

# ◆ Collegium News ◆

Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

August 4, 2000



## Administration

Ron Ronning,  
Executive Director  
(507) 645-2311  
Keith Anderson,  
Program Director  
(507) 645-6723

## Board of Directors

Bev Anderson  
Bob Ballentine  
Ruth Dahl  
Alene Fink  
Michael Foote  
Stan Frear  
Jane McWilliams  
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## Sponsoring Organizations

Northfield Senior Center  
(507) 664-3700  
Northfield Care Center

## Funding

Minn. Humanities  
Commission  
City of Northfield  
CVEC Members

## Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

## Enrollment says "Yesss!" to Lecture Course

CVEC's experiment with an unlimited enrollment lecture course last spring yielded positive results. "The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again?) of the Soviet Union" taught by Bill Woehrlin drew over 70 registrants.

Feedback from CVEC students and from the Minnesota Humanities Commission evaluator, Omar Otterness, last year led to a proposal designed to attract a larger number of students. The resulting course met the criteria of being both more affordable and less demanding, while maintaining the high level of scholarship people have come to expect from Collegium offerings.

For only \$5.00, students attended eight two-hour sessions (including coffee break) which did not require substantial reading, homework, or other class preparation. All they had to do was attend and absorb information, though questions and comments were still welcome.



Bill Woehrlin addresses students at the Northfield Retirement Center.

"Bill Woehrlin is such an authority ... he presents the information with humor and keeps our attention," commented one student. It is hoped that this taste of knowledge will encourage some new students to try more courses. Another lecture course is offered Spring Term of 2001 on the topic of Greek Mythology.

## Variety Spices Curriculum

Spring term at CVEC once again saw a broad array of course offerings. Long before the first crocus opened, registrants were pondering a menu including history, sociology, and three very different approaches to literature.

The intergenerational course, "Winds of Change: Four Decades of Activism" reviewed movements of the last 40 years, from civil rights in the '50s through "women's liberation" up to recent issues such as gun control. Participants' own life experiences provided much of the material for discussion, along with visiting speakers and contemporary writings. "Life's Beginning" described the biology of conception, fertility and cloning, and explored the attendant ethical issues. Those who wondered "How did Stalin do that, anyway?" got a taste of Soviet history from the lecture course on "The Rise and Fall..."

A hearty feast was laid for hungry bookworms.

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## Good News at Annual Meeting

The mood was upbeat at the annual membership meeting May 31 as board chair Bob Ballentine began by reporting that membership continues to rise each year. Northfield Mayor Bill Rossman then pledged to re-

ments in his life.

Keith Anderson and Ron Ronning continued the meeting with the following: \*commemorative tribute to Bill Narum, leader in education at St. Olaf and Collegium faculty member

\*mention of two recent books that focus on the positive aspects of being an "elder" and the increasing pursuit of education by seniors

\*news that membership surveys were coming in and projected courses for next year

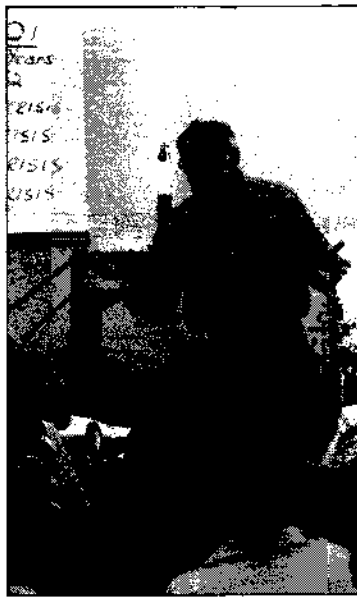
## Call for Volunteers

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ments in his life.

Keith Anderson and Ron Ronning continued the meeting with the following:

- \*commemorative tribute to Bill Narum, leader in education at St. Olaf and Collegium faculty member
- \*an announcement that Stan Frear will continue on the board of directors under his own name (after standing in for Connie Sansome)
- \*a discussion about the possible need or desirability of sustainable financial resources in the future

\*mention of two recent books that focus on the positive aspects of being an "elder" and the increasing pursuit of education by seniors

\*news that membership surveys were coming in and projected courses for next year were falling into place.

Photos taken by students in Fred Gonnerman's winter term photography course were on display at the meeting.

### Call for Volunteers

The Collegium occasionally has need for volunteer labor. If you have a couple hours to spare and are interested in helping, please call Ron Ronning or Keith Anderson.

**Curriculum**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Some gourmets sampled the exotic cuisine of women mystery writers and the evolution of the mystery novel. Works by Jane Austen and George Eliot sated other palettes with a complex dish of 19th century English society and its values. Those with an appetite for the short story learned to savor the subtle seasonings of technique, tone, geography and time to appreciate the full flavor of the human condition.

With several weeks left to digest all that food for thought, regulars at the "Collegium Cafe" can contemplate new courses for the 2000-2001 academic year in the following:

In *Dick Cantwell's Three Centuries, Three Countries, Three Operas: Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Bizet's Carmen and Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress* students will examine the original works that inspired these

operas, watch videos of them, and consider how an opera is "made" from existing works. *Julie Goldstein's The Art and Joy of Story-telling* includes experiential exercises and a look at stories from various cultures to help participants develop their own story-telling creativity. *Lowell Johnson's The Outsider in Shakespeare's Comedies* will examine four comedies to explore societies' ideas of acceptance and why certain outsiders are included, rejected, or transformed in the plays. *Reidar Dittmann* is offering *Architecture and Painting in Italy: the Late Middle Ages and the Renaissance*. The dominant feature of the Renaissance was its emphasis on humankind and serving its needs. This course focuses on the creative activities in the regions of Tuscany and Umbria. Constance Sansome's *Northfield and Environs: Our Natural World* introduces Northfield's rocks and landforms, weather, waters,

soils and animal life. It also examines our usage of our natural heritage and how we might preserve and restore it. There will be one half-day field excursion.

*J. Randolph Cox's Murder By Gaslight: The Victorian Detective Story* examines the roots of this popular genre of fiction as it appears in the works of writers like Poe, Dickens and Collins, just before Sherlock Holmes became a household name. Reading and discussion supplemented by videos. And finally, Richard Bodman's *Reflections in a Chinese Mirror* will examine the following questions: Why has China's last half-century been so full of turmoil? And why in particular did the whole nation fall under the spell of Chairman Mao? We will sample classical and contemporary Chinese culture.

**Winter 2001**

Ruth Hanson	Introduction to Biblical Archeology
David Maitland	Aging's Transitions
Jim Reiley	Presidents
R. Ronning/Wm. Child	Musical forms
Fred Gonnerman	Photography
Bardwell Smith	Pilgrimages in Spain and Japan

**Spring 2001**

George Soule	The Great Gatsby, The French Lieutenant's Woman
Ray Jacobson/ David Lyon	Space and Time in Sculpture and Architecture
Bill Woehrlin	Ideologies of Our Time
Jim Wolf	Thomas Mann - Short Stories
Don Norris	The Works of Barbara Kingsolver
Marion Hvistendahl	Greek Mythology and its Relevance Today

**The Carleton/Collegium Lecture Series**

will focus on topics in history and philosophy. The lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursdays on September 21, October 5 and 19, and November 2 in room 141 at Olin Hall on the Carleton campus. Lecturers are Bob Bonner and Bill North in history, Gary Iseminger and David MacCallum in philosophy. Bonner's lecture September 21st is titled "Henry the VIII and Buffalo Bill".

The CVEC board of directors appreciates the efforts of many of you who took time to fill out the surveys. The information you provided benefits all by helping plan the future of CVEC.

**NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS:**

Lars Jerrhag, a Swedish Troubadour presents a program Aug 8, 7:00, free. And, Rex Macbeth will present "The Ghost of Charlie Pitts" Aug 24, 7:00, for a nominal charge. Both programs will be held at 408 Division St., Northfield.