

≈ Collegium News ≈

Volume 5 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

July, 2002



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Liz Hankins
Associate Director
Teresa Ballentine
Administrative Aide

Board of Directors

Bob Ballentine
Board Chair
Lois Burgoyne
Alene Fink
Peggy Prowe
Bettye Ronning
Board Secretary
Ron Ronning
Treasurer
George Soule
Elaine Thurston
William Woehrlin

Affiliates

Northfield Senior Org.
(507) 664-3700
Northfield Care Center

Funding

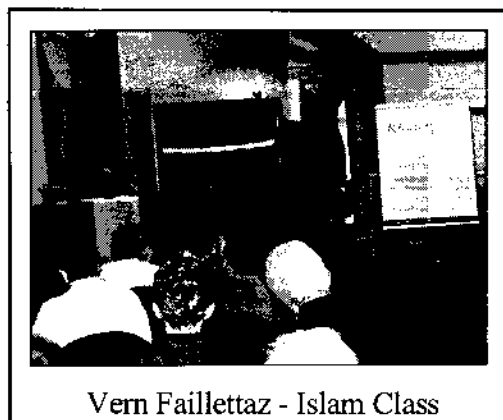
MN Humanities
Commission
City of Northfield
CVEC Members

Newsletter

Kathy Mellstrom

The Timely and the Timeless

The Collegium's rich storehouse of human resources provides us with a broad range of subjects to study, from prevalent issues in current events to topics that have fascinated humankind for millennia. The 2002 spring term courses reflected this diversity, with offerings from "Islam and the Muslim Community of Faith" to "About Mathematics."



Vern Faillettaz - Islam Class

Vern Faillettaz's well-attended lecture course on Islam shed light on the beliefs and lives of a large segment of the world that has been much in the media spotlight, but unknown to most Americans until recently. Vern says he didn't know the subject was going to "get big" when he used his 1969 sabbatical to study Eastern Religions at Harvard. For twenty years, before he retired, Vern taught a course on Islam at St. Olaf.

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Great Program at Annual Meeting

Anyone who thinks an annual membership meeting must be dull was not at the CVEC meeting on May 29, where business was brief and interest was high.

Bob Ballentine, Collegium Board Chair, opened with comments about another successful year under new director Jerry Hankins and associate director Liz Hankins. He credited past and present board and faculty members for making CVEC what it is.

Northfield Mayor Keith Covey added his praise, saying that not only does our organization enrich the lives of Seniors, it also contributes to a high quality of life in the community.

The assembled were then addressed by Stanley Romanstein, President of the Minnesota Humanities Commission. MHC has provided yearly funding to support CVEC, including the initial grant that helped establish it five years ago. Romanstein spoke briefly of his background in music and the arts and of the interplay between the arts and the humanities. While people often distinguish them from each other by definition, curriculum, or separate funding, they are overlapping and entwined. Romanstein cited an example from his background, choral music, where words and music are both important. Humanities deals primarily with words, arts with ideas that are non-verbally expressed, and together they help us make sense of the human experience.

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Fall Term: September 23 - November 15, 2002

The registration fliers will be mailed in August and will contain detailed information about courses and registration procedures. Registration lottery is September 4. The following courses will be offered:

Dick Cantwell	The Viennese Operetta of Johann Strauss, Franz Lehar, & Emmerich Kalman
Reidar Dittman	The Glory that Was Greece, the Grandeur that Was Rome (Lecture Class, reduced \$10 fee)
Ruth Hansen	Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
Erling Jorsatad	Almost Heaven / Religion in America Today
Richard Maus	The Digital Revolution / How Does a Computer Really Work?
Connie Sansome	The Surface of the Earth

Contributions to CVEC are tax deductible, and more important than ever in the current economic climate. Many

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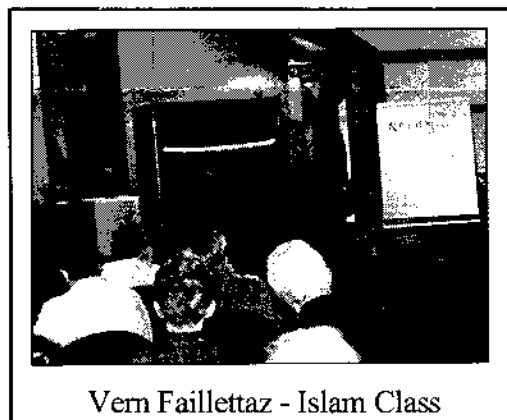
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Contributions to CVEC are tax deductible, and more important than ever in the current economic climate. Many thanks to these individuals who recently gave: Sorrel Bodman, Barbara Vaile, Mary Wood, Darlene Van Tour, and Char Rasmussen.

The Fall Banquet will be held on October 6 at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Anyone who has attended a class during the years 2001 or 2002 will receive an invitation with details.

We Welcome two new board members, Peggy Prowe and George Soule.

We Thank retiring Board Members, Jane McWilliams, Stan Frear, and CVEC founders, Bev and Keith Anderson, for their years of service

2002 Spring Term

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The United Nations course taught by Robert Flaten is another highly relevant topic in today's world. Global economy and ecology, international conflicts and social justice issues are becoming more and more part of our daily news and lives. The role of the UN and of our country's part in it are both full of potential and a matter of concern.

Barbara Kingsolver is a best-selling author who incorporates all kinds of current issues in her stories. Students in Don Norris's class read her work, and discussed outside information about the issues in her stories as well as biographical material.

Mathematics, on the "timeless" side of things, is little in the news but has engaged scholars since prehistoric times. What about it? Well, anything that catches your interest, in Sy Schuster's course. Class members used a book about math as a jumping-off point, and came to class each week with questions they wanted to explore. Infinity, anyone?

One's own life and its meaning is another topic of eternal interest. In Riki Nelson's free-writing course, "Begin to Chart Your Journey", students explored ways of looking at their own lives and ways of finding words to tell about them.

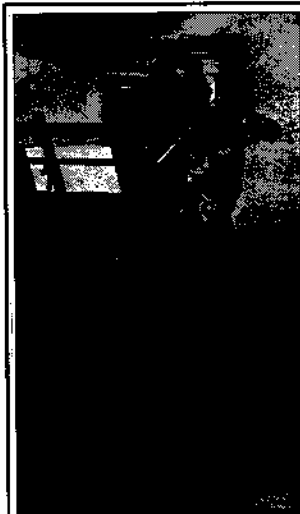
Telling the story of being a human among humans is also at the heart of "Boswell's Life of Johnson," taught by George Soule. While Boswell and Johnson were specific individuals from a specific time, much of what is interesting lies in more universal facts: that humans are most interesting, and that we all love a good story (and a bit of gossip, too).

Next term's course list promises to be equally rich and diverse, including topics from art history to computers. What will you sign up for?

Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Romanstein suggested that both arts and humanities are essential to a high quality of life and should be supported with public funding. He thanked CVEC members who contacted legislators when Jesse Ventura threatened to cut funds for MHC, and credited them with influencing the decision to maintain funding. He concluded by outlining some of MHC's goals and plans for the coming year, and answered several questions from the audience.



Andrea Een

Andrea Een of the St. Olaf Music Department then described her tutelage in Norway in the art of Hardanger Fiddle playing, which is taught through aural tradition - none of the music is written, it is learned by ear. She played a number of beautiful pieces on two differently tuned and decorated nine-stringed instruments, tapping a gentle percussion with her foot.

The meeting concluded with business. Director Jerry Hankins reported 359 registrations this academic year.

Next fall's Carleton Lecture Series will be on science topics. Jane McWilliams, of the Curriculum Committee, described the process of developing course proposals and the goals guiding the committee.

Other business included the election of two new board members: Peg Prowe and George Soule. The meeting closed with several members expressing appreciation for the organization and the satisfaction it brings to both students and faculty.

The Carleton Lecture Series for next fall will be on science topics. Lectures will be held Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in Olin Hall at Carleton College. Dates and subjects are:

September 26	"Sex," by Matt Rand
October 10	"The Science and Ethics of Cloning and Stem Cell Research," by Stephan Zwiefel
October 24	"Atmospheric Pollution from Particles," by Deborah Gross
November 7	"The Physics of Medical Imaging," by Nelson Christensen

Watch the Northfield News next fall for announcements and greater detail.