

≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 5 Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

January 31, 2002



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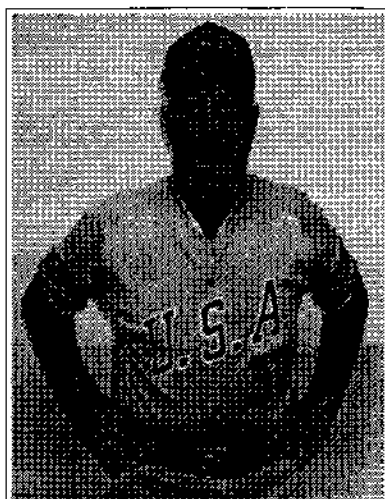
Funding

MN Humanities
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Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

In Spring (Summer, Fall and Winter) This Fellow's Fancy Turns To...



Jim Dimick

Jim Dimick, along with Ruben Haugen and Jan Mitchell, joins the faculty of CVEC this term. Jim has been with us for several terms as a student, and is now sharing his expertise in his own chosen field, that of baseball.

Jim played baseball during college at St. Cloud State, coached high school baseball for fifteen years and at St. Olaf College for twenty-seven years. He also played on the USA team in 1989 (note the uniform), and has been all over the world running baseball clinics and camps. "American baseball is being exported all over the world, it's becoming an international sport," Jim notes. That it is now an Olympic sport both attests to its greatness and promotes worldwide interest.

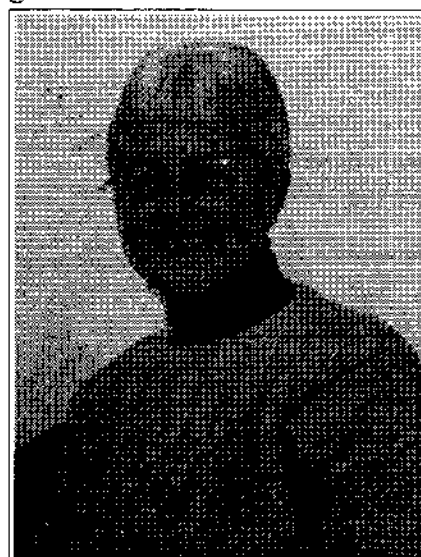
Continue on Page 2: See Dimick

Dormant Idea Takes Root, New Student Emerges

Several years ago, Shirley Nygren clipped an interesting article from the St. Paul Pioneer Press and filed it under "things to do." The article described the establishment of a "college" that would offer academic experiences for elder students. Shirley recently unearthed the article, made a phone call, got some information, and enrolled in her first CVEC course. She is one of eleven new students this term.

Shirley lives on a farm north of Zumbrota where she grew up and has returned after several years that included marriage, jobs, raising two sons, and living in many parts of the country. After her sons were launched, she went back to school and earned a B.A. over the course of fifteen years. Along the way, Shirley says, she acquired the classroom habit and has sought classes of interest ever since, including even pilot's ground school! She enjoys a diversity of student groups and topics.

Shirley feeds her hunger for knowledge by reading and traveling as well.



Shirley Nygren

Continue on Page 2: See Nygren

Made in America

A writer interviewed in the Ken Burns documentary on baseball said that the USA has made three great contributions to the world: the Constitution, baseball, and jazz. By coincidence, all three of these are topics being covered in CVEC's "American Revolution," "Baseball," and "History of Jazz" courses. The "Great Depression" course further explores a formative period in US history and in the lives of many CVEC members. Most of us like to talk about our own experiences, and this "local" emphasis provides a chance to flesh out our national identity.

"Biotic Citizens" seeks to describe our place as modern humans in the broader natural world, though many of the authors studied are American. "The Short Story," as short stories do, looks at just being a human being in all kinds of times and settings, and draws on an international pool of authors.

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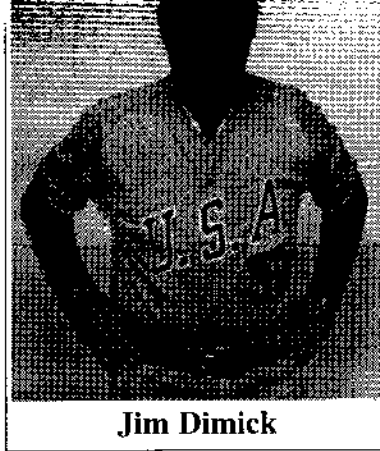
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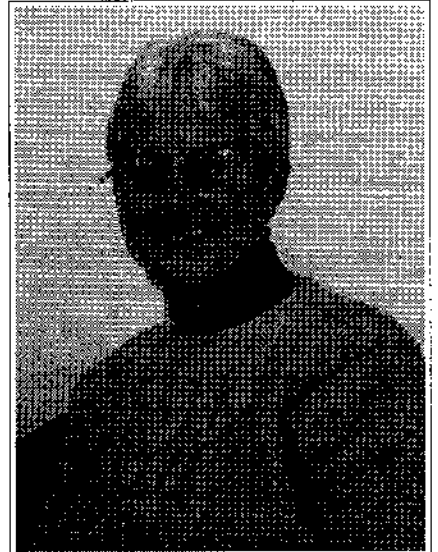
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As usual, there is a lot going on in CVEC classes besides lecture and discussion. Ruben Haugen, instructor of "Jazz," is a performer and a teacher of musicians, and plays saxophone in class to demonstrate his points. Class members will also have an opportunity to attend a recital. Jan Mitchell's "Biotic" will venture into Nature for its last session, meeting at River Bend Nature Center for snowshoeing and a look at how nature study is promoted there. "Baseball" students met Minnesota Twins General Manager Terry Ryan, and heard firsthand about the Twins and professional baseball, their inner workings, what their hopes are and where they are headed.

Enrollment levels were excellent this term, with 102 registrations. William Woehrlin's "American Revolution" opened an additional session to accommodate a flood of enthusiasm. Active "elders" continue to seek the learning experiences that CVEC offers.

Do You Have a Hot Tip? Do you know something interesting, amusing or newsworthy having to do with CVEC or its members? Call Kathy Mellstrom at 663-1451.

Dimick

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This course is clearly not a detached or dispassionate examination of the game. While studying the history and development of modern baseball, the shared enthusiasm of students and instructor is obvious. Memories and anecdotes from all quarters supplement the textual and audio-visual material presented in class. The question addressed is not "Is it really such a great game?" but "What makes it so great and how did it get that way?"

The answers come not only from the baseball giants themselves, but personalities through the centuries as diverse as Walt Whitman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Billy Crystal. Can it be long before CVEC has its own team? How about "The CVEC Slammers?"

Nygren

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She especially enjoys non-fiction - biography, history, and nature topics - and travel that incorporates volunteer opportunities, for example rescuing sea turtle eggs in Surinam. For this Elder Collegium coed, classrooms are everywhere, from her favorite reading spot at home to the far corners of the planet.

**The Questing Intellect
Never Retires.**

New Registration Procedures for Spring Term

Because of the popularity of some of the classes the CVEC Board has decided to change the registration procedures. Registration for the Spring Term will be by lottery in order to be more equitable. You may mail your registration or place it in the Registration Box at the Northfield Senior Center no later than 5:00 p.m. March 12, 2002. All registrations must be accompanied by a check unless financial assistance has been requested. The drawing for oversubscribed courses will be held on March 13. Every effort will be made to notify those not drawn by March 15. Following the lottery the Registration Book will be in the Senior Center for classes with space available.

Classes titles and instructors for Spring Term, April 1-May 24, 2002

Begin to Chart Your Journey	Riki Nelson
Boswell's Life of Johnson	George Soule
Islam and the Muslim Community of Faith (Lecture format)	Vern Faillettaz
Math for Humanists	Sy Schuster
The United Nations Today	Robert Flaten
The Work of Barbara Kingsolver	Don Norris

Course descriptions, times and locations as well as registration details will be included in the spring course flyer.

There will be no Abondia lecture series this spring. The coordinator has moved out of state.