



## Profile: Chuck Kennedy

Most Adventures in Learning study leaders bring a strong academic background and interesting life experiences to their course preparation—and they love to teach. Chuck Kennedy is no exception. He has traveled and studied widely, giving depth to his subject matter. He has led eight courses, ranging from a study on Islam to (of all things!) Gilbert and Sullivan and vaudeville, and has participated in four lecture series. Chuck has also taught a minicourse, mostly centered on the Middle East, at six Colby-Sawyer reunions. He is currently leading an Adventures in Learning course on the Sunnis and Shi'as, certainly a topical and sobering subject.



Born on Long Island and raised in Fairfield County, Conn., Chuck did his undergraduate work at Yale, majoring in theater and art history, and earned a Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages and literature. He taught at Austin College in Texas for six years and then moved his family to Cairo, Egypt, where he studied at al-Azhar University and became immersed in Islam. He traveled

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## From Adam to Atom- A Grateful Student's Diary

Every day I read two newspapers, and the news that I take in is every frightening and foreign. Adventures in Learning, Colby-Sawyer's lifelong learning program, offers me and the Lake Sunapee regional community a wonderful opportunity to broaden our perception of the scary new world I read about daily.

Adventures in Learning has certainly helped me in many ways to have a better grasp of global events—whether they be about the Middle East and its religions, topography and tribal differences; the consequences of global warming as well as changes in weather patterns and food and water production; or the rise of fundamentalism in all religions and what the Bible can teach me about it.

Kudos to Art Rosen for starting me on this path of discovery. His "Religions in Collision" course really grabbed me. Learning about the rise of the three Abrahamic religions in the same area in the Middle East and the conflicts that have grown from them throughout history literally opened my eyes to the basics of the troubles in the Middle East today. Sheldon Boege, along with Chuck Kennedy and Bill Sullivan, gave me a deeper understanding of Saudi Arabia and the role of the Saudi family in the history of the Middle East. Gail Sanderson drew me into the lives of Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark and taught me about Iraq (once Mesopotamia); and Joe Davis brought to life Iran, the land of the ancient Persians.

Neither a churchgoer by habit nor a Bible reader, I started to think of my own beliefs. I took a course on Job offered by Sarah Drew Reeves. The intellect gathered around that small table in the Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room was awesome, and learning about the travails of Job was an awakening experience. Then Les Norman's course on Paul expanded my knowledge even more. I learned about Paul and his role in spreading the news of Jesus. I have actually stood on the shore at Myra in Turkey, where Paul came ashore, making it all the more real to me. I had never given much thought to the early days of Christianity. In fact I must say I am thinking about my own beliefs seriously for the first time ever.

Art Rosen comes back into the picture with his course on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the apocalypse. Weekly we got the most recent

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**Profile, from Pg. 1**

and studied in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Europe and India, always increasing his understanding of Asian religion and culture. He says, "A good thing to come out of all this is that I came to know all these people as individuals and human beings. They don't have horns or tails." Returning to the United States, he was a professor of religion at Virginia Tech for 27 years and advisor to its International

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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.

Studies program. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ.

Chuck's other major interest, Gilbert and Sullivan and vaudeville, is reflected in several of his Adventures in Learning courses. He became hooked on this kind of musical theater when he was a boy at Mount Hermon School, and he attributes his love of vaudeville to his Aunt Carolyn who "could play anything that she had heard from Chopin to Gershwin." A song plugger, she played the piano and organ for vaudeville and the silent movies. During World War II she ran a canteen for sailors. "The musical

heritage was definitely in the family, and I inherited those genes," he says. "My musical ear lets me hear languages." Chuck speaks (with varying fluency) Arabic, Chinese, German, French, and Italian, besides reading the Biblical languages.

Chuck's father-in-law had a place on Lake Sunapee in Newbury, N.H., and Chuck and his family came here every summer for years. It was a logical place to retire. The Adventures in Learning program has been a happy outlet for Chuck in his retirement, and he has certainly been a tremendous asset to Adventures in Learning.

~ Heidi Beckwith

**From Adam to Atom-A Grateful  
Student's Diary, from Pg. 1**

report on the "Rapture Index," a prophetic speedometer of end-time activities. This brought to mind the course on the Middle Ages offered by Anne McNamara. We learned that shortly after the Roman Empire was at its height, Europe was plunged into the Dark Ages. Did Rome fall in only 70 years? Why weren't the Roman leaders of the day paying more attention to what was happening on their Eastern flank? Barbarian hordes... militant Islamist Jihadists. Why weren't our leaders today paying more attention to events and discontent on the Middle Eastern flank? Why weren't we more prepared for the terrorism that was unleashed on 9/11?

Daily we hear about global warming. We are convinced when we experience uncommonly hot weather for New Hampshire in July and the winters become milder. But beyond weather how

does global warming affect us, the comfortable retirees in the Upper Valley? Charlie Carey brought to his class a new understanding of water and food resources and how they are changing due to global weather patterns. A hot, starving, drought-ridden Africa and the depletion of the Ogalala aquifer will almost certainly impact our food supply and the lives of my children and grandchildren.

Always, as I sit among my compatriots in classes, I am extraordinarily impressed with the depth of knowledge, experience and sophistication of the people of the Upper Valley. Every term Adventures in Learning comes up with a new catalogue of wonderful courses. This fall I plan to take the course on Russia offered by Bill Helm. What is happening in Russia these days? Is Putin really our ally and friend? I am eager to learn what Bill will bring to this class.

~Sally Southard

## Tenth Anniversary Lecture Series to Explore Nature of Thought

What are we doing when we think? What are the primary modes of thought? How do we think and learn at different stages of life? What have the great thinkers said about knowledge? These are some of the questions Dick Little proposes to explore in a lecture series he has organized for the winter session of Adventures in Learning. The second of three special Tenth Anniversary courses, “The Adventure of Learning: Speculation About Human Knowledge” will be offered as a follow-on to three courses Dick has led over the program’s first decade.

The objectives of his initial course, given 10 years ago and titled “A Mental Fitness Center Workout,” were, as Dick puts it, “to examine the reasons for and consequences of innumeracy” and “to give—especially to people uncomfortable with math—the feeling of the beauty and elegance of mathematics and logic.” Mixing math concepts with a large dollop of humor, the course was well-received and encouraged Dick to follow it up with “Mathematics and the WOW Factor,” focusing on how close observation reveals that mathematical principles are intrinsic to nature. And last winter Dick broadened his inquiry to speculate about physical reality itself in a course called “In Search of Reality,” which examined such issues as the Big Bang theory, the origin of life, intelligent design and quantum mechanics.

This winter’s offering further expands the horizon to tackle philosophy head on. Not only will the scope of “The Adventure of Learning” include the philosophy of religion and science as well the anatomy of the brain and effects of aging on the mind, but the course will be led by a team of speakers with specialist knowledge and experience. Dick will provide an introduction in the first session. Slated to take part in the series are David Pook of St. Paul’s School, ordained minister and clinical psychologist Paul MacVittie, Laura Flashman of Dartmouth Medical School, and professors Willem deVries of the University of New Hampshire and Maurissa Abecassis of Colby-Sawyer, recipient of the 2007 Jack Jensen award for excellence in teaching.

Dick is quick to point out that though the subject matter may sound theoretical, the presentation will be engagingly down-to-earth and practical, designed to be accessible to those “uncomfortable” with philosophy. Indeed he emphasizes that he himself is no philosopher. A Bowdoin math major who did not study philosophy in college, Dick was assigned to the National Security Agency as a code breaker when he joined the service even though he had never seen a computer before. That serendipitous assignment changed his life. He remained in the computer design world throughout his career, eventually

managing and consulting on large-scale engineering projects as well as training project managers.

Conversation with Dick makes clear, however, that the curiosity and passion he first felt for mathematics has ignited each of the succeeding fields he has become interested in. Another constant is his desire to travel this elusive road to knowledge with others. “I’m selfish about this whole thing,” he admits. “Reading just for myself does not drive me. As I study I keep thinking—wouldn’t it be exciting to play this out in a classroom?” He sees himself less as a lecturer than a fellow learner, a facilitator whose goal is “to get people involved in discussion.”

One of Dick’s favorite discoveries is this description of knowledge from Nicholas Capaldi’s 1969 book *Human Knowledge*: “it is highly theoretical yet intensely practical; it is at once a combination of magical delight and cold logical form....Is it any wonder that philosophers have found speculation about knowledge an irresistible attraction?”

And this “Adventure of Learning” course, rich in content and diversity of presenters, promises itself to be an “irresistible attraction.”

~Ann Lang

# A Preview of the Winter 2008 Courses

## Donald Hall: Poet Laureate Neighbor



David Cook

This minicourse will be a dive into Donald Hall's poems, essays and his life with Jane Kenyon using his three recent definitive books—not just a plunge but preparation for revisiting Hall's works in the future.

## American Economic History: The Colonies to Reconstruction



Sheldon Boege

This history of the American economy will center on the causes of economic growth in the country's origins, its constitution, its evolving demography, the geography of the continent and the values of its people.

## The Tale of Genji



Jim Bowditch

Participants will read and discuss part one of *The Tale of Genji*, a story of amorous adventures and misadventures that has inspired visual, literary and dramatic art for a thousand years.

## Rags to Riches IV



Dusty Logan

"Rags to Riches" is the story of decorative textiles from ancient times through the industrial revolution, told in a combination of slide lecture, discussion and hands-on examination.

## Religions of the Book: Scripture Interpretation in Judaism, Christianity and Islam



Jay Bodine

Discussions will focus on the similarities and dissimilarities in the way the scriptures of Judaism (Tanakh), Christianity (Bible) and Islam (Qur'an) are understood and interpreted.

## The Adventure of Learning: Speculation About Human Knowledge A Lecture Series

Moderator: Dick Little

Lectures:

- Introduction and Overview
- How Do You Know You Know?
- The Authority of Science: Its Grounds and Bounds
- "What's it All About, Alfie?"
- Moral Psychology and Moral Knowledge
- The Anatomy of Learning, Thought and Memory
- You've Come a Long Way, Baby!



Dick Little



David Pook



Willem deVries



Paul MacVittie



Adina Roskies



Laura Flashman



Maurissa Abacassis

## Special Tenth Anniversary Course

Adventures in Learning is delighted to offer 12 stimulating courses this term. Most courses begin the week of January 14, and they end by March 7. Be sure to register early as classes may fill quickly. The catalog containing the registration form will be mailed and published on our Web site during the week of October 22.

## Colonialism and the New Imperialism A Lecture Series

Moderator: Joanna Henderson

Lectures:

- Introduction and overview
- Colonialism Comes to the Americas
- "Rule, Britannia! Britannia Rule the Waves"
- The British Indian Empire
- Colonization of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa
- East and West Africa and the New Imperialism
- American Imperialism from 1898 Forward
- The Middle East in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Wrap-up and Summary



Joanna Henderson



Bryan Jones



Julien LeBourgeois



Bill Sullivan



Morris Edwards



Sheldon Boege



Harry Tether

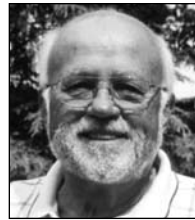


Chuck Kennedy



David Pook

## Free Trade, Protectionism and Trade Deficits



Allan Doyle

The growing impact of globalization on trade policies, particularly as they relate to China, will be discussed from the viewpoint of economic theory and political reality.

## Peter and Catherine: The Emergence of Modern Russia



Joseph Kum

Details from the lives and ambitions of Russia's revered rulers Peter the Great and Empress Catherine the Great will show how they modernized Russia and made it one of the largest empires in the contemporary world.

## The Romantic Symphony



Martin LeBeau

After defining and understanding the elements of Romanticism, symphonies of the Romantic Period by Schubert, Berlioz, Mahler and others will be listened to and discussed.

## Alaska, Larger than Life



Thomas Cooper

Alaska's rich and varied history including the Russian settlement and the gold rush will be discussed, and a trip to present-day Alaska by slides will be presented.

## "The Dead": From Joyce's Text to Huston's Film



Charlotte Spencer

James Joyce's acclaimed short story, "The Dead," director John Huston's interpretation of it in the film "The Dead," and Lilyan Sievernich's documentary film of Huston at work will be read, viewed and discussed.

# The Tenth Anniversary Summer Community Forum

They came from Concord, from Nashua and from Hanover, year-round residents along with summer people from as far as South Carolina. Sandwich board signs and balloons led them through the Colby-Sawyer campus to Wheeler Hall on a brisk August 18 morning. The event was Adventures in Learning's Summer Community Forum.

The topic was provocative—*The Pledge of Allegiance: Does it Infringe on Religious or Civil Liberties?* And the speakers were notable. Michael Newdow, a California attorney and physician, arguing that the “under God” language in the Pledge violates the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause; Chuck Douglas, for eight years a justice in the New Hampshire Supreme Court, arguing that the Establishment Clause pertains to the establishment of an official religion and not to what has been called “ceremonial deism.” Sitting between them and serving as moderator was Art Rosen, chair of Adventures in Learning’s Tenth Anniversary Program.



Michael Newdow gestures while making a significant point during the debate

The event began with Art offering a brief history of the Pledge and of the suit brought by Dr. Newdow. We learned that the suit had been dismissed by a California district court, was appealed to the Ninth Circuit, which found for the plaintiff, and was then appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which overruled the Circuit Court saying that the plaintiff did not have the status to sue. The background piece also included a reading of the Establishment Clause: *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.*

*“The college’s Adventures in Learning program and the New Hampshire Humanities Council sponsored the debate, which matched two respected minds in a grueling ideological bout.”*

### Argus-Champion

The debate began with Dr. Newdow outlining his understanding of the Clause and supporting it with the writings of Jefferson, Madison, Franklin and others. Newdow showed intellect and eloquence. If he had a career manager, a different issue would almost certainly have been chosen. But the Patrick Henry in Newdow would have bristled. There is passion driving Newdow, a passion leading him to organize plaintiffs in every

Courtesy of Gil Talbot Photography



Chuck Douglas answers questions following the debate

Circuit Court in order to bring the case back to the Supreme Court.

Chuck Douglas was the next speaker. Standing tall, bronzed, and just back from an Alaskan trip, he parsed the Establishment Clause and put it in historical perspective. To Justice Douglas, the Clause referred to the establishment of a state religion akin to the Church of Sweden and the Church of England. He argued that Newdow’s interpretation was broader than the founders intended and would lead to absurdities like challenging the line “In God we trust,” names like Los Angeles and San Francisco, and songs like “God Bless America” and “America the Beautiful.”

After hearing the arguments, the floor was turned over to the audience for questions. Microphone stands were posted on each side of the room and were manned by Dick Cogswell and Dick Pearson. Questions came quickly. “Are atheists being treated equally when a state-supported Pledge includes the words ‘under God’?” “Do we really need phrases like ‘In God we trust’ or does frequent use, trivialize its meaning?” And there was concern, too, over the potential of a backlash should Newdow be successful.

See *The Tenth Anniversary Summer Community Forum, Back Cover*

## In Memoriam: George Tracy



Adventures in Learning invited us to a new experience for learning. In the very first term we read *Romeo and Juliet* and entered the world of William Shakespeare through the personality and passion of George Tracy.

We give thanks to George for his many contributions: as class leader, reading Shakespeare, the Greek Tragedies, and *The Trial of Socrates*; and as an ardent student, and member of the Board and Curriculum Committee.

George was passionate about the craft of teaching. Stressing preparation, he often struggled with difficult passages, seeking proper interpretation of character and of dramatic content. He championed the Socratic method of teaching emphasizing the exchange of ideas.

Educated in the craft of the theater, he relished the beauty of spoken language. We remember special moments when George would recite long passages from memory, and then open his Greek dictionary and enlighten us with the root meaning of the words and

*“Two households, both alike  
in dignity, In fair Verona,  
where we lay our scene”*

**Prologue, *Romeo and Juliet***

the difficulties of translations.

We loved George for many reasons: his ebullient, self-deprecating good humor, his affability, and above all for his kindness, sensitivity and friendship. He was a master teacher and cherished colleague who will be best remembered for the force of his personality and for the ennobling and uplifting quality of his presence.

~Reflection by Richard Cogswell

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## Advancing Colby-Sawyer

### Green ROUTES

#### Redirecting Our campUs Toward Environmental Sustainability

For students majoring in the college's Community and Environmental Studies Program, third-year course requirements provide them with the opportunity to undertake a research project of a local environmental issue involving detailed fieldwork and extended site visits for an in-depth, yearlong analysis. In prior years, students have partnered with local environmental organizations to accomplish these requirements. During the 2006-2007 year, however, the students chose to study the Colby-Sawyer campus and community. Their goal was to raise awareness of environmental issues on campus and to create a plan to ensure sustainability on campus for years to come.

With a primary objective of determining how the college

could reduce its environmental footprint, the students completed a very thorough analysis of building efficiency, use of resources (gas, electricity, paper and food), and opportunities for reducing waste. They also considered “green” investment possibilities for the college's endowment and traced historical performance of these possibilities against actual investment earnings.

Their excellent work has created a buzz on campus, and the college's senior officers have met recently with course advisor John Callewaert, director of the Institute for Community and Environment, to review the recommended next steps and to plan for follow-through. The student's recommendations, divided into three levels of priority,

have received wide support from the administration, faculty, staff and student body.

In the coming months, we hope to secure financial resources that will enable the college to create a sustainability coordinator position on campus and to create a Green Fund to support environmental initiatives. The college is collaborating with other colleges and universities. President Tom Galligan has signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, joining the leaders of 330 other institutions across the country and making Colby-Sawyer a charter signatory institution. These are all important steps toward a comprehensive commitment to sustainability.

If you would like to learn more about the Green ROUTES project, please visit our Web site at [www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/greenroutes/index.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/greenroutes/index.html).

~Elizabeth Cahill  
Vice President for Advancement



## Adventures in Learning

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### *The Tenth Anniversary Summer Community Forum, from Pg. 6*

The forum ended at noon, but questioners and press surrounded the speakers and the discussions continued. About 200 people attended, a statewide audience and the largest ever for an Adventures in Learning forum. They shared a meaningful session and got a good indication of what the Supreme Court will almost certainly be hearing in time to come. Fair to say, they also left with a strong impression of Adventures in Learning and Colby-Sawyer College. It was the start of our Tenth Anniversary and a proud moment for everyone concerned.

~Maureen Rosen

Courtesy of Gil Talbot Photography



*Left to right: President Tom Galligan, Charles "Chuck" Douglas, NHHHC Executive Director Deborah Watrus, Michael Newdow and Adventures in Learning Moderator Art Rosen*



**Coming to Colby-Sawyer College on October 20, 10 a.m. to noon**

**A Special Educational Forum:**

## **Inside the New Hampshire Presidential Primary**

Don't miss this rare opportunity to:

- Better understand New Hampshire's pivotal role in the primary process and the likely impact of the upcoming, foreshortened primary schedule;
- Go inside the candidates' campaign strategies to comprehend the thinking behind what they say and do; and
- Have your questions answered directly and without political spin.

Offered free of charge as a public service to commemorate **Adventures in Learning's Tenth Anniversary**, the forum will feature three experienced, non-partisan speakers who are intimately involved with the New Hampshire primary.

**The Honorable William Gardner**, New Hampshire Secretary of State, who sets the date of the primary, will lead off with a historical review of the presidential primary process and New Hampshire's traditional pivotal role within it.

**Dr. Dean Spiliotes** of St. Anselm College, a frequent political commentator for local, national and international print, broadcast and web-based media, will draw on his 25 years of analyzing past campaigns to identify what has previously succeeded and failed, and to assess the contrasting strategies of today's front runners in both parties and the candidates chasing them.

**Jon Greenberg**, executive editor at New Hampshire Public Radio, is following voters in Exeter, N.H., throughout the primary season for a series on NHPR. He will use his findings from this and past primaries to explore what makes certain voters gravitate toward particular campaigns and how candidates hone their messages and outreach strategies to win support—a fascinating view of the primary from the ground up.

*The 2008 New Hampshire presidential primary promises to be one of the most remarkable and significant in recent memory. With the threat of global terrorism in a nuclear age, selection of our nation's next leader is critically important. In addition, the earlier primaries of the larger states have given New Hampshire's "first in the nation" role even greater influence, since the "sling shot" effect of a primary win will be magnified and candidates will have less time to recover from a poor showing.*

Here's your chance to hear some straight talk about the primary process and the candidates of both parties. Everyone is welcome and admission is free, but registration is required by calling the Adventures in Learning Office at (603) 526-3690.

**COME! LISTEN! ABSORB! ASSESS! QUESTION! REFLECT! LEARN!**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### BEAR PRESENTATION BY BEN KILHAM

7 p.m., Tuesday, October 9  
Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center

### WNTK "TWIN STATE JOURNAL"

Winter classes and preview of  
"Inside the N.H. Presidential Primary"  
forum 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 9

### ECO-TONES PERFORMANCE

7 p.m., Monday, October 15  
Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center

### INSIDE THE N.H. PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY FORUM

10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, October 20  
Clements Hall, Curtis L. Ivey Science Center

### FALL TRIP

Institute of Contemporary Art  
8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 25  
Reservations required

### "YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN"

8 p.m., November 1, 2 and 3  
Sawyer Center Theater

### ERIC MINTEL QUARTET

7 p.m., Wednesday, December 5  
Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center

### CSC SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT

7 p.m., Thursday, December 6  
Sawyer Center Theater

## FAST FACTS

### Adventures in Learning Office Location

Our office is located on the first floor of the Colby Homestead on the Colby-Sawyer College campus. Look for the sign at the end of the driveway.

### Guest Policy

Many of our classes are oversubscribed and have a waiting list. As a courtesy to our membership, please remember that attendance in Adventures in Learning classes is reserved only for members who have registered and have been enrolled in the class.

### Online Catalog

Concerned that your catalogs don't reach you in a timely fashion? Just a reminder: the winter catalog will be posted on our Web site following the general mailing planned for the week of October 22.

### Program Coordinator

Sharon Ames  
(603) 526-3720

### Your Address Information

If you have moved, want to let us know your seasonal address and dates you will be there, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Janet at the number below.

### Office Closed

Please note that the Adventures in Learning Office will be closed on Monday, October 22, for a fall break; November 22-23 for Thanksgiving; and December 24-January 4 during winter break.

### Winter 2007 Registration Deadline

The deadline to register for winter courses is Friday, November 23. As some classes fill quickly, please be sure to register early using the registration form from the catalog.

### Program Assistant

Janet St. Laurent  
(603) 526-3690