

By Popular Demand

It was two years ago that Marion Hvistendahl first offered a course on James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. She thought she would be lucky if more than a handful of students enrolled. To her surprise, the class more than filled, resulting in a classroom practically bursting at the seams and rife with thoughtful discussion. This winter term she is repeating the course for those who still wish to take it, as well as some who want to take it again. The book, besides being a seminal work of “modern” literature, contains enough material to fuel multiple readings and endless discussion.

Though Marion had not taught *Ulysses* before, she taught for thirty years, first at South Dakota State University and then at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. Her area of specialty was Greek Mythology, which she found particularly interesting in how it revealed the contrast between the ancient Greek’s view of his place in the world and that of twentieth century humanity. Grand View College was founded by Grund Luth, who also established the Elderhostel program and was a strong proponent of life-long learning. “After teaching there for several years, I came to be a believer,” Marion comments.

After she and her husband, who taught at Iowa State University, retired, they taught in China for a year. In 1990 they moved to Northfield, where they had grandchildren. They were already familiar with the town, as all three of their children had attended St. Olaf.

In Northfield Marion continued to engage in intellectual pursuits. Among her endeavors is the characterization of notable women in history, presented as a one-woman dramatic performance. Among others, she has “been” Katie Luth, third wife of Grund; Mrs. North, wife of Northfield’s namesake; Hildegard of Bingen; Mary Todd Lincoln; and Lydia Pinkham.



Marion has taught and taken CVEC courses since the very beginning. In its early days the Collegium was featured in national news media, and photos from her first class made their way to the Washington Post. She received a phone call from the president of *USA TODAY*, who turned out to be a former student of hers from South Dakota, congratulating her for stealing newspaper space from Monica Lewinsky! Besides *Ulysses*, Marion has taught Greek Mythology three times, “The Short Story” twice, and “Twentieth Century American Fiction: Hero to Anti-Hero.”

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Mark your Calendars:

**Cannon Valley Elder Collegium
Benefit Concert**

Sunday November 13, 2005 3:30 pm (Coffee reception at 3:00 pm)
Northfield Retirement Community Chapel

Cathy Schubilski Violin
Brian Jensen Horn
Dr. Charles Kemper Piano

Tentative Program
Saint-Saens Violin -Piano sonata
Brahms Horn Trio in E flat Major