

THE VOICE

Volume 24 Number 2

A Publication of the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University: The Next Great Learning Experience Fall 2019

STELLAR LINEUP OF COURSES FOR FALL 2019

Courses about everything from Turkish politics to “The Great Gatsby” and more will be offered for the fall term. From heavy-weight topics like politics of the Arabian Gulf to more light-hearted fare about musical composers, there’s something to tempt everyone.

The fall term will be September 30 through November 8. You’ll soon be receiving course catalogs with full details. Online registration will open at 9 a.m. August 28

Look for three **significant changes**. The starting time for Lunch and Learn sessions will be 11 a.m., or 15 minutes earlier than last spring. Sessions are moving to Hilary’s, adjacent to Einstein Bros. Bagels in the Centro complex. Happy news -- the larger meeting space means there will be no caps on enrollment. Friday movies will start earlier, at 1:15 p.m.

The **morning discussion courses** will include a study of Eudora Welty short stories and an introduction to the essays of French writer and philosopher Montaigne. “The Great Gatsby” and the Jazz Age will be studied in another course. And another will explore “A Spiritual Understanding of Life.”

From the roster of **other courses**, history buffs can choose from “Concepts of Liberty and Equality in Western Civilization” and “Hitler: Who, What, Where, When and Why.” Or they can try a course on the history of forensics or study the medieval emperor Charlemagne.

Veritas always has a great selection of courses about current events and issues. On the national front, there will be “Navigating the Maze of the

Criminal Justice System” and “How Safe is Your Environment?” Others are “Democracy, Citizenship, and the Constitution in the Current Era” and a look at social justice from a Christian perspective. Two courses with an international focus will be “Turkish Politics Today: Voices from the Diaspora” and “Politics and Peoples of the Arabian Gulf.”

On the practical side, there’s “Spanish for Travelers” and “Money and Markets in Retirement.” Have an artistic bent? Check out “Architecture and Engineering” as well as “The History of Asia through Visual Arts.” And on a more lighthearted note, you can learn about famous composers Rogers and Hammerstein II and Stephen Sondheim. Or check out “The Golden Era of Comedy Duos in America 1920-1974.”

The **Friday film series** will focus on films of political and legal courage. The course catalog will list specific titles.

The **Lunch and Learn** series again offers a roster of great speakers. Juliee Decker will speak about the subject of her new book, trailblazing Louisville sculptor Enid Yandell. Tandee Ogburn will talk about the mission of the Hand in Hand Ministries, and Actors Theatre creative director Robert Barry Fleming will talk about the theater’s new and continuing directions.

Terry Chambers, “Rose Island” author and expert, will talk about the long-ago entertainment mecca. Bellarmine Professor Fred Smock will speak about Walt Whitman. And Ken Schulz, former WHAS meteorologist and now Humana consultant, will talk about healthy motivation.

THE VILLAGE VOICES TALK ABOUT THE HALF-FULL GLASS

By Linda Miller

(The Village Voices is an on-going column reflecting the observations and opinions of newsletter staff.)

When I was growing up in the 1950s and 60s, I was blessed with very loving “Leave It to Beaver” type parents. Amidst all of the happy memories I remember how hard they tried to teach us that life was never going to be perfect for us and that we needed to find ways to make the most out of situations that might frustrate us. I have often said to my sisters that I wish I had a nickel for each time my parents shared these familiar mantras:

“There are lots of things in life we can’t change; Change what you can.”

“If life gives you lemons, well, just make some tasty lemonade.”

“Remember no one promised us a rose garden.”

“Well, just try to look at this problem as the glass is half full, not half empty.”

Each year Veritas office staff and board members hear concerns and complaints from members. In most cases they can help solve members’ problems. Sometimes there is no way to solve the problem.

Here are some examples:

I can never find a place to park. Yes indeed, parking is a very *real* problem and may get worse as our student population grows. Helpful suggestions include planning ahead and being familiar with the campus lots. The one behind the SuRF Center and others further away often have spots. You also can use the Bellarmine shuttle. If you allow enough time, park further away and congratulate yourself on getting healthy exercise.

I cannot get into the classes that I want. This frustration affects **all** Veritas members at one time or another. Our staff and the board try to schedule popular classes in larger classrooms to accommodate more participants. Try to plan ahead by being ready to register at exactly 9 a.m. when registration opens. Have your class choices but also have alternate choices. Open yourself up to the adventure of learning something new.

I really dislike registering for classes and field trips on a computer. We all recognize that this big change is difficult for many, but online registration and other digital activities are only going to become more common. Embrace the challenge of learning a new skill and begin to enjoy the convenience of technology.

I do not understand why the Veritas board and staff make the decisions they do, such as raising fees. Be assured decisions are made after serious thought and discussion at Veritas board meetings. Consider volunteering to be on the board or just come to meetings and listen.

I am new. I think it is hard to make new friends in classes. Yes, it is hard. There is not enough time and the atmosphere isn’t conducive to talking. So try joining an interest group! You can go to lunch, play games, go to movies, discuss a book and savor new lifelong friends.

As my Momma said, “Just remember that the glass IS half full!”

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 14	Current member fall catalog mailed
August 28	Fall registration opens at 9 a.m.
August 28	New member catalog mailed
Sept. 17	Underground Railroad Museum field trip
Sept. 30 – Nov. 8	Fall term
Dec. 6	Holiday luncheon

MEET MIKE MARPLE

(This is part of a series profiling interesting members of the Veritas Society.)

Mike Marple has been a Veritas member for more than 10 years. Many members know him from his entertaining classes about books and plays. Mike has taught six classes and is a member of the Production Team.

Why did you join Veritas?

A friend of mine, Pat Richardson, encouraged me to join. I retired from Jefferson Country Public Schools where I taught math and German for 30 years. I wanted to retire as early as I could because both of my parents died when they were very young. I wanted to make sure that I had time to travel and enjoy other activities.

We know you love mystery books. Is it really true that you are related to Agatha Christie's Miss Marple?

I speak with all mendacity when I assure you, "Of course I am!"

What are some childhood experiences that influence you today?

In my early childhood, my father was in the military and we lived overseas. My parents took me to a lot of the festivals in small European cities. I loved them! Then I remember how fun it was to be a stage manager for a play in seventh grade. When I was nine years old my Aunt Esther said to me, "You will either be a teacher or a preacher."

I moved to Louisville in 1967 and began my freshman year at Doss High School. My parents always read books and newspapers and I learned to love reading when I was very young. I introduced my mom to the author Pearl S. Buck when I was only 11. She went on to read all of her books.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I am "an entertainment junkie." I am constantly reading, watching TV, attending live theater or watching YouTube videos.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have two rescue cats, Tigger and Miss Spooky. I love them except when they drive me crazy.



Mike Marple

Are there any material treasures or heirlooms to which you are especially attached?

No. I sometimes think that when I get old, I will lower the price of my home a little and just walk away.

What do you enjoy most about Veritas?

I really enjoy teaching at Veritas. It gives me so much pleasure to see how members enjoy them. I like making classes fun and interesting - telling funny stories and sharing obscure videos.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SET FOR DECEMBER 6

It may be feel like summer right now, but it's never too soon to start planning for the holidays!

Mark your calendars for December 6 so you can attend the always festive Veritas Holiday Luncheon in the George C. Brown Center on campus. Socializing will begin at 11:45 a.m. The Chamber Choir from the Youth Performing Arts School will perform at noon, and the buffet lunch will start at 12:30 p.m. Tickets will be around \$20. You'll get details about how to register in late fall.

THE THOUGHTS AND WISDOM OF VERITAS PRESENTERS

By Gay Ellison

Veritas could not exist without the exceptional group of presenters who generously share their time, energy and vision with us. Did you know that 22 Veritas presenters have taught 10 or more courses! To better understand their motives and dedication, The Voice randomly polled several presenters who've taught a substantial number of courses.

Their responses are summarized on these two pages. Please acknowledge the incredible commitment presenters make on our behalf. We are very fortunate to enjoy their talents and continue to learn, thanks to their expertise and keen devotion to Veritas.

Barry Chafin - 11 Courses

Like best/least: "The best part of presenting is the Veritas members. They are intelligent, worldly and bring an astonishing variety of life experiences. Our discussions are rich and varied." Least: "Cannot think of anything I do not like about it."

Favorite courses: American literature.

Preparation time: At least three hours per class, often much more. "Veritasians pay their money and come to class prepared to discuss the literature. They deserve a leader who knows the material. 'Present' does not exactly describe what I do. We explore literature together."

Thoughts: "Thank you for the many lovely friendships we've had along the way. You enrich my life beyond measure. If you have the opportunity to lead a class, serve on the board, or serve as a committee member, go for it. You will be rewarded by the experience."

Laurie Duesing - 11 Courses

Like best/least: Best: "I like the students best of all. They are receptive, responsive, appreciative, and they prepare for the class. Their intellectual gifts are typically formidable, and I am inspired by the quality of their participation." Laurie praised the production assistants who help her show DVD clips.

Favorite courses: "I have enjoyed every single course I've taught -- all of them drama courses. I think my favorite of all times was the first course I taught: three plays of Eugene O'Neill." She loves that she can choose what she wants to teach and pursue the study of many playwrights.

Suggestions: She's not keen about online registration. And she thinks presenters should get some kind of compensation, perhaps a token \$100 per course. "It's not the amount of money -- it's the recognition that I have performed a service that is valuable to others."

Preparation time: "Let's just say I spend hours and hours preparing for a Veritas class." That involves re-reading plays, choosing DVD excerpts, reading critical material. She's taught drama in college, and "my Veritas preps take a lot more time and thought because the students are so intelligent and so prepared."

Thoughts: "I really appreciated the understanding I received when I had three surgical interventions, and my Veritas classes had to be re-scheduled."

Don Graeter - 8 Courses

Like best/least: Best: Class members are "highly intelligent, ask wonderful questions and are overwhelmingly kind and supportive." Least: "Wrestling with the constraint of matching my presentation time with the class time available."

Favorite courses: "I currently teach only two -- Churchill: 20th Century Titan and Churchill: The War Years. I love both and couldn't possibly choose between them."

Suggestions: Don would love to see more classroom space added for Veritas, even if off campus. Adding lectures and mini-courses of less than our usual 6-week format could be considered.

Preparation time: "Maybe 200 hours per term—continuing research, updating, editing handouts, my lecture outline and power point, etc."

Thoughts: "I'd like to thank everyone for all the kindness and support I have received. . . The enthusiasm, the wonderful feedback and the great questions are all things that I treasure greatly!"

(Continued on next page)

THOUGHTS OF VERITAS PRESENTERS, CONTINUED

Jerry Hubbs - 27 Courses

Like best/least: Best: "Learning from research to prepare to teach a course as well as class questions and feedback."

Favorite courses: "Those subjects in which I have a background, interest or passion, including Bourbon, Breweries of Louisville, History of Coffee and Classic Book Discussions."

Suggestions: "I often tell people if they cannot get into their favorite class, sign up for another because all the classes are interesting and I am sure they will enjoy Veritas."

Preparation time: Has been preparing for this fall's "Architecture & Engineering" course for the last year: usual prep time is 6 months.

Thoughts: "The course catalog is amazing and the Curriculum Committee should keep up the great work! The course variety is amazing!"

William Schrader - 24 Courses

Like best/least: Best: "I am a historian. I love history, and I love talking about it." Least: "I notice a creeping bureaucracy . . . Also, I do not like doing business by computer."

Favorite courses: "All the topics have been in European history...Thanks to Susan Irving and earlier tech assistants, I use a lot of illustrations, which I would surely screw up if I had to do it on my own."

Preparation time: "I have a fund of material left over from my teaching career. I augment this with some updated material and some adjustment to the class, but I always have a good start before the class meets."

Thoughts: "With Veritas, most of the students are intelligent and have kept up with world affairs, at least in a general way. They are polite. They ask intelligent questions. There are no tests to grade, and no grades to assign - HURRAY!"

Bud Spalding - 71 Courses

Like best/least: Best: "Sharing information and ideas with interested others." Least: "Sometimes fifth and sixth weeks get wearying, especially if attendance has dwindled."

Favorite courses: "History, especially local; the environment, ever-more-important aspects of the economy; leading book discussion groups."

Suggestions: "Less straying from stated course subject (occasional problem); 3-week half-sessions might fit well into our curriculum mix (presently under consideration)."

Preparation time: "As much as it takes -- frequently several days per session, sometimes years for courses."

Thoughts: "Only how pleased we should all be with what we've fashioned over 24-plus years. For most of my adult life, I said to myself and others that if I were independently wealthy, I'd be a perpetual student. Veritas lets me do just that, very affordably."

Evanthia Speliotis - 14 Courses

Like best/least: Best: "I love the students. They are interested, engaged, inquiring." She said she learns a great deal from the questions and discussion.

Favorite courses: "I have enjoyed every Veritas class. As I have now been doing this for many years, I think the other thing I find satisfying is when I am revisiting some text and can speak about it in some depth."

Suggestions: "From my little corner in this great program, I think it is just fine."

Preparation time: "This depends very much on how well I do or do not know a given text." If she's teaching a new topic, she can spend upwards of 10 hours a week. For subjects she's already taught, her preparation consists "more of thinking about what themes I wanted to highlight in the short time we had rather than needing to gain mastery of the text."

Thoughts: "I love this program and the chance it has offered to me to explore areas that are related to ancient Greek philosophy (which is my area of concentration), but which I do not usually have the opportunity to teach at the college level...Would that all my students were like the Veritas members!"

FIELD TRIP TO THE JOHN JAMES AUDUBON MUSEUM AND MOONLITE BAR-B-Q INN

Forty-eight Veritas members and guests crossed the Ohio River four times, traversed three different bridges, drove through two states and visited two cities early this summer. On June 20 they visited the John James Audubon Museum in Henderson, Ky., and then enjoyed lunch in Owensboro, Ky., at the Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn. Audubon's original drawings and his family's memorabilia delighted everyone at the museum. Southern cooking and tasty barbecue and mouth-watering desserts were the highlight at the world-famous Moonlite Bar-B-Que Inn.



Gary and Kathy Drehmel at the Moonlite



Pat Fitzgerald, Maureen Fitzgerald
at Audubon Museum



Dan McCarthy and Judith Krish
at Audubon Museum

VERITAS BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Veritas Board of Directors elected new officers at their May 10 meeting. They will serve two-year terms until May 2021.

Dennis Wiseman was elected as the new board president. He replaces Marilyn Schorin who served for the previous two years. Although she steps down as president, Marilyn was re-elected to the board in the spring. "I am excited for this chance to serve with so many talented and committed board members and volunteers. I look forward to helping the Veritas Society maintain its high standards during this time of rising membership numbers and changes at Bellarmine," Dennis said.

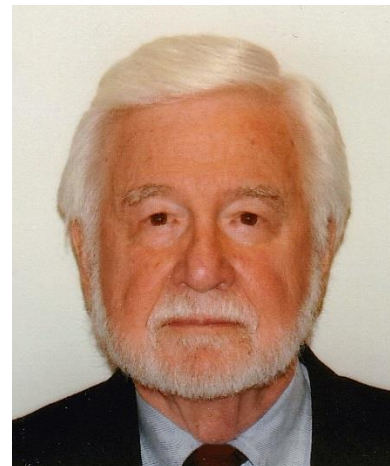
Rebecca Beyerle, who joined the board for the second time last year, was elected vice president, and longtime board member Bud Spalding was re-elected secretary.



Dennis Wiseman



Rebecca Beyerle



Bud Spalding

VERITAS TRAVELS TO THE BIG APPLE

The five-day trip to New York City last May was a first for Veritas – an overnighiter to a major cultural hub, with 19 Veritas members and guests immersed in the theater scene in the Big Apple,

They got a behind-the-scenes look at both Broadway and off-Broadway as part of a tour created by the Road Scholar program: “The Best of Theater in New York: Behind the Velvet Curtain.” Road Scholar organizes educational and experiential tours all over the world.

Veritas members and staff organized the Louisville contingent for the May 27-31 adventure. The program included attending several plays (including *Tootsie*), meeting Broadway actors and directors, getting backstage tours and hearing presentations by theater experts.

Here are trip highlights, described by some of those who went:

Dennis Wiseman – “My favorite things were the tour of the New Amsterdam Theater, especially standing on the stage and realizing what the actors saw when they looked out at the audience. The other was meeting the Tony-nominated actor Andy Grotelueschen and hearing him talk about what it takes to be an actor on Broadway. He is in *Tootsie*.”

Debbie Heuser – “I loved traveling with a group of people from Louisville, especially Veritas friends. We saw much of New York and interacted with real actors, directors and those involved with creating plays. The plays and speakers were fun and thought-provoking. I hope Veritas will continue to offer similar trips.”

Pat Heitz -- “Having never been to NYC, I was thrilled to just walk the streets and see things I had read about. Loved (the play) *Tootsie* and all of the discussions.”

Deloris White – She loved “seeing the plays and participating in the recaps by authors, writers and the guided tours. Also the restaurants were great. The guided tour through Times Square was wonderful.”

Marilyn Schorin – “We had great discussions of the plays and theater in general. Our group was able to handle – and try on – some of the fabulous props from a number of Disney productions, including *Lion King* and *Aladdin*, which is on stage currently. We

had a rollicking end of the week when Stephen Cole, our major presenter (and award winning musical theater writer), led us in a rendition of “There’s No Business like Show Business.” It was a fitting ending to an entertaining and educational week.”



Loving the Big Apple!



Touring Times Square



Dining at the renowned Sardi's.

VERITAS INTEREST GROUPS

The Healthy Eating Group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. Contact Marilyn Schorin at mschorin@gmail.com or (502) 452-1100 for reservations or additional information.

The Mystery Book Discussion Group 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. Sessions include book discussions, sometimes a local author, or mystery movies based on books. Occasionally the group attends local productions of mystery plays. For additional information, contact Rebecca Beyerle at beyerler@gmail.com or (502) 454-0268.

The Eat/Talk Group meets the third Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club on the University of Louisville campus. Contact Dennis Wiseman at dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com or (502) 533-8989 for more information.

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 more information or reservations, contact Mary Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com.

The Moveable Feast Literature Discussion Group meets monthly when Veritas is not in session. Meetings are usually held at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. For future dates and books, contact Amy King at calaryllis@gmail.com.

The Movie-Dinner Group meets the first Thursday of the month. They attend an early movie and then go to dinner to discuss it. Members share the task of making movie and dinner selections and arrangements. For more information, contact Linda

Miller at linda.loves.walking@gmail.com or (502) 216-4075.

The Thomas Merton Interest Group meets the first Friday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. on Bellarmine's campus. They discuss Merton's philosophy and life by reading his books. For more information and to be put on the mailing list contact Cheri Powell at CheriPowell@yahoo.com.

Deal the Cards/Play Games Interest Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 1-4 p.m. in Hilary's at Bellarmine. A variety of cards and board games will be played. Contact Dennis Wiseman at dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com or (502) 533-8989 if you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions.

The Women's Words Interest Group for Poets and Prose Writers meets every Tuesday for lunch at the Bellarmine University Dining Hall during Bellarmine's fall and spring terms. Please bring writings to share. For more information or to be added to the email list contact Sandra Rippetoe at sandra@RDNpoet.com.

The Hiking Interest Group plans hikes on different days of the week depending on members' availability. Hikes take place in the Louisville area and are appropriate for beginners as well as seasoned hikers. Hikes resume in the fall. To get their email list, contact Rebecca Beyerle at beyerler@gmail.com.

The Memoir Writing Interest Group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 3:30-5 p.m. Each session you are to write a short story about something in your history. Contact Robert Wagley at (502) 653-7111 or roblorwagley@gmail.com for more information.

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Leslie Ellis.....Chairperson
Gay Ellison.....Writer
Ron Gordon.....Tech. Support
Linda Miller.....Coordinator