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New DLI classes focus on beer and archeology



Chris Distel leads a class in "The Arts and Sciences of Beer," offering in-depth answers to many questions about craft brews. Distel will offer his class through the Dynamic Learning Institute on March 13.

Jeff Anderson DLI Chairman | Special to The Times | March 3, 2018

I am writing this Dynamic Learning column from the Opryland Hotel complex in Nashville, Tennessee. Last night, I looked around to purchase a bottled water within the hotel and found a 24-hour market cafe, a fancy version of Stripes without gas pumps. Unexpectedly, I observed beer taps on a store wall featuring eight craft beers. My first reaction was, "Wow something new is going on in the marketing and experiencing of beer!"

Can a beer be more than just a drink? Can it be an experience? March 13, 6-7:30 p.m. at Schreiner University, DLI participants in "The Arts and Sciences of Beer" class will have the opportunity to fully consider what's going on today in the world of beer.

A recent social media post commented, "After this class, you will never look at a beer the same way." The class is led by Chris Distel, Ph.D., an associate professor of biology at Schreiner University. Distel received his doctoral degree from Miami University in Ohio, where he focused on environmental toxicology. Distel teaches in Schreiner's Interdisciplinary Studies program and is an outspoken proponent of interdisciplinary education. Beer is an appealing theme around which to frame this kind of educational experience. Distel also is active in theater, hosts mystery dinners and leads birding tours.

When asked what led to the development of this course he responded, "Shortly after college, my father introduced me to craft beer. Since then, I've been fortunate to have a spouse, friends and family who like to try new things and compare experiences. The timing of my introduction to craft beer couldn't have been better, as independent breweries began popping up nationwide in a market that now faces interesting new challenges."

Distel will discuss in-depth answers to many questions, including: Why is beer unique? How do people sell beer? What ingredients are in beer? Why do I like this beer but not that beer? Can people make their own beer? Is beer used ceremonially? Where is beer from? What is "good" beer? What is "craft" beer?

The Arts and Sciences of Beer examines the cultural and historical significance of different styles of beer, the economic impacts and aesthetic components of beer. It will discuss the resources needed to produce great beer and biochemical subtleties that have big impacts on flavors and much more!

Jamie Beaumont of the Kinematic Brewing Company summarized his own class experience: "This class prepares you to really look at all aspects: marketing, production, everything."

As Distel tells his Schreiner students, "You can't have too much information." Distel promises to equip you with a great diversity of information to help you fully appreciate "The Arts and Sciences of Beer."

The cost to attend is \$20 per person. This class takes place in the Cailloux Campus Activity Center, <http://schreiner.edu/campus-info/campus-tour/index.aspx>. To register, call 792-4044, Monday through Friday, or register anytime online at www.clubed.net. Participants will have the opportunity to sample beers, so registrants will need to be at least 21 years old with a valid ID.

Hill Country Archeology

Want to learn facts about the rich history of ancient peoples who inhabited the Texas Hill Country and avoid the fiction that sometimes we see on television or hear as legends? The "Archeology of the Hill Country" is your DLI class that will help you understand the life of Native Americans in our region and how these changed through time.

Steve Stoutamire, a retired petroleum geologist, wanted to become an archeologist, but events led him down the pathway of a career in geology. Stoutamire never lost that love of discovering mankind's past. With basically a second career beginning in retirement, he dove into archeology. Soon, he began working with private landowners to help them understand the human history they had on their property.

In the beginning, he said, "I had no idea how much amazing archeology there was in our area." March 15, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Dietert Center, Stoutamire will lead the DLI class "Hill Country Archeology."

The class will explore the periods of Texas archeological time and places in context with the life ways of our Hill Country ancestors.

Stone tools and weapons utilized by Native Americans will be discussed and real specimens displayed, as well as some discussion of ancient local sites. You will learn from a teacher who has devoted much of the last decade performing professional methods of archeological site-work with private landowners.

The Kerr County area is rich in archeology, which tells a story of ancient human occupations as far back as 12,000 years ago. We are relative newcomers to the area with European/American settlement dating back only into the 1840s. Before

these groups, there were countless Native Americans who inhabited our region and left clues about their lifestyles.

These clues are contained in archeology deposits all over the county and include numerous forms of flint spear and arrow points, cutting tools such as flint knives, scrapers, grinding tools for nuts and berries and many other stone and organic remains. You will learn how ancient Native Americans in our region experienced climates and inhabited landscapes quite different than those we now have. You will learn about the latest technology in archeology and how that shapes interpretations of ancient life ways.

Stoutamire will explore topics that answer many questions, including: What did ancient Native Americans eat and how did they process their foods? What game did they hunt? Were there buffalo in our area? What types of tools and weapons did they have? What was their culture like? Were they spiritual? How many languages did they speak and what were they? Were they sedentary or were they nomadic? When did the bow and arrow become their main form of weaponry? When did Native Americans begin usage of the horse? How did humans get to Texas and what are the theories of where they came from?

DLI board members Tom and Ginnie Moser will serve as hosts for this DLI class. The cost to attend is \$20 per person. To register, call 792-4044, Monday through Friday, or register anytime online at www.clubed.net.

Dynamic Learning Institute

DLI is a Kerrville community partnership between the Dietert Center's Club Ed, Schreiner University, SERV Kerrville and the Dynamic Learning Institute Board of Directors.

Dynamic Learning aims to provide the Kerrville area with fun, interactive and stimulating learning experiences.

The DLI board hopes many community residents will join it in discovering the joy of learning from dynamic instructors with a lifetime of subject experiences to share.

There are no tests, no grades and no papers — just the opportunity to explore interesting topics and develop new interests.

About Anderson

DLI Chairman Jeff Anderson is the servant pastor of SERV Kerrville, a nonprofit collaborating with community partners to empower lifelong learning.