



# Collegium News

Volume 10 Issue 1

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

October 2006

*"A Questing Mind Never Retires"*

## Administration

William Carlson  
Executive Director

Teresa Ballentine  
Associate Director

Lori Stanley  
Operations Director

## Board of Directors

George Soule  
Board Chair

Vern Faillettaz  
Vice-Chair

Lois Burgoyne  
Dick Cantwell  
Bill Child  
Mary Ann Eng  
Joan Kark  
Doug Kriesel  
Jane McWilliams

## Founders

Keith & Bev Anderson  
Ron & Bettye Ronning

## Affiliates

Northfield Senior  
Organization

Northfield Retirement  
Community

## Funding

Hoeft Family Foundation  
CVEC Members

## Staff

Kate Rathke  
Recording Secretary

Kathy Mellstrom  
Writer

Ray Eng  
Publications Layout

*Marion Hvistendahl* will be honored for her years of teaching for the Collegium at the Fall Meeting on October 22. She will also give a talk on "New Careers in Retirement." Besides teaching for CVEC her post-retirement careers have included teaching in China and presenting monologue characterizations of notable women in history. Perhaps she can inspire us to consider new careers. And what will Marion do next? Her knack for intense thought and her entertaining presentation style are sure to keep us riveted.



Marion Delivers

## Scottsdale, Minnesota? Northfield as a Retirement Destination

by Kathy Mellstrom

As more and more baby boomers swell the ranks of the retired, the paradigm of retirement life is changing. Sunshine, cocktail hour and tee times are increasingly not quite enough for those who have concluded a full-time career. Blessed with better health (and health care) than earlier generations, for these more active older adults "taking it easy" for the next perhaps twenty years or more has limited appeal.

What is it that retirees are looking for these days? For some, it is a place just like Northfield: a college community (educational and cultural opportunities), in a charming town not too far from a metropolitan center (more culture, entertainment prospects, an international airport) with a modern, well appointed Senior Center and adult education (that's us!).

While it has long been joked that Northfield has more retired pastors per capita than any town in the country, the town's appeal is much broader than that. Its attractive-ness for seniors is so palpable that it has become a locus of development designed for this population. Kari Sobeck, concierge for Village on the Cannon and part of its development from the beginning, confirms that "Northfield is seen as a senior-friendly town." Village is a prime example of the town's marketability. It is the second project undertaken by Collegeville Communities® (the first is in Winona, home of St. Mary's University). The strategy of developing senior housing in college towns is summarized on the Village's web site: "The company immediately focused on a new niche in the industry – the development of senior communities... offering the cultural, recreational, educational and in some cases, spiritual benefits of a college campus." (continued on page 3)

**CVEC Classes**  
 Winter 2007  
 January 8 - March 2

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Professor</u>
Verdi Comes of Age: <u>Ernani</u> , <u>Rigoletto</u> and <u>Otello</u>	Dick Cantwell
Trade Offs--How Economists Think	Bill Carlson
Exploring Patterns and Their Symmetries	Judy Cederberg
An Archeological Search for Jesus	Ruth Hansen
Taking Charge of Your Health After 50	Edward Lufkin
Astronomy -- An Ageless Science	Duane Olson
Excursions in World Music	Melinda Russell
Global Environmental Governance, Or Is The Planet Really Doomed?	Norman Vig
The Hot Stove League: Baseball and American Culture	David Wee

**Start of Registration**

November 22, 2006

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

**NOTE #2:** The time and location of the courses will be mailed to members in the Winter Class Brochure. This information will also be posted on the CVEC web page.

***Tenth Annual  
 CVEC Fall Meeting***

2PM---October 22, 2006  
 United Methodist Church

**Presentations**

New Careers in Retirement

Marion Hvistendahl

Brief Summaries of Winter and Spring Courses

## CVEC Faculty Continues to Expand

Bill Carlson, our Director, is new to neither CVEC nor to teaching, but this Emeritus in Economics will share wisdom about the history and workings of the economy with CVEC students for the first time this winter term. Other faculty new to our roster include Melinda Russell in World Music and Norm Vig in Global Environmental Governance. Close to home is Baseball and American Culture taught by “newbie” David Wee, and Judy Cederberg will lead students into the “fascinating beyond” of Patterns and Their Symmetries.

Come to the **Fall Meeting October 22** to meet the new profs (as well as old) and hear about their courses.

## Fall Meeting

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall meeting of CVEC will take place Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1401 South Maple Street, Northfield. Preview courses, meet professors, hear Marion Hvistendahl speak, and enjoy refreshments with other Collegium members.

## CVEC Booth @ DJJD's

George Soule  
(Board Chair)  
Mary Ann Eng &  
Joan Kark (Board  
Members) greeting  
potential CVEC  
students on a cool  
September day.



## **Scottsdale, Minnesota?** (continued from front page)

The web site of another development near St. Olaf College, Kildahl Park Pointe, cites similar benefits. The Northfield Retirement Community and Three Links continue to expand. Even the web's wikipedia entry for Northfield notes that “The evolution of Northfield's economy is today exemplified by the expansion of businesses serving the growing senior citizen market.”

Real estate agent Jan Stevens adds that many of her clients retire to Northfield even if they have no current family ties here. They may have had kids at one of the colleges or friends who retired here. “Accessibility to the international airport while living in a rural area is seen as a huge advantage. Many of these people have grown children in other countries and want easy access.” The proximity to the Mayo Clinic is another draw.

Many CVEC members have long been aware of the local advantages. Some have had their careers or families here and have stayed. Others, when asked what brought them to Northfield to retire, reiterate the above mentioned features, and many of them knew of CVEC before moving here. Clearly the increase in active seniors benefits the Collegium in terms of more potential students and the ability to increase the number of courses offered, as it has been doing.

What about other aspects of town life? Right now more than a quarter of the population is over forty-five, and it is increasing. This will have an impact on several fronts that are affected by demographics. Which businesses will thrive downtown? Will the school district have adequate support? What about local medical facilities and their ability to manage older patients? As voters, consumers and neighbors the senior population will have an increased presence in the make-up of Northfield. As an appreciative part of that population, let us endeavor to be a positive and supportive influence on the quality of life in our home town. \*\*\*



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NORTHFIELD MN  
55057

Cannon Valley  
Elder Collegium  
1651 Jefferson  
Parkway  
Northfield MN 55057

[WWW.CVEC.ORG](http://WWW.CVEC.ORG)

CVEC is a  
Nondiscriminatory  
Organization

Change Service  
Requested

## From the Director, Bill Carlson



Greetings! We hope all of you are enjoying our classes this fall. CVEC continues to offer stimulating classes, and enrollment this fall exceeds any past fall. We have a number of new teachers and early reports indicate enthusiasm for the new teachers. Of course our veteran teachers continue to be popular. We are disappointed that we did not attract sufficient enrollment for Phillip Spensley's theatre course.

Along with the excitement of the new academic year, we note two important problems. First the Minnesota Humanities Commission has eliminated its Learning In Retirement program, which provided an annual grant of \$3,000 to CVEC for the past several years. This program elimination is a direct result of insufficient funding from the Minnesota State Legislature. The Humanities Commission was key to the establishment of CVEC. Our second problem is even more serious. After many years of dedicated service, Teresa Ballentine has decided to step down as Associate Director. While we support her decision to reduce her personal time commitment, we know that she will be missed in our administration. We cannot sufficiently thank Teresa for her dedicated service. Not only has she done excellent work in all of her assignments, but also she embodies the "institutional memory" of CVEC.

Our Collegium will need to find ways to replace the lost funds. The Finance Committee will develop a strategy to accomplish this task. We hope that we can now find a way to become completely "self-sufficient" through some combination of an increased fund drive and possibly small increases in tuition. We have sufficient reserves to overcome any budget shortfall this year, but we must develop a solution for long term stability. We hope to have a plan to introduce by the Fall Meeting.

I am pleased to announce that Jean Larson will be our new Associate Director. Jean is a long time resident of Northfield and a dedicated CVEC volunteer. She has also been an enthusiastic student in many CVEC classes. Now this dedication and enthusiasm will be employed more directly in managing CVEC activities.

We invite and encourage you to attend the annual Fall Meeting on October 22. In addition to learning about winter and spring classes and enjoying an excellent presentation by Marion Hvistendahl, we can all welcome Jean and recognize Teresa for her years of high performance work on our behalf.

*Bill*