



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

Joint Recruiting GLCA Style

Those in higher education know that selecting a college is a difficult task for high school students. Although there are high school counselors available to assist them in planning their lives after graduation, it can still be very intimidating. GLCA member colleges recognize that college fairs are not the only way to help students select a college. The GLCA recognizes that students are not the only ones who need to be aware of all the opportunities available in higher education. GLCA member college admissions personnel targeted high school counselors around the country to promote the value of a liberal arts education, as well as the value of the thirteen unique GLCA member colleges.

Thus, for the last two years, GLCA admissions offices have joined forces to bring high school counselors together and provide them with information on all the GLCA member colleges. Relationships have been forged between GLCA colleges and high school counselors and these events have also given the GLCA admissions officers and the high school counselors a chance to network among themselves as well.

This joint collaboration is smart recruiting. The events are designed to be relaxed and promote easy conversation and have been hosted at restaurants and a Botanical Garden. This year alone, GLCA admission counselors invited high school counselors from Colorado, Minnesota and Texas to attend gatherings where the GLCA member schools were introduced. The feedback from the attendees has

been positive and they have appreciated the short synopsis of the GLCA member colleges, as many were not familiar with them.

Over 41 high school counselors and their guests have attended the events scheduled this year and obtained information to share with their students and colleagues. At the Dallas, Texas event Tamara Bergert (Wooster) noted that the attendees “said thank you a million times and felt that it would be great to do again next year with hopes of having more GLCA schools in attendance.”

Although there was an effort several years ago via a brochure to introduce the GLCA member colleges to prospective students, GLCA colleges have taken their recruiting efforts to a new level of collaboration. In planning one of these events the member colleges work together to send out invitations, secure a meeting space, purchase food, and undertake program planning. Each GLCA college shares in the event related duties and the financial cost.

All involved have said that each event has been extremely successful., and this is not surprising since GLCA colleges are known for their innovative thinking and action.

Call for Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Beacon* is January 12, 2010. 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.

NEWS ABOUT GLCA SCHOOLS

Albion —100,000,000 Steps

Physical Education Professor, Tom Johnson, announced that the Albion College campus community surpassed the goal of logging more than 100,000,000 steps during the month of October, as faculty, staff, and students celebrated the accomplishment by halftime of the Britons' football contest against Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association rival Trine University.

As of 6 p.m. on Oct. 31, Johnson said 651 members of the campus community logged 100,944,461 steps from Oct. 1-31, which is also known as National Walking Month. The initial goal of the program was to have 500 members of the college community log at least 6,500 steps per day to reach the 100,000,000-step milestone.

"The awareness created by the 100,000,000 steps campaign has reached beyond my wildest dreams," Johnson gushed. "I have given out every pedometer I have and I still have people asking for pedometers and about how they can get involved. When I walk around campus people make a point of showing me they are using their pedometer."

With the 100,000,000 steps a reality, Johnson said he will continue the quest of improving the college community's behavior as it relates to wellness.

"The goal before the end of the semester is to have faculty, staff, and students complete a health risk behavioral survey," Johnson said. "That will help lower risk factors."

Allegheny—Graduate Honored as “Outstanding Philanthropist”

Graduate and trustee M. Peter Scibetta and his wife, Ellie, were honored recently as “Outstanding Philanthropists” by the northwestern Pennsylvania chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. “Even in a region where so many individuals give so much of their resources to serve others, Pete and Ellie stand out,” said Marjorie S. Klein, vice president for development and alumni affairs at Allegheny College. “They represent the best in philanthropy: people who give generously not only of their financial resources but of themselves.”

Pete Scibetta joined the Allegheny board of trustees in 1987. He has chaired the Erie Community Foundation board and serves as vice president of artistic affairs for the Erie Philharmonic. He also has served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, United Way of Erie County, Erie Community Conference and St. Peter's Cathedral. He was an advisor at the D'Angelo School of Music at Mercyhurst Col-

lege and was instrumental in developing youth wrestling in the Erie area. Additionally, as a radiation oncologist in Erie, Pete Scibetta worked to build the Regional Cancer Center, one of the first freestanding community cancer care centers in the country.

Ellie Scibetta has served as president of the Women's Council at St. Peter's Cathedral, the board of Villa Maria Academy and the board of St. Mary's Home. She is secretary of the board of the Humane Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, where she coordinates the production of the annual pet calendar.

“Pete and Ellie represent the values of the very best in the medical field: compassion and a tireless energy in ensuring that patients receive the best care possible,” said Klein. “Both have brought the same energy and commitment to their service to Allegheny College and so many other organizations throughout northwestern Pennsylvania.”

ANNOUNCEMENT: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced the appointment of Oberlin College President Marvin Krislov to the National Council on the Humanities effective November 12, 2009. “I am deeply honored to have been confirmed as a member of the National Council on the Humanities and I thank President Barack Obama for nominating me,” said Krislov. “Oberlin College has a longstanding and dynamic commitment to the humanities.”

Denison— Lowest Debt After Graduation



According to Kiplinger's just-released compilation of the "top 50 values in liberal arts colleges for 2010," Denison University students rank nationally among those with the lowest average debt after graduation. The college is No. 8 in the nation among liberal arts colleges and first among Ohio liberal arts colleges.

The average debt at graduation for a Denison student is \$14,657, and 52 percent of the class of 2009 graduated without any financial aid debt at all. By comparison, the average debt at graduation for students of The Ohio State University is \$19,978, and it is \$26,378 for Miami University (Ohio) students.

"While these numbers are important because they help to dispel the notion that the final cost of attending a top-tier liberal arts college like Denison is out of reach—it's also important to note that these figures are just one indicator of value. A Denison education is for a life, not just for a living," says Denison President Dale

Knobel.

The Kiplinger list also places Denison at No. 7 among the nation's best liberal arts colleges for the lowest average cost when need-based financial aid is factored in (\$18,823). Other colleges among the top ten include Amherst, Williams, Pomona and Swarthmore.

While Denison's total cost per year for tuition, room and board is \$46,140, the college has long made it a primary goal to provide an affordable education for its students, and the vast majority of Denison students have qualified for scholarships and financial aid.

This year, as global economic indicators have slumped, Denison has intensified its efforts to assist its students by increasing the amount of aid it provides by more than \$2 million over last year's amount.

DePauw—Top Study Abroad Experience

DePauw University is noted as one of the top colleges in the nation for the percentage of its students who study abroad. The 2009 Open Doors report, published by the Institute of International Education with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, covers the 2007-08 academic year. The report lists DePauw among "23 institutions that reported sending more than 80% of their students abroad at some point during their undergraduate careers."

"While large institutions dominate in terms of absolute numbers of their students going abroad, many smaller institutions send a higher proportion of their students abroad," notes an announcement detailing the new report's findings.

"Today more than ever before, study abroad can help our students to understand our interconnected world and to participate productively in the global economy," says Judith A. McHale, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. "The State Department strongly supports study abroad through such programs as the Fulbright Pro-

gram, which is sending its largest number ever of U.S. students abroad this year, and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program -- which in two years has doubled the number of U.S. undergraduates with financial need whom we support for study abroad. I congratulate all the U.S. students who are taking advantage of these and other opportunities to study abroad."

Overall, Open Doors 2009 reports the number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8.5% to 262,416 during the 2007-08 academic year. Four times as many U.S. students participated in study abroad in 2007-08 than in 1987-88.

The 2009 report finds that the number of students going to nearly all of the top twenty-five destinations increased, with particularly strong rises seen in students going to less traditional destinations for study abroad. Notable increases among leading destinations were in the numbers of students going to China, Ireland, Austria and India (up about 20%), as well as Costa Rica, Japan, Argentina and South Africa (up nearly 15% each).

DePauw— Top Study Abroad Experience *continued*

While the four countries that are perennial leaders in hosting U.S. students -- United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France -- are in Western Europe, Open Doors reports that fifteen of the top 25 destinations are outside of Western Europe and nineteen are countries where English is not the primary language. In

2007-08, students electing to study in Africa increased by 18%, those going to Asia increased by 17%, and those going to Latin America increased by 11%.

To learn more go to <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=150651>

Hope—Miracle Auction

The annual "Miracle Auction" coordinated by Dance Marathon of Hope College occurred on Friday, Nov. 20, as part of the student organization's effort to raise support for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The auction featured a variety of items contributed by local businesses and organizations, and artists and other individuals, including hand-crafted artwork, sporting and recreational equipment, tickets to cultural and sporting events, and gift certificates to local restaurants.

The Hope College Dance Marathon, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, is a philanthropic event that benefits the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids. Dedicated to providing comprehensive care to children, the hospital serves as a referral center for newborns, infants, children, and

adolescents throughout the state. More than 150 physicians in 40 pediatric specialties care for more than 7,600 inpatients and more than 190,000 outpatients every year at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

In order to help support the vast number of ailing children that visit the hospital each year, all proceeds from the auction will go directly towards the funding of special programs that are designed to make the young patients' visits to the hospital more bearable while also helping the families of the children to deal with their illnesses.

Since beginning in 2000, Dance Marathon has raised more than \$780,000 for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, including \$60,715.25 last year.

Kalamazoo—Nobel Prize in Medicine

The announcement of the [2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine](#) was particularly thrilling for Diane DeZwaan '05. The Nobel winners—Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider, and Jack W. Szostak—are the three top people in the telomere/telomerase field, the scientific area in which DeZwaan is engaged in her fifth year in the lab of Brian Freeman at the Institute of Genomic Biology (University of Illinois). DeZwaan knows and has worked with both Blackburn and Greider, who, with Szostak, discovered in 1984 [telomeres](#) and telomerase. Telomeres are strands of DNA attached to the ends of chromosomes that protect the chromosomes during cell division. As division recurs the length of these protective strands shortens; thus telomeres are intricately connected to cellular aging. Telomerase is the enzyme that makes telomere strands (and, Lachesis like, apportions their lengths). Inappropriate telomerase levels may be associated with diseases linked to premature cellular aging (low levels)

or the cellular immortality characteristic of cancers (high levels). Since the initial 1984 discovery, telomere/telomerase matters have emerged as more complex. Says DeZwaan: "Our lab takes a different perspective on the dynamics of the telomere maintenance pathway, which has led to debate with many leaders in the field (including Dr. Blackburn) about the actions of telomerase at the telomere. After my latest two publications, Dr. Blackburn has become interested in our lab's point of view regarding the role of molecular chaperones in these actions," adds DeZwaan, "and we have begun an active collaboration. I've worked with Dr. Greider quite recently as well. She served as the editor of my latest [paper](#) in the *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*. It's so neat and inspirational to be involved with two women scientists so highly regarded in their field of work!"

Ohio Wesleyan—Debaters Compete Globally



OWU students (left to right) Becky Smith '12, Anthony McGuire '13, Jen Schmitt '12, and Usman Javaid '10 show off the awards they won at the recent Yale IntersVarsity Parliamentary Debate Tournament.

The Ohio Wesleyan University's Debate Association participated at the recent Yale IntersVarsity Parliamentary Debate Tournament. Though the OWU team has existed for only a year and didn't compete in its first tournament until spring 2009, the Battling Bishop debaters walked away with five plaques at the prestigious Yale IV event, held October 23-24 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Nearly 130 teams from around the world—including Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and the United States—participated in the recent tournament. Ohio Wesleyan was represented by seven students comprising three, two-person debate teams and one student judge. "The best teams in the world were there, and the OWU team beat out teams from Harvard, Yale, and other established debate teams," the excited OWU students say. "We got our name out there."

Among the victors at the Yale tournament was Usman Javaid '10 of Lahore, Pakistan, who earned the top speaker award in the novice division. Javaid, a double major in economics and international studies, is the OWU Debate Association's founder, president, and coach.

Also earning awards were:

- Novice Champions – Javaid and Becky Smith '12 of Eagle River, Alaska, who competed as a team. Like Javaid, Smith also is a double major in international studies and economics. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school and then work in the field of economic development. Her goal is to help alleviate poverty in Africa.
- Novice Finalists – Jen Schmitt '12 of Spring, Texas, and Anthony McGuire '13 of Wellington, New Zealand. Schmitt is a double major in accounting and geology, as well as a double minor in economics management and women's and gender studies. After graduation, Schmitt anticipates earning her M.B.A. and then putting her education to work to "break glass ceilings" in the business world. McGuire expects to major in economics, as well as politics and government. He also was selected as a 2009-2010 Economics Management Fellow, which provides enhanced opportunities for selected first-

year students interested in economics, management, accounting, or international business.

The annual Yale IV tournament, which hosts both novice and varsity competitors, is conducted in the British Parliamentary style of debate. OWU's team has chosen to compete in this format because it is the predominant style used in international competitions.

British Parliamentary style offers the best format if "you want to compete on the grandest stage," Schmitt notes. And Coach Javaid definitely hopes to see his team on the world's stage: "My goal is for Ohio Wesleyan to be competitive on an international level," he says. The team also chose British Parliamentary style because it "reflects the inherent values of Ohio Wesleyan with its global focus," Smith adds, explaining that the format includes four teams debating at once: two teams in proposition and two in opposition.

The style is especially challenging, Smith explains, because it involves working with an unfamiliar second team and requires participants to out-debate, but still support, their new allies. "You have to be better than the other two on your side without knifing them," Smith says. "That's what it's called—knifing."

Student debaters are given their topics 15 minutes before they begin speaking, Schmitt says, and at this point teams are permitted only to refer to the printed case files they've prepared in advance. If the topic isn't in those files, teams must rely on their collective personal knowledge. They are not allowed to jump onto the Internet, ask an adviser, or phone a friend for help.

British Parliamentary debates always begin with the phrase "This House believes," Schmitt says. Topics debated at Yale IV included "This House believes..."

- The United States should impose sanctions if Israel does not withdraw from the West Bank.
- Medicaid should cover the cost of all legal abortions.
- The Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded only posthumously.

While the topics at Yale IV tended to reflect current events, the case team members say

"The entire debate circle in the United States knows who we are. We've hit the ground running this year."

Usman Javaid, '10

Ohio Wesleyan—Debaters Compete Globally *continued*

that's not always the case. Some debate topics, such as those used in September at the Huber Debates at the University of Vermont, tend to be more philosophical than practical. An example, Smith says, is "should animals be kept as pets?"

"OWU is very good at the practical," Smith adds, "but we've had to really work on the philosophical debates." The OWU Debate Association sent 11 students to Vermont—five teams and one judge. The highest-ranking teams finished 10th and 19th, missing semifinal competition by a mere point.

To help team members better understand the art of philosophical debate, they contacted OWU associate professor of philosophy Erin Flynn, Ph.D., for help. Flynn held a workshop to help them better understand how to transition from philosophical arguments to practical ones.

All of the team's hard work and effort is worth it, says Alina Ruzmetova '11 of Uzbekistan,

an international studies and economics major who anticipates a career in international relations and policy-making after graduate school. "It's academically fulfilling. It requires learning and a broad base of knowledge. Debating is a good skill. It requires you to think creatively and to be able to present effectively," says Ruzmetova.

OWU's current debate team consists of 11 regular competitors and nearly 20 more in training. Additional members of the regular team are: Michel Wigney '13 of Sacramento; Eric Charette '12 of West Seneca, New York; Adithya Manohar '12 of Bangalore, India; Katie Edgar '10 of Phoenix; Zeke Brechtel '13 of Denver; and Yavor Danailov '12 of Sevlievo, Bulgaria.

Javaid is pleased that the team continues to grow and has competed so successfully so quickly. "The entire debate circle in the United States knows who we are," he says. "We've hit the ground running this year."

Wabash—Making an Impression

There were 650 scholars in attendance at the International Society of Teaching and Learning conference, and only about a dozen of the attendees were not faculty or staff. The three Wabash men who presented at the conference left quite an impression.

Wabash student Marquise Triplett along with Brandon Christy '09 and Brian Weil '08 — accompanied Professor Warren Rosenberg to the conference. Rosenberg was on the conference agenda to discuss research of his Freshman Tutorial on men and masculinity, a course he has taught to approximately 100 Wabash students since its inception in 1993. "Over the past two years I have been studying how a freshman seminar on men and masculinity at all-male Wabash College has affected student attitudes toward gender, primarily using interviews conducted by trained student interviewers who have taken the class," Rosenberg wrote in his abstract for the proceedings.

The group presented a paper entitled, "Reading Men, Changing Men: How Engaging in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Research Affected Student Attitudes Toward Masculinity," at the conference hosted in Bloomington, Indiana. In an extension of Rosenberg's research, Christy and Weil (both of whom took Rosenberg's course) conducted a large number of interviews with past participants in the course. At the conference, the duo presented papers about their interviews, but moreover got the attention of the crowd because of how those interviews affected their own attitudes toward gender — and how their learning had continued and evolved over their time at Wabash.

"Revisiting the course through doing the interviewing and analysis reinforced the learning they had begun in the tutorial as freshmen," said Professor Rosenberg. "The idea here is that the learning students do does not end when the course ends. When they get a chance to re-engage in the material later on in their careers, they bring their new maturity and other learning experiences to bear, and thus their learning is enriched."

Brandon Christy gave a talk about how his views toward masculinity evolved during the

Wabash—Making an Impression *continued*

Brandon Christy, Michele Pittard, Crystal Benedicks, and Brian Weil



Brian Weil, Brandon Christy, Warren Rosenberg, and Marquise Triplett

course of his time at Wabash, and that by revisiting the topic through interviews with past tutorial participants, he drew new conclusions about his own experiences. In particular, Christy discovered how many Wabash students change their view of “normal.”

“I think that the problems that surface by having a rigid view of masculinity are the same problems faced when one has a rigid view of how ‘thin’ a person should be,” Christy told the scholars of teaching and learning. “The norm... is also tagged as being ‘right.’ The farther away you are from the norm, the odder and ‘more incorrect’ you are perceived by the masses. It’s just like the normal curve in statistics. Unlike statistics, however, we’re not dealing with numbers. We are dealing with human beings. What I would take away from my time at Wabash is that the ‘norm’ isn’t always right. In fact, [for me] being different was quite normal, after all.”

Brian Weil had a similar experience. He interviewed a tutorial participant whose father had committed suicide. The two men talked about their relationships with their fathers, and Weil’s subject reminded him that while it’s okay to want to be like your father, it’s important to remember that some percentage of your father’s life is unhealthy and should be avoided. The conversation — grounded in the topics discussed in Rosenberg’s class — helped Weil come to terms with the death of his own father shortly thereafter.

“After the manic hysteria connected with the event faded, I thought about what that kid had said again, and it actually gave me some comfort,” Weil said at the conference. “In the months and now years that have followed, I’ve always remembered that quote, and it’s allowed me to have perspective about my own life choices, as well as keep the best parts about my father alive through the stories that I tell. I think it’s safe to say that the research had a profound effect.” The stories of this unique approach to re-learning a subject also had a profound effect on the conference attendees. “After our session, the students were surrounded by conference attendees eager to hear more about how masculinity could be studied at an all-male college,” said Professor Rosenberg.

Carmen Werder, who is the director of Western Washington’s Teaching and Learning Academy, approached Rosenberg immediately after his students presented their papers. “You need to find a larger venue for making this public,” Werder said. “They are cutting our funding in Washington for higher education, but if they heard your students talking about what they learned — how their educations were transforming their lives — people would better understand what a liberal arts education does for students.”

Triplett’s role in the research was based on a summer internship he had with Rosenberg, during which he analyzed the interviews conducted by the two other students. While he did not take the course, his careful study of the interviews and research findings advanced his own learning about gender and masculinity.

Wabash was well represented at the SoTL conference. Also presenting papers were English Professor Crystal Benedicks, Modern Languages Professor Jane Hardy, and Teacher Education Professors Deborah Butler and Michele Pittard. Also attending was Wabash graduate Darren Cambridge, who gave the keynote address at a SoTL conference Wabash hosted a year ago. Cambridge is a well-recognized scholar in the field, and is a professor of English at the New Century College of George Mason University. He also took Professor Rosenberg’s Men and Masculinity Tutorial as a freshman student the first time the course was offered in 1993.

The International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (ISSOTL) serves faculty members, staff, and students who care about teaching and learning as serious intellectual work. The goal of the Society is to foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching.

Wooster—Discovery of New Clam Fossils continued

A strange-looking new family of ancient clams has been discovered in Israel's Negev Desert by a team of scientists that includes a professor and a recent graduate from The College of Wooster.



Negev Desert, Israel

The odd fossil from the middle Triassic (some 240 million years old) is unlike anything we would recognize as a clam today, according to Mark Wilson, the Lewis M. and Marian Senter Nixon Professor of Natural Sciences at Wooster. "They were unique in that they lived upside down," said Wilson, one of three authors of a paper that is published in the latest edition of the journal *Palaeontology*. "They had thick shells, a flat bottom, and a very distinctive top that looked something like a shark's fin."

The significance of the discovery is not only that it represents a new family, but also that its origin came at a critical time in the history of life. "This family emerged after the greatest mass extinction of life on earth - the end of the Permian Period," said Wilson, who worked with lead author Thomas Yancey of Texas A&M and recent College of Wooster graduate Allison Mione on the project. "Many unusual organisms developed then as life diversified."



Negev Desert, Israel

The findings by Wilson and his colleagues resulted from three years of research in Israel. "We had many fragments of the fossil, but we needed to find whole specimens," said Wilson. "We eventually found a particular place where the rock was folded and faulted just right to yield complete fossils."

The researchers gathered a dozen specimens, ranging in age from juvenile to adult, and turned them over to Yancey, an expert on fossil clams, to put them into context. They concluded that this was, indeed, a new family because of its uncommon characteristics. For example, Yancey noted that the two halves of the shell, which pointed upward, actually came apart at the hinge and grew independently of one another, thus preventing the clam from completely closing. The team of scientists believes that the clam lived on the surface

and was often partially covered by sediment, leading to the development of reef-like mounds. The trio also deduced that the tissue, or mantle, inside the clam was probably extended outside the shell to facilitate a process known as photosynthetic symbiosis in which other organisms (such as algae) that lived in the tissue could produce nutrients and oxygen. "It's known as mutualism," said Wilson. "Two organisms live together and both benefit."

Ironically, this family of clams had been discovered more than a half-century ago, but the scientists misidentified it, according to Wilson. "It is not a pretty fossil group, but it is a very interesting one," he said, adding that the experience led to several valuable lessons. "Many people think that the fossil records are complete and that there is nothing new to be added. This shows that there is still much we don't know. This family was part of a fascinating evolutionary process following the mass extinction," Wilson said. "It was part of the recovery fauna that began to repopulate the earth."

Wilson, one of the few foreign geologists who conducts field research in Israel and brings students, says the region is rich in clues about the history of life. "There's much to discover in the diverse geology of Israel," he said, "and fieldwork there is safe and productive." Wilson also emphasized the important role of undergraduate research in this project. "Allison was an essential member of our team," said Wilson. "She examined these clams and the rocks they were found in to interpret their ancient environment for her geology Senior I.S. project (Wooster's nationally acclaimed undergraduate research endeavor, which matches each student with a faculty mentor in pursuit of a particular topic that culminates in a thesis, performance, or exhibition of artwork). "Few undergraduates have the opportunity to conduct research that leads to the description of a new family."

ANNOUNCEMENT: Grant H. Cornwell, president of The College of Wooster, has been named to the newly created national advisory board of the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) for a two-year term.

GREEN NEWS

Earlham—Green Research



Earlham College junior and Bonner Scholar, Gustavo Espinoza carried out an extensive year-long efficiency study of Richmond's sanitation routes. "Towns and cities hire waste management consultants, literally teams of people, to carry out this kind of work," Espinoza says. "I was really excited that I was able to combine my interests in computer science and environmental science. Once I got into this project, I found it was something I did not want to let go of at the end of the day."

Sam Lahanis, sanitation director for the city of Richmond, discussed the project with Earlham professors Charlie Peck and Mic Jackson. "We needed to assess how we are completing our daily trash routes to determine if we are operating in the most cost-effective manner with the best equipment for our needs," Lahanis says. "The results of this study will help us determine what type of equipment we need to purchase and also help us develop our routes for the most economical use of the funds we have available."

Espinoza spent a lot of time researching similar projects in other cities and reading lots of literature to determine the materials he would need. Work included gathering data using GPS units mounted on the sanitation trucks which took readings every 10 seconds. Espinoza researched and selected the GPS units and the software to read, manipulate and display the data. "We had to take into account all the variables of a route to reach the desired outcome," he says. Variables included type of truck and truck capacity, length of route and length of time for each stop including pickup stops as well as stop signs and lights, distance from landfill, driver tendencies, and if the route was an alley or street pickup. Preliminary data was collected using a stopwatch. Some of the data came from the drivers themselves.

"The human aspect of the actual work has given me a lot of insight into the world of the drivers, Espinoza says." They begin at 6:30 a.m. and the work is very hard. By 10:00 a.m., the drivers are usually tired. There's not a lot of turnover, and a lot of the guys are really dedicated to the job they do. You get a real sense that they understand the necessity of

their jobs. Riding with the drivers has been a very enjoyable part of this for me."

Elijah Welch, assistant district engineer, says Espinoza was a great addition to the team during the summer. "Gustavo was a very hard worker and spent a great deal of time not only gathering data, but also spending time working with different individuals on the actual routes," Lahanis says. "My people had him loading trash and gaining the hands-on experience of dealing with issues they face daily. I believe he has gained a perspective that he could not have gotten by spending time behind a desk reading data or just interviewing our staff. This can only help the accuracy of the information gathered to complete the study."

Fellow Bonner Scholar Katie Marshall joined Espinoza this semester on the project and is using a GPS system to layer Richmond's streets complete with an attribute table that includes street name, speed limit, direction, whether a one-way or two-way, locations and length of stop lights and signs, etc.

"Once we have interpreted all the data, we will look to find ways the city can cut costs while keeping the same services running," Espinoza says. "The idea is to reduce costs by using less fuel, which is where we come in. Our route optimization work shows that we will waste less fuel by stopping less, and making fewer trips to the landfill will save time and gas. In the end, I do think there are some changes that we will recommend that will help the City save money."

"I will make my recommendation to Sam Lahanis, and it will help him to decide what he proposes to the council for change," Espinoza says. "I'm just a college student working on this huge project. I can't tell them what to do."

"I underestimated the project when I first started," Espinoza says. "It has taken a lot longer than what I anticipated." Creating graphs and proposals may spread into next semester. "When this project is all wrapped up, we can take what we've learned and give it to others," Espinoza says. "We will be helping others to save money, save fuel, and we'll be helping to save the environment."

Kenyon—Environmental Campus Organization

Kenyon students are turning up the heat on their efforts to make Kenyon a greener place. The Environmental Campus Organization (ECO) is taking on climate change at the national and the campus level.

In March, during spring break, students representing ECO attended the national Power Shift conference in Washington D.C., which brought 12,000 people together to discuss the need for government action on climate change. Students participated in workshops, attended lectures, and met with senators and representatives. Because of the success of this event, activists around the country have been working to organize Power Shift conferences on the state level. ECO students this month travelled to Oberlin High School in Oberlin, Ohio, to attend Power Shift Ohio, which featured Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, and social activist Elizabeth Kucinich as keynote speakers. Participants discussed regional planning and action.

"What ECO values so much about Power Shift," said Abby Wardell, a senior from Charlottesville, Virginia, "is that it's incredibly empowering. It's amazing and inspirational to see how large groups of young adults can

really create effective change when they unify themselves."

That "inspirational action" at Power Shift events is also in play at Kenyon. ECO membership has jumped to more than twenty-five, with "each incoming class more and more devoted to energy and the environment," Wardell said.

She and other ECO members want to harness that inspiration to create change at Kenyon. That includes a project called the Free Store, led by first-year student Jenny Bock, of Brooklyn, New York. Rather than see Kenyon students throw away piles of useable items at the end of each semester, ECO hopes to open a station on campus where students can donate items. The store will be run by a student manager, and students can drop off and pick up any items they want. A test run will measure student response to the Free Store in the Horn Gallery basement during the last week of the semester.

The group is also gearing up for the fourth-annual Residence Hall Energy Competition, a two-week contest to see which building can reduce energy use by the highest percentage.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

GLCA New Directions Initiative Funded Proposals

The GLCA New Directions Initiative has completed a review of proposals from faculty members submitted for its first deadline of September 28, 2009. There were 17 proposals submitted in the first round from seven institutions. Of these, 11 proposals from seven institutions received funding; five proposals were returned with the recommendation to revise and resubmit.

The proposals that received funding are listed alphabetically by proposer's last name.

Judy Cochran, Denison University, *The Exploration and Implementation of a French Seminar in Creative Writing and Performance for spring 2011* Cochran, whose career to date has centered largely in traditional academic writing and pedagogy, seeks to develop skills

in creative writing and dramatic performance, providing her with a basis to develop a new seminar course on Creative Writing and Performance in French. The request is for a course release to sit in on creative writing (poetry) and theater courses to be better prepared to teach this seminar.

Sue Davis, Denison University, *The Politics of Oil in Russia* Davis, whose research to date has centered on domestic politics of Russia, seeks to gain expertise in a new area of interest – the politics of oil in Russia. An expanded knowledge of this dimension of contemporary Russia will substantially enrich the understanding she can impart through her teaching and scholarship on Russian politics. As part of her process of acquiring such expertise, the proposer requests support to attend a

GLCA New Directions Initiative Funded Proposals *continued*

10 day international symposium on energy politics and economics in Baku Azerbaijan.

Samuel Katz, Ohio Wesleyan University, *Comparative Education and China* Katz, whose expertise is in K-12 teacher education, seeks to impart a considerably enhanced international perspective to his professional life and to the college's teacher education program. The project's goals are to develop a comparative education course, promote cross-cultural exchanges of student teachers, and develop partnerships with teacher education institutes and K-12 schools in China. The request is for support to travel to China over winter break to meet with representatives and visit the campuses of Beijing Normal, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and several K-12 schools in Nanjing.



Brent Krueger, Hope College, *Single-Molecule Fluorescence Studies of microRNA* Support is provided to build on experiments in a new field of study that the proposer first pursued during a recent sabbatical—a line of research that employs single-molecule fluorescence spectroscopy to study the solution structure of microRNA. If successful, it could yield a publication that will make it possible to approach NSF or NIH for larger, longer term grants. Such a result could in turn allow the college to purchase its own instrumentation for this research, enriching the educational and research opportunities available to students in the sciences.

Janet McAdams, Kenyon College, *Red Weather – a novel* Support is provided for four weeks over the summer of 2010 to do additional research on the modern history of American Indian activism necessary to complete revisions to a first novel – a mode of creative expression that represents a new direction for the proposer, whose career has centered on writing and teaching poetry. The process of combining the research results with revisions will provide additional insights into the Native American experience in the U.S.

Kathy Milar, Earlham College, *Using Narratives: Writing and Reading Stories about Science* Milar, a professor of psychology, seeks to develop a skill with an unfamiliar mode of writing – one that reaches beyond a strictly academic readership to engage students and readers with a general interest in science.

Support is provided to spend two weeks with a visiting assistant professor of English and writer in residence to learn to write using a more narrative style. Developing this new skill will help the proposer as editor and writer of a regular feature on history of psychology in the *Monitor on Psychology* and will allow her to begin using narratives in her teaching.

Anne Nurse, The College of Wooster, *Mexico: A Path to the Globalization of Teaching and Research* Nurse, a sociologist with expertise in the American juvenile justice system, seeks to embark on a greatly expanded study that compares the juvenile justice systems of several nations, beginning with Mexico. Support is provided to spend six weeks in Mexico to restore the proposer's fluency in Spanish, add to her knowledge of Mexican culture, and lay the groundwork for a study of the Mexican juvenile justice system. This support will strengthen a future application for a Fulbright grant asking for the funding to conduct a full year of research that will also internationalize the proposer's introductory sociology and criminology courses.

Robert Olmstead, Ohio Wesleyan University, *A Writer's Exploration: Quebec 1890* As a writer of fiction whose work to date has concerned settings in the United States and conveyed an American sensibility, the proposer's goal is to embark on a new geographical and imaginative domain, and to acquire more of an international, intercultural perspective, enabling him to write about a time, a place, and characters that are not American. Support is provided to travel to northern Quebec from where Professor Olmstead's father's family migrated into North America in the early 20th century.

Carol Simon, Hope College, *Exploration and Career Development at a Decisive Juncture* The project's goal is to gain new insights and a heightened perspective that can inform a decision of whether to make a transition from a mixed teaching-administrative role to a full-time administrator position. The request is for support to work with a career consultant to identify leadership strengths and weakness.

Christian Spielvogel, Hope College, *Harnessing Collective Intelligence Inside and Outside the Classroom: New Directions in Collaborative Faculty/Student Research*

GLCA New Directions Initiative Funded Proposals *continued*

Support is provided to expand the proposer's knowledge of communications through a deeper exploration of digital media, in part by developing a prototype for publishing Hope College's student newspaper as an application within the social networking platform Facebook. The larger goal of this project is integrating teaching and research, providing Hope students with knowledge and skills in a rapidly changing world, and to serve as a best practice for scaling collaborative faculty/student research within the liberal arts.

Lili Wright, DePauw University, *Mask-Maker – A Novel* The proposer, whose training and experience have centered entirely on non-fiction writing, seeks to make a transition to writing fiction – specifically, a suspense

novel based in Mexico that centers on Mexican masks. Support is provided to visit Real de Catorce, a ghost town near San Luis Potosi – which is widely regarded as a mystical place that will provide background and inspiration for the novel – and for a one-course release to have time to write.

Faculty members who wish to submit a proposal to the GLCA New Directions Initiative are strongly encouraged to meet with the Campus Facilitator on their home campus (see *The Beacon*, October 2009, p. 3): <http://intranet.glca.org/FCKeditor/UserFiles/File/October%202009.pdf>. There are three submission deadlines through the winter and spring of 2010.

GLCA Faculty News

The Great Lakes Colleges Association

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Your feedback, suggestions, and submissions are always appreciated.

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Albion – Danit Brown, English, one of twelve “Before Columbus Foundation (BCF) American Book Awards for 2009 for her book “Ask for a Convertible.”

Allegheny – Amara Geffen, Art & Civic Engagement, presented at the American Association of Colleges & University Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility: Deeping Student and Campus Commitments Conference in Minneapolis.

Gregory Kapfhammer, Computer Science, presented a poster at the 3rd International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM 2009).

Earlham – Gregory Mahler, Academic Dean, co-authored (with his daughter, Alden Mahler) “The Arab-Israeli Conflict: An Introduction and Documentary Reader,” Routledge, 2010.

Hope – Kirk Brumels, Kinesiology/Director of the Athletic Training Program, co-authored the fourth edition of “Developing Clinical Proficiency in Athletic Training: A Modular Approach” published by Human Kinetics of Champaign, Ill.

Susan Dunn, Nursing, was awarded the “Excellence in Nursing Education Award” from Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Kim Hawtrey, Economics, authored “Affordable Housing Finance” published this fall by Palgrave Macmillan, NYC and Hampshire, England.

Amy Otis-De Grau, International Education, received the Professional Development Award from IES Abroad (International Education of Students).

Kalamazoo – Arthur Cole, Physics, received a Single Investigator Cottrell College Science Award grant from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement to support a project titled “Determination of Gamow-Teller Strength Distributions and Electron Capture Rates for Nuclei (A~40-65) in Pre-supernova Stars.”

Kenyon—Howard Sacks, Sociology, is the recipient of the Indigenous Leadership Award for his role in the local-foods movement.

Oberlin – Manish Mehta, Chemistry, awarded the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation for his outstanding leadership in conducting original scholarly research with undergraduates.

