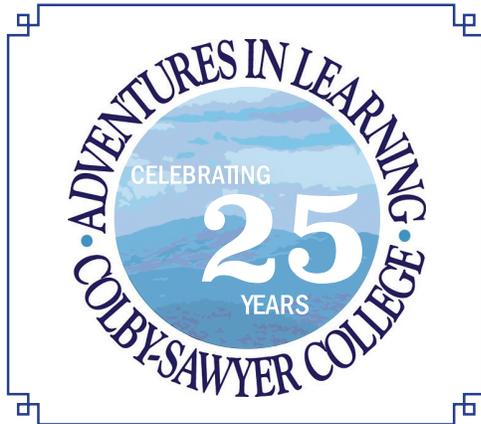


# ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

# Horizons

Fall 2022



## *Adventures in Learning: Past, Present and Future*

When Colby-Sawyer College professor Hilary Cleveland hosted a small group of friends at her home in 1989 to discuss establishing a community-based, lifelong-learning program in the greater Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region, it is unlikely that she could have imagined the program's profound impact nearly 25 years later.

Along with founding members Julien and Priscilla LeBourgeois, Sue and Dick Eaton, Charlie Carey, Carolyn and Dick Sweetland, Susie and Bob Gray, Mary and Allan Doyle, Peter and Jean McKee, and Dick and Deniza Martin, Cleveland worked to flesh out the details of the program and gain the sponsorship of the college. Though Anne Ponder, then CSC president, was not particularly enthusiastic about the idea initially, Hilary, characterized as "a force of nature" by Mary Doyle, persevered.

The group's vision was to provide non-credit courses on a wide variety of topics that would allow community members to engage with both interesting subject matter and each other to facilitate an educational adventure of sorts.

In fall 1998, Adventures in Learning, named by Priscilla LeBourgeois, came to life through five courses and the curiosity of 118 participants.

And it has been gaining strength ever since. Long-time AIL member, study group leader and member of the Curriculum and Membership Committees Julie Machen reflected on the development of the program since she has been involved: "I am continually impressed that such a relatively small community can produce so much talent. Friends in other towns and states also wonder how it's possible. I am most appreciative of those who had the foresight to make AIL happen."

Since the program's formal inception in 1998, AIL has offered more than 700 unique courses (in addition to several reprises) taught by 313 different instructors at a wide variety of local venues. Though some courses are still hosted in the greater community, most are now held in Lethbridge Lodge, AIL's dedicated classroom space on the CSC campus since summer 2016.

Lethbridge Lodge has undergone its own development in recent years, updating both its appearance and functionality with the addition of a large digital smart screen in summer 2021. More upgrades are anticipated in 2023.

Betsy Boege, who has been deeply involved in all facets of AIL since 2001, including serving as the organization's fifth president, shared her appreciation for AIL's ability to adapt with the times and needs of its membership. "Course offerings have grown and the quality of our study leaders and lecturers remains at an exceptionally high level," she said. "This community is fortunate to have residents who continue to share their time and knowledge of diverse subjects with members. During Covid, AIL met the challenge of transitioning to online learning from in-person classes thanks to the adaptability."

*Continued on page 4, see 25 years*

*"Learning is never cumulative, it is a movement of knowing which has no beginning and no end." – Bruce Lee*

## ***President's Message***

**Happy Fall!** Do you ever think that fall should begin the new calendar year? Fall begins with returning students energized from summer activities. AIL begins the fall term with a variety of new classes, both in our Lethbridge Lodge classroom and online via Zoom. A new reciprocal arrangement with Osher at Dartmouth allows us to offer some of their courses to our members and vice versa, starting with two fall Zoom course offerings. If successful, Zoom courses can be expanded, allowing seasonal travelers and others to take courses remotely.

AIL is excited to welcome Sarah Jenness as Program Assistant, working part-time with Nina in the office. A graduate of Bowdoin College, Sarah has worked with many educational institutions building student-centered programs and designing systems to track their effectiveness. She is keen to bring her skills and experience to work with older adults. Please plan to meet Sarah who works Tuesday through Thursday in the office and will attend some committee meetings and classes.

AIL is exploring the opportunity to transition to an online course catalog. In addition to significant cost savings, online delivery will offer improved effective communication in real time. As part of improved communication, the AIL website will receive an upgrade. During any transition to an online catalog, members will be offered the opportunity to pick up a printed catalog.

AIL is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the next calendar year. A committee is making plans for activities and events to honor this important occasion. Stay tuned...

Enjoy this wonderful fall season and your AIL classes.

--Harry Tether



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*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.*

## ***AIL Achievement Scholarship***



*Photo courtesy of Ashley Gatchell*

AIL is pleased to recognize Ashley Gatchell as this year's AIL Achievement Scholarship recipient. A junior from Epsom, N.H., Ashley is pursuing a major in business administration with a minor in finance and accounting.

When she began her college search in high school, Ashley knew she wanted to attend a smaller college. After visiting CSC, she was confident it was the place for her. "I toured campus and I'm not sure what it was, but I just felt like I fit in here," Ashley said. "It just felt right." Since then, she has been finding her place and making her mark.

Ashley's passion for community service shines through even in a brief conversation. She participated in her high school's chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and wanted to continue to make an impact during her college years. At Colby-Sawyer, she has been a member of the Community Council, and she currently serves as vice president of the Community Service Club. The club is busy rebuilding after being stymied by COVID-19, but she is excited about recruiting new members and connecting with local organizations.

In addition to her service to the community, Ashley is very dedicated to her coursework and has earned membership in the Wesson Honors Program.

*Continued on page 5, see Scholarship*

## ***Winter Course Preview: An Insider's Guide to Raptors***

Pat Tivnan, a member of the AIL Curriculum Committee, has always been interested in science and natural science courses. For the past eight years, she has served as a volunteer at VINS, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, in Quechee, Vt. She has combined these two interests to initiate the first collaboration between AIL and VINS for a unique raptor course for the winter term.

According to the VINS website, their mission is to "motivate individuals and communities to care for the environment through education, research and avian wildlife rehabilitation." The institute's education component includes summer camps, programs for school groups and adult education, a perfect tie-in with AIL.

The five-session course, which will be moderated by Pat, will focus on raptors: their biology, behavior and rehabilitation. The presenters include Anna Morris, VINS lead environmental educator; Grae O'Toole, director of the Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation at VINS; Jim Armbruster, VINS research coordinator; and Professor Nick Baer, biology program coordinator at Colby-Sawyer.

*Continued on page 5, see Raptors*



*Photo courtesy of VINS*

## 25 Years, continued from page 1

ty of study leaders and members. The willingness to learn new communication skills is yet another example of lifelong learning! Colby-Sawyer College's sponsorship and support of AIL was crucial at the start and the relationship continues as strong as ever to the mutual benefit of both."

In the spirit of adaptability, AIL has expanded its opportunities for engagement outside the classroom in recent years: 2015 introduced *Lunch and Learn*, and *Science Pub* debuted in fall 2016. After some experience with Zoom technology during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, summer 2021 saw the first course to be voluntarily offered via Zoom: Joel van Amberg engaged participants online in his four-week course, "Themes of Renewal, Restoration and Rebirth in the Renaissance and Reformation." Since then, four other courses have been offered in this digital format.

Throughout 2022, AIL offered 38 courses on a wide variety of topics, including music, art, science, history and politics, food, religion, music and film. Course enrollments surpassed 800 for the winter, spring, summer and fall terms.

Former AIL board president and long-time AIL member and study group leader Art Rosen touts AIL as "the retired person's best local outlet for scholarship." Despite the fact that AIL may be smaller than neighboring Osher, he notes that AIL's small size can also be a benefit. "The people we usually meet in classes are neighbors, [and] because the people taking each AIL course have common interests, it is also a great source of social contact," Rosen said.

Betsy Boege feels similarly and said she keeps coming back to AIL because "there always is something to learn. Aside from the chance to broaden one's knowledge, taking classes often is the start of developing marvelous new and lasting friendships."

Now preparing for its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Adventures in Learning is a staple in the local community, delivering year-round on its mission to "provide lifelong learning experiences for adults with an interest in the world of ideas and who wish to continue their intellectual growth in an informal setting."

As AIL looks toward 2023, opportunities to celebrate the program's rich history and bright future are being explored. Curriculum Committee is working to propose an upcoming course that will tie in with the celebration of AIL's twenty-fifth year. The 25th Anniversary Committee is busy planning for a large-scale event in June to commemorate this milestone, complemented by other programming throughout the year. Following several years of work, AIL also plans to unveil a new website in January to continue to engage members near and far.

Mary Doyle hopes that this occasion might be another avenue for getting the word out about all that AIL has to offer. "It is remarkable how this little organization has rolled with the punches and kept going," she said. "The variety of courses offered is terrific. Once people are introduced to AIL, their enthusiasm is palpable."

--Sarah Jenness



### ***AIL Needs You!***

With the 25th Anniversary of AIL soon approaching, AIL is looking for enthusiastic members to help with upcoming events.

Volunteering is a great way to give back, make a difference and connect with your peers outside of the AIL classroom!

Want to be more involved with AIL but not sure where to start?

Call the AIL Office at (603) 526-3434 and speak with AIL Program Assistant Sarah Jenness.

### ***Raptors, continued from page 3***

Course participants will learn about the anatomy and physiology of the birds of prey, as well as their nesting, breeding, training, migration and survival. There will be sessions focused on avian rehabilitation, identification of raptors and current research. The final session will be a field trip to VINS with a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, including learning about the resident exhibit birds and meeting some of the birds in the education program.

Pat Tivnan is a chemical engineer who worked for IBM for 30 years in Essex Junction, Vt., and Poughkeepsie, N.Y. After retiring, she moved to North Sutton, N.H. Animals have always been a very important part of her life, and she has served on boards of numerous animal welfare organizations. Apart from volunteering at VINS, she has been involved in the High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program in Sharon, Vt., and she currently serves on the board of the Upper Valley Humane Society. Thank you, Pat, for joining AIL and having the foresight to bring this unique and stimulating course to our members.

--Susan Lynn

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### ***Scholarship, continued from page 3***

Though she initially came to CSC to study nursing, math is a strong suit and, after a semester, she changed her major. "Math has always been a favorite subject that I've done well in, and I've learned that I like accounting a lot," she said. Following a positive experience working with a local accountant during last year's tax season, she decided to add an accounting minor for her final two years.

In the true spirit of AIL, Ashley has also taken advantage of other educational opportunities just to satisfy her curiosity. This past summer, she studied in Ireland for three weeks. "I took a course on Irish Folklore and Traditions, and it was an amazing experience," she said. When she was not in class, she enjoyed exploring the coastline of Ireland, especially Galway.

Ashley is not sure yet what the future holds after graduation. She would like to earn her master's degree, continue building her skills and find ways to serve her community.

--Sarah Jenness

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### ***Past AIL Achievement Scholarship Recipients***

Adventures in Learning began recognizing Colby-Sawyer students for its Achievement Scholarship in 2009. Since then, it has recognized a recipient each year, contributing over \$25,000 to a host of dedicated, hard-working students from a variety of backgrounds who have pursued equally diverse interests.

2021: Brenna Tobin

2020: Alyssa Bergeron

2019: Tatianna Bates

2018: Daniel Gillis

2017: Alexandra Harris

2016: Ashley Ruseski

2015: Jaclyn Cinelli

2014: Maura Kane

2013: Shaina Driscoll

2012: Lauren Rocheleau

2011: Ashley Reynolds

2010: Kimberly Arena

2009: Michael Bisset



L to R: Katrina Wagner, Betsy Boege, Harry Tether, Sue Stuebner

Photo by Chris Peirce

## *AIL Donates to CSC*

In early July, AIL President Harry Tether, AIL Vice President Katrina Wagner, and AIL Secretary Betsy Boege presented Colby-Sawyer College President Sue Stuebner with a check for \$15,000 as a donation to the college's Annual Fund, acknowledging the close working relationship between Colby-Sawyer College and Adventures in Learning. AIL looks forward to the continuation of this important collaboration.



## *Adventures in Learning at Hospital Days*

In August, several AIL members participated in the return of New London's Hospital Days. Many thanks to Whit Smith for capturing these members spreading the word about AIL!



Photos by Whit Smith

## Looking Back at Summer Term

Summer term participants enjoyed learning the art and science of painting, magic, publishing, aging, mythology and planning for retirement. As always, AIL extends its gratitude to Joan Eaton and Whit Smith for skillfully capturing these moments – and to its wonderful members for their participation! Thank you!



Photo by Whit Smith



All other photos by Joan Eaton

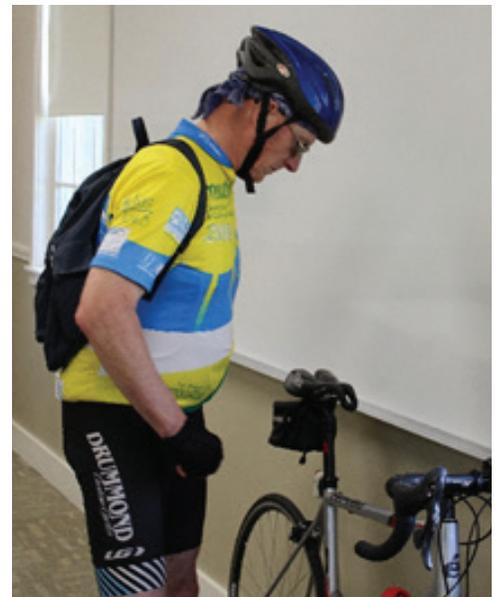


Photo by Whit Smith



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## ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

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Adventures in Learning's *Horizons* highlights the activities of the lifelong learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

*AIL extends its sincere appreciation to ECHO Communications, Inc., for 14 years of partnership in providing mailing and printing services for AIL's quarterly publications.*

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## ***Winter Term at a Glance***

***Courses start the week of January 16th unless otherwise noted. Schedule is subject to change.***

### **MONDAY**

1:30 - 3:30 PM **People of the Dawn: Native American Writings from New England** / Nancy Marashio

### **TUESDAY**

9:30 - 11:30 AM **Women Who Made a Difference via Zoom** / Joanna Henderson  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **Geologic Evolution of the White Mountains via Zoom** / Scott Rappeport  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **Basic Image Editing** / Bill Balsam & Jay Fitzpatrick  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **Advanced Image Editing** / Bill Balsam & Jay Fitzpatrick (begins Feb. 14th)

### **WEDNESDAY**

9:30 - 11:30 AM **Behind the Scenes: The Inner Workings of Theatrical Productions** / Sage Tokach  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **Ghost Stories: Movies of Love, Romance, Grieving and Comic Relief** / Lee Mayman

### **THURSDAY**

9:30 - 11:30 AM **Democracy & Socialism** / Larry Crocker  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **The Writing Workshop via Zoom** / Larry Carle  
1:30 - 3:30 PM **Insider's Guide to Raptors** / Pat Tivnan