

≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 3 Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

November 10, 2000



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MN Humanities
Commission
City of Northfield
CVEC Members

Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

Winter term
2001 starts
January 8th.
See page 2
for class list-
ings.

Record Attendance at Inaugural Feast

According to eyewitness reports, the October 1 opening event of the 2000-2001 academic year at Elder Collegium was a big hit. A sea of smiling faces attested to the record attendance (143 members), the delectability of the food provided by Byzantine Deli owner A.K. Kayoum, and the appeal of the program.

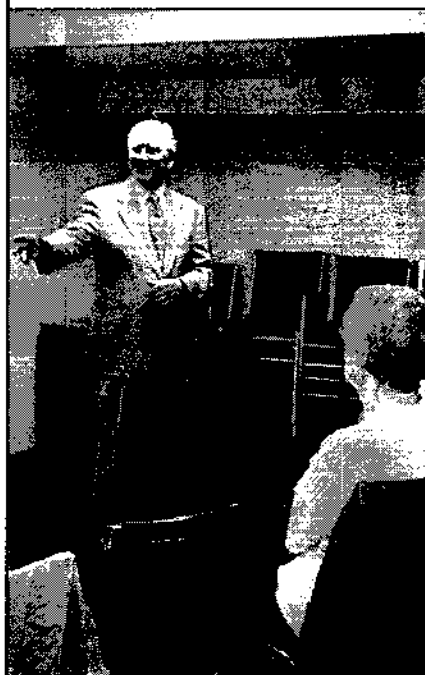
After A.K. gave his traditional rousing patriotism / get-out-the-vote speech, The Troubadours serenaded the assembled scholars. City council member CC Linstroth spoke, CVEC board members and faculty were recognized, and Bob Ballentine announced that there are 26 new students registered this term, for a total of 100 students in six classes. Your "college" is alive and kicking!

New Senior Center Provides Space

Those who attended the Inaugural Feast on October 1 enjoyed the first use of the new Northfield Senior Citizens Center by CVEC. We have office space there and will eventually have a resource library. At present, Lowell Johnson's Shakespeare class is meeting in one of the classrooms in the building. He has been making liberal use of the blackboard to illustrate his points, which is an advantage of meeting in a place designed as a classroom.

High Demand for Far-off Lands

Fall term registration figures for two courses revealed a strong interest in escaping Minnesota without actually leaving.



Professor Reidar Dittmann addresses CVEC students

The courses about China and Italy both had a waiting list long enough to fill another class.

Reidar Dittmann was able to teach an additional section of his course on art and architecture of Medieval to Renaissance Italy.

Prof. Dittmann has taught a popular course each year for the Elder Collegium. Perhaps the attraction lies in what he calls the "show and tell" appeal of his classes. Beautiful slides of artwork and historic architecture illustrate the verbal information that ties it all together. "When I was a boy in Norway," Professor Dittmann recalls, "long speeches bored me. But if there were pictures, then I liked it!" The rapt expressions and enthusiastic participation of the students reflect a similar sentiment.

Continue on page 2

Thanks Are Due:

- to our wonderful professors who make CVEC happen
- to Paula Lawrence for putting the archives in order
- to the volunteers who did the calling for the feast
- to A.K. Kayoum and Byzantine Deli for the food feast
- to Teresa Ballentine for volunteering to help with the newsletter

Our Condolence to Elaine Thurston on the loss of her

In Memory of Rita Hoffman

Rita Hoffman, known to some as an author of the Senior Column in the Northfield News, died this fall. She had a long and interesting career as a writer. A scholarship fund has been established in her name for those who cannot afford the full tuition of a CVEC course. If you would like to contribute to the fund or apply for a scholarship, contact Ron

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Professor Reider Dittman addresses CVEC students

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Registration for Winter Classes: To provide equal opportunity to enroll in high demand classes, no registrations for Winter Term will be recorded until December 1. Those registrations delivered in person on December 1 will be processed first. Earlier mail-in registrations will be processed at the close of the day, beginning with the postmarks closest to December 1. Scholarships are available and are confidential.

"To be able to look forward is to live." Halldor Laxness, winner of a Nobel Prize in Literature

High Demand for Far-Off Lands

Continued from page 1

Richard Bodman's course on China over the last fifty years is the first he has taught for CVEC. He is enthusiastic about his students. "I am the youngest in the class. My mother is one of my students," he volunteered. "These are curious and active people with interesting life experiences." Reading assignments are from materials Prof. Bodman has assembled, including poetry, essays and reportage (in translation!). Discussions have been lively. He says he would be willing to teach the course again, though he was unable to open another section this term.

Broad Appeal Characterizes CVEC/Carleton Humanities Lectures

This fall saw the third annual series of lectures, coordinated by Jim Finholt and co-sponsored by the Elder Collegium and Carleton College. The 2000 Humanities series was preceded by a Social Sciences series in 1999 and "Science Nights" in 1998. Introducing this year's four lectures, Carleton Dean Beth McKinstry noted that they give the public a taste of the liberal arts education that the college provides to its students. Topics were selected for their general interest. The public was invited free of charge.

Faculty from the history and philosophy departments delivered this year's lectures.

The first, evocatively titled "Henry VIII and Buffalo Bill," was really about the historian's search for meaning. Prof. Robert Bonner described different approaches to history, including that which relegates it to the social sciences. This historian's approach puts history solidly in the humanities.

This series, which ended in November, examined how science, history, and philosophy have affected our understandings. These lectures reflect the human mind contemplating what the human mind hath wrought.

Looking Forward to Next Term

Winter term dates this year are January 8 through March 2, 2000. Course descriptions and meeting times will be published later, but here are the bare bones for the info-hungry:

Instructors

Ruth Hanson

David Maitland

Jim Reiley

Bill Childs & Ron Ronning

Fred Gonnerman

Bardwell Smith

Tentative Titles

Introduction to Biblical Archaeology

Aging's Transition

Presidents #2: A Close-up Look at the New President

Musical Forms

Photography: Learning to See with your Camera

Pilgrimage in Spain and Japan