

# Horizons

Summer 2016

## Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College

### AIL's Annual Meeting

On Thursday, May 19, Adventures in Learning (AIL) celebrated its 18th year at its Annual Meeting held in Wheeler Hall in the Ware Student Center at Colby-Sawyer College. The program began with Maureen Rosen's photo retrospective "Adventures Through a Lens" featuring members participating in courses and special events, including April's Last Monday reception at Lethbridge Lodge honoring retiring Colby-Sawyer College President Tom Galligan. AIL President Joanna Henderson thanked Maureen for another superb visual recap and for providing photos for our catalog covers and newsletters.



**Program Highlights:** Vice President for Advancement Kathy Bonavist spoke about Colby-Sawyer's dynamic incoming President Sue Stuebner, a graduate of the college "up the road" who will be assuming her duties in early July. Kathy also lauded the continued partnership with AIL and stressed the importance of "AIL learners as part of the college." She shared her hope that members enjoy many years of lifelong learning and that Colby-Sawyer become the "college of your hearts." Joanna presented Kathy with a \$15,000 check in appreciation for Colby-Sawyer's ongoing commitment and support to AIL.

**Governance Committee:** John Ferries explained the Governance Committee's role: identifying and recruiting members for positions and leadership roles on the Board and AIL committees. The members voted unanimously to approve three-year terms for new Board members David Bashaw, Nancy Marashio, Harry Tether and Bert Yarborough, and second three-year terms for Betsy Boege, Julie Machen and Brenda Watts.

**President's Report:** Joanna spoke of AIL's successful 18th year led by our corps of study group leaders—the "life blood" of lifelong learning organizations. AIL is excited to have Lethbridge Lodge, "a dream come true," as our dedicated classroom on campus starting this summer. Joanna also recognized the successful launch of the Lunch and Learn program offering members the opportunity to enjoy a meal and lecture on Mondays during the fall and spring semesters.

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### Learning Later Living Greater

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



## AIL's Annual Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

**Honors and Recognition:** Joanna remembered Jim Moore, one of AIL's first study group leaders, who passed away this winter. She presented Distinguished Study Leader gold badges to members who have led ten AIL courses: John Ferries, Bill Tighe and Mike Moss (in absentia). Incoming President John Ferries thanked Joanna for her dedicated leadership of AIL this year.

**Farewells:** Shaina Driscoll, Presidential Fellow and recipient of the 2013–14 Adventures in Learning Achievement Award, completed her excellent year of service mid-May. Sadly, AIL also will be losing AIL's Program Coordinator Marianne Harrison, as she will be retiring in June. Joanna presented Marianne with a gift and thanked her for providing dedicated, insightful and thoughtful support to our entire membership and program over the past six years. She will be greatly missed.

~Deb Rucci



Members of the New London Barn Playhouse Junior Intern Company

PHOTO: J. Eaton



Bill Tighe and John Ferries

PHOTO: J. Eaton



Ginny Callahan, Ellen Schauff, Ellie Goldthwait and Suzie Gray

PHOTO: J. Eaton

## Study Leader Profile

# Bob Gasser:

## Changing Lives Through Drug Court



Bob Gasser

In 2000, Bob was Assistant Prosecutor with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office in New Jersey.

Shortly after his appointment, the Prosecutor asked him to help implement a new idea called the Drug Court mandated by the Judicial Branch of the New Jersey Criminal Justice System. The Prosecutor thought that the new Drug Court Program was well intentioned but would probably be disbanded in a year. Bob proved him wrong and in the process became a passionate advocate for drug courts across the country. He told me, "He did not find satisfaction in prosecuting the same people over and over but Drug Court provided him with a new way of changing lives."

Bob grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Rutgers University and Columbia University Law School. His very first job in private practice was assisting his attorney employer in defending a murder case. His career continued in both the private and public sectors and on both sides of

the aisle, as Public Defender and Prosecutor. It was at this time that Bob found that he was prosecuting a number of defendants for the second or third time, as well as their children and even grandchildren. As a result, he was pleased to find that drug courts offered an alternative to incarceration for those who wanted to change their lives.

Drug courts accept only those deemed high risk and high need. It is generally not for first offenders. Drug courts do not admit drug dealers or those with a record of violent offenses. In order to enter a drug court, rather than follow the usual path in a criminal prosecution, the defendant must apply and then be screened and recommended by the prosecutor. Once recommended and voluntarily committed to the program, the defendant must plead guilty to the charges against him or her and enter a program of intensive treatment and strict supervision for a period of 18 to 24 months.

A team consisting of a judge, prosecutor, public defender, coordinator, case manager, treatment provider and supervision officer oversees the progress of the defendant during the four stages of the program. If the defendant does not adhere or is not committed to the program, he or she may be dismissed and sent to prison based on an alternate sentence agreed to at the time of plea. The role of judge is a crucial part of the program. He or she

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Helen Bridge

## Study Leader Profile

# Helen Bridge:

## Exploring our Local Treasures

This summer a very special treat is in store for members of the AIL community. One

day last year Chair of the AIL Curriculum Committee, Derek Hunt, mentioned to Helen Bridge, a good friend and fellow committee member, what a gem The Ice House Museum is to show off to visiting kids, grandkids and house guests. As they continued to chat, each recalled fond memories of similar trips to places like Ruggles Mine and the Indian Museum. Helen's and Derek's imaginations took hold. A quick call was put in to Dave Kidder, whose family maintains The Ice House, and soon the upcoming course, Historical Gems, was conceived as an opportunity for guided visits not only to The Ice House, but also to the Fells Historic Estate & Gardens, Muster Field Farm and the carefully replicated village of the New London Historical Society. Helen Bridge has played an important role in putting together all the pieces of this wonderful course.

Helen's story begins in a small town in rural Ohio, where she was the youngest of 11 children, walked to the one-room schoolhouse a mile or two away, discovered books at a very early age and could not wait to get off the farm. A move to a nearby town meant access to the local library and thus her love of books and learning was formed. She majored in journalism at college and subsequently got a job with the United World Federalists in Dayton, Ohio. She became proactive in community affairs, such as the League of Women Voters and the Dayton Council on World Affairs, and soon realized the importance of fundraising to keep pro bono organizations alive.

In 1977 she moved with her youngest son to Hanover and began a job fundraising for Dartmouth Medical School. After several happy years, wanderlust struck again and Helen decided to realize her dream of living in a big city. So off she went to Boston where she became director of volunteers for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Time passed, a new challenge came her way, and Helen joined the staff of the Boston Ballet to help in their goal of developing a volunteer organization directed toward fundraising efforts for the company.

After many enjoyable and challenging years in Boston, Helen remarried and she and her husband, John Trethaway, returned to the Upper Valley. She accepted a job as director of volunteers for the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. It was then that she discovered the newly formed adult education organization at Dartmouth called ILEAD, now OSHER@Dartmouth. Following her retirement, she and her husband became members of ILEAD, and discovered the joy of adult learning. Helen served on their board of directors for six years, first as secretary, vice-president and finally president.

Helen is no newcomer to the New London area, having spent the past sixty summers on Lake Sunapee, a special place that has provided six generations a chance to reunite, renew family ties and discover the treasures that the area has to offer. Happily for us, after Helen moved here permanently, she soon made friends in the New London area and became involved with AIL. She is currently serving her second term on the Curriculum Committee. Helen has volunteered at the Food Pantry and was on the Board of the Center for the Arts and Ausbon Sargent. She also makes time to play duplicate bridge and belongs to three book clubs, a theatre group and an art group.

I asked Helen to speak a bit of her deep regard for AIL. She remarked that AIL mirrors her strong belief in the importance of keeping our minds active by learning and sharing our thoughts with others, thus enriching not only ourselves, but also the community in which we live. Helen is the embodiment of this belief. *~Diane Rice*

### Bob Gasser (continued from page 2)

must enforce the integrity of the program and, at the same time, communicate his or her interest in the defendant's willingness to change his or her life. At the end of the 18 to 24-month program, the team determines if the defendant is to graduate. Those who graduate can have the felony they pled to upon entering the program removed from their record after one year.

Bob's interest in the law is second only to his interest in people. While at Columbia, he was awarded a Rotary Foundation Fellowship to study at Hong Kong University for an academic year. He took a year's leave of absence to

study in Hong Kong and has since experienced reunions with his classmates.

His passion for the Drug Court Program did not end when Bob retired. After moving to Grantham in 2006 with his wife, Marilyn, he founded the Grafton County Drug Court where he assumed the role of coordinator. Also he has taught this Drug Court course twice for ILEAD, now OSHER@Dartmouth. With addiction and overdose deaths in our news every day, please join Bob to learn about a program that attempts to change lives in the criminal justice system and protect our community. *~Deb Rucci*

## AIL's Dedicated Classroom on Campus

A longtime dream of AIL has come to fruition! In a February letter to AIL members, Colby-Sawyer Vice President for Advancement Kathy Bonavist announced that the college has dedicated the classroom in Lethbridge Lodge to our use. This recognizes our program's contribution to the community and follows a campaign that many AIL members participated in to identify and support a dedicated classroom on campus in the new, proposed arts building. When the college subsequently downsized the footprint of the building this winter, the altered plans, while fitting the needs of the art and theatre departments, no longer could accommodate any classrooms. Instead the college honored its commitment by naming the classroom in Lethbridge for AIL, giving us priority usage.

The Adventures in Learning Classroom in Lethbridge Lodge has many advantages. AIL will have immediate access starting this summer, whereas the new arts building will not be completed until late 2017 or early 2018. Lethbridge Lodge is located in a quiet part of the campus, in the same building as Galligan's Pub and college snack bar. The latter will be open to our members to purchase and enjoy coffee, snacks or even a delicious lunch before or after classes. The lodge offers an excellent, cozy venue for members to meet, socialize, exchange ideas and further their learning experience. There is ample parking in the adjacent parking lot with safe access provided via a convenient stairway. The classroom is equipped with a state-of-the-art audio-visual system.

Study leaders no longer will have to check out AV equipment from the AIL Office or grapple with unfamiliar systems. The room has comfortable seating accommodating up to 60 people and can be set up according to the needs of each study group leader, either with tables for discussion courses or just chairs for lecture series.

The classroom has already been tested and used successfully this past year for some AIL courses and the new Lunch & Learn program. It promises to be a perfect site for most of our courses and will serve as an excellent gathering place for our members.

~Betsy Boege



Adventures in Learning Classroom

PHOTO: S. Driscoll

*The Adventures in Learning Board, committees and members thank Colby-Sawyer College President Tom Galligan for his generous support over the past 10 years. In addition to his role with AIL as Colby-Sawyer College President, Tom has led a number of extremely popular courses on the Supreme Court and has given individual lectures on famous and infamous historical figures. Tom,*

*we will miss you and Susan and we wish you both all the best at Louisiana State University and beyond.*

*Fondly,  
Adventures  
in Learning*



Maureen Rosen presents Tom Galligan with a gift on behalf of AIL.

PHOTO: J. Eaton



AIL membership at the college's Last Monday event in April held in Galligan's Pub.

PHOTO: J. Eaton

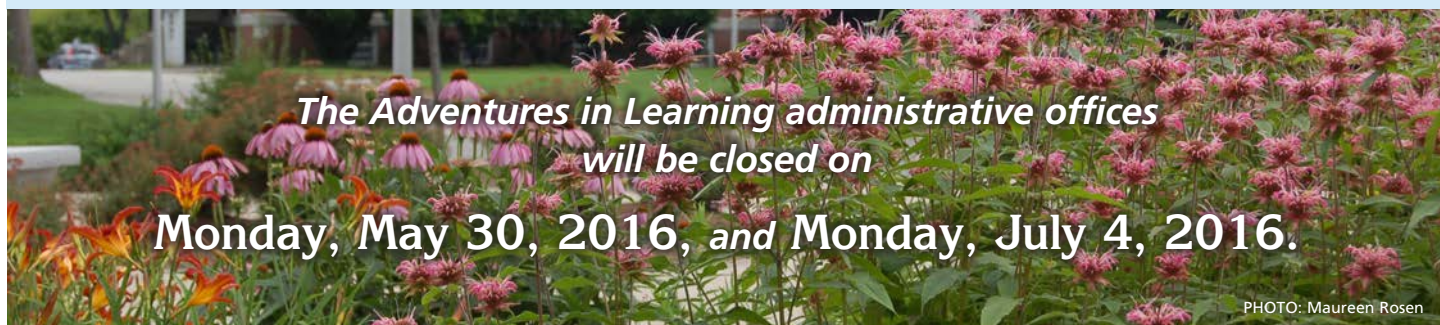




## Summer '16 Courses

Registration is now open for the summer term. Courses begin either the week of July 4 or July 11. View the complete summer catalog online with full course descriptions, including start dates and times, at [www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html). On the same webpage you can register for courses and pay this year's (2016–2017) membership dues *if you have not already done so*. The course registration deadline is Tuesday, June 28, 2016. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) of your choice. People who pay for courses and/or memberships online will have their names entered in a drawing for a free course and/or free 2017–2018 membership, respectively. If you are unable to pay online, you may mail your form(s) and payment or place your form(s) along with your payment in the locked drop box outside the AIL office. No payments will be processed over the phone or in person at the AIL Office.

- **American Mah Jongg for Beginners** *with Margie Michie or Joanne Lazdowski*  
Choose either a Monday afternoon class with Margie or a Wednesday morning class with Joanne to learn the history of American Mah Jongg and the strategy necessary to play. Test your gaming skills in a course that Joanne and Margie promise to be fun and challenging.
- **Historical Gems** *with Helen Bridge*  
Our area is replete with historical sites and Helen has organized tours with expert guides to four of the best the area has to offer. Participants will visit The Ice House in New London, Muster Field Farm in North Sutton, the New London Historical Society, and The Fells Historical Estate & Gardens in Newbury. Even if you've visited these local gems, you'll appreciate the in-depth curated tours that Helen has organized.
- **Golf Croquet: America's Most Sophisticated Outdoor Sport** *with Sharon Kenrick*  
Back by popular demand with two sections, Sharon once again will teach the history and essentials of golf croquet. From its beginning on the west coast in the 20s to the founding of the New York Croquet Club in 1967, the game has evolved and grown in popularity. Join Sharon on the pitch in your dress whites, if you choose, and experience the fun of the game.
- **Mastering Your Camera I (Beginner)** *with Larry Harper*  
Back by popular demand, Larry will combine lecture, discussion and hands-on practice to help improve your photography skills. You will better understand your camera and learn the best techniques for taking outstanding pictures. Participants will need a single lens reflex camera or a sophisticated point and shoot camera with a variety of setting options.
- **Mastering Your Camera II (Intermediate)** *with Larry Harper*  
For those of you who took the prerequisite fall 2014 or summer 2015 class, Mastering Your Camera for Outstanding Photography, this two-week intermediate course will help you further develop the skills you previously acquired. Larry will focus on portrait, scenery, wildlife, macro and travel photography. Participants will need a single lens reflex camera or a sophisticated point and shoot camera with a variety of setting options.
- **Drug Court: An Alternative to Incarceration** *with Bob Gasser*  
Join Bob in an exploration of the timely political and judicial issue of establishing the Drug Court Program as an alternative to incarceration. Guest speakers will include former Drug Court Program participants and also addiction treatment providers and supervision officers who will speak to the class about their roles in the program. If the court's schedule allows, course participants will attend a drug court session.
- **Wine and Health** *with Gene Lariviere*  
Join Gene, a retired pediatrician and wine enthusiast, for a closer look at the health benefits attributed to wine. Although the claims about these benefits are broad, Gene will discuss and examine the evidence. Is wine a miracle drug or just another tempting snake oil?



# Adventures in Learning Happenings

PHOTOS: J. Eaton



Participants in *The Supreme Court* course



Participants chatting during break in *The Supreme Court* course



Tom Galligan engaged in his course on *The Supreme Court*



Dick Pearson in his course *The Supreme Court: A Closer Look*



Small group discussion in Rev. Jay MacLeod's *Elijah* course

PHOTOS: D. Rucci



Rev. Jay MacLeod with participants in his *Elijah* course



Bill Tighe after his community lecture on *The Basques*

PHOTO: D. Baker



Bob Koester presenting at a Woodcrest community lecture on his *Trans-Siberian Railroad* trip

PHOTO: P. Rucci



Art Rosen presenting to his course participants on *The Great Awakenings*

PHOTO: D Rucci



PHOTO: M. Rosen

## Last Monday Event

PHOTOS: J. Eaton



Conversation at the college's Last Monday event in April



Peter and Julie Machen in conversation with Joanna Henderson at Last Monday



Mary Doyle, Pat Stewart, Becky Underhill and Rev. Katrina Wagner at Last Monday



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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.

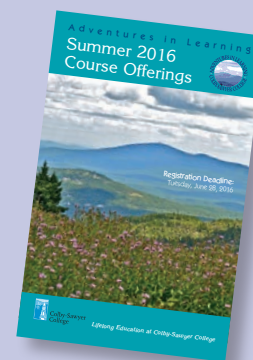
Information offered should not be considered authoritative or complete, nor should it be construed to reflect the views or opinions of the Adventures in Learning program or Colby-Sawyer College.

**Credits****Design and Production:**

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 Manchester, N.H.

**REMINDER:**  
 Registration deadline  
 for summer courses is  
**Tuesday,**  
**June 28, 2016,**  
 no later than 5:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register online.

**Winner, Winner!**

*Isa Rex is the spring '16 raffle winner of a free AIL course.*

On hearing the news Isa remarked, "Are you serious? That's terrific!" The raffle was open to all spring course participants who registered online. *This spring 66% of course registrations were made online.*

*Jeanne Edwards is the winner of this year's membership raffle.*

Everyone who paid their 2015–2016 membership dues online was entered in a drawing to win a free membership for 2016–2017. On hearing that she had won the raffle, Jeanne remarked, "You've made my day!" *This year 59% of membership payments were made online.*

*You could be the next raffle winner! Simply register online for your summer '16 courses and pay your 2016–2017 annual \$50 membership dues online for your chance to win.*

**Save the Date!**

**New London Hospital Days August 3–7,**  
 with parade on August 6.

