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NEWSLETTER OF THE CANNON VALLEY ELDER COLLEGIUM

Collegium News

The Show Goes On: Managing through the Pandemic

The CVEC staff and instructor cohort did not expect to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic for two years, much less embark on year three. Nevertheless, CVEC instructors continue to propose fascinating new courses and revise some that were previously offered. We're still in business.

Our offerings this term show recovery from previous terms in the sense that more courses are listed, eight in person at a range of venues, and four on Zoom. We are grateful for variety in subject matter as well as delivery mode. As noted in previous newsletters, the Board has pledged to continue remote options, both to accommodate students from outside the Cannon Valley, and to respect the choices of those who prefer not to assemble for classes indoors. Of course, our indoor classes follow the Covid-19 protocols for the specific venue as well as the CVEC insistence on vaccination (with booster) for all students and instructors.

Given the flood of infections due to the omicron variant, our venues currently emphasize masking and social distancing as well as vaccination. To promote social distancing, the Board has agreed with our Curriculum Committee that all Spring 2022 classes should be limited to 15. That has been the limit for Zoom classes since the fall of 2020; for this term, that restriction will apply to in-person classes as well. While this limit may result in more competition for classes that would ordinarily be set at 20, we hope that a larger array of choices will help distribute the demand fairly.

In other News

Two of the Zoom classes this term will be taught by instructors new to CVEC: Matt Rohn, recently retired from St. Olaf College, will teach "U.S. Environmental History," extending our offerings on climate change and related concerns. In addition, we welcome Brian O'Donnell, a retired neuroscience researcher from Indiana University, who will teach "Psychoactive Drugs, the Mind, and Society." Brian attended one of our Zoom courses last fall and was persuaded to join our team. We welcome both Matt and Brian!

As always, we welcome feedback on courses and other matters pertinent to CVEC's mission: providing liberal arts courses for seniors. Click the Contact Us button on the website, cvec.org, and I will respond.

~Carol Rutz, Executive Director