



Collegium News

Volume 11 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium
"A Questing Mind Never Retires"

June 2008

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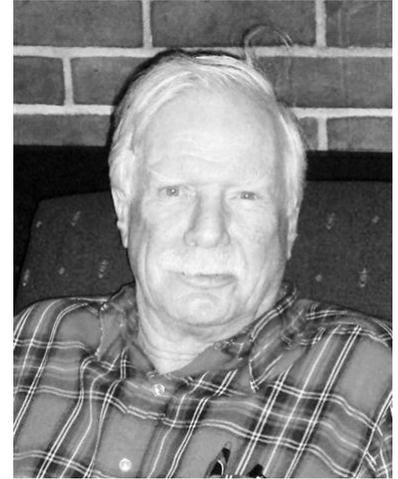
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Dick Cantwell: Non-Death-Defying Prof

Professor Dick Cantwell was the featured speaker at the annual meeting (see Annual Meeting article) He delivered a mini-lecture titled "The Greatest Lied in the World." A *Lied* is a German song form that combines poetry and melody, typically performed by a single voice accompanied by piano. "Many who have spoken at this meeting talked about the experience of teaching for CVEC. I'm not going to do that," he stated. Instead, his presentation was to be a sample of his teaching.

The professor insists he did not tempt fate by postponing spine surgery in order to teach his most recent course, on Verdi's operas, for the Collegium this year. Emeritus of Carleton College, where he taught for twenty-eight years, Cantwell taught language courses like everyone in the department, but his passion and specialty was German cultural history and he has an intense and ongoing interest in vocal music. While teaching at Carleton, he was also heavily involved with Northfield Arts Guild performances. Since retiring he has taught seven courses for CVEC, all focused on composition and performance of vocal music, from *lieder* to opera. About teaching for CVEC, he says, "I know something about vocal music, I enjoy it, and I want to share it." He has also taught summer ElderHostel programs on *lieder* and on Goethe's *Faust*.

By the way, our modest hero *did* once postpone triple bypass surgery in order to organize course materials at Carleton for his replacement.



From Yesterday to Tomorrow

Collegium members of long standing have seen the number of courses offered each term increase from three or four to nine or ten. A tour of recent and current construction in Northfield points to a preponderance of housing and facilities designed for those past their middle years. Where does all this growth come from?

Northfield's recent and imminent increases in senior population come from two sources. First, like the rest of the country, "boomer bulge" and longer life spans contribute to the aging of resident population. In addition, many people move to this community from other locations for retirement. The two colleges, an attractive senior center with strong programs, and yes, CVEC create an ideal environment for active retirees. Over half of the residents in the recently opened Kildahl Park Pointe Cooperative came from outside Northfield.

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2008 Fall Term -- Class Schedule
September 15 – November 7, 2008
Registration Begins August 11, 2008

<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
The Vice Squad: Vanity, Anger, Envy, Greed, Lust, Gluttony, Sloth Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Walt Stromseth NRC Parkview West, Fireside
The New Science of Positive Psychology: [Real] Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Bruce Roberts Village On the Cannon
The Pipe Organ: King of Instruments Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Richard F. Collman United Methodist Church
Sherlock Holmes and His World Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	J. Randolph Cox NRC Parkview West, Fireside
Oil, Energy, And The Environment: The Whole Picture Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Hartley Clark Village On the Cannon
Paper vs. Pixels: Can Newspapers Survive in a Web-based World? Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Linda Seebach Millstream Commons
Migration To U.S.A.: Then and Now Thursday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Marie Gery Kildahl Park Pointe
Twin Cities Churches: Getting to Know Them Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Ed Sovik NRC Parkview West, Fireside
The African Experience Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm	Joseph L. Mbele Northfield Senior Center Rm 106
China, Inside Out Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Richard Bodman Northfield Senior Center Rm 106

NOTE #1: For a description of the courses, go to the CVEC web page (www.cvec.org).

NOTE #2: The time and location of the courses will be mailed to members in the Class Brochures and posted on the CVEC web page.

Annual Meeting

A capacity crowd filled the chapel of 901 Cannon Valley Drive on May 4 for the 11th Annual Meeting of Cannon Valley Elder Collegium. Noting that the faculty of the Collegium is a unique and important resource, outgoing Curriculum Committee chair, Vern Failletaz, recognized Don Norris and Hartley Clark for five and George Soule for ten years' teaching for the organization.

Mary Ann Eng introduced the featured speaker, Dick Cantwell, describing from personal experience the enthusiasm about vocal performance he imparts to his classes. Herr Cantwell (as he was known to generations of German students at Carleton College) then demonstrated, delivering the long anticipated sample of his teaching, a mini-lecture on "The Greatest German Lied," complete with hand-outs and audio recording of the song under examination. Many members left the meeting having learned something completely new!

Several of next fall term's instructors presented brief "teaser" previews of their courses. Complete course descriptions are now available on the www.cvec.org web site, along with information about registration procedures. CVEC director Bill Carlson added that there will most likely be two sections of Hartley Clark's course on energy. He also noted that registrations received before the registration date are processed for enrollment in random order – there is no advantage to mailing weeks ahead over just a few days ahead. Classes not filled immediately then continue to be available on a first come, first served basis.

Our director also gave a brief report on the state of the organization, which is, briefly, "strong" (see "From the Director"). Retiring Board members were recognized and a slate of nominees was elected by the assembly. All emerged into the sunny afternoon in touch with the latest at CVEC.

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"If CVEC did not exist, someone would be working to create it," says our director, Bill Carlson. As he mentions in "From the Director" in this issue, that is exactly what happened recently in Winona, another Minnesota college town that has been attracting new retirees for reasons similar to Northfield's.

Fortunately, the Collegium has been organized in such a way that it can handle growth. It grew from a modest start-up funded by grants to a much larger independent operation, without having to compromise its course offerings or undertake major reorganization. As the tasks of running CVEC grew, adjustments were made to share the work among more members, organized by committee.

Looking to the future has been a big part of the organization's success. Each new challenge, whether in funding or in planning courses, has not only been met, but has also inspired strategies for handling upcoming challenges. "We are carefully monitoring the demand for additional classes," explains our director. "Some term we may suddenly find many more students than planned. But we could immediately increase the number of sections for some courses, and we are continually developing a list of possible future courses."

There will certainly be a dramatic increase in the potential student base, but with an effective organizational structure, ongoing re-evaluation, and looking ahead, CVEC's future is ensured -- just as it was in the past.



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CVEC is a Non-discriminatory Organization

From the Director

Our 11th year has been very successful. We enrolled 474 students and dynamic interaction between students and faculty was strong, as always. About 20% of our students come from outside of Northfield, half of those from Faribault. We are secure financially. We have been blessed by a major gift from an anonymous member, and I thank this member publicly. We also received a Grant from the Minnesota Humanities Center. These gifts have provided us with additional equipment for classroom presentations and will also fund new, innovative projects for the Collegium.

As I continue to learn about other senior education programs I am continually impressed by the unique organization and quality of CVEC. The founders developed a structure that is independent of all other organizations, and one which is run by volunteers but also recognizes the contributions of teachers and administrators through modest honorariums. This independence and the dedication of members is our strength and they enable us to continue our mission. We all grow from and enjoy learning new ideas. Of course we are fortunate to have many local retired educators and also new people who have settled in Northfield. Last year, George Soule and I met with some folks in Winona who were interested in senior learning. This contact grew out of our Shakespeare project. Great Rivers Elder Collegium has now started up in Winona, modeled after CVEC.

The Collegium has now evolved to a point where the original founding leadership has been replaced by new members. Lois Burgoyne and I are now the most senior members of the Board. Lois has a good sense of the history, but I am a "new kid," in the organization only four years. Our new Board Chair Jon Rondestvedt has taught courses but is also relatively new to the Collegium. We believe that the existing structure and our dedicated community will ensure continued strength. But it is also important that new members participate as volunteers, teachers, and students. Involvement is the way we grow new members and leadership that will carry on our outstanding program.



**Bill
Carlson**

Bill