



Profile:

Janet St. Laurent

Adventures in Learning has a new program assistant.

Janet St. Laurent is no stranger to the ins and outs of Colby-Sawyer administration, having been on the staff of the college for over 10 years, most recently, as senior staff assistant to the vice-president of student development and dean of students. Now her duties include registration for Adventures in Learning classes, handling membership enrollments, and dealing with the considerable paperwork that goes with these tasks. She will also work with the AIL Public Relations Committee and coordinate the publication of the newsletters and catalogues.



While 35 hours of her work week are devoted to Adventures in Learning, five hours are set aside for her part-time job as recycling program coordinator on campus. She is very enthusiastic and committed to the recycling concept. While only four buildings recycled at first, Janet is proud to

See Profile, Pg. 2

Winter Lecture Series Planned

A highlight of the upcoming winter term will be an eight-week lecture series on the Enlightenment, an 18th century movement that emphasized reason and the scientific method as a means of seeking truth. Great advances in philosophy and the sciences took place during the Enlightenment, and the movement eventually led to the American and French Revolutions. The lectures, which were arranged by Ben Acard, are as follows:

1. Voltaire—the Heart of the Enlightenment

Julien LeBourgeois will lead off with a lecture on Voltaire, one of the period's great thinkers. A founding member of Adventures in Learning, Julien was co-leader of the popular course on the Civil War and has twice taught a course on Napoleon.



Portrait of Voltaire (unknown artist)

2. Mozart and the Magic Flute

Robert Simon will discuss Mozart with special emphasis on his opera "The Magic Flute." Bob, who is very active with Opera North, led an opera appreciation course for AIL last fall.

3. Economists of the Enlightenment

Sheldon Boege will lecture about Adam Smith and other economists of the period. Sheldon has taught several AIL courses, including "Economics from Adam Smith to Credit Cards" in the fall 2004 term.

4. Science and the Enlightenment

Bob Eckenrode's lecture will highlight key Enlightenment figures who contributed to changes in scientific inquiry, laying the groundwork for the Industrial Revolution. Bob lectured on General Dwight D. Eisenhower for the World War II lecture series.

See Winter Lecture Series Planned, Pg. 2

Profile: Janet St. Laurent, from Pg. 1

say that all campus buildings now have recycling. The college has a big “drop and swap” event each year. Items that are not swapped go to charity and some of the books go overseas to be distributed in third world countries.

Janet says with a smile, “I am lucky enough to have two jobs that I love and two great bosses.” She works for Sharon

Ames on Adventures in Learning responsibilities, and her recycling supervisor is Judy Muyskens, the college vice-president for advancement.

A native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Janet grew up in Somerset, Massachusetts. She graduated from Southeastern Massachusetts University and taught first grade for seven years in Somerset and then kindergarten for 14 years. Now she and her husband, Bob, who teaches fifth grade in the Winnisquam Regional

School District, live in Grafton, New Hampshire. They live in the woods and enjoy bird-watching and have taken a number of bird-watching trips.

In her spare time Janet enjoys cross-stitch embroidery, rug hooking, and a very intricate art form called paper quilling. In the winter she and Bob go snowshoeing and skiing, both cross-country and downhill. In warmer weather, they go kayaking, often on Messer Pond in New London.

—Heidi Beckwith

**Adventures in Learning
at Colby-Sawyer College**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Richard Cogswell

Vice President

Betsy Boege

Secretary

Sandra Stark

Treasurer

Richard Pearson

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ben Acard

Julie Boardman

Judy Bohn

James Bowditch

Robert Foote

Dusty Logan

Julie Machen

Arthur Rosen

Robert Scott

Gusta Teach

George Tracy

EX-OFFICIO

Sharon Ames

John Callahan

HONORARY

Julien LeBourgeois

Colby-Sawyer College

541 Main Street

New London, NH 03257

(603) 526-3720

Fax: (603) 526-3780

adventures@colby-sawyer.edu

www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures

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

Winter Lecture Series Planned, from Pg. 1

5. The Scottish Philosophers

Morris Edwards, leader of a popular course on “The Early Kings of England,” will analyze why tiny Scotland produced so many great philosophers during the 18th century, and he will assess the impact these men had on America’s Founding Fathers.

6. The European Philosophers

David Pook, teacher of European intellectual history at St. Paul’s School in Concord, will delve into the works of John Locke, David Hume and Emanuel Kant and discuss their influence on philosophical inquiry.

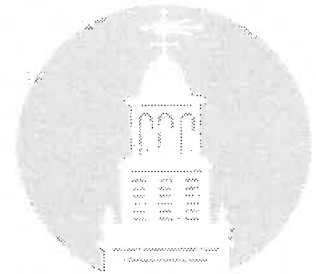
7. Art and the Enlightenment

Ellen Robertson will describe the many changes that took place in painting, sculpture and architecture during the Enlightenment. Ellen taught art appreciation to elementary school students and has worked as a docent at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

8. Closing Lecture

In this closing lecture, David Pook will draw conclusions about the Enlightenment and explain the impact the movement has had on our lives today.

Watch for the AIL catalog and sign up early to be sure you don’t miss what promises to be a provocative and fascinating series.



A Posse in Vigilant Pursuit of Poetry

Sometimes participants in an AIL course find so much meaning and pleasure in the subject matter that they continue to meet on an informal basis. A year ago, we reported on a group that grew out of the "Journal Writing" course. Following is a report on another ongoing group, which meets to read poetry.

In December 2003, a dozen of us from the AIL study groups "Dynamics of Faith," "Robert Frost: A Lovers' Quarrel" and "A Sampler of New England Poets" gathered hearthside with a glass of sherry to read our favorite poems aloud to each other. A tradition was initiated that afternoon.

How did participants from three different study groups get together to read poetry in the first place? It all began with the AIL class "Dynamics of Faith." A poem was read each week as an introduction to that day's topic, and several class members discovered a mutual interest. Many of these poetry buffs met again in the course "Robert Frost: A Lover's Quarrel." After that, it was almost inevitable that two members of the Frost course would offer "A New England Sampler of Poets" the next fall. At its completion, poetry was at the center of our lives.

Since December 2003, we have continued to meet regularly, and our group eventually was dubbed "the Poetry Posse." Sometimes members read their own new poems, and

we frequently read the work of America's modern poets. Billy Collins was an early favorite, having served as poet laureate of the United States from 2001-2003. We often select poems by Nebraska's Ted Kooser, present poet laureate and author of *Lights and Shadows*, the Pulitzer Prize poetry winner for 2005. We began reading Walt Whitman this year, the 150th anniversary of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

We also share among ourselves our individual experiences: reading Jane Kenyon's poetry at her tombstone in Proctor Cemetery, visiting "The Stone House" in Shaftsbury, Vermont, where Frost wrote "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," and reading at the Frost family gravesite in Bennington.

We returned to Bennington College to hear Robert Pinsky read Frost and journeyed to Plymouth State College to hear Donald Hall of Danbury, Charles Simic, and present New Hampshire poet laureate Cynthia Huntington of Dartmouth. Others traveled to Derry, New Hampshire, to hear Leslie Lee Francis read her grandfather's poetry written on the Frost farm. Many of us have heard Maxine Kumin in several settings—at Colby-Sawyer; in Strafford, Vermont; and more recently in Concord and at the Fells. We've heard Donald Hall in



The Poetry Posse at its August meeting in the home of Debbie Perkins. Debbie is seated center front between Nan Vulgamore, left, and Anne Lang, right. From left to right in the second row are Tina Helm, Sandy Stark, Natalie Davis and Janice Wallace. From left to right in the back row are Mel Vulgamore, Dan Allen, Celeste Cook, David Cook. Missing are Bill Helm, Don and Pat Clark, John and Sue Clough.

the AIL course "A Sampler of New England Poets" and at the New London Historical Society, as well as Christopher Brookhouse at Colby-Sawyer and in "Sampler" class.

A couple of us heard Stanley Kunitz, Billy Collins, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove and Lori Graham at the Library of Congress. Never shall those of us who drove to Lawrence, Massachusetts, forget the evening Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney read Robert Frost in Frost's high school, where he met his wife Elinor White. Our lives are enriched by having so many renowned poets close to home, including Galway Kinnell and Richard Wilbur.

There are lots of good trails laid out for a trek such as ours. We would commend Garrison Keillor's *Good Poems; Americans' Favorite Poems* and *An Invitation to Poetry* edited by Robert Pinsky and Maggie Dietz; *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry* by Billy Collins; and Ted Kooser's *The Poetry Home Repair Manual*. May your journeying be as adventuresome as we find ours!

— Nan Vulgamore

Preview of Winter 2006 Courses

Adventures in Learning is delighted to offer 11 stimulating courses that will help brighten the dark days of winter. The term begins Monday, January 16, and ends Friday, March 10, 2006. The winter catalog will be mailed during the week of October 24, and the registration period will open on Monday, November 7, and close on Friday, December 2. Here is what you can look forward to:



Charlotte Spencer

From *Emma* to “Clueless”

Under Charlotte Spencer’s direction, participants in this mini-course will read Jane Austen’s 1816 novel *Emma*, view the 1995 movie “Clueless” (based on the Austen novel), and discuss how the leading character has changed over almost 200 years.



Gil Peirce

Cuba and Castro

After a brief review of Cuban history, this course with Gil Peirce will study the political career of Fidel Castro: his rise to power, his achievements and failures, his adventures in Latin America and Africa, and his relations with Russia and the United States.

Katie Dow '90



Joe Kun

The Decline and Fall of the European Empires

Joe Kun returns to lead a four-week mini-course that will examine the political, economic and social forces that led to the fall of three great dynasties that dominated Europe for hundreds of years: the Habsburgs, the Romanovs and the Ottoman Sultans.



Julie Machen

Victorian England: An Age of Paradox

Julie Machen is following up her outstanding course on Revolutionary Virginia with a class devoted to Victorian England. Julie will use lecture, video and slides as she focuses on varying points of view in the interpretation of the Victorian age.



Judy Bohn

The Elements of Life

For years, scientists have been exploring the mysteries of life on our planet. This course with microbiologist Judy Bohn will help you understand how life functions on a molecular level and answer some of your questions about the elements of life.



Chuck Kennedy

Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Lives On!

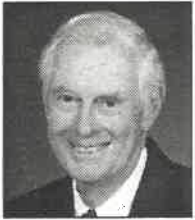
Under the direction of Chuck Kennedy (an experienced G&S performer), this class will watch and discuss three Gilbert and Sullivan classics: “Trial by Jury,” “H.M.S. Pinafore,” and “The Mikado.”



Les Norman

Paul of Tarsus: His Life and Teachings

Only by placing Paul in the context of his time and place can we begin to appreciate what he was trying to do and teach. This class with Les Norman will examine the culture in which Paul lived, read his letters and address the issues he raised for our life today.



Dick Little

Mathematics and the Wow Factor

Those who have studied beyond the basic courses know that math and science can evoke feelings of joy and amazement. Dick Little will present some easy examples of elegance and beauty in the sciences so that the class can experience the "Wow!" sensation that is so familiar to professionals.



Jim Bowditch

Moby Dick

What was Herman Melville up to when he wrote his ambiguous novel about a mad sea captain bent on revenge against a whale? Was Moby Dick more than a creature of the sea? Was Ahab insane or a towering tragic figure? This class with Jim Bowditch will explore these and other questions about one of America's literary masterpieces.



William Tighe

Who Are the Celts?

William Tighe will take the class on a journey from 1500 B.C. to the present day as he explores the culture, lifestyles and conquests of the Celtic peoples.

The Enlightenment

This eight-week lecture series will examine many aspects of the Enlightenment, the 18th century movement that profoundly affected art, economics, science and philosophy.
(See article on page 1 for more information.)

Katie Dow '90



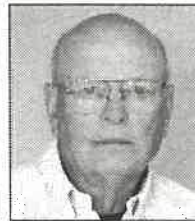
Ben LeBourgeois



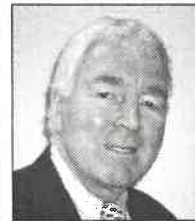
Bob Simon



Sheldon Boege



Bob Eckenrode



Morris Edwards



David Pook



Ellen Robertson

What You Had to Say...

A Report on the AIL Membership Survey

By mid-August, 55 members had responded to the 2005 membership survey. With responses dwindling down to one a week, Ben Acard and Art Rosen decided it was time to tabulate the results. Following is a report on what you had to say about Adventures in Learning.

1. Overall view of the AIL program

One hundred percent were positive. Eighty percent felt it was excellent/wonderful/enjoyable; 28 percent specified adult education benefits; 22 percent specified community benefits; and 13 percent cited social benefits

2. Quality of course leaders

Of the 50 replying to this question, 72 percent were altogether positive using words like "extraordinary," "excellent," and "super." Twenty-eight percent said the study leaders were fair to good or that they were an uneven mix. Responses to the question about how quality might be improved varied considerably. Several suggested selecting people with public speaking experience; a number suggested attracting local authors, retired faculty or Colby-Sawyer faculty.

3. Course offerings

Of the 44 replying to this question, 95 percent said that AIL has

succeeded in its course offerings. Only two felt improvement was needed. When asked what new courses they would like to see, American history and New England history were noted by 11 people and history of arts or sciences by seven people. The rest were spread over 20 or so other categories.

4. The lecture series

Of the 49 replying, 98 percent felt that the lecture series was a useful addition. Topics proposed for future programs ranged over 20 or so subjects. Terrorism/international issues received five votes, perhaps being top-of-mind due to the current ILEAD program on terrorism.

5. Mini-courses

Of the 50 replying, 88 percent felt that the mini-courses were worthwhile; 12 percent disagreed.

6. Evening courses

Of the 25 replying, 80 percent said that their friends and family were not interested in evening courses; 20 percent said that they were interested. When asked whether evening courses should be undertaken on a trial basis, 39 percent said, "No," 37 percent said, "Not for me/maybe for others," and 24 percent said, "Yes."

7. Presentations by course participants

This question asked if members enjoyed courses that required them to prepare presentations and papers. Of 52 replying, 46 percent said, "No," 23 percent said, "Yes," 17 percent said, "Not by me, perhaps by others," and 14 percent said, "It depends upon the subject and the presenters."

8. AIL administration

Of the 47 who replied, everyone was positive and 48 percent said that administration of AIL was excellent. When asked what changes they might like to see, the only response made by more than one person was "No change is needed."

9. Over-subscribed courses

Of the 49 responding, 77 percent suggested that oversubscribed courses be offered in a subsequent semester and eight percent suggested that a second section be offered in the same semester.

10. Public relations

Of 37 responding, 97 percent felt that public relations materials were issued on a timely basis and 100 percent of those replying felt that the reach was broad enough. When asked what else AIL might do in this area, the most frequent response was "Nothing, you're

doing just fine." Among those with suggestions, eight people suggested more activity in local media and five mentioned distribution of materials through realtors or Welcome Wagon.

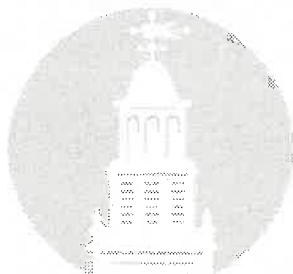
11. Special events

Of the 46 replying to this question, 83 percent said that they were interested in special events/day trips. Suggestions included out-of-town theater and museum trips.

12. Travel tours

Of 50 replying, 56 percent felt that AIL should not sponsor travel tours. The principal reason was that this is already being done by alumni organizations, ILEAD, travel agencies and Elderhostel. Among the 44 percent who favored travel, destination preferences were largely in the U.S. or Canada.

—Art Rosen



Adventures in Learning FAST FACTS

AIL Office Location

The AIL Office is located on the first floor of the Colby Homestead on the Colby-Sawyer College campus. Enter through the yellow door on the side of the building. Go through the hall and the office will be on your left.

Office Closed

Please note that the AIL Office will be closed on Monday, October 17, for fall recess; November 24 and 25 in observance of Thanksgiving; and from December 22 through January 4 for the holidays.

New Registration Form

Your voices have been heard. The winter class registration form has been revised to make it easier to enroll for classes. Let us know what you think.

Winter 2005 Registration

To better accommodate registrants, we have extended registration by one week. The absolute deadline to register for winter courses is Friday, December 2. Following the close of registration, members are invited to sign up for a second course at no charge when class space is available.

\$\$ Cost of Courses \$\$

Please note that the cost for a 3 to 4 session mini-course is \$20 per person. A 6 to 8 session full course is \$35 per person. Your second course at no charge must be of the same length as your first course.

Program Coordinator

Sharon Ames
(603) 526-3720

Program Assistant

Janet St. Laurent
(603) 526-3690



Adventures in Learning

Colby-Sawyer College
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257
www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW LONDON, NH
PERMIT 4

Calendar of Upcoming Events Open to the Public

PSYCHOLOGY AND
LAW SYMPOSIUM
Monday, October 10
at 7:00 p.m.
Clements Hall
Curtis L. Ivey Science Center
Colby-Sawyer College

GROWTH AND
SPRAWL IN NH
A Forest Society discussion
Tuesday, October 25th
from 6 to 9 p.m.
Clements Hall
Curtis L. Ivey Science Center

CSC FALL THEATRE
PRODUCTION
"Wonder of the World"
by Davis Lindsey-Abaire
November 3-5 at 8 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

CSC SINGERS
HOLIDAY CONCERT
Thursday, December 8
from 7 to 9 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Communication students'
video showcase
Tuesday, December 13
at 7 p.m.
Wheeler Hall
Ware Campus Center

"THE CASE OF THE
CHRISTMAS KEY"
A holiday whodunit
by Jason Anderson
Saturday, December 17
at 8 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center