigated other lifelong learning programs in our general region, and found we are truly unique with respect to our low membership fee, our variety and quality of courses, and our unique population. Please encourage others you know to join.

AALL has a new slate of officers: President Mary Slater; Vice-President Tanya Arnett; Secretary Vivian Davis; Treasurer Jim Seidl (returning). Our committee that organizes field trips is also meeting again and may have an offering for us in the future. We are always eager to hear your comments and suggestions for the good of the organization.

Sincerely, Mary Slater, President

Upcoming Events

Fall Assembly - September 9, 2021 - 10:00A.M. - Tennant Hall



Albion College and the Community

Dr. Mathew Johnson began his tenure as the 17th president of Albion College on July 1, 2020. A global leader in higher education, he leads the development of Carnegie Foundation Elective Classifications, the Elective Classification for Community Engagement, and a multi-year international Carnegie Community Engagement Classification project, involving 26 institutions of higher education across the world. Dr. Johnson co-founded and co-directs the National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement. He also sits on the editorial board for *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*, and has been recognized as an Ashoka Change Leader by the Ashoka Foundation. Dr. Johnson serves as a Carnegie Visiting Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and is a fellow at the Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice University. He consults for universities globally and has led projects in Ghana, Bolivia, India and elsewhere.

Earning his Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from Brandeis University, Dr. Johnson has been a faculty member for more than 20 years. He has held appointments as Professor of the Practice in Sociology and served as a tenured professor in both sociology and environmental studies at his undergraduate alma mater, Siena College.

Dr. Johnson maintains an active research and professional academic profile, including several edited volumes, chapters and articles. Dr. Johnson will be sharing the current strategic vision at Albion College and some key areas of focus on our campus currently. These include a renewed focus on building sustained partnerships with the Albion community, grounded in the idea of belonging. Over the past year, the College has made strides on prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion for our students. Ultimately, our goal is to create a sense of belonging on campus — where all students, staff, faculty and community members know that they have a home. This work takes deep personal and professional commitment which our campus has embarked on. The College is eager to continue to grow our partnerships in Albion to make an even greater impact.

Upcoming Courses

ADVENTURES ON THE INTERNET. David Kammer, Ph.D., Professor of Physics *emeritus*, Albion College. Mondays, 10:00 am. - 12:00 pm. October 4, 11, 18, 25. In Person. Class size unlimited.

The class will discuss the Internet including its history, usage, safety and privacy issues, technology and influence on our society.

Class 1. A practical guide for using the Internet: Search engines, information gathering, mail, social groups, news sources and entertainment. Includes a section on good free stuff!

Class 2. Safety: What is Malware? Phishing? Scams? ID theft? How can one protect oneself? Privacy: what information is gathered as you use the Internet? How is it used? Can you stop its collection and/or erase the information?

Class 3. The technology of the Internet: a general introduction to network technology. How is it possible to access over 2 billion websites all over the world in seconds? Or send/receive messages anywhere in the world to/from over 3 billion people?

Class 4. The Internet's influence on society: We will discuss how the Internet has changed (for better or worse) our culture, news, politics, social life and commerce

COMMON TREES OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN. Dan Skean, Ph.D., Professor of Biology *emeritus*, Albion College. Tuesdays. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. October 5, 12, 19, 26. In Person. Ludington. Limited to 15 participants—if you are interested in this class, be sure to read the “Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes.”

This course is an introduction to tree identification and natural history that takes a special look at the common trees of the Albion area. The course will include study of tree form, growth, and reproduction. There will be mellow campus tree ID walks and at least one meeting at the Whitehouse Nature Center, weather permitting. It is hoped that course participants will finish with (1) a greater understanding of the types of trees that occur in southern Michigan, (2) an ability to use simple identification keys successfully to identify unknown trees, and (3) a greater appreciation for tree biodiversity and economic and ecologic importance. A hand lens (jeweler's loupe) would be a useful accessory for this course.

Optional Text: Barnes BV, Wagner, WH Jr. 2004. Michigan trees, revised and updated: a guide to the trees of the Great Lakes region. Ann Arbor, MI: Univ. Michigan Press. Available at the Albion College bookstore.

WHO RUNS THE WORLD? WOMEN WRITERS AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. Jessica Kane, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Albion College. Tuesdays. 2:00 pm. – 4:00 pm. October 5, 12, 19, 26. In Person. Class size unlimited.

Novels in eighteenth-century Britain were considered the trashy entertainment of their day, and women who wrote them courted scandal by putting themselves in the public eye. A number of women writers published their work despite the scorn, and used their pens to comment on important social issues as well as tell a good story. This class will explore two novels, *The Female Quixote* by Eliza Haywood (1752), and *The Woman of Colour* by Anonymous (1808), that feature female protagonists and take on some of the major conversations of their day. We will read and analyze instructor-provided sections from each text, discuss the issues they are addressing (women readers and imagination in *Female Quixote*, sexism and racism in *Woman of Colour*), and consider the stories' connection to our present day.

MORE THAN A SINGLE STORY: EXPLORING AFRICA THROUGH MULTIPLE LENSES. Betty Okwako-Riekkola, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Education, Albion College. Thursdays. 5:00 pm. – 7:00 pm. October 14, 21, 28. In Person. Class size 25.

This course will focus on one of the least understood regions of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa. The Sub-Saharan Africa region is quite diverse and stretches from the central part of the continent of Africa, to the southern part of the African continent. It is also the world's youngest region and is growing in population and importance. While the region is gaining greater focus, many westerners are not able to locate the region on a world map. For many, knowledge of Africa is informed by stereotypes and exotic perceptions that depict Africa as the "dark continent, rife with disease, poverty and civil strife. Chimamanda Adichie refers to these |misconceptions as the "single story" of Africa. By exploring the global forces and processes that have shaped this region of the world, this course will introduce learners to the counter narratives of the "single story" of Africa. Course activities include discussions, reading short articles, and analyzing digital resources. The third week we will discuss food and prepare some typical traditional Kenyan/African dishes to share.

STEM IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. Jason Raddatz, Director of the Whitehouse Nature Center, Albion College. Wednesdays. 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. October 6, 13, 20, 27. In Person. Whitehouse Nature Center on Albion Campus/ATTIC at Albion College Instructional Technology. Limited to 15 participants—if you are interested in this class, be sure to read the “Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes.”

“STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) In the Natural Environment” will explore applied technologies and how these technologies are applied in the natural world. Students will explore 21st century skills such as remote piloting, kayak mounted sonar assessments, underwater robotics, along with robot gardening, three-dimensional modeling, and printing. As a Michigan Innovative Teacher award winner, Jason has been known to shake things up and improvise instruction.

Class 1. Introduction to Remote Piloting: Students will learn to pilot in two and three dimensions in a similar manner to how kids learn: Playing games. From there, we will work on remote sensing and communication strategies to unlock the limitations of limited sight. (Inside / Outside)

Class 2. Introduction to 3D Modeling and Printing: Students will learn the mysteries of printing with plastic. Students will use Tinker-Cad to make and develop a 3D model for Halloween which will be printed either at the Nature Center or at the Albion Technology and Innovation Center. (Inside)

Class 3. Introduction to Coding: What is better than piloting drones? Coding Drones! You and your group will use coding blocks to program your drone out of a maze. A visit to the Farmbot and a demonstration is also part of the day. (Inside / Outside)

Class 4. Introduction to Orthomosaic and field assessments: Managing habitats in the WNC is not an easy task, but we use some pretty interesting technologies to assess our progress. In this class, you will make a quick map of the wild rice behind the football field, add invasive vines to the Michigan Invasive Species Network, and plot trees that will be tapped to make maple syrup.

There is a materials fee of \$15.00 to cover equipment use and consumption of plastic.

MOVIES EVERYONE SHOULD (BUT MAY NOT) HAVE SEEN. Richard Lewin, United Church of Christ pastor, retired. Thursdays. 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. October 7, 14, 21, 28. Bohm Theatre. Class Limited to 80 participants—if you are interested in this class, be sure to read the “Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes.”

There are many movies of historical significance, artistic genius, with wonderful storylines, and ground-breaking technology that should be seen, even decades after their release. This class will view four such movies -- wonderful movies, movies that should be seen... ESPECIALLY if you have not been fortunate enough to have already seen them. There will be time provided for conversation regarding the viewing event.

Movie 1: THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI (1920)

Made in Germany in 1920, this silent film was the “first true horror film”, cult film, and a precursor for arthouse films. Considered a classic, it had a major influence on American films, particularly in the genres of horror and film noir. The film has been described as portraying the story of a nightmare, while the frame story is “the real world”. The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari remains terrifying a century after it first stalked the screen.

Movie 2: GATES OF HEAVEN (1997)

This film has become an underground legend: audiences cannot decide if it is serious or satirical, funny or sad, sympathetic or mocking. Roger Ebert put it on his 10-greatest films ever made list, and said: “I was not joking; this 85-minute documentary film about pet cemeteries has given me more to think about over the past 30-years than most of the other films I have seen.”

Movie 3: THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (2008)

A realistic, heart-warming coming-of-age story (based on the novel of the same name by Sue Monk Kidd). The cast includes Queen Latifah, Dakota Fanning, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo, and Paul Bettany, and tells a story that takes us back to 1964 in racially-stressed South Carolina - the story of a 14-year-old girl (Lily Owens) who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father T-Ray, Lily flees with Rosaleen (her black caregiver and friend) to a town that holds the secret to her mother’s past. Taken in by the intelligent, and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping.

Movie 4: WALL-E (2008)

A heart-warming Pixar animated tale that takes place in a distant, but not so unrealistic, future: the earth covered with trash, a rubbish-collecting robotic hero who accidentally discovers the way to save planet Earth 700 years after humanity has abandoned it. An almost experimental silent film in the first half, the film evolves into a sparkling adventure, comedy, and love story.

There is a \$10 charge to help cover the cost of the theatre rental.

Reminders for Fall 2021:

1. Annual membership dues for 2021-2022 are \$20. Members may take one class each term without additional fee; each additional class is \$10. If you have questions, you can call the Registrar, Mary Deardurff at 517 990 4158.
2. The Fall Assembly (on Thursday, September 9, at 10 am) will be held in Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church. You will need to provide proof of vaccination or wear a mask. You may register in person from 9:30 to 10:00 am. Please bring your completed registration form (or facsimile) with you.
3. Mail-in registration forms (along with a check or money order made out to AALL) must be received by Thursday, September 16. Mail the completed form along with a check or money order payable to AALL to: AALL Registrar, P. O. Box 188, Albion, MI 49224.

Registration Information

1. For each course for which you want to register, place a number in the box in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most want to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. (NOTE: If you only wish to take one course, mark it with the number 1)
2. If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.
3. In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. The first course (each term) is free with your AALL membership; simply write FREE in the FEE column. Each additional course is \$10 (plus any special fees). All fees need to be paid at the time of registration.
4. If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees can be refunded up until the start of the course.

Policy for Limited Enrollment Classes

When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all those who had it listed as #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will comprise the waiting list and also be given first access if that course is offered again. The Registrar will keep a record of those on the waiting list until the course is offered again.

Those selected for the course in its first offering will not be eligible to retake it until all those on the waiting list have had the opportunity to take the course.

Those who have signed up for a class with limits and listed it as #1 are encouraged to sign up for at least one additional class. Members are also encouraged not to sign up for a course with limited enrollment if they know they won't be there for all four sessions.

REGISTRATION 1

	2021-2022 annual dues (July 1 – June 30) (\$20) (Only pay dues once. First class is free.)	
	Adventures on the Internet	
	Trees of Southern Michigan	
	Women Writers and Social Commentary in the 18 th Century	
	STEM in the Natural Environment (\$15 fee)	
	Movies Everyone Should Have Seen (\$10 fee)	
	Exploring Africa through Multiple Lenses	

TOTAL:

Name	
Phone	
Email	

REGISTRATION 2

	2021-2022 annual dues (July 1 – June 30) (\$20) (Only pay dues once. First class is free.)	
	Adventures on the Internet	
	Trees of Southern Michigan	
	Women Writers and Social Commentary in the 18 th Century	
	STEM in the Natural Environment (\$15 fee)	
	Movies Everyone Should Have Seen (\$10 fee)	
	Exploring Africa through Multiple Lenses	

TOTAL:

Name	
Phone	
Email	

Name _____ Spouse/partner name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)

Yes, we agree to abide by Albion College and Bohm Theatre guidelines regarding vaccinations and masks.

MAIL form and check or money order to: AALL Registrar, P. O. Box 188, Albion, MI 49224