

~ Collegium News ~

Volume 7 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

July 2004



He Searches Near and Far for Truth

David Fowler, who retired to Northfield after an academic career, taught a CVEC course for the first time last spring. Yes, the topic of the course was philosophical. The search, however, is not so much related to the sojourn from his childhood Michigan to Sweden and finally Norway, where he served as Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Trondheim. Rather, it is the actual phrase "near and far" and similar phrases he calls "frozen conjunctives," consisting of a word pair in irreversible order connected by and or or, that he explores. Surprisingly, they afford glimpses into how we perceive, order and communicate about our world.



DAVID FOWLER

Students in the class titled "Worldmaking: Metaphors and Meaning" examined these word pairs and other kinds of metaphors for clues about our relationship with the physical world and by extension our perceptions about all kinds of things. "I think we all came out of the course with a much broader concept of what a metaphor is and how metaphors are used, and now recognize them where we would not have before," commented student Jane McWilliams. Over and out.

New Leadership from CQ Club

The Educators Chapter of the Can't Quit Club has yielded new directors for CVEC. Like many of our instructors, incoming Director Bill Carlson and Associate Director Barb Dettle both have backgrounds in education. Bill recently retired after thirty years at St. Olaf, where he set up the academic computing program and taught in the Economics Department. He has also written economics and statistics textbooks. Barb started her career in elementary music education but then turned to special education, setting up some of the early LD (learning disabled) programs in southern Minnesota. She most recently taught in the Faribault school district.

Bill and Barb will officially take the helm of the Great Ship CVEC on September 1, 2004. Between now and then they are on deck alongside outgoing directors Jerry and Liz Hankins in order to learn the ropes.

Growing Strength, Growing Pains

A cheerful crowd gathered in the Northfield Retirement Center chapel last May to be entertained and informed and to share concerns and enthusiasm. After being regaled with the rousing rhymes of Robert (Service), recited by "Two Old Professors" (Bob Will and George Soule), Collegium leadership reviewed the year's challenges and triumphs.

In summary, CVEC is a strong and growing organization. Enrollment continues to increase, and next year seven classes will be offered each term. Successful fund drives have enhanced financial security in the face of ever-shrinking public funds.

Peg Prowe and Bob Ballentine stepped down from the board and are replaced by Bill Child and Mary Ann Eng. Jerry and Liz Hankins were thanked for their three years of leadership, Bill Carlson and Barb Dettle will step into place as the new Executive and Associate Directors

As Elder Collegium grows, it is an ever bigger job to make everything work. Committees have been formed to share the work and tend to all of the organization's needs. The facts that the nominating process is handled by a committee plus nominations from the floor and that course over-enrollment can not easily be resolved through a lottery both generated some passionate discussion. However, it is safe to say that all members - instructors, students, committee and board members - can rejoice that the difficulties at hand arise from CVEC's growth and not from any threat of collapse.

Administration

Jerry Hankins
Executive Director

Liz Hankins
Associate Director

Board of Directors

William Woehrlin
Board Chair

George Soule
Vice-Chair

Lois Burgoyne
Bill Child
Mary Ann Eng
Vern Faillettaz
Alene Fink
Doug Kriesel
Paula Lawrence

Founders

Keith & Bev Anderson
Ron & Bettye Ronning

Affiliates

Northfield Senior Org.
(507) 664-3700

Northfield Care Center

Funding

MN Humanities
Commission

CVEC Members

Staff

Teresa Ballentine
Administrative Aide

Kathy Mellstrom
Publicity Aide

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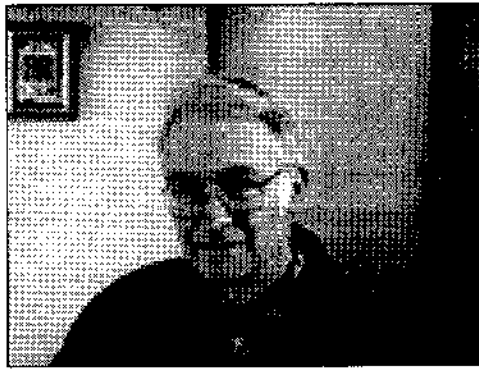
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Fall Meeting Set for October 3

Mark your calendar: we will meet October 3, 2004 at the NCRC. Reunite, celebrate, and get sneak previews of future courses. Helen of Troy will share thoughts from her memoirs through CVEC instructor Marion Hvistendahl. Time to be determined, notices will be sent.

CD/Video Fundraiser Joy

The CD/Video Sale organized for CVEC and the Senior Center by Connie Sansome last May raised \$583 for each organization. Start setting aside your "spare" cds and videos for next year's sale!

Wanted: Volunteer Coordinator

Thanks to Ray and Mary Ann Eng who have been doing this job and have now undertaken other CVEC tasks. We need someone to organize volunteers for specific jobs. Volunteers post Collegium materials around town three times per year and help greet, set up and clean up at fall and spring membership meetings. If you are willing to help with this, contact Bill Woehrlin or Liz Hankins.

FALL TERM: SEPTEMBER 20, 2004 – NOVEMBER 12, 2004

Hartley Clark: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
Paul Fjelstad: Some Mathematical Preludes and Interludes
Dean Kjerland: What's this Fossil Doing in My Backyard?
Ruben Haugen: Jazz: Becoming a Better Listener
Alice Hanson: The Music of Vienna
Connie Sansome: Journals: Homes and Gardens
Marie Gery: Dr. Frankenstein, I Presume

WINTER TERM: JANUARY 3, 2005 - FEBRUARY 25, 2005

Richard Bodman: The Afghan Kaleidoscope: Cultures in Collision
Charles Carlin: Consumer Chemistry
Fred Gonnerman: Learning How to See with Your Camera
Bardwell Smith: Still Listening to Lao Tzu: The "Tao Te Ching" 24 Centuries Later
Bill Woehrlin and Janet Mitchell: The Civil War
Jim Wolf: A Bureaucrat Looks at Kafka
Eleanor Zelliot: America and India: Interactions

SPRING TERM: MARCH 28, 2005 - MAY 20, 2005

Vern Faillettaz: One Islam, Diverse Muslims
Allen Hanson: The How and Why of It
Jim Holden: Mark Twain
Sally Legrand: The Built Environment: Looking at Architecture and Its Context
Jim Reiley: Congress of the United States
Jan Shoger: What Is an Original Print Anyway?
George Soule: How To Read Poetry (**LECTURE CLASS**)

Fall Term 2004 registration to be on FIRST COME basis

At its May meeting the CVEC Board decided to again use the "First Come" registration procedure. The registration forms will be mailed out the week of August 15, 2004 and will be accepted thereafter. If you register for a class that is already full, you will be notified as soon as possible so you can register for a different class.

Registrations may be sent by mail or left in the box at the Northfield Senior Center. All registrations must be accompanied by a check unless financial assistance has been requested. **Please register by August 31.**