



The Beacon

Great Lakes Colleges Association
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Albion • Allegheny • Antioch • Denison • DePauw • Earlham • Hope • Kalamazoo • Kenyon • Oberlin
Ohio Wesleyan • Wabash • Wooster

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Our Mission

The mission of the Great Lakes Colleges Association is to take actions that will help strengthen and preserve our colleges; and be a leading force on behalf of education in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences. Rich in tradition, GLCA will continue to enhance our colleges by leading as new areas of opportunity and challenge emerge.

FEATURE STORIES

GLCA New Directions Initiative for Faculty Development: A New Mellon-funded Program

GLCA has received a \$4 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish the four-year *New Directions Initiative for Faculty Development*, focusing on the professional development of faculty members at mid-career.

The GLCA developed its proposal to the Mellon Foundation for this program in consultation with the chief academic officers of its member colleges. Our deans observed that faculty members have a comparatively wide array of opportunities for support in the early stage of their careers – including teaching and research mentorship, reduced course responsibilities, and other forms of support that allow young faculty members to refine

their work and achieve tenure. Having attained tenure and gained a foothold in the profession, many perceive a substantial decrease in opportunities to explore new academic interests or modes of teaching.

This initiative will create faculty development opportunities across GLCA member colleges in support of three broad purposes: to broaden intellectual perspectives, stimulate innovation in pedagogy, and provide professional soundings for individual exploration and renewal.

Program components to *broaden intellectual perspectives* will be designed to help faculty
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Antioch College Update

Almost two years ago, Antioch University stunned many when it announced that, due to long term financial and enrollment issues, Antioch College would be closing. Several attempts to negotiate a continuation of the College were not successful and the doors were closed on June 30, 2008.

Around the same time the University Trustees charged the Alumni Association with devising a process, plans and identifying resources that would permit the College to re-open as an independent four-year institution. A taskforce was proposed with Richard Det-

weiler, President of the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA), serving as its mediator and chair. The Taskforce members would include two members of the University Board of Trustees and two members appointed by the Alumni Association: Matthew Derr, '89; Lee Morgan, '67; and Antioch University Trustees Dan Fallon, '61 and Antioch University-New England alumnus Jack Merselis, '96. With the agreement of the University and the alumni to this approach; the Taskforce was created. Six months of work ensued, including long hours of meetings, phone calls and traveling. The result was a
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Call for Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Beacon* is February 16, 2009. Please send submissions electronically as e-mail text or attachments to Charla White, Editor at white@glca.org. Submissions may be edited for length. Feedback and comments are always welcome.

GLCA New Directions Initiative for Faculty Development: A New Mellon-funded Program *continued*

members move beyond the familiar waters of their early careers through such means as multi-institution workshops on interdisciplinary or emerging topics; team-building initiatives on projects of common interest that focus on the development of new insights and competencies; and initiatives that link faculty members with others beyond GLCA's member colleges to focus on global issues and dynamics, or to incorporate approaches to a given discipline from different national and cultural perspectives.

Program elements designed to *stimulate innovation in pedagogy* will focus on developing new teaching approaches to enhance learning within or across disciplines. Activities in this domain may include pedagogy enhancement and new developments workshops; programs to explore learning assessment techniques and revise course pedagogies based on assessment results; the development of effective methods in the design and implementation of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses; or programs to strengthen pedagogy that engages students in larger questions beyond geographical, cultural, or disciplinary boundaries.

The *professional soundings* component of the program will award grants on a competitive basis to individual faculty members for the purpose of creating time (reassigned from other

duties) that allows faculty members to reflect on new areas of interest, and to develop and extend their thinking about topics of importance.

"The New Directions Initiative for Faculty Development will help fill a gap in professional development opportunities that many faculty members experience in the middle stages of their careers," says Richard Detweiler, President of GLCA. "This generous grant from the Mellon Foundation will allow GLCA to enhance significantly the opportunities for professional renewal and innovation available to faculty of our member colleges."

GLCA will undertake a search for a person experienced in faculty development to oversee this program. The program will also provide funds to appoint a part-time faculty liaison at each member college to help implement programming and generate campus awareness of the professional opportunities the program provides.

More information on the New Directions Initiative for Faculty Development will be available in the coming weeks, as GLCA further develops and begins implementing program components.

Denison, Hope, and Oberlin Lead the Peace Corps in Volunteers

GLCA schools emphasize the importance of service learning and volunteering to their students. Since its inception, the Peace Corps has received volunteers from over 3,000 institutions across the U.S. and Puerto Rico with more than 195,000 volunteers serving in a total of 139 countries. For the Top Peace Corps Volunteer Producing Colleges and Universities list, the schools are ranked according to the size of the student body.

At the close of the 2008 academic year Denison University and Hope and Oberlin Colleges were ranked among the top colleges for Peace Corps volunteers in the graduating class.

Denison University was ranked 15 with seven-

teen graduates serving as volunteers. Denison is the only Ohio school on the Teach for America's lists of top colleges and universities contributing alumni to its Teaching Corps. Denison ranks tenth among small schools with 10 alumni who have joined the Teaching Corps.

Hope College is ranked in the top-10 for small colleges and universities for 2008 with 18 alumni Peace Corps Volunteers.

Finally, Oberlin College was ranked sixth nationally with twenty-one alumni currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. Oberlin College has had a strong relationship with the Peace Corps with a grand total of 502 Oberlin graduates since 1963.

For additional information: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/stats/schools2009.pdf>

Antioch College Update *continued*

“Letter of Intent” (LOI) which describes the basis upon which a newly independent college can be created. This LOI was accepted by the University Board of Trustees and the alumni Board Pro Tempore (now incorporated as the Antioch College Continuation Corporation).

The Letter of Intent was released to the public on January 13, 2009 at noon. It was a historic moment. Supporters of the effort at Antioch University, the Antioch College Alumni Association and GLCA were counting down the moments until the agreement could be made public.

Art Zucker, Antioch College graduate of 1955 and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Antioch University said, “This Board of Trustees made a clear commitment to the revitalization of Antioch College and I am pleased at the high level of collaboration that took place.” As an alumnus of the College and a member of the University Board, Zucker said he looks forward to continued work with the Board Pro Tempore. “We all know that the world needs Antioch University and Antioch College – both great educational innovators -- to be healthy and thriving and this agreement moves both institutions in that direction,” Zucker said.

Lee Morgan, Antioch College graduate of 1967, Chairman of the Antioch College Continuation Corporation, and grandson of Antioch College’s 11th president and educational pioneer, Arthur Morgan, stated: “This is an historic moment for the College and for Yellow Springs, Ohio. We have monumental work ahead, but we now have the framework in place to restore the College to health as an independent institution for the first time in forty years.”

What is the significance of this LOI? Detweiler explains, “While complicated to create, it is actually simple: we now have a framework to move forward in a way that will leave a strong University, a viable and independent College, and a shared heart – the rich heritage they both share – for the College and University.”

Some have asked, “How is this different from earlier efforts?” Detweiler answers, “We have started in a different place this time. We began by asking ‘how can we have a healthy university and a viable college? What is required for this to happen?’ With the assistance of financial and legal advisors we feel we have a good grasp on the situation and, most importantly, we have been able to develop the trust that will allow us to all move forward for the good of all.”

In describing the approach taken by the Taskforce, Toni Murdoch, Chancellor of Antioch University said, “Antioch University and Antioch College are best served by our collaborative work to develop a plan that will restore the college to successful operation for the long term.” Matthew Derr, Chief Transition Officer, said, “This is a new moment and we are confident that the approach developed will really work. We have worked collaboratively and this has resulted in a truly historic framework for the future.”

Next steps involve turning the points of the LOI into action through the development of “definitive agreements” based on the Letter of Intent – a process that the Taskforce will guide. In addition, an enormous amount of fund raising for a new college must be undertaken, and this is a task that Lee Morgan and Matthew Derr are both now investing their full energies on.

What does the future hold? One thing is certain: everyone involved in this endeavor has worked long and hard and want the same thing – that the rich heritage of Antioch be sustained in new and more effective ways in the future.

For a copy of the LOI and press releases visit <http://www.glca.org>.

NEWS ABOUT GLCA SCHOOLS

Denison Moot Court Team Competes at National Tournament

The Denison University Moot Court team had its best performance ever at the 2009 National Tournament, held at Chapman University Law School in Orange County California, Jan. 16 and 17.

This tournament is the first time that Denison had two teams break into the final round of 32, and in an outstanding individual performance, senior John Burzynski (New Brighton, Minn.) earned the second place individual orator award.

In order to compete at the National Tournament, students must place highly at the regional tournaments. Out of 64 total teams, from 27 different colleges and universities around the nation, Denison had four teams which were awarded bids to the National com-

petition, including the two teams of juniors Blair Cathcart (Cleveland Heights, Ohio) and Elizabeth Zak (Broadview Heights, Ohio) and junior Ian Darrow (Chagrin Falls, Ohio) and senior Erin Kelly (Hudson, Ohio).

The two teams won on the first day of competition to advance to the second day's round of 32. Both teams lost in the first round of the second day on very close 2-1 split decisions. However, out of 218 students competing, Burzynski averaged almost perfect scores over three rounds, allowing him to capture the second place individual orator award for the entire nation and a \$10,000 scholarship to Chapman University Law School, should he continue his education there after graduating from Denison.

Earlham Students Substantiate Tsunami Size Through Soil Samples

For two Earlham College seniors, geology yields the power to make them want to spend part of their summer stooped in a damp, chilly peat marsh in Japan and then use the skills and information they acquired there to improve the environment.

"It was wet, never above 50 degrees and we were in standing water," says Katie Delbecq, who spent three weeks in May studying past tsunamis in Japan with fellow senior Wesley Nutter, Assistant Professor of Geology Andy Moore and five Japanese geologists, "but it was very exciting to me."

The group of researchers studied sediment cores and sand deposits and used the physics of how wind and water move to learn about these ancient events, known as paleotsunamis, in an isolated area on the island of Hokkaido in northern Japan. "Looking at the grain size of sand, we can learn about tsunamis," Delbecq says. "We see different characteristics and we are able to gain insights. There are limitations to what you can learn by looking at the sedimentary record, but when you train

yourself to look for these things through new lenses so you can learn how things were a million years ago or even a billion years ago."

The two students are hoping to complete the analysis of data they collected and submit their findings for publication in a professional journal. They presented posters at the Geologic Society of America's Annual Meeting in Houston in October.

Nutter says they discovered evidence of much larger tsunamis in the area than what has been recorded. Tsunami records exist for the past 200 years for the area, but their research indicated tsunami activity dating back 3,000 years. "The size of what has been recorded is less than that of what we found in the sedimentary record," Nutter explains. A 2003 tsunami generated by an 8.2 magnitude earthquake inundated a harbor along the coastline but didn't reach their study area, which was protected by a 150-foot high dune.

"The 2003 tsunami didn't get near the peat marsh where we were looking, so for those earlier tsunamis, there must have been an



Katie Delbecq and her research poster

Earlham Students Substantiate Tsunami *continued*

enormous wall of water," Nutter says. After he graduates from Earlham, Nutter plans to study soil conservation or sustainable agriculture in graduate school.



Wes Nutter & Andy Moore in the field in Japan

"Geology has within it the possibility or the means of channeling the ideas of sustainability into our society and engraving it into our paradigm as a norm," he says. "With sustainable agriculture, my hope is to be able to educate myself in some formal way to gain a better understanding of what it means to provide sustainability for a large population."

Nutter already has lots of sustainability experience as he has been a three-year resident of Miller Farm, a rural college-based intentional community at Earlham with a focus on sustainable agriculture. For the past five summers he has lived in an ecovillage in Mexico as well as Scotland and India and is a founding member of the Next Gen Global Ecovillage Network.

"After my first geology class I realized that geology would give me a great set of tools to become an environmental scientist, and I also just really like rocks," she says. In fact, she still has her childhood rock collection, a large box filled with Tupperware containers full of rocks wrapped in tissue paper. "There's so much information in the rocks and sediment and if we learn how to interpret this, we can solve the puzzle."

"We found that the tsunami layers present in our marsh core samples were very extensive compared to modern recorded tsunami and storm events," Delbecq says. "This leads us to believe that these past events, these paleotsunamis, were much larger than anything we've ever seen in recorded history. We think there is a much greater risk than records would lead us to believe. By figuring out this puzzle, we can work toward being better prepared."

Hope College Finds Way to Make Physical Therapy Fun

Recovering from an injury can be a painful long process measured not in success but how many more minutes of pain one must endure. That is until Dr. Kirk Brumels of the Hope College athletic training staff had an intuitive sense and a fair bit of anecdotal evidence that popular activity-based video games like "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Wii Fit" Balance Board programs could play a positive role in helping athletes with balance rehabilitation. What Brumels needed but could not find was hard data to support his theory.



Playing Wii Dance Dance Revolution and Wii Fitness



In the fall of 2008 Brumels and a team of student researchers tackled the topic themselves. They conducted a study, published in the winter 2008 edition of "Clinical Kinesiology," that found that such games offered the best of both worlds: they were more effective than traditional rehabilitation tools and the athletes enjoyed them more.

Ironically - or, rather, perhaps because the athletes were enjoying using the activities--participants in the study also believed that the games were less difficult than the traditional tools and were even more effective. "They

perceived it as easier, yet the data suggested that it was as effective as, if not more effective than, the other exercises," Brumels said.

The athletic training program at Hope has been using "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Wii Fit" with athletes who have had ankle sprains, knee injuries and other lower-extremity injuries, to help restore balance, coordination and agility. "We also use it a lot to help facilitate the transition from crutch use to ambulation," Brumels said.

In "Dance Dance Revolution," the athletes stand on the game's one-square-meter pad and step in a direction indicated by the game's video screen. Through the "Wii Fit" system they stand on a platform and adjust their posture, leaning and shifting their weight through games such as "Ski Slalom," "Table Tilt" and "Balance Bubble."

Brumels was inspired to start using the games a few years ago, when his daughter showed him her new "Dance Dance Revolution" game. "I thought, 'Oh, my, this has a ton of

Hope College Finds Way to Make Physical Therapy Fun *continued*

applications in the athletic training world and rehabilitation," he said. The college's athletic training program began using the newly designed Wii system more recently.



Wii fitness requires physical abilities

He recognizes that the video game balance programs are much more interesting than the traditional balance exercise programs, which involve standing on a variety of stable and unstable surfaces, maybe interacting with a ball or other object, in the training room. Brumels has found that the athletes have responded to the greater entertainment value of the video games accordingly. Experiences with the traditional program showed that athletes typically participate for a week and then simply stop showing up but athletes using the games regularly stay for the entire multi-week regimen.

"We've had incredible compliance with the athletes on it," Brumels said. "As long as it is fun, and they're doing it and it's beneficial to them, that's what we want."

The four-week Hope study involved 25 athletes who were asked to rate their experience with the three systems between one and five according to difficulty, engagement and enjoyability. While the traditional methods earned a relatively low 2.17 for enjoyability and a 3.33 for engagement, "Dance Dance Revolution" earned 4.14 in both categories and "Wii Fit" earned 4.40 in each. The traditional methods rated 3.17 out of five for difficulty, while "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Wii Fit" weighed in as easier at 2.71 and 1.60.

Especially significant to Brumels was the finding that the athletes who had used "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Wii Fit" showed greater improvement in balance as measured by force plate testing following their month-long rehabilitation experience. It was an added bonus that the exercises were perceived as easier and more enjoyable by the participants.

Even as the participants in the study worked on their balance through the various rehabilitation methods, other students learned through the research process itself. Brumels conducted the study and co-authored the paper during the recent fall semester with four Hope senior athletic training or exercise science majors: Troy Blasius, Tyler Cortright, Daniel Oumedian and Brent Solberg. "They were intimately involved in the literature review, the study design, the implementation of it, and the data collection and analysis," he said.

While other studies had considered the clinical potential in games like "Dance Dance Revolution" and the "Wii Fit" system, their emphasis had been on the cardiovascular benefits such a workout provides. Reviewing the literature, the Hope study is the first to consider such games' potential in balance rehabilitation.

Brumels is scheduled to give talks about his study during upcoming meetings of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Educational Symposiums in March and June respectively.

Oberlin Senior Named Rhodes Scholar

Lucas Brown '09 of Leesburg, VA, a sustainability advocate and economics major at Oberlin has been named a 2009 Rhodes Scholar. He will enter the University of Oxford in England in October 2009 to pursue an M.Phil. Degree in economics. Brown is one of 32 American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars.

Brown says he plans to use the Rhodes Scholarship to study how environmental and business interests "can go together — how you can create jobs and grow the green economy while

cleaning up water, air, and atmosphere." Brown also co-founded the Green EDGE Fund (Oberlin Ecological Design & General Efficiency) that loans money for student-designed campus energy conservation projects and returns the energy savings to the fund as interest.

The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest international fellowships, were initiated after the death of Cecil Rhodes in 1902, and bring outstanding students from many countries around the world to the University of Oxford.

Ohio Wesleyan Continues to Strengthen Scientific Careers

When they aren't wringing their hands over the economy, media representatives, political figures, business leaders, writers, and pundits bemoan the fact that the United States isn't producing enough scientists. While that may be true in some parts of the country, at Ohio Wesleyan University soon-to-be-world-class scientists are plentiful and are being educated very well.

While they work primarily in the classroom and the lab, these students also are translating theory into practice and building networks with top scientists by presenting their research at prestigious national meetings. The scientists in attendance at these gatherings often are agog to discover that the research they have heard presented is the work of undergraduates.

In the past two years, nearly 40 Ohio Wesleyan students have presented their research findings at organizations including the American Astronomical Society, the American Chemical Society, the American Ornithologists' Union, the American Physical Society, the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society of Plant Biologists, the Association for Psychological Science, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the National Speleological Society, the Sigma Xi National Research Conference, the Society for Neuroscience, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Their presentations have taken students to Boston, Detroit, Jacksonville, San Diego, San Francisco, and Toronto. This year is no different as presentations are already scheduled for Max Schroeder '09 in Philadelphia and Beth Mayers '10 in Honolulu.

Many students begin to hone their presentation skills at the Patricia Belt Conrades Summer

Science Research Symposium, which follows a 10-week research experience, and then branch out, presenting first at regional meetings and then at national—and sometimes international—gatherings.

Recent graduates Rachael Roettenbacher '08 and Yun Kyoung "Claire" Ryu '07 represented the United States at the two most recent meetings of the International Congress of Physics Students—Ryu in London and Roettenbacher in Cracow. With only three students throughout the United States selected for this honor each year, Ohio's Wesleyan's two representatives have constituted one-third of the American delegation for the past two years.

Additionally, some students have received undergraduate fellowships to support their own work like Schroeder and Mayers. Others, such as Roettenbacher, Ryu, Cory Myers '08, and Nick Baker '09 received full funding to attend the meetings at which their work was featured.

The fact that all undergraduate students are able to present research at conferences attended by world-renowned scientists is testament to the quality of mentorship they receive from Ohio Wesleyan faculty, as well as the quality of their individual scholarship.

Attendance at these meetings prepares OWU students to discuss their work with a myriad of audiences, from the most knowledgeable experts to interested laypersons, and provides students with the contacts and connections they need to advance in their chosen fields.

College of Wooster Defends Title in Moot Court

The College of Wooster successfully defended its title at the 2008 American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA) Midwest Regional Tournament. Wooster finished first in the seven-team field with 366.7 points. Denison was second with 349.9 points, followed by Drake (339.5), Youngstown State (334.6), Vanderbilt (325.9), Aquinas (315.6), and Marquette (251.3).

Twenty-seven students, first year through senior, participated. Seven students placed among the top 10 orators.

Wooster moves on to the ACMA National Tournament at Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, Calif.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning 3rd Biennial Conference

March 6 – 8, 2009

Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN

Early Bird Registration Open until January 30, 2009 at \$180.00

Regular Registration after Jan. 30 to February 6, 2009 at \$200.00

Visit www.wabash.edu/sotl for electronic registration and additional information.

Speakers

Friday Night Keynote:

Barbara Cambridge, NCTE, Director, Washington, DC Office, and Darren Cambridge, Professor, New Century College, George Mason University

Saturday Night Keynote:

Charlie Blaich, Director of Inquiries at the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts, Wabash College

Saturday Luncheon Talk:

Tony Ciccone, Director of the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Carnegie Foundation for the ad-

vancement of Teaching

Plenary Talks

Saturday Plenary Session on supporting SoTL through Teaching and Learning Centers on campus by David Schodt, Director of the Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts, St. Olaf College, Chico Zimmerman, Coordinator, Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching, Carleton College, and Adrienne Christiansen, Director, Jan Serie Center for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Macalester College.

Sunday Plenary on Publishing SoTL work by Gregg Wentzell, Managing Editor of the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, Miami University, Ohio, and Darren Cambridge, Co-editor of Electronic Portfolios 2.0 (Stylus, 2008), George Mason University.

Concurrent sessions, posters, and interactive roundtable presentations include work around such themes as writing, student cognitive development, faculty development, active learning, working with K-12 teachers and SoTL research, and consortial efforts to promote the study of teaching and learning, among others.

The Philadelphia Center Research Fellowships in the Liberal Arts

The Philadelphia Center (TPC) is pleased to offer tuition remission (up to approximately \$12,000) to well-qualified Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) students. In partnership with Independence National Historic Park, the American Philosophical Society Museum, and the Rosenbach Museum and Library, TPC invites GLCA students to apply for the 2009-2010 Research Fellowships in the Liberal Arts.

TPC's Research Fellowships will provide opportunities for students to explore their disciplinary interests. Recipients will be expected to develop and focus their future professional and academic goals and aspirations throughout the course of the semester.

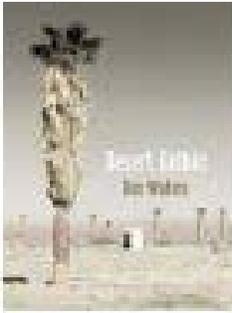
For more than 40 years, The Philadelphia Center has offered college students a semester of experiential education, a unique hands-on opportunity geared toward professional, academic, and personal growth in an active urban environment. The Philadelphia Center is an officially recognized program of the Great Lakes Colleges Association.

For additional information:
<http://www.tpc.edu/>

GLCA New Writers Winners for 2009

GLCA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 New Writers Award for fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Now in its 40th year, the New Writers Award confers recognition on promising writers who have published a first volume of prose or poetry. The program provides undergraduate students of member colleges with opportunities to meet with winning writers during campus visits.

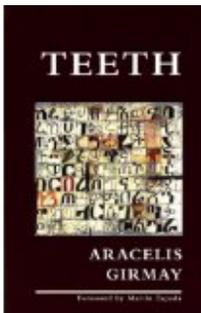
The 2009 winner for fiction is Don Waters, *Desert Gothic*, published by the University of Iowa Press. Our GLCA judges note:



Don Waters, *Desert Gothic*, published by the University of Iowa Press.

These are the stories of unrepentant outsiders. These are stories told on behalf of those who cannot tell. The dramas are found in the seams of life and they are real and fleet. Waters weaves these lives together through their connection with the Southwestern landscape, and ultimately through their fear of death. The language is economical and precise, gritty and engaging.

The 2009 winner for poetry is Aracelis Girmay, *Teeth*, published by Curbstone Press. Our judges note:



Aracelis Girmay, *Teeth*, published by Curbstone Press.

Aracelis Girmay's poems are rich and varied and draw from her diverse background. She's a storyteller with an amazing gift for language. Here, in the heyday of elliptical verse, we have a full-throated poet, one unapologetically ready to engage with a material world. Girmay's is an especially rich poetry of witness, a poetry concerned with war and life, with celebration and sorrow. These poems make a strong first impression that does not fade upon rereading.

The 2009 winner for creative non-fiction is Melissa J. Delbridge, *Family Bible*, published by the University of Iowa Press. Our judges note:

Some of the best memoirs do more than describe an individual life; they capture a time and place along with the particular psychological and cultural texture of a self. *Family Bible* has dry wit and southern sass, yet Delbridge offers substance as well as style, asking hard questions about the ways in which we internalize trauma. What the reader gets is not an un-self-examined application of simple scriptural lessons but a hard-edged reminder never to cast the first stone.

Judges of the New Writers Awards are faculty members of GLCA's member colleges. The judges for this year's fiction contest were Barbara Bean (DePauw), Robert Olmstead (Ohio Wesleyan), and Joanne Quinones (Earlham). Poetry award judges were Eugene Gloria (DePauw), Janet McAdams (Kenyon), and Charles Wyatt (Denison). The judges for creative non-fiction were Nels Christensen (Albion), Rhoda Jansen (Hope), and Bruce Mills (Kalamazoo).

For more information on the New Writers Award, please contact Deanna Shackelford, coordinator (shackelford@glca.org) or Gregory Wegner, director of the New Writers Award (wegner@glca.org). A list of tour dates for winners of the 2008 awards and guidelines for the 2010 competition are available on the GLCA web site: www.glca.org.

Tour dates for the 2009 winners will be available on our web site starting late spring.



Melissa J. Delbridge, *Family Bible*, published by the University of Iowa Press.

GREEN NEWS

Allegheny Students Meet with City Council on Sustainability Issues



Several members of Meadville City Council met with Amara Geffen, art professor and director of Allegheny's Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), and 14 students from Geffen's freshman seminar on climate change, "Art & Activism: Triggers for Sustainability."

A luncheon presentation by the students outlined key goals associated with sustainable development, placing special focus on the importance of environmental guiding principles as tools for economic and community development. The students recommended the establishment of a community committee for

sustainable development along with community energy teams to help reduce energy consumption and waste.

The students also emphasized that adoption of the Keystone Principles, the Commonwealth's Principles for Sustainable Development, can assist in securing state funding for economic and community development initiatives.

Next steps will likely include a roundtable discussion to explore opportunities to position Meadville and surrounding municipalities as leaders in green technologies.

Oberlin Receives Grant from Great Lakes Protection Fund



How might residents of the Great Lakes' bioregion respond if, through Internet and cell phone technology, they became aware of the environmental and economic costs of their personal choices about water and electricity use? Thanks to a grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, Oberlin College and City of Oberlin consumers will be able to find out.

Under the direction of John Petersen, associate professor and director of Oberlin College's environmental studies program, the grant will fund a four-year pilot project that will develop novel approaches to monitoring – and displaying – personal and community-wide electricity and water consumption. The display technology will enable consumers to receive information on their current rates of consumption and on the immediate and cumulative environmental and economic implications of this consumption.

For the last three years, students at Oberlin have been provided with real-time feedback, education about the system, and incentives, and 26 student residences with monitoring systems have experienced up to 56 percent savings in electricity savings during resource reduction competitions. This grant will allow researchers to expand their scope to businesses

and non-student residents of the City of Oberlin and determine which modes of information delivery are most effective at stimulating conservation.

"Our goal is to use multiple modes of real-time feedback to engage, educate, motivate and empower citizens to become better stewards of the Great Lakes bioregion," Petersen says. "Ultimately the goal of the project is to develop approaches that can be widely adopted by citizens and small business owners throughout the Great Lakes basin."

"Oberlin College is at the forefront of efforts to conserve energy at colleges," says Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. "It wasn't long ago that Oberlin constructed the largest solar array in the state of Ohio, and Oberlin's campus resource monitoring system is empowering students to reduce their energy consumption. By combining education and awareness, we can end our dependence on foreign oil."

The College, the City of Oberlin, Sustainable Community Associates (SCA), Lucid Design Group and researchers at Carnegie Mellon and the University of California, Berkeley will collaborate on the project.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

The Role Technology Played in the 2008 Presidential Election

This year the Presidential Election of the 44th President of the United States promised to be one of historic proportion. Barriers were going to be broken. Change was promised and change was happening.

For years newspapers and television have played an integral role in the presidential elections influencing voters. This election, technology played a pivotal role in the election of Barack Obama. Unprecedented, Obama's camp used social technology to not only win the Democratic nomination but also to win the presidential election.

Obama's social-networking technology included www.my.barackobama.com also known as MyBO, cell phones, and emails. His networking accomplished several things:

- Made fundraising infinitely easier and more realized;
- Enabled volunteers to take a more active and decisive role in Obama's campaign;
- Made Obama more accessible through the internet allowing his followers to connect with him on a more personal level; and
- Capitalized on tools (internet, emails, text messaging) that most Americans have access to and are most comfortable.

Throughout the campaign, Obama dominated this new media capitalizing on the opportunities in a way that left Hillary Clinton and others behind. Obama and his team recognized the importance of keeping this technology the center of his campaign and recruited Chris Hughes, cofounder of the popular and far reaching Facebook, to assist Obama.

While Obama is not the first to use the internet for campaigning purposes (Howard Dean was the first) he did utilize it to its fullest capabilities. Not only were Facebook, Myspace, and his own MyBO used, but he capitalized on

Youtube where his speeches and campaigning efforts became visible immediately. Obama has successfully become a household name without depending on the usual means of media – newspapers & TV.

Although his visibility was significant, it was ultimately the manner in which he used the technology to involve his followers. Obama's emails and text messages were seen as worthwhile and invited action on the part of Obama followers. Invited actions included downloading the names of registered voters and making contact, bringing those unreliable voters to the polls, making donations, and strengthening the presence of Obama's political platform. One supporter admitted that Obama and his website made her take an active role by opening her house to strangers to get something going on his behalf and she admitted to emailing friends that she hadn't spoken with in twenty years in an effort to help promote Obama.

Now that Obama has won the election, will his use of technology end? Not likely. There is already a question as to whether or not Obama will be allowed to keep his Blackberry. Congress and others in the political arena will be inundated with emails, text messaging and requests do their jobs accordingly. This is a powerful tool that not only influenced the win of a presidency but will help him run the country in a positive and powerful manner.

Taken from an article by David Talbot, **Technology Review**, September/October 2008



GLCA Faculty News

Allegheny—Carla Bluhm, Psychology, co-authored “Someone Else’s Face in the Mirror: Identity and the New Science of Face Transplants,” to be published April 2009.

Matthew Jadud, Computer Science, presented “Safe Parallelism for Behavioral Control” at the first IEEE conference on Technologies for Practical Robotic Application in Massachusetts.

DePauw—David Newman, Sociology, authored “Families: A Sociological Perspective” published by McGraw-Hill.

Ellen Muehlberger, Religious Studies, contributed “ambivalence about the Angelic Life: The Promise and Perils of an Early Christian Discourse of Asceticism” to the Journal of Early Christian Studies, Winter 2008, Vol. 16, No. 4.

Hope—Alyssa Pitstick, Religion, received one of twelve 2009 “John Templeton Award for Theological Promise” awarded for work in human sciences, character development, and science and theology research.

Leah Chase, Neuroscience, was elected to the governing board of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN).

Maria Andre, Spanish, co-edited “Latin Ameri-

can Women Writers: An Encyclopedia” published by Routledge of New York City.

Ji Hoon Park, Communication; Andy Nakajima, Japanese; Todd Swanson, Mathematics; Nancy Cook, Education; John Yelding, Education were presented with awards honoring teaching, service and scholarship by Hope College.

Oberlin—Geoff Pingree, Cinema Studies/English, was awarded Grand Prize in the “ultimate travel-photo contest” held by the National Geographic Traveler, January/February issue.

Marilyn McDonald, Violin, and Michael Lynn, Recorder/Baroque Flute, were members of a ensemble selected to play at the traditional bipartisan inaugural luncheon in honor of Barack Obama’s inauguration as the 44th President of the United States.

Ohio Wesleyan—Mary Howard, Anthropology, had her documentary “Swept Out” screened at Studio 35 Cinema and Drafthouse in Columbus on New Year’s Day. It earned an honorable mention in the Social Issues category at the 56th annual Columbus International Film & Video Festival.

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Your feedback, suggestions, and submissions are always appreciated.

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GLCA Calendar of Events 2008-2009

2/6-7/2009	Japan Advisory Committee	Chicago, IL
2/8/2009	Deans & Directors of Admissions	Chicago, IL
2/20-22/2009	GLCA Academic Leadership Innovation Initiative	Ann Arbor
3/5-6/2009	New York Arts Meeting	New York City, NY
3/13-14/2009	Oak Ridge Sciences Meeting	Denison
3/26-27/2009	Committee for Institutional Commitment to Educational Equity Meeting (CICEE)	DePauw
3/27-28/2009	Committee for Institutional Commitment to Educational Equity (CICEE) Anniversary Celebration	DePauw
4/2-4/2009	Global Liberal Arts Alliance Meeting	Washington, DC
4/3-4/2009	International and Off-Campus Education Committee (IOCEC)	Ann Arbor
4/15-17/2009	Joint Dean’s & Board of Directors Meeting	Denison