

Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear (Preferred Name):

When students returned to campus after the holiday break, 30 inches of snow sat on the ground and the temperature hovered below freezing — rare conditions in the City Different that kept all but the hardiest Santa Feans indoors. Our students and faculty, however, braved the ice and wind to settle into classes for the spring 2007 semester.

Inside our warm classrooms, labs and studios, the term began with the usual fervor of intellectual excitement that comes with discovering new areas of interest. In addition to classes in their major, all students are now enrolled in the college's comprehensive liberal arts core curriculum, revised six years ago to take a deeper and more inclusive approach to knowledge.

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First-year students enroll in interdisciplinary nine-credit courses called "Maps," which are team-taught by three faculty members and weave together topics from two of four general areas: humanities, creative expression, social sciences and natural sciences. All Maps also include English composition. Topics have included "Roots of Violence and Paths to Peace," "Innovation and Ethics: Green Technologies" and "Palabras Peligrosas: Political Literature of Latin America."

At the end of their first semester at CSF, all students are well on their way to:

- Respecting the creative and integrative mind
- Engaging the world holistically
- Participating in intellectual, social, ethical and spiritual growth
- Addressing what it means to live in an information age

An additional benefit of Maps courses is the bond that forms between the students. Because each Map is such an immersive experience, the establishment of these "cohorts" encourages students to look beyond their personal world-views to value and learn from the insights of their peers, with whom they will share their educational journey.

The liberal arts core curriculum extends past the freshmen year, building upon itself semester by semester, to provide students with an intellectual base that supports and enhances their major field of study. In this way, no student pursues his or her degree in a "vacuum," but rather becomes a fully informed, thinking citizen of the world, capable of imbuing personal creative expression with wider import and resonance.

In the intimate Sophomore Roundtable Seminars, topics are often the result of faculty research interests that they want to share across academic disciplines. Roundtables this

spring include “Economic Ideas that Changed the World,” “The Globe Dissolved: Shakespeare and Film,” and “1960s Fact of Fiction.”

Juniors take courses in cultural diversity and ethical responsibility to help them confront and grapple with serious global issues, and to explore what it means to be connected to other human beings and other cultures. Classes include “History of Christianity,” “Media and Democracy” and “Marx and Liberation Theory.”

Capstone Projects, undertaken in the senior year, are a platform for students to demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between their major field of study, the liberal arts, and the world. Because many students use this opportunity to perform an internship or integrate travel into their study, Capstones can take place in or out of the classroom.

### **Your Support is Critical**

Innovative, interdisciplinary course design requires significant financial resources. As an independent liberal arts college that takes seriously the process of education as well as the content of student learning, we rely on the support of our alumni, friends and parents.

The San Miguel Fund provides CSF with unrestricted dollars that support scholarships for deserving students, classroom technology upgrades, and campus facility improvements.

Your gift now will help us reach this year’s campaign goal of \$650,000.

As a graduate of the College of Santa Fe, you are aware that changes to the core curriculum are a necessary step in distinguishing ourselves as the finest liberal arts institution in the Mountain West. An institution of higher learning should never stand still but instead respond to the needs of each generation and each population of students. Whether you attended CSF as a traditional student or earned your degree through the evening and weekend programs in Santa Fe or Albuquerque, you have much to be proud of when it comes to you alma mater.

We need your support to be able to continue offering the personal, creative, life-changing experience that is the College of Santa Fe.

My warmest regards,

Carole A. Evans  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
College of Santa Fe