

Adventures in Learning

Summer
2018

Horizons

Learning Later, Living Greater

AIL's First 20 Years: A Retrospective

1998 - The People Who Made it Happen: Twenty years ago, a visionary group of individuals in our community approached Colby-Sawyer College with the idea of starting a lifelong learning organization in the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region. Priscilla Ohler recounted the story in the fall 2000 issue of *Update*, AIL's newsletter at the time:

"Several people in our communities felt that we could have an ILEAD-like group here in the area surrounded by our mountains, Kearsarge and Sunapee. Under the guidance of Hilary Cleveland, Sue and Dick Eaton, Charles Carey and Julien LeBourgeois, a core organizing committee was formed. They in turn recruited Mary and Allan Doyle, Deniza and Dick Martin, Jean and Peter McKee, Carolyn and Dick Sweetland, Bob and Susie Gray, Sheila Henry and Priscilla LeBourgeois. The idea was proposed to Colby-Sawyer College President Anne Ponder, who sought and received the support of the Colby-Sawyer College Board of Trustees. We are grateful to all of them for their commitment to this good cause..."

Early Years: Adventures in Learning's first catalog came out in the fall of 1998. Simple and stapled together as three pieces of paper,

it introduced the newly established program to the public and publicized the inaugural five course offerings by study group leaders Hilary Cleveland, George Tracy, Judy Bohn, Bob Weiss and Deniza Martin. Members signed up for courses by filling out and mailing in a tear-off application to our first program administrator Sharon Ames. Classes were held in just two locales, the Archives Room at the college and the Meeting Room at Tracy Memorial Library. During the next two years, the AIL program was run by an organizing committee and AIL's membership rapidly grew to over 200 members. The first newsletter, *Adventures in Learning News*, appeared in the spring of 2000. It promoted six courses and the upcoming first annual meeting on May 18

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A group of Adventures in Learning founders. (Photo from 2008)

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

AIL and Colby-Sawyer Strengthen Partnership

Adventures in Learning (AIL) and Colby-Sawyer College have been collaborating as partners for 19 years. Underpinning this partnership is a legal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which sets forth their working relationship. It was originally drafted and adopted by both organizations in 2000, signed by the Presidents of Colby-Sawyer and Adventures In Learning, and approved by the Board of Directors of both organizations.

It has been updated twice since then to incorporate changing circumstances. The most recent update took place earlier this year and was signed by Susan D. Stuebner, president of Colby-Sawyer College and John Ferries, president of AIL. The current MOU version states clearly that the Colby-Sawyer College/AIL relationship is thriving and both parties will continue to create fresh opportunities to enhance the work of the other (thus deepening the partnership). President Stuebner said “Colby Sawyer is proud to be a partner with Adventures in Learning for 20 years. What began as an idea by Professor Emerita Hillary Cleveland for engaging the talented New London community in life-long learning has evolved into a robust array of courses and lectures. The AIL course leaders and participants are excellent role models for all of us at Colby Sawyer about the importance of intellectual engagement and community involvement. We look forward to welcoming and hosting AIL participants for years to come.”

It also confirms that AIL is a program functioning under the auspices of and in accord with the mission and policies of Colby-Sawyer College. AIL reports to the VP-Advancement of Colby-Sawyer College, but operates under its own Board of Directors.

Colby-Sawyer and AIL share complementary missions. The Colby-Sawyer mission states “... offering undergraduate and graduate educational programs based in the liberal arts and sciences and designed to prepare students for their professions and *lives of ongoing learning*.” The AIL mission states “...provide *lifelong learning experiences* for adults with an interest in the world of ideas and who wish to continue their intellectual growth.”

In 2016 Colby-Sawyer College named the state-



AIL President John Ferries and Colby-Sawyer President Sue Stuebner sign the new MOU.

Photo by Joan Eaton

of-the-art classroom in Lethbridge Lodge in honor of AIL in recognition of the \$42,000 in pledges by individual AIL members to the new Colby-Sawyer College art building campaign. This classroom is being used as the dedicated AIL classroom on campus for its classes and special programs. These agreements are incorporated in the current MOU.

There are many areas of close collaboration (and a mutually beneficial partnership) of AIL and Colby-Sawyer College:

- AIL and Colby-Sawyer College share the compensation cost of the AIL Program Director. The AIL office is housed in the Homestead building on the Colby-Sawyer College campus.
- Starting this fall, a Colby-Sawyer College student will be assigned to work at AIL up to 20 hours per week. AIL also offers Colby-Sawyer College student internship opportunities at AIL each term.
- AIL contributes toward a scholarship for a Colby-Sawyer College student each year; and makes a significant donation to the Colby-Sawyer College Annual Fund each year.
- A Colby-Sawyer College faculty member is on the AIL Board and the Colby-Sawyer College VP-Advancement is an ex-officio member of the AIL Board and attends all AIL Board meetings.
- Colby-Sawyer College offers special faculty lectures, private art exhibit tours and events, and other activities to AIL members, and it will be arranging for AIL members to audit selected Colby-Sawyer College courses.
- All AIL classes are open to Colby-Sawyer

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AIL Annual Meeting

It was wonderful to see one of the largest audiences ever for this year's Annual Meeting. The meeting began with a beautiful photo retrospective of the year by Joan Eaton of the Public Relations Committee.



David Cleveland delivered a very entertaining talk on "Everything Hilary," a tribute to his mother, Hilary Cleveland. Hilary is one of the founding members of AIL and a long time Study Group Leader. The talk ranged from the early years here in New London as Hilary raised her five children, to how she came to teach and many hilarious anecdotes that kept the audience in stitches! After the talk attendees had the opportunity to mingle with friends and enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine.



Vice-President Mary Doyle then conducted the annual business meeting. Study group leaders for 2017-2018 were acknowledged as well as Colby-Sawyer College Professor of Humanities Randy Hanson and John Roberts, who became Distinguished Study Group Leaders this year. Members were introduced to Alexandra Harris '18, AIL Achievement Award recipient, who graciously thanked the attendees for the generous scholarship that she received. Then Mary introduced the new Vice President for College Advancement of Colby-Sawyer College, Dan Parrish, who received AIL's donation of \$15,000 to the Colby-Sawyer Annual Fund and thanked AIL for its generosity and partnership. Members also learned about the newly signed Memo of Understanding between AIL and Colby-Sawyer College, and then voted on the new upcoming Board members.



Why Adult Education?

It would surprise no one to hear that the American population is aging; it isn't aging as fast as Western Europe and many East Asian countries, including China, but we are getting older on average. Further, life expectancy for people age 60 has increased over 40% since 1950, going from 16 years to over 23.

In 2008 there were over 35 million Americans over the age of 65 and by 2018 that number increased to almost 50 million. The growth in this cohort has spawned thousands of educational outlets for seniors, most associated with colleges and universities, some independent. The big increase in post-career education addressing avocational learning rather than vocational training has been especially significant.

New Hampshire is an ideal place for an organization like Adventures in Learning. Our state exceeds the national percentage of people over 65, is ranked fourth best in seniors below the poverty line, and is ranked seventh in median household income in the country (almost 25% above the country median). New Hampshire is also among the best educated states, ranking sixth in the US in percentage of residents with Bachelor's degrees or higher (35%). In the Lake Sunapee Region over 20% of the population are over 60, higher than the state figure, with nearly 40% of adults with college degrees or higher. On top of this, New Hampshire is among the ten healthiest states in the country. With this demographic we have an ideal opportunity to offer intellectual stimulation in a social atmosphere.

But what is so unique about adult education in general and AIL in particular? Leaving aside vocational training, nearly all post-career adult learners have the following in common, according to education scholars:

- * Adults are independent learners – they like to direct their own acquisition of knowledge. Many AIL classes encourage participants to prepare reports on subjects particular to their interests, for example on the Arabian horse in a class on Saudi Arabia or about the French economy during the Napoleonic era. Poetry reading and composition, ancient Sufi dancing and field trips to see the work of local artists or sculptors are other examples of participant activities.

- * Adults have a large reservoir of experience

to draw from and build upon. During a course on WW II over a dozen veterans recounted their experiences during that conflict.

- * Adult learning is related to social needs. That is, it has to be relevant to one's own social milieu. Many of our members have formed new friendships and renewed old ones in our classes and some of our participants have become study group leaders who find an audience that shares their particular hobby or intellectual curiosity.

- * Adult learning is problem centered. There is usually an immediate application of knowledge. In AIL, for example, the courses we choose fit in with our individual natural intellectual inquiries – our hobbies, our questioning about our physical world, or simply our perceived gaps in prior educational experience.

- * Adult learners are motivated by internal, not external, factors. This is why AIL has its participants rate the courses – we want to know the interests of our membership and how our classes are serving them. The board and curriculum committee make sure our members' voices are heard and that our courses match as closely as possible their expectations.

Our study group leaders are usually accomplished professionals in fields unrelated to the courses they lead, but they can also be nationally known in the areas in which they instruct. For example, one of the foremost experts on Ernest Hemingway gave a course on the American author in 2016. Another study group leader was instrumental in developing the reactor used in the Nautilus submarine; his course was on atomic energy and its peaceful uses. From a Belgian refugee teaching Japanese culture, a retired Vice Admiral and veteran of the Battle of Leyte Gulf giving courses on French history, to a bed and breakfast owner lecturing us on women spies in the Middle East, AIL welcomes study group leaders of all backgrounds and interests while enriching the lives of its members and its communities.

What started out with an idea from a small group of enthusiasts who saw a community need has turned into an organization offering its members numerous activities and occasions to learn and share experiences with friends and new acquaintances. It is a great way to be involved, to learn, and to get to know your community.

~ Sheldon Boege

AIL's First 20 Years: A Retrospective

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in Wheeler Hall, highlighted by Colby-Sawyer President Anne Ponder's keynote address, the adoption of bylaws and the election of a Board of Directors. By the fall of the same year, the newsletter was transformed once again, now renamed *Update*. In 2008 the first issue of our current newsletter, *Horizons*, was published. *Horizons* went digital in 2011, reverting back to print format in 2017.

AIL Introduces the Lecture Series: Adventures in Learning is one of the few lifelong learning organizations in the country to offer thematic lecture series. Who thought of the idea and when did AIL start offering its members the opportunity to learn about a subject from a variety of presenters? Ben Acard, a member of the Curriculum Committee in 2002, suggested that AIL offer an alternative to the more participative discussion groups led by a single leader which, up to that time, had been the cornerstone of our course offerings. Instead, Ben proposed a multi-speaker lecture course, "The Lively Arts," and then went out and found study leaders to give a single lecture on one aspect of the main theme. This new way of presenting a subject hit a home run, drawing more than 70 members to the course. "Ben chose eight variations that allowed the 'soloists' a wide range over which to

display their virtuosity...they took us from theatre to museum, from concert hall to studio, from 'out front' to behind the scenes. Participants were introduced to Leopold Stokowski, Mary Cassatt, Maxfield Parrish, Placido Domingo, Strega Nona and Macbeth." (*Update*, Spring 2003).

Reaching Out to the Community: Over the years, AIL has continued to evolve and now provides lifelong learning opportunities for the community at large as well as our members. A summer semester open to non-members, was introduced in 2008 followed by monthly lectures for residents at Woodcrest Village in 2012, **Lunch & Learn** in 2015, and **Science Pub** in 2016.

AIL Today: We have come a long way, from a small organizing committee and pool of study leaders offering five courses in 1998 to a full cadre of study leaders leading over 40 courses annually for a robust membership of 450 today. With the support of and close partnership with Colby-Sawyer College we will continue to evolve and remain committed to our mission of providing a vibrant lifelong learning experience for adults for many more years to come. *Learning Later, Living Greater!*

~ Betsy Boege



Progress by the Numbers

After our first year (1998-99) membership was 212 and we had 294 registrations in 15 courses (five for each term; there was no summer program). Over the next ten years, growth was pretty steady and by the end of fiscal 2009 AIL had 460 members who accounted for 856 course registrations and 35 courses (summer term was implemented that same year). Revenue had nearly tripled from 1999.

Since 2009, the numbers have remained very steady. In 2018 we offered 36 courses and had in excess of 970 registrations from 425 members, and that doesn't include the many participants in Science Pub, Lunch & Learn, our monthly Woodcrest lectures, several art exhibits, and other special events.

AIL and Colby-Sawyer Strengthen Partnership

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College students and faculty at no fee. Some Colby-Sawyer College student teams have presented their capstone projects to AIL members.

- The Colby-Sawyer College Finance Department handles and processes all the financial transactions of AIL and its members.

"Our growing partnership with Colby-Sawyer College ensures a dynamic future for AIL," said John

Ferries, "I hope that it will also mean more members of our community will be able to interact with Colby-Sawyer College and appreciate the amazing educational initiatives they are undertaking." As AIL celebrates 20 years of lifelong learning experiences for adults, the organization also looks to the future and continued success and a strong partnership with Colby-Sawyer College.

Over the Years.....



Members of Derek Hunt's winter 2011 course, "Places Please for the First Read Through!"

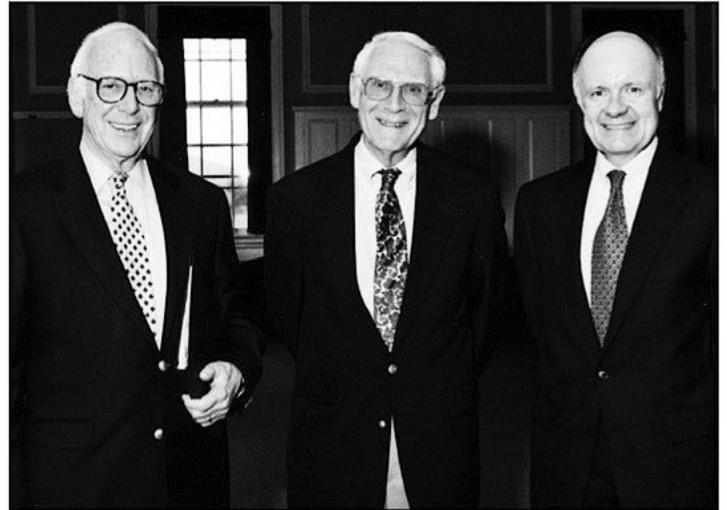


Pictured from left are: Bob Gray, Julien LeBourgeois, Morris Edwards, Herb Spencer, Priscilla LeBourgeois, Peter Machen and Susie Gray.





Sharon Ames (left) passes her ALL responsibilities to the capable Kathy Carroll.



From left to right: Phil Jordan, Dick Cogswell and Tom Galligan at the Annual Meeting



A group of Adventures in Learning supporters. From left: Julie Machen, Sue Wood, Bryan Jones, Katrina Wagner, Peter Machen and Bill Wagner. Not pictured: Cindy Jones.



Thank You 2005-2006 Study Group Leaders for Another Successful Year!
Seated from left: Julie Machen, Natalie Davis, Judy Bohn, Hilary Cleveland, Julie Boardman and Anne Carey
Standing from left: Ben Acard, George Tracy, Chuck Kennedy, Dick Little, Charlotte Spencer, Joe Kim, Dick Pearson, Charlotte Brook-Signor, Jim Moore, Art Rosen, Lee VanBremen, Doug Marshall and Bill Tighe



20 Years of Study Group Leaders – Thank You!

During the fall of 1998 the inaugural five courses were taught by these inspiring study group leaders: Hilary Cleveland, George Tracy, Judy Bohn, Bob Weiss, and Deniza Martin. This was the beginning of a wonderful tradition of volunteer Study Group Leaders (SGLs) sharing their knowledge and passion with ALL members.

Over the 20 years there have been 330 different SGLs who have taught at least one course. And perhaps more impressive, nearly half of them (150) have come back

to teach at least one additional course which perhaps is an indication of how much joy and satisfaction SGLs receive from leading a course. We thank all of these SGLs for their dedication, knowledge, and passion. They are the driving force which makes AIL so successful.

Once you have been a Study Group Leader for ten courses, you are honored at the annual meeting with a golden name tag. Since 1998 when AIL began, twenty one people have been given these name tags. Congratulations to all of these dedicated SGLs:

Ben Acard
Sheldon Boege
Jim Bowditch *
Hilary Cleveland
Morris Edwards
John Ferries
Tom Galligan
* *Deceased*

Randy Hanson
Joanna Henderson
Chuck Kennedy
Joe Kun *
Gene Lariviere
Julien LeBourgeois *
Julie Machen

Mike Moss
Les Norman
Dick Pearson *
John Roberts
Art Rosen
Bill Sullivan
Bill Tighe



At the top of the list for most courses by a study group leader is Chuck Kennedy with 30. Next in line: Art Rosen (24), Joanna Henderson (23), Jim Bowditch (23), and Morris Edwards (21).

Additionally Maureen Rosen and Betsy Boege were given golden name tags recently for their extraordinary contributions to AIL over many years.

This photo collage shows a sampling of these name tags. Because the recipients of the “golds” don’t wear them to classes they teach or take, they are only seen

once a year at the annual meeting. Look for them at next year’s annual meeting and thank these people for their great work as SGLs!

Share Your Passion – Become An Adventures in Learning Study Group Leader!

Consider volunteering to lead an AIL course and share your knowledge and passion with others. Not only is the experience very rewarding, you also have the chance to ‘learn while leading.’ To volunteer please contact the AIL office at (603) 526-3690. Thank you.

Fall 2018 Courses - Fall Catalog is out!

- **Poetry for the Ages- A Primer for Psalms** - Rosa Lee Richards
- **The Legacy of Stuart England for the North American Colonies** - Kent Hackmann
- **The Environment in a Nutshell** - Neil Shifrin
- **Autumn in New Hampshire** - Fran Wilson
- **Mega-volcanoes, Environmental Shocks and Civilization** - Scott Rappeport
- **Faces of Faith** - Art Rosen, Dick Dutton, Katrina Wagner
- **New London Hospital: 100 Years of Community Health** - Karen Zurheide
- **John Gilbert Winant: Forgotten Giant** - Richard Hesse
- **Women Who Changed The Course of History II, A Lecture Series** - John Ferries, Joanna Henderson, David Wood, Brenda Watts, David Bashaw
- **Here I Stand: Martin Luther and the Reformation** - Sarah Reeves
- **1968: THAT Was the Year That WAS – 50 Years Later** - Gene Lariviere
- **Remembering the Holocaust: Memory Foundation and Genocide Prevention** - Tom White
- **The Normal Aging Process: What to Expect and How to Slow it Down!** - Don Catino

AIL Science Pub

Science and its related fields have an enormous impact on our lives and our future. Open to the public and held in a social setting, Science Pub has proved to be very popular. Please join us this fall at Galligan's Pub in Lethbridge Lodge on campus... another way to continue learning with AIL!

September 13 / *Is It Safe?* / Neil Shifrin, Ph.D., Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Environmental quality directly impacts our health and wellness. Our water, food, air, chemical products in our homes and local landfill all play a role. What regulations protect us? How do environmental scientists evaluate risk?

October 11 / *Why Are Extreme Storms Increasing in New England?* / Erich Osterberg, Ph.D. Geology and Earth Science, University of Maine

How does weather and glaciers respond to natural and human-caused climate change over time? And how do they influence the storms we experience in our region?

Each "Science Pub" will include a brief presentation at 6:00 p.m., followed by an informal Q & A session with presenters and participants alike. Food and drink are available for purchase. Reservations, on a first-come-first-served basis, are required and can be made by contacting the AIL Event Registration Line, (603) 526-3434.

Did You Know?

The Adventures in Learning logo was developed by Maureen Rosen in 2008. This was during the 10 year anniversary of AIL. Maureen discussed the logo in the fall 2008 issue of Horizons:

"I was a part of the Public Relations Committee when the decision was made to have our own logo. I researched college and school logos first; 90% were in the form of seals, a circle with symbols around them. Mount Kearsarge was a natural choice for our symbol. It's a major landmark in our area, and a mountain is a high place, often symbolizing strength and expanding one's horizons, the raison d'être of lifelong learning."

Thank you to Maureen for her many contributions to AIL, including our wonderful logo.



New Study Group Leaders



Rosa Lee Richards



Neil Shifrin



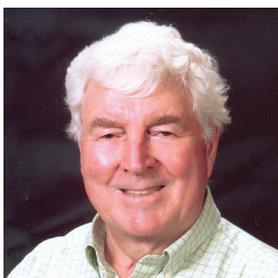
Scott Rappeport

Rosa earned an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College, J.D. from the University of Texas, and Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge Pennsylvania. During her time at Trinity, the study of the Hebrew Bible was the source of a master's theses for the M.A.R. and S.T.M. degrees, preliminary study towards a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Neil is mostly retired now following a career as an environmental consultant for 47 years. He worked on essentially every kind of environmental issue including some of the most infamous sites: Love Canal, the Hudson River, and the Charles River/Boston Harbor. Neil has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from MIT.

Scott is a retired marine geologist/system engineer. He received his PhD from Stanford University in Earth Sciences and led a varied career in R&D as a scientist/engineer. He worked first with the Pacific Arctic Branch of the United States Geological Survey in Menlo Park CA, then with Exxon Research in Houston, TX, AT&T Bell Laboratories, AT&T Laboratories and most recently General Dynamics in NJ.

New Board Members



(L to R) Morris Edwards, Dick Showalter, and Katrina Wagner are returning or new members to the AIL Board.

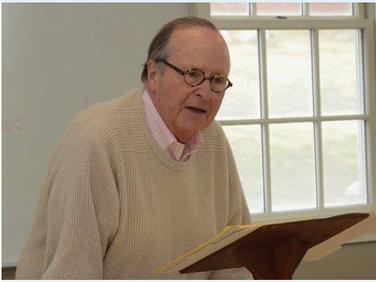
Membership - It is time to sign up for your annual membership

Adventures in Learning (AIL) is a dynamic, lifelong learning organization providing a wide array of courses, activities, social opportunities, and other benefits. We are very fortunate to have this type of adult educational organization in our own 'backyard'. Whether you sign up for a course or not, we hope you will continue to become an annual member to support the long term sustainability of AIL and recognize the many benefits of having AIL as a significant asset to the community.

When you become a member, to supporting this vital organization, you also receive the following benefits:

- Access to all courses offered in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer terms (course fees apply)
- Three free passes to the Hogan Sports Center (\$30 value)
- Invitations to Members Only events or lectures
- Borrowing privileges at the Susan Colgate Cleveland Library (\$35 value)
- Free admission to Lunch & Learn programs (\$10 for non-members per program)

AIL Spring '18 Term



Robert DiClerico questions *The Way we Choose a President*



John Roberts and Joanna Henderson shared leadership of a class on John and Abigail Adams.



Micheline Lizotte and Stephen Seaman sample Japanese delicacies in David Bashaw's class



Richard Hesse was most convincing as Supreme Court Justice John Marshall.



Our fascination with British history continues, under the capable tutelage of Julie Machen.



Students listen attentively as Morris Edwards presents *Turning Points in British History*



Tomie dePaola clownes with members of Mike Moss's Children's Picture Book Class.



Charles Kellogg discusses the status of our oceans.



Sean Ahearn explains ice hockey in the contemporary Cold War; a part of the Anniversary Lecture Series.

Photos by Joan Eaton

Photo by Deb Rucci



Adventures in Learning
Colby Homestead
541 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

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.

Board of Directors

John Ferries, president
Mary Doyle, vice-president
Michael Moss, secretary
Harry Tether, treasurer

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David Bashaw
Betsy Boege
Morris Edwards
Randy Hanson
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Joan Eaton
Joanna Henderson

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AIL Member Opportunity! Save the Dates!

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

4 p.m. Clements Hall, Ivey Science Center, CSC

"Mexico's Donald Trump?"

CSC Associate Professor Randy Hanson will examine Mexico's president-elect, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

4 p.m. Clements Hall, Ivey Science Center, CSC

"Interpreting the 2018 midterm elections"

CSC Associate Professor Eric Boyer will decipher and distill the results of the 2018 midterm election results.

Call the AIL Event Registration Line
at 603-526-2424 to sign-up for these
member-only events!