

## Profile: George Tracy

**G**eorge Tracy has been such an integral part of Adventures in Learning that it's hard to imagine our organization without him. Yet if it hadn't been for a bit of serendipity, this popular study leader might still live in Canada, where he was born, or in some other Commonwealth nation.



George Tracy

The story of how George came to New Hampshire began in the early 1950s, when he was a young man with a degree in classics from King's College in his native city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, as well as a master's degree in classics from Dalhousie University, also in Halifax. He had just taken his first job at a small school for students in grades 2 through 12. George "taught just about everything," but his main responsibility was teaching Latin.

Although he liked the job, the salary was low, so he began sending letters all over the world inquiring about teaching positions. Since he didn't know anything about schools in the United States, all his letters went to other

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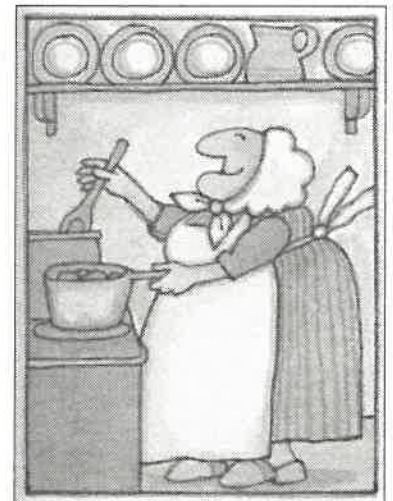
## The Lively Arts... Hits a Home Run

**T**he course offerings of the recently completed Fall 2002 Adventures in Learning program saw the introduction of a new format—the lecture series. Brought into AIL by the Curriculum Committee's Ben Acard, the format provided an alternative to the more participative discussion groups that have been the cornerstone of our course offerings. Many of the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to be entertained and enlightened without feeling the pressure to study and contribute, and the arrangement made possible, in this case, a class of more than 70 participants.

But the real triumph of this wonderful program was the choice of subjects and the individuals who presented them. With "the arts" as the theme, Ben chose eight variations that allowed the "soloists" a wide range over which to display their virtuosity; the presenters answered the challenge with performances of consistently high quality. They took us from theatre to museum, from concert hall to studio, from "out front" to behind the scenes. The presentations ranged from autobiographical to inspirational, factual to fanciful, Renaissance to contemporary. We were introduced to Stokowski, Mary Cassatt, Maxfield Parrish, Placido Domingo, Strega Nona, and Macbeth. Whatever was coming next?

All of this and practical lessons too. For example, we learned from Shakespeare, the master of the invective, how to *really* lay on an insult. Next time you need to put someone in his/her place, try calling him/her a "base, proud, shallow, beggardly, brazen-faced varlet" or a "swollen parcel of dropsies, huge bombard of sack, stuffed cloak-bag of guts." Attend a symphony concert and see if you can follow the conductor's "metronome." We watched videos of several of the great ones whose beating of time was, shall we say, ambiguous.

Through slides, video, stand-up performances, and master of



Strega Nona in *Strega Nona Takes a Vacation*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, © 2000 by Tomie de Paola

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countries—with one exception. In his school library, George happened to see a magazine from a school named St. Paul's in Concord, N.H. The magazine was called *Horae Scholasticae*, which is Latin for "School Days." He was intrigued by the magazine's name and decided to send a letter to the school. By happy coincidence, St. Paul's was looking for a classicist and asked George to come down

for an interview. Hired as a Latin and Greek instructor in 1953, George was still teaching those languages at St. Paul's 40 years later. Along the way, he also began giving courses on Shakespeare.

Chance also played a role in bringing George and his wife Mary to New London. St. Paul's is a

Gay Farm Road and moved he permanently in 1993. Last August, they moved to Highland Ridge.

George taught a course on *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* in the very first term of AIL. Since then, he has taught *Othello*, the Socratic dialogues, and, most recently, *The Winter's Tale*. He also was the master of ceremonies for the "Lively Arts" course during the fall term, and he serves on the Curriculum Committee.

George enjoys teaching adults and says, "For someone never acquainted with adult learning, it's a great thrill to know there are people who are willing to venture forth to study something as unfamiliar as *The Winter's Tale* or to look at the life of a wonderful old man (Socrates) who died 2,500 years ago."

When not teaching AIL courses, George enjoys reading and gardening and being with his family. The Tracys are fortunate that their two daughters and three grandchildren live close enough for frequent visits. One daughter, Nora, lives in Wellesley, Mass., and their other daughter, Paula, lives in Rumney, N.H.

AIL members should be thankful that someone at St. Paul's chose a Latin name for the school magazine. If it weren't for that, we probably never would have had the opportunity to take courses with such a gifted teacher as George Tracy.

— Julie Boardman

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**"For someone never acquainted with adult learning, it's a great thrill to know there are people who are willing to venture forth to study something as unfamiliar as *The Winter's Tale*."**

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residential school that requires its faculty to live on campus. In the mid-1980s, the Tracys realized that retirement was imminent and began looking for a home of their own. They did most of their looking in Concord, but one day they came to New London, almost by accident. Discovering that home prices were lower than in Concord, they bought a house on

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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.

## Review of Spring 2003 Courses

Adventures in Learning is delighted to offer nine great courses for the Spring 2003 term, which begins April 21 and runs through June 13, 2003. The spring *Catalog* will be mailed in mid-February, and the registration period for the spring term will open on Monday, Feb. 24, 2003. Due to the high number of registration applications for some course offerings, Adventures in Learning has adopted a "first-day lottery" policy as needed. On the opening day of registration all applications received prior to that day and throughout the first day will be accumulated. If we receive more applications than there are spaces available, the "first-day lottery" system will be put into effect 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.



*Christine Hamm*

### **New Hampshire Through Literary Eyes**

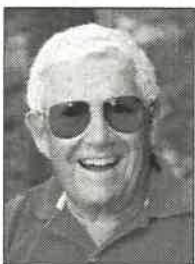
Led by Christine Hamm, this course will focus on 19th- and 20th-century New Hampshire novelists and poets who have drawn their inspiration from the land and the New Hampshire people to communicate a sense of place and community.

### **In Search of the Early Kings of England**

Morris Edwards returns to lead a repeat of this journey of exploration and discovery about the lives and times of real-life leaders such as Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, and Richard the Lionheart as well as mythical heroes such as King Arthur and the Knights of the Roundtable and Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men.



*Morris Edwards*



*Martin Feins*

### **Options for the Conservative Investor**

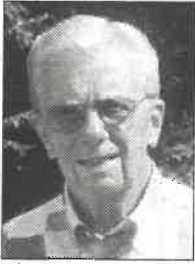
Discussing the use of stock options as a way for the conservative investor to increase returns on his/her portfolio, Martin Feins will offer this course to participants who already have a basic knowledge of stocks and the stock market.

### **American Comedy: Comedy Teams of Radio, TV, and Films**

Charles Chamberlain will lead discussions of the contributions made by the various comedy teams to 20th-century comedy, as well as look at what makes some teams successful and examine more closely people in each team. Participants will be able to answer the question as to why comedy teams disappeared from the scene to be replaced by sitcoms and scripted stand-up comedians.



*Charles Chamberlain*



George Doolittle

### **Eugene O'Neill — His Soul was a Submarine**

Eugene O'Neill's life was a long day's journey into night. George Doolittle returns to offer a closer look at the plays O'Neill wrote which reflected the playwright's dreams, hopes, and nightmares—revealing who he was and wanted to be—and his “tragic” outlook on life and art.

### **History's Mysteries**

In this course, Jim Bowditch will investigate three long-standing historical mysteries: the Turin Shroud, considered by many to show the body of the crucified Christ; the missing treasure of the Knights Templar; and the Dead Sea Scrolls, which have raised questions about the uniqueness of Christianity and the existence of the vast treasure described in the Copper Scroll.



Jim Bowditch



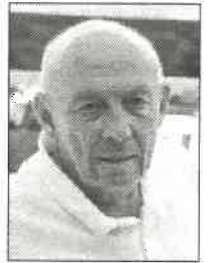
Dick Pearson

### **Points of Law**

Once again, Dick Pearson will lead discussions of interesting legal issues, the resolutions of which are debatable. Participants will gain knowledge of the meaning and sources of law, and the process through which legal disputes are resolved.

### **Science and Religion: Allies or Opponents?**

Ed Kintner returns in a repeat of this popular course to examine the relationships among philosophy, religion, and science. Are science and religion supportive or contradictory subjects? While the course may not answer this question definitively, the participants will gain new insights through study and discussion.



Ed Kintner

### **Great Moments of the Renaissance**

This multi-speaker course will explore various aspects of the Renaissance period. Lectures will include the rise and reasons for the growth of the renaissance; the architecture, sculpture and art; and the contributions of the era's writers.



Charles Kennedy



Jim Bowditch



Bart Thurber



Tony Parra



Kurt Sundstrom

## In Memory of Deniza Martin



Katie Dow '90

Deniza Martin  
1930–2002

Revered and respected by family, friends and students, Deniza was an inspiration to all.

Adventures in Learning is especially appreciative and thankful for the many hours she spent as a founding member, initiating and developing the program at Colby-Sawyer College. As a study leader, she shared her life-long study of English history with an enthusiastic and oversubscribed class. Deniza planned to teach again in the winter 2003 term, and we hope the English history course can be offered in her memory in a future term.

In recognition of her thoughtful and continuous contributions to the program, Deniza was profiled in the *Adventures in Learning Update Fall 2001*.

Adventures in Learning has made a contribution in Deniza Martin's honor to the New London Hospital.

ceremonies George Tracy's introductory remarks, we were taken beneath the surface and behind the scenes: Tomie dePaola's and Margaret Dwyer's early years and how they influenced and are manifested in their work; John Bott's appreciation of the history and talent of women painters. Martin LeBeau, Susan Leidy, Bob Simon, and Brooke Wetzel revealed what it takes to develop a symphony concert, a traveling art exhibit, an opera, and a theatre production. David Newman explored the genius in Shakespeare's use of sounds and words. We discovered how explorations of the scrupulous details that go into the final product add to the appreciation of art.

The lecture series has found a place in Adventures in Learning, and Ben Acard is already planning a new series on the Renaissance. *The Lively Arts* will be a tough act to follow.

—Dick Little

## Save the Date for ADVENTURES IN LEARNING'S 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2003  
4 to 6 p.m.

Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center  
Colby-Sawyer College

Business meeting held from 4 to 5 p.m.,  
Followed by hors d'oeuvres and wine from 5 to 6 p.m.

## Words of Appreciation...

"Some years ago I thought how nice it would be, if I had it to do over again, to take more history courses in college. Then we moved to New London and, suddenly, there was Adventures in Learning, where I could do that and more. So far I've enrolled in several classes and found all of them engrossing. The chance to participate in these groups, small enough for close discussion, is invaluable, and I thank my lucky stars and Adventures in Learning for this second, and ongoing, chance to add these dimensions to my life."

—Danna Foote, New London, N.H.



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