

Curiosity Corner: Difference between pilsner and lager beers

Question: What is the difference between pilsner and lager beers? Also, please tell us the difference between a college and university. Thank you. (Asked by a curious person.)



CURIOSITY CORNER
Dr. Jerry D. Wilson
Emeritus Professor
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Reply: Beer — a beverage from fermented grain — has been around since early civilizations. Unlike wine, which is easily made from fermented crushed grapes, grains are more stubborn. The grain has to be soaked in water and allowed to germinate. When the kernels reach the stage where their sugars are developed that would support a sprout, the process is stopped by drying. The grain is now "malt" and has the sugar for fermentation. Barley, wheat, oats and rye can all be malted. The malted grain is ground and mixed with water to start the fermentation process. Additives such as herbs, spices and hops may be added. Hops give the bitter taste that can be found in some German beers.

But there is another essential ingredient — yeast — that causes the sugar to turn to alcohol. In the old day, the vats of malt and water were exposed to the atmosphere by opening roof panels. This allowed wild yeast cells in the air to go into the vats and start the fermentation. However, the wild yeasts varied and so did the beer. With the development of refrigeration in the 1800s, yeasts were isolated or cultured and could be stored. Brewers could then make con-

sistent tasting beers.

Before refrigeration, beer would go bad after a while in a warm environment. In the 1400s, brewers in Bavaria stored their beers in the summer in cool caves in the Alps. It remained good, but they didn't know why. One reason was that it was not exposed to more wild yeasts, which could cause problems in a warm environment. This storage was called "Lagerung" in German, coming from the word "lager," which means "storehouse." Nowadays, a lager is a beer that is fermented with yeast at cool temperatures and then put into cold storage.

Prior to 1842, all beers were dark and cloudy. Then, a brewery in Pilsen, Bohemia using a lager method introduced a beer that was golden and clear. Within the family of lagers, the pilsner (or "pils") is now the most widely produced.

Now for colleges and universities. The definition depends a lot on who you ask. I personally prefer the classical dictionary definitions:

College: (1) an institution of higher learning, especially one providing a liberal arts education rather than techni-

cal education or professional training. (2) A constituent unit of a university furnishing courses in vocational, technical or professional instruction, such as a medicine (e.g. college of medicine), pharmacy or agriculture.

University: an institution of learning at the highest level, having a college of liberal arts and a program of graduate studies together with several professional schools, such as theology, law, medicine and engineering; and authorized to confer both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

As I say, these are "classical" definitions. In some states, all state-supported institutions of higher learning are called universities, irrespective of offerings. In some cases, it gets to be legislative semantics, as in South Carolina, where the technical schools became technical colleges and the colleges became universities. I'm not sure what that makes Clemson University and the University of South Carolina.

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): The sign of a bad cook: the family prays after they eat.

Curious about something? Send your questions to Dr. Jerry D. Wilson, College of Science and Mathematics, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649, or email jerry@curiosity-corner.net. Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner. For Curiosity Corner background, go to www.curiosity-corner.net.

LCTA announces the election of Dr. Marchant as executive director

The Board of Directors of the Laurens County Trails Association (LCTA) is pleased and excited to announce the election of Dr. T. Eston "Bud" Marchant as its new Executive Director. Through his successful career in education, Marchant brings a strong background in both academics and economic development along with a wealth of leadership experience.

Marchant's education includes a bachelor's degree from USC; a Master's in Education from Winthrop College, SC; Certificates from The Citadel and Harvard, and his Doctor of Education from the University of Sarasota, Fla.

He has served at Beaufort Technical College, a Director at the College of Charleston, Dean at Anson and Stanly Community Colleges in North Carolina, and Vice President at Piedmont Technical College. On April 1 he will be retiring from his current role as President of Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, N.C., and will assume his LCTA role in April.

Marchant has always loved



Dr. T. Eston "Bud" Marchant

the outdoors, particularly enjoying hiking and biking. During his time in Charleston he recognized the power of trails in economic development and served as the director of economic development for the City of Beaufort and the Executive Director of the Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce.

He and his late wife Emilie came to Laurens County over 20 years ago to run the Laurens County Higher Education Center.

"We fell in love with Clinton's

small town charm and culture, and very quickly decided that this was the place we wanted to be," Marchant said.

In 2008 the *Clinton Chronicle* named him the Citizen of the Year in Clinton. He has always been active in community leadership, serving as the Chairman of the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Laurens County. Currently he serves as the Chairman of the Laurens County Parks and Recreation Board.

"The Swamp Rabbit Trail is an incredible driver of economic development in the communities it passes through," Marchant said. "Laurens County has the potential to become the 'Green Side of Greenville,' attracting growth and new residents."

Marchant will succeed Don Walker, who has served as LCTA's Executive Director since its inception. Walker and his wife will be moving to North Carolina in the near future and, between now and then, he and Marchant will work together to ensure a smooth transition.

Hunter completes basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Fernandez D. Hunter graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in

applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Hunter is the son of Terry Hunter of Laurens, and Sharon Suber of Clinton, and husband of Rebecca Hunter of Laurens.

He is a 2011 graduate of Laurens District 55 High School. He earned an associate degree in 2017 from Piedmont Technical College in Laurens.



Fernandez D. Hunter

Hamm named to SMC dean's list

Jessica L. Hamm, a sophomore from Enoree, has been named to the Spartanburg Methodist College Dean's List for grades earned during the fall 2018 academic semester. Dean's List students have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

About Spartanburg Methodist College: Spartanburg Methodist College is a private liberal arts college open to students of all religious and non-religious

backgrounds. The college serves an approximately 800 student body and offers six associate degrees as well as paths to bachelor's degrees. Affiliated with the United Methodist Church and established in 1911, students experience the transformative powers of academic excellence, intellectual exploration, social awareness and character development. SMC is the college of choice for local, regional, national and international stu-

dents who desire the advantages of a church-related education in a supportive community where they can thrive.

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