

# Horizons

Winter 2009

## *Lifelong Education at Colby-Sawyer College*

### The Greatest Generation

Last fall, World War II veterans in the New London-Sunapee area reminisced about their wartime experiences in a course titled "The Greatest Generation." Each Wednesday morning the veterans gathered at the New London Historical Society meeting house to provide a first-hand account of what fighting was like in the European and Pacific theaters.

The subject matter was organized by service branch, with Navy veterans leading off, followed in successive weeks by veterans from the Army, Air Corps and Marines. Vice Admiral Julien LeBourgeois (retired) video recorded his reminiscences of the Naval war in the Pacific, knowing he would be in Williamsburg, Va., at the time of the course. Tom Cooper served as moderator, with individual presentations led by Ted Lockhart (Navy), Bob Gaudrault (Army), Jerry Biron (Air Corps.), and Hank Otto (Marines). In the final week, the veterans shared their experi-

ences in returning to civilian life after the war.

In the opening presentation, Mike Pride, former editor of the *Concord Monitor*, gave the keynote address based on his newspaper series, "My War." For the series, he interviewed veterans throughout New Hampshire to create an oral history of World War II. He was followed by the video recording of Julien LeBourgeois, who gave a personal account of America's amazing build-up to war from less than a standing start. Finally, former Army military intelligence officer Bill Sullivan provided a context for the war stories still to come by presenting an overview of the war's major battles and milestones.

*~Morris Edwards*

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Adventures in Learning *Horizons*, published three times annually, 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.

*World War II veterans participating in "The Greatest Generation" course included, from the left, Jack Holton (Navy), Jim Moore (Air Corps.), Bob Gray (Navy), Tom Drinkwater (Marines), Bill Phippen (Army), Bob Gaudrault (Army) and Jerry Biron (Air Corps.).*



PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

## Globalization Comes to Adventures in Learning

In a first for Adventures in Learning, a couple from England used the Internet last fall to register for two courses: "Enjoying Wines Under \$10" and "May-Floure—The Story of New England's Beginnings." The couple, Carolyn and Maurice Nichols, lives in Worcestershire, famous for its sauce, but are thinking of moving here. Carolyn's cousin, who lives in Sunapee's Indian Cave, had piqued their interest by talking glowingly about our region's attractions. Carolyn and Maurice decided to rent a house in Sunapee during September and October to check out the area for themselves.

"We chose Sunapee for its lakes and mountains and an abundance of both summer and winter activity," Carolyn says, "but also because of its proximity to New London and Hanover with their college communities and the added dimension they bring." When she logged onto the Colby-Sawyer College website she quickly discovered Adventures in Learning and information on its courses.

"Adventures in Learning appealed to us on a number of different levels," Maurice says. "It was a way of spending our time constructively, but also an opportunity to socialize and find our feet in the community."

He was particularly interested in the "May-Floure" course because he knew the story from a British view-



Maurice and Carolyn enjoy the fall outdoors after a "May-Floure" session led by Joanna Henderson (center).

point and wanted to hear the American perspective. The wine appreciation course was appealing as a great way to meet people. "How could wine tasting at 9:30 a.m. fail to achieve that aim?" he asks. Both signed up for the two courses and found them "engaging and compelling."

Maurice was born in London and is a lawyer ("almost retired") qualified in England and New York. Carolyn, a physical therapist, is originally from Worcester, Mass., and finds it rather bizarre to be living in Worcestershire, England. For how long remains an open question.

~Morris Edwards

## Spring 2009 Courses

**Discovering a Sense of Place** Natalie Davis and Liz Meller

**Kings Henry II and Henry VIII on Film** Gladys Dowd

**Religion in Collision—The First Millennium A.D.** Art Rosen

**The Supreme Court in United States History** Dick Pearson and Tom Galligan—a mini-course

**The Interrogation Game. Winners and Losers-Fiction and Fact** Walter Barndt

**The Sixties: Pivotal Era or Not?** Hilary Cleveland

**The Age of Burlesque** Chuck Kennedy and Bill Tighe

**The American Revolution** Bryan Jones—a lecture series

**Strings, Branes and Big Bangs: A Cosmological Odyssey** Tom Vannatta

**Romania: New European Star?** Bill Helm—a mini-course

**"Give 'em Hell, Harry!" The Presidency of Harry S. Truman** Eugene Lariviere

**The Internet: Where It Came from, How It Works, and Where It's Going** Kenneth Tentarelli

## The Greening of Adventures in Learning

“Creating a culture of concern for the environment, including a commitment to sustainability, is critical to our success. Colby-Sawyer College is proud to be among those leading the way,” stated President Tom Galligan in August 2007, when, along with 330 other presidents, he signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, thus making Colby-Sawyer a charter signatory institution. Both the college and Adventures in Learning have been increasingly engaged in marching to this green beat.

As long as ten years ago, Colby-Sawyer switched from fuel oil to propane and has since replaced most windows and doors on campus with more energy-

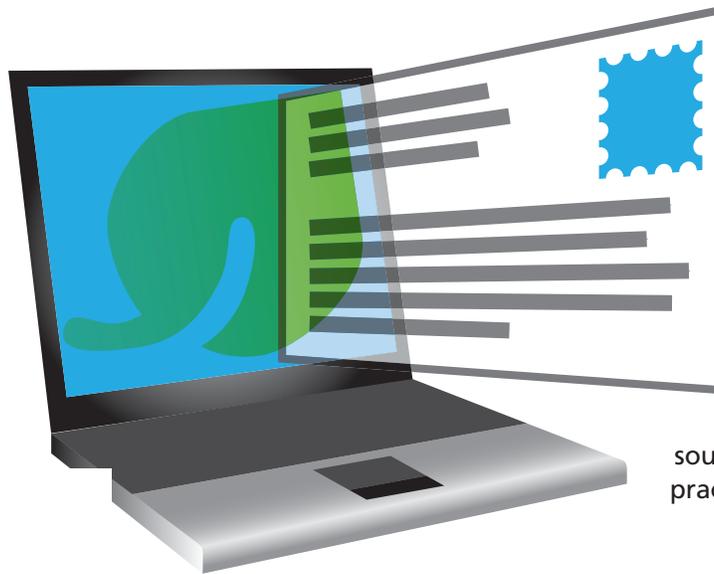
efficient models. The pace toward sustainability continues to quicken. As Leon-C. Malan, chair of the Environmental Studies Department and of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee explains, “The college has recently

developed a number of great initiatives, particularly in the areas of dining, facilities, and grounds.” In addition, through encouraging electronic communication in classes over the past three years, the col-

lege has found that the amount of paper used has been significantly reduced even as student enrollment has increased.

Adventures in Learning, following the college’s lead, is also exploring ways to promote

sound environmental practices and at the same



## The LeBourgeoises —An Appreciation

Some nineteen years ago our community was fortunate, indeed, to have attracted Julien and Priscilla LeBourgeois, who had decided to continue their retirement here. They had arrived from Tamworth, N.H., where they had settled after Julien retired from the Navy following an outstanding career in which he had experience in diplomacy and graduate level education, as well as important sea commands.

Their positive impact began immediately, and Julien soon became a member of the President's Advisory Council at Colby-Sawyer College.

Before long they were taking courses at ILEAD, and, after too many snowy trips to and from Hanover, Julien (and others) conceived the idea of starting a similar program in New London. With the whole-

hearted cooperation of the Colby-Sawyer College administration, Adventures in Learning—so named by Priscilla—was born, and it has thrived ever since.

In the early days of the program, Julien attempted to persuade me to try my hand at leading a course on the American Civil War, which he knew I had studied as a hobby following my own retirement. I had never

done anything of that sort before and felt quite insecure in the attempt. But, on his promise to join me in the effort, I agreed. We worked out a system where I did the campaigns and battles and Julien covered other aspects of the period like politics and civilian life. He even (famously) described, in great detail, how to make the perfect Mint Julep as taught by General Simon



*Julien and Priscilla toast each other at their recent farewell gathering.*

PHOTO: Maureen Rosen

time better serve its membership. Currently, the Board of Directors is looking into using e-mail rather than snail mail for such services as confirming membership and registration, as well as notifying members of special events and venue changes for courses. Such electronic communication would not only save paper and, thus, trees, but also reduce mailing costs. It costs just one penny to send an e-mail as opposed to 42 cents to send a letter. And the college has recently installed a new "e-mail blast system" that Adventures in Learning has been able to tap into at no cost.

A green emphasis is reflected not only in Adventures in Learning's administrative practices but also in its curriculum. Some of

the program's most rewarding and popular classes include the following: "Climate and Civilization" (study leader Jim Moore, spring 2006); "Global Warming and Climate Change" (Bob Crane, spring 2008); "Man's Changing Perceptions and Uses of Nature" (Charlie Carey, fall 2008); "Choices for Sustainable Living" (Natalie Davis and Liz Meller, spring 2008); and upcoming for winter 2009 "The Impact of Climate Change on Natural Catastrophes" (Jim Moore).

As Natalie explains, "The course Liz and I taught last year suggested choices we could make to live in a more sustainable way. This spring we will offer a course 'A Sense of Place' in which we will focus on our valuable local resources so we can use them more wisely and live more sustainably."

~Ann Lang



Take a  
**Closer  
Look**

at the  
Adventures in Learning  
website.

We've added new  
photos and new features  
to highlight current and  
upcoming events.

Please visit us at  
[www.colby-sawyer.edu](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu).

Buckner. One of the course participants labeled our team teaching routine as my doing the play by play and Julien doing the color commentary, to use a sports metaphor. However labeled, the course seemed to be a success. We gave it four times in New London and once at ILEAD. Each time it was over-subscribed.

Adventures in Learning has grown and progressed tremendously since those earlier days thanks to the hard work of many others who followed Julien's lead.

In recognition of Julien's many important contributions to our community, and especially for his leadership in the genesis and development of the Adventures in Learning program, Colby-Sawyer College bestowed their prestigious Town and Gown Award on him in 2004.

The LeBourgeoises' recent move to a more salubrious climate is a severe loss to all of us. Both he and Priscilla will be greatly missed, and we will have a difficult time replacing their guidance and enthusiastic service.

~Millard Hunter

## Inclement Weather Policy

*Adventures in Learning follows the Kearsarge Regional School District policy on weather closures and delays. For information on the district's cancellations call (603) 526-8444. When Kearsarge schools are not in session, study group leaders will leave a message on the day of their course. Call (603) 526-3367 to listen to the recorded announcement prior to 9:30 a.m. for morning course messages and after 9:30 a.m. for afternoon course messages. If a question remains about a course cancellation, please call your study group leader.*

## Why Do They Do It?

In the last *Horizons* newsletter, we discussed the process study leaders follow to bring their topics to full-course status. Now we will deal with motivation. Why do these people do this? Why do they subject themselves to weeks, and often months, of work to put together an Adventures in Learning course? To answer the question, we gathered three of our veteran study leaders for a conversation. Julie Machen, a retired history teacher, has not only taught courses but has also been the architect for several lecture series. Jim Moore has taught many courses, usually related to the geo-sciences, and has another in the works for the winter. Joanna Henderson, the leader of the very popular Abigail Adams course and the former dean of admissions for Colby-Sawyer College, will lead a lecture series in the winter on World War I.

Why do they do it? Because they love learning, and learning is an ongoing thing for them. Because they have so much passion for their subject they can't wait to share it with others. There was a palpable level of energy, enthusiasm and excitement in the room as they talked about their experiences leading Adventures in Learning courses. They admitted that putting a course together could be hard work, but as Joanna said, "We happen to think it's fun work. We learn so much while we're doing our research that it's not only satisfying but really exciting." She said that sometimes when she is in a library and comes across a new nugget of information she almost laughs aloud. Julie has taken history vacations for years. She finds a grant or an endowment and glories in being a student again. "I always wanted to be a full-time student. Doing research and teaching an Adventures in Learning course is about as close as I can get."



Joanna Henderson



Julie Machen



Jim Moore

Jim is a special case. He, too, is always learning. An MIT grad who did graduate work in geology, he discovered after a few career changes that he really wanted to teach. On the cutting edge, he uses PowerPoint to prepare and illustrate his classes. What makes him really special is that he will be ninety this winter ("during my winter course"). He taps his head when he says that Adventures in Learning keeps him going.

All three have had such positive experiences as study leaders that they ardently encourage others to sign on. They emphasize that one does not need to have teaching experience or a career connection to lead a course. One does not need to be a great speaker or super intellect. All that is necessary is a deep interest in something and a desire to pass that interest on. A course can take many different forms. It can be structured or free-wheeling, a lecture or a discussion, and it can have one study leader, or two, or more. Julie and Joanna agreed that one of the advantages of being a single study leader is the ability to change things at the last minute to accommodate a new path the study group is following. If there are two study leaders, the work can be divided and it can be a lot of fun. Sometimes a course can emerge from a brand new interest, as in the case of Pat and Don Clark. Pat was taking a course and was asked to investigate Sufi poetry, which she knew nothing about. She became totally enthralled and grew so excited and enthusiastic that she and Don ended up

leading a course on Sufi poetry.

Our three study leaders are great Adventures in Learning advocates and would like more to join their ranks. Being a study leader for the first time could be a life-changing experience.

~Heidi Beckwith

Please note that Adventures in Learning's administrative office will be closed on these dates:

**December 20, 2008–January 2, 2009**  
**Monday, January 19 • Monday, February 17**



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## Meet Lisa Swanson



*A graphic designer produces visual solutions to the communications needs of the client, using mixed creative skills involving several computer software programs and sometimes a pad and pencil.*

**L**isa Swanson, graphic designer and sole proprietor of Second Story Design in Manchester, uses these and other creative skills to create the Adventures in Learning catalog, *The Horizons* newsletter, and other Colby-Sawyer projects, including the "Alumni Magazine."

Lisa says the biggest challenge with the new design of the catalog and *Horizons* was to design something that has a friendly look but enough flexibility so as not to become stale or boring. Projects for Adventures in Learning's *Horizons* begin with the Public Relations Committee's articles and then the pieces finally come together with the design and layout. Lisa says, "It's truly a team effort." She adds that the articles about people in *Horizons* and courses in the catalog are especially interesting, and if she lived closer she would probably be taking Adventures in Learning courses.

Lisa loves the flexibility of being self-employed and particularly enjoys working with Colby-Sawyer College. The work reaches students and alumni alike and, for many, it is the face of the school.

Lisa received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Michigan State University with an emphasis in graphic design. Her career began with traditional layout and design techniques and evolved to computer graphics, and she says, "I can't imagine what it would be like to sit at a computer and not create something."

*~Maureen Rosen*

### Spring Term Date Change

*In order to finish the spring term earlier, the Board has decided to begin each spring term on the Monday of the second full week of April. This year the term will begin on **April 13**.*

## Adventures in Learning

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