



Collegium News

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January 2006

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium
"A Questing Mind Never Retires"

Winter Term
2005/2006

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New Kids on the (Faculty) Block at Elder Collegium

By KATHY MELLSTROM

CVEC continues to grow, offering more courses and enrolling more students. Naturally, we need more faculty. As Jim Reiley retires from collegium teaching, it is with extra enthusiasm that we welcome four new faculty members who will be teaching their first CVEC courses this spring.

Robert Scholz ("Dr. Bob") is a long-time resident of Northfield who just retired from the choral music faculty of St. Olaf College, where he directed the Chapel Choir and the Viking Chorus. He has also composed and arranged classical liturgical music and is a nationally known choir clinician. In 1995 he received the F. Melius Christiansen Award from the American Choral Directors Association for outstanding contributions to choral music.

Dr. Bob will teach our spring Lecture Course on *Bach Cantatas: a Musical, Cultural and Theological Phenomenon*. The historical significance of the cantatas in church liturgical music and the influence of Martin Luther on their development will be illuminated through lecture, listening and analysis of several works. In particular, the psalm settings "Wachtet auf" and "Ich hatte viel Bekuemmernis" will be examined; these will also be performed by the choral group Exultate in Carleton's Concert Hall. This event is a memorial concert in honor of Bach scholar Ruben Pirner, father of John Pirner of Apple Valley and a cantata enthusiast. The rarely performed Christmas cantata, "Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot" will also be discussed, and part of this piece will be performed by the St. Olaf Choir.

Rounding out the Arts in spring is Mac Gimse, renowned sculptor and St. Olaf emeritus, who will be teaching the course on Asian Art. Mac built a bronze foundry and has created art in his private studio, including commissioned pieces for presentation to Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. At St. Olaf he taught art history, including World Architecture, China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia and Africa, and he was one of the founders of the Fine Arts major at St. Olaf. The metal-casting area in Dittmann Center is named for him.

Four sabbaticals, including a Joyce Foundation scholarship to do research on temples in India, provided him with the opportunity to study and subsequently teach non-Western art history. He has traveled internationally with college students, and in fact recently returned from five months in the Middle East leading twelve students on a study of sacred architecture and art. Sacred spaces, from Zen gardens
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Robert Scholz



Mac Gimse

SPRING TERM
March 27 – May 19, 2006

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Symbols of Ethnic Diversity in North American Cultural Landscapes	Robert Bastian	Monday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Three Links
Let's go to the Theater--- & maybe remember what we saw	Ed Sostek	Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	NCRC
A donum Dei: Two Bach Cantatas (LECTURE COURSE)	Bob Scholz & John Pirner et. al.	Monday 7:00 - 9:00 pm	NRC Chapel
Science, Religion & Ethics	Ian Barbour	Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Village on Cannon
Asian Art	Mac Gimse	<i>(Time & place to be determined, check www.cvec.org for information).</i>	
Three by Jane Austen	George Soule	Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30 am	Village on Cannon
Rethinking Making a Difference	Bruce Roberts	Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30 pm	Village on Cannon
More Fossils	Dean Kjerland	Thursday 9:30 - 11:30 am	ArcheoPaleo Water Sreet
Modern Irish Short Story	Stan Frear	Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 pm	NRC Parkview West
More Jazz	Ruben Haugen	Friday 9:30 – 11:30 am	NCRC Rm 106

For description of courses, see CVEC web page (www.cvec.org).

NRC Northfield Retirement Center

NCRC Northfield Community Resource Center

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to temples, mosques and cathedrals, are efforts by humanity to symbolically recreate the cosmos in their quest for spirituality. "Asian Art" will take CVEC students on a quest to discover and appreciate these efforts.

St. Olaf yields us yet another scholar-teacher in Bruce Roberts, Emeritus of Psychology, who will teach "Rethinking Making a Difference." As the potential for extended productivity follows increased life span and improved senior health, retirees have more opportunities to enhance not only their own lives, but those of others and their communities. Indeed, they have been urged to volunteer by such entities as the AARP and the Harvard/Met/Life initiative. This turns out to be more than pure benevolence, because the volunteer benefits as well, and this element will be examined. Class discussions, including stories of students' own experiences, will bring home the real-life implications of the psychological course material.



Bruce Roberts

At various times in his life a pickle-dipper, Air Force pilot, and cowboy, Bruce touched down at a number of respected educational institutions before landing at St. Olaf. Here, besides teaching, he has worked with colleagues to co-author two books, and to establish a connection node through the Internet for teachers around the globe to find partner classrooms for their students. His main areas of interest are Community Psychology and Social Ecology, the Psychology of Leadership, and Cross-Cultural Psychology. Bruce looks forward to teaching his first Elder Collegium class.

Robert Bastian comes to us after thirty years in the Geography Department of Indiana State University. He and his wife have some family and former colleagues from Indiana in this area, and two nieces attended St. Olaf. With all this in addition to Northfield's charm and the cultural benefits of two colleges, they were drawn to Northfield upon retiring in 1999. Both have enjoyed courses through CVEC.



Robert Bastian

Bob has taken photos of buildings, tombstones, and other visible relics in his travels throughout North America. The course he is teaching, "Symbols of Diversity in North American Cultural Landscapes," is an outgrowth of his deep interest in the physical remnants of cultural activity and how they reveal the heritage of those who left them. He will use his slides to illustrate the histories of several areas he has investigated. If possible, the last class will be a field trip in the Northfield area to see what can be learned from its artifacts. Hint: Bob says local architecture resembles that of upstate New York – which is consistent with visitors' comments that they could "almost imagine they were in an old New England town..."

Whether you are intrigued by the courses and instructors described above or tempted by others included in the spring list of courses, be sure to register in a timely fashion for the best chance of getting the classes of your choice. More information on courses and instructors is available on the CVEC web site, at www.cvec.org.

Fall Meeting

The CVEC fall meeting held on Sunday afternoon, October 23, 2005 at the United Methodist Church, was a grand success. Teachers for the winter and spring semesters presented brief overviews of their courses. We were then treated to a very interesting history by Jim Reiley who is retiring as a CVEC instructor. Jim taught a class during the very first session of CVEC, the fall of 1997. He has continued to teach a CVEC class almost every year. Our success is due to so many excellent teachers like Jim, and by honoring Jim we honor all of our teachers. We expect to hear from many more of our "greats" at future CVEC meetings.

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small gathering (except for the lecture courses) of students and a teacher for eight weeks, where exciting ideas are exchanged and *personal* dimensions are expanded.

CVEC has just been notified that we have received a \$3,000 grant from the Minnesota Humanities Commission to support our program for 2006. This is a clear indication of the recognition of the strength of our program, given that the Minnesota Humanities Commission has limited funds.

We invite your suggestions and recommendations for additional improvements for building a stronger CVEC. Please contact me at carlsoncharbill@msn.com or 507-645-9642 with your ideas.



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**CVEC is a
Nondiscriminatory
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**Change Service
Requested**

From the Director, Bill Carlson

The year 2005 saw significant changes in CVEC. For several years enrollment has been growing. In addition, several members have expressed a desire for an expanded number of courses. As a result, the CVEC Board decided last spring to increase the number of courses offered each term to nine from our past level of seven. The Board was aware of the risk that individual classes might have low enrollment and that we might be forced to cancel some classes. If that had happened, CVEC could have faced financial pressure as well as the frustration of teachers affected.

Instead, the results have been extremely positive. The enrollment in the fall was 205, which is the largest enrollment for any session in the history of CVEC, and even led to adding a second section for Hartley Clark's "Europe versus United States." We enrolled more students in the year 2005 than we have in any previous year. The current winter term has the largest enrollment of any to date, with the addition of a second section of "Chekhov's Russia" taught by Bill Woerhlin. Enrollment details for all years can be found on our web page. The Curriculum Committee and the Board plan to continue the larger number of classes during the next academic year. Congratulations to the members of CVEC for their expanded learning opportunities and increased participation in our classes.

The Collegium continues to seek ways to make everyone aware of our educational opportunities. We now provide advance course descriptions on our web page, www.cvec.org, several months before each term's registration date. Thus, you can consider your opportunities much earlier. Also, almost every teacher now comes to either the spring or fall meeting and provides a short preview of their course. We continue to provide news articles for the Northfield News and newspapers in neighboring communities. During the fall of 2005 we even had a booth at the Defeat of Jesse James Festival.

We have added two new locations for classes: The Village On the Cannon and the Three Links Campus. Our policy is to conduct as many classes as possible at locations where seniors live or regularly visit. Most of our classes will be held at the Northfield Senior Center, the Northfield Retirement Campus, the Three Links Campus, or The Village On the Cannon. Each of these locations has excellent classroom facilities and convenient parking. In addition, by locating at residential campuses we provide easy access to classes for the residents there.

The Collegium has purchased a new classroom display unit that enables teachers to show larger images of videos, DVDs, and various computer outputs. This provides another possible display option for our classes. However, the format of each class will continue to be a
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