

# Adventures in Learning *Update*



winter 2004

COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE

LEARNING AMONG FRIENDS

## Profile: Dusty Logan

To talk about Adventures in Learning without mentioning Dusty Logan would be like putting on a production of "Camelot" and omitting the character Guenevere. Dusty has played a key role in our



organization almost since its inception. She serves on the Board of Directors and is a valuable member of the Public Relations Committee. In addition, Dusty is a study leader who has dazzled students with her "From Rags to Riches" course, which traces the history of textiles from ancient Egypt up to the present day. AIL members will be glad to know that Dusty will lead this popular course again in the winter term.

Dusty is uniquely qualified to teach about the history of textiles. Before moving to this area in 1995, she was head of the Textiles Department at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. In addition, she taught courses at the American Institute

## Five Years of Adventures

Adventures in Learning started in the fall of 1998, and look how we've grown!

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Membership	210	212	287	315	348
Number of courses	15	15	19	23	28

Looking back on five years of operation marked by this impressive growth, we pause to examine the factors that make Adventures in Learning (AIL) what it is.

The most important factor must be the people of the area, consisting largely, but certainly not entirely, of retirees who have had fascinating, varied and noteworthy backgrounds. This group continues to look for intellectual stimulation and is willing to share its vast knowledge and experiences to make a difference in others' lives. With this rich resource, literally anything is possible. Many area projects and programs have captured the leadership ability, collective imagination and energy of these remarkable people. These organizations include: the Council on Aging, the Fells, the New London and other community historical societies, lake protective associations, Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, the garden clubs, the libraries, the hospital, and, of course, Adventures in Learning. From this powerhouse we draw our course leaders, our students and the volunteers who make the machinery work and lead us in new directions.

Secondly, AIL's association with Colby-Sawyer College has been a natural and active partnership. Under the leadership of president Anne Ponder, who emphasizes strong community relations, the college has built and continues to nurture a win/win partnership with all the people and institutions of the area, and AIL is one of the primary beneficiaries. From the very beginning, Anne and her faculty and staff have supported the program with academic guidance and administrative services. Although AIL does not pay for this support, we do make a significant annual contribution to the college.

Profile—Dusty Logan, cont'd from pg 1

of Textile Arts and at Pine Manor College.

A native of New York, Dusty went to Connecticut College, where she had a double major in art history and studio art. After graduation, she taught art and art history for a year at Miss Baird's School in East Orange, New Jersey. She then moved to New York City and landed a dream job doing book jacket designs and other art

production work for a group of publishing companies.

After her marriage to Norm Logan, Dusty lived in the Boston area and continued designing book jackets as a free-lancer until her first child, a daughter, was born. The family was completed with the birth of twin boys, by which time Dusty and Norm were living in Wilmington, Delaware.

Dusty's interest in textiles developed "almost by accident" while she resided in Wilmington. Looking for an outlet for her talents, she began giving painting lessons in her home. When she discovered that paints attracted curious children, she started doing needlepoint designs for a local craft store. Immediately captivated by textiles, she began volunteering at the nearby Winterthur Museum, which has an excellent textiles collection. Dusty went to work as a senior staff guide and research assistant at Winterthur in 1969 and stayed there for nine years.

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In 1978, the Logans moved back to the Boston area, and Dusty sent her resume around to Boston museums. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum hired her as membership coordinator, and a few

years later she moved to the Textiles Department. While working as assistant conservator of textiles, she won a coveted Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship that allowed her to travel in this country and abroad, learning how other museums restore and care for their antique rugs and tapestries. In 1990, Dusty took over as head of the Textiles Department.

When Dusty and Norm moved to their new home on Brown's Hill in Sunapee, she retired from the Gardner Museum and became active with the Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth (ILEAD). She taught her first "From Rags to Riches" course at ILEAD and took on what is probably ILEAD's most important job, chairman of the Curriculum Committee. When Adventures in Learning began, Dusty advised the founders on what she knew about lifelong learning programs. Dusty is enthusiastic about AIL and feels that "it adds a wonderful dimension to the community."

In addition to her work for AIL, Dusty is a member of the President's Advisory Council for Colby-Sawyer, and she serves on the boards of the Brown's Hill Association, the New London Garden Club and The Fells. As busy as she is, Dusty also finds time for golf, tennis, "museuming," and "any kind of hand work," including Nantucket basket-making and oriental-style rug making. She and Norm have five grandchildren, all under the age of seven and all living close enough for frequent visits.

— Julie Boardman

### Adventures in Learning at Colby-Sawyer College

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Gusta Teach

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#### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sharon Ames

Colby-Sawyer College

541 Main Street

New London, NH 03257

(603) 526-3720

Fax: (603) 526-3780

adventures@colby-sawyer.edu

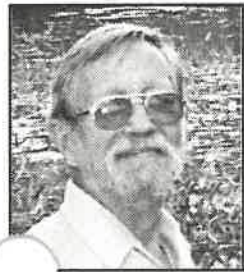
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*Adventures in Learning Update*, published three times annually, highlights the courses and happenings of the Adventures in Learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

## Preview of Winter 2004 Courses

With our adult “students” back in school and the fall term well underway, it’s time to look ahead to winter enrichment opportunities. Adventures in Learning is happy to present a diverse array of course offerings for the winter 2004 term, which begins Jan. 19 and runs through March 12, 2004. The winter *Catalog* will be mailed the last week of October and the winter term registration period will open on Monday, Nov. 10 and close on Friday, Nov. 28, 2003. Because the “first-day lottery” policy implemented last year has been effective, we will continue to follow the practice of accumulating all registration applications received prior to the opening of registration as well as those received on opening day. At the end of the opening day, if it is determined that more applications have been received for any of the courses than there are spaces available, the “first-day lottery” will apply for those particular courses only. In the event that an applicant does not gain entry into any of his/her first three course selections, the enrollment fee will be returned.

Following is a sneak preview of our course offerings for winter 2004.



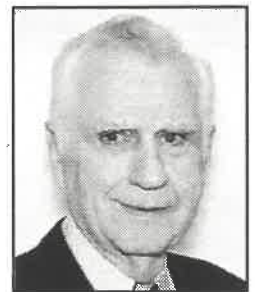
*James Bowditch*

### **Mark Twain**

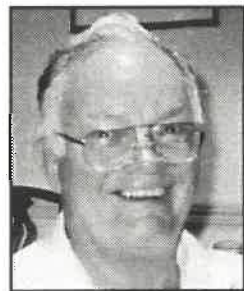
Led by James Bowditch, this course will explore the life of this masterful and prolific writer and public performer who transformed the American vernacular into a tool for great literature. Through a few selected works, some of Twain’s major themes will be investigated.

### **Weather: Fundamentals of Meteorology and Related Topics Plus Climatic Change**

In this comprehensive, technical course, Frank Bodurtha will explain the fundamentals of meteorology and discuss related topics, including severe weather, forecasting, local weather, plus climatic change. Participants will gain a better understanding of meteorology and an increased appreciation of the wide-ranging effects of weather on our lives.



*Frank Bodurtha*



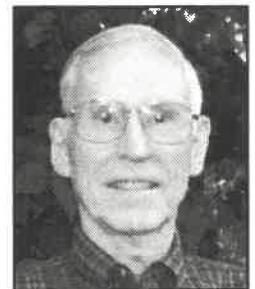
*Les Norman*

### **Following the Thread of the Old Testament**

The Exodus story tells of a disparate band of desert wanderers who emerged as a people, committed only to God and to one another. Using the tools of sociology, archeology and literary analysis, Les Norman will lead an examination of this central unifying theme of Scripture as it persevered through history until the beginning of the Common Era and beyond.

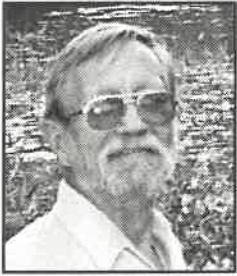
### **Points of Law II**

Richard Pearson returns with another interesting look at legal issues, some of which are still “works in progress.” Participants will discuss the meaning and sources of law, and the process by which legal disputes are resolved.



*Richard Pearson*





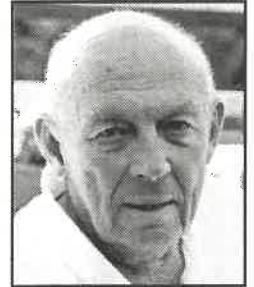
James Bowditch

### **Southeast Asia – Colonialism to Independence**

This course, led by James Bowditch, is an introduction to the colonial experience and national independence movements in four Southeast Asian countries: The Philippines, Indochina, Thailand and Indonesia. While focus will be on political and economic factors leading to colonization and then independence, the indigenous cultures of the various regions will also be discussed.

### **The Atom – Bombs and Benefits**

The discovery and application of atomic fission has dramatically changed military, diplomatic, economic and environmental outlooks for mankind. Led by Ed Kintner, course participants will discuss the principles of atomic physics, nuclear weapon requirements, nuclear radiation for medical uses, and how fission of the atom is used for generating electricity.



Ed Kintner



Dan Allen

### **Mountain Safety**

Dan Allen will lead discussions on various aspects of mountain safety and address such questions as: What is good judgment? How do hiking groups make decisions? What does a good group leader do? How can a map and compass help you? What do you need to take with you? Several optional hikes will be offered.

### **Rags to Riches III**

Dusty Logan returns to lead another fascinating look at the story of decorative textiles, from ancient times through the industrial revolution. No prior experience is necessary. A love for color, texture, design and material culture, and an interest in the creative process is all that is required for this course.



Dusty Logan



Barbara Beskind

### **Exploring Similarities of the Russian Avant-Garde and American Abstract Expressionism**

Returning to present a brief review of last winter's course, "The Russian Avant-Garde and Beyond," Barbara Beskind will lead participants to discover new insights as the study moves on to the American Abstract Expressionists. A day trip by bus to the Empire State Exhibit is planned for the study group.

## AIL Superlatives

The success of our organization depends on our members, both the study leaders and the students. The following is an imperfect attempt to recognize some of the notable people and noteworthy achievements of AIL's first five years.

- *Most active study leaders:* **Hilary Cleveland, Julien LeBourgeois, Jim Bowditch** and **George Tracy** have each taught five courses so far. Close behind with four courses each are **Charley Carey, George Doolittle, Millard Hunter, Charles Kennedy, Joe Kun, Richard Pearson, Art Rosen** and **Mel Vulgamore**.

- *Most versatile study leader:* Give **Jim Bowditch** a syllabus and some prep time, and he can teach just about anything. Jim has taught AIL courses on everything from Ethiopia to the *Literature of the Lost Generation*, and he talked about the architecture of Florence for the Renaissance lecture series.

- *Most popular course:* The course on the Civil War taught by **Millard Hunter** and **Julien LeBourgeois** was given for the fourth time this fall, and it will be offered at ILEAD in the fall of 2004. A number of ILEAD courses have been repeated for AIL, but this will mark the first time that an AIL course is given at ILEAD.

- *Perfect attendance award:* **Dick Cogswell** has taken courses every term (16 in all) since Adventures in Learning started. Runners up are **Joan Clark, Barbara Stearns,** and **Dick and Carolyn Sweetland**; all four have participated in 15 out of 16 terms. Perhaps a special award should be given to Barbara, who is more than 90 years old. She told us that the only reason she missed one term (fall 2002) is that she fell and had to recuperate at Woodcrest; otherwise, she definitely would have signed up for the Robert Frost course taught by **Nan and Mel Vulgamore**.

- *Member with the most intellectual curiosity:* The AIL office doesn't keep track of how many courses each student takes each term, so we'll make a guess on this one. **Dick Cogswell** enrolls in two courses almost every term and estimates that he has taken about 28 or 29 courses in all. Dick had a four-term jump on **Ben and Jan Acard**, who joined AIL in early 2000. Since then, the Acards have worked hard to catch up with (and perhaps surpass) Dick. They take two or three courses every term, and on one occasion, Ben took four.

- *Long distance traveler award:* Some people have come from a distance to take one or two AIL courses, but **Janet Nixon**, who lives about an hour away in New Boston, has taken courses in ten

terms. The runner-up is **Bert Whittemore** from Pembroke (near Concord) who has participated in five AIL terms.

- *Couple that has done the most for AIL:* **Peter and Jean McKee** were part of the group that founded AIL, and they've been an integral part of our organization ever since. Jean was on the Membership Committee and now serves on the Public Relations Committee. In addition to being a study leader, Peter has served on the board since AIL began, and he is our current president.

— Julie Boardman



*Five Years of Adventure, cont'd from pg 1*

Sharon Ames has said that she finds it remarkable that "every year we improve on something—a better catalog, the newsletter, an improved registration process." A measure of our success is that after ten years of operation, Dartmouth's ILEAD program upgraded its catalog to look very much like ours. What's the old saw about the sincerest form of flattery?

— Dick Little



**Adventures in Learning**  
Colby-Sawyer College  
541 Main Street  
New London, NH 03257  
[www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures)

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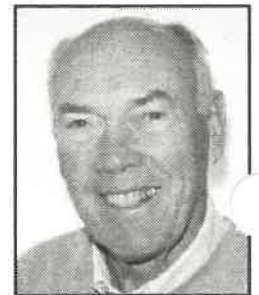
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“Exercise for the brain is every bit as essential to a good life as physical exercise. Crossword puzzles don’t quite do it. Upon moving to this area, I was delighted to learn first of ILEAD, and then, secondly, that AIL could offer me a similar program of interesting, stimulating courses.”

“I am continuously amazed at the diversity of courses offered by AIL each season. I am even more impressed by the credentials and life experiences of the teachers. I have particularly benefited from the courses that have dealt with the Middle East – be it the religious beginnings or the current conflict that has its roots in the region’s religions. I have also taken courses dealing with globalization, resource use and misuse, and the interconnectedness of developing countries with world powers. To a liberal arts major, this area of study has opened up a whole new field of interest for me. I look forward to taking *Stones, Bones and Biblical Tomes* with Art Rosen this fall.”

*Sally Southard, Sunapee, NH*

“Adventures in Learning has been a wonderful source of academic challenge for me. I have taken courses in mathematics, Hamlet, conservation, energy, and humor. All were informative, pleasurable, well organized, and well taught. It is obvious that my interests are quite diversified. Fortunately, AIL offers such diversity. I am looking forward to learning a great deal about the Civil War this fall.”



*Peter McKee, Sunapee, NH*