



The Beacon

Great Lakes Colleges Association
a non-profit corporation

September 2007
Volume 5, Issue 1

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

WELCOME

Welcome to all the new faculty and staff of our GLCA member schools! The 2007-2008 academic year promises to be a full and busy one for our campuses and the GLCA staff. Consult the calendar on the back page for upcoming events and programs that we think you will find as exciting as we do! We invite you to send us news concerning achievements, special venues, and any announcements you would like to be considered for inclusion in The Beacon. We hope that you will take this opportunity to share with us news about your campus and your faculty.

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FEATURE ARTICLES

GLCA Celebrates 45 Years

The Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA), celebrated its 45th anniversary on August 2. In 1962, during a meeting funded by the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education, twelve presidents came to the understanding that they could accomplish more as a collective than as individual institutions.

At that time, Byron K. Trippet, president of Wabash College, noted that those in attendance were drawn together "by common interests in improving the work we do in the basic liberal arts studies [and] that we can develop significant innovation in education by working together which we could not so well accomplish working alone."

It was during this meeting in Cleveland, OH the GLCA was formally established and the Board of Directors created. In 1962 the GLCA was incorporated in the State of Michigan with the following institutions as founding members:

Albion College, Albion, MI
Antioch College, Yellow Springs, OH
Denison University, Granville, OH
DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
Earlham College, Richmond, IN
Hope College, Holland, MI
Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI
Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH
Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN, and
The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH

Today, these twelve original institutions still maintain active membership in the consortium by continuing the ideals of the founding members to identify and support common purposes among faculty, administration and students.

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 October 3, 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.

GLCA Celebrates 45 Years *continued*

Today, these twelve original institutions still maintain active membership in the consortium by continuing the ideals of the founding members to identify and support common purposes among faculty, administration and students.

GLCA provides member schools with innovative programming and distinctive initiatives and opportunities for faculty, staff and students. Accomplishments over the 45 years include the development of some of the first international study-abroad programs as well as domestic programs focusing on urban and experiential learning; programming and support of diversity as well as Women's Studies; the GLCA Academic Leadership Innovation Initiative (GALI) for faculty development; a center for information technology in education; and an impressive array of disciplinary and interdisciplinary workshops. The list of accomplishments for GLCA is far-reaching and has involved the full range of challenges and opportunities which have faced colleges, faculty, staff and students.

The future of GLCA will be equally innovative, including a Diversity Summit in April

2008 and a range of new initiatives in environmental sustainability, global education, and teaching effectiveness. The GLCA looks forward to the next 45 years of addressing challenges facing higher education, developing programs that build communities of interest, and accelerating momentum on critical issues.

The work of the GLCA has been supported by many foundations and organizations, including The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, Asian Foundation, Carnegie Foundation, Exxon, FIPSE, Sloan Foundation, Ford Foundation, I.B.M., Japan Foundation, Lilly Endowment, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, National Science Foundation, The Teagle Foundation, The Pew Memorial Trust, U.S. Information Agency, U.S. Office of Education and Union Carbide Corporation.

Celebratory announcements will be made on the GLCA website: www.glca.org



NOTEWORTHY NEWS

College Choice: Making Meaningful Comparisons

Choosing a four-year college or university is often an overwhelming experience. In September of each year, many parents and students consult the annual college ranking issue of *USNews & World Report* for assistance in narrowing down their choices. A growing number of higher education leaders, however, are voicing concerns about serious flaws in the methods that *USNews* uses to assign rankings to colleges.

There are three major strands of criticism of the *USNews* rankings: first, that the measures place disproportionate emphasis on institutional resources and selectivity; second, that a major portion of the ranking formula lacks a scientific basis, depending instead on a

“reputational” survey of presidents; and third, the *USNews* rankings include no explicit measure of the quality of education, student learning, or the student experience.

Several associations, groups, and presidents of higher education institutions have called for a new methods that would allow students and parents to make more comprehensive and meaningful comparisons. Douglas Bennett, President of Earlham College, has been among the most active and outspoken leaders in calling for new approaches. Bennett was the lead signatory of a letter from college presidents to *USNews* declaring that their institutions would no longer provide data requested for the annual ranking issue. This

College Choice: Making Meaningful Comparisons *continued*

This letter has since attracted the signatures of 64 other college presidents.

There are several university associations, members of Congress, and a national commission created by Education Secretary Margaret Spellings calling for a better means of comparing higher education institutions and a more comprehensive comparable database for parents and students.

For now, prospective college students and parents should not depend upon the *USNews* college rankings as their single source of com-

parative information. Families will need to do more in-depth research in order to find the best fit for them.

In late September, GLCA's President, Richard Detweiler, along with other GLCA member college presidents, will participate in a conference with Lloyd Thacker of the Education Conservancy, presenting "Beyond Rankings." The conference is hosted by Yale and seeks to contribute substantively to the development of a more meaningful system of comparing colleges and universities in the U.S.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winners of the GLCA New Writer's Award 2007

GLCA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 New Writers Award for poetry and fiction.

The 2007 winner for poetry is Jay Hopler for *Green Squall*, published by [Yale University Press](#). Noted one of the GLCA judges: "I am really impressed by this young poet. I found this book to be very distinct and powerful, in both formal aptitude and subject/theme. As a book, *Green Squall* reads to me like a belated Eden narrative - from the "let there be light" quality of the opening poem to the burial and ascension of the last one. It reads like a book, and yet each of the individual poems is strong and of-a-piece, too ... The book feels very new and yet coherent, in the long tradition of the lyric. I am wholly convinced by the poems, and keep rereading them."

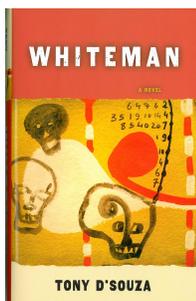
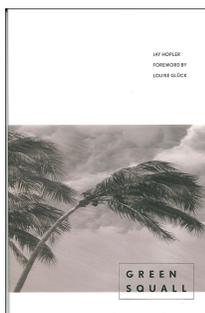
The 2007 winner for fiction is Tony D'Souza for *Whiteman*, published by [Harcourt Trade Publishers](#). Noted a GLCA judge: "... It's not only scenes and images from *Whiteman* that stay with me, but also that feeling of alienness that the novel so strongly evokes - the narrator's awful (both terrible and awe-inspiring) experiences of being a stranger in a strange land. This is an ambitious novel for an American - so many potential pitfalls - but

D'Souza pulls it off admirably ... This is one I anticipate re-reading several times."

New Writers judges are professors of literature, creative writing, or related disciplines at GLCA member colleges. This year's poetry judges were Pamela Alexander (Oberlin), David Baker (Denison), and Helena Mesa (Albion). Judges of the fiction award were David Harris Ebenbach (Earlham), Robert Olmstead (Ohio Wesleyan), and Carla Vissers (Hope).

Now in its 38th year, the New Writers Award seeks to recognize newly published writers and introduce the best among them to students and faculty on GLCA campuses. Beginning in the 2007-08 competition, GLCA is introducing a third award category in the field of creative non-fiction.

For more information about the New Writers Award, contact Deanna Shackelford (shackelford@glca.org) or Greg Wegner (wegner@glca.org) at GLCA.



GLCA Wins Grant to Develop a Global Alliance with Colleges Overseas

GLCA has obtained a grant of \$150,000 from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation to develop a Global Alliance of independent, American-style liberal arts colleges located in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. These institutions share a common mission with GLCA's member colleges, seeking to fulfill the Jeffersonian ideal of producing educated citizens who contribute to the vitality of their societies.

This source of funding will augment an earlier officer's grant GLCA received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish initial linkages with leaders of several institutions overseas that were founded in the tradition of the American liberal arts college. GLCA's president, Richard Detweiler, notes that "This grant will allow us to take a significant next step beyond the foundation established in our initial meetings, which convened a group of presidents from GLCA's member colleges with leaders of several American-style institutions abroad."

This Global or Jeffersonian Alliance seeks to build a system of linkages among participating colleges that could eventually lead to exchanges of faculty or administrators between colleges in the U.S. and similar institutions overseas. An explicit focus of the program is to increase the global and intercultural element of a liberal arts education, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The core idea of the Global Alliance appears in this excerpt from GLCA's grant proposal: "In a time when ideas, production processes, and human and financial capital extend fluidly across the boundaries of nations and continents, there is compelling need for a global alliance of smaller institutions, both in the U.S. and abroad, dedicated to the vitality and effectiveness of a liberal arts education in preparing the rising generation for the century ahead."

The Philadelphia Center Appoints New Executive Director

The Philadelphia Center and Hope College are proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Rosina S. Miller as Executive Director of The Philadelphia Center, an off-campus internship program founded by the Great Lakes Colleges Association. The 2007-2008 academic year also marks The Philadelphia Center's 40th anniversary, and, under Miller's leadership, the Center hopes to enrich and expand its offerings of personally and professionally rewarding experiences to continued generations of undergraduate students.



Dr. Rosina S. Miller,
Executive Director of
the Philadelphia

Miller has played a key role in experiential education at The Philadelphia Center for over 16 years. After several years on staff, Miller joined the faculty as a full-time faculty advisor in 1994. Faculty advisors at The Philadelphia Center not only teach city and experience-based seminars, but they also work very closely with students, helping them make the most of their internships, adjust to the urban environment, and take advantage of all that experiential education has to offer.

An active proponent of education, Miller is also one of the co-founders of the Independence Charter School (ICS), a community-oriented elementary school. ICS provides an intellectually stimulating curriculum with an international focus and boasts the city's first Spanish immersion program. Since the school's inception in 2001, she has served on the school's Board of Trustees, each year being elected an officer and sitting on the Executive Committee, most recently completing a term as President.

Carrying this base of knowledge into her role as Executive Director of The Philadelphia Center, Miller says she plans to uphold the Center's legacy of careful attention to student learning in all aspects of life. "I feel privileged to be able to participate in the student growth that our unique program offers. Experiential education is a powerful tool to connect learning in different contexts - in and out of the classroom - and a valuable one to employ throughout one's life. I am honored to inherit

The Philadelphia Center Appoints New Executive Director *continued*

the leadership of this premier program and look forward to advancing The Philadelphia Center in this changing world of higher education.”

Miller graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in English from Temple University, and received her M.L.A. and M.A. from the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania. She also earned a Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. Miller, a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, currently lives in Center City with her husband and two children, and looks forward to sharing her passion for education and the city with generations of students to come.



Recycling Newspapers

- * Dampen and spread over window-panes before painting
- * Use to dry and polish window after washing
- * Stuff under doors and in cracks to stop drafts
- * Spread out between garden rows to discourage weeds
- * Use to wrap green tomatoes to ripen
- * Cover plants during a frost
- * Put under car wheels when stuck in snow, mud or sand
- * Shred and use for packing breakables
- * Crumple (no colors) and place in plastic containers to eliminate odors

NEWS ABOUT GLCA MEMBER SCHOOLS

DePauw Hosts Exhibition “Beyond Green: Toward a Sustainable Art”

“Beyond Green: Toward a Sustainable Art” is an exhibition exploring the ways that sustainable design philosophy resonates in the work of an emerging generation of international artists. Sustainable design has the potential to transform everyday life through an approach that balances environmental, social, and aesthetic concerns. It further explores a socially and environmentally conscientious (sustainable) way of living and working. This

emerging strategy emphasizes the responsible and equitable use of resources and links environmental and social justice. By doing so, it moves past a prior generation of more narrowly eco-centered or “green” approaches to architecture and industrial design. The exhibition can viewed at the Peeler Center, DePauw Campus beginning September 14 through December 2.

Wooster: “Green Footprints on the Blue Planet”

Environmental awareness and activism will be the theme when the Wooster Forum presents “Green Footprints on the Blue Planet” this fall at The College of Wooster. Four speakers will address various aspects of environmental preservation. Each of the lectures will take place in McGaw Chapel (340 E. University St.), beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

faculty at Wooster. “Issues surrounding the environment have been a focus for many of the constituencies on campus, and these Forum events provide perspectives beyond our campus, including stories of triumph over environmental injustices. Beyond the public talks, all the speakers have agreed to visit a class or meet with a small group of faculty and students.

“We are really excited about the 2007 Fall Forum lineup,” said Shila Garg, dean of the

“This year’s Forum theme serves us in two distinct ways,” added Garg. “First, it is a cele-

Wooster: "Green Footprints on the Blue Planet" *continued*

bration of all the environmental advances we've experienced on campus thus far, including the potential development of an environmental studies minor at Wooster and an Environmental Task Force that has been making strides to minimize environmental waste and improve our impact on campus. Second, it is a motivation for us to continue to think creatively when we consider how we as students, faculty, and staff interface with our campus environment."

Tyrone B. Hayes, associate professor of integrative biology at the University of California, Berkeley, will open the series on Monday, Sept. 10, when he presents "From Silent Spring to Silent Night: What Do Frogs Tell Us About Human Health?" Hayes earned an undergraduate degree in organismic and evolutionary biology from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in integrative biology at Berkeley. His research focuses on the role of steroid hormones in amphibian development, and he conducts both laboratory and field studies in the United States and Africa. His primary areas of interest are metamorphosis and sex differentiation, but he is also interested in growth (larval and adult) and hormonal regulation of aggressive behavior.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a leading defender of the environment and the son of former presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Sr., will present "Our Environmental Destiny" at the second Wooster Forum event on Thursday, Sept. 27. Kennedy serves as senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper, and president of Waterkeeper Alliance. He is also a clinical professor and supervising attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic. His reputation as a defender of the environment is the result of numerous successful legal actions, including his role in helping Riverkeeper restore the Hudson River, which spawned more than 130 waterkeeper organizations across the globe and led to his selection as one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet."

Actor and environmentalist **Ed Begley, Jr.**, will present "Live Simply So That Others May

Simply Live" at the third Wooster Forum event on Tuesday, Oct. 2. Best known for his role as Dr. Victor Ehrlich on the television show "St. Elsewhere," and he has also had recurring roles on "7th Heaven," "Arrested Development," and "Six Feet Under." In addition to his acting credits, Begley is widely recognized for his environmental efforts and his promotion of eco-friendly products like the Toyota Prius. A vegan for many years, his home is completely solar powered, and his hybrid electric bicycle has been featured on "Living with Ed," a reality show in which he stars with his wife, Rachele Carson, on the Home & Garden Channel.

The final Forum is on Tuesday, Oct. 9, when **Sandra Steingraber** presents "From Raindrops to Amniotic Fluid - How Chemical Contamination of Water Threatens and Violates Human Rights." An international expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health, Steingraber received her Ph.D. in biology from the University of Michigan and her master's degree in English from Illinois State University. She is the author of *Post-Diagnosis*, a volume of poetry, and co-author of *The Spoils of Famine*, a book on ecology and human rights in Africa. Steingraber has taught biology at Columbia College in Chicago, held visiting fellowships at the University of Illinois, Radcliffe/Harvard, and Northeastern University, and served on President Clinton's National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. In her book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*, Steingraber presents cancer as a human-rights issue.

Additional events can be found at www.wooster.edu

Black World Studies at OWU Offers New Kenya Program Fall 2008

The Department of Black World Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University is offering The Ohio Wesleyan University in Kenya Program for fall of 2008. This program, based in Nairobi, includes extensive study of African cultures, field experience and travel throughout Kenya and Tanzania, and an internship experience.

Academic work for the program includes courses in East African Culture; African Medical Systems; Women, Development, and

the Environment and Swahili. The program includes both urban and rural home-stay residential experiences. For further information, contact the Director of the Ohio Wesleyan in Kenya, Randolph Quaye, Director, Black World Studies, Ohio Wesleyan University, 61. S Sandusky Street, Delaware, Ohio, 43015, Tel: 740-368-3833, email: rkquaye@owu.edu or Blake Michael, Director of Off Campus Study Programs at rbmichae@owu.edu or visit <http://bws.owu.edu>.

GLCA Faculty News

Faculty Recognitions

DePauw—Erik Wielenberg, Philosophy, authored “God and the Reach of Reason: C.S. Lewis, David Hume, and Bertrand Russell” published by Cambridge University Press.

Denison University — Judith Cochran, French, co-authored the trilingual poetry publication *Des pendus de brume / Wisps of Shadow/Nebelfetzen*. Rimbach, Germany.

Bonnie Sneed, Music, made her conducting debut at Carnegie Hall with the New England Symphonic Ensemble and 150 high school singers.

Hope College—Michael Jipping, Computer Science, authored “Smartphone Operating System Concepts with Symbian OS” published by John Wiley & Sons, Symbian Press.

Jackie Bartley, English, authored “Ordinary Time” a collection of poems published by Spire Press, Inc. New York.

Jeff Johnson, Chemistry, received a Faculty Start-Up award for research from the Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc.

Dianne Portfleet, English, received an “Excellence in Advising” Awards presented nationwide by the Alcor Chapter of Mortar Board in recognition of giving outstanding service.

Victor Claar and Robin Klay, Economics, co-authored “Economics in Christian Perspective: Theory, Policy and Life Choices” published by InterVarsity Press.

Albert Bell, Jr., History, authored “The Secret of the Lonely Grave,” published by Claystone Books, an imprint of Ingalls Publishing Group Inc.

David James, English, authored a chapbook of poetry titled “Lost Enough” published by Finishing Line Press.

Oberlin—Stephen Crowley, Politics, received a fellowship from The American Council of Learned Societies to conduct research at the Collegium Budapest/Institute of Advanced Study in Hungary.

Ohio Wesleyan—Robert Olmsted, English, received the Heartland Prize for Fiction for his novel, “Coal Black Horse.”

Wooster— Thomas Tierney, Sociology, and Christa Craven, Anthropology & Women’s Studies, were selected to participate in the Public Health and Liberal Education Faculty Development Workshop in Washington D.C.

Charles Peterson, Black Studies, authored “DuBois, Fanon, Cabral: The Margins of Elite Anti-Colonial Leadership” published by Lexington Books.



GLCA 2007-2008

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Your feedback, suggestions, and submissions are always appreciated.

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GLCA Calendar of Events 2007-2008

9/28-29/2007	Women's Studies Committee Meeting	Ann Arbor, MI
10/5-7/2007	GLCA Academic Leadership and Innovation Institute	Ann Arbor, MI
10/19-20/2007	Committee for Institutional Commitment to Educational Equity (CICEE)	Hope
10/19-20/2007	Students of Color Leadership Conference	Hope
11/2-3/2007	Academic Council	Ann Arbor
11/15-16/2007	Deans' Council	Ann Arbor
12/13-14/2007	Board of Directors	Ann Arbor
2/8-9/2008	Japan Study Advisory Committee	Ann Arbor
4/9/2008	Deans' Council	Toledo, OH
4/10-11/2008	President's Diversity Summit	Toledo, OH
4/11/2008	Board of Directors	Toledo, OH