

# Horizons

Fall 2010

## *Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College*

### The Singing Revolution: *The Reemergence of Estonia as a Free and Independent Nation*

What's it like to look on the world map and see that your country, the place of your birth, no longer exists? Your homeland, a formerly free and independent nation, is now colored in with the same color as its large neighboring country. You watch your country become a non-nation—soon to be forgotten, along with your mother tongue and your cultural traditions.

And then, 50 years later, you watch the map colors change once again, this time identifying your native land as a free and independent country! This miracle has been very real for the three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

*Continued on page 5*

### David Pook— Objectively Speaking

Any discussion with David Pook ultimately leads to one of two subjects: philosophy or education. That's not surprising. His Ph.D. is in philosophy (it's Dr. Pook) and his career is teaching and educational consulting. David has been a frequent lecturer in Adventures in Learning multi-speaker courses and will return this winter to wrap up "The Interwar Years." David's jobs at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., and now at Derryfield in Manchester are the part of his resume familiar to AIL members. But the consulting side is what should catch our attention.

For many years David has been collaborating on creating English and history curriculums for public and charter schools in locations from Washington D.C. to Seattle, Wash. He's also worked extensively on the creation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative for English Language Arts, an effort that will play an important role in the Obama administration's Race to the Top program. Asked about these projects and his ideas on solving America's K-12 education problems, David says teachers and schools can benefit from



*David Pook*

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Adventures in Learning *Horizons*, published twice annually, 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

*for  
Adventures in Learning's*

**Thursday's Child  
Dinner**

*at the New London Inn*

**Thursday,  
October 28, 2010.**

## Adventures in Learning is Going Abroad!

**W**e are pleased to announce that Randy Hanson, chair of the Social Sciences and Education Department at Colby-Sawyer College, will lead a nine-day study/travel trip to Mexico in the spring of 2011. This exciting new opportunity will be open exclusively to AIL members.

In addition, Professor Hanson will present a four-week mini-course, "The Mexico We Do Not Read About in the Headlines," in the winter 2011 term. The course is designed for those planning to take part in the trip, though not a requirement, as well as those who are interested in Mexican and Latin American culture.

Randy is well qualified to lead this fascinating excursion. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in modern Mexican history, has visited Mexico annually since 1987 and lived there for a total of seven years. As the title of his winter course indicates, Mexico is much



Professor Randy Hanson enjoying a previous trip to Mexico.

**SAVE THE DATE**

*for the*

Adventures in Learning

**Mexico Trip**

June 3–12, 2011.

*Details coming soon!*

more interesting and complicated than the failed state and land of impoverished peasants and drug lords we read or hear about in the U.S. media.

The trip will be from June 3 to June 12, 2011, and will be open to a maximum of 24 participants. Travel arrangements are being made through Compass Travel in New London.



### *In Memoriam:* **John Callahan**

**A**dventures in Learning has lost a dedicated supporter and visionary leader. John Callahan passed away on May 23, 2010, after a long illness. Despite declining health, John continued as a productive

member of the Board and the Long Range Planning Committee to within a few weeks of his death.

John served as the third President of AIL. During his term of office in 2005 the program underwent a rigorous self-evaluation, setting AIL on the successful path it now follows. Synthesizing the reports of individual Board members, John created a concise and comprehensive Planning Report for presentation to then Colby-Sawyer President Anne Ponder.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Yale

University School of Drama, John enjoyed an extensive career in academia and the arts. He held senior administrative positions at the University of Chicago and Amherst, as well as at Winterthur Museum and the American Philosophical Society. After settling in New London with his wife, Ginny, John not only was an active AIL member but also served as vice chair of the Board at New London Hospital during its recent successful building campaign. Among his avocations throughout his life was the writing of plays and poetry.

At heart John was a mentor. "How can I help you?" was a question he characteristically asked in professional as well as personal situations; then, after listening closely to the response, he went about providing that help. Although we will miss John's generosity of spirit, his intelligence, understated humor, and depth of experience, we will continue to be served by his rich legacy of leadership.

### David Pook—Objectively Speaking *(continued from page 1)*

curriculum and standards that offer creative solutions and guidance. Schools of education train and assist teachers in “internalizing” the knowledge and skills contained in these materials. David compares our educators to doctors, whose performance is guided by, and should be measured by, professional standards and practices.

That leads us back to his own career. The son of a toy inventor, David led a peripatetic childhood, relocating frequently as his father’s job took him around the country. He earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy at Indiana University, married Elizabeth in 2000 and began a ten year teaching stint at St Paul’s. Last year David moved to Derryfield’s History and English Department and is in the process of developing a humanities curriculum around the concept of “Ideas of the West, from the Iliad to 9/11.” He believes humanities are the key to the formation of values that constitute a healthy society.

David wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the objectivity of values, arguing that regardless of surface differences in mores, all cultures promote truth-telling, trust, even care of the young. Without these values undergirding society, cultures would literally fall apart in the pursuit of selfish ends. David’s philosophical pursuits recently intersected with the personal when he and Elizabeth welcomed their first child, Beatrice, born two months early. They were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from friends and family, as well as from the doctors and nurses at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center who cared for their newborn in the neo-natal ICU. Beatrice is doing well, and David promises an update on her progress in March.

ALL is fortunate to have someone of David’s background, interests and youthful enthusiasm participating in our multi-speaker lecture series.

What keeps David coming back? Observing that teaching teenagers is stimulating and fulfilling, he nevertheless says, “As I get older, they seem to get younger.” He appreciates interacting with groups more experienced and widely read, adding that it’s refreshing to have an audience that knows the term “evil empire” originated with President Ronald Reagan and does not refer to the New York Yankees.

~Sheldon Boege

## Adventures in Learning Events

### Annual Meeting

*From left: Quartet members Mary MacMillin, Rebekka Almond, Jean Wallace and Donna Denniston prepare to play Mozart Quartet in D, Kochel Nr. 285 at the celebratory concert that concluded Adventures in Learning’s May 20 Annual Meeting.*

## Winter 2011 Course Offerings

- **Ellis Island—Gateway to the American Dream** Joanna Henderson—*a minicourse*
- **Thinking about Change: Oneself or the Whole World** Thomas Graves
- **The Reformation: A Historical Survey** Joseph Kun
- **The Interwar Years** Sheldon Boege—*a lecture series*
- **Classic Science Fiction Revisited** Les Norman
- **The Hudson River School** Ellen Robertson—*a minicourse*
- **The Mexico We Do Not Read About in the Headlines** Randy Hanson—*a minicourse*
- **Bach’s Passions: Parochial and Contingent or Timeless and Universal?** David Almond
- **A Brush with History: America’s History Through the Eyes of the American Artist** Michael Moss
- **Exploring Your Genealogy with Internet Resources** Barbara Chalmers—*a minicourse*
- **Places, Please, for the First Read Thru!** Derek Hunt
- **The Singing Revolution: The Evolution of Independent Estonia** Arne Vesilind
- **Exploration and Production of Oil and Natural Gas** Robert Mack



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

## Young Artists from Opera North



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

Adam Richardson, Charles Owen and Kenny Stavert perform a scene from Benjamin Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia" during the wonderful July 31 benefit concert "Gala Evening with Opera North" at Colby-Sawyer College.

## Profile: New Board Members

The Adventures in Learning Board of Directors is as diverse as the courses the program offers each semester. In 2010, the Board welcomes four new members who bring both an understanding of the organization and a breadth of experience from their professional lives.

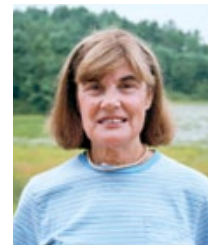
**Joanna Henderson** is passionate about teaching adult education; she's been teaching with AIL, the Learning Institute at NEC (LINEC) and UNH's Granite State College. She comes to the Board of AIL as chair of the Curriculum Committee, having previously served on that committee. Joanna is the former dean of admissions at Colby-Sawyer College and has taught in the Business Departments at Colby-Sawyer, Babson and Wheaton Colleges. In retrospect she says she wishes she had majored in American Studies, which is where her interests lie now. She holds degrees from the University of Vermont, Dartmouth College, and UMass/Amherst, and presently lives in Hopkinton, N.H.

**Joyce Kellogg** is a familiar name to those who have been around AIL for a bit; she recently retired as program assistant. She came to that position with extensive administrative support experience in the executive and marketing areas in both academic settings and high-tech corporations. She is a graduate of Merrimack College, lives in Wilnot with her husband, Charles, and looks forward to sharing her skills and knowledge as Board secretary.

**Gene Lariviere** retired to Grantham after practicing pediatrics in Manchester for 35 years. He wanted his retirement to be as stimulating and active as his practice had been and was drawn to AIL programs "because they keep one attached to the world." Gene has both taken and led courses with AIL and has an enthusiasm for education that is infectious and, he hopes, stimulates his students to the kind of focused academic research that he puts into all his courses. A New Hampshire native and military veteran, he holds degrees from Holy Cross, Dartmouth College and the University of Rochester.

**Tom Stark**, who is a graduate of Northeastern University and Harvard Business School, assumes the Treasurer's seat on the AIL Board. He has more than 40 years experience in industry as a CEO and investment advisor internationally, and as a faculty member in finance and operations, having recently retired from Colby-Sawyer College. He and his wife, Sandy, live in New London. He has volunteered with many area organizations, is an avid skier and enjoys spending time watching 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren grow.

~Maggie Ford



Joanna Henderson

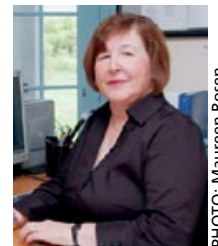


PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

Joyce Kellogg



Gene Lariviere



Tom Stark

## *The Singing Revolution* (continued from page 1)

In 1944, as the Russian Red Army was pouring into Estonia following the imminent defeat of Hitler's Germany, nearly a fifth of the entire population, knowing what awaited them if Estonia again fell under Russian control, fled to nearby countries seeking safety. I was among those refugees, along with my mother, father and little brother. We first boarded a German mine sweeper headed from Tallinn to Danzig and on to Czechoslovakia. From there we walked through Germany during the last days of the war, ending up in a displaced persons camp. In 1949, we emigrated to the United States.

From these safe shores we watched with sadness as the national identity of Estonia was methodically destroyed by a program of Russification. The language, culture, religion and all national symbols were suppressed. Estonia ceased to exist as a free country, enduring 50 years of slavery and deprivation.

And then a miracle! Mikhail Gorbachev, the premier of the USSR, recognized that his country was an economic disaster and set on a course of openness and limited freedom. When the notorious hard-liner coup failed and Boris Yeltsin dissolved the USSR, the three Baltic countries realized that once again the turmoil in Russia might allow them to declare independence. This had to be done very delicately, of course, given the size of Russia and Estonia's lack of an independent army. How then to get the message to Russia to please go home?

The answer came, almost by accident, in the powerful force of song. One summer evening in 1989 a group of independence advocates decided to march from the center of Tallinn to the national singing grounds, five miles away. By the time the impromptu parade reached



*Estonian refugees board a German ship during evacuation ahead of the advancing Russian army in 1944.*

the singing grounds, it had grown to 100,000 people. They sang the old national songs they remembered from the free time, songs that had been secretly kept alive. When someone unfurled a blue/black/white national flag, long suppressed, it electrified and emboldened the crowd and soon the whole place was awash with the national colors, flags that had been hidden from the secret police for two generations. The next evening over 200,000 singers came to the singing grounds, and the third night saw over 300,000 packed into the stadium, about a fourth of all Estonians in the world! The Russians realized they were no longer in control and from then on it was just a formality for the elected parliament to unanimously declare Estonia once again to be an independent state. Estonia was back on the map, without a single shot being fired. The "Singing Revolution" had succeeded.

But gaining independence and creating a functioning country from scratch are two very different things. The process was difficult and painful, but now, 20 years later, Estonia has a stable parliamentary democracy, enjoys a standard of living equal to other Scandinavian countries and is a model for economic development. What national traits or characteristics made this possible? And why are some other former Soviet states, most notably Russia, languishing in economic doldrums and suffering under dictatorial governments?

Somehow, the Estonians were able to pull their miracle off, and they are now rightly proud of what they have achieved. The symbol of Estonian independence is Tall Hermann, the tallest medieval tower in the Old Town in Tallinn, and now the blue/black/white flag once again flies from this tower. Estonia is back on the map!

~P. Aarne Vesilind

*Aarne will discuss The Singing Revolution and his personal experiences in a six-week course in the winter 2011 term.*



*Please note that Adventures in Learning's administrative office will be closed on these dates:*

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Fall 2010

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## AIL's New Program Assistant

Marianne Harrison has joined the AIL administrative office. A Westfield, New Jersey native, Marianne and her husband, David, lived in Westport, Conn. and Sarasota, Fla. before settling in New London five years ago. Looking for a place close to their grandchildren, they drove through New London and that was that! She told David, "I don't know about you, but I think I found home."



Marianne Harrison

Marianne has taught physical education in Westport, managed the M.B.A. and Masters in Criminology programs at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, and worked in the office of Sheerr & White Residential Architecture, Inc. in New London. She serves AIL in a support role, and among her responsibilities is the maintenance of the AIL website. She looks forward to assisting members in their lifelong educational experience.

Marianne is an avid cyclist, is in the bell choir at the New London First Baptist Church, volunteers for the Chargers Club at the college and sits on the Board for the Kearsarge Chorale. The Harrisons have two sons, and the entire family enjoys golfing together.

Be sure to stop by the office and say hi to Marianne.

~Heidi Beckwith

## Farewell to the Cogswells

Adventures in Learning will lose two long-time members and supporters when Dick and Nancy Cogswell move to Portland, Oregon, in mid-September. Dick has been "Mr. Everything" at AIL: 4th president, Board member, treasurer, member of the Curriculum and Long Range Planning Committees, facilities coordinator and study group leader. And somehow he found time to take numerous courses as well! Nancy, too, has been a devoted supporter and not far behind Dick in course participation. We thank the Cogswells for all they have done to make AIL a success, and we wish them the best as they set off on new adventures in Portland. Oregon's gain is New Hampshire's loss.