

# CCE CURRENT

Fall 2010

*A publication for alumni  
and friends of the College of  
Continuing Education*

## ***The language of learning***

A native of Mexico's Yucatán, Karin L. Larson Scholarship recipient and 2010 graduate Satty Flaherty-Echeverria didn't speak English five years ago. Since then, she has learned three new languages and is heading to graduate school.

### **Also in this issue:**

MLB catcher Dan Wilson's discipline helped him earn a degree started years earlier.

Years of dedication to helping others earned College career counselor Janet Peltó a distinguished award.

Scholarship recipient Tami Oachs found the inspiration she needed to finish her family's memoir through a writing retreat.

**COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

# From the Dean



Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Hello,

One of the hallmarks of students' experience with the College of Continuing Education is the assistance they can obtain to find and create programs of study to meet their own unique educational needs. Oftentimes, this requires clarifying their own goals. In this issue we tell the story of one very accomplished career and lifework counselor – Janet Peltó – who has recently been recognized by peers in her field with a prestigious achievement award in career counseling.

When she was interviewed about her life's work for this issue, she mentioned that fresh out of graduate school, and with many opportunities in front of her, she wasn't sure if career counseling was the right path to pursue with her educational psychology degree. She'd thought she might be missing an important prerequisite. "I didn't have all the answers!" she explained.

It turns out, her key to success was about asking good questions and then listening, really listening to the reply.

A passion for helping people take a long look inside and form a vision for their future, then a plan to position themselves for tomorrow's opportunities is a trait Janet shares with so many other dedicated faculty and staff here at the College. It is their hard work that supports our many truly amazing and dedicated students. In this issue alone, we meet:

- Scholarship recipient, 2010 graduate, and native of Mexico's Yucatán, Satty Flaherty-Echeverria, who packed in up to seven courses per semester in three languages while working as an interpreter.
- MLB catcher Dan Wilson who returned to school to finish a degree after a dozen years on the field and who embodies the spirit of so many degree completers ready to finish what they started.
- Mini Antony, a native of India and current resident of Boise, Idaho, who took an online HR course before earning a new job after a six-year hiatus from her career.
- Tami Oachs, who found the confidence to finish her family memoir after a writing workshop.

My congratulations go to our students and my thanks to all those who support them – staff, faculty, family, friends, and donors. Behind so many success stories lie a few carefully crafted questions and some reflective pauses. It is in those pauses that imaginations are let loose.

My wishes for a beautiful fall filled with opportunities to pause.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary L. Nichols  
Dean, College of Continuing Education  
University of Minnesota

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College donor Bernard Osher joined The Giving Pledge, pledging half his wealth to others. Thanks go to all who share their resources to brighten the future of others.

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Cover photo by Tim Rummelhoff. Satty Flaherty-Echeverria, 2010 graduate.

Volume 7, Number 1

CCE Current, a publication for alumni, donors, and friends of the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota, is published twice a year from offices at Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108-6080. Readers are encouraged to submit comments and story ideas to the editor at this address or via e-mail to [turch001@umn.edu](mailto:turch001@umn.edu).

The information in this publication is available in alternative formats. Disability accommodations for programs in this publication are available upon request. Call 612-625-1711.

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DO-0261-01/9.10



# *The Language of Learning*

Photo by Tom Eunnethoff

Satty Flaherty-Echeverria

“I grew up loving reading,” says scholarship recipient and 2010 graduate Satty Flaherty-Echeverria. “My mother was a librarian, and instilled in me the love of reading and the arts. It was an escape for me, especially after my parents divorced when I was in junior high.”

It was this insatiable appetite for knowledge that would eventually draw her to the College of Continuing Education’s Inter-College Program — where she could design a major in education, Spanish, English, and Portuguese literature and culture.

A native of Mexico’s Yucatán, Flaherty-Echeverria grew up surrounded by culture. She attended a fine arts school, where she studied classical dance and later danced with a company called Jazzissimo. After her parents’ divorce, she went to work to help support her mother and brothers, first as a radio show producer and writer, and eventually as a teacher.

“My first job was working on a program that promoted literature and reading for young children. [Eventually] I started a program that featured, in addition to writing and literature, an arts element. [It] showcased local music, dance groups, and artists promoting their events and exhibitions.”

As much as she loved the radio, Flaherty-Echeverria knew she needed a more lucrative income. At age 17, and still a student herself, she was trained as a teacher, and began teaching art, dance, and the history of dance at a Montessori school, a job she says “was a great experience that changed my life and gave me the skills and confidence to become a teacher.”

After graduation, she was accepted to the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán as a Latin-American literature student in the school of Anthropological Sciences. “College in Mexico is highly competitive — only a very small percentage of applicants even gets in,” she explains.

Despite taking a double course load to make up for lost time, Flaherty-Echeverria continued her work in arts and culture. “I was very involved with extracurricular activities. I planned radio programs and broadcasted a literature-based radio show (‘Voces de Papel’) and talks offered by famous visiting authors. I was dancing every day with Jazzissimo.”

Then, a friend told her about the Cordell Hull Foundation, a nonprofit organization offering programs to improve international relations, primarily through educational and cultural exchange. “I applied for a position teaching Spanish — I didn’t know exactly where it was going to be,” she says. “As it turns out, it was in the United States — Minnesota. I didn’t know ANYTHING about Minnesota.”

Not only was Flaherty-Echeverria unfamiliar with Minnesota, she didn’t speak a word of English. Yet suddenly she found herself staying with a host family who didn’t speak Spanish and getting ready to do a teaching internship at a St. Paul Spanish immersion elementary school.

“I couldn’t have done all of it, though, without the help of the scholarships I received. I was a Karin L. Larson Scholarship recipient for two years.”

— Satty Flaherty-Echeverria

“Ah, I went from being very much in my element to out of it,” she smiles. “Arriving in Minnesota was a difficult experience. Being from the Yucatán, the winter weather was a struggle. But more than adjusting to the climate, I had no background in English or American culture. Pretty much as soon as I arrived, I began taking ESL classes so we could communicate.”

Flaherty-Echeverria was intensely committed to her ESL studies, partly from an intellectual standpoint, but also because of her host family. “I ended up staying with them for two years, instead of the customary one. They were so very generous, opening up their home. I wanted to give something back, to

contribute — and this is what I could give them. I could learn the language and get fluent as quickly as possible.”

Within six months, she was fluent enough to begin auditing college classes, then taking classes as a non-degree seeking student. Then, a trip to Brazil further clarified her academic goals. “I fell in love with the Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language. I didn’t speak Portuguese at the time, but I knew when I was there that I wanted to learn it; study it. Many people I’ve met are under the impression that the Americas are divided up into two groups of countries: Spanish speaking and English speaking. But Brazil is one of the largest countries in South America and has been a major influence on Latin American culture and literature.”

Flaherty-Echeverria searched the U for a program that would allow her to combine her interests in Spanish, English, and Portuguese literature and culture with education. The Inter-College Program ([www.cce.umn.edu/Inter-College-Program](http://www.cce.umn.edu/Inter-College-Program)) in the College of Continuing Education was a perfect fit.

Her degree program was intense, and she would spend her day switching between the three languages — reading, writing papers, and analyzing texts in all of them. “From my work at the immersion school and living with an English-speaking host family, I was sort of used to switching halfway through my day...but this did get confusing at times. Sometimes I would have to stop and think, wait — which language am I using here. I’d drop a Spanish word in a Portuguese sentence, that sort of thing.”

It may have been intense, but it spurred her on. Switching between languages and cultures inspired her undergraduate research work, which was on code switching among Belizean languages. Nor did the packed schedule hamper her accomplishments: Flaherty-Echeverria was taking up to seven courses a semester (in three languages) and working in the St. Paul school district and as a translator/interpreter and still managed to earn straight A’s and a spot on the Dean’s List.

“I couldn’t have done all of it, though,” she says, “without the help of the scholarships I received. I was a Karin L. Larson Scholarship recipient for two

Language of Learning continued on page 13.



# high notes

For students, the University's diverse curriculum means they can aim for the stars in astronomy or stay well grounded with agriculture... and that's just the "A's." Whatever their ambitions, it is likely the University can help them achieve their goals, just as it did for alumni.

Through the College of Continuing Education, in addition to full degrees, adults also have access to that same University-wide breadth of insight through short courses and events.

This fall will see two new interesting time-traveling twists. One suite of offerings introduces citizens to a Witness to History as local innovators share their firsthand perspectives on decisive moments and movements that have shaped our history. The second lets us turn back the clock in another way. 101 overviews let us revel in those topics we wish we'd explored "the first time around."

Two November events focused on music illustrate the distinction, notably.

## Witness to History

"I played in a band and then some stuff happened, then some other stuff. I still play in a band. That pretty much sums it up," says Chris Osgood (shown left).

Sure it does.

If by "a band" you mean a group that helped shape the American punk rock genre. And by "some other stuff" you mean working as a record producer, a college instructor and administrator, a director for a nonprofit arts agency, a wine importer, a...

Yeah. Those simple lines do pretty much sum up Osgood, headliner at the November LearningLife "Witness to History" Forum. But there's an awful lot of reading between them you can do to get the full story.

Best known as "the godfather of the Minneapolis music scene," Osgood (along with Dave Ahl and Steve Almaas) founded the punk band The Suicide Commandos in 1975. The band is credited as being one of the first U.S. bands outside of New York to play in the Ramones-style, harder-louder-faster mode that would define the punk genre. He then went on to become a label manager and producer at Twin/Tone Records in Minneapolis (home to bands such as The Replacements, Soul Asylum, Ween, and The Jayhawks).

Osgood's musical career began when he was a preteen. Osgood got turned on to the guitar, teaching himself to play rock and roll and eventually forming a band. "I was playing professionally by the time I was 14. It just clicked for me."

After finishing his college degree (double majoring in psychology and music) in only three years, Osgood, Ahl, and Almaas formed the Commandos. Thirty-five years later, the trio not only continues to play together—they actually still even like each other. "We still jack around like kids when we get together. It also helps that we're a democracy—we all come up with ideas, and we all vote. No one person is in sole control. With three guys, you can never deadlock, never get into a stalemate that breaks up the band," Osgood smiles.

Being in a pioneering band like The Suicide Commandos allowed Osgood to perform with some of the biggest

names in music history, including Iggy Pop, Patti Smith, and the Ramones. "We did a show with them [the Ramones] at Kelly's pub in Saint Paul, and when we were done, I was like 'wow, you can just kill me now—it doesn't get any better than this.'"

But in many ways, it *has*. Osgood has also been a tireless advocate for new and emerging artists, having worked at Springboard for the Arts (a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping artists earn a living by pursuing their craft) for nearly two decades, and now serving as the vice president of external affairs for McNally Smith College of Music.

"I'm a helper," he says. "My main role has always been helping people do better, do their best; helping them achieve more. I

"We did a show with them [The Ramones] at Kelly's Pub in Saint Paul, and when we were done, I was like 'wow, you can just kill me now—it doesn't get any better than this.'"

— Chris Osgood of  
The Suicide Commandos

get a thrill out of seeing people succeed, whether that's working with a band to get them to put out a record that they look back at and say 'yeah, we really did that one right,' or whether it's sitting down with an artist and figuring out how to get them health insurance."

In recognition for his work in the arts community, Springboard created the Osgood Dogood award for transformational leadership in the arts, an honor that touched Osgood deeply. "That was cool. It was definitely a high point for me."

"I'm lucky that I got a little taste of 'the rock star life,' but not so much that it overwhelmed me or consumed everything else. It opened a lot of doors, created opportunities. But I can still go to the grocery store without being mobbed or something crazy like that. I think I've been able to answer that age-old question 'how do I do what I want to do?' I've been really, really fortunate in that way."

High Notes continued on page 17.



## Upcoming LearningLife Events

### LearningLife Forum (2010 Theme: "Witness to History")

- **November 18:** Chris Osgood, "Godfather of the Minneapolis Music Scene"
- **December 16:** John and Sage Cowles, Twin Cities arts patrons
- **January 20:** Walter Mondale, Former U.S. vice president
- **February 17:** Josie Johnson, Civil rights activist
- **April 21:** George and Sally Pillsbury, with *Star Tribune* writer Lori Sturdevant

**Time:** 7 p.m. Cost: \$15 per event.

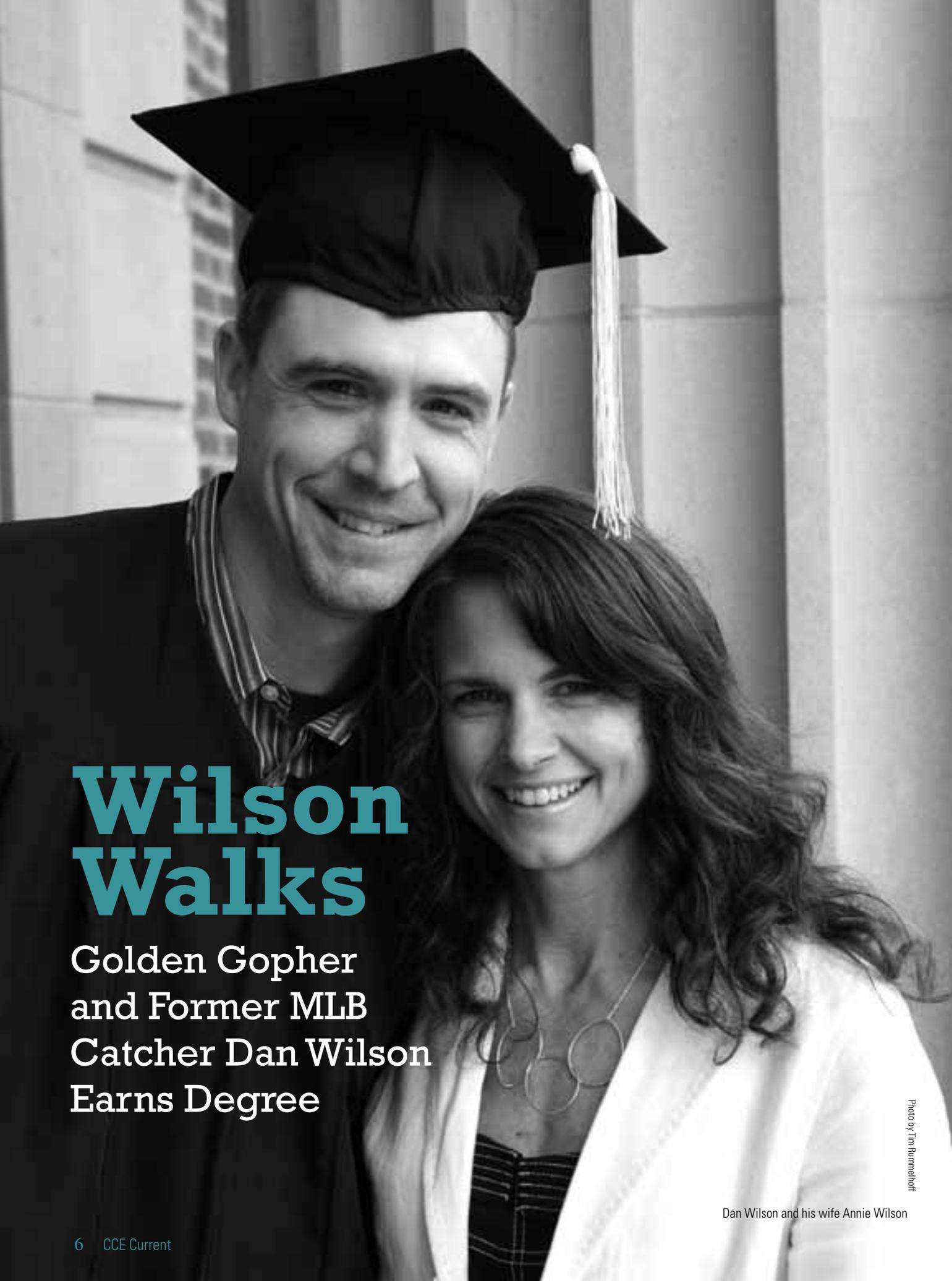
### 101s

- **November 6:** Western Music 101 with Daniel Freeman
- **December 4:** American Politics 101 with Paul Goren, Timothy Johnson, Kathryn Pearson

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$101 per event.

**Location:** Continuing Education and Conference Center on the St. Paul campus.

Registration and complete information, visit [cce.umn.edu/LearningLife](http://cce.umn.edu/LearningLife), or call **612-624-4000**.



# Wilson Walks

Golden Gopher and Former MLB Catcher Dan Wilson Earns Degree

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Dan Wilson and his wife Annie Wilson

Excelling at the plate in major league baseball takes major league discipline. It's being self-aware of your strengths and weaknesses; knowing when to swing for the fences and when not to swing at all. Sometimes, it ends in a walk. Discipline is the same trait that can make a student successful in the classroom, and, like baseball, sometimes ends in a walk.

Dan Wilson has used discipline to excel in both environments. After a successful 14-year professional baseball career, Wilson returned to college and recently received his bachelor of science degree in applied business and IT studies through the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Though he drew hundreds of walks during his time as an all-star catcher in the pros, none was as significant as the walk he took this spring at his commencement ceremony.

"It was important to me that I finish my degree, and I wanted to do it at the school where I started," said Wilson. "I wanted to show my kids the importance of education, and (commencement) was a great experience to share with my family."

After spending 12 years with the Seattle Mariners organization, Wilson is now a happy resident of the Emerald City where he is an active volunteer in the community. When Wilson decided to return to school, he initially figured he would need to transfer his credits somewhere closer to home to complete his degree. But he has a special affinity for the University of Minnesota, and after looking into opportunities, he discovered that the College of Continuing Education offered online courses that would allow him to earn his B.S. and continue supporting the maroon and gold.

"I was connected with Amy Brewster (a CCE academic adviser), and she did a wonderful job," said Wilson. "I started this return to school four or five years ago, and things had changed a lot since I first went to college. Everything is very individualized, and she helped me understand what I needed to do in order to complete my major and get it approved."

Brewster worked with Wilson to develop a course plan that would allow him to take most of his outstanding credit requirements online. He knew online

courses were not ideal for everyone, but the flexibility they provided worked with his busy life as a father, husband, and active community citizen. In the end, he loved the experience the Web-based courses provided.

Wilson hopes to leverage what he learned through his applied business courses to start a nonprofit with his wife aimed at helping youth in the Seattle area, but maybe not right away. As a father of four, he's enjoying the rare opportunity to spend some time with his family right now.

He came to the University of Minnesota

"It was important to me that I finish my degree, and I wanted to do it at the school where I started. I wanted to show my kids the importance of education."

– Dan Wilson, former Seattle Mariner and 2010 College of Continuing Education graduate

in 1987, the same year he was drafted for the first time by a major league club. But Wilson was interested in playing college ball and studying engineering. The University of Minnesota offered a great chance to do both, and with some Gopher baseball players departing, gave Wilson a chance to contribute immediately on the diamond. The pros came calling again in 1990, and this time, he bit. Wilson was selected by the Reds with the seventh overall pick.

"I had already done three years in the engineering program, but it was going to take five, and I jumped at the opportunity to go pro," said Wilson. "But I'm glad I got the chance to finish what I started at Minnesota. It was important to me and my family that I finish my degree."

The whole Wilson family was on hand to watch him walk at commencement. And it was a homecoming for another member of the family, too. His wife, Annie, received her bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1991. After walking, Wilson took his kids to watch his former college team take the field at the Metrodome that afternoon. Wilson was glad to show off the campus and team to his kids.

"I've got to get the maroon and gold going in their blood," said Wilson.

To find more information about the Inter-College Program or online courses Dan Wilson used to complete his degree, visit [www.cce.umn.edu](http://www.cce.umn.edu) or call 612-624-4000.



## Alumni Notes

- Success on and off the field – While Dan Wilson had a professional sport in his past, another CCE alum is excited about a future on the field. Congratulations go to 2009 construction management major Nate Triplett, who was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings this spring.
- The College has 7,838 living alumni who have achieved interdisciplinary degrees from the University. They include graduates of the former University College and University Without Walls as well as the current Inter-College Program (ICP), Program for Individualized Learning (PIL), and the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) and Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) programs.
- Alumni are living around the world in 65 different countries.

Our alumni all have interesting educational and career stories, often of taking the road "less traveled." We'd love to hear your story and invite you to share your favorite campus memories and subsequent life successes on the new *CCE Current* blog. Just visit [www.cce.umn.edu/Alumni-News](http://www.cce.umn.edu/Alumni-News).



Prep for  
*Success*

Online course helps HR professionals go to the next level

Photo by Suraj Mathew

Mini Anthony

After a six-year hiatus from her career, Mini Antony was ready to go back to work. Taking an HR online course to prepare to sit for a professional exam gave her the boost she needed.

Last fall, when Mini Antony enrolled in the online HR Certification Test Prep course offered by the College of Continuing Education, she knew what to expect: high-quality teaching, excellent materials, and timely feedback.

"I had taken a course with the instructor, Larry Morgan, several years before, and I learned a lot," she says. "After that, we stayed in touch, and he became a kind of mentor for me. So I was only too happy to sign up for another course."

As a management consultant in her native India, she had focused on human resources. Then she married, moved to the U.S., had a child, and took a six-year career hiatus. By 2009, she was ready to return to work.

"My previous experience was process-oriented. I was unfamiliar with aspects of American HR practice, such as labor relations, risk and safety, and compliance issues," she says. "The course not only prepared me for the test, but it familiarized me with these areas."

The 12-week course, which is officially endorsed by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), prepares students to sit for the internationally recognized Professional in Human Resources (PHR) or the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) exam.

Students interact in a structured virtual environment, and they have the flexibility to log on to the course site at any time of day. Materials include downloadable podcasts and PowerPoint lectures.

Although the test prep course is also offered "on the ground," the online version is popular with students. "Not everyone can attend class in person," says Linda Halliburton, director of Continuing Professional Education. "Only 76 percent of our online students are in Minnesota. The course draws students from all over the country, and about eight percent are overseas. One recent student, for example, was working in Abu Dhabi."

For Mini Antony, who lives in Boise, Idaho, the online option was cost-effective and convenient. "The materials were very well-organized," she says. "And Larry's feedback was very helpful and almost instantaneous—he always replied within 24 hours. Because he's an HR professional with years of experience in the field, he was able to clarify any misunderstandings or confusion."

Both the online and the in-person versions of the HR test prep course also offer students a chance to network and share their real-life work experiences. This was a big plus for the Idahoan, who found her classmates' comments and feedback helpful. "I learned a lot from them," she says.

After finishing the test prep course, she passed the PHR exam in January 2010. The success rate for CCE students is over 90 percent—in fact, every student who took the PHR exam last fall passed. This compares with a national success rate of 60 percent. "Our students feel very qualified to sit for the exam," Halliburton says.

Passing the exam and earning the PHR certification gave Mini Antony the boost she needed to re-enter the workplace. In March 2010, she applied for a job as an HR analyst with the City of Boise. In April, she was hired. "I consider this an achievement considering my long sabbatical from my career. I'm sure that having the certificate helped me get the interview," she says.

Pleased to be working again in the HR field, she's considering earning additional certifications. She's especially interested in the new Global Professional in Human Resources (GPHR) designation. She may have to wait a bit, however, because CCE doesn't yet offer the GPHR test prep course online. But once it becomes available, she's likely to enroll.

"My experience with the online program has been very satisfying, and I wouldn't hesitate to sign up for another course," she says. "I'd also recommend these courses to other interested professionals."



## Continuing Professional Education Online

### Business Analysis Certificate

March 14 - April 22, 2011

[www.cce.umn.edu/courses/CERT-0312.html](http://www.cce.umn.edu/courses/CERT-0312.html)

Learn to:

- Identify business needs, and the technical costs and benefits
- Develop and manage comprehensive solution-based requirements
- Formulate business specifications to implement technical solutions
- Bridge the gap between business and IT
- Use data modeling to analyze and improve business processes

### HR Certification Test Prep

Spring term: March 3 - May 20, 2011

[www.cce.umn.edu/courses/CERT-0223.html](http://www.cce.umn.edu/courses/CERT-0223.html)

### Principles of Systems Engineering

March 14 - May 20, 2011

[www.cce.umn.edu/Principles-of-Systems-Engineering](http://www.cce.umn.edu/Principles-of-Systems-Engineering)

Learn to:

- Develop a systems engineering project management process
- Identify systems engineering technical processes
- Recognize the importance of modeling and simulation
- Understand systems engineering agreement and organizational processes

# The library and U

**Class is in session –  
at the library!**

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Greg Soule

The Ridgedale Library is only a 10-minute drive from Greg Soule's home in Maple Grove. So when Soule (shown), a technology project manager for Hennepin County, decided to earn a Project Management Certificate, it made sense to enroll in courses offered at the library through the College of Continuing Education.

"The courses were taught by the same instructors and were of the same high quality as those offered on campus," Soule says. "The only difference was that I didn't have to drive to St. Paul. I enjoyed being able to take University courses at a convenient time and place, in the relaxing environment of the library."

The College began offering professional development short courses and certificates at the Ridgedale Library in 2008, building on an existing alliance between Hennepin County and the University. According to Linda Halliburton, director of Continuing Professional Education, this initiative embodies the University's mission of outreach and access. It's also congruent with Hennepin County Library's outreach and educational mission. "It's a great fit for us both," Halliburton says.

The course offerings were chosen collaboratively by CCE and library staff. The courses have proven

popular: last spring, almost 200 people were enrolled at Ridgedale.

In 2011, the College will expand the program to two more libraries: Maple Grove and Eden Prairie. All courses combine lecture and interactive problem-solving. Instructors are subject matter experts who are both grounded in theory and experienced in practical application.

The courses that Soule took at the Ridgedale Library gave him a solid understanding of fundamentals, process skills, and human relations necessary for successful project management. He was able to put these new tools to work right away on the job. For example, when he needed to partner with the IT department to implement new technologies, Soule was able to negotiate roles and responsibilities by applying what he had learned about organizing projects.

Soule recommends the courses to anyone who manages projects or who wants to prepare for the Project Management Professional certification exam. "I'm more comfortable and confident in working the entire project from start to finish because I have a better understanding of the total process," he says.



## Continuing Professional Education at Hennepin County Libraries

Take courses or work toward completing a certificate close to where you live and work.

### Ridgedale Library

- Business Analysis
- Project Management
- Human Resource Certification Test Preparation

### Maple Grove Library

- HR Certification Test Prep

### Eden Prairie Library

- Project Management for Engineers and Technical Professionals
- Career Development Workshops

To learn more or to register, visit [www.cce.umn.edu/libraries](http://www.cce.umn.edu/libraries).



Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Tami Oachs

# The Write Stuff

## Writers' retreat was "perfect class at perfect time"

Tami Oachs always wanted to make writing a career. But, she says, "I just didn't have the confidence to do it." Now, thanks to a retreat she took last summer through the College of Continuing Education's Split Rock Arts Program, Oachs has finally found the confidence she needed.

For several years, Oachs had been working on a memoir about the effect of her father's childhood experiences on her family. "At age seven, he was torn from a loving foster family and reunited with a mother he no longer knew. It was devastating," the Faribault woman says.

Oachs wanted to fit her family's complicated dynamics into a narrative, but she wasn't sure how to do it. "I knew where I wanted to go, but I didn't know how to get there," she says.

Then an artist friend who had participated in the Split Rock program showed Oachs a course catalog. She was immediately drawn to "Into the Country of Memoir," a weeklong writers' retreat at the Cloquet Forestry Center led by award-winning writer and former *Star Tribune* travel editor, Catherine Watson. "It was the perfect class at the perfect time," Oachs recalls.

But first Oachs, a single mother of two teenage boys, had to come up with the tuition. Her friend encouraged her to apply for a scholarship, and Oachs received both a Mucke-Roff Scholarship and a scholarship from the Women's Fund for Continuing Education.

During the week in Cloquet, Oachs learned to approach her project by breaking it down into manageable bites. She also learned how to create a narrative that would pull readers in and keep them engaged. "Catherine made the class a safe place for students. Her feedback was constructive and positive," Oachs says. "I get nervous when I have to share personal things with a group, but my classmates were kind, attentive, and incredibly validating."

Oachs and her classmates have kept in touch by e-mail and on Facebook. And they're trying to organize a writers' group for the Minnesota participants. "The Split Rock experience enabled me to join a family of like-minded writers," Oachs says. "It was truly life-changing."



Photo by Tom Alverson

### Upcoming Retreats at the Cloquet Forestry Center

**Winter Landscape Photography**  
**Craig Blacklock**  
**February 10-13**

Create captivating photos in differing conditions of light and snow.

**Reinventing Your Future**  
**Jerry Allan**  
**February 10-13**

A retreat in applied creativity for those who seek a path that leads to happiness and fulfillment.

*Spring retreats run April 7-10 and 14-17.*

Learn more at  
[www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts](http://www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts).

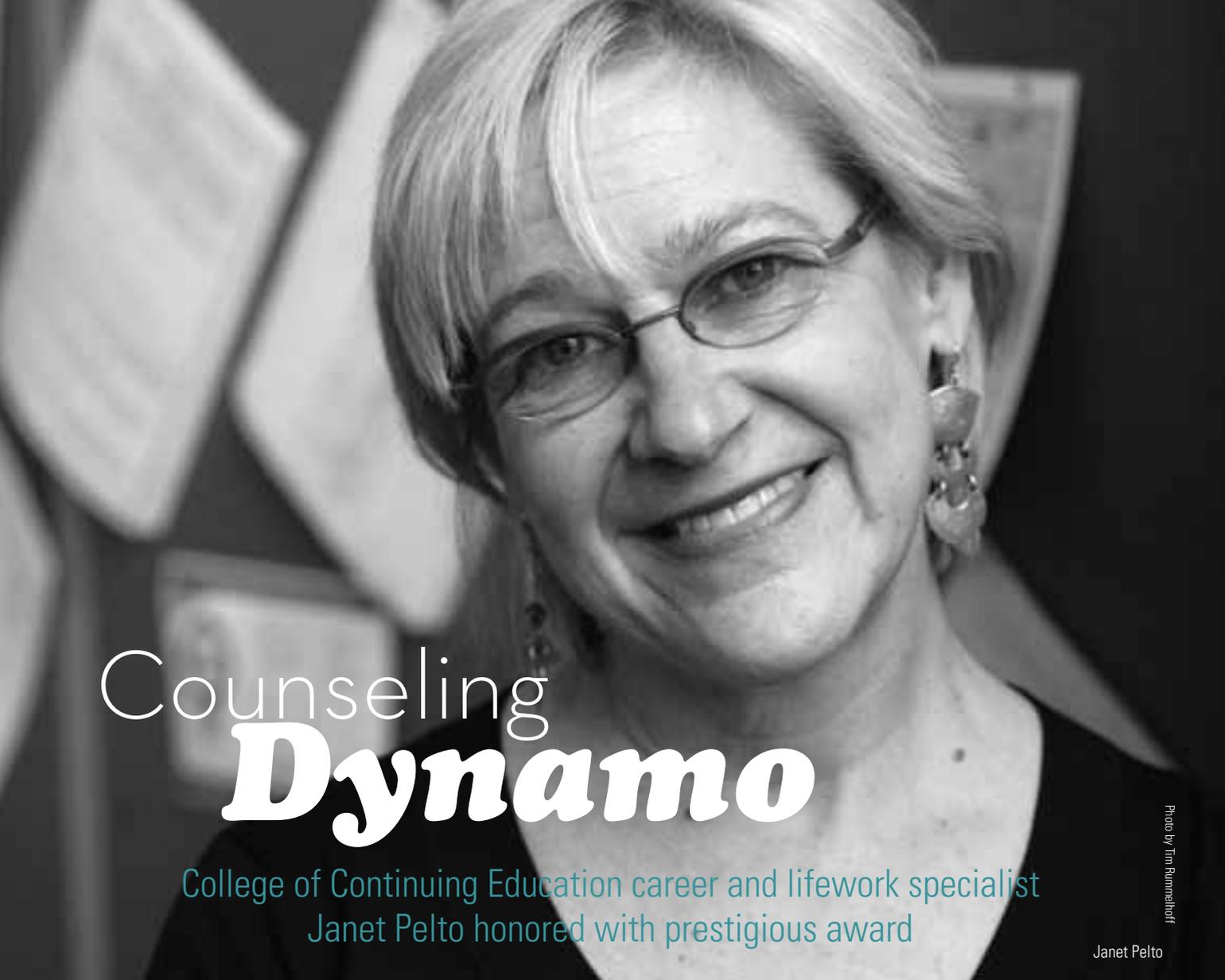


Photo by Tim Runnelhoff

Janet Pelto

# Counseling **Dynamo**

College of Continuing Education career and lifework specialist  
Janet Pelto honored with prestigious award

Individuals who want to change careers or advance in their current one often find themselves on the office doorstep of Janet Pelto, the College of Continuing Education's career and lifework planning specialist. Pelto, who has been with the College for 22 years, was recently honored for her work with the prestigious Jules Kerlan Outstanding Achievement Award from the Minnesota Career Development Association (MCDA).

The award goes to nominees who are committed to human and career development throughout their career and are influential across the branches of career development. Pelto definitely fits the bill. "She's just an excellent, devoted career counselor," says Vic Massaglia of the U's Law School. "She loves her work and it shows. She's an excellent listener, and will hear what folks have to say, and come up with wise,

practical, and implementation-oriented decisions."

The irony of the situation is that Pelto never intended to be a career counselor at all. She fell into her job by a sort of happy accident. When she was in graduate school studying educational psychology, she didn't at first consider career counseling because she assumed that these professionals had to have all the answers. "And I didn't have all the answers!" she said with a smile.

But after graduating she was offered a career counseling position and quickly learned that the trick isn't to "have all the answers," but rather to be a good listener—and be able to ask the right questions. "It's not about sitting there and telling people what to do. It's about knowing how to hear what the person is saying about their goals, their interests. And it's about asking the questions that

help them get that information out of their heads," she explained.

"Sometimes it feels like what I'm doing is giving them permission to do what they want to do. People need to talk about it—but it can render you very vulnerable. I give them a safe place and a sounding board. A lot of the time, people have an idea of what they want to do—it's just buried deep down inside. My goal is help them to verbalize, then act. No one can think their way to an answer."

After more than two decades in the field, Pelto has no intentions of slowing down. "I am incredibly honored that my peers think enough of me to nominate me for this award. Really, I've got a great gig."

---

If you would like to learn more about career and lifework services, call 612-624-4000 or visit [www.cce.umn.edu/career](http://www.cce.umn.edu/career).

## From the Development Director



Photo by Tim Runnelhoff

Dear Friends,

Providing for the well being of others is a powerful and meaningful enterprise. It's also something that requires individuals to bring their entire selves—mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and financially to the task. Because of that, the act of giving turns out to be one of the most rewarding experiences life has to offer.

This year, 40 or so American billionaires have pledged to give away at least half

of their wealth to charity through The Giving Pledge. These generous folks are clearly the economic elite. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet who launched this effort, and Ted Turner who loves to make money, and to give it away, are some of those you might recognize. One of the 40 you might not know is Bernard Osher who is called by some "the quiet philanthropist." Years ago, Bernard and his wife, Barbro, decided to give all their wealth to charity before they die. And luckily for us, they have provided millions of dollars to the College of Continuing Education to support lifelong learning and lifelong learners. Their giving is enhancing and empowering lives every day here at the University of Minnesota.

This urge to share is alive and well among all of us. A recent study "Having Less, Giving More" suggests people with the least money are particularly motivated by a greater dependence on and concern for social relationships and, give a statistically larger percent of their incomes to charity. Many people know about Oseola McCarty, who in 1995 after working as

a washer woman for her entire life, gave all her hard-earned savings, \$150,000, to finance scholarships for black students at the University of Southern Mississippi. I even remember my own father getting dinged on his tax returns because his charitable contributions exceeded the norm for a public school teacher with a family of eight.

Well, we believe in the greater good, in education, and in sharing our resources to brighten the future for others. This fall with the holidays and Thanksgiving coming up, I want to thank every one of you who have given of your resources to the College and its students. I hope your largesse has provided you with a great experience. And, to those who haven't yet made a gift, I invite you to try it. I think you'll like it!

All the best,  
Kathleen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Davoli  
Director of Development  
College of Continuing Education

## The Language of Learning – Continued from page 3.

years. Not only did it ease a big financial burden, I was inspired by her [Larson's] generosity and philanthropy. It has made me even more determined to give back when I have the opportunity."

Flaherty-Echeverria has received a grant to do a cultural study in Brazil this summer, in preparation for her graduate work in the fall. She will be teaching Portuguese as she works toward her Ph.D., studying the literatures and cultures of the American continents.

"I am excited to continue my studies. I may not have ended up where I first

thought I would be going, but I have had such a great experience here. I was able to help my mother and siblings at home. I learned new languages. I got married. Culturally, I am much more open-minded. With more diversity, I [have gained] new and richer ways to experience life."

---

For more information about supporting students like Flaherty-Echeverria, contact Kathleen Davoli at [davol001@umn.edu](mailto:davol001@umn.edu) or 612-625-1253.

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Call Kathleen Davoli at 612-625-1253 or e-mail [davoi001@umn.edu](mailto:davoi001@umn.edu)

Thank you!

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*The New York Times* about his work, and is finishing his third book, *Mozart in Prague*.

Freeman is excited to bring his knowledge to Western Music 101, a one-day, intensive format covering a lot of ground. Participants will receive “an overview of the history of Western music by defining the succession of style periods and introducing the greatest composers.”

Western music “is made up of examples of ravishingly beautiful sounds. All that’s needed to appreciate them is exposure—which all too few people ever get. I’m happy to [teach it].”

– Daniel Freeman

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Daniel Freeman

High Notes – Continued from page 5.

## Western Music 101: Daniel Freeman

For Western Music 101 instructor Daniel Freeman, music is second nature. “As far back as I can remember, even to early childhood, I loved classical music. I always had a natural affinity for it, and couldn’t understand why the other kids didn’t like it.”

Initially, Freeman wanted to become a concert pianist, and he earned a bachelor’s degree in piano performance. He soon realized, however, his interests were multifaceted.

He became interested in the history and culture surrounding the music, as well as

the languages of the periods and places that gave birth to it. He quickly realized that music history, or musicology, allowed him the freedom to combine all of his interests.

Freeman specializes in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century music, and has also gained renown as a Czech music scholar. “I had to live in Prague to do my research while it was still communist. It was an extraordinary experience. My dissertation ended up published as a book, and then I published another book, a biography of a neglected Czech composer who was a friend of Mozart.”

He has also published numerous articles on the topic, and been interviewed by

The course also will highlight some of the unique achievements of Western music, “for example the invention of a notation that has made it possible to preserve its heritage—it’s not possible for any other culture to reconstruct the music of past centuries,” Freeman continues.

The course is open to individuals with all types of musical backgrounds—and to those with none whatsoever. All that is required is a curiosity about music, and an interest in learning. Western music “is made up of examples of ravishingly beautiful sounds. All that’s needed to appreciate them is exposure—which all too few people ever get. I’m happy to do [teach] it. It’s a great opportunity.”

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*Do the thing you fear most and the death of fear is certain.*  
– Mark Twain

## Words he lived by

When Mark Twain died in 1910, the creator of such memorable fictional characters as Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn left a 5,000-page unedited memoir with strict instructions that it not be published for a century.

*It's time.*

In conjunction with the publication of this long-awaited volume, the College is hosting a daylong celebration of all things Twain during

**Immersion: Mark Twain in His Own Words, November 13, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Enjoy an overview of the author by American literature scholar and U of M English Professor Emeritus Edward Griffin. Go on a live, virtual tour of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, home of the Mark Twain archive, and meet the people behind the book's publication. Hear former *Star Tribune* travel editor and current travel editor for *MinnPost.com*, Catherine Watson discuss Mark Twain as traveler and travel writer. Witness legendary WCCO-TV anchorman Don Shelby reveal a decidedly different side of his own public persona—that of avid book collector and Twain “reenactor.”

Be among the first to own a copy of *The Autobiography of Mark Twain*, which will be available for sale at this event. Cost, including lunch, is \$125. For more information, call **612-624-4000** or visit [www.cce.umn.edu/learninglife](http://www.cce.umn.edu/learninglife) and click on “short courses.”