



PROFILE:

Dick Cogswell

Dick Cogswell certainly qualifies as an Adventures in Learning “super enthusiast.” He has been taking courses (he thinks over 40, and often two and three at a time) since he and his wife Nancy moved here from Connecticut in 1998. He was elected president at the annual meeting in May and previously had served as treasurer, chair of the Facilities Committee, and vice-president. He marvels, as we all do, at the program’s growth, its quality, and the impact it is having on the adult population in this area.



Dick grew up in Westfield, New Jersey, and graduated with a degree in accounting from Lehigh College. He earned an M.B.A. from the University of New Haven, worked in industry and ended up with his own C.P.A. practice in Westport, Connecticut. He still works one day a week during February, March, and April as a tax volunteer for AARP. He has also been a Habitat for Humanity volunteer for seven years, was

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A Not So “Foggy” Day in Cambridgetown

AIL TAKES A TRIP TO THREE HARVARD MUSEUMS

Every now and then a perfect day comes along, and when it does I feel fortunate to have been part of it. Just such a day occurred November 3, a gloriously warm and sunny, atypical November day, when Adventures in Learning (AIL) went to Cambridge to visit three Harvard University art museums. The big drawing card was the special exhibition “Degas at Harvard” at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum. Across the street at the Fogg Art Museum and the Busch-Reisinger Museum, the AIL group, with the help of wonderful docents, focused on the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists as well as the German Expressionists, who were all painting at the same time in history.

Dusty Logan gets special kudos for organizing this wonderful trip. Dividing us into three groups of 15, we followed schedules that gave us ample time to visit all three museums and have one hour to explore on our own. And, of course, we were having a much-anticipated lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club—thanks to Bill and Jeanine Berger who maintain a membership there.

Our group started with “Degas at Harvard”—an intimate show that emphasized Degas’ drawing skills. Degas proclaimed that he was “not an Impressionist.” He did not work outside, nor did he spontaneously put color to canvas.

Instead, following the advice of his mentor Ingres, he drew lots of lines. “Draw, draw, draw,” were Ingres’ words, and Degas did. Studying the great masters of the Renaissance at the Uffizi in Florence, he honed



Trip participants gathered outside the Harvard Faculty Club

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with Rotary in Connecticut for 15 years, is president of Summer Music Associates, and sings in the St. Andrew's Church choir.

When asked what inspired him and Nancy to move here from Newtown, Connecticut, he said, "It really was a serendipitous happening. We were looking at many small towns in New Hampshire and wanted a college

town. We saw New London and that was it." The Cogswells recently moved into a new house which "ate up the summer." Dick adds, "We were without a kitchen for four weeks!" But doing a lot of the planting and landscaping gave him an opportunity to practice his love for gardening.

Dick says that a major influence on his life was his 31-year experience as an Army reserve officer. He retired in 1986 as a full

colonel and deputy commander with the 353rd Civil Affairs Command headquartered in the Bronx. It was a big commitment demanding fifty to sixty days a year and mostly on weekends. But it also, he says, provided many opportunities to meet interesting people, see new things, and he enjoyed every minute.

- Heidi Beckwith -

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at Colby-Sawyer College**

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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.

CAMBRIDGETOWN, from Pg. 1

his skills. Evidence is clear that he worked and reworked his drawings and paintings. And yet, when viewing his works, particularly the pastels infused with light and air, it is obvious that he was an "Impressionist."

Three subjects dominate his work: ballerinas, horse racing, and women "after the bath." There were several bronze sculptures of young ballerinas, at ease or posed in various positions of dance. Degas worked in wax, and the bronzing was done later to preserve the works. A large statue of "Marie" caused great controversy when originally shown because Degas used real fabric netting for her skirt and a real satin ribbon to tie back her horsehair wig. This was a dramatic departure from the norm. Over and over Degas painted or drew women towelng themselves after a bath—always seen from the rear, with the focus on the back and buttocks. Such an intimate subject, and yet Degas never married. It is interesting that this was a subject of such fascination to him.

Our docent, Ann Heymann, made particular reference to the Japanese influence on the Impres-

sionist painters. At that time in history Japanese artists, most famously, Hiroshige and Hokusai, created wood block prints. As unbelievable as it seems, the prints were used as packing material for objects that were shipped to Europe. From these wrappings, the Impressionists learned that not all space had to be filled in a canvas, and that a strong diagonal line forced the viewer's eye to move across a work, adding dynamism. Degas' pastel, "The Rehearsal," is an outstanding example of this Japanese influence.

Reluctantly, we left the Sackler Museum and walked across the street to the Fogg, where Betty Wolsky, our new docent, met us. As we entered, some of us had a sense of *deja vu*. Climbing up a steep corner stairway, we could glimpse the courtyard interior. Built in 1929, the building had a remarkable resemblance to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum that AIL explored on an earlier trip.

We were warned by our docent that this was going to be a "whirlwind tour" taking in both the Fogg and the Busch-Reisinger in an hour

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and that she would highlight a few important works that fit into the theme of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. We first entered the special collection of Grenville Winthrop. An astute and voracious collector who bought works from a vast range of genres and periods, Winthrop donated over 3,500 works to Harvard. Again, we learned of Ingres and viewed a painting that reflected his love of Rafael and displayed his brushless painting style and unemotional treatment of his subject.

Next, we focused on Monet—perhaps the quintessential Impressionist with his interest in everyday life, the infusion of outdoors light, and the clean use of pure color. His famous painting of Gare St. Lazare is filled with billowing smoke and steam, with light pouring in from the glass ceiling. Our docent explained that Monet was fleeing Paris—which was in the midst of a binge of building, much like Boston with the “Big Dig”—and taking his family to the tranquility of the country. Great vitality and pent-up energy are transmitted to the viewer—as if the trains, like horses, were straining to leave the station. We also viewed works by Gauguin, Cezanne and Van Gogh, always focusing on the use of color and the effect of light.

Moving into the Busch-Reisinger, we were slammed by the harsh works of the German Expressionists. Heckel, Nolde, and Moholy Nagy, members of this group, portrayed real life in their works—raw and not prettified. They rendered their subjects in a primitive manner, using harsh color and often juxtaposing complementary colors to set off a

frisson in the viewer’s brain. Think of the red and green of Christmas, or the orange and blue of Howard Johnson’s—a clever advertising ploy to make the viewer take notice.

Finally, it was time for lunch, so we strolled down the street, posed for a photo in front of the Faculty Club’s august entryway and entered a world of quiet dignity. We were seated in our own room, an attentive staff served us beverages, and we selected our lunch from an expansive buffet. Truly elegant, and delicious, it was a far cry from the standup meal of PB&J that is my usual fare.

After lunch, the groups went to their next assignment. Our group had a free hour to explore. I used it to return to the Sackler to see the “Silver and Shawls” exhibition from India, Europe and the Colonial Art Market. It was a small show of richly colored and designed shawls, and intricate works of silver. How dismayed I was to discover that these gorgeous shawls were worn by men! Unfair, thought I, trying to picture my husband in my coveted pashmina shawl. I also found time to go to the Harvard Coop and browsed among the books on display, eyeing enviously the students who were smart enough and lucky enough to attend Harvard.

Sadly, it was time to leave. We boarded the bus, thankful for the water and pretzels provided by Dartmouth Coach. AIL is fortunate to have people like Dusty and Jean McKee and other members of the Public Relations Committee who put a lot of work into organizing these trips. I know that everyone was once again thinking: what will our destination be next year?

~ Sally Southard ~

IN MEMORIAM:

Dick Martin



It is the sad duty of the Adventures in Learning Board of Directors to report the passing of Dick Martin, who, with his late wife Deniza, was a member of the original Organizing Committee, which so successfully brought the Adventures in Learning program into being. Dick gave us the benefit of his administrative and computer skills; Deniza proved to be a superb study group leader.

Dick was much involved in the civic life of Newbury and a member of Colby-Sawyer’s President’s Advisory Council. He was also a prime mover in the development and maintenance of the Greenway hiking trail system.

Always an important contributor to any activity with which he was associated, Dick will be missed by those privileged to have served with him.

~ Julien LeBourgeois ~

PREVIEW OF AIL SPRING 2006 COURSES

Adventures in Learning is pleased to offer ten courses for the spring 2006 term, which begins on April 17 and ends on June 9. The spring catalog will be mailed during the week of February 6, and the registration period will end on Friday, March 10. Here's a preview of what you can look forward to in the upcoming term:



Evan
Fradenburgh



Jane Ann
McSwiney

Great Music from the American Theater

Evan Fradenburgh and Jane Ann McSwiney return with a slightly different version of their popular course on the composers and lyricists of American musical theater. Although special emphasis will be on the Gershwins, the class will also study Porter, Kern, Rodgers, Hammerstein, Sondheim, Webber and others.



Joe Medlicott

Miss Emily Dickinson

A great poet as well as a mysterious figure, Emily Dickinson spent many years as a recluse in her father's home. This mini-course with Joe Medlicott will probe Dickinson's relationships with her family and neighbors, study a representative sample of her poems, and analyze the influence of her work on present day poets.



Doug Marshall

Imagining India

Under the guidance of Doug Marshall, class members will read three books that present varying concepts of India: E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, Amit Chaudhuri's *Freedom Song*, and Jumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*. The class will discuss the similarities and differences between these three imaginative depictions of one of the world's oldest and most complex civilizations.



Roger Wells

The Artful American Home and Garden

What makes a home and garden exceptional? Landscape architect Roger Wells will review the history and styles of the American house and garden, presenting the principles of good design for both.



Ron Luchsinger

Aspects of Verdi

This course with Opera North's Ron Luchsinger will examine the life and work of the great operatic composer Giuseppe Verdi. After listening to selections from Verdi operas that share common themes, the class will compare, contrast and discuss the examples.



Sheldon Boege



Bill Dowd

Current Economic Issues from an Economist's Perspective

We read and hear a lot about such issues as inflation, trade protectionism, outsourcing, public debt and high fuel prices. This course with Sheldon Boege and Bill Dowd will give participants a perspective on these issues from the unique viewpoint of the contemporary economist.



Hilary Cleveland

American Women Who Have Made a Difference

Under the leadership of Hilary Cleveland, this class will discuss American women who have made an impact in their field and influenced the course of American history. The class will feature several guest speakers.



George Tracy

“Measure for Measure”, a Dark Comedy

Under George Tracy's tutelage, AIL members have studied several of Shakespeare's tragedies. Now George is back to lead an examination of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," a play he describes as "difficult but compelling."



J. Jermaine Bodine

Through a Glass Darkly: Reading the Book of “Revelation”

This class with Warner pastor J. Jermaine Bodine will read "Revelation," the Bible's most controversial book, and analyze its meaning for ancient and modern day audiences.



Jim Moore

Climate and Civilization

Jim Moore returns to explain and discuss the profound influence climate has had on the development of mankind. He will also review new research that has helped unlock secrets about ancient climates.



On the Air with Adventures in Learning

Adventures in Learning has just begun a radio effort with a reach extending from Concord to Killington. The general objective is to make listeners in the area more aware of AIL and its relationship to Colby-Sawyer College. Our more specific objective is to attract new members and new study leaders.

The effort began with airings on November 16 and November 30, both on the "Morning Lift-Off" show carried on WNTK New London and WUVR Lebanon. Dick Cogswell and Art Rosen joined co-hosts George Russell and Monique Coppola for a lively session. The introductions covered the Colby-Sawyer College/Adventures in Learning connection and AIL's growth over the past few years. The focus of both sessions was on the registration period for the winter semester. Courses and study leaders were noted, and listeners were invited to call AIL's number for catalogs and



George Russell, co-host of WNTK's "Morning Lift-Off" show, interviews Dick Cogswell (center) and Art Rosen (right)

information about membership.

The radio effort will continue with regular visits on "Twin States Journal," an interview program carried on both WNTK and WUVR. Appearances are being scheduled during the weeks before our course catalogs are mailed out. The objective is to preview each semester's offerings and invite listeners to register for their choice of courses.

The first airing on "Twin States Journal" will be Thursday, Febru-

ary 2, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Janine Weins will host the show. Dick Cogswell, Julien LeBourgeois and Art Rosen are scheduled to appear. We thank Koor Communications for this opportunity, and we invite everyone to tune in to "Twin States Journal" on WNTK FM 99.7 New London, WUVR AM 1490 Lebanon, or on the Internet, www.WNTK.com through Real Audio Streaming.

- Art Rosen -

Calendar of Upcoming Events Open to the Public

AIL APPEARS ON
"TWIN STATES JOURNAL"
Thursday, February 2
at 6 p.m.
WNTK and WUVR Radio

POETRY IN THE AFTERNOON
Thursday, March 2
at 4:30 p.m.
Cleveland Colby
Colgate Archives
Colby-Sawyer College Library

"THE ZOO STORY" and
"THE AMERICAN DREAM"
TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS
by EDWARD ALBEE
Colby-Sawyer College
Theater Production
Friday, March 3
at 8 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

DEIDRE McCALLA
PERFORMANCE
An eclectic blend of folk,
rock, country and pop music
Wednesday, March 29 at 8 p.m.
Wheeler Hall,
Ware Campus Center

EXPRESSIONS OF DANCE
Dance Club Performance
Thursday, March 30 at 8 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

SUSAN COLBY COLGATE
SCHOLAR'S SYMPOSIUM
Wednesday, April 26
from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Various campus locations

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING
7th ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 4-6 p.m.
Wheeler Hall,
Ware Campus Center

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

FAST FACTS

Spring 2006 Catalog

If production plans proceed on schedule, the spring 2006 catalog should be mailed during the week of February 6. At that time, the catalog will also be published on-line at www.colby-sawyer.edu. Registration forms may be downloaded, completed, and delivered to the Adventures in Learning Office.

Office Closed

Please note that the AIL Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, for winter recess; Monday March 13 for spring recess, and Monday, May 15 for a commencement recess.

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. Please watch out for the step up as you enter the hall. The office will be on your left.

Fall Trip Policy

Due to overwhelming popularity, future fall trips will be limited to AIL members. Guests will be allowed if seats are still available at the end of the sign-up period

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SAVE THE DATE!!

FOR

Adventures in Learning's
7th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2006 • 4-6 p.m.
Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center
Colby-Sawyer College

BUSINESS MEETING HELD FROM 4 TO 5 PM

FOLLOWED BY HORS D'OEUVRES AND WINE FROM 5 TO 6 PM