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# AGLS News

*The Newsletter of  
the Association for General  
and Liberal Studies*

**Volume 19 Number 3  
Spring 2003**



43rd Annual Conference

## **Building Bridges: Education and Community in a Diverse World**

**Joint AGLS/HBCU Faculty Development Network Meeting  
Charlotte, North Carolina, October 23-26, 2003**

The Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) and the HBCU Faculty Development Network will offer a “two for one” in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 23-26, 2003, as they hold their annual conferences together. The theme uniting both organizations will be “Building Bridges: Education and Community in a Diverse World”. The two associations, share an emphasis on general and liberal education, on teaching and learning, and on curriculum and pedagogy. They will hold joint plenary sessions featuring John Gardner, nationally known leader of First Year Experience and student success, and Sandra Maguire, an expert on faculty development and academic success rates with minority students. The concurrent sessions of both conferences will be open to all participants.

AGLS has a long history of work in general and liberal education. Their annual meetings draw faculty and administrators primarily concerned with general education and instruction. The Council for the Administration of General and Liberal Studies (CAGLS) holds a business meeting at the AGLS meeting, and welcomes those who are interested in the challenges of organizing general education programs.

The HBCU Network is composed primarily of faculty from historically Black colleges, but appeals to all who have a commitment to educating minority students. Between

the two organizations, sessions will be welcome on general and liberal education, articulation between different institutions, service learning and experiential education, instructional strategies, educational technology, internationalization, assessment and accreditation, and diversity.

Requests for proposals are available on the website and in this newsletter. Viewing the theme broadly and creatively, we encourage entries which address different ways of envisioning and connecting student learning, curriculum design, diverse students and faculty, and other groups and communities. We also seek ways to bridge the college and its neighbors, the faculty and the students, general education and the professional schools, and institutions and accreditors.

It will be exciting to explore these issues with our colleagues from the HBCU Network, and AGLS looks forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in booming and beautiful Charlotte.

Increasing the event to a “three-for-one” will be a special pre-conference workshop on Thursday, October 23, 2003, on learning

**IN THIS  
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Nominations  
for the 2003  
Katz Award;  
see page 4*

***Between the two organizations, sessions will be welcome on general and liberal education, articulation between different institutions, service learning and experiential education, instructional strategies, educational technology, internationalization, assessment and accreditation, and diversity.***

## Building Bridges conference, continued

communities which is sponsored by the National Learning Communities Project.

The host institution will be Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, a liberal arts historically Black college. The learning communities workshop will be held there, providing participants with an opportunity to visit the campus and its facilities. The workshop will end with a reception sponsored by Dr. Dorothy Yancy, President of Johnson C. Smith.

Interested participants can contact:

**For AGLS:** Barbara Frankle, LeMoyne-Owen College, 807 Walker Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, e-mail tressa\_jordan@loc.edu

**For the HBCU Network:** Steve Rozman, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS 39174, e-mail Srozman@aol.com

### 2003 Registration Form

Prefix (Dr., Ms., Mr., etc.): First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Academic Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Institution/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campus Address (include building or box #): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### AGLS Conference Fees & Membership Dues

Pre-conference Fee:  \$ 75

| Conference Fees        | AGLS Member                    | Non Member                     |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Early Registration     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| Regular- after 9/22/03 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$225 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 |
| Late- after 10/3/2003  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 |

Total amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration will not be processed without complete payment information

- Check enclosed** (made payable to AGLS)  
 **Credit Card:**  
 VISA     Master Card     American Express  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Purchase Order Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

See: [www.bsu.edu/web/agls/](http://www.bsu.edu/web/agls/) for complete information about the annual conference

Mail registrations to: Dr. Barbara S. Frankle, Dean of Faculty, LeMoyne-Owen College, 807 Walker Ave., Memphis, TN 38126

### AGLS List Serve

We are proud to announce another benefit of being a member of AGLS: the AGLS List Serve. The list serve will be housed at Ball State University (thanks to Becky Amato and Tom Lowe!). If you have not already received an e-mail notice regarding this service, you should get it soon. This service will provide the following benefits:

- Continue discussions of issues in general education beyond our annual conferences,
- Obtain assistance and advice from others with experience in general education, and
- Announce items of interest to others involved in general education.

AGLS News is the newsletter of the Association for General and Liberal Studies.

Send news, information, or queries to:  
 Marianne Hopper, AGLS News Editor; Dean, School of Behavioral & Social Sciences  
 St. Edward's University, Box 1018, 3001 S. Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704-6489  
 Or e-mail to marianh@admin.stedwards.edu

AGLS News online:

[www.stedwards.edu/bss/AGLS/index.htm](http://www.stedwards.edu/bss/AGLS/index.htm)

## Asheville Institute on General Education at 2003 AGLS conference

The 13th annual Asheville Institute on General Education will be held May 31-June 4, 2003, on the UNC Asheville campus. The Institute has served as a principal resource for more than 250 institutions—and most teams that have attended it have been rewarded with significant advancement of their plans as a result of participation. If you have ever wished you could “buy more time” for your campus’s general education reform efforts, consider applying to the 2004 Asheville Institute. This community of colleagues dedicated to improving student achievement provides just such an opportunity!

*See: [www.aacu-edu.org/meetings/asheville2003.cfm](http://www.aacu-edu.org/meetings/asheville2003.cfm)*

This October’s joint conference between AGLS and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Faculty Development Network will include a PANEL DISCUSSION BY AIGE 2003 PARTICIPANTS. The presentations will focus on the impact of the Institute on their general education planning process.

Note: If you’re reading this at the Institute and would like to participate on this panel, please contact Peg Downes, Co-Director of AIGE, and Vice-President of AGLS.

### 2003 Conference Hotel

Adam’s Mark Hotel  
555 S. McDowell St.  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
Rate: \$99 single  
(704) 372-4100  
(800)-444-2326  
Conference rate available through Oct. 10, 2003.  
Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Please be sure to say that you are with AGLS to get the conference rate. The Adam’s Mark Charlotte is conveniently located downtown, close to financial, cultural, business and shopping districts.

## 2003 Call for Papers

AGLS invites proposals from college and university faculty, and staff for concurrent, roundtable, poster and book sessions well as pre-conference workshops on the conference theme. Proposals should be submitted for active audience participation and demonstrations. Presentations should be based on the theme of the conference and a topic category, and should show methods used for promoting your objectives.

Here are topics for concurrent session proposals:

- Models of General Education
- History or Philosophy of General Education
- University-Community Partnerships
- Using Technology to Build Community
- Moral Reasoning

- Freshman/Senior Year Experience
- Service Learning
- Diversity and Multi-cultural Education
- Civic Engagement

A one-page abstract of proposal, along with a brief curriculum vitae highlighting background information related to the proposal is due on or before June 30, 2003. Notifications of acceptance and publication guidelines will be sent by July 31, 2003.

Please submit abstracts to:  
Dr. Barbara S. Frankle, Dean of Faculty,  
LeMoyne-Owen College, 807 Walker Ave.,  
Memphis, TN 38126, e-mail  
[tressa\\_jordan@loc.edu](mailto:tressa_jordan@loc.edu), phone (901) 942-7305, Fax (901) 942-7373

### 2004 AGLS conference

## General Education...and All That Jazz “Jumpin’ to the beat of liberal studies”

Kansas City will be the site of the 2004 AGLS National Conference Oct. 28-30, 2004. It will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Kansas City’s famous Country Club Plaza. Attendees will be within walking distance to the new Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and wonderful shopping, restaurants

and live world-class jazz.  
<http://www.countryclubplaza.com/>

Larry Kaptain (Conservatory of Music) and Dean Bryan Le Beau (Arts and Sciences) of the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) will be co-hosting this event.

## Creating Character, Creating 'Characters': Creative Writing and Reading in General Studies

*Recommended  
Session from  
AGLS Louisville*

*At the AGLS  
Meeting in  
Louisville there  
was a place on  
the conference  
evaluation form  
where partici-  
pants could rec-  
ommend that par-  
ticularly memo-  
rable sessions be  
written up for  
publication in  
AGLS News.  
This is one such  
article.*

*Presented by Laurel J. Black, Judith H. Villa  
and W. Mark Poteet*

As teachers of liberal studies courses, we have come to realize that using creative writing in our classrooms supports not only the writing and reading skills of our students but their critical and ethical thinking. Creating fictional characters or deeply exploring literary characters forces students to challenge, question, and discuss why people make the decisions they do and what the outcomes of those decisions might be. As students begin to understand the motivations behind actions, they also see possibilities for change. Additionally, the idea of "doing creative writing" has positive connotations for most students, who see it as a change from the limited, pointless, busywork they perceive most academic writing and reading to be. It offers them choices, provides a sense of control, provokes real interest and discussion, leads to a willingness to revise

writing, and, sometimes for the first time in a long time (or so our students tell us!), they actually feel like they are learning; there is a point to their activity.

In ENGL 101, College Writing, students in Laurel Black's class spend the semester discussing social constructionism as it applies to issues of race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, and socio-economic class. At the end of the semester, after writing academic essays, students are given the option to write a piece of fiction in which they take the perspective of a person whose beliefs and actions they could not have understood at the beginning of the course. They are asked to create a character so different from themselves that they are challenged to imagine their lives. Drawing on class discussions and readings, they write a story involving that character, making him/her and the situation as real as possible. As they do so and share the writing with classmates, they discover

*Continued, next page*

## Last Call for Joseph Katz Award nominees

AGLS has as its mission to support and advance the centrality of general and liberal education in undergraduate degrees. One of the most celebratory ways of doing this occurs every other year, when the Association confers the Joseph Katz Award on someone who has exercised national leadership in general education.

The Past President of AGLS has the great joy of chairing the committee that runs the process of seeking someone worthy of this award—"for distinguished contributions to the practice and discourse of general and liberal education," as the citation reads. Any member of AGLS may submit the name of someone who excels in the following areas:

- 1) Someone who provides leadership on campus in implementing general education in such a way as to broaden student horizons beyond the immediate concerns of professionalism;
- 2) Someone who has publicly reflected on the meaning and importance of general education through publications, public conferences, and consultation;
- 3) Someone who has a clear record of leadership in general education beyond the local campus as an advocate for general education in the national arena.

You are hereby invited to nominate a person who, in your judgment, shows outstanding merit on the three points just listed. Please send by June 15th the name, title, institutional affiliation, telephone number, and e-mail address of your nominee to John Nichols [nichols@saintjoe.edu]. Then the person nominating and the person nominated will be jointly responsible for completing the packet that the committee will need, in order to make its selection: 1) a complete curriculum vitae; 2) a brief description of the contribution the person has made to general education; 3) an account of how this person's commitment and activity have contributed to the improvement of educational experiences of students on campus; 4) commentary on how this person has shown leadership among colleagues; and 5) examples of contributions to the theory and practice of general education at the national level.

All finalists will be recognized at the annual AGLS National Conference to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina in October of 2003. The Association will pay travel expenses for the winner of the Katz Award and honor this individual in a special plenary ceremony during the conference.

what they still don't know, what they have assumed, and what understanding they have gained. And, as they struggle to make their stories interesting and significant, they discover a new sense of control and choice in writing as well as their lives.

Judith Villa assigns students a sequence of three career-based papers in ENGL 202, Research Writing, the last of which is a piece of fact-based fiction. Near the end of the semester students flex their writing muscles by creating complex, intriguing and believable characters, compelling plots, and realistic, detailed settings and dialogue framed in a back story which draws on information from the first two traditional research papers. In the process of creating their stories each writer reveals where she stands, through her main character, on the issue which was the focus of her research papers. In place of a final, students meet and share outlines of their stories and each reads her or his favorite

paragraph to the class. Every semester students tell me how surprised they are that they love creative writing so much, and are able to write stories that others are interested in, and how much they enjoy putting their research to use.

Mark Poteet's ENGL121, Humanities Literature, students often incorporate, of their own accord, creative writing into their class work. They create mini-plays to examine and analyze literature from all genres. The students exercise critical thinking and intellectual autonomy by claiming characters, rewriting them, and constructing their own dramas. These short plays represent both a reflection on self character and writing.

*Judith Hagan Villa*  
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*Creating Character, continued*

*Does your university have an innovative liberal studies program or process? Write a short piece for AGLS News and send it to the editor.*

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## AGLS Faculty Awards presented October 2002

The Association of General and Liberal Studies, at its 42nd annual conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, in October, presented three individuals with faculty awards in appreciation of their contribution to teaching and leadership in general and liberal studies at their respective universities.

**Mary Dickson**, Chair, English Department at Broome Community College, Binghamton, New York

Mary Dickson chairs the Broome Community College's General Education Steering Committee. In December 1998, the SUNY Board of Trustees mandated a system-wide, 30 credit General Education Program. Between then and June 2002, campuses submitted hundreds of courses for approval, recreated advisement materials, modified or jettisoned their home grown General Education programs to accommodate the SUNY requirements, and communicate the changes to all faculty and staff. Further, the SUNY Provost had been charged by the Trustees with system-wide General Education assessment, entailing the design and submis-

sion of campus plans and implementation schedules, all on an accelerated timetable. Professor Dickson has diligently and perspicaciously led her committee through these complex processes, while also carrying out her department duties and providing leadership as workshop facilitator for course-based "Learning Outcomes Assessment" initiatives.

**Fred Albertson**, Department of Art at the University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

Fred Albertson's arrival to the University of Memphis in 1987 coincided with the inception of their new General Education Program. Fred immediately threw himself into developing curricula for their new program. He actively participated in the committee that redesigned the Introduction to Art course so that it met the new General Education criteria. He became the only non-tenured member of a seven-person faculty committee that created two new interdisciplinary Humanities courses specifi-



**Fred Albertson**

Continued, next page

**Faculty Awards,  
continued**

cally for General Education. Fred helped obtain a substantial NEH grant for faculty development to teach these courses and participated in the summer seminars on the courses.

**Gail Schiffer**, *General Education Science Coordinator at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia*

Gail Schiffer was a key person developing the interdisciplinary General Education science courses for Kennesaw State



**Gail Schiffer**

University. Her service on the General Education Council has been consistent and noteworthy. The General Education Council is composed of representative faculty from every department of the campus offering General Education courses. She has taught the freshman seminar, KSU1101 and is again involved with it closely in her work with Learning Communities (CLASS). This involvement in the First Year programs has led to Kennesaw State University being honored by Time magazine as one of the top four Colleges of the Year for its First Year Student programs and learning communities.

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## ACTC News

### 10th Annual Conference

*April 15-18, 2004, in Dallas, TX*

We will be celebrating our growth over ten years and examining the many relations between culture and core text liberal education.

### ACTC wins grant

ACTC won the largest National Endowment for the Humanities Exemplary Education Grant awarded this year for its: "Bridging the Gap Between the Humanities and Sciences: An Exemplary Model of Core Text, Humanistic Education." This is a three-year project designed to develop interdisciplinary science-and-humanities courses for general education. Nine diverse institutions are developing widely varying models for integration into general education curricula.

### The New Core Science conference

ACTC also plans, parallel to this, a summer

conference in June of 2004: "The New Core Science" will show what new science curricula have been developed in these NEH seminars and will also display several models being developed in institutions across the country.

### Opening of ACTC Liberal Arts Institute at the University of Dallas

This Institute is responsible for developing (inter)national projects for the development of liberal arts, general education core text and core related projects.

### Other projects

ACTC continues the "Trends in the Liberal Arts Core" project, a review and reform project involving more than 80 institutions in a retrospective examination and projection into the future of diverse core and general education programs across the United States.

### The Association of Core Texts and Courses

For information:  
ACTC Executive  
Director,  
J. Scott Lee,  
(972) 721 4062  
jscottlee@prodigy.net.  
Website: astro.tem-  
ple.edu/~szelnick/actc  
/

## 2003 NACADA conferences

Contact: National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)  
Executive Office, (785) 532-5717; e-mail, [nacada@ksu.edu](mailto:nacada@ksu.edu);  
Web site, [www.nacada.ksu.edu](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu)

### NACADA Academic Advising Summer Institute

June 22-27, 2003 & July 27-August 1, 2003

The most comprehensive consideration of academic advising available, the Summer Institutes provide administrators, faculty advisors, and advisors, as teams or individuals, the opportunity to develop specific strategies for the enhancement of academic advising. The west institute will be held at the Town &

Country Resort, San Diego, CA, and the east institute will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles (Chicago), IL.

### NACADA National Conference

October 2-5, 2003

The theme for the 27th annual meeting of the National Academic Advising Association is "Teach, Encourage, eXcel, Advise, Support: Building Stronger Networks for Student Success." More than 300 concurrent sessions will address all aspects of advising for administrators, academic advisors, and faculty advisors. The conference will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas, TX.

## AGLS Executive Council

The following is a list of Executive Council members. If you have any issues, concerns or questions you would like taken up by the Executive Council, please contact us. We would like to hear from you.

### 2003-04 President

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*Is your membership in AGLS due for renewal? Look at your mailing label on this newsletter. The date following your name is the year your membership expires. Use the membership renewal form included here. If you think our records are wrong, or if you have questions about your membership, contact the Executive Director, Tom Lowe.*

**AGLS Membership Form**

New Membership     Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department or Program \_\_\_\_\_

University/College Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees**

Faculty/Administration:     One Year \$40     Two Years \$70     Three Years \$100

Student \$10     Institution \$60     Adjuncts \$25

**Send with your check made payable to AGLS and mail to: B. Thomas Lowe, AGLS Executive Director, Dean of University College, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306**