CSP continued to evolve during the winter months, with a special flourishing as Spring approached. Despite obstacles, student and faculty involvement grew and the results benefited the entire campus.

**Joint classes:**

Energetic group discussions of the two joint readings—*Godel, Escher, Bach* (Douglas Hofstadter) and *Flight of the Wild Gander* (Joseph Campbell)—were led by CSP students. As supplements to these readings and discussions, the faculty arranged two community-based classes: a special class with master organist Karl Paukert (held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church) and a guided tour of mythology-based paintings at the CMA by educator Dale Hilton (Department Director, School & Teacher and Distance Learning Programs). One of the students wrote a letter asking Dr. Hofstadter for a videoconference with the CSP students, but he replied that he was too busy at the current moment.

An additional joint class was devoted to preparation for the CSP speaker, Jeff Lieberman (see below).

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver’s talk at Playhouse Square inspired another joint class where we read her poetry and prepared for a special excursion to hear her read her work.

A special session (before the 6:30 class) was devoted to a discussion of one of the student’s recent study-abroad semester in Morocco.

Students wrote essays on the joint classes as part of their semester’s grade. Other aspects of the grading include leadership initiatives, participation in the program as a whole, and specific aspects of the individual classes.

**Individual classes:**

The 302 (1st-year) students designed, researched, and filmed a short documentary about the role of recent Bhutanese immigrants in Cleveland. Jared Bendis of the Freedman Center offered special training to the students in documentary techniques. So far their work has focused on filming interviews with immigrant families and with a Case professor from that region who is aiding the immigrants. In many ways, the CSP students are learning about the art of the documentary from the ground up. This is a project which will “wrap around” to the 2010-11 academic year.

The 397 (2nd-year) students focused on their Final Projects (including an examination of free access to recorded music, the role of homeless musicians [and a query into the roots of homelessness], tutoring techniques for autistic children at the Monarch School, the Six Sigma quality control system, and other projects based on photography, the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, and the health benefits of singing.) One of the students was the co-director of this year’s production of *The Vagina Monologues* and she invited us to the dress rehearsal in Amasa Stone Chapel.

We had a Retreat at the Sheep Barn of Squire Valleyvue Farm (cut short by a sudden snowfall).
Students served on all committees and were instrumental in the planning of all of the discussions and events. Particular leadership efforts among the 2nd-year students include: Rebecca (Facebook ad for Lieberman, discussion leader for Campbell book), Laine (introduction of Lieberman), Emily (organizing the Retreat), Bob (arranging for CSP graduation cords), and Jason (discussion leader for GEB, help with logistics for the Retreat). The first-year class also played active roles in advertising the Lieberman event, and as discussion leaders for the classes devoted to the Campbell reading and preparation for Lieberman’s visit.

Both groups presented their work during the April 19 class. (A recommendation for next year would be a public presentation of the Final Projects.) Dean Taylor’s promise of a spread about the CSP Final Projects in the CAS Newsletter was not honored this year, but we expect it will be honored next year. We have already started the mentoring for next year’s Final Projects.

**CSP Guest Speaker**

Artist-roboticist-musician-scientist Jeff Lieberman (host of “Time Warp” of the Discovery Channel) spoke to a large crowd (over 300 people) on Monday, April 5. Following the talk, he had a private dinner with CSP students and faculty (and a few invited guests), with a discussion that lasted until 11 p.m.! This is a unique feature of the College Scholars Program, and it is an unforgettable one for all involved.

Here is a link to the OBSERVER article about Lieberman’s visit:


Preparations for his visit involved everyone in the program, with special assistance from Janet Alder (SAGES), Susan Griffith (Public Relations), Medavision, and many others. Audience members included Case students (with some large classes offering extra credit), community members, and even visitors from other parts of Ohio who made a special trip to hear Lieberman. Advertising and announcements were placed on Facebook, Case Daily, Coolcleveland.com, the Observer, Around Noon, and Science Friday, among other sites. Julie Washington of the Plain Dealer gave a special “plug” for the event. We arranged for Jeff Lieberman to record an interview with Dee Perry for a segment of Around Noon (WVIZ).

As part of Jeff Lieberman’s thank-you email, he wrote:

> My best to you and I hope the program gets continued, it seems like it's having a very powerful effect on everyone involved. If I can somehow rally in any way for its continuance, I'm glad to.

**4-year plan**

A major part of this year was the creation of a 4-year plan, presented to Dean Taylor in January. It included the following key principles:

- Living-learning community (a building or permanent space including undergraduate housing)
- Available to students in all colleges of the university
Separate entrance application to evaluate diversity and creativity
Funding for student research, travel and scholarship

1-2 honors-specific courses per term
(Some emphasis on ) student-initiated topics
Student-guided direction (an advisory council, or student government)
Interdisciplinary, seminar-style focus

Requirements for the Honors College fulfill SAGES requirements
An extensive Final Project, involving research and service-learning.
Strong connection to ongoing social issues.
An influential Speakers series.

Close mentoring by faculty (and guidance in general career development)
Several faculty dedicated to the program
Appropriate faculty compensation for jointly-appointed professors
Administrative staff headed by a Dean who reports to the Provost

Special recognition (designation on diploma and transcript, early class registration)

**Conclusion:** It is inspiring how the CSP students, faculty, and staff continue to rally to keep the program vibrant. There is an understanding that (as Ehrlich said in her introduction to Lieberman) “when it works well, CSP is the best thing around.”

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