

Horizons

Learning Later, Living Greater

AIL Membership Survey

AIL's newly formed Membership Committee is off to a great start. Chaired by Richard Showalter (see photo of the committee below), the first order of business has been to conduct a membership survey which was sent via email to our more than 600 members and handed out at the AIL winter courses. The response rate was excellent and we learned that 98% of respondents rated AIL as Excellent (80%) or Good (18%). Unsurprisingly, most valued by our membership were the classes (both those led by a single Study Leaders and the multi-speaker lecture courses) followed by Science Pub and Current Events Lectures.

Members also receive other benefits:

- You help sustain lifelong learning in our community.
- You are first to learn about Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer course offerings.
- You receive invitations to "member only" events and trips and are eligible to register free for Science Pub.
- You have access to the College Library and three passes to the Hogan Sports Center.

The other very important and heartening outcome of the survey was that more than 75 of you have indicated an interest in volunteering for AIL in some capacity. Committee

members are following up with each potential volunteer in order to ascertain specific skills, interests and mutual "fit."

The enthusiastic response to the survey was gratifying and the committee is most grateful to all of you who added your names to our talent pool and provided us with your input about what we are doing well and recommendations for improving.

Thank you for your membership and participation in AIL, *Learning Later, Living Greater!*



Membership Committee, L to R: Richard Showalter, Julie Machen, John Ferries, Laura Beth Foster and Pat Stewart

photo credit : Abby Hutchinson

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

Henry Ford

Dan Gillis

AIL's Achievement Award Recipient – 2018

Dan Gillis is the epitome of Lifelong Learning already. And he's only 51! Dan and I first met last fall at the CSC scholarship luncheon. He is the AIL 2018 Achievement Award recipient, a junior in the Nursing Program at Colby-Sawyer and a "non-traditional" student. I was representing AIL for president John Ferries who was out of town. From our conversation that day and an ensuing one a few months later, I learned a bit about what drives this single dad of fifteen-year-old Ben, a sophomore at Lebanon High:

a work ethic instilled early on by loving parents and a compassion and ability to genuinely listen and try to understand another's situation, whatever it might be. Which makes him perfectly suited for his careers so far as well as the path he's on currently.

Following high school graduation, Dan joined a family contracting business before deciding, at age 23, to join the Marine Corps just

as the United States was gearing up for the first Gulf War. Fortunately, that war was over before he graduated from boot camp and he spent the next four years in the service in places as diverse and culturally intriguing as the coast of England, Kuwait, South Korea, and

the Arizona border with Mexico. Following his time in the service, and having been, from a fairly young age, especially interested in the criminal justice system, Dan then pursued a career in law enforcement. Which is how he ended up in the Upper Valley as a member of the Hanover Police Department for 20 very happy years! Retiring as a sergeant in 2016, he was soon in pursuit of Career #3! Deciding to become a nurse fits perfectly with his desire to work as a member of a team, to work in a healing environment and to have flexible hours so that he can be available to Ben (whom he describes as his joyful *raison d'être!*). In addition, Dan has been a member of the VT Air National Guard in Burlington since 2010 where he serves as Chaplain Assistant, giving spiritual support to the airmen and their families who are stationed there.

Future plans include an externship this summer with the VA in White River Junction and, ultimately, a nursing career working with veterans in a VA medical center, perhaps as a palliative care/hospice nurse. He's most enthusiastic, appreciative (he said the "kids" have been very accepting of him as the "old" guy in their midst!) and complimentary about the education and clinical experience that he's received at Colby-Sawyer, DHMC and New London Hospital. I predict that any patients who happen to have Nurse Dan in charge of their care after his graduation in 2020 will consider themselves fortunate indeed!

~Mary Doyle



Dan Gillis with AIL Vice-President Mary Doyle

Photo by Gil Talbot



photo by Abby Hutchinson

Thursday's Child Dinner

Our annual Thursday's Child Dinner, which supports the Adventures in Learning Achievement Award, was very well attended and raised close to \$1,000. In fact, at one point there were no empty tables at the Coach House Restaurant, a good measure of a successful event.

After dinner, AIL members and supporters ventured from their tables to mingle with friends they may not have seen for a while in the dining room. It was a wonderful night of good food, good company, and a worthy cause – many thanks to all who took part in this enjoyable fundraiser and contributed to AIL!



photo credit: Joan Eaton



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Robert DiClerico... from University Professor to AIL Study Group Leader

In his 45-year career at West Virginia University, Professor Emeritus Robert DiClerico influenced the lives of more than 34,000 students. Known for his commanding presence in the classroom, his students (all 150 in Introduction to American Government) are captivated by every word. His written exams are legendary, as is his time-intensive grading process. That consistent approach to teaching, not wavering even for the largest of classes, is a testament to his dedication to and his investment in student learning.



Bob's success as a teacher has not gone unrecognized. The WVU Foundation selected him as the first recipient of their Outstanding Teaching Award in 1986, which was followed by the 1990 CASE West Virginia Teacher of the Year Award. He was named the Faculty Merit Foundation's West Virginia Teacher of the Year as well as a Distinguished West Virginian in 1995. In 1996, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences recognized Bob as the first Eberly Family Professor for Outstanding Teaching. In 2004, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation honored him for his mentorship of Truman Scholarship candidates.

Bob officially retired in 2012, but he wasn't ready to leave the classroom—he taught one course per semester for the next five years. Finally in the summer of 2017 Bob and his two golden retrievers moved to New London. Shortly after arriving he became involved in Adventures in Learning. During the spring of 2018 he taught "Is This Any Way To Pick A President?" This coming May he is offering a course titled "Unpicking A President: The Process, Law and Politics of Presidential Impeachment". In the future he is considering other courses, possibly a course on aspects of presidential power and influence.

Why the move to New London?

I have family in New Hampshire and a home in Massachusetts. The two-day trek from Morgantown to Massachusetts and then the even longer trip to New Hampshire with two golden retrievers, neither of whom drive, has become a major discouragement to making the trip more often at a time in my life when I ought to be spending more time with family and at the home that I love near where I grew up.

Why did you originally choose WVU?

I found WVU attractive because I did not want to be in an urban area. The location of the University wasn't far from Washington, D.C., and in terms of my own research interests (i.e. the American presidency, parties and elections, American national government, and democratic theory) that fit in well. I also have family in the Boston area, and it isn't all that far from there by plane. And they let me teach what I wanted to teach. I

just got a very good feeling in the two days I was here in terms of a sense of community. It was a very welcoming community.

Describe the impact WVU has had on your life over the last 45 years.

It always had a great impact on me when the students I was coaching for the Rhodes Scholarship would call on that cold December Saturday night, and on the other end of the line I would hear, almost in disbelief, "Dr. DiClerico, I won." That always had a great impact on me. I've taught 34,000 students over this period of time. To see so many of them go on and be very successful—it's extraordinary. Seven Rhodes Scholars, 24 Truman Scholars. The Truman Scholarship Foundation even designated WVU as a Truman Honor Institution in 1996 because of the number of Truman Scholars from WVU.

What is your favorite memory?

One memory taught me just how much of an impact a teacher can have even with a minimal investment of time. I was teaching the American government class—it must've been 20 years ago—and a student came into see me. I required anyone who got Ds or Fs on the test to come in and see me. He was a first-semester sophomore. He sat down and said, "It isn't this class. I've just been preoccupied with these other classes that I'm taking for my major, and I hate it." His major was pre-engineering. When I asked him what he wanted to major in, he said business. The reason he was an engineering major was because his father was an engineering major, and his father had pushed him to become an engineer, too. I encouraged him to change his major, but not to tell his family until after doing so. He ended up getting a B in my class. I didn't see him again until graduation weekend. He said, "I followed your advice and majored in business. Your advice made all the difference in the world. Last week I received a job offer from a corporation in Houston. I just wanted to say thank you." That impact happened from a 15-minute conversation.

Why did you continue teaching for five years after your retirement in 2012?

I wanted to keep teaching because of the excitement I have derived from the subject matter I've devoted my life to. The faucet didn't turn off as soon as I retired. It has continued—so has the urge to transfer that excitement to other people, namely students, and to get them as excited about the subject matter as I am. That hasn't diminished at all. It's just so stimulating to be around young people, and the Honors College classes have particularly good students. You keep current with emerging trends and the culture and the society by exposing yourself to young people. I always said that I will stop teaching when I stop getting nervous just before I go into the classroom. When that stops, I'll stop teaching, because that means I won't care as much as I used to. But that hasn't happened.

What is your goal for the Robert E. DiClerico Scholarship in Democratic Institutions and Public Leadership?

Bob named WVU in his estate plans, a gift which will support political science students for years to come

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through additional support for the Robert E. DiClerico Scholarship in Democratic Institutions and Public Leadership. The scholarship serves students within the Department of Political Science. If possible, it is geared to students who are not only outstanding students but have demonstrated in their undergraduate careers an interest in achievement in leadership and our institutions of government. I've also tried very hard, if possible, to have it go to students who are needy. That's something I came to appreciate when I arrived at WVU. I was never a needy student—my education was paid for by my parents, but I didn't squander that opportunity. I never had to carry that burden of having my education depend on my ability to work, get enough money during the summer or work while going to school. I see some of these kids and how well they are able to do even though they are spending so many hours per week working—I admire that so much. It's just wonderful to be able to reward a student who is working his or her tail off, doing well, and really needs the money.

Over the course of his career, Bob has emerged as one

of the nation's leading experts on the American presidency. He is the author of "Voting in America" and "The American President" and co-author of "Choosing Our Choice" and "Few Are Chosen." He is editor of "Campaigns and Elections" and "Analyzing the Presidency." His scholarly articles have appeared in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Society*, and *South Atlantic Quarterly*. Bob was also the campus representative for the Rhodes Scholarship Foundation and in that capacity guided seven WVU students to winning the Rhodes Scholarship.

We are very pleased and fortunate to have Bob become part of AIL as a Study Group Leader, and look forward to more of his renowned courses in the future. Please join us in welcoming Bob to New London.

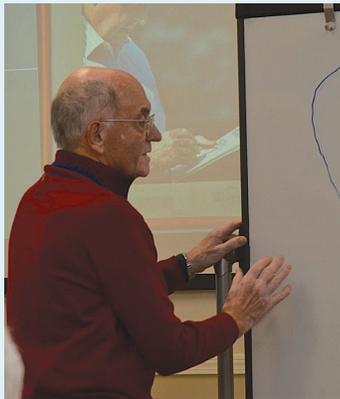
The majority of this article was originally published in the Spring 2018 edition of *Eberly Magazine*. It was written by Katlin Swisher, Interim Director of Marketing and Communication, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University. It is reprinted with her permission.

AIL 2019 Winter Term Memories



photo credit: David Bashaw

Fran Philippe teaches *Broadway, The American Musical*



Austin Eaton leads his course *Golf: Major Architects and Their Championship Courses*



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Betsy Boege shares information in *Fenollosa and the Preservation of Japanese Art in the Meiji Period*

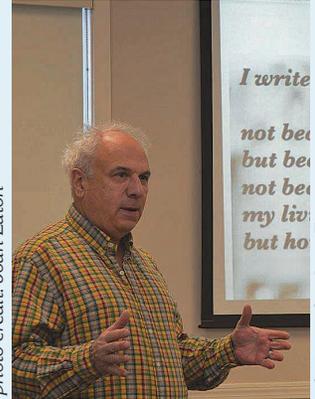


photo credit: Joan Eaton

Study leader John Peterman in 100th Birthday Celebration of American Performing Artists



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Backstage at Northern Stage: *World Premiere Plays – Venus Rising* course participants



photo credit: Abby Hutchinson

June Fichter, executive director of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, leads the course *Land and Water – The Connection*



photo credit: David Bashaw

John Roberts and his *Two Lives of Eisenhower* class enjoy a light moment

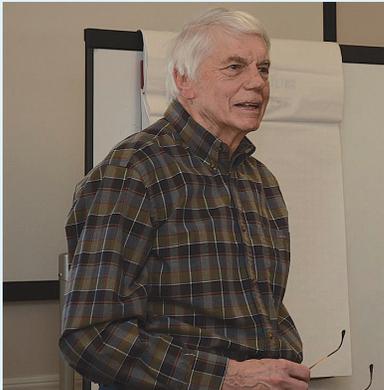


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photo credit: Joan Eaton

Study leader Dick Schwemm and course participants Don Cox, Bill Dietrich and Paul Bidwell in *How Science was Born and Why it Matters Today*



photo credit: Joan Eaton

A lively conversation in Ginger Milord's course, *A Film Food Feast*



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Ellen Schauff talks with study leader Bob Lyon in his course *Drugs of Abuse*



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Don Wright regales his class with tales of the U-2 spy plane in *Aviation Yarns III*



photo credit: Joan Eaton

Maynard Goldman fascinates his class with stories of baseball legends in *The Summer of '41: Williams and DiMaggio*



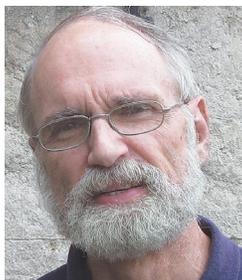
photo credit: David Bashaw

Joe Fanning talks about films that are flawless in at least one aspect in his course, *PERFECT PIX*

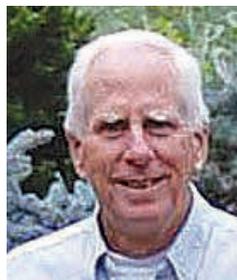
New Study Group Leaders



Shoshana Coté



Larry Crocker



John Lyons



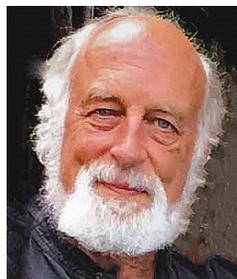
Beverly Marshall



Bud Rice



Leslie Smith



Rick Stockwell



Jeannie Tucker

Shoshana Coté has a passion for translating poetry which led to her pursuit and acquisition of an MFA in Creative Writing/Poetry with a concentration in translation. She is the author of a book of poems, *Favorite Auntie Emu* (Finishing Line Press, 2016) and a discussion guide, *Weavings of Departure: Rediscovering the Poetry of Nobel Laureate Nelly Sachs*.

Larry Crocker received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Harvard and taught philosophy for several years at the University of Washington. He then practiced law, prosecuted criminals, and taught law at NYU. From 2004-2012 he taught classes at Dartmouth in philosophy of law, crime and punishment, ethics, political and social philosophy, philosophy of science, and philosophy of religion.

John Lyons of Newbury, NH has been growing a variety of New Hampshire-hardy conifers and dwarf conifers for over 30 years. He is the proprietor of Lyons Family Nursery and Professor Emeritus of Business Administration at New England College.

Beverly Marshall is the former Associate Director for Institutional Advancement at the Upper Valley Educators Institute in Lebanon. Prior to moving to New England, Beverly directed adult education and public programming at The Cooper Union, and was the Executive Assistant to the President at WNET/Channel 13. She is a graduate of Skidmore College and lives in Grantham.

Bud Rice grew up in New York City and on Long Island, graduating from Paul D. Schreiber High, Colgate University and Harvard Business School. Married to Diane since 1965, Bud worked as a business executive

in the US and in France. He has been making wine at home for about 20 years, some of it nearly mediocre.

Leslie Smith was born in western Massachusetts, is married to Lois Kathleen Dougherty and has five children, 17 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He retired from Episcopal ministry after 50 years of service in greater Boston, Washington, D.C., New York City, and Princeton. Leslie's academic background includes Gordon College; Suffolk University, A.B.; Boston University graduate school; Virginia Theological Seminary, M.Div. / Honorary Degree; and Virginia Theological Seminary, D.D.

Rick Stockwell has been studying and creating bonsai for over 45 years. He studied horticulture and landscape design at UMass and worked as a landscape designer and contractor for 15 years. His training comes from many workshops by bonsai masters from all around the world. His collection consists of over 200 trees, some of which he has been training for over 45 years and are over 100 years old. He recently retired as an elementary school guidance counselor.

Jeannie Tucker is the Associate State Director of Outreach and Advocacy for AARP New Hampshire. Her role involves building sustainable volunteer teams across the state; cultivating strategic partnerships; and delivering AARP's messaging statewide. Prior to joining the NH office she was part of the AARP Wisconsin staff where her work largely focused on fraud prevention education and outreach. Jeannie's career with AARP began in Vermont in 2009. A native Vermonter, she now lives in Concord, NH with her husband and two cats.

Welcoming a New Staff Member at AIL

Abby Hutchinson joined the Adventures in Learning office in January as a part-time staff member. She and Program Coordinator Nina Tasi are having a great time working together behind the scenes at AIL!

Abby's professional experience is in communications for corporations and nonprofits, and she has edited and designed publications from newsletters and annual reports to books. She's a Princeton alumna who began her career in the world of limited-edition books at the Arion Press, working on a letterpress edition of *Moby-Dick*. She was the managing editor of Polaroid's corporate magazine, *Close Up*, and has been a strategic communications consultant for companies and smaller organizations for many years. While they were in Massachusetts, Abby oversaw the year-long bicentennial celebration at the American Antiquarian Society, a national research library of American history and culture in Worcester. Abby and her husband Bruce moved



AIL Program Coordinators, Nina Tasi and Abby Hutchinson

to New London in April, 2018. They're delighted to be here and are enjoying the local recreation activities and wonderful AIL programs.

Summer 2019 Courses

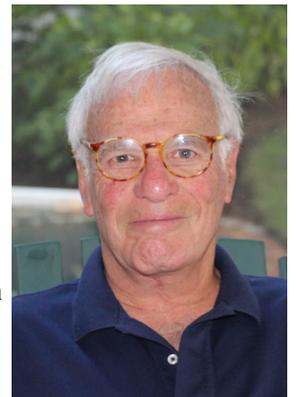
It's never too soon to start thinking about Adventures in Learning's Summer term and some courses you may find of interest. The Summer catalog will be out in May. Here is a list of what will be offered:

- **Planning Ahead** / Janice Cundey & Bill Helm
- **Welcome To Retirement: Thriving in Your Third Act** / Patricia Peters Martin
- **Thomas Jefferson: The American Enigma** / Jim Bays
- **Summertime is for Painting** / Fran Wilson
- **ENCORE: Film** / Ginger Milord
- **ENCORE: Science** / Brenda Watts
- **Visual Verse: The Ripple Effect** / Nancy Marashio

You are invited to an AIL hosted event... Is This How Fascism Comes to America?

A lecture by Dr. David Bisno

David Bisno will lead us through a consideration of the reshaping of politics and society that is sweeping Europe, Asia, and South America with an emphasis on the disturbing parallels of nationalism and tribalism that we see unfolding here in the United States. Are we in the U.S. missing a critical truth by viewing the world through the rose-colored lens of what has been our all-too-comfortable bubble? Have we forgotten that when things start to go wrong, they can go wrong very quickly? Discussion is expected to be relevant and lively.



Saturday, May 18, 2019 9:30 am

Clements Hall, Ivey Science Center, Colby-Sawyer College

Free to AIL members, \$10 per person for the general public. Seating is limited, first come, first served.



Adventures in Learning
Colby Homestead
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

Adventures in Learning's *Horizons* highlights the activities of the lifelong learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the articles in this publication are strictly those of the respective authors. Information offered should not be considered authoritative or complete, nor should it be construed to reflect the views or opinions of the Adventures in Learning program or Colby-Sawyer College.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss AIL's 21st Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 23 at 4:00 p.m.
Wheeler Hall, Ware Student Center

Entertainment by Northern Stage actors & singers
followed by our famous cocktail reception!

