

Exploring New Horizons: New Classroom, New Presenters, New Classes

The Fall 2025 term is nearly here, and Veritas is more energized than ever! This semester, we're not only offering another engaging and diverse lineup of lifelong learning courses, but we're also thrilled to announce the addition of a brand-new classroom space—a welcome expansion that reflects our continued growth and commitment to enhancing your learning experience.

Whether you're returning for another term of exploration or joining us for the first time, Fall 2025 promises to deliver the high-quality programming you've come to expect from Veritas. With 19 six-week courses, 2 three-week courses, and our ever-popular Lunch & Learn series, there's no shortage of opportunities to dive into new ideas, join favorite instructors, and connect with fellow curious minds.

As always, our curriculum is built around our core values: **engaging instructors, thought-provoking topics, and flexible learning formats.**

While we continue to evolve and improve, this foundation remains unchanged—and stronger than ever, thanks to the additional classroom space that will allow us to accommodate more members and offer even greater scheduling flexibility.

An open house for the new Waterson Medical Center - Suite 101 will be announced next week.

Online registration will open on September 10th at 9 a.m. and run until September 26th. Classes begin on October 6th and run through November 14th. The membership fee remains at \$50 for the Fall term, with six-week courses costing \$30 each and three-week courses costing \$15 each.

Retirement might mean leaving your 9–5, but lifelong learning is a full-time joy.

Fall 2025 - Key Dates to Remember

Fall Catalog emailed - September 3

Fall Registration Opens - September 10 at 9 a.m.

Classes Begin - October 6

Classes End - November 14

CURRICULUM

FALL 2025



The Veritas Society is pleased to offer a dynamic array of lifelong learning classes this fall, designed to engage curious minds and foster intellectual growth. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of history, explore new creative realms, or engage with contemporary issues, there's something for everyone.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Film takes center stage: Hollywood Goes to War on WWII cinema and Friday at the Movies: Humanity, screenings that explore resilience and justice.

INNER LIFE

Explore faith, philosophy, and self-understanding. Topics include The Historical Jesus, Understanding the Present Moment using Bishop Robert Barron's lectures on Marx, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Foucault, the Enneagram as a spiritual tool, and today's challenges of social isolation and loneliness.

LITERATURE

Dive into both classics and overlooked works. Courses cover Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain* exploring race, identity, and faith, forgotten 19th-century women poets from England and America, Klein and Thompson's *Abundance* on the need for "more", and Djebbar's *Fantasia* on Algeria's colonial history.

THE WORLD

Study civil disobedience through essays of Thoreau, Gandhi, Tolstoy, and MLK. Examine the laws, policies, and local realities of immigration and deportation in Louisville today.

CURRICULUM

CONT.

AMERICANA

Discover Louisville's past through Morgan Atkinson's documentaries, Civil War leader John C. Breckinridge and his role in the Civil War, and the influential Clark family and their contributions to Kentucky and American history.

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE

Practical learning includes lectures on forces shaping our tomorrow and the future of the American Experiment from Chautauqua 2025, health benefits of Qigong, how college students are diving into esports and social media culture, darts for fun and focus, and an introduction to gerontology.

FALL LUNCH AND LEARNS

We will gather Friday mornings on campus to hear from guest speakers on significant and interesting topics. Lunch and Learns are paid for individually (\$12 each) during registration and include the speaker's presentation and lunch in the University Dining Hall.

The University Dining Hall (UDH) offers all-you-care-to-eat restaurant-quality food from the steam table, grill, salad bar, sandwich station, dessert station, and more!

Each of the six programs will begin with the speaker in the assigned classroom. The presentation will begin promptly at 11:00 am. When you check in with the Lunch & Learn Coordinator in the classroom, you will receive a ticket that is valid for lunch—that day only—in the University Dining Hall, located right downstairs.

Read about the speakers on the next page!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

"Nez Perce War of 1877" – Jim Zimmerman, in costume as Lt. Charles Erskine Scott Wood

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

"Understanding Modern Joint Replacements" – Dr. William Renda, Orthopedic Surgeon

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

"Normal Aging or Dementia? Knowing the Difference" – Dr. Craig Cooper, Director of Norton Neuroscience Institute Memory Center

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

TBA - A Spooky Surprise

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

"Immigration in Louisville" - Elizabeth Peña, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, Office of Congressman McGarvey

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

"Merton's Legacy - Right Around the Corner" – Dr. Paul Pearson, Director, The Merton Center

LUNCH AND LEARNS SPEAKERS

"Nez Perce War of 1877" - Jim Zimmerman, in costume as Lt. Charles Erskine Scott Wood

Jim Zimmerman has always been interested in the Native American culture – so much so, that he has researched and put together a presentation about the Nez Perce tribe, a crucial part of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.



"Understanding Modern Joint Replacements" - Dr. William Renda, Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. William Renda, MD is a health care provider with 47 years of experience. His specialties include Orthopedic Surgery, with areas of expertise in Hip Osteoarthritis, Knee Osteoarthritis, and Knee Surgery (Knee Replacement Arthroplasty). He is affiliated with Baptist Health Louisville.



"Normal Aging or Dementia? Knowing the Difference" - Dr. Craig Cooper, Neurologist & Director of Norton Neuroscience Institute Memory Center

How do you know the difference between normal brain aging and dementia? Dr. Craig Cooper of the Norton Neuroscience Institute Memory Center will discuss what normal aging looks like versus when you should be looking for signs of dementia.



TBA - A Spooky Surprise

"Immigration in Louisville" - Elizabeth Peña, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, Office of Congressman McGarvey

From the Office of Congressman Morgan McGarvey, Deputy Director of Community Engagement Elizabeth Peña will discuss the resources and support available to the Louisville Immigrant community.



"Merton's Legacy – Right Around the Corner" - Dr. Paul Pearson, Director, The Merton Center

Did you know that Merton's Legacy is right here on campus? The Thomas Merton Center is the official repository of Merton's artistic estate, which includes over 1,300 photographs and 900 drawings in addition to his writing. The Center archives more than 50,000 Merton-related materials.

HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS TO IMPROVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

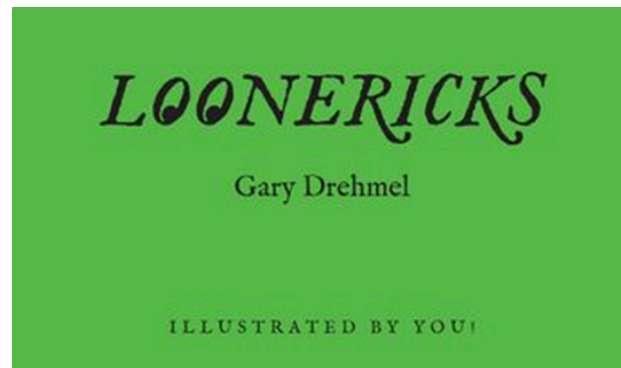
Zoom

- Save Zoom links for each class—you will use the same one each week!
- Allow adequate time to join the meeting and ensure your equipment is working.
- Change your display name to your full first and last name for attendance.
- Keep yourself muted unless asking a question/participating in discussion.
- If you can see yourself on screen, everyone else can see you too! Keeping your camera on is encouraged, but be mindful of your activities and surroundings as they can distract others.

In-Person

- Be on time for class and wait in the designated area until it is time to enter the classroom.
- Check yourself in on the attendance sheet.
- Silence your cellphone.
- Keep conversations to a bare minimum. Chatter is distracting to others and in hybrid classes can make it hard for virtual attendees to hear.
- Be respectful of peers.
- Clean up after yourself! Be respectful of the classroom space.
- Exit the classroom when class is over—chances are someone else is using the space!

VERITAS IN PRINT



Long-time Veritas Member, Gary Drehmel, has recently published an entertaining book, *Loonericks*, for young or old. Gary, aka “Grandpa D”, started making up limericks to entertain his grandchildren, developing more and more that eventually he decided to make a book. Published by Butler Books of Louisville, *Loonericks* uses the author's g-rated limericks as prompts for budding cartoonists to illustrate the silly scenes suggested by the poems. Here is how this book works:

I supply the first four verses on one page, then it will be your turn to illustrate those verses with a cartoon or painting on the opposite page. When I share my “punch line” on the following page, it will be your turn again to create a second cartoon or painting on the opposite page to illustrate the fifth verse.

I think you will catch on. When you finish, you will have 20 LOONERICK cartoons to show your friends!

As Gary puts it:
***"Most bees are crazy for honey.
Some people are crazy for money.
But as for me,
I'm tickled to see
a limerick that's funny!"***

The book may be purchased online at <https://www.butlerbooks.com/index.html>

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILL STEWART



In loving memory of William J. “Bill” Stewart, founder of Veritas, who passed away peacefully on June 14, 2025, at the age of 92. Born in Louisville, KY, Bill lived a life rooted in faith, education, and service. A proud graduate of Flaget High School, he continued his studies at St. Meinrad Seminary College, earned an A.B. from Bellarmine College, and later a master’s degree from the University of Louisville. He served his country honorably in the 100th Division of the U.S. Army Reserve and dedicated over three decades to shaping minds at Bellarmine College. In 1995, Bill founded Veritas, a community built on lifelong learning and thoughtful engagement, where he remained active on the Board of Directors until 2017. True to his passion for

education, he continued taking classes through 2021. Bill’s legacy endures not only through his professional and civic contributions, but also through his deep devotion to his family—his beloved wife of 68 years, Barbara, who sadly passed away in mid-August following his death; his children; grandchildren; and all who were touched by his wisdom and quiet leadership. He leaves behind a life lived with integrity, compassion, and purpose—a true embodiment of Veritas.

VERITAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Since becoming a Veritas member, you may have wondered what your Veritas membership is really getting you. Sure, you now have the ability to register for classes, but why else are you paying that fee? See below for a listing of the many great benefits of the Society!

- Register for classes of interest. No prerequisites, tests, or grades!
- Access to year-round activities: lectures, Distance Dialogues, field trips, & social events
- Free parking on campus
- Full use of Bellarmine Library & SuRF Center
- Free Admission to most Bellarmine Athletic Events
- Bellarmine Veritas Student ID card and “Student” Discounts at local community partners with Student ID card

Check out our [Membership Handbook](#) for details about membership benefits.

MEET MORGAN ATKINSON

You have been making documentary films, many of them aired nationally on PBS, for some time. How did you hear about Veritas, and what attracted you to offer a class here?

I heard about Veritas from “happy customers” or people who have taken Veritas courses. The word of mouth was very positive. If I’m being honest, I was attracted to offering a class at Veritas by ego. I enjoy showing my work to people.

How did you get into film-making? What is your educational background, and have you had any other careers or professions?

I went to the University of Kentucky. While there I began making short films with a Super 8 camera. The cast was comprised of friends. The storylines varied from sophomoric to moronic to well-intentioned. The pleasure we had in making and showing these “epics” gave me the desire to pursue a career in filmmaking. Because I had writing skills, I began my working career in communications/public relations.

What makes you laugh?

Australian sit-coms make me laugh, as does early Woody Allen.

Who inspires or did inspire you?

Spiritual inspiration would be Thomas Merton. Entertainment inspiration would be Bruce Springsteen. Vocational inspiration would be Studs Terkel.

Describe yourself in three words.

Eager to learn.

What is your most vivid childhood memory?

Cherokee Park. I grew up near there. Roaming it really shaped me.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

Go where there is life.

Is there a material object in your home that means a lot to you?

My cat relaxes incredibly well. She is worth emulating.

What are the most influential books you've read?

The Seven Story Mountain (Merton), Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test (Tom Wolfe), Working (Studs Terkel)



SUMMER FUN WITH VERITAS!

Another summer of fun for the Veritas Society! Our members were all around town and online. In June, we spent the beginning of summer getting to tour some of Louisville's major sites, volunteering, and learning from experts across the country in virtual sessions. The wonderful Veritas members poured back into the community through various volunteer opportunities every Tuesday in June at organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House and Feed the West. Our local tours included the Kentucky Railway Museum, the Kentucky Center, the Lynn Family Stadium, and the delicious Schimpff's Confectionary. The tour of the Seelbach Hotel was so well attended and the attendees were so impressed by the rich history and the knowledge of the guide, we even added a second date!



July was a hot one, so we beat the heat by having online experiences through the month! We got to hear about the 24 hours immediately after the Kennedy assassination from a curator of the 6th Floor Museum in Dallas. We also had the opportunity to hear about life in space from NASA! Some other incredible sessions included learning the difference between a violin and a fiddle, the impact of art in America, and learning about the Equal Justice Initiative out of Alabama.

Whether our members were in town or on vacations of their own, we know this was a summer to remember!

VERITAS MEMBERS ATTEND THEATRE SEMINAR

Fifteen Veritas members spent the first week of August in Stratford, Ontario, as members of The Stratford Seminar Society. The Seminar is hosted in partnership with the Stratford Festival, North America's largest and most highly regarded repertory theatre company. The trip was suggested and organized by Veritas Board member Jeff Conner, who has himself been attending the seminar for several years.

The seminar is an intense learning experience, built around a schedule of up to eight plays in the Festival's four theatre spaces. On a typical day, the three-hour morning session would begin with group discussion of the previous day's plays, followed by a lecture on upcoming plays, and then a Q & A with leading actors or directors of the company. A matinee would follow at 2:00 PM, and another production at 8:00. (Some participants see everything possible, while some opt for a smaller package of plays.)



Attending Veritas members made their own travel, lodging, and dining arrangements following guidance supplied by the Seminar and Jeff Conner's thorough info session and emails. In the attendees' free time, they could enjoy the lovely city of Stratford — surrounded by gardens everywhere one looks, the Avon River dammed to create Lake Victoria, and a multitude of gourmet dining possibilities.



Marilyn Schorin said of the experience: "It is always enlightening to see high-quality theater. What the Seminar Society offered was an introduction to and discussion of the plays. Shakespeare can be daunting for those of us with a glancing familiarity with it. The discussions reviewed the plays, made connections between these and other Shakespeare plays, and helped us see the value (and controversy) in bringing a modern sensibility to Shakespeare (e.g., the production of Macbeth set in the 1990's 'biker wars' in Quebec)."

THEATRE SEMINAR CONTINUED

Dennis Wiseman added: “Being able to meet with a group of people that saw the exact performance you did to discuss what you saw, the set design, the differences in other productions of the same play, was great. . . . Stratford is a very walkable, beautiful town. We enjoyed our time there—enough so we are probably returning next year!” And Mike Marple summarized: “I think Veritas suggested a memorable experience. We met people from all over North America. It was nice to have the preshow and post-show discussions, and I enjoyed hearing from various members of the productions. I think some of the first-timers would like to do it again—it was so much fun.”



The 2026 Stratford Seminar Society dates are August 3 – 8, 2026. If you are interested in learning more, email veritas@bellarmine.edu and we will include you in the information session that will be held this fall.



Participants at the Patterson Theatre. Front, left to right: Mary Olsen, Mary Laymen, Marilyn Schorin, Connie Fondong, Lynn Marple, Patty FitzGerald, Maureen Fitzgerald, Mike Marple. Back, left to right: Rebecca Beyerle, Andy Perry, John Sistarnek, Marjorie Conner, Jeff Conner, Dennis Wiseman, Rocky Yates.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Beyond the Veritas classes— and not limited to term-time—Veritas members are invited to take part in a variety of voluntary interest groups. Here are the ones currently meeting.

THE HEALTHY EATING GROUP OR LET'S DO LUNCH

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, eating at various restaurants chosen by the members. Contact Debbie Heuser at deheu927@gmail.com or Barb Simmons at barbsimmons88@gmail.com for reservations or additional information.

THE MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Meeting in person and on Zoom; it meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. Contact Rebecca Beyerle by email at beyerler@gmail.com to receive notices of future book choices.

THE SPIRITUAL SEEDLINGS INTEREST GROUP

Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 10:30 a.m., at the Immanuel United Church of Christ, 2300 Taylorsville Road. The group is led by Barbara MacDonald, who has presented classes on Christianity, Spirituality, Cosmology, and Inter-religious Dialogue. For more information or to register, email Barbara at barbpmac@gmail.com.

THE ETHNIC LUNCH GROUP

Meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various locations for different ethnic food each time. For information and reservations, contact organizer Mary Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or email her at thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com.

DOBU (DO BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY EVENTS)

This group will select and attend BU music, theater, sports, lecture events—anything happening at BU that looks interesting and fun. One a month, depending on event schedules. Most events are free or have a nominal charge. Dinner beforehand at BU or nearby is an option. If interested, please email Ann McWilliams at veritasDoBU@yahoo.com.

Who We Are

Since 1995, Veritas has offered the preeminent learning experience to people over 50 in the Louisville area. Our mission is to keep our minds active, open and growing, with the goals of:

- Understanding our past history and cultural heritage
- Informing members about what is happening around us
- Recognizing changes in the world and finding our place in it

We are retired or semi-retired people: doctors, educators, homemakers, office workers, administrators, artists, laborers, and executives. We are governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership.



What We Do

We are an active, participatory group that devises and develops its own programs, enlisting the best of regional talent for presentations. We offer a six-week program each fall and spring, and activity throughout the year.

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Ann McWilliams '26
Vice President	Donna Edgar '27
Secretary	Maureen Fitzgerald '26

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Jeff Conner '26
Marilyn Schorin '27
Denise Davis '27
Dennis Wiseman '27
Patty FitzGerald '27
Deloris White '27
Rose Nett '27

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Curriculum	Judith Skretny '26
Field Trips	Ann Nunn '26
Lunch & Learn	Bud Spalding '27 & Jonathan Smith '26
Finance	Abigail Walsh
Membership	Maureen Fitzgerald
Newsletter	Jonathan Smith
Production	Ron Gordon '26
Promotion	Don Snow '27
Special Events	Sandra Cherry '26
Volunteers	Herb Shulhafer '26
BU Liaison	Abigail Walsh

CONTACT US

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