



Profile: Morris Edwards and a Tale of Two Countries



Morris Edwards' retirement in September 2006 was a gift to the Edwards family and also

to Adventures in Learning. In the short time since retirement, Morris has become an Adventures in Learning study leader, moderator, chair of the Curriculum Committee and board member.

Most of us know Morris from one or more of these activities. But few of us know much about the pre-retirement Morris and the places where his talents were shaped. It's a tale of two countries and our good fortune that it ended in ours. If you knew Morris as an English teenager, you would have known him as Bill's boy, the son of a professional Everton footballer and an aspiring soccer player himself. If you knew him as a young man, you would have known the first in the Edwards family to enter college and to enter on scholarship.

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One Good Course Inspires Another: From Middle East Explorers to Sufi Poet Rumi

Last April when Pat Clark began Gail Sanderson's Adventures in Learning course, "Two Women Explorers in the Middle East," she had never heard of the 13th century poet Jelaluddin Rumi. But liking poetry Pat chose his name somewhat randomly from a list of topics Gail assigned to research and briefly report on.

This April Pat, along with her husband Donald Clark, will be offering a course herself, titled "Exploring the Magic of Sufi Rumi's Poetry." The story of how a mini report turned into a four-week Adventures in Learning course is illuminating, both in terms of the personal impact a previously unknown poet can have on one reader and the broader impact one course can have on future offerings.

"Once I started reading Rumi, I could not stop," says Pat. "His magic and mystery pull you in, and the more you read the more you want to read." And Don adds, "An intense Islamic scholar widely read in other religions, Rumi embraces and welcomes all religions. He speaks for everyone." The Clarks are not alone in their enthusiasm. As Professor James Morris of Boston College has observed, "My students cannot get enough of Rumi."

So who is Rumi? And why are many of us unfamiliar with this writer whose work is as famous in the Islamic world as Shakespeare is in the West? A mystic working in Konya, Turkey, during the 1200s, Rumi was a teacher first and a poet secondarily whose spoken words were transcribed by his students into thousands of poems. It is his metaphors that impress Don—"the way they draw on both the lofty and the commonplace," while Pat delights in his poetry as "an enigma of inclusion." Through limiting course participants to 15 so the group can read Rumi's work aloud and relate his thoughts to their own, the Clarks look forward to exploring his mysticism in depth.

The reason Rumi's poetry has been little known in the West until recently is that it was not widely available in English until Coleman Barks' translation was published in 1995. Since then interest in the poet has intensified. In fact a Rumi workshop, led by Barks and attended by the Clarks, was offered in the Berkshires last fall by Kripalu and featured mysticism and scholarship, as well as "whirling dervish" dancing, which the Clarks plan to share.

~Ann Lang

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While you might imagine Morris concentrating in the humanities, he was an engineering student at Queen Mary College, University of London. That is, he was an engineering student when he was not hostelling and hitchhiking on the Continent. Morris' wanderlust did lapse from time to time so there were also holidays at home. The notable holiday included a temporary job sorting parcels at a post office in England. As it turned

out, they were life-changing parcels because Jeanne, then Richardson, also on holiday from college, was sorting letters a short distance away.

It took a bit of engineering for the engineering student and perhaps a walk or two alongside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, but soon Jeanne and Morris were a couple planning their future. The first step was an engineering position in London, the second was to come to the States to get a business degree. Jeanne left first and took a position in Concord, Mass. Morris followed and got a job as an associate editor of a business publication. Success in business soon eclipsed attending business school as Morris began a 30-year career as an editor, columnist and entrepreneur.

His career took the Edwards family to New York, Boston and Washington. For Morris, it was weekdays in the publication business and, when family time allowed, it was weekends at competitive soccer and tennis. New London, N.H., was the last move, bringing Jeanne and Morris closer to their now grown children.

If you know them today, you know that they live near the Lake Sunapee Country Club, and you know that golf has replaced competitive soccer and tennis. As Morris puts it, "My latest sport is golf, perhaps the most difficult and humbling of all."

And if golf has replaced soccer and tennis, Adventures in Learning presentations have replaced business presentations. Among

other things they include a course on the early kings of England, several talks in our multi-speaker programs, and moderating this fall's panel on the New Hampshire primary process. Morris observes, "I view Adventures in Learning as a community treasure and a noble endeavor, and I am pleased and proud to be a part of it."

So it's a tale of two countries and Morris standing with a foot planted firmly in each. Fortunately, the countries are supremely compatible, Morris is balanced perfectly, and we are all the beneficiaries. Fair to say, the many people Morris has touched would certainly agree that he, too, is a community treasure and a noble endeavor.

~Maureen Rosen

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at Colby-Sawyer College**

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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.

Calendar of Events

**WNTK "TWIN STATE
JOURNAL"**

Preview of spring courses

Thursday, January 31

6 to 7 p.m.

FM 99.7 ~ AM 1480

**JURIED STUDENT
ART EXHIBITION
OPENING RECEPTION**

Friday, March 21

6 to 8 p.m.

Sawyer Fine Arts Center

**SUSAN COLBY
COLGATE SCHOLARS'
SYMPOSIUM**

Wednesday, April 23

7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Various locations on campus

Tenth Anniversary Update: Hilary Cleveland on Recent Russian History

Hilary Cleveland has been a key figure in Adventures in Learning right from the beginning. A member of the team that put the program together 10 years ago, she also taught one of the first courses—on the breakup of the Soviet Union. She has led seven other courses since that time on varying subjects, but in recognition of the Adventures in Learning tenth anniversary year, she will lead a study group in the spring semester on the last 10 years of Russian history. And what tumultuous and fascinating years they have been.

In 1998 Russia was in terrible condition. Hilary says, “There was awful inflation; the economy was almost reduced to a barter system; the Gross National Product was way down and debt was way up. There was chaos, crime and corruption.” In more recent years things have changed considerably, and the lot of the Russian people has improved under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. As

Hilary observes, “The economy is growing; people have the essentials of a comfortable life; there is a growing middle class; inflation is lower; there is international travel. But there is still corruption and cruelty.”

Google Images



Hilary hopes that, after reading, research and discussion, course participants will decide for themselves whether the Russians are indeed better off now. Hilary loves research and discovery and famously encourages her Adventures in Learning students to participate in class preparation—perhaps by writing a paper or leading one of the sessions.

This is the 53rd year that Hilary has been teaching at Colby-Sawyer College, starting back when it was Colby Junior College. “I’ve taught all sorts of world and American history and political science classes—whatever the department needed at the time,”

she says. Hilary came to New London as a young bride in 1950. She and her husband Jim became very active in local, state and national politics and government. Jim, of course, was the member of the House of Representatives from this district from 1963 to 1981, having previously been a state senator for 12 years. Hilary was for many years the New London Town Moderator. The first President Bush appointed her to the International Joint Commission of U.S./Canada in 1990, an experience she says was “one of the most valuable and meaningful I’ve ever had.”

Hilary had a lot of fun 10 years ago with her first Adventures in Learning course of Russian history and politics. She says, “No one knew that much about the 15 Soviet republics, and we had a great time learning together.” She is looking forward to a similar experience with her next students and her next course.

~Heidi Beckwith

FAST FACTS

Office Closed

Please note that the office will be closed on: Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King Day; Monday, February 18, and Monday, March 10, for winter and spring recesses; and on Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.

Spring 2008 Registration

The deadline to register for spring courses is Friday, March 7. As some classes fill quickly, please be sure to register early.

Borrow a DVD

Please contact Janet if you would like to borrow a DVD copy of the August “Pledge of Allegiance” debate or the October “Inside the New Hampshire Presidential Primary” forum.

Program Coordinator

Sharon Ames
(603) 526-3720

Program Assistant

Janet St. Laurent
(603) 526-3690

A Preview of the 2008 Spring Courses

You Be the Judge



Dick Pearson

Legal decisions do not always seem right or fair. This course will give participants the opportunity to discuss and decide interesting and controversial cases and then see how they fared against the legal system.

What Would Mohammed Do? An Unauthorized Biography



Art Rosen

Art will offer a review of Mohammed's life and an outline of the religion of Islam. Following that the group will relate historic events to current events as a step toward judging what role Mohammed might play if he were living in today's Middle East.

The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict



Bill Sullivan

Among the subjects to be discussed in this history course will be the origins of Zionism, World War I and its consequences, the Israeli struggle for independence, Palestinian nationalism and the quest for peace.

John Adams' Legal Legacy



Tom Galligan

Why is our second president remembered for his influence on the American legal landscape? This minicourse will review three important reasons: The appointment of John Marshall as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the case of Marbury v. Madison and the Alien and Sedition Acts.

The Architecture of Andrea Palladio



Jack Barrett

Known for his breathtaking extension of the boundaries of Renaissance architecture, Palladio's legacy includes surviving works, all over 400 years old, that will be discussed in this course.

The Essence of Music in the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Periods



Sierra

Charlotte Signor

Careful listening to works of selected composers of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods will lead to recognition, understanding and appreciation of the style, form and instrumentation of each composer.

Global Warming and Climate Change



Bob Crane

Both the science and policy implications of global warming and climate change will be reviewed and discussed through such topics as the greenhouse effect, observational evidence and Global Climate Models.

Russia During the Past 10 Years



Hilary Cleveland

The book, *Russia, Lost in Transition*, by Lilia Shevtsova will provide the background for discussions about political and social changes in Russia over the past decade as well as Russia's relationships with former members of the Soviet Union.

Special Tenth Anniversary Course

Adventures in Learning is delighted to offer 12 stimulating courses this term. Most courses begin the week of April 21, and they end by June 13. The catalog containing the registration form will be mailed and published on our Web site during the week of February 4. Be sure to register early as classes may fill quickly.

Poetry: A Walk Through the Garden



Dianalee Velie

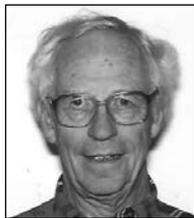
Recognizing the historical influence of gardens on poets, this course will offer an opportunity for participants to read and write poems as they stroll into the spirit of poetic gardening.

Exploring the Magic of Sufi Rumi's Poetry

The reasons for Rumi's widespread appeal will be explored through a review of Sufism and through experiencing his passion and exuberance as his poems are read and discussed.



Pat Clark



Don Clark

Choices for Sustainable Living

The importance of lessening our impact on earth will be discussed after reading a selection of articles on sustainability compiled by the Northwest Earth Institute of Portland, Oregon. To enrich discussions, local residents will speak about their sustainable lifestyles and field trips will be offered.



Natalie Davis



Liz Meller

China: The Emerging Superpower

This lecture series will include the following topics:

- China, the Once and Future Superpower - *Sheldon Boege* and *Jim Bowditch*
- The Implications of China's Rise for International Stability - *Jennifer Lind*
- Religion in China - *Jim Bowditch*
- Chinese Art and Culture - *Ellen Robertson*
- Life in China Today - *Dean LeBaron*
- The Economic Underpinnings of China's Growth - *Sheldon Boege*



Sheldon Boege



Jim Bowditch



Jennifer Lind



Ellen Robertson



Dean LeBaron

*Stay tuned for EXCITING
information about our
NEW SUMMER PROGRAM*

Inside the New Hampshire Presidential Primary

It was a full house in Colby-Sawyer College's Clements Hall on Saturday morning, October 20, when Adventures in Learning hosted a special educational forum, "Inside the New Hampshire Presidential Primary." The event was part of the yearlong celebration commemorating Adventures in Learning's tenth anniversary. It featured three experienced speakers intimately involved with the New Hampshire primary but with no political ax to grind: New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner, political commentator Dr. Dean Spiliotes and Executive Editor of New Hampshire Public Radio Jon Greenberg.

In his opening remarks, moderator Morris Edwards explained that the goal of the forum was to help primary voters determine which candidates have "the right stuff" to be president—a significant challenge given the scripted answers and political spin associated with the campaigns.

Secretary Gardner began the presentations with a review of New Hampshire's pivotal role in presidential primaries. New Hampshire's first-in-nation status had little significance, he said, until Eugene McCarthy surprised President Lyndon Johnson in the 1968 primary. President Johnson added to the shock when he later withdrew from the race. Other states then wanted to share the limelight. When Florida moved its primary date forward, the New Hampshire legislature authorized the Secretary of State to set the state's primary date to maintain

its first-in-nation status. This status continues to be challenged, but Secretary Gardner assured everyone that the tradition would endure.

In discussing the primary campaign, Dr. Spiliotes explained that candidates realize voters have limited time and capacity to sift through an avalanche of material from everyone in the race. Accordingly, they use "information shortcuts" to try and frame the voter choice in their favor. These shortcuts are small, easily digestible messages that cumulatively shape voter perceptions of the campaign landscape to suit a particular candidate. On the Republican side, for instance, the choice is framed either as "who is the most authentic conservative in the race?" or "which candidate can beat Hillary Clinton?" depending on the candidate's perceived strength.

On the Democratic side, the initial choice was framed as "change versus experience" However, when polls began showing support for change, Hillary Clinton's framing message became "I have the experience to

change things in Washington." In response, her rivals reframed the choice to "honest leadership versus Clintonian triangulation."

In providing a voter's-eye view of the campaign, Jon Greenberg reported on his discussions since last December with voters in Exeter, N.H., which has effectively become a large focus group on the New Hampshire primary. Republican voters are looking for a candidate to pull the party together and "to get things done," he said. Democratic voters want someone who can put the country on a different track. Both groups want desperately to win, so electability is a key issue. Independent voters seem more likely to vote in the Democratic primary this time, he claimed.



Gil Talbot Photography

New London residents, Jack and Bobbie Hambley, listen attentively to the presentation.

After the presentations, the floor was turned over to questions from the audience. The questions centered on alternate approaches to the current system, such as regional primaries whose sequence would rotate with each election, and the timing of the upcoming New Hampshire primary. The speakers may have shed new light on the primary and the candidates, but the timing issue was unresolved. Secretary Gardner mentioned a number of options, including a date before Christmas, but he



Gil Talbot Photography

From left: Speakers Dr. Dean Spiliotes and Secretary of State William Gardner listen as NHPR Executive Editor Jon Greenberg provides commentary on the voters' view of the campaign.

ultimately clouded the issue, befitting his reputation as the political equivalent to Alan Greenspan, the former chairman

of the Federal Reserve. Secretary Gardner may have thought what Greenspan once famously told members of the U.S. Congress: "If

I made myself clear, you must have misunderstood what I said."
~Morris Edwards

When is a Window a Wall and Vice Versa?

Last October's Adventures in Learning trip to the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Boston's newest museum, offered magnificent vistas both outside and in. As the bus arrived at Boston Harbor, we could see the entire skyline of the city and its surroundings from the Old North Church to the Bunker Hill Monument. And the museum itself is a stunning piece of architecture.

Standing outside looking up at the cantilevered façade of the ICA, our docents explained some of its history. Designed by conceptual artists, the building is seen as a "viewing device" with a great deal of glass, inside and out, prompting one to ask "When is a window a wall?" and vice versa. They also pointed out that "contemporary" art is performance, video, design, sculpture, or even robotics created in the last 30 to 40 years, which does not have to have a specific meaning.

We were led inside to the entrance hall to face the Fineberg Wall, a huge "changing art" space. The art displayed here is space specific and applied directly to the wall. At the time of our visit, "Divine Gas," a computer-generated image by Chiho Aoshima, was on display.

Next we ascended to the 4th floor in a glass-walled elevator built to hold 70 people. Featured in the east wing's permanent collection



Sally Southard

Trip participants pose in front of Chiho Aushima's "Divine Gas."

was the work of Louise Bourgeois, who at 93 is still a force in contemporary art. We walked into a room occupied solely by a giant spider sculpture, affectionately named Maman. It was looming over us with its elongated legs ready to envelop us in its grasp. The west wing featured a special exhibit, "Design Life Now" from the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York with 81 contributors. It was an astonishing display of how the design of ordinary and extraordinary things affects and/or enhances our daily lives.

Eloquent, articulate and knowledgeable about their subjects our docents made the art in the exhibits come alive and inspired us to come back for a more in-depth

exploration after lunch at the Wolfgang Puck Water Café.

Kudos to Pat Stewart for doing such a terrific job organizing this excursion. We all thank you for your effort.

~Sally Southard

SAVE THE DATE

for
**Adventures in Learning's
Special 10th Anniversary
Celebration during the
2008 Annual Meeting**

Thursday, May 15, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 5 to 6 p.m.



Adventures in Learning

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- Create a personal legacy

You can learn more about planned gift opportunities by contacting me at (603) 526-3726 or pandrews@colby-sawyer.edu in the college's Office of Planned Giving. I am happy to work with you and/or your financial advisors as you think about supporting Colby-Sawyer.

Sincerely,

Peg Andrews '85