



The Beacon

Great Lakes Colleges Association
a non-profit corporation

January 2007
Volume 4, Issue 4

Albion • Antioch • Denison • DePauw • Earlham • Hope • Kalamazoo • Kenyon • Oberlin • Ohio Wesleyan • Wabash • Wooster

Feature Articles

A College Admissions Reformer

In its meeting of December 2006, GLCA's Board of Directors heard a presentation by Lloyd Thacker, a former admissions officer and guidance counselor with some 25 years of experience in the process of college and university admissions. In 2004 he left a secure position to embark on an uncharted journey, launching a national campaign to reform the process of college and university admissions.

In countless speeches, interviews, and articles in a variety of media, Thacker has worked to raise public awareness of a college admissions process that he calls dysfunctional and ultimately damaging to many young people. It is a process he finds to be driven less by core educational values than by an intensifying quest for prestige and market advantage among institutions of higher education.

Too often the aspirations – and hence the admissions strategies – of institutions focus on moving upward in the college and university rankings that *USNews* and other magazines publish each year. One of the ways a college improves its rank in such measures is to become more selective. The rankings frenzy motivates institutions to solicit as many applications as possible, seemingly for the purpose of turning down a larger proportion. The more students a college or university turns down, the more selective it appears, and the greater its chance of improving in the rankings.

This race for prestige among institutions takes a toll on many youngsters applying to college. Intense consumer marketing in conjunction with college rankings feed the perception among students (and their parents) that the single gateway to success lies in admission to a particular college or set of institutions. Rather than seeking a college or university best suited to a student's specific talents or interests, students embark on high-stakes campaigns to gain acceptance to "the best" college or university. A failure to gain admission to the "best" can seriously undermine the self-esteem and confidence of capable and high-achieving students.

Lloyd Thacker founded the Education Conservancy, a non-profit organization, as part of a "campaign to calm competitive frenzy, and reclaim students from the clutches of consumerhood." There are many different factors that influence the college admissions process, including the proportion of financial aid based on need vs. merit, the role of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and early admissions decisions. Thacker has helped draw attention to many of these elements in a collection of essays he edited entitled *College Unranked: Ending the College Admissions Frenzy* (Harvard University Press, 2005).

In a discussion period with Thacker following his presentation, members of the GLCA Board observed that there are some elements

In This Issue

Feature Articles	1
<i>A College Admissions Reformer</i>	1
<i>Focus the Nation</i>	2
Announcements	3
Noteworthy News	4
GLCA Member Schools .	5
<i>Denison</i>	5
<i>Ohio Wesleyan</i>	6
<i>Wabash</i>	6
<i>Wooster</i>	7
Faculty News	7
2006-2007 GLCA Event Calendar	8

Our Mission

The mission of the Great Lakes Colleges Association is to take actions that will help strengthen and preserve our colleges; and by being 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.

Call for Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Beacon* is February 12, 2007. 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.

A College Admissions Reformer *continued*

of the college admissions process are in fact conducive to a college's educational purposes. The comments of several presidents suggested that there is a conversation to be had about the ways in which the process of college admissions and choice contribute to – or detract from – the fulfillment of higher education's core values and purposes. Lloyd Thacker's work can be understood as an antidote to the distorting forces that consumer markets have imposed on the process of college choice. In closing, one president observed that "colleges

like ours could benefit from serious professional norms shared among us that could help put a frame on the market."

More information about Lloyd Thacker and the Education Conservancy can be found at <http://www.educationconservancy.org/>

Focus The Nation—A National Educational Initiative on Global Warning

On February 17, 2007, the GLCA will host a Focus the Nation meeting in Ann Arbor. It will be the first effort to involve all twelve GLCA institutions in a conversation that has global implications. The meeting will be led by Eban Goodstein, Professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College and Project Director of the Focus the Nation organization (<http://www.focusthenation.org>). He is spending the next two years working with campuses around the country to encourage the recognition of issues and implications of global warming and to support effective environmental and energy policies at the national level. In contributing to this effort, GLCA hopes to bring a sharper awareness of opportunities to take meaningful action and serve as a model for our extended communities.

For more information on the Ann Arbor Focus the Nation Meeting, e-mail Joyce Budai, Senior Program Officer for the Great Lakes Colleges Association (budai@glca.org).

If you are interested in learning more about sustainability and the role of higher education, visit the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, <http://www.aashe.org> and the website for University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, <http://www.ulsf.org>.

Recycling Tip of the Month

Are you tired of junk mail cluttering your living space, car, office? Stop feeling guilty about the misuse of trees. Visit <http://www.greendimes.com>. For a dime a day they will remove your name from catalogues and other junk mailing that you do not wish to receive.

Did you know :

- **The typical American household receives about 70 pounds of junk mail a year.**
- **The amount of junk mail sent grows by 3 billion pieces a year.**
- **100 million trees are chopped down every year to make the junk mail sent to American homes.**
- **28 billion gallons of water are needed to make all the paper used for junk mail.**
- **Paper makes up a third of the 235 million tons of waste Americans send to landfills each year.**

Source: Greendimes.com

Announcements

Black Studies Conference: The Black Public Sphere Extends Call for Papers

The biennial GLCA Black Studies Conference that will be hosted by Kenyon College on April 27-28, entitled: “**The Black Public Sphere**” has extended the deadline for **Call for Papers** to **February 15, 2007**.

This years’ conference asserts that the black public sphere constitutes "a transnational space whose violent and diasporic conditions of life provide a counter narrative to the exclusionary national narratives of Europe, the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa." This public sphere "draws its energy from the vernacular practices of street talk and new musics, radio shows and church voices, entrepreneurship and circulation. Its task is not the provision of security for the freedom of conversation among intellectuals, as was the case with the bourgeois public spheres of earlier centuries. Rather, it marks a wider sphere of critical practice and visionary politics, in which intellectuals can join with the energies of the street, the school, the church, and the city to constitute a challenge to the exclusionary violence of much public space in the United States."

Faculty and student presentations are invited. Paper topics might include, but need not be limited to:

- The Black Public Sphere in Historical Perspective
- The Role of the Black Public Intellectual
- Gender Ideology in the Black Public Sphere

- Hip-Hop as a Force for Political Change
- Black Colleges as Public Spheres
- The Challenge of Black Conservatism
- The Changing Nature and Role of the Black Church
- Abolition of the Slave Trade and the Origins of the Black Public Sphere
- Film and Literature as a Sources of Racial Empowerment
- Urban and Rural Black Public Spheres

All individual papers should be limited to 20 minutes reading time. Proposals for panel sessions will receive first priority. Student research (Papers or Poster Sessions) is encouraged.

One-page abstract submission deadline: **February 15, 2007**. Inquiries and submissions should be directed to:

Glenn McNair, Ph.D.
Department of History
Seitz House
Kenyon College
Gambier, OH 43022
mcnairg@kenyon.edu
740.427.5325

For more information about the Black Studies Conference, contact Sheryl L. White at the GLCA: sherylwhite@glca.org.

GLCA
15th Black Studies
Conference

GLCA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference to Feature Dr. Tina Chanter

Earlham College will kick off its first, annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference: ***“Philosophy and Tragedy”*** on **April 7, 2007** with keynote speaker, Tina Chanter, Ph.D. Dr. Chanter, a professor in the Philosophy Department at DePaul University (Chicago), will present ***“The Political Legacies of Antigone.”***

Tina Chanter was educated at The State University of New York at Stony Brook and is the author of *“Ethics of Eros: Irigaray’s Rewriting of the Philosophers”* (Routledge, 1995), and *“Time, Death and the Feminine: Levinas with Heidegger”* (Stanford University Press, 2001). *“Abjection: Film and the Constitutive Nature of Difference”* is forthcoming with Continuum Press (2006). She is editor of *“Feminist Interpretations of Emmanuel Levinas”* (Penn State University Press), co-editor of *“Revolt, Affect, Collectivity: The Unstable Boundaries of Kristeva’s Polis”* (State University of New

York Press, 2005), and co-editor of *“Sarah Kofman’s Corpus”* (SUNY Press, forthcoming, 2006). Dr. Chanter is also editor of the Gender Theory series at the State University of New York Press.

Earlham College welcomes student participation in the conference. More information may be obtained from Kevin Miles (mileske@earlham.edu).



Noteworthy News

The College of Wooster: President Selected

The Board of Trustees of The College of Wooster has selected Grant H. Cornwell, vice president of the university and dean of academic affairs at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., to be Wooster’s 11th president. He will assume office on July 1, 2007, following the retirement of President R. Stanton Hales.

Cornwell’s appointment is the culmination of a national search that began last spring, following Hales’ announcement that he would retire in June 2007, capping 17 years of dedicated service to the college, including 12 as president.

For more information visit <http://www.wooster.edu>



Grant H. Cornwell

“Grant Cornwell is a passionate believer in and advocate for the liberal arts,” said James R. Wilson, chairman of Wooster’s board. “He brings a wealth of experience as both a faculty member and a senior administrator, an instinctive focus on students as the heart of the liberal arts enterprise, a deep commitment and record of achievement in the area of diversity, a clear understanding of the opportunities that lie before Wooster, and the energy and enthusiasm to help us seize them.”

Wabash College: Inauguration



President Patrick White

Patrick White will be inaugurated as Wabash's 15th president on Saturday, January 27, in the first official ceremony marking the College's 175th anniversary. The ceremony in the Chapel is the centerpiece of several events that make up Inauguration Weekend.

Wabash will welcome more than 300 out-of-town guests for the weekend, including delegates from over 40 colleges and universities and 12 college presidents.

"It's a weekend designed to showcase Wabash College and its commitment to the liberal arts," said Jim Amidon, who is chairing the inauguration steering committee.

"Inaugurations are special occasions in the life of a college like Wabash," Amidon said. "Yes, they mark a new beginning and cele-

brate a new leader. But they also provide the opportunity for historic reflection of the people who have made the College what it is today."

The highlight of the ceremony will be President White's inaugural address, which he has entitled "An Uncommon Dream."

For more information, visit www.wabash.edu

News About GLCA Member Schools

Denison University: David Brooks to Speak



David Brooks

In a year-long celebration of the 17th Anniversary of Denison University's founding, the next event will be "The Anniversary Convocation" which brings David Brooks, author and syndicated New Times op-ed columnist, to campus. The convocation is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 25th in Swasey Chapel and is free and open to the public. Brooks will deliver a timely address titled, "Investing in Human Futures: The State (and Stakes) of Higher Education." Earlier anniversary events on campus were a display in Burke Hall during the Candlelight Walking Tour, followed by a historical birthday party with vignettes of prominent characters from Denison's early history on December 13, the date classes were first held at the new Granville college in 1831.

Brooks, a keen observer of the American way of life, also is a savvy analyst of present-day

politics and foreign affairs. Along with being a widely read syndicated columnist for The New York Times, Brooks is a regular analyst on the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" and on NPR's "All Things Considered."

The coming year will see more events at Denison celebrating the colleges "septaquintaquingecentennial," including on Wednesday, January 31 a gala dinner in the dining halls for students as well as "Denison Everywhere" gatherings of alumni in 30 cities across the country. During Senior Week, members of the class of 2006 created a time capsule to be opened at their 25th reunion in the college's bicentennial.

For more celebratory events, go to <http://www.denison.edu>.

Ohio Wesleyan University: Contest

By sinking a few shots on the basketball court, lucky Battling Bishops fans could be sinking their teeth into free pizza or \$10,000 in cash.

Marco's Pizza and Stifel, Nicolaus & Co. have teamed up with Ohio Wesleyan's athletics department to create the \$10,000 Halftime Shootout. The contest will be held at all men's and women's home basketball games, unless someone scores the grand prize before the home season ends with a doubleheader on February 14.

As fans enter each home game, they are invited to register for the shootout. During half-time, 10 names are drawn to take part in that night's event. Participants begin by taking a three-point shot, which places them 19 feet, 9 inches away from the basket. Those who sink this shot earn a free pizza from local Marco's Pizza, courtesy of franchise owner Cameron Cummins.

Those who make the first shot are eligible to take a second shot from center court, about 45

feet away from the basket. Participants who sink this ball in the bucket will earn 10 free Marco's pizzas to share with people sitting in their row of the stands. They are also eligible to try for the \$10,000 grand prize by taking a third shot from three-quarters court (roughly 70 feet, 5 inches).

Anyone lucky enough to make this third consecutive shot earns the \$10,000 prize offered with assistance from Dublin-based Stifel Nicolaus, a regional brokerage and investment banking firm. The senior vice president, Steven Jefferies is a Wittenberg University graduate which makes it especially meaningful that he is support this rival Ohio Wesleyan effort.

To date, the shootout has netted fans about half a dozen pizzas. No one has made the center court shot or tried for the grand prize.

For more details on the contest go to <http://www.owu.edu>

The fans are excited about the shootout and it's great to work with the local businesses to provide it.

Roger Ingles
OWU Athletic Director

Wabash College: Student Research

You might learn about the degradation of porous silicon at the annual Celebration of Student Research. Or, you might be more entertained by the classic rhetoric in sports radio broadcasting. But the "something for everyone" label will be anything but a cliché.

The Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative work is always a mid-year academic highlight at Wabash College. The Celebration will take on an added role this year as the academic centerpiece in the Inaugural weekend of President Patrick White.

The Celebration is scheduled for the afternoon of January 26th. This is the only day of the year in which classes are canceled for the afternoon to allow students, faculty, staff, and members of the public to get a first-hand look at student work.

"We do this to spotlight the good work of our students," said Todd McDorman, associate

professor of rhetoric and Celebration committee chair. "Students produce a number of worthwhile projects that are much like those the professors themselves undertake. The celebration gives students a broad public audience."

One of the real draws is the wide variety of topics. Oral presentations will run the gamut: Kurt Vonnegut, native Hoosiers, 'The Problem with Grades,' country music, Alcatraz, coffee, gender's impact on wages, acting and directing, stereotypes of Asian Americans, the high cost of Medicaid and that's just a small sample!

The poster presentations will include student's research from DNA to nuclear physics. In each case the student will be on hand to answer questions and explain his/her research.

Visit <http://www.wabash.edu> for a full schedule.

The College of Wooster: Village in India

Halfway around the world, in a small fishing village on the southeast coast of India, residents are learning to pronounce Wooster. Their community, formerly known as Pudupattinam, was renamed Wooster Nagar (Wooster Township) in January after Woosterians in Ohio raised more than \$100,000 to help rebuild the town following the devastating tsunami of 2004.

Of that total \$13,553 came from College of Wooster students, faculty, and staff, who organized a relief effort shortly after students returned to campus for the spring semester in January 2005. Karen Edwards, director of international student affairs at Wooster, Nancy Anderson, director of Wooster's Longbrake Student Wellness Center, and Varun Gupta, who was a student at the time, headed up the initiative, which included a dance, a dinner, and an auction to raise funds.

More than a dozen student organizations got behind the project, including the Soup and Bread program, a joint venture between the student body and Wooster's Dining Services,

which raised the most money. Twice each week students were given the option to dine on soup, bread, and cereal so that \$1.50 from their meal plan could be contributed to the fund. Also contributing were students from Chinese Culture Club, Education Club, Peace by Peace, Pueblo de Esperanza, the South Asia Committee, WCWS Radio, Wooster Volunteer Network, Pi Kappa, Xi Chi Psi, Zeta Phi Gamma, and Yoga Club, as well as residents of Holden Hall.

Funds were used to construct 26 new tsunami-proof concrete homes, a community center, and a water purification system. The project which helped to restore the landscape and revitalize the community resulted from the generosity of Wooster residents and students who were committed to providing assistance.

"The Wooster community has a reputation for service, and the college has a long history of volunteerism," said Edwards. "Those two have now come together to help people whose lives have been affected by this tragedy in a substantial and meaningful way."

GLCA Faculty News

Faculty Recognitions

Denison University—Anita Waters, Sociology/Anthropology, authored, *Planning the Past: Heritage Tourism and Post-Colonial Politics at Port Royal* published by Lexington Books.

DePauw University—Mary Phang, Music, was one of "12 pianists chosen to compete in the 2007 Iowa Piano Competition" scheduled for March 8-10, 2007.

Hope College—Heather Sellers, English, authored *Chapter after Chapter: Discover the Dedication and Focus You Need to Write the Book of Your Dreams* published by F & W Publications/Writer's Digest.

Edward Hansen, Geology/Environmental Science, and John Krupczak Jr., Engineering, were presented with the Janet L. Andersen

Excellence in Teaching Awards, January 8, 2007.

Christopher Barney, Biology, and James Herrick, Communication were presented with the Ruth and John Reed Faculty Achievement Awards.

Aaron Best, Biology, was named a "Towsley Research Scholar."

Carol DeJong, Associate Registrar, and Caroline Simon, Philosophy, were presented the Provost's Award for Service to the Academic Program.

Donald Cronkite, Biology, was awarded the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) "Evolution Education Award" presented in recognition of "innovative classroom

Faculty Recognitions continued

teaching and community education efforts to promote the accurate understanding of biological evolution.”

Art faculty, Jennifer Gardiner-Lam and Steve Nelson, will have pieces of their work on display at the De Pree Art Center January 11, 2007.

Kalamazoo College—Richard Koenig, Art, will have his work on exhibition and lecture in the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery on the Alma College campus in January 2007.

Peter Erdi, Physics, recently published an opinion paper titled “Computational neuropharmacology: dynamical approaches in drug discovery” in *Trends of Pharmacological Sciences*.

Tom Rice, Art, will have pieces of his work on exhibition in December at the Lansing Art Gallery.

(The above Kalamazoo faculty were placed under Hope College in the November Issue of the *Beacon* in error.)

Ohio Wesleyan University—Jay Martin, Men’s Soccer Coach, received the National Soccer Coaches Association of America’s Honor Award.

Congratulations to everyone!

Please send faculty accomplishments to Charla White at white@glca.org

The Great Lakes Association
 535 W. William, Suite 301
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103
 U.S.A.
 TEL. 734.661.2350
 FAX. 734.661.2349
 Editor: Charla White
 Contributors:
 James Amidon, Wabash
 Pamela Besel, Ohio Wesleyan
 Joyce Budai, GLCA
 John Finn, Wooster
 Jack Hire, Denison
 John Hopkins, Wooster
 Greg Wegner, GLCA
 Sheryl White, GLCA
 Your feedback, suggestions,
 and submissions are always
 appreciated.
 Charla White
white@glca.org

GLCA Events Calendar

Date	Meeting	Location
2/9-11/2007	GLCA Academic Leadership and Innovation Institute	Ann Arbor
2/17/2007	Focus The Nation	Ann Arbor
3/16-17/2007	International and Off-Campus Education Committee	Ann Arbor
3/29-30/2007	Registrar Meeting	Oberlin
4/7/2007	1st Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference	Earlham
4/11-13/2007	Deans’ Council/GLCA Board Meeting	Kalamazoo
4/13-14/2007	Women’s Studies Committee Meeting	DePauw
4/26-27/2007	Committee for Institutional Commitment to Educational Equity	Kenyon
4/27-28/2007	Black Studies Conference	Kenyon