

# Horizons Extra

Winter 2014

## Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College

### Study Leader Profile

## Dale Conly: How American Home Styles and Values Connect



Dale Conly

While majoring in economics and history at Oberlin College, Dale Conly frequently participated in informal discussions on a variety of topics between students and faculty. It was during one of these discussions that a professor, who was writing a book entitled, *Oberlin Architecture, College and Town*, introduced Dale to the concept of looking at architecture in relation to social values and mores. This small treatise inspired Dale to expand the concept beyond Oberlin and was the genesis for the course Dale taught at Western Reserve Academy and for our winter 2014 term course, "How the Architecture of Our Homes Reflects Our Values."

*Continued on page 2*

### Study Leader Profile

## Dwight Wilder: Theodore Roosevelt—Up Close and Personal



Dwight Wilder

There is no question that Theodore Roosevelt was one of the most fascinating, charismatic figures in our history. He comes to life in Dwight Wilder's winter Adventures in Learning course titled "De-lighted! Theodore Roosevelt in the First Person." Dwight adopts the persona of T.R: he becomes T.R., he dresses like T.R, he speaks like T.R., he even *looks* like T.R.

Dwight has done these enactments since 1996 for a wide range of audiences. He takes his listeners through Roosevelt's life revealing many little-known facts about T.R. and his family along the way. Roosevelt's sickly childhood led him to a lifelong passion for reading and history. Dwight says Roosevelt read two to three books a day. Dwight also says, "Theodore Roosevelt had a phenomenal memory and delighted in remembering all sorts of facts. After Jefferson, he was

*Continued on page 4*

### In this issue:

#### Page 2

- AIL: Its Growth and Geographic Expansion

#### Page 3

- Preview of Winter 2014 Courses

#### Page 5

- Let the Renaissance Begin!

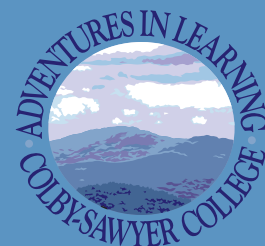
#### Page 6

- AIL Happenings

#### Page 7

- Win a free AIL course!

**AIL New Office Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. to noon  
Monday – Friday



**Save the Date and  
Mark Your Calendar**

Thursday's Child for  
Adventures in Learning will  
be held on December 12,  
2013, at the New London  
Inn. It's not too early to  
start planning your table of  
guests in support of the AIL  
Achievement Award, which is  
given annually to a deserving  
and outstanding Colby-  
Sawyer College junior.

## AIL: Its Growth and Geographic Expansion

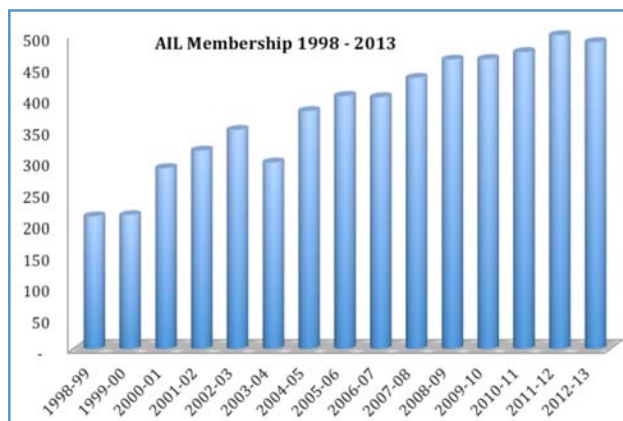
The most important sign of a successful community organization is the extent its constituents embrace its program and join its activities. Growth and geographic expansion are also significant measures. Over the last 15 years Adventures in Learning has increased its membership by 143% as the accompanying chart shows, and now serves 37 communities, the largest of them being New London, Sunapee, Newbury, Wilmot and Elkins. Course registration has risen from 323 in the first year (1998–1999) to 1,050 in 2013 and the number of courses offered has nearly tripled, going from 15 to 43. We have a pool of nearly 4,000 people in our age demographic in the towns of our core market and a penetration of a little over 11%, a 10% increase since 2009, the first year we measured market size and draw. Our fastest growing member town is Elkins, which has increased its membership by 50% in the last four years. We've also added seven new towns to our coverage, showing increased geographic reach. In our first year, courses were held in

three venues; in the last few years AIL has had classes in 15 different facilities.

Perhaps even more indicative of the scope of the program is that AIL has attracted nearly 200 study group leaders who have offered their talents and shared their

interests with our membership since 1998. Twenty-eight of them have jointly or individually been associated with more than five courses each. The late Jim Bowditch actually led or co-led 23 courses, a record unlikely ever to be equaled.

Administration of the AIL program has grown apace with increased courses, membership and study group leaders. Colby-Sawyer College has supported these



extra demands as well as the establishment of a well-functioning and attractive website, a highly regarded electronic newsletter (*Horizons Extra*) and, most recently, online course registration and payment. Adventures in Learning has provided an important community service over the past 15 years and continually explores innovative ways to continue and expand this success. ~Sheldon Boege

### Dale Conly (continued from page 1)

Dale grew up in Hartford, Connecticut, and attended Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. After graduating from Oberlin and spending two years in the army in Germany, Dale knew that he wanted to teach and coach in an independent school. He received a master's at The Ohio State University both in physical education and history. He then returned to Mount Hermon to teach American history and economics and to coach soccer, a sport he loved and for which he was named an All-American in college. After ten years at Mount Hermon, his teaching career took him to Western Reserve Academy in Ohio.

His favorite course at Western Reserve was American history, which was taught in an innovative format based on a trimester schedule. The first term was a grueling study of names and dates for the AP history exam, whereas the second term was defined by a theme across American history, with each teacher choosing his/her own theme. Building on his old interest, Dale chose architecture, beginning with Native American housing and continuing through Frank Lloyd Wright. In the third term, the teachers each chose a decade and explored it in depth. The second and third terms specifically encouraged critical thinking

and analysis, so we should expect that Dale will not only lecture but also will engage his participants in thought-provoking discussions.

While teaching and living at Mount Hermon, Dale and his wife, Jeanne, decided to look for a home to enjoy over their long summer vacations. They "stumbled" on New London and a property on Messer Pond, where they built an A-frame home in the 60s. They and their children summered in New London every year thereafter. All three children worked on the *MV Kearsarge*, serving lunch and dinner. Dale considered it the perfect job because they were kept busy, especially in the evenings.

When it was time to retire from teaching in Ohio, settling in New London was an obvious choice. Dale and Jeanne, who enjoy working on houses, renovated their A-frame on Messer Pond, then renovated a second house, and are now in their third and "final" home on Little Lake Sunapee. Dale served on the Planning Board in New London for nine years, having been recruited by the wife of a former student. During the winter, he prefers reading books, and this year, teaching his first AIL course. We welcome him to AIL. ~Deb Rucci

# Preview of Winter '14 Courses and Computer Workshops

Registration is now open for winter courses that begin the week of January 20, and for the special computer workshops that will be held the week of January 6. To view the complete winter course catalog and a full description of each course and workshop, click on [www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html). On this same webpage you can click on a link to register for courses and view step-by-step instructions on the use of **Storefront**, the college's secure and protected online payment system. The registration deadline is Monday, November 25. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) and computer workshop(s) of your choice.

## • **Computer Workshops** with Tom Stark

Retired Colby-Sawyer College faculty member, Tom Stark, who taught several computer-based courses at the college, will lead five computer workshops starting Monday, January 6, in the computer lab at the college library. The schedule is as follows: Monday: **Introduction to Computers**; Tuesday: **Photographs – Basic**; Wednesday: **Photographs – Editing**; Thursday: **Microsoft Office** and Friday: **Anything Goes**. Participants may sign up for individual sessions or for the full week. Each session is \$10.

## • **Pursuing Peace: Nonviolence in American Life** with John Raby

Who will have the final word about violence and nonviolence? Is violence so deeply rooted in our character that we can't escape it? Is it a necessary evil that we have to endure from time to time? Can we hold out for a better way to settle things? Participants can expect some proactive reading, interesting company and active group work, with observations, insight and commentary coming from other course participants.

## • **Almost Great Composers** with Aarne Vesilind

This course, a follow-up to a similar course offered by AIL in winter 2013, will introduce the class to the music of "almost" great composers. We will discuss and listen to the music they wrote, and learn more about the times during which they were composing and the constraints they had to endure in order for their music to be known by the public.

## • **Hormones: Maintaining Balance** with Diana Wyman

Although the brain is the primary controller that keeps things humming along in the body, the endocrine system plays a major role by releasing tiny bits of chemicals that do extraordinary things. Topics to be discussed in this 4-week course include some of the major endocrines and the chemicals they release called hormones, the thyroid gland, type 2 diabetes, anabolic steroids and growth hormones.

## • **Beautiful Winter Soups** with Buffy Draper McPhee

**NOTE:** This course is open only to those people on the waiting list from the fall term. Please call the office at (603) 526-3690 to be added to a new waiting list.

What could sound better than a savory soup cooking on the stove to nourish your body and spirit on a cold winter day? Working alongside Buffy, who has over 40-years experience in foodservice, participants will shrug off winter's cold and delight in the preparation and cooking of hearty and wholesome soups made from mostly local ingredients.

## • **"De-lighted!"—Theodore Roosevelt in the First Person** with Dwight Wilder

Those who have seen Dwight portray Theodore Roosevelt have remarked that they felt they were in the same room with the former President. He dresses like Roosevelt, speaks like Roosevelt and even looks like Roosevelt. Dwight shares a first-person perspective of many little-known facts about Roosevelt's life and family, his public achievements, his truly kaleidoscopic range of knowledge and interests, and his equally broad array of friends and associates.

## • **Downton Abbey's Real Edwardian Family** with Joanna Henderson

We may know the Crawleys and their servants thanks to *Masterpiece Theatre's* popular "Downton Abbey." After taking Joanna's course, participants will know the Carnarvon family and their servants who actually lived in Highclere Castle. This course will look at the history of the Carnarvon family, who they were and how alike or different their lives were from the Crawleys.

## • **How the Architecture of Our Homes Reflects Our Values** with Dale Conly

"Jefferson believed that architecture was the heart of the American cause. In his mind, a building was not merely a walled structure, but a metaphor for American ideology, and the process of construction was equal to the task of building a nation." ~Unknown

Dale will show course participants how basic ideals, values and dreams of America are reflected in the style and structure of our homes.

*Continued on page 4*



### *Preview of 2014 Winter Courses (continued from page 3)*

- **1933: Great Films in an Awful Year** with Joseph Fanning

In 1933, Hollywood offered some respite from the miseries of the Great Depression offering movie classics that made us laugh, sing and smile. "King Kong" made us wonder at the romance, adventure, drama, Sci-Fi and ultimate animation technology the likes of which had not been seen before. That year introduced what was about to become the finest decade in film history.

- **China's Relentless Journey to Global Dominance** with John Ferries

An encore and updated version of this popular course offered previously by AIL will trace the recent explosive growth of China to superpower status, identifying key factors and trends that are likely to propel it in the future to a level of global influence that rivals or surpasses the United States.

- **The Mexico You Do Not Read About in the Headlines** with Randy Hanson

Professor Hanson's course will explore Mexico's traditional and current challenges—instability, economic development, drug wars, etc.—but, most of all, aspects of Mexico that many Americans do not experience or hear about—Mexico's deep history and religion, rich artistic and literary traditions and succulent food.

- **Project-Based Drawing** with Chris Bowditch

Chris Bowditch leads this course that will cover several areas of skills, materials, and techniques and is designed to accommodate all skill levels. Starting with basic perspective drawing, participants will progress through the course touching on abstraction, realism, elongation, positive and negative space, culminating in a design that can be developed into an abstract painting.

- **Places, Please, for the One-Act Express!** with Charlotte Broughton

Each week participants will read award-winning, one-act plays. The course will start with Thornton Wilder, run through Noel Coward and end with part of "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" by Neil Simon. There will be 12 plays in all, which will give everyone a chance to shine.

### *Dwight Wilder (continued from page 1)*

probably the most accomplished, widely read and brilliant man ever to sit in the White House."

Roosevelt overcame his illnesses and grew to be a robust man, an enthusiastic outdoorsman, a naturalist, a big game hunter and a champion of the "strenuous life." He was assistant secretary of the Navy when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. Drawn to the conflict, he resigned his Navy post and, to the consternation of his family and friends, joined in fighting the war.

He was Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt then and was the second in command of a volunteer cavalry regiment, the legendary Rough Riders. Many of them were Western cowboys and Eastern polo players – all excellent horsemen and marksmen who went to Cuba to fight. They captured the nation's imagination and helped expand T.R.'s already considerable popularity. He disliked being called "Teddy" but accepted being known as "T.R."

Roosevelt was the governor of New York before he was elected to the vice presidency in 1901. When President McKinley was shot, he became President at the age of 42, the youngest man ever to serve as President of the United States. He went on to become the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in ending the Russo-Japanese War.

In his presentation, Dwight brings out the many facets, interests, enthusiasms and accomplishments of this

truly remarkable man. He acquaints his audience with Roosevelt's engaging personality—outgoing, ebullient, energetic and curious about so many things.

His love of history led Dwight to his first T.R. enactment. As a long-time, active member and volunteer for the Appalachian Mountain Club, he created a living history character for the club based on his great, great Uncle Frank Seaver, himself a member of the AMC at the start of the 20th century. Consequently a friend, who was a contemporary of sorts of T.R., saw Dwight in costume and said, "You look just like Teddy Roosevelt!" Dwight has been presenting enactments ever since and thanks Uncle Frank for getting him started.

Dwight has always loved history. It was his major at Johns Hopkins University. Most of his career was in the field of educational administration, and since retirement he has been involved in many community activities including The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens in Newbury, the Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, the Grantham Historical Society and the Appalachian Mountain Club. He says that he likes to tailor his presentations to his audiences so that he can get beyond the T.R. stereotypes to depictions of the real man. He hopes that Uncle Frank would have been pleased.

~Heidi Beckwith

# Let the Renaissance Begin!

On September 18, 2013, over 150 eager course participants gathered for the first class session in the fall lecture series "The Italian Renaissance—A Closer Look." Morris Edwards did not disappoint, delivering an informative and entertaining lecture on "Florence and the Medici: Prime Movers of the Renaissance."

The fall course is the first in a succession of multiple-speaker lecture series dealing with pivotal epochs in the development of Western civilization. Entitled "Seeing the World Anew: The Renaissance, The Reformation and The Enlightenment," the trilogy is dedicated to the memory of Vice Admiral (ret.) Julien J. LeBourgeois, a founder of AIL and a driving force during its critical early years who passed away last September.

Julien's wife, Priscilla, and son, Julien, attended the opening lecture and were guests at a reception held afterward outside Colby-Sawyer's Curtis L. Ivey Science Center on one of New Hampshire's perfect fall days.

~Joyce Kellogg



The Renaissance course participants.

PHOTO: Maureen Rosen



The LeBourgeoises enjoying the reception.

PHOTO: Joyce Kellogg

## Seeing the World Anew: The Renaissance, The Reformation and The Enlightenment



Priscilla and Julien LeBourgeois.

PHOTO: Maureen Rosen



Morris Edwards lecturing.

PHOTO: Joyce Kellogg

## AIL New Offices and Entrance

Many of you have located us in our new AIL offices in Colby Homestead. For those who have yet to visit the new offices, please follow the signs posted on the lawn of Colby Homestead and on the side of the building. The new AIL entrance is located on the far left-hand side as you face the building, and Janet's and Marianne's new offices are just inside the door. You no longer have to walk up or down stairs.



## Adventures in Learning Happenings



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

A focused group of participants in Sue Anne Bottomly's summer course "Colorful Journey" learned how to capture the moment through sketching and journaling.



PHOTO: Joyce Kellogg

David Almond, director of music at the First Baptist Church of New London, playing the church's organ in his fall class "The Pipe Organ: Its History and Music."



PHOTO: Charlie Kellogg

AIL Public Relations Committee members Sheldon Boege, Joyce Kellogg and Betsy Boege take a turn "manning" the AIL booth at Meet the Chamber Night held in conjunction with this year's Hospital Days. The New London town green was filled with booths representing various local organizations and businesses who welcomed visitors.



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

Joanna Henderson enthusiastically discusses William Jennings Bryan as part of the summer "Encore: A Reprise of Popular Lectures" course.



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

June Fichter listens to her co-study leader, Robert Wood, in their fall course "Follow the Water: All About Watersheds."

Computer workshops begin  
the week of January 6, 2014 and courses  
begin the week of January 20, 2014

The Adventures in Learning administrative offices will be closed on

November 28 and 29, 2013 and  
December 23, 2013 through January 5, 2014

PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

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Adventures in Learning's *Horizons Extra* 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.

**Credits****Design and Production:**

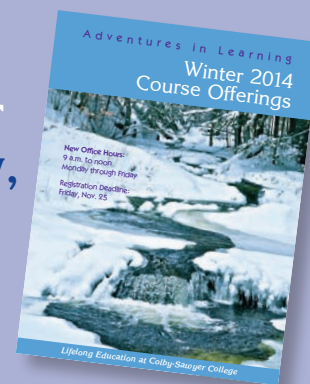
Lisa Swanson, Second Story Design  
 Manchester, N.H.

**REMINDER:**

Registration deadline for  
 winter courses is **Monday,**  
**November 25, 2013.**

*There is still time to renew  
 your membership!*

Click [here](#) to pay your membership dues  
 and to register online.

**Win a free AIL course good for one year!**

Everyone who pays their membership dues or registers for a winter 2014 AIL course ONLINE will have their name entered in a drawing. The winner will receive one free AIL course good for any term for one year.

If you have ever ordered anything online, you can pay your membership dues or register for courses online using the college's secure and protected online payment service **Storefront**. AIL encourages all our participants to use **Storefront**, and we are offering this special incentive of a free AIL course to entice you to try **Storefront**.

In addition to having your name entered in the drawing, everyone who registers for courses online will know immediately if they are "in" or if the course is full. At checkout, you will be given the option of paying with a credit card or with a check. If you entered your email address, you will receive an email confirming your payment.

Janet and Marianne are standing by if you run into any problems while you're in **Storefront**. We are happy to work with you!

**New AIL Office Hours**

**AIL's new office hours are Monday through Friday,  
 9:00 a.m. – noon. Afternoon hours will be limited to  
 equipment pick-up and drop-off.**

**Inclement Weather Policy**

Adventures in Learning follows the Kearsarge Regional School District policy on weather closure. For information on the district's cancellations log onto [www.kearsarge.org](http://www.kearsarge.org) or check WMUR TV channel 9. If a question remains about a course cancellation, please call your study group leader.