

THE VOICE

Volume 26 Number 3 A Publication of the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University: The Next Great Learning Experience Spring 2022

SPRING TERM LAUNCHES NEXT MONTH WITH MORE CLASSES BACK ON CAMPUS

Veritas is gearing up for an exciting Spring term, with more options to take classes at Bellarmine. Six of the 21 courses – twice as many as last fall – will offer a hybrid option with some students in classrooms at Bellarmine and others at home participating online via Zoom.

The Veritas catalog will be emailed on January 26. (See next page for a summary of offerings.) Registration will open February 2 at 9 a.m., and will close on February 18. Classes will begin February 28 and end April 8.

Veritas will also offer a class at a satellite location, the Masonic Homes complex in Crescent Hill. It will be a hybrid class and is open to ALL Veritas members, not just Masonic Homes residents. Two classes were offered there on a pilot basis in Spring 2020 but had to be stopped because of COVID.

We are currently offering a variety of winter activities including field trips, lectures and distance dialogs, some virtual and some in-person. Registration for these programs is ongoing and you can find a list of the offerings in the latest Veritas Weekly email. And in March we'll launch the Veritas Society Lecture Series. (Check out the details on the series on a story inside The Voice.)

There are several new things to watch for as you approach the Spring term:

FEES: Our membership fee will remain at \$30, but the fee per course will increase to \$25. The Board of Directors approved the increase back in November to ensure there's enough revenue to cover our operating costs. Membership had been lowered to \$30 from \$60 in Fall 2020 because of decreased membership benefit opportunities caused by the pandemic. If the course fee increase poses a hardship for you, consider applying for a Veritas scholarship. Call the office at (502) 272-8374 or email veritas@bellarmine.edu for details.

RISK AND CONSENT FORM: You'll notice that a Risk and Consent Form has been added to the registration process. The Veritas office and Bellarmine want to be fully prepared to help all members in case of an emergency. You'll be asked to agree to the form, provide an emergency contact, and provide any significant medical conditions that medical staff should be aware of in case of emergency.

Everyone will fill it out, both in-class participants and Zoomers. When on campus, remember to wear your name tag so responders know who you are if you're involved in an emergency.

VACCINE CARD: Those who register for in-person classes must upload a copy of their COVID vaccination card before classes begin. (Bellarmine's COVID safety protocols require students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated.) You will be emailed a link after you register. You can upload a picture or scan in the card. The link will have directions on how to do this.

SPRING COURSE TOPICS RANGE FROM CHURCHILL TO TV COMEDIES

They'll make you think. They'll make you laugh and might even make you cry. They'll take you places you've never been. The Spring course catalog is a basket of educational goodies, thanks again to the hard work of volunteers on the Veritas Curriculum Committee.

You can start off with a bit of religion with a course on contemplative living and Thomas Merton. Or enjoy a fun twist on art appreciation -- "look up" for an in-depth look at iconic ceilings around the world.

Literature studies abound. Discuss David Brooks' "The Road to Character" or the works and life of author Stephen King. Or try the dramatic monologues of poet Robert Browning, a theological study of "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis; or a review of Greek tragedy and political comedy.

History buffs can study the social and political transformation of the early American Republic or the personal and political life of Winston Churchill. And Part 2 of the great cathedrals of the world will be offered.

To dig deep into current events, choose from a discussion of federal and state court cases in 2021; a review of evolving concepts of personal rights protected by the Constitution; and international issues and challenges. On the science front, check out "Climate, Energy and YOU."

The "entertainment" side of the course catalog brings you the golden age of family sitcoms and women who bring musicals to life. Friday afternoon at the movies is back, with films focusing on the traditions of journalism. Filmed presentations from the Chautauqua lectures from Summer 2021 will focus on the themes of empathy and resilience.

To really immerse yourself in campus academic life, you can join an undergrad class on "Narrative Medicine & Personal Ethics" to understand the role of personal stories and morals in the context of healthcare choices.

The Friday speaker series will include Raphaela Platow, director of the Speed Museum; Bennett Knox, parks manager of the Jefferson Memorial Forest; Rowan Claypool, director of Teach for Kentucky; Brad Asher, author and historian; Ron Gallo, CEO of the Community Foundation of Louisville; Tom FitzGerald, attorney (and former longtime director of the Kentucky Resources Council).

MONITORING COVID-19

The Veritas Office, in conjunction with Bellarmine's COVID Taskforce, is continuing to closely monitor COVID-19 and the emergence of the Omicron variant. At this time, we are planning to operate as detailed throughout this newsletter and hope that by the start of classes we will be through the spike in cases. If any changes must be made, they will be communicated as necessary.

HAPPY TO BE BACK ON CAMPUS!

By Leslie Ellis

When I pulled into the Bellarmine parking lot in early October, I was almost giddy. It was my first day back on campus in 18 months. I happily embraced the hunt for a parking place.

I savored the walk to McGowan Hall, drinking in the energy of the students. They were masked and vaccinated. I felt safe as I headed to Jonathan Smith's class on the poet Shelley, one of three hybrid classes Veritas offered last Fall. Some members participated in the classroom; others joined via Zoom. In the classroom I think we all celebrated greeting each other in person.

Rebecca Beyerle also returned to campus last fall to take the Tai Chi course. "Do you remember when you headed back to school after a long summer vacation?" she wrote when I asked her what it felt like. "You were so excited to see all of your friends again! Well, I didn't buy a new lunch box or a new backpack, but was

thrilled to be going back to the Bellarmine campus for Veritas!

"It was a fun reunion for 15 of us in the Hillary Room. Our teacher Nancy (Carrington) and the tech crew efficiently juggled the live class and the Zoom computer class. Face masks weren't a deterrent to the joy of being on campus with real live students. The socializing portion of Veritas is important to me and I look forward to seeing you on campus!"

Barbara MacDonald loved being back in the classroom to teach Christian Identity in the 21st Century. "I must admit I was hesitant to even attempt to present such a (hybrid) class, but I can say now that I am glad I did.

"In-person classes far exceed Zoom when it comes to energy in the room; there is nothing like it," she wrote. "Zoom, however, gets a plus for its flexibility," she said, as it allows remote learning when needed. "The Zoom negative is not being *with* the participants. I miss that."



Shelley poetry class



Learning Tai Chi movements



Christian Identity class with Barb MacDonald

MEET ANN MCWILLIAMS

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

Ann McWilliams has been a Veritas member for about eight years. Several years ago she volunteered for the Production Team, which now runs our Zoom classes. Ann helps with three to five classes per term.

Why did you join Veritas?

I just love to learn. Give me a good lecture class and I'm a happy camper!

Are you retired? What kind of work did you do?

I've retired several times, but I think this time it will stick. I was a partner in a web and software development firm. We sold it in 2008. I retired until 2009 then went to architecture school. After graduation, I worked for a bit until I discovered architecture firms really want you to work and not travel. I'm retired again.

What is a childhood memory that still impacts you today?

I used to love when my mother read to me. My favorites were The Arabian Nights stories. No "Jane and Spot" readers for my Mom. She is why I love reading now.

Tell us something about YOU that might surprise us or we may not know about.

I'm a trumpet player, primarily with the Holy Name Band. We play at nursing homes and community events, or we did before the pandemic. We just started again with a couple of Christmas concerts in December.

Do you have a material treasure that you are particularly attached to?

Not really. If my house burned down, it would make me sad to lose letters I've kept over the years from people important to me. Other than that, I'd grieve over my power tools. But those can be replaced. With better ones.

How do you relax at home? Any hobbies, and if so why that one?

Reading is my go-to relaxation activity. I have (too) many hobbies: stained glass, photography,

woodworking and turning, carpentry. When I get curious about how something is done it seems to become a hobby.

What is your idea of the perfect way to spend a day in Louisville?

A trail walk through Cherokee Park in the springtime followed by an extra hot latte and a Morningside crepe at Safai coffee shop.



Ann McWilliams

What makes you laugh?

I can find humor in most things. So much daily living stuff is borderline ridiculous so you might as well laugh about it. I love playing with little kids because they laugh just for the heck of it. Stupid jokes make me laugh. Politicians are hysterical.

What's the most memorable thing that's happened to you while traveling?

Wow. Hard to pick THE most memorable, but here are three very memorable stumbled upon things: choir practice in Westminster Abbey; being invited to share tea with a family picnicking in a park in Amman, Jordan; dancing with the locals at an Independence Day celebration in Belize City.

What's the best piece of advice ever given to you? By whom?

"Don't sweat the small stuff." My Dad. It only took me 60 years to get it.

MARY BRINKER IS NEW VERITAS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Mary Brinker, Veritas' second scholarship recipient, always had an inclination for helping people. In middle school she fell in love with biology and engineering, and in high school started pursuing a career path in health care.

Her high school program led her to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She interned in a hospital during part of the school day, and fell in love with working in the intensive care unit (ICU).

And now here she is, a junior in Bellarmine's nursing program.



Mary Brinker

Her endowed scholarship was created by Veritas in the spring of 2019 to provide financial assistance to a junior majoring in one of the health care sciences.

Mary grew up on a 28-acre farm in Williamstown,

Ky., where she enjoyed a happy childhood playing on a tire swing, swimming, picking berries, playing with the family dogs, riding four wheelers and attending church every Sunday. The area was so rural that some kids rode tractors to get to school.

Her parents, she said, set great examples for her. From her mother, she learned what you can achieve with hard work and determination. From her father, she learned the value of money, the importance of saving, and finding a job you love.

She chose Bellarmine, she said, because it was her "dream school." When she first toured the campus she "instantly felt at home. The trees and the hills reminded me of where I am from, the small class sizes and teacher-to-student ratio made me feel much more comfortable about transitioning to college."

She knows she made the right choice. "The campus has such a great environment for meeting new people and engaging you into student life."

Besides her studies, Mary is working two jobs. One is on campus at the Office of Health Science where she helps nurse practitioners who run tests, give injections and handle paperwork. She also returns home every other weekend to work as a CNA at St. Elizabeth Hospital near her home.

After graduation Mary hopes to get a job in an ICU at a hospital near her hometown. She says she'll be excited to put her education to work and eventually raise a family of her own on a farm. Veritas is delighted she is our scholarship recipient!

\$\$ YOU CAN DONATE TO THE FUND \$\$

The Veritas Society set up the Veritas Society Endowed Scholarship Fund by transferring \$50,000 from its reserves to Bellarmine's Endowment Account in 2019. Funds for the scholarship come from interest earned on the investment. If you'd like to make a donation or memorial gift to the endowed scholarship, contact the Veritas office at 272-8374.

SAVE THE DATE -- CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND CRAFT OF ED HAMILTON IN NEW LECTURE SERIES

The Veritas Society is excited to announce the formation of the Veritas Society Lecture Series at Bellarmine University. We will kick-off our lecture series honoring a Louisville Legend, sculptor Ed Hamilton, with a two-night event co-sponsored by the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University, and the Frazier History Museum. The Veritas Board of Directors appointed a committee to work to create a lecture series on campus that is open to the public. After a delay due to the pandemic, we could not be more thrilled to be partnering with the Frazier to host this event.

HIS LIFE – March 22, 2022

A night at the Frazier History Museum to celebrate Ed's life, growing up in Louisville on Walnut Street, and what shaped him into the artist he has become. Hear from Ed, his wife Bernadette and their daughter Kendra, and other special guests about his impact on our community and why he is an American Treasure. Join us as we raise a glass to Ed Hamilton. This will be a ticketed event. More details to come.

HIS CRAFT – March 24, 2022

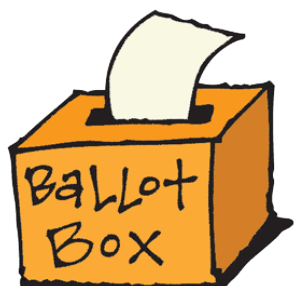
Open to the Louisville community, the Veritas Society will be hosting "A Conversation with Ed Hamilton" in Bellarmine's Frazier Hall. Ed will discuss his craft including his works of famous figures like Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. He will introduce other figures whose names weren't as well known, but are now because of Ed's sculptures. He will discuss his process, and how he brings his art to life with almost spiritual connections to his works. Bellarmine is a place where Ed has made his mark as a mentor to sculptor Bob Lockhart, whose works are found on campus.



JOIN THE VERITAS BOARD

This spring nine of the Veritas Board of Directors' 17 directors will be elected for a two-year term, running from June 2022 through May 2024.

If you'd like to get on the ballot – which will be emailed to members in March – contact Rebecca Beyerle, board vice president, at beyerler@gmail.com, by March 1. Remember, newcomers are often elected to the board, so give it a try!



It's recommended you attend a board meeting before deciding to seek election to see if your skills and interests fit with those of the organization. The next meeting is February 18 on campus. You must have paid membership fees for at least one term within the academic year to be eligible to run.

Being on the board is a great way to meet new people and be a part of helping design and implement programs and activities. Board members attend about four meetings a year, each lasting two hours. Members also serve on committees, including Curriculum, Membership, Special Events, Production, Lunch & Learn, Field Trips, Finance, Newsletter, Summer Programs and Volunteers. Standing committees also hold meetings, yet time commitments are reasonable.

SOME INTEREST GROUPS ARE MEETING

Several interest groups continue to meet, some in person and some using a hybrid format with members at a meeting site while others participate remotely via Zoom. And a new group focusing on spirituality is organizing.

Possible new group: Veritas member Barbara MacDonald, who holds a master's degree in religious studies, would like to organize a group that would discuss spirituality. It would be an outgrowth of the class she taught last fall on "Christian Identity in the 21st Century." She is still working out details of when and where the group would meet. For more information, contact Barb at barbpmac@gmail.com.

Movie Discussion Group is following a hybrid approach right now. For Zoom gatherings, it will resume meeting February 3 at 7 p.m. when movie classics shown on KET in January will be discussed. In addition, a group of four to eight members have started meeting in person to attend movies at Baxter Theaters, Village 8 and the Speed Cinema. Events are planned based on what movies are available, so there is no set schedule. For more information on the next movie, contact Linda Miller at linda.loves.walking@gmail.com or (502) 216-4075.

The Healthy Eating Group is meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, eating at various restaurants that specialize in healthy fare. Contact Rebecca Beyerle beyerler@gmail.com or (502) 454-0368 for reservations or additional information.

Mystery Book Discussion Group is meeting in person and on Zoom; it meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 p.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.

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.

NEXT BOARD MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 18

Meetings of the Veritas Board of Directors are open to all members. You're invited to the next meeting on February 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The board wants your feedback! The location will be announced in the online Veritas Weekly. There will be an open mic at the beginning for anyone to speak; comments will be limited to two minutes per person. Once the meeting begins, discussion is restricted to board members. Check out a meeting or two – it might inspire you to get involved in a committee. That's a great way to see if you might want to run for the board of directors; elections are held each spring.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE FALLS ON CAMPUS

We hope it doesn't happen, but occasionally one of our members may fall and could be injured. If you fall, or are assisting someone who has fallen, remember to call campus security at 272-7777. (Put it on your cell phone contacts list.) There will need to be an incident report filed with Bellarmine. And, of course, if you think injuries are severe enough, call 911.

VERITAS CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

The Veritas Holiday Luncheon returned in person in December after a Covid-related hiatus. More than 130 Veritas members and guests attended the festive event at Bellarmine and were entertained by the talented Bellarmine Jazz Ensemble before enjoying a delicious lunch.

Below are some of the attendees – masks were removed for lunch and for a few seconds for picture-taking purposes ONLY. Otherwise everybody masked up!



Sandra Cherry, event organizer

