Highlights of the AIL 13th Annual Meeting

Members of AIL gathered in Wheeler Hall in the Ware Campus Center on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College on Thursday afternoon, May 17, to celebrate another stellar year of lifelong learning. The program kicked off with Maureen Rosen’s moving video presentation, “Gonna Fly Now,” a photo retrospective covering program highlights in 2011–2012, and concluded with a rousing performance of New Orleans-style jazz by the Granite State Stompers. If you missed the Annual Meeting or if you would like to view the photo retrospective again, please click here.

A highlight of this year’s Annual Meeting was a rousing performance of New Orleans-style jazz by the Granite State Stompers. PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

Record Membership and Course Registration Achieved and Membership Fees Reduced

2011–2012 was an outstanding year for AIL with record high numbers in membership and course registrations. In recognition of the vibrancy of the program and as a way of giving back to the members for their ever-increasing support, the annual membership fee has been reduced by $10 to $40.

Volunteers Honored

Study leaders, the heart and soul of AIL, were honored for their dedicated service leading 40 courses in 2011–2012. Distinguished Study Group Leader recognition was given to Joanna Henderson, Julie Machen and Bill Sullivan for reaching the mark of leading ten courses for AIL, and special recognition was given to peerless Study Group Leader Chuck Kennedy for achieving the exceptional milestone of leading 25 courses.

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Study Leader Profile: Dave Cook

Why take a three-week course in the summer? For the sheer fun of it, says Dave Cook, the study leader of “The Crock of Gold.” You’ll read excerpts aloud from this novel-length fairy tale by James Stephens, test your Irish brogue, relish the musicality of the Gaelic language, and learn about Leprechauns, the Shee, the Greek God Pan, and a whole host of the Irish that people this delightful book.

For many of us, Dave Cook is known for his diverse musical talents as jazz clarinetist and leader of the Granite State Stompers, and as an AIL study leader and expert on George Gershwin in this past spring’s lecture series, “Great Composer’s II.” Others know him and his wife, Celeste, for their commitment to creating trails in New London and Wilmot (over seven miles of them) and furthering land conservation in the region. More recently (since his retirement in 2000) he has become recognized as a poet whose work you can enjoy in the book, And Sing Them Free.

All his interests seem to come together when you listen to Dave talk about The Crock of Gold, a book he’s read six or seven times. He’s had his original copy longer than he can remember. What he values about the tale that James Stephens has written is its deep sense of Irishness, the philosophy of life that the work conveys about the interrelationships of husband and wife, children and parents; the joy of living our lives; the mischief the book makes of the powers that be; and the adventures and delight that sparkle in the Emerald Isle.

Not a teacher or a poet by training, Dave is a Dartmouth grad, Navy veteran, Harvard Business School alum, and for 30 years was a self-employed investment counselor in the Boston area before he sold the business and moved to Elkins. He is passionate in his avocations, and shares with Yeats, Joyce, and the Book-of-the-Month Club, a fervent admiration for the novelist and poet James Stephens.

~Maggie Ford

Spreading the Word:

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for the digital newsletter, Horizons Extra, delivered to everyone on the general mailing list four times a year and posted on the AIL website. The committee also promotes the AIL program in the greater Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region in various area publications and web sites. This past year, with the help of the College Communications Office, the committee designed an attractive, two-sided 4” by 9” rack card describing the overall program and how to contact AIL for more information. The cards have been placed in real estate agencies, libraries, town information booths, bookstores and residential communities. Although membership numbers are robust, it is important to attract new members and study leaders for the future.
Preview of 2012 Summer Courses

Registration is now open for summer courses beginning the week of July 16. To view the complete summer course catalog and a full description of each course, click on www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html. To print a copy of the registration form, click on www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/register.html. The registration deadline is Tuesday, July 3. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) of your choice.

• **The Crock of Gold** with Dave Cook
  This 100-year-old, unique fairy tale/novel by Irish author James Stephens “… is like sunlight, ozone, and high spirits. You splash in it as in a summer sea. There is no book in the world in the least like it. And probably there will never be another” (The Atlantic). Excerpts will be read aloud to gain an appreciation of the musicality of the Celtic idiom. Dave, a published poet, will lead discussions that promise to be insightful and interesting.

• **A Brush with Beauty** with André Hurtgen
  Participants will be introduced to calligraphy, one of the foundations of Asian art. They will gain an appreciation for the subtleties of this art form as well as the endless styles and variety of the artist’s brushwork. Under André’s enthusiastic and expert guidance, course participants will have the opportunity to pick up the brush, create their own works of art and discover the challenging but satisfying experience of *shodô*, “the way of writing.”

• **Who Are the Celts?** with Bill Tighe
  This class is a comprehensive overview of the exciting world of the Celts from 1500 B.C. to the present day. Join Bill, who is of 100 percent Irish-American ancestry, on a fascinating journey exploring the Celtic influence on language and culture in the British Isles and Europe. At one time the Celts ruled from the British Isles to Constantinople.

• **Backstage at the New London Barn Playhouse: A Musical Comedy in Four Acts** with Carol Dunne and Tom DeMille
  Seize a rare opportunity to get a ‘behind the scenes’ look at the inner workings of the New London Barn Playhouse as it prepares for a summer season of outstanding theatre while fulfilling its mission to train and launch young artists from across the country. Course participants will have an opportunity to visit all the production departments and a play rehearsal. Special guest speakers will discuss the life of the working actor.

• **Ellis Island: Gateway to the American Dream** with Joanna Henderson
  Over 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island, the busiest immigration station in the United States, from 1892 to 1954. Join Joanna as she recounts the varied and fascinating history of this gateway to a new life where many of our ancestors first touched American soil. The course will cover the social and political histories of the island. Many of our immigration issues today are present in the story of Ellis Island.

Highlights of the 13th Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

Sheldon Boege was recognized as a Distinguished Volunteer for his many years of service to AIL as facilities coordinator. He has left big shoes to fill.

**Personnel Changes on Board**

Pat Stewart and Aarne Vesilind were elected to the AIL Board and retiring members, Jeanine Berger, Les Norman and De Segerson, were thanked for their service.

**Embracing and Enriching the Community: A Continued Goal of AIL**

Looking to the future, President Morris Edwards announced that AIL will continue to embrace and enrich the community by developing cooperative relationships with area organizations. As a first step, AIL will begin a program of free talks by study leaders for residents of Woodcrest Village. Also in the fall, AIL will offer a course for the first time in Newport at the Richards Free Library. Additionally AIL will join other local organizations by sponsoring a float in the New London Hospital Day parade on August 4.

Following the performance by the Granite State Stompers, members and guests celebrated another year of life long learning and good fellowship with wine and hors d’oeuvres.
Catching up with Ashley Reynolds

On Friday April 13, AIL Board members had a chance to meet with Ashley Reynolds and hear first-hand about her past year on campus and her plans for the future. Ashley is the recipient of the 2011–2012 Adventures in Learning Achievement Award, a scholarship given annually to a junior who exhibits outstanding academic achievement, community involvement, leadership skills and potential for life-long learning.

Ashley's junior year on campus was a busy one indeed. As an Environmental Studies major she was heavily involved in a community-based research project focusing on farming, gardening and agriculture. Her group worked with the Kearsarge Area Eat Local (KAEL) campaign. Their ongoing research and data collection will help benefit local farmers and consumers. As president of the Sustainability Core Club she had a major role planning and executing beautification projects on campus.

Going forward Ashley will continue her interest in the environment and sustainability. As part of her Capstone senior year project, she will spend the fall semester in Kenya and Tanzania. Ashley will study the habits of elephants in the hope that her research will help protect the species from poaching. She promises to keep in touch and send photos of her experience in Africa. Watch for updates in upcoming editions of Horizons Extra.

Ashley is very appreciative to AIL for the financial assistance provided by the Achievement Award and asked that we publish her letter of thanks to the AIL membership in this newsletter. She is an outstanding student and individual, and we look forward to following her future “adventures in learning.”

~Betsy Boege

Colby-Sawyer President Tom Galligan on Higher Education and Lifelong Learning

In an editorial titled, “I like college and I’m no snob,” published in the Concord Monitor, April 5, 2012, Colby-Sawyer President Thomas Galligan stated, “Learning at college is about being prepared and attuned to continue learning for the rest of one’s life. Learning with others teaches us how to ask new questions. It teaches us to try to understand, criticize and appreciate. Learning is a group occupation—just like living together in society.”

To read President Galligan’s complete editorial, click here.

Colby-Sawyer Invites You to...

Our 175th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration

One hundred seventy-five years ago on the 4th of July the college received its charter from the State of New Hampshire. To commemorate the college’s dosquicentennial, activities for alumni and friends of the college will be held throughout the year. Planning is in the early stages with information to be posted on the college’s website at www.colby-sawyer.edu. Please check the website for periodic updates, and we hope to see you at events to be held in the coming months.
Adventures in Learning Happenings

Members of Brenda Watts’ spring class, “The Isles of Shoals: Your Passport to Adventure,” examine a map of the small archipelago that lies 10 miles off the N.H. coast. (L to r) Barb Jones, Lois Magenau, Professor Nathan Hamilton, our guest speaker from the University of Southern Maine, and Jerry Cooper.

John Ferries as JP Morgan in the “Titans of the Gilded Age: Up Close and Personal” lecture series. John’s impersonation of Morgan was one of the highlights of a multi-speaker course examining the fascinating lives and legacies of six tycoons who amassed incredible wealth.

EIN Newsletter Celebrates 50 Years of Lifelong Learning—Spotlights AIL

Check out the May Elderhostel Institute Network (EIN) newsletter which highlights the many exciting events taking place this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of lifelong learning. The very first program for older adults was established in 1962 in New York City at the Institute for Retired Professionals by a group of school teachers. The rest is history. Since then lifelong learning programs (LLI’s) have expanded and flourished worldwide, including here in New London. In fact we are spotlighted in “Some Interesting Facts and Figures about AIL,” reprinted from the spring edition of Horizons Extra. Additionally AIL’s recent lecture series, “Titans of the Gilded Age: Up Close and Personal,” is listed under LLI Program Ideas.

Time to Renew Your AIL Membership—Dues Reduced for 2012–2013

Early renewal will guarantee that you are eligible to fully participate at the member level in the upcoming summer classes and all ensuing classes, trips and other AIL special events throughout the year. We are pleased to announce that the dues for 2012–2013 have been reduced by $10 and the new annual membership fee is $40.

The annual Membership Appeal mailing includes the 2012–2013 membership form with a place for you to print your e-mail address. It is highly recommended that you supply the office with this information if you have an e-mail address. Increasingly AIL is dependent on timely e-mail communication with its members for course confirmations and information, special alerts, reminders and Horizons Extra. The newsletter is only available electronically. Be assured that we do not share e-mail lists with outside organizations. Your e-mail address is for AIL use only.

Upon receipt of your annual membership payment, you will receive a membership card for the 2012–2013 year. Present this card at the front desk of the Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center to receive your three free guest passes to the college’s Elizabeth Kind Van Cise Fitness Center, which are valid for the 2012–2013 academic year. You may access the Membership Form by clicking here.

Montreal in the Fall

Join Colby-Sawyer alumni and friends on a fabulous trip to Montreal, September 13–17, featuring visits to the Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Biodome and the Montreal Botanical Gardens. Bert Yarborough, associate professor of Fine and Performing Arts, will be your guide in this vibrant and cosmopolitan city where the joie de vivre is palpable and contagious. First come, first served. For more details about the trip, itinerary and registration, click here.
Follow the Ware Center Renovations on the Colby-Sawyer Webcam

Exciting renovations are underway at the traditional venue for AIL’s annual meeting, the Ware Campus Center. The building will be expanded both inside and out to accommodate the dining needs of the college’s growing student body, and provide more meeting space for their clubs and activities. You can follow the construction project from start to finish on webcams overlooking the site. Photographs are taken every 15 seconds and displayed on the college website. Click here to check it out.

Reminder
Summer course registration deadline:
Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Colby-Sawyer College will be closed
Wednesday, July 4, 2012