



Adventures in Learning Celebrates Ten Years of Adult Education

Adventures in Learning (AIL), the lifelong learning program sponsored by Colby-Sawyer College, marks its tenth anniversary this year. AIL began as, and continues to be, a dynamic collaboration between area communities and the college, offering educational enrichment for adults in the Kearsarge-Sunapee Region who wish to continue their intellectual growth in informal settings.

Since 1998, the program has grown steadily and now attracts more than 700 participants each year. With three terms every academic year—each with 12 courses—participants can choose from courses as diverse as “An Introduction to Japan, its Language and Culture,” and “Great Voices from Opera and Theater: The Art and Craft of Great Singing,” and a timely examination of the “Sunnis and Shi’as” this year.

For Betsy Boege, who became involved in AIL in 2002 and now serves as its president, the program makes life in New London “even more enjoyable.” She has taken courses in stem cell research and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as other courses that match her interests in economics, history and science. “I’m a firm believer in keeping your mind active; education doesn’t stop when you get your degree,” she says. “Mental fitness is as important as physical fitness for a good quality of life.”

President Boege notes that the heart of the program is its dedicated volunteers who serve on an oversight Board of Directors and on curriculum and public relations committees, as well as the study group leaders, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their courses. Some leaders draw from their own research and interests, such as Art Rosen, AIL’s vice president, who teaches courses in religion after a career in advertising. Boege also stresses that the AIL program depends on college staff members, Sharon Ames and Janet St. Laurent, who administer course registration and assist in many other facets of the program.

To mark its tenth anniversary, AIL has planned a number of celebratory events and courses. The opening event, a debate focused on the merits of the “under God” language in the Pledge of Allegiance, took place this summer and attracted hundreds of community members. The debate featured Michael Newdow, the physician and attorney whose legal challenge reached the U.S. Supreme Court, and Charles G. Douglas III, former New Hampshire Supreme Court Senior Justice and Congressman from the Second District, who argued for continued inclusion of the “under God” language.

The event was co-sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council as a major part of the council’s two-year, state-wide program, “Shifting Ground: Religion and Civic Life in America.”



At AIL’s first anniversary event, (from left) Colby-Sawyer President Tom Galligan, former Justice Charles Douglas, Deborah Watrous, executive director of the New Hampshire Humanities Council, attorney Michael Newdow, and Art Rosen, AIL vice president, had a chance to meet.



New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner

The second AIL anniversary event, titled “Inside the Primary Process,” will provide a close look at the New Hampshire first-in-the-nation primary, exploring its importance to the state and its impact on the nation. This multi-speaker presentation will feature New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner, Dean Spiliotes, a political expert and former director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College, and New Hampshire Public Radio Executive Editor Jon Greenberg, who is leading a series of radio interviews on the New Hampshire primary. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Curtis L. Ivey Science Center at Colby-Sawyer College. The event is open to the entire community, free of charge, and reservations should be made in advance by contacting Janet St. Laurent at (603) 526-3690 or jstlaure@colby-sawyer.edu.

Tenth anniversary courses will also be offered throughout the 2007-2008 academic year. Courses presented 10 years ago will be updated and led by their original study leader. This fall, Judy Bohn is leading “Goodbye Dolly: A Biotechnology Update.” In the winter term, Dick Little will present an update of “The Adventure of Learning.” In the spring, Hilary Cleveland, Colby-Sawyer professor emerita, will reintroduce her course, “Breakup of the Soviet Union.” [For more information about AIL, visit the Web site at www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures or contact Janet St. Laurent (mentioned above)].



Political expert Dean Spiliotes, formerly of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics

The final event in the tenth anniversary series will be a community-wide reception and meeting at Wheeler Hall at the college’s Ware Campus Center on May 15, 2008. A number of surprises are planned to highlight the occasion, including the announcement of AIL’s tenth anniversary gift to the college, and Maureen Rosen’s retrospective of the program’s first decade titled “The Way We Were.”

The idea for the tenth anniversary celebration was conceived by AIL Program Coordinator Sharon Ames and developed by program volunteers, including John Callahan, Dick Cogswell, Morris Edwards, Ann Lang and Julien LeBourgeois. Vice President Rosen speaks for the committee when he says, “Adventures in Learning is pleased to offer these activities. They honor our association with Colby-Sawyer College and commemorate our founding 10 years ago. More than that, they do it in a way that is characteristic of Adventures in Learning—a way that embraces and enriches the entire community.”



Calendar of Events

Monday, Oct. 29

Word By Word Series
Susan Colgate Cleveland Library/Archives, 4 p.m.
Award-winning creative non-fiction writer Jane Brox will read from her work as part of the Humanities Department’s Word by Word series. Admission is free.

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007

“Love and Marriage” Human Rights and Social Justice Film Series
7 p.m., Clements Hall, Ivey Science Center

This 2007 documentary by Robert Wagner addresses the pros and cons of gay marriage. Admission is free.

Thursday, Nov. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007

Fall Theatre Production: “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”
8 p.m., Sawyer Fine Arts Center Theatre

The two-act musical based on Charles M. Schulz’s comic strip chronicles Charlie Brown’s search for affirmation. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Tickets can be reserved through the Box Office at 526-3670 or purchased at the door.