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Summer 2006

c.c.e. times
A Newsletter for Lifelong Learners



SCHOLARSHIPS

*Scholarships open doors, and change lives for
College of Continuing Education students.*

Also in this issue:

*New program gives the public a monthly date with experts discussing
the headlines of the day.*

College of Continuing Education 2006 graduates put degrees to work.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Opening Doors, Changing Lives

Scholarships Help College of Continuing Education Students Achieve Goals

For many people, especially adult learners who are already trying to balance a family and career, plans of going back to school are often put aside because of the financial strain taking classes might impose.

Because the College of Continuing Education is committed to helping adults realize their educational goals—whether it’s for career enhancement, personal enrichment, or obtaining a University degree—a number of grants and scholarships are available to help alleviate the financial burden. Each year, more than 200 students return to learning thanks to these resources. What follows are just two of their many stories...

Patrice Jamar, Program for Individualized Learning Student
Karin L. Larson Scholarship recipient

Patrice Jamar graduated high school with honors. “I enrolled at a big university because I thought, ‘that’s what you’re supposed to do, right?’ But after a while, I quit. I felt overwhelmed and lost. Like I was adrift and couldn’t find a place or direction. If there were resources, I didn’t know about them.”

Thirteen years later, and married with a young child, Patrice enrolled in a community college, ready to try again. Her path, however, challenged her commitment—

within two years she had another child, separated from her husband, and lost her job when her employer moved out of state.

Patrice knew a flexible education option was essential to finishing her degree. In 2004, she transferred to the College of Continuing Education’s Program for Individualized Learning. “Despite the obstacles, I truly feel like I now have the chance to accomplish my personal and academic goals.”

Thanks to the Larson Scholarship, Patrice is working toward a degree in creative writing. “With two young kids, I never would’ve been able to do this without the support network I found here. It’s opened the door to getting my degree and to my dream of being able to support myself and my children with my writing.”

Photos by Tim Rummelhoff



Patrice Jamar



Josiah Titus

Josiah Titus, Split Rock Arts Program Student

Nolte-Miller Scholarship recipient

Josiah Titus was immediately intrigued when he heard one of his college instructors was teaching a course through the College of Continuing Education’s Split Rock Arts Program. “I knew taking her workshop could really help me develop as a writer.”

Unfortunately, Josiah was busy working full-time, and with his wife in chiropractic school, he was the sole income provider. The only way he could attend was through financial aid. “When I heard about the scholarship, I took a chance and applied for one. Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to go.”

Thanks to the Nolte-Miller Scholarship, Josiah attended the Fiction Writer’s Fingerprint workshop, an experience he calls “the four most influential days of my life as a writer.”

“It taught me so much. I learned how to apply my college course work, and I got a real sense of who I am as a writer. I’m a stronger, better storyteller—and more confident of my voice on the page.”

Since attending Split Rock Josiah has published several pieces and is now working toward a master’s degree in writing.

“Some people might say ‘oh, it’s only a few hundred dollars, what’s the big deal?’ But to me, the scholarship made a HUGE difference. It opened a door to an experience I never would have had otherwise.”



New Scholarship Adds to Financial Aid Resources

The new Osher Re-entry Scholarship Program is designed to help students from Minnesota (or a reciprocity state) who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree, and have financial need, have not previously completed a bachelor’s degree, and have had a significant gap in their education.

For more information on the Osher Re-entry Scholarship, and the many other resources available to help finance your education, visit www.cce.umn.edu/financialaid or call 612-624-4000.

Headliners

A monthly date with the experts. Hear it here, as it happens.

A thirty-second broadcast “byte.” Twenty “column inches” over the fold. Bloggers’ conjectures. What does it all really mean? When the same news can instill awe in some and incite rage in others, don’t you wish you could get an insider’s view of the issue? Headliners offers a chance to go beyond sound bytes and spin to get your news firsthand. Hear the Who, What, Why, and How from an insider’s point of view and then share your insights and inquiries in a guided discussion with the experts and each other.

The insiders – University faculty – are here. Starting this fall, they’ll be hosting monthly discussions of the most intriguing stories – the medical breakthroughs, culture clashes, social trends, and foreign affairs making headlines.

Because of the timely nature of Headliners, each month’s subject and speaker will be announced just weeks before the event. To sign up to receive monthly e-mail updates, visit www.cce.umn.edu/headliners.

Then mark your calendar for the 2006-2007 season: October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, and April 5.

All events will be held at the convenient Continuing Education and Conference Center on the U of M’s St. Paul campus. For more information or to purchase tickets at \$10, call 612-624-4000.

Fall Compleat Scholar season kicks off with an eclectic Sampler event geared toward travelers

Every year, through the College’s Compleat Scholar program, hundreds of adults indulge in a passion for learning through an ever-changing array of short courses including topics in the arts and humanities, travel, literature and writing, popular culture, history, science, and more.

Each season kicks off with a lively evening “Sampler” event—a taste of what’s being offered in upcoming courses. On September 12 (6:30-8 p.m.), take a trip around the world with two instructors as they offer you a sample of their respective courses on China and Ireland.

Dynamic and ancient, modern and traditional, foreign and friendly. A land of seeming contradictions, China is a fascinating country with a long history, many cultural treasures, and a vibrant people. Get a glimpse into its history—and its future—and pick up valuable tips for planning and making your own journey to this amazing land.

Then understand how culture and history can become imprinted upon a place as you learn about the locations in modern Ireland that are connected to the nation’s myths, legends, and folktales. You’ll take an armchair tour to Irish sites such as the Giant’s Causeway, the Poisoned Glen, and Leap Castle that have served as backdrops for fierce battles,

magical shape-shifters, illicit romances, fairy mischief, and bloody murder.

The eclectic Sampler event will be rounded out with discussions on the physics of superheroes and Allen Ginsberg’s landmark literary work “Howl” and its legal legacy.

For the Sampler fee of \$20, you can touch on each of these topics for 15 minutes. However, the fee can be used toward any full Compleat Scholar class this season. To register or for more information, visit www.cce.umn.edu/scholars or call 612-624-4000.

Radio K students win prestigious Minnesota Broadcaster’s Association Awards

This spring, Radio K, the U of M’s student-run radio station, won several awards from the “Media Best” competition of the Minnesota Broadcaster’s Association. The staff won awards in the student category for “Summer Music and Movies” in the soft news feature category; “Storm Aid” and “Locust Lecture” in the station promotion category; “EEOC vs Tyson Foods” in the hard news category; “Great River Energy” in the commercial spot category; “Music City Bowl” in the sports category; “Robots with Tears Episode 15 ‘The Telegraph Machine’” in the potpourri category; and “Second Hand Smoke” in the public service announcement category.

To learn more about Radio K, or KUOM AM and FM, listen in at 770 AM during the day or all weekend and after 4:30 p.m. weekdays at 106.5 (Minneapolis and west metro) or 100.7 (St. Paul and east metro) FM, or visit its new Web site radiok.org.

Computer Science certificate is redesigned to better meet the needs of adult students and employers

As computer applications continue to expand and the demand for networking to facilitate information exchange increases, systems analysts, computer scientists, and database administrator positions are projected to grow by 36 percent by the year 2010. (Sources: U.S. Department of Labor Statistics and Minnesota Department of Economic Security.)

In order to serve this burgeoning industry, the College has offered an undergraduate certificate in computer science for many years. But, in order to meet the changing demands of this important field, the College recently undertook a review of the certificate and updated the curriculum and entry requirements – making the program more accessible to adults who want to advance in their computer-related careers.

Students may choose from the following areas of emphasis: General, Database, Graphic, Internet, Networking, and Software.

For more information about the newly revised program, visit www.cce.umn.edu/certificates/tech/compsci/ or call 612-624-4000.

Looking for a Change?

Career Workshops

Who Am I? Clarifying Your Career and Lifework Goals (includes the newly revised *Strong Interest and Skills Confidence Inventory* and the more detailed *Meyers-Briggs Type Inventory Step II* career assessments)

Two meetings: September 20 and 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

What's Next for Me? Exploring Career and Educational Options

Two meetings: October 11 and 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

How Do I Get There? Setting Goals and Taking Action

Two meetings: November 1 and 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Workshops, which are offered at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Minneapolis campus, can be taken individually or as a three-part series. Series cost: \$335. Or, cost for the first (Who Am I?) workshop is \$175 (includes cost of assessments); second and third workshops are \$105 each. For more information or to register, call 612-624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu/careerservices.

University of Minnesota Alumni Association members and College of Continuing Education learners admitted to College degrees, credit certificates, and those enrolled in noncredit professional development certificates receive discounts. Complimentary parking is available next to the McNamara Center.

Free Information Sessions

College of Continuing Education information session

Find out more about a wide variety of programs that meet adults' needs, budgets, and schedules.

December 6, 6-8 p.m.

Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul campus

Inter-College Program information sessions

Find out how you can create an undergraduate degree drawing on course work from the University's over 100 majors. Choose from these dates:

October 2 or November 6, (5-6 p.m.)

Wesbrook Hall, East Bank campus

Program for Individualized Learning information sessions

Create your own project-based liberal arts degree and work at your own pace to complete it. Choose from these dates:

September 18, October 2, 16, or 30 (5:30-7 p.m.)

Wesbrook Hall, East Bank campus

For more information on the sessions above, or to reserve your space:

612-624-4000 or www.cce.umn.edu/infosessions.

Master of Liberal Studies information sessions

Find out about this graduate program that allows adults to tailor their curriculum to meet their personal interest or professional goals.

October 10, 6 p.m.

Campus location.

For reservations and location: call 612-626-8724.

Career Matters

Advice from a University of Minnesota career consultant with years of experience helping motivated adults explore their options, chart their course, and reach their goals.



Janet Pelto

Normally I devote this column to overarching strategies to reinvent or completely change a career. I often find these are helpful for people who want a change but haven't quite settled on what they want that change to look like.

However, some folks are at the point where they have the goal in mind, but are seeking guidance for how to reach that goal. Often the path involves education.

Sometimes stepping back into school, or coming to the University for the first time, can be a little daunting for adults. But the rewards – knowledge, confidence, a renewed sense of unlimited potential – are extraordinary.

You most likely know this. Since you are reading this newsletter, you have taken a class, or are admitted to a program, through the College or have indicated an interest in returning to school. But if you are ready to push further and are wondering what the next step is, the College offers an array of opportunities that help you investigate the possibilities.

These range from easy-to-use online tools that match adults' circumstances with financial aid offerings (www.cce.umn.edu/frwizard) or introduce adults to the process to register for credit classes (www.cce.umn.edu/eguide/) to the age-old art of simply sitting across a table with someone and listening to their history, hurdles, and hopes.

These opportunities for adults to connect with the College's knowledgeable, friendly staff and "find their place" at the University have been increasingly popular. They include information sessions and one-on-one meetings with advisers and others who can offer guidance to what is available.

The University's programs – undergraduate and graduate-level credit certificates and degrees as well as short "noncredit" professional or personal enrichment lectures, workshops, seminars, and courses – cover topics that round out your practical side or excite your sense of discovery.

If you are ready for a new challenge, you'll find it in education. But it shouldn't be a challenge to find the education that fits your needs. For more information, visit the Web sites above or the College's main Web site www.cce.umn.edu, or call 612-624-4000.

Sincerely,

Janet Pelto
Career and Lifework Consultant
College of Continuing Education
University of Minnesota

"The desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

– Confucius



College of Continuing Education Grads Light the Way



From lighting the spark for education to lighting up the homes and businesses of thousands of Minnesota residents, each year College of Continuing Education graduates go on to futures as distinct and unique as they are. This issue, we profile just two of the many outstanding individuals who received their diplomas this year.

Denise Zurn: Engineering Change

Growing up in western Minnesota, Denise Zurn spent a lot of time visiting with her grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins at their farms. And although her hometown of Moorhead was a “good-sized town,” Zurn felt as if she had moved worlds away when she relocated to the Twin Cities in 1972 to attend the U of M. “Though I didn’t move very far in distance when I [first] became a student in 1972, I [felt like] I had moved to a foreign place.”

Foreign—but fascinating. Zurn was immediately attracted to how a city works: the hustle and bustle, the amount of coordination it takes to keep it running smoothly. She majored in electrical engineering, and graduated with distinction in 1975. Following that, she went on to a successful career with Northern States Power (and then Xcel, after the merger), serving as an engineer in a variety of capacities related to energy delivery systems.

The fascination with urban design and planning never really left her, however, and in recent years she thought about returning to school or switching career paths. “I had 20-plus years of experience in my field, and I thought a graduate degree would give me that level of new, detailed knowledge I was looking for.”

But it wasn’t until 2002, when she left Xcel with a year of severance pay, that she had the time to truly think about changing directions. “I had actually been considering doing something for about five

years,” Zurn says, “but with kids, an extended family, a home, and a full-time job, it had never been the ‘right time.’”

Zurn had weighed a number of options, including working towards a master’s degree in management of technology or in architecture, or studying urban planning, but none of them fit quite right.

She knew she was ready—but wasn’t quite sure which track was right for her. “Some of the types of jobs I was considering for when I returned to work, like city planning and transportation, I didn’t necessarily have the qualifications for. Plus, I’d be looking at a big pay cut.”

After some soul-searching and investigation, Zurn found herself talking with an adviser at the College of Continuing Education’s career and lifework planning services. “I knew I wanted something design-focused...and interdisciplinary. I wanted to hear their advice on which way to go and what they had to offer that could help me get where I wanted to be.”

The adviser suggested the College’s Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program, and Zurn realized that she had found the right option. In the MLS, she could combine her fascination with functional urban design with her engineering experience to create an advanced degree that suited her unique educational, intellectual, and career-oriented goals.

“In the program, my focus and my goals evolved and I found myself thinking in different ways than I had before. MLS students come from quite different backgrounds.

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff



Denise Zurn

For example, several were from an art history background, and I appreciated seeing things through their eyes. In a master’s program in engineering, we all would have been coming at it from the same angle. That’s far from the case in the MLS—there’s a real richness in the knowledge I took away.”

Zurn focused her studies on chaos and complexity science, and how it presents a different way of thinking from traditional Newtonian science—and what that might mean for urban design and planning. She completed her Innovation Studies certificate in the fall of 2005, and received her MLS degree in December. She now works as a distribution systems planning engineer for Connexus Energy.

“I’m doing work that’s similar to what I’ve done before, but with a new energy, and from a fresh perspective. Urban growth, the city, it’s a complex environment. Chaos science has changed how I approach my job. The type of data gathering and analysis I’m doing now is very different—it’s not something I would have been able to do without the MLS.”

Not only is Zurn now helping light things up for the thousands of people served by Connexus Energy, but also she is serving as a role model much closer to home. “When I walked

“I had 20-plus years of experience in my field, and I thought a graduate degree would give me that level of new, detailed knowledge I was looking for.”

– Denise Zurn

across the stage to get my diploma, my whole family was there—husband, kids, parents. One of my main reasons for going back to school was to set an example for my kids. Education is such a key to success—and you can tell people all you want, but nothing is more powerful than showing them.

So many things in life are compromises, but my experience in the MLS was not—it’s really a testament to the value of new information and perspectives, and of the ability to take on a huge life change and see it through. It opened so many new doors in my mind, and I wouldn’t have missed any of it!”



Ryan Frailich

Ryan Frailich: Teaching for America; Learning for Life

While some recent graduates take time off to enjoy their last few months of “freedom,” and others head off to a job or graduate school, some, like 2006 Inter-College Program (ICP) grad Ryan Frailich, take the road less traveled.

This summer, Frailich will head down to the Mississippi Delta to teach elementary school as part of the Teach for America Program (TFA). A nationwide nonprofit organization, TFA is a corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in low-income urban and rural schools around the country.

“I’m really excited about getting into Teach for America. I think my B.S. from the ICP and the College of Continuing Education has given me a great background for it,” he says. “I got a great broad-based education that I wouldn’t have had if I had chosen a single major. The ICP gave me a chance to see what was out there in the world, beyond the walls of a single department.”

As a freshman, Frailich wanted a degree that fit his unique combination of interests: psychology, communications, and leadership. After exploring numerous majors and cross-departmental programs, he selected the ICP “in part because

“I’m really excited about getting into Teach for America. I think my B.S. from the ICP and the College of Continuing Education has given me a great background for it,”

— Ryan Frailich

I knew I was interested in three distinct, diverse areas—but wasn’t sure how to fit them together. A single major with two minors wouldn’t be enough—I couldn’t cut short my studies in two areas at the expense of another—and I couldn’t do three majors and be able to graduate in the near future. This way, I could design a course of study that made the most of my educational experience.”

One of the most influential experiences Frailich had in college was tutoring in lower-income urban schools in Phoenix and

Minneapolis. “All too often in our country, where a child is born is a huge determining factor in their life prospects. I became passionate about educational equality...after seeing first-hand the poor state of many urban public schools.”

His unique degree path prepared Frailich to tackle this issue head on. “I now have a strong background in three key areas, as opposed to being pigeonholed into one. Psychology taught me about information processing and why people react the way they do in given situations. Public relations honed my communications skills and exposed me to a variety of publicity tactics. Leadership studies gave me hands-on examples and let me practice skills I’ll need in the future.”

It’s a background that will benefit not only Frailich, but also the students he will be working with in the Delta—and beyond. “I’m looking forward to the experience...it’ll be a culture shock, and I’ll be extremely challenged, but I’ll also develop skills that will enable me to be a leader in education for many years down the road. In the future, I hope to work for education reform either in government or for a nonprofit. As a policy adviser, my knowledge would reach thousands of students. By taking my first-hand experiences and applying the skills and lessons I’ve learned from them, I’ll be able to create change beyond the scope of my own classroom or school.”

The mission of the College of Continuing Education is to provide adults with quality continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities for professional development, personal enrichment, career transitions, and academic growth.

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Editor:
Elizabeth Sagisser Turchin

Writer:
Megan Rocker

Graphic Designer:
Linda Peterson

CCE Information Center:
101 Wesbrook Hall
Telephone 612-624-4000

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Disability accommodations are available upon request. Call the information number given for the specific programs described in this publication, or call 612-625-1711 for referral.



For more information about the Master of Liberal Studies Program, call 612-626-8724 or visit www.cce.umn.edu/mls.
For more information about the Inter-College Program, call 612-624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu/icp.

Online Mentoring Program Branches Out

New poetry mentor specializes in Spanish-English translations



Pablo Medina

For many writers, practicing the art of storytelling begins even before they are able to put pen to paper: “My grandmother...once found me as an infant making pictographic [stories] on the wall of my bedroom with an unusual, but nonetheless effective, medium,” recalls Split Rock Arts Program’s Online Mentoring for Writers’ newest mentor, Pablo Medina. “Vocations, unlike professions, pick you; you don’t pick them. And so it was in my case.”

The author of several works of poetry and prose, most recently, *The Cigar Roller*, a novel, and *Points of Balance/Puntos de Apoyo*, a bilingual collection of poetry, Medina is also a noted literary translator.

For any writer—beginner, intermediate, or advanced—constructive criticism from a seasoned critical reader is a valuable tool. Split Rock’s Online Mentoring program is designed to provide that critical feedback, and connects writers with outstanding mentors who provide individually tailored, constructive assistance with literary fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction.

Since its inception almost three years ago, the program has served more than 200 writers from all over the country and around the English-speaking world. With the addition of Medina to the staff, Online Mentoring for Writers furthers both its reach and its relevance to the global community. Medina welcomes clients in poetry and fiction, as well as those writing in Spanish or translating poetry from or into Spanish or any other Romance language.

Born in Cuba, Medina was 12 when his family moved to the United States in 1960. As a writer, he got his start composing poetry in his native Spanish when he was just a teenager. He then wrote bilingually until he switched to writing in one language only at the urging of a college mentor. “The world that surrounded me at the time was English, so I picked that, writing in [it] primarily until

the 1990s, when I decided to defy [my professor’s] dictum. It worked.”

Now, Medina writes in both languages. “My ‘preferred language’ is one that comes at the moment of composition—I use both languages in all my writing. Having said that,” he pauses and quotes a bit from an old Scottish poem, “I was born into Spanish and ‘I fain would lie doon’ to die speaking Spanish...even if I speak to the wall or heart monitor.”

Medina has translation experience in most literary genres, and, like many authors, believes that literary translation is an art form unto itself. “We live in a translated culture. The basic texts of our civilization—Hammurabi’s code, the Old and New Testaments, Greek tragedy and philosophy, and the Roman poets have to come to us for the most part as translated works. You can put down the importance of translation and translators, but you do so at the risk of falling prey to poverty of thought and narrowness of mind. How many people in this country have read *Madame Bovary* in the original French or *Anna Karenina* in the original Russian?”

His goal, and a skill he fosters in the writers he mentors, is to create three key elements in a translated piece: urgency, necessity, and

balance. “Urgency involves the reader in the work; necessity keeps him reading; balance makes him forget he is reading.”

But there is also, Medina cautions, another element—an almost intangible force—that must be captured to fully represent the “emotional truth” of a piece. “[The] one element without which the story, poem, essay, is nothing more than a wooden contraption pulled by a wooden donkey; that is more difficult to define because it is particular to every work of art. García Lorca borrowed a term from flamenco music and called it *duende*. So let’s call it that. Without *duende* there is nothing. But there is neither map nor exercise that can reach it, except for the writer’s willingness to abandon him or herself to the work.”

This is Medina’s first tenure as an online mentor—and a new chapter in his life he is eager to begin. “Mentor is the name of Telemachus’s teacher in the *Odyssey*. He stands as the prototype of all teachers—supportive but demanding, nurturing but rigorous. A mentor must function as a supporter and, simultaneously, as a mirror who refuses to answer the question, ‘Who’s the fairest one of all?’ I am intrigued by the online experience

College receives prestigious awards for online programs

The Split Rock Arts Program’s Online Mentoring for Writers was one of two College of Continuing Education programs to receive a prestigious award from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). Online Mentoring for Writers received the 2006 Program of Excellence award, UCEA’s highest award in distance learning. The award honors new and innovative programs that utilize one or more forms of instruction at a distance and are exemplary in meeting the needs of students.

Online Mentoring for Writers offers creative writers opportunities to work with mentors who are published writers and seasoned teachers. The program’s easy-to-use Web technology has connected more than 200 clients to mentors at great distances.

In addition, *German 1001: Beginning German I* was also an award winner. The course was selected as the winner of UCEA’s Meritorious Online Course Award for its outstanding contribution to distance education. This course, taught on an “extended term” (students have nine months to complete the course) by the U’s Virginia Steinhagen, was designed, developed, and produced by the College’s Learning Technologies Unit.

German 1001 uses the Web’s capacity to deliver rich media in an educationally effective manner. For example, students are able to practice vocabulary skills with virtual “flash cards.” When the students see an English word, they can click on the flashcard to see the same word in German as well as hear the word pronounced by a native German speaker.

For more information on Online Mentoring for Writers, please visit www.cce.umn.edu/mentoring, or call 612-624-4375.

Master of Liberal Studies Online Seminars

Making Minnesota Connections Around the World

The University of Minnesota has been raising the bar for distance education for nearly 100 years. Starting with the first correspondence courses back in 1909, through the introduction of the U's first online Independent and Distance Learning classes in the mid-1990s, students around the world have been able to fit education into their schedules at a place and time that works for them.

It was this facility for global connections that caught the eye of Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) associate program director, JoEllen Lundblad. "I certainly saw the appeal in it," says Lundblad. "The way technology has grown, online learning can be such a powerful tool, a global learning experience. So it was only natural we bring it to the MLS."

Lundblad also knew which course should make the switch first: Professor Art Harkins' *Designing Professional Futures*. "As one of the seminars that meets the requirements for both the MLS degree and the Innovation Studies (IS) certificate, it's always been very popular. Plus, its syllabus and format lends itself to an online, collaborative, interactive environment."

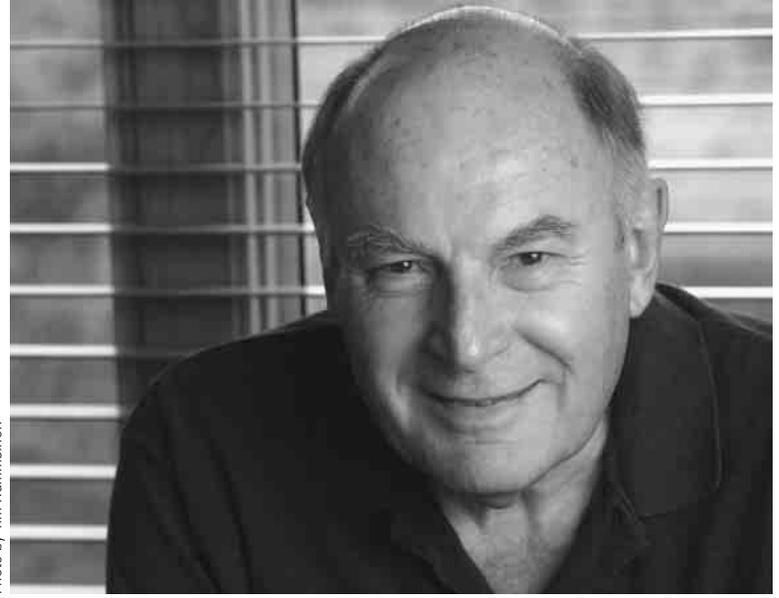
Adds Harkins, "Other countries are pushing innovation and global knowledge, so people need to ask themselves 'How can I help myself become and remain a success, especially considering an environment where jobs are not secure?' We want to help them answer that question—and I think the class does that."

In fall 2005, *Designing Professional Futures* became the first online course offered in the MLS and IS

programs. Team-taught by Harkins and IS and MLS graduate John Tomsyck, the seminar uses guided journaling and storytelling, along with extensive peer feedback and discussion, to help students envision—and achieve—a future that meshes with the rapidly growing global innovation economy. "Our goal is to get students to use their imaginations and to write a successful story of themselves in the future," says Harkins. "We want to help them re-invent themselves, and their work, and to rethink their capacity for making contributions to the global society...rather than just going out every day and doing a 'job.'"

The success of the course prompted the MLS program to offer its second online seminar, *Women's Leadership Journey*, in spring 2006. Designed to help women from all professions and walks of life assess and reflect on their leadership style, the seminar was available only online. "The portfolio and materials for this course were just perfect for an online course—plus, this way, we could reach women from all over, not just those in the immediate area. It was a wonderful chance to impact so many lives," says Lundblad. *Women's Leadership Journey* will be offered again in spring 2007.

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff



Art Harkins

"The faculty and staff were just blown away by the initial feedback and input we have received from students about these courses," says Lundblad. "For some of them, it changed not only their educational experience, but also transformed their lives."

Harkins is not surprised at the popularity and participation in the online seminar format. "I wanted the class (*Designing Professional Futures*) to reflect as closely as possible the actual classroom. As it turns out, participation and discussions were better than in the classroom. The online format allows people to think things through, to gather their thoughts, and then to compose and edit an articulate response. The prevailing Midwest culture is one of politeness...nobody wants to 'go first,' to put themselves in the spotlight—so classroom discussions often come to a halt. In this type of forum, barriers are removed, and people tend to be much more outspoken."

This fall, *Designing Professional Futures* will again be offered online, as will *Introduction to Innovation Studies*, also taught by Harkins. "Whereas *Designing Professional Futures* is for people wanting to know how to become part of the innovation economy," he says, "*Introduction to Innovation Studies* will focus on helping innovative people sell their ideas. We'll use drama, the stage, actors, and similar techniques to help visualize selling an item—any item: a thought, a

product, a concept, even a job change—within a social context."

As the technology available to course instructors and designers becomes more advanced, and as the appeal for educational options that fit into the busy lives and schedules of working adults grows, more options for MLS and IS seminars will be available to a global audience. "There are certainly plans for additional courses in the works," Lundblad says. "In-person classes will always have their place, but this opens a whole new door to educational opportunities. The wider audience, the chance to have people from all different backgrounds and cultures interacting, brings such richness to the program. We are truly excited to move forward."



For more information about the College of Continuing Education's Master of Liberal Studies program, visit www.cce.umn.edu/mls or call 612-626-8724.