



# Collegium News

Volume 11 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

February 2008

*"A Questing Mind Never Retires"*

## *The Soule of CVEC*

By Kathy Melstrom

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In the beginning, education for Northfield seniors was without form and void, yea, though the spirit of intellect moved over the face of the waters and far up both banks of the River Cannon. Then Someone said, "Let there be classes for and by the Elders, that they may seek even greater knowledge and understanding." And lo, among those who imparted wisdom in that first year of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium was George Soule,

Professor of English, *emeritus*, who had come out from the land of Carleton College. And his first words to those who listened were on the subject of *Hamlet*.

Yes, Professor Soule was there in the beginning and has been with us ever since, teaching every year but one and leading excursions into a variety of literary landscapes. Like many other instructors, he has also served on the board and on committees that have made the organization increasingly stronger and its future secure. He and these others are at the heart of CVEC's program, and perhaps the greater part of what makes it work.

Also, like most of our faculty, George has had and continues to have a distinguished career beyond Collegium walls. As well as having a long tenure at Carleton, he is a Wordsworth scholar and has lectured regularly at the Wordsworth Summer Conference and the Wordsworth Winter School in the U.K., invited by Jonathon Wordsworth, a descendent of the poet. He has published two books, and many dozens of articles in publications from literary journals to the Northfield News sport his byline. Beside these accomplishments shines the title "Champion of the 1990 Senior Tournament" of Jeopardy, the result of five appearances on that television contest of knowledge and intellect.

Before we take in what our professor has to say about teaching, let us ponder these tantalizing revelations: 1) He once *hugged* Iris Murdoch, the prolific British novelist, and 2) He is an avid fan (for years) of the soap opera, *The Young and the Restless*. These could both be explained, but...

About teaching, George says that the teacher is looking in two directions – toward the subject and toward the students. The teacher must not be so engrossed in the subject as to lose the students, and must not be so focused on the student audience as to "ham it up" at the expense of the subject. He also notes that it is important to reach everyone in the class, and remembers an occasion when "I had to lecture to a group that included graduate students who knew more than I did about the subject and sophomores who knew hardly anything."

*(continued on page 2)*



## From the Director,

We are off to a great start in 2008. Winter Term enrollment is the largest ever, in spite of two canceled classes, and our financial situation is strong because of substantial member contributions and a new \$2,500 grant from the Minnesota Humanities Center.

The addition of long time member David Halsor completes our administrative staff. David is primarily responsible for registration management, while Associate Director Lori Stanley has primary responsibility for financial and faculty relations. However, in fact we now have a team that provides backup for each other. We all have other activities and commitments. We can run this organization with volunteers who receive just token honorariums only if we respect the personal lives of our staff. This is working very well, and the collegium operates smoothly.

Elder collegium has been blessed by a special anonymous gift of \$7,500 from a long term member. This gift will be used for program development. The board has voted to purchase a second classroom projector and document camera, to be stored at the Northfield Retirement Community. A similar unit presently stored at the Village on the Cannon. We will also look for more ways to improve our educational program. If you have thoughts about how we can accomplish this, please talk to me or any member of the CVEC Board or administration. I would be happy to meet with any member to discuss ideas.

CVEC is working with the Faribault Senior Center to help them develop a local senior learning program. The first step is to provide a speaker once a month to present material from a CVEC course in a lecture discussion format. The first lecture, on the economy of India, had an attendance of 38. After six months the FSC will determine the next step. A number of CVEC members in Faribault have commuted to attend classes over the years.

We are beginning to plan bus trips to the Great Rivers Shakespeare Festival again, after the enthusiastic response last summer. Sponsorship will likely be shared as before with Village on the Cannon, and also with the Northfield Senior Center. The GRSF season runs from June 27 through July 27, and they will present "The Merchant of Venice" and "The Taming of the Shrew." Details will appear on the Web page ( CVEC.org) after February 15.



Bill Carlson

*Bill*

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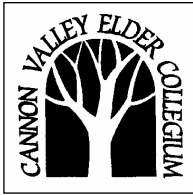
## *The Soule of CVEC*

*(continued from front page)*

Despite all this responsibility, the Prof says it is a great pleasure to teach CVEC classes. One happy fact is that typically half the students are old friends and the other half are new people he is glad to get to know. He also appreciates the maturity and the serious interest in the subject he finds in Collegium students, and that the material does not need to be "watered down." Getting to know faculty from "the other college," St. Olaf, is yet another benefit he particularly enjoys.

A little about those two revelations: 1) Both spouses were present, and 2) The manipulation of characters and events to serve the needs of the drama or plot, i.e. the "raw bones" of narrative, are frankly obvious in soap opera, and point to the subtler manipulations of subtler novelists and playwrights.

As for our protagonist's next Elder Collegium appearance: he will be teaching a course this spring on Dickens' *Great Expectations* and D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. Tune in to station CVEC for this and other great learning opportunities!



# ***CVEC Class Schedule-- 2008 Spring Term For Lifelong Learning***

*The Questing Intellect Never Retires*

*March 24 - May 16, 2008*  
(Registration Begins February 13, 2008)

<b><u>Title of Class</u></b> <b><u>Time of Class</u></b>	<b><u>Professor</u></b> <b><u>Location</u></b>
<b>Food For Thought</b> Monday 1:30-3:30 pm	<b>Olivia Frey</b> Village on the Cannon
<b>Where in the World is Turkmenistan</b> Monday 1:30-3:30 pm	<b>Michelle Yarmakov</b> Nfld Senior Center, Rm 106
<b>Principles of Spiritual Intelligence; Guiding Our Way of Being</b> Tuesday 9:30-11:30 am	<b>Mary Johnson &amp; Billi Faillettaz</b> NRC Chapel
<b>Seeing Movies</b> Tuesday 1:30-3:30 pm	<b>Jon Eric Nelson</b> NRC Theatre
<b>Dickens and D H Lawrence</b> Wednesday 9:30-11:30 am	<b>George Soule</b> NRC Parkview West, Fireside
<b>Exploring Inner Space with Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright</b> Wednesday 1:30-3:30pm	<b>Barbara Evans</b> Village on the Cannon
<b>The Enlightenment; The Pleasures &amp; Perils of Intellectual History</b> Thursday 9:30-11:30am	<b>Bill Woehrlin</b> Village on the Cannon
<b>Ibsen's Women</b> Thursday 1:30-3:30pm	<b>Don Norris</b> Three Links, Conference Center
<b>Great Decisions</b> Thursday 6:30-8:30pm	<b>Robert Flaten, Larry Fowler &amp; Jan Mitchell</b> Nfld Senior Center, Rm 106
<b>A Chapter of Your Life</b> Friday 9:30-11:30am	<b>Riki Kölbl Nelson</b> Kildahl Park Pointe

NRC Northfield Retirement Community

## SPRING TERM 2008 Course Descriptions

### **Food For Thought**

**Olivia Frey** oliviafrey209@hotmail.com

In this course we will take a philosophical and gastronomical tour through literature and memoir, including the folk tales Hansel and Gretel (gingerbread houses), Snow White (poison apples!), Barbara Kingsolver's "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle," Madhur Jaffrey's "Climbing the Mango Trees: A Memoir of Childhood in India," Linda Furiya's "Bento Box in the Heartland: My Japanese Girlhood in White-Bread America," and mystery writer Diane Mott Davidson's "Catering to Nobody." Lecture and discussion and eating. Discussions will focus on background and context of the writers and their works, literary technique, and the role and meaning of food in these literary creations.

Food will not be relegated to the realm of abstraction. Each book includes yummy recipes. Members of the class as well as the instructor (not a bad cook herself) will be enlisted to prepare a recipe from each book, so that as class proceeds, we will digest delicious treats as well as provocative ideas.

**Olivia Frey**, Professor of English Emerita, St. Olaf College, educational entrepreneur.

### **Where in The World is Turkmenistan?**

**Michelle Yarmakov** yarma001@juno.com

Long neglected under Soviet rule, Turkmenistan is quickly becoming an important global player. For political, strategic and energy reasons, the United States and countries around the world are taking notice of Turkmenistan. Having a long border with Afghanistan, Turkmenistan took on great significance for the United States after 9/11. In addition to its long border with Afghanistan, Turkmenistan also borders Iran, another area of concern for the United States. Its location interests the United States and Turkmenistan also has its own large reserves of both natural gas and oil. Besides energy and strategic issues, we will also discuss the history, geography and cultural life of Turkmenistan, a Sunni Muslim country. Come learn more about this ancient country that was once at the center of world affairs as part of the Silk Road and is once again becoming part of world affairs!

**Michelle Yarmakov** lived and worked in Turkmenistan for over two years as a US Peace Corps volunteer in the very first group of volunteers to enter Turkmenistan. Over the past few years, she has enjoyed teaching many people in Edina, Minneapolis and Northfield about Turkmenistan. She even taught a language class which included Turkmen (and Russian, German and Chinese) all of the four languages that she has studied. She has a Masters Degree in Russian and studied Russian and Chinese in China.

### **Principles of Spiritual Intelligence; Guiding Our Way of Being**

**Mary Johnson** mjohanson@stolaf.edu

**Billi Faillettaz** faillett@rconnect.com

Spiritual intelligence refers to ones ability to access higher meanings, values, abiding purposes, and unconscious aspects of the self and to infuse these meanings, values, and purposes into living richer, more creative lives. We all have this ability and with openness and reflection, we are able to enhance the quality of our way of being.

This course will explore some of the new thinking about intelligence, considered to be a very "fuzzy" concept, and reflect on aspects of emotional, social, spiritual and other kinds of intelligences that have influenced our lives in the past and present. Relationships between various intelligences and our own health and well-being will be discussed in order to engage our potential for neuroplasticity and transformation.

**Mary Johnson**, PhD, RN, AHN-C, CHTP is a Professor Emeritus from St. Olaf College where she taught in the nursing program for twenty-six years. She has taught imagery, reflexology, Healing Touch and relaxation techniques as well as the principles of Holistic Nursing in workshops for health care providers for many years. She has completed certification in Healing Touch and Advanced Practice in Holistic Nursing. She is presently on the Board of Directors and a Healing Touch provider at Pathways, a health crisis resource center in Minneapolis and teaches a course on energy healing in the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota.

**Billi Faillettaz**, RN, BSN St. Olaf College, MSN Mental Health Nursing, U. MN, served as psychotherapist at the Counseling Center, St Olaf College, and started the student wellness program. In retirement she taught classes in "Life Stories", in Olaf Life Long Learning program and at Holden Village. For the past twelve years she has been an active member of the Twin City Red Cross Stress Team. She continues her mental health work with local, state, and national disasters, including 9-11 and Katrina.

## Seeing Movies

**Jon Eric Nelson** nelsoner@stolaf.edu

Like all the other arts, movies have their own "language". Cinematic stories offer us plots and characters and it's these we usually talk about when we discuss a film. There are other elements, however, that are distinctive to movies and that most moviegoers are only vaguely aware of: lighting, composition, focus, shots, cuts. In this class we'll explore the full range of cinematic art in films from Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" to Fritz Lang's 1931 German thriller, "M". We'll also see a couple film noir classics, "Double Indemnity" and "Out of the Past".

**Eric Nelson** is Professor Emeritus of English, St. Olaf College. He holds degrees from Wittenberg and the University of North Carolina. He has completed six courses in a screenwriting program, done an internship at the Minnesota Film and Television Board, and taught courses in Film Studies and screen writing at St. Olaf.

## Dickens and D H Lawrence

**George Soule** gsoule@charter.net

We will read two great English novels, Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* and D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. The first was written in the mid-Nineteenth Century, the second in the opening of the Twentieth. Both are somewhat autobiographical and center on the struggles of a young man to grow up. We will see how different these struggles are and how the styles of these authors differ.

**George Soule** is a Professor Emeritus at Carleton College. His scholarly interests include Shakespeare and Wordsworth.

## Exploring Inner Space

**Barbara Evans** barbjevans@aol.com

### With Ernest Hemingway And Frank Lloyd Wright

Hemingway and Wright lived just blocks from each other in Oak Park, Illinois. They changed the way writers write and architects design. Both expanded the way we think of space. What movements, influences, conditions and technologies supported their work? What roles did art, music, and Japanese design (especially gardens) play in their development of literature and architecture? How do their ideas survive today? Both enjoyed celebrity and lived personal lives of turmoil and adventure. This course will use the expertise and opinions of its members to explore these ideas with your instructor as your enthusiastic guide. As we go along, we'll define what we think creates a sense of space and then we'll see what Hemingway, Wright and others (artists and composers) have done to add to the richness of literature, architecture, art and music.

We'll use one text to examine his style. That text will be *The Short Stories: The First Forty-Nine Stories* by Ernest Hemingway. This is available in multiple editions and at college bookstores as well as on Amazon.com. We'll view Frank Lloyd Wright's designs through photographs and videos. I'm looking forward to what you'll bring to our collective table as I guide our class to some conclusions and many more questions.

**Barbara Evans** taught American Literature, Drama, Debate and Composition in Rochester, MN for 34 years. She is a graduate of and has been a visiting professor at St. Olaf College, teaching public speaking and first year writing. Her interests include literary travel (Hemingway, Sandoz, McMurtry and others), amateur photography, and restoration of her arts and crafts home here in Northfield. Barbara also belongs to a preservation group working to restore the Park Inn, the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright hotel located in Mason City, Iowa.

## The Enlightenment;

**Bill Woehrlin** wwoehrli@carleton.edu

### The Pleasures And Perils Of Intellectual History

For some years after World War II, one approach to the study of the past, intellectual history, was the darling of many college and university history departments. More recently, economic, social and cultural history have made their bids for that favored position. In considering the topic of the Enlightenment, which I define as the critical and innovative thought in Europe in the late 17th and 18th centuries, I hope to present a test case of what intellectual history can do and what it can not.

**William F. Woehrlin**, Professor of History Emeritus at Carleton College, taught Russian history, 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, technology in history, and freshmen seminars on the American Revolution.

## Ibsen's Women

Don Norris don\_norris@q.com

Ibsen's Women: As Seen Through the Eyes of Lou Salome. The most brilliant woman of her age--lover of Rilke; pursued by Nietzsche who considered her 'the most intelligent of all women'; permitted by Freud to practice psychoanalysis, with Freud himself sending her clients. In 1892, at age 31, she published her masterpiece, *Ibsen's Heroines*, on six of his women creations: Nora, Mrs. Alving, Hedwig, Rebecca, Ellida and Hedda. (Amazon has Salome's book listed from \$11.46 and has the preferred text for Ibsen's plays, *The Complete Major Prose Plays of Ibsen*, Rolf Fjelde, plays from \$9.98 to \$19.90.)"

**Don Norris** is a retired programmer and analyst formerly at (the defunct) Univac and retired faculty member at the University of Minnesota. He is now continuing his true career of reader, interspersed with software development for a genealogy program..

## Great Decisions

Robert Flaten (flaten@rconnect.com)

Larry Fowler and Jan Mitchell

The Great Decisions program is produced by the Foreign Policy Association and used throughout the country by World Affairs Councils. There are 44 Great Decisions groups in Minnesota with 8400 participants last year. We will discuss one topic each week for eight weeks. Briefing books will be available for \$15 per person. The topics for this class are; *Talking to our Enemies*, *Latin America: Drift to the Left*, *Iraq: Endgame*, *Russia, U.S.-China Trade Policy*, *The European Union at 50*, *U.S. Defense and Security Policy*, and *Private Philanthropy*. Great Decisions is designed as a discussion program. We will have a lecture each week to get discussion started. We will benefit from some outside speakers. This year we plan to include high school students to expand the discussion to include intergenerational perspectives. At the conclusion of the course, we will send policy recommendations to Washington.

**Robert Flaten** served as Ambassador to Rwanda from December 1990 to November 1993 and Deputy Chief of Mission in Israel from 1982 to 1986. He is a Distinguished Lecturer in Political Science at St. Olaf College. He retired from the Foreign Service in May 1994 after assignments in France, Pakistan, Israel and the State Department in Washington.

**Larry Fowler** has used the Great Decisions curriculum in his teaching for years. Last year, at the invitation of the Minnesota International Center, Larry was a guest of the Foreign Policy Association in New York for participation in the Great Decisions Institute.

**Jan Mitchell**, retired from Northfield High School, has taught a Great Decisions program for high school students, as well as a couple of CVEC classes. She is interested in foreign policy issues because of her experiences in Denmark as an exchange student and as teacher in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. She has degrees from Carleton and from the University of Colorado.

## A Chapter of Your Life

Riki Kölbl Nelson rikipoet@yahoo.com

Divide and conquer. In this class you will make a rough graph of your life, break it down into segments, then choose a specific segment to concentrate on. For that specific segment you will make a limited list of scenes then tackle one after the other.

Exercises include guided visualization of place, time, setting, sensory impressions; free-writing, and epistolary exchanges. Additional writing between classes will be encouraged though it will not be mandatory. There will be in-class response to your writing and eventually you will be ready to tackle the next segment in the story of your life.

**Riki Kölbl Nelson** holds an MA in English literature from UNC, Chapel Hill and an MFA from UMN, Minneapolis. She is cofounder of the writing group Penchant which has endured for more than thirty years. She has published a bilingual collection of poems, *Borders/Grenzen* and a chapbook, *The Fall Heart*. Nelson has taught writing (and art) in the honor's program at UMN, at the Split Rock Arts Program and in the Elder Collegium as well as in the Elderhostel program.

**2008 CVEC SPRING TERM CLASSES**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**March 24 – May 16, 2008**

**Complete the form below and mail or bring to:**

**Cannon Valley Elder Collegium, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield MN 55057**

Include course fee of \$50.00 or check the financial assistance box. Optional books and materials when specified for a class are extra.

Name(s)

(A) \_\_\_\_\_

(B) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

(To be used only for CVEC activities)

Check if you need financial assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Check if this is your first CVEC class \_\_\_\_\_

Included is a tax-deductible gift of \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE**

You may register by mail or at the Northfield Senior Center beginning February 13, 2008. All registrations must be accompanied by a check unless financial assistance has been requested.

**REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME BASIS**

Please register by March 5, 2008. If the class for which you register is oversubscribed, you will be given your second choice or notified as soon as possible so you may register for another course. After March 5th, post cards will be mailed to confirm course registration. The Registration Book at the Senior Center provides information on class availability. Course registrations will also be updated on the web page: [www.cvec.org](http://www.cvec.org).

**REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID BEING DISAPPOINTED**

**Questions concerning registration should be directed to:** Operations Director: David Halsor (507-645-6052) [dhalsor@rconnect.com](mailto:dhalsor@rconnect.com)

**Cannon Valley Elder Collegium Goals**

**Our Purpose:**

To provide content oriented classes with experienced teaching faculty.

For class selection, in the first column indicate

person A, B or A/B (both), and in the second column indicate first or second choice. You may register for more than one course by writing A1 or B1 next to a second course, and including the tuition for each course.

A/B 1/2 (First or Second Choice)

- \_\_\_\_\_  **Food For Thought**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Where in the World is Turkmenistan**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Principles of Spiritual Intelligence; Guiding Our Way of Being**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Seeing Movies**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Dickens and D H Lawrence**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Exploring Inner Space with Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **The Enlightenment; The Pleasures & Perils of Intellectual History**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Ibsen's Women**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **Great Decisions**
- \_\_\_\_\_  **A Chapter of Your Life**

**Our Program:**

- CVEC focuses on the need for life-long learning
- The courses of study are selected to provide rich academic experiences in the liberal arts
- Most of these studies will take a seminar format with learners actively participating in research and dialogue
- CVEC welcomes younger registrants (under 50) on a seat available basis
- Previous formal education is not a requirement

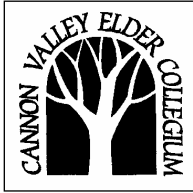
**Our Policies:**

- Class size is generally limited to 15
- Most classes will meet 8 times, once/week
- Classes are 2 hours/session
- Financial assistance is available for registrants who can not afford the fee (Check above)
- Students may withdraw from a course before the 2<sup>nd</sup> class meeting and request a refund

**MEMBERSHIP FUNDING:** The difference between CVEC's \$50 student fee and our \$75 per student cost has been bridged by grants. Because many volunteer their time, our administrative costs have always been minimal. Lately, grants have been reduced or eliminated. Thus, tax deductible contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated.

**CVEC FUNDED BY:**

Minnesota Humanities Center  
Hoeft Family Foundation



**Cannon Valley  
Elder Collegium  
1651 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield MN 55057**

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**Cannon Valley Elder Collegium  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting  
Northfield Retirement Community Chapel  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
2:00 PM – Coffee and Social  
2:20 – Meeting Featuring**

**Keynote Address  
“The Greatest Lied (Song) in the World” – Dick Cantwell  
Introductions to Fall Term 2008 Classes  
New Announcements of Collegium Activities  
Good Friends and Fellowship**