

◆ Collegium News ◆

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

May 1, 1998



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Humanities
Commission

Newsletter

Annalee Larson

**Summer Break
No Classes
See You in the
Fall!**

News media fascinated

Collegium staff and students were surprised and pleased by media attention last February when NBC came to Northfield to interview and to film classes.

However, the two-minute segment for "Nightly News" with Tom Brokaw hasn't yet aired. Now it seems the network needed to update the footage with some spring-time shots, and is also considering a possible longer segment for the "Today" show as well. So April 28 and 29 NBC producer Ted Elbert and crew were again filming Collegium classes. The footage should air any week now.

Between NBC's two visits the Collegium has enjoyed national, and yes, even international attention. Articles have appeared in the Washington Post, Boston Globe and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Director Ronning's daughter read about the Collegium in the Houston Chronicle, while in Brussels, Belgium, his son read about it in the International Herald-

Tribune. The German Press Agency has picked it up.

Scheduled yet to come are crews from ABC "Good Morning America" and the Associated Press. Apparently



Instructor Connie Sansome chats with student Ed Chambers during the winter "Islands" class.

it is news that the over-50 set is getting into studying. This "15 minutes of fame" can only serve to make the Collegium stronger and spread the message of life-long

learning. And just perhaps in the process it will do something to dispel negative stereotypes of aging.

Dialogue proves lively between generations

New this term to the Collegium is the inter-generational class taught by John Welckle, "Cultural Conversations, the End of Democracy?" Enrolled are seven high school juniors and seniors and five retired adults, with an even mix of men and women and, it turns out, of liberal and conservative views. Said Welckle, "It's good to try this kind of thing -- to listen to other ideas and to bridge the gap between ideas and generations. In our culture we haven't done enough of that."

Comments from some of the young participants echo Welckle's statement. High school senior Stephanie Tuma said, "... there's so much that's taboo at school that you're not allowed to say. We

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Mark your calendar

May 11, Monday, 11:30: Advisory Board Meeting -- lunch at the Senior Center 1001 Division St.

Agenda: (1) review initial year, (2) plan next year, (3) brainstorm: the future of CVEC

May 11, Monday, 2:30: Collegium members meeting (A member is anyone who has taken a class.) at the Senior Center 1001 Division St. (Coffee and cookies)

Agenda: (1) critique our initial year, (2) offer requests and suggestions for next year. How can we improve "life-long learning"?



CVEC
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Says it all:

“You can only play so much bingo!” --*Julia Savina*

Registration numbers high, funding continues

As CVEC ends its first year in existence, it looks back on 19 courses taught, 92 alumni and a total of 181 registrants. Classes have met in homes, at the Senior Center, the Northfield Retirement Center, at St. Olaf and at City Hall. Students in their 50s through their 80s have participated. Counting those in the inter-generational class, there have also been seven teenagers.

CVEC goes confidently into its second fall supported from two

sources outside of tuition. In addition to the \$3,000 grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission granted this year, the commission has awarded the group \$6,000 for the 1998-99 school year, and the city of Northfield has weighed in with \$5,000 of support.

Hours of volunteer effort on the part of the directors and advisory board make this budget workable. The MHC increased grant indicates faith in the success of the collegium.

Did You Know?

- Our web site: www.cvec.org
- Our potential student from farthest away is a retired teacher in Lima, Peru. She wants to join classes at CVEC.
- Sweaters and T-shirts are available with CVEC logo, call 645-7238 for T's, 645-2311 for sweaters.

Three Terms in 1998-99:

Fall: Sept. 14 to Nov. 6

Winter: Jan. 18 to March 12

Spring: March 29 to May 21

Courses and instructors for all three terms will be announced in next newsletter coming late summer.

Teenagers air true feelings

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wouldn't be allowed to make the comments about religion that we did (here)." Elizabeth Huber, another senior agreed, "In our school we get in a lot of great discussions, but there's not ever a lot of controversy."

Senior of the other type, retired engineer Jim McFerrin, was also attracted by the mixture of ages as well as the subject matter. "I thought it might be interesting to reflect upon the possible differences in viewpoints from youth as taught today from my own teaching 60 years ago or so," he said. The man whose work once was detecting sub-

marines wanted to hear what the younger generation had to say.

Laura Vick (a senior who spoke on the condition

"There's so much that's taboo at school..."

that her "ums" and "likes" be edited out) said she really likes discussion,

"... it just blows my mind that anyone can think we're not thinking about these issues."

High school junior, Casey Galegher's enthusiasm said it best: "This was really great and I can't wait until next week."