

Horizons Extra

Spring 2014

Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College

Study Leader Profile

Caroline Fairless: Earth in Crisis—Ecological Healing As a Moral Imperative



Caroline Fairless

For Caroline Fairless, her mother's rescue and rehabilitation of injured wild animals was an early influence that led her intuitively to understand the connection among all living beings. As a child she always shared space with other creatures, never feeling superior, or even "other," simply co-existing. There was always room in that Pennsylvania farmhouse for another animal in need of care. That influence stayed with her as her vision grew to encompass the interconnectedness of every aspect of the natural world.

Caroline's journey through life included a ten-year stint in rural Vermont after college, a twenty-four year (and counting) vocation as an Episcopal priest,

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Study Leader Profile

John Roberts: Lifelong Learning from Exeter to New London



John Roberts

John Roberts will be leading his first course for AIL this spring, "Lessons from the Life of Samuel de Champlain." But this is not his first exposure and contribution to lifelong learning. John co-founded Colloquy Downeast in 2001 at his former home in Blue Hill, Maine, and led a total of 13 courses there for fellow lifelong learners. John's interest in collaborative learning dates back even further to his formative years as a student at Philips Exeter Academy, where he was introduced to a new learning model funded in 1930 by the philanthropist Edward S. Harkness. Up until then teachers stood at the front of the classroom and lectured with little participation by students. In this model they sat among the students at a round "Harkness" table encouraging discussion, new ideas and the questioning of old ones. The requisite table was so large that it had to be

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Use Storefront to register and win a free AIL course!

In the winter '14 term, 56% of the people who registered for courses did so online using Storefront. All these names were entered in a drawing to win a free AIL course to be used within one full year.

The winner of the winter '14 drawing is Lillian Hobausz. Congratulations, Lillian, and thank you for using Storefront. Enjoy your free AIL course!



2013–2014 AIL Achievement Award Recipient—Shaina Driscoll

Each year AIL presents the Adventures in Learning Achievement Award, which honors a Colby-Sawyer junior who has shown exceptional leadership ability and academic success. AIL endowed this scholarship award in 2008, and proceeds from AIL's annual Thursday's Child dinner are added to the AIL Achievement Award Fund, which supports the scholarship. This year's recipient is Shaina Driscoll, a young woman from South Burlington, Vermont, who is working toward a B.A. in sociology with minors in education and media studies. Shaina was pleasantly surprised and grateful for the award. She said, "It just came out of the blue."

Her goal is to earn a master's degree in education administration—perhaps someday to be a college dean in student affairs administration. She had an internship last summer with Kathleen Farrell, a Colby-Sawyer sociology professor, helping with the professor's research project. During her freshman and sophomore years, Shaina lived on campus. This year she has chosen to commute to classes from Sunapee where she shares a house with two other Colby-Sawyer students. Shaina appreciates that living off campus is harder from a social aspect than

living on campus and requires greater discipline in organizing her time. One fun discovery for Shaina was learning that she had classes in the same room that had been her mother's dorm room when her mother attended Colby-Sawyer College back when it was Colby Junior College.

A self-assured and confident young woman, Shaina has done well academically. She is on the Dean's list and was elected to Alpha Chi, a coed national honor society. She is also vice-president of the Sociology Club, a new organization on campus.

In the fall Shaina plans to apply to the Washington Internship Institute. If accepted she will live in the District of Columbia for one semester interning in Global Women's Leadership Development and taking two courses in this field. AIL is pleased to help another deserving Colby-Sawyer junior achieve a worthy goal. *~Heidi Beckwith*



John Roberts (continued from page 1)

constructed inside the classroom. Each table has its unique character and history, bringing back memories for those who participated. As John says, "It was where I learned to love learning, and why later in life I wanted to help start Colloquy Downeast."

John is a former doctor specializing in pediatric orthopedics. The word "former" actually is a misnomer. He has retired three times, but his love of medicine—he follows his surgeon father's advice "always be available"—kept him coming back, and he saw his last patient only a year ago. John has a distinguished career in medicine having practiced, taught and administered in Atlanta, New Orleans, Providence, and Boston and Springfield, Massachusetts. But he is most proud of his involvement setting up the Children's Hospital of New Orleans. It came through Hurricane Katrina with flying colors, taking excellent care of patients and staff throughout the crisis and its aftermath. John and his wife, Rusty, moved to Hilltop last June from Blue Hill, Maine, a charming coastal town near Acadia National Park, to be closer to family (a sister, two sons and five grandchildren) and to both Sunapee lakes where he summured growing up and where he learned to be a skilled Star boat racer. Until recently he sailed the coastal waters of Maine but now

concentrates mainly on his interest in history and research for future lifelong learning courses.

John has a unique way of delving into his subject matter, visiting, usually on separate trips, places of import to his subjects. Preparations for the course on Champlain took John and Rusty to Paris, Honfleur, St. Malo, La Rochelle and Brouage in France, and to Quebec, as well as various locations in the United States. Prior courses and trips have centered on the lives of Captain Cook, Ben Franklin, Charles Darwin, Lord Nelson and Winston Churchill, to name a few. In addition to exploring the geographic locations touched by his subjects, John enjoys reading their original writings or journals to gain perspective and knowledge of the culture in which they lived. When asked why doctors make such good historians he said, "Maybe because we have to get to know our patients well in order to treat them well."

John and his wife are delighted to be in a town like New London, similar to Blue Hill in size and mix of people and with a lifelong learning organization to boot. He is excited as well to have a college and young people in town to liven up the mix. AIL is fortunate indeed to have John as a study leader sharing his knowledge and thirst for more with our membership. *~Betsy Boege*

Preview of Spring '14 Courses

Registration is now open for spring courses, most of which begin the week of April 21. To view the complete spring catalog and a full description of each course with start date, click on www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html. On this same web page you can click on a link to register for courses and view step-by-step instructions on the use of Storefront, the college's secure and protected online payment system. The registration deadline is Friday, March 21. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) of your choice. If you register online, your name will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free ALL course to be used within one year.

- **Earth in Crisis—Ecological Healing as a Moral Imperative** *with Caroline Fairless*
 Caroline, a first-time study group leader and author of *The Space Between Church and Non-Church—A Sacramental Vision for the Healing of Our Planet*, will discuss the works of multiple writers including John Muir and Aldo Leopold who speak from the intersection of the sacredness of creation and the interconnectedness of ecosystems. This perspective is in contrast to a common human response, where opinions can be more one-sided as influenced by a person's religious or scientific beliefs.
- **Eighty Years of Social Change in the U.S.—1933–2013** *with Hilary Cleveland*
 Hilary returns to challenge us to examine and discuss changes in American society from the 1930s to today. She will focus on the New Deal, World War II, the G.I. Bill of Rights, the Civil Rights Movement, Women's Lib and the impact of television and the Internet. Hilary is known for encouraging lively discussions about American culture and politics.
- **The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution** *with Tom Galligan and Dick Pearson*
 The enlightening and entertaining former law school professors, Dick Pearson and Tom Galligan, Colby-Sawyer College president, have again joined forces to examine the 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868 to address citizenship rights and equal protection of the law, and discuss how it affects our laws and court rulings today, with emphasis on its effect on discrimination.
- **Charles Dickens: A Product of His Time and Place** *with Julie Machen*
 Victorian England is probably best known through Dickens' writings. Julie will examine Charles Dickens and how his life and the times in which he lived influenced his writings. Participants will be asked to read *Hard Times*, Dickens' shortest novel, and also read parts of *Oliver Twist*, both set in Victorian England.
- **Israel and Palestine—Another View** *with Anne Chandler*
 Peace treaties and conflicts between Israel and Palestine are continually in the news, the most recent being Secretary of State Kerry's peace initiative. How are we to assess the merits and issues of each side? Anne, a first-time AIL study leader, will take a comprehensive look at the creation of the state of Israel and the resulting fallout for the Palestinian and Israeli people.
- **South Africa After Apartheid** *with John Ferries*
 What will happen in South Africa after the death of Nelson Mandela? John will examine Mandela's history and legacy along with the accomplishments of his two successors. John's perspective comes from many trips to South Africa during his career in advertising/communications and his significant involvement with South African government, business and media leaders.
- **Lessons From the Life of Samuel de Champlain** *with John Roberts*
 John will lead round-table discussions on the accomplishments of Samuel de Champlain (1570–1635) as he follows Champlain's explorations of New England, Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence River Valley as well as the permanent settlements that he founded. In Champlain's handling of the conflicts between the Old World and the New, there are possible lessons to apply to today's issues of commercial vs. national/tribal interests.
- **Religion in Collision III: The Dark Side of the Reformation** *with Art Rosen*
 Art returns with his newest religious/cultural/historical offering: The Reformation. In the 16th century, a new wave of Saxons, Franks and Angles swept across Europe. Writers depict the leaders as heroic figures: they formed new denominations, encouraged national development and created conditions that led to the Age of Reason. But there was a dark side to The Reformation. The major reformers attacked each other as much as they attacked the papacy; they formed communities as autocratic as the Medieval Church; and they pursued non-conformists with the vigor of inquisitors.

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Preview of 2014 Spring Courses *(continued from page 3)*

- **Hooded Americanism, a Look at Home Grown Terrorism** *with Gene Lariviere*
Terrorism and hate crimes are frequently in today's news, but are not new to America. Gene will examine acts of violent intimidation in America from colonial days, through the Civil War, and then to the Ku Klux Klan, in its many iterations. The course will close by looking at current examples of ideologies of hate.
- **Bending Reality: America's Visionary Entrepreneurs** *moderated by Dan Schneider*
Many people envision life not as it is, but as they think it should be. Certain rare individuals have had the creativity, determination and business acumen to change the ways that people interact with their world. This six-week lecture series will examine the backgrounds, achievements, personalities and flaws of six Americans who accomplished their vision through the creation or use of technology: Thomas Edison with Dan Schneider; Henry Ford with Jay Barrett; Frank Lloyd Wright with Joanna Henderson; Walt Disney with Derek Hunt; Steve Jobs with John Ferries; and Craig Venter with Dick Cavallaro.
- **The End of Life, a Discussion Among Friends** *moderated by Gardner Yenawine*
As in previous offerings of this course, each session will begin with a presentation by experts in four topics: legal, medical, spiritual/religious, and community concerns. Gardner will lead a group discussion in the second hour of each session. The fifth session of the course will be a wrap-up discussion in small, facilitated groups of 4 to 5 course participants.
Note: Gardner's course will be open only to those who are already on the waiting list from the same course that was held in prior terms. Please call the AIL office at (603) 526-3690 if you would like to be added to a new waiting list.
- **The Isles of Shoals: Your Passport to Adventure** *with Brenda Watts*
What do John Smith, Blackbeard, John Greenleaf Whittier, Childe Hassam, Celia Thaxter and Jane Goodall have in common? They all had a significant connection to the nine rocky islands that lie ten miles off our New Hampshire coastline. Back by popular demand, Brenda's Isles of Shoals course includes the exploration of the islands' history, mystery, poetry, art, music and food.
- **Drawing on Your Memories: An Intermediate Level Sketching Class** *with Sue Anne Bottomley*
Spurred on by her "Beginning Drawing" course, Sue Anne will lead a second drawing course for our new artists. The lessons of this intermediate-level drawing course will revolve around still life studies. Participants will be asked to bring to each session a memory-charged object that has a story for them, and they will sketch in pencil, pen and colored pencils on smooth paper.

Caroline Fairless *(continued from page 1)*

serving congregations in California, Virginia, Rochester New York, Washington D.C., and finally, New London, New Hampshire. Caroline and her musician husband, Jim Sims, chose to live in Wilmot, sensing an immediate connection with the physical place, as well as with the artists, poets and the ecologically committed.

Caroline's concern for ecology and local eco-systems influences all of her decisions as evidenced during recent home renovations when they learned that the installation of solar panels meant cutting down three white pines. Eventually these pines became an organic part of their new porch, transformed into floorboards and cabinets. Caroline and Jim belong to the Central New Hampshire Permaculture Meeting Group and practice permaculture principles in their gardening. They are committed to organic food grown locally and to food from animals that have been raised cage free.

Through a book study at the Wilmot library, Caroline had her first New Hampshire opportunity to share her vision. Participants read and discussed her book, *The Space Between Church and Non-Church—A Sacramental Vision*

for the Healing of Our Planet. The words "Space Between" refer to a (virtual) space where people are encouraged to release their ideological leanings in order to discuss the urgency of ecological healing. Through the book study Caroline learned about AIL and decided to offer a course based on her concern for the current situation of the earth. Participants can expect a spirited discussion regarding environmental degradation and the need and opportunity to create beauty as a portal into healing.

Caroline's hope is to remind us of the power of science to embrace the spiritual dimension of the created world, as well as to partner with art as a healing path. From that understanding, she hopes, will emerge a sense of responsibility and a way forward. After all, Caroline remarks, "The stars are our ancestors, and all human and non-human forms are made of the same elements. We must learn to act as though we understood our intrinsic interconnectedness, as though our very lives depended on it."

Note: Caroline blogs at www.restoringthewaters.com, where she presents her vision of healing the earth.

~Jennifer Mack

The Making of a Lecture Series:

“Bending Reality: America’s Visionary Entrepreneurs”

“His saga is the entrepreneurial creation myth writ large: Steve Jobs cofounded Apple in his parents’ garage in 1976, was ousted in 1985, returned to rescue it from near bankruptcy in 1997, and by the time he died, in October 2011, had built it into the world’s most valuable company. Along the way he helped to transform seven industries: personal computing, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, retail stores, and digital publishing. He thus belongs in the pantheon of America’s great innovators, along with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Walt Disney. None of these men was a saint, but long after their personalities are forgotten, history will remember how they applied imagination to technology and business.”



Shortly after Jobs’ death, Walter Isaacson published his best-selling biography. Some months later, concerned that readers were unduly fixated on what he called the “rough edges” of Jobs’ personality rather than on his accomplishments, Isaacson published an article in the April 2012 *Harvard Business Review* titled “The Real Leadership Lessons of Steve Jobs,” of which the quote above is the first paragraph.

It occurred to me that it would be an interesting exercise to examine and compare these great innovators, to see what would explain their common determination to succeed in making their vision a reality. This spring ALL will offer the lecture series “Bending Reality: America’s Visionary Entrepreneurs.” The title of the course was taken from Isaacson’s article, in which one of the “Leadership Lessons” he cites is to “Bend Reality.” Apple employees dubbed Jobs’ insistence that they accomplish the seemingly impossible his “Reality Distortion Field,” after a *Star Trek* episode in which aliens create an alternative reality through mental force.

In the lecture series we will examine one individual each week and conclude with a panel discussion in which we will determine if there is a common set of characteristics that caused them to be successful. In addition to Jobs, Edison, Ford and Disney, the course was fleshed out by adding Frank Lloyd Wright and J. Craig Venter. Wright changed the face of architecture through the innovative use of materials, built up a considerable enterprise and was certainly no saint. J. Craig Venter, the only one of the group



still living, is the least known, but his accomplishments in sequencing the human genome may have the most far-reaching consequences to human existence.

Envisioning a lecture series is the easy part. ALL receives many wonderful ideas for courses, but there are a limited number of people willing to be study group leaders or lecturers and these people tend to be very busy. The challenging part is recruiting lecturers for the series. But here I got very lucky. Shortly after conceiving the idea for the lecture series, I mentioned it to John Ferries. You may know John as a study group leader who has led courses on communications, technology, China, South Africa and figures in American history. Or you may know him as chairman of the board of The Fells, or his other board activities at New London Hospital and ALL, or from his work at ILEAD. John’s reaction was, “I would love to lead a session on Steve Jobs.” Having John as first on board was like hitting a grand slam home run in your first at bat.

I also mentioned the concept to Joanna Henderson, ALL’s president. Joanna has led innumerable courses on American history and always receives rave reviews. She surprised and delighted me by saying that she would like to lead the session on Frank Lloyd Wright. I was two for two.

My late father was employed his entire career as an engineer for General Electric, the successor to Thomas Edison’s company, designing high power electrical transmission equipment. My session on Edison will be in my father’s remembrance.

I had to search a bit further

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Thursday's Child

ALL members and friends enjoying an evening of excellent food and conversation at the New London Inn's Coach House Restaurant during ALL's Thursday's Child dinner which benefits the AIL Achievement Award Fund.



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen



PHOTO: Joyce Kellogg



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

"Bending Reality..." (continued from page 5)

afield for the ideal person to lead the session on Henry Ford, but it was worth it. Jay Barrett is new to AIL, but has led courses at ILEAD. Jay is a third generation architect who is the principal of Barrett Architecture in White River Junction. In addition to architecture, Jay's passions are the history of the automobile, especially Model T Fords, of which he owns and has restored several examples and railroad history. We welcome Jay to AIL.

Derek Hunt was the obvious choice to lead the Disney session, having been a former executive in the Disney organization. Many AIL participants know Derek for his popular play-reading courses. After a little gentle arm-twisting and with the help of Josiah Carberry, Derek agreed.

Finally, but certainly not least, Dick Cavallaro will be leading the session on Craig Venter. A physician who has led acclaimed AIL courses on evolution and human origins, Dick is uniquely equipped to explain the significance of Venter's achievement in sequencing the human genome.

Bob Mackey, co-founder of Whole Foods Market, writes in his book *Conscious Capitalism*:

"Entrepreneurs are the true heroes in a free-

enterprise economy, driving progress in business, society, and the world. They solve problems by creatively envisioning different ways the world could and should be. With their imagination, creativity, passion and energy, they are the greatest creators of widespread change in the world. They are able to see new possibilities and enrich the lives of others by creating things that never existed before."

All of the individuals to be discussed were successful entrepreneurs, and they either created new technologies or used technology in a new way. They had a vision (in some cases multiple visions) to do something not done before and a single-minded determination to see that vision through to completion.

Perhaps that single-minded determination caused certain personality traits that deviated from the norm; or perhaps the determination to succeed was caused by the personality traits. If we can take these individuals apart a bit and see what motivated them, we may gain an insight into what it takes for an individual to succeed in changing the way people interact with their environment, bending their reality into something new and desirable.

~Dan Schneider

Adventures in Learning Happenings



Pursuing Peace: Nonviolence in American Life



Places Please, for the One-Act Express!



"De-Lighted"—Theodore Roosevelt in the First Person

Winter '14 courses
Participants and study leaders enjoying the broad range of AIL course offerings in the winter '14 term.

PHOTOS: Kathleen Belko



Beautiful Winter Soups



How The Architecture of our Homes Reflects Our Values



Study group leader orientation meeting: New study leaders Dan Conly (facing camera at left) and John Raby (with back to camera) await the start of the winter '14 orientation meeting with Curriculum Committee members Van Crawford, Julie Machen and Dan Schneider. At the meeting study leaders have an opportunity to meet and hear about each other's topics, as well as learn policies and procedures for AIL courses.



Project-Based Drawing

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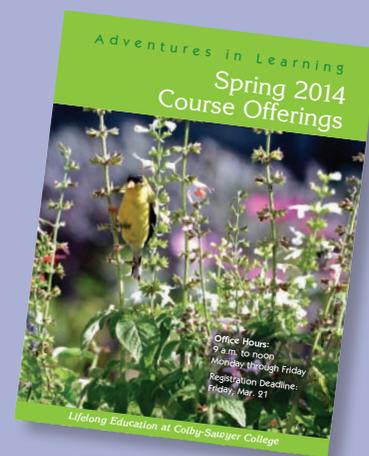
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REMINDER:
 Registration deadline
 for spring courses is
**Friday, March 21,
 2014.**

Click [here](#) to pay your
 membership dues
 and to register online.



Join Us at the Annual Meeting

The 15th Annual Meeting, which is open to AIL members and non-members, will be held on **Thursday, May 15, 2014**, in Wheeler Hall in the Ware Student Center at Colby-Sawyer College. This year's meeting will be preceded by an art exhibit, which starts at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Hall and will showcase original artwork by our own AIL members and study leaders. The exhibit will remain open during the wine and hors d'oeuvres reception that follows immediately after the business meeting. Come see the local talent that abounds within the AIL ranks.

As in past years, the business meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a photo retrospective by Maureen Rosen. Once again Maureen has set to music photos taken throughout the year at various courses and events. This year's retrospective is titled "An Evergreen Year."

While strolling through the art exhibit after the business meeting, you will be entertained by the group "Folk Fusion." This musically talented trio will perform contemporary folk music, Celtic and traditional folk music. All three performers are from the Sutton area and include Susan Cancio-Bello, voice and keyboard; Laurie Reeder, voice and guitar; and Nicole Densmore, flute and percussion.

This year's Annual Meeting promises to be outstanding. Don't miss it!

Click [HERE](#) for listing of Colby-Sawyer College events that are open to the public this spring.



Adventures in Learning's *Horizons Extra* 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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