

Horizons Extra

Spring 2015

Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College

Study Leader Profile

Dick Hesse:

A Passion for Historical Figures

Dick Hesse is a retired attorney and law school professor with a passion for history and especially for historical figures, including New Hampshire's own Daniel Webster and Governor John Gilbert Winant. In this course, Dick will introduce us to the lesser known but no less accomplished Winant, New Hampshire's governor in the late 1920s and early 1930s.



Dick Hesse

Continued on page 4

Study Leader Profile

Bob Koester:

Presenting Richard Strauss

Bob Koester has led many classes for OSHER@ Dartmouth, including one on Richard Strauss, but this is his first experience as a study group leader for Adventures in Learning. Bob became a fan of Strauss while in high school and commented that the advent of the hi-fi in the 1950s made a big difference in the ability of lay people to gain an appreciation of fine music.



Bob Koester

Continued on page 2

Study Leader Profile

Jim Nagel:

A Focus on Hemingway

Adventures in Learning is delighted that Dr. James (Jim) Nagel, the J. O. Eidson Distinguished Professor of American Literature at the University of Georgia and a visiting scholar at Dartmouth College, will be offering his course "Hemingway's Greatest Short Stories" during the spring term.



Jim Nagel

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Learning Later Living Greater

Click **HERE** for listing of Colby-Sawyer College events that are open to the public.



Maura Kane '16, *Adventures in Learning's 2015 Achievement Award Recipient*

Maura Kane, a junior at Colby-Sawyer College, is our Achievement Award recipient this year. We met in the Homestead conference room to talk about her interests and her plans for the future. A native of Derry, New Hampshire, Maura is the youngest of eight children, so it's understandable that she's competitive and a hard worker. Isn't it always the youngest in the family who gets all the dirty work? That's how it was in mine; I made sure of that, being the oldest.

Thanks to the inspiration of a high school biology teacher, Maura came to Colby-Sawyer College to study biology. English honor courses at Pinkerton Academy and other non-science classes allowed her to concentrate almost completely on her major at the college. For instance, this semester she's taking cellular biology, organic chemistry, biology of

aging and a research course in preparation for her capstone project. Asked about her language classes, she said she'd already studied some Spanish before college. Really? Thinking I could throw out some of my still decent high school Spanish at her, I asked how many years. Twelve. Maura spoke Spanish at home with one of her brothers so their parents wouldn't understand them. Next subject.

Maura is on the college's women's soccer team, the same one that won the Division III title in 2013 and 2014. She also plays on the college's ice hockey team. With that course load and obligations to year-around sports, how does she keep up? Maura has two strategies: first, she doesn't own a car; and second, in her words, "I try not to procrastinate." After thanking her for leaving a parking space for AIL's on-campus



Maura Kane '16

PHOTO: Sheldon Boege

course participants, we moved on to discuss her future.

Asked where her schooling would lead her, she said she's planning on doing an internship at a bio-tech firm this summer. After Colby-Sawyer she'll get a job in the same type of business to earn money for a post-graduate degree, and she mentioned Boston University as a possibility. Quiet, even shy, Maura is very determined to find a career in biology focused on research. It's a good bet she'll succeed.

~Sheldon Boege

Bob Koester (continued from page 1)

Richard Strauss (1864–1949) was a German composer of the late Romantic and early Modern periods of music. He is particularly known for his many tone poems, a familiar one being "Don Juan," and also for many lyrical operas such as "Der Rosenkavalier." He is not to be confused with Johann Strauss, the Viennese waltz king. Although both men enjoyed considerable popularity in the music world, their work is completely different.

Richard Strauss was a prolific composer, writing not only for opera and orchestra but also for ballet, chorus and lieder (songs). He lived to be 85 years old and never stopped composing. According to his biographer, "Strauss's late compositions are considered the greatest works by any octogenarian composer."

Although he opposed the Nazi regime, Strauss was reluctantly pulled into its orbit. Because he was well known and highly regarded, the Nazis, who admired his music, courted him. Goebbels offered him an honorary position, which Strauss briefly accepted thinking it might do some good, but then he removed himself from politics. Strauss did, however, assist several Jewish relatives in escaping capture and imprisonment.

Bob Koester grew up in northwestern Ohio. Always interested in music, he earned degrees in music education and electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. One of the reasons he chose Michigan as his alma mater was because it had one of the best marching bands in the country. Bob played clarinet in the band. After graduation, he earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from New York University.

Bob spent most of his career working in communications with Bell Laboratories, NY Telephone, AT&T and Bell Communications Research. When he retired to Eastman, Bob brought with him an interest in history and also an interest in wine. He belongs to an active wine-tasting group.

Another of Bob's interests is astronomy. He led two travel/study courses to experience solar eclipses—one to Turkey and another to the South Pacific. Bob traveled to Siberia in 2008 to view an eclipse, which he describes as a "mind-blowing" experience.

Bob is planning to center his AIL course on lecture and discussion and, of course, listening to recorded excerpts of Strauss's works. Come, listen and enjoy! ~Heidi Beckwith

Preview of Spring '15 Courses

Registration is now open for the spring term. Most courses begin the week of April 20, 2015. View the complete spring catalog online with full course descriptions, including start dates and times, at www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html. On this same webpage you can register for courses and pay your annual July 1 2014–June 30 2015 membership dues if you have not already done so. The course registration deadline is Friday, March 20, 2015. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) of your choice. Everyone who registers for courses and/or memberships online will have their names entered into a drawing for a free course and/or membership, respectively.

- **Lewis and Clark and the American Indians** with John Roberts

John will explore the lives of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, along with their interactions with American Indians as they searched for the waterway from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. The discussions will also focus on the stories and customs of the native cultures.

- **Hemingway's Greatest Short Stories** with Jim Nagel

Jim, a Hemingway scholar, will present a minicourse emphasizing Hemingway's experiences as they influenced his writing. Surprisingly, the tough-guy Hemingway heroes are almost all physically or emotionally hurt, and the discussions will explore the vulnerability and tragedy in the characters' lives.

- **Major Supreme Court Cases Since 2000** with Tom Galligan and Dick Pearson

With so many recent landmark Supreme Court decisions in the news, Tom and Dick will examine a series of cases from the Rehnquist and Roberts courts. Such topics as campaign financing, gun control and the Affordable Care Act should keep the discussion lively.

- **With Friends Like These ...** a lecture series moderated by Bill Sullivan

This series of lectures will focus on the complexities and conflicts present in United States foreign relations. The sessions, each led by a different lecturer, include discussions of U.S. relations with Turkey, Israel, Mexico, China and Pakistan.

- **Richard Strauss, "... a First-Class Second-Rate Composer ..."** with Bob Koester

Through lecture, discussion, and recorded audio and video performances, Bob will lead the class in an exploration of Strauss's life, work and influence on the music world. Emphasis will be on the orchestral work, with some discussion of operas and lieder.

- **Painting Colors in a New Hampshire Spring** with Fran Wilson

Fran will help participants discover and share their creative abilities as they paint their way through still-life subjects. A field trip to paint local flora and fauna will be included if weather and time permit.

- **John Gilbert Winant: Forgotten Giant** with Dick Hesse

Do you know John Gilbert Winant? Dick will trace the life of former New Hampshire governor Winant through lectures and slides. Winant's accomplishments include his election as governor, his appointments as FDR's first head of the Social Security Administration and later as ambassador to the Court of St. James.

- **Digging Up the Family Tree—Just How Do I Begin?** with Pattie Crossett

Pattie will help participants navigate the genealogical information available on websites, in courthouse records and even in that box of family treasures. Course participants will share family discoveries and learn multiple research techniques as they dig up the family tree.

- **Lewis Carroll** with Les Norman

Charles Ludwig Dodgson was a multi-faceted man, whose life still fascinates. Les will lead participants in an examination of all things Lewis Carroll, ranging from his time as an Oxford mathematics don to his writing of Alice in Wonderland and his time as a photographer and logician.

- **End of Life: A Discussion Among Friends** with Gardner Yenawine

Join consultant, director and coach Yenawine for a discussion of end-of-life issues organized by legal, medical, spiritual and community concerns. Each class will begin with an expert-led presentation of one of the topics followed by a discussion.

Continued on page 4

Preview of 2015 Spring Courses (continued from page 3)

- **The Birth of Nations—New American States in the 18th and 19th Centuries** with Professor Randy Hanson

Randy will lead discussions analyzing and comparing how the colonies in the Americas rebelled against their rulers and subsequently created sovereign states. Through lecture and discussion, participants will examine the births of the United States, Haiti, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia.

- **Let's Have an Art Klatsch** with André Hurtgen

Approaching the question of why we are drawn to particular works of art, André will encourage participants to look at art with new eyes as they examine how an artist's choices, such as composition, subject and perspective, add to the viewer's appreciation. Course participants will choose the works they would like to discuss, and each session will be a shared journey toward deeper understanding.

Dick Hesse (continued from page 1)

Winant began his career in New Hampshire as a student at St. Paul's School. It may be there that he developed a lifelong interest in the less fortunate. Winant went on to Princeton, but never graduated, having abandoned his studies to campaign for Teddy Roosevelt, whose Progressive platform resonated with him. He returned to St. Paul's as a history master, where he was remembered by his students for his teaching of social responsibility.

After a wartime tour with the Army Air Service, Winant returned to New Hampshire and served three terms as governor. With his political reputation growing, he received several prominent appointments, the most propitious being as a delegate to the International Labor Organization in Geneva, where he was to be President Roosevelt's eyes and ears in Europe. When the isolationist U.S. Ambassador Joseph Kennedy resigned in 1941, FDR happily replaced him with Winant, whose views on the war and the inevitability of our involvement mirrored his own. Winant's service in London earned him the respect and admiration of King George VI and Winston Churchill, resulting in Winant receiving the British Order of Merit, which had only been awarded to one other American, Dwight Eisenhower.

Tragically for Winant, President Truman did not hold him in the same esteem as had FDR, and so began the precipitous decline in his illustrious career. Truman appointed him to UNESCO, where Winant's views on Russia did not coincide with Truman's own. Winant resigned to write his memoirs. In 1947, depressed due to his futile GOP career prospects, which were caused by his support for Social Security, his disastrous financial status, and a failed love affair, Winant took his own life.

Dick's personal affinity for Winant can be seen in his advocacy for the less fortunate. After Georgetown Law School, Dick began his legal career as director of the Target City Project, a Philadelphia civil rights agency. He continued his public interest career at the National Consumer Law Center and then as a consultant to what later became the National Legal Services Corporation. In

1970 he left the full-time practice of law to become a constitutional law professor, first at Boston College Law and finally at Franklin-Pierce Law Center in New Hampshire. He retired from teaching in 2000, but in 2003 his search for justice and fairness culminated in his winning a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Dick continues to use his expertise in the law and the Constitution as a speaker for the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

In addition to the law and history, Dick's other passion is travel, including visits to every continent. When his case was accepted by the Supreme Court, with an extension request denied, he and his wife, Shirley, were in South America and about to leave on a ship bound for Antarctica. Consequently, his days on the ship were spent writing his brief and cajoling the ship's staff to email hundreds of pages to and from his team. Because the crux of Winant's story will not be a surprise, Dick's class may not be quite as fraught with tension as awaiting a Supreme Court decision, but it promises to be replete with historical and political figures, changing fortunes, both political and economic, and even an infamous love affair.

~Deb Rucci

We have a winner!

Maria Astaire wins the winter '15 raffle for a free AIL course.

On learning she won the free course, Maria exclaimed, "For goodness sake. I've never won anything before. You made my day!" The raffle was open to all winter course participants who registered online. Fifty-nine percent of people who registered for winter courses did so online—our highest percentage to date!

Don't be left out. Register online for your spring course, and you might be the next lucky winner of a free AIL course!

WSCS Turns Classical!

If you like classical music, you are in for a special treat. This fall, Colby-Sawyer College transferred the FCC license for the college's radio station, WSCS 90.9, to the Vinikoor Family Foundation. The station, still based in the Baker Communications Center in Colgate Hall, now broadcasts 24/7 and provides a wonderful selection of classical music, up-to-date weather reports and news, and promotes local events of interest to the public, both at the college

and in the greater Lake Sunapee region. Don't be surprised if you hear a plug for AIL, the value of "learning later, living greater," and our programs. Be sure to try out WSCS on your radio at 90.9 FM, and on your computer and mobile device at www.classicalWSCS.org. Happy listening!

To learn more about WSCS, read "The Beat Goes On, Classically" in the spring issue of *COLBY-SAWYER* magazine, available online at www.colby-sawyer.edu/news/alummag.html.

WSCS
Classical 90.9 FM

~Betsy Boege



Jim Nagel (continued from page 1)

Growing up in the small town of Breckenridge, Minnesota, Jim was a standout basketball star. He was All-American, the highest scorer in his conference and received the Most Valuable Player Award as a senior at Moorhead State University. Jim not only distinguished himself athletically, but also academically. In one collegiate course, "The Modern American Novel," Jim's insightful writing on Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* led to a fellowship at Pennsylvania State University and the opportunity to study with Dr. Philip Young, the leading Hemingway scholar in the country.

Jim's professional accomplishments and awards are numerous. He is a man who chases his intellectual pursuits in the same, tenacious way as Santiago chased the marlin in *Old Man and The Sea*! He is the president of the International Society for the Study of the American Short Story and a former president of the international Ernest Hemingway Society. Early in his career he founded the scholarly journal *Studies in American Fiction* and the widely influential *Critical Essays on American Literature* series, which published 156 volumes.

Among his 24 books are *Stephen Crane and Literary Impressionism*, *Hemingway in Love and War* (which was made into a Hollywood film starring Sandra Bullock), *Hemingway: The Oak Park Legacy*, and, most recently, *Race and Culture in Stories of New Orleans*. He has published some 80 articles in the field and lectured on American

literature in 15 countries. His current projects involve a new edition of Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*, now released, and a book on the cultural background of fiction set in New Orleans, including Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* and George Washington Cable's *The Grandissimes*.

Jim and his artist/writer wife, Gwen, now share their time between their home in Grantham and their vacation home in Maine. When not writing or painting, they enjoy skiing, playing tennis, or discussing great American literature. (Gwen was an art major, but switched to English after meeting Jim!)

In addition to his 50 years of teaching at the university level, Jim has taught at OSHER@Dartmouth and now, to our delight, will soon add Colby-Sawyer's AIL to his impressive list of teaching endeavors. Jim's high energy and expertise ensure that his course will be a dynamic and informative experience!

~Joyce Kellogg



Joanna Henderson Goes Edwardian

It was my curiosity about the actual family that lived in Highclere Castle during the time period portrayed in *Downton Abbey* that motivated me to put together the course entitled “Downton Abbey’s Real Edwardian Family.” Two of the participants in that course, Deb and Richard Reed, had attended Vermont Public Television’s (VPT) gala fundraising event just a few weeks before my class started last winter. Deb knew that the next gala was going to premier the opening episode of *Downton Abbey* Season 5. She thought VPT would be interested in having some part of my AIL course offered as a workshop and asked if she could give my name to the staff person in charge.

I didn’t think much about this until a few weeks later when I got a call from VPT asking me more about the AIL course I’d taught on Highclere Castle and if it would be possible to condense it into a one-hour lecture. I choked a little, but agreed to try. Once I figured out what parts of the story and what slides could be eliminated without damaging the narrative, I called them back and agreed to do it.

My husband and I were guests of VPT for the weekend at the Essex Culinary Resort and Spa in Essex Junction, Vermont. We’d been told that last year 80% of the people attending this gala fundraiser had arrived in costume so we’d been



Joanna and Skip Henderson

asked to wear vintage garb, if possible, representing one of the leading characters in *Downton Abbey*. (We had vintage butler and maid outfits that we’d worn for Halloween parties in the past, but I wanted to try to find something a bit more festive.)

On the night of AIL’s Thursday’s Child dinner, I asked everyone at our table if anyone had a good idea for where I could find a 1920s outfit. Kiki Schneider said, “If this doesn’t sound too presumptuous, I have a gown that was my grandmother’s which might work.” Kiki had worn it years ago and didn’t know the size, but her husband, Dan, sent a photo that night and it looked perfect to me! The date inside the dress box was 1905. It was black velvet, fit beautifully and even

came with a white, rabbit jacket!

When we arrived at the huge theatre the afternoon of the screening, it was already filled with people dressed like flappers, dowagers and footmen. And, just as in a normal movie theatre, we started with previews, but not of upcoming movies, but of upcoming PBS shows.

When Season 5 started, the audience really got into the action. What fun to watch *Downton Abbey* on a huge screen alongside three hundred fans of the show. We laughed appropriately (Mosley), hissed and booed (Thomas), giggled (Violet), warned out loud (James) and audibly sighed (Edith).

Dinner followed with stations of a variety of elegant foods, many opportunities for picture taking by professionals, dancing to the Vermont Jazz Ensemble and a fashion competition. But most of the fun was simply people watching. If the women who attended this event went all out, with dresses, hats, gloves and tiaras to match, the men were equally attired in everything from kilts to tails, both black and white tie, and even one young man in his grandfather’s WWI army uniform.

The next day my presentation was wedged between a tea and pastry demonstration and a talk about the costumes of *Downton Abbey* by a Middlebury College professor. I had a packed room of people who had lots of questions, expressed much interest and enthusiasm and, because we eventually ran out of chairs, some even had to be turned away. Many in the audience came in costume, several wearing a daytime outfit quite different from what they wore the night before.

Needless to say, we had a wonderful time and hope they invite us back!

~Joanna Henderson



PHOTO: Via pbs.org

Looking Back ... AIL Introduces the Lecture Series

Adventures in Learning is one of the few lifelong learning organizations in the country to offer thematic lecture series. Who thought of the idea and when did AIL start offering its members the opportunity to learn about a subject from a variety of presenters?

It was back in 2002 when Ben Acard, a member of the Curriculum Committee, suggested that AIL offer an alternative to the more participative discussion groups led by a single leader that up to that time had been the cornerstone of our course offerings. Instead Ben decided on a lecture course, "The Lively Arts," and then went out and found study leaders to give a single lecture on one aspect of the main theme. This new way of presenting a subject hit a home run, drawing more than 70 members to the course.

As AIL's newsletter at the time, *Update*, reported in its spring 2003 issue, "Ben chose eight variations that allowed the 'soloists' a wide range over which to display their virtuosity...they took us from theatre to museum, from concert hall to studio, from 'out front' to behind the scenes. Participants were introduced to Leopold Stokowski, Mary Cassatt, Maxfield Parrish, Placido Domingo, Strega Nona and Macbeth." George Tracy served as master of ceremonies, or moderator, introducing each session and tying together the various presentations.

Each subsequent year, AIL has offered at least one similarly formatted series on a wide range of topics covering historical periods and personalities, music, the arts and health. In fact over the last 13 years there have been 37 multi-speaker

lecture series offered. And more are planned. The Curriculum Committee has identified an exciting array of new topics.

If you think you might be interested in participating as a moderator or as a lecturer in any of the following prospective lecture series, please contact Curriculum Chair Les Norman for more details at lesnorman@comcast.net: "Women Who Have Changed the Course of History;" "Retail Pioneers Spanning a Century;" "Famous Artists, Troubled Lives: Their Stories;" "Great Composers III;" and "Recent Developments in Astronomy and Astrophysics."

In the meantime, we all owe Ben our gratitude for his efforts back in 2002 introducing AIL to this novel and exciting way of lifelong learning.
~Betsy Boege

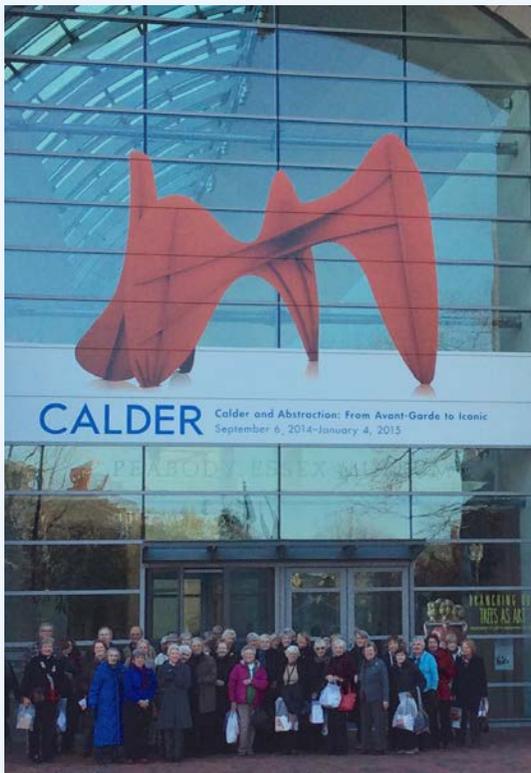


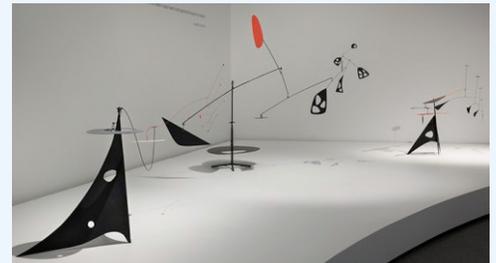
PHOTO: Betsy Boege

PEM Calder Exhibit Trip

Forty-six AIL members travelled to Salem, Mass., on November 19, 2014, to view "Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic" at the Peabody Essex Museum. One of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century, Calder revolutionized modern sculpture. Forty of the artist's kinetic metal mobiles and stabiles were on display in an exhibit rarely shown to the public.

"I have remained faithful to the original conception that disparity is the spice of life, i.e., disparity of form, size, density, color, motion, and perhaps a few other things."

—Alexander Calder,
1956



Save the Date!
AIL Annual Meeting May 21, 2015.

Adventures in Learning Happenings



PHOTOS: Deb Rucci

Larry Harper discusses Henry VIII's first wife, Katherine of Aragon, with participants in his "The Six Wives of Henry VIII"



PHOTO: Joyce Kellogg

Jane Guise answers questions with participants in this winter's "Beyond Gandhi and King: Broadening Our Understanding of Nonviolence" course, which she co-lead with John Raby.



PHOTO: Bob Mack

Gordie (at far left) and Frannie Terwilliger (at far right) and members of their class, "Young Adult Literature: It's Not Just Nancy Drew Anymore."



PHOTOS: Skip Wareham

Derek Hunt's "The Magic of Disney" course gave enthusiastic participants a welcome break from the cold and snowy winter.



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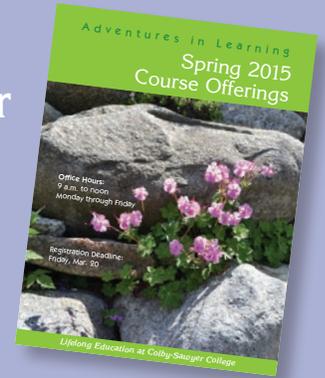
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REMINDER:
 Registration deadline for
 spring courses is
 noon on Friday,
March 20, 2015.

Click [here](#) to register online.



Thursday's Child

On December 4 Adventures in Learning members and friends gathered at this year's Thursday's Child dinner at the Coach House Restaurant at the New London Inn. Once again AIL is delighted to be part of this program as it brings our members and community friends together for a night of delicious food and good company in support of AIL's Achievement Award Fund. The award provides an annual scholarship to an outstanding Colby-Sawyer College junior. Please see Sheldon Boege's article on [page 2](#).



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.

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PHOTOS: Maureen Rosen

