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# AGLS News

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

Volume 21 Number 2  
Winter 2005



*From the President*

## Expanding Our Conversations Internationally

All of us in AGLS share a common goal: to strengthen general and liberal education. We pursue this goal both by retaining and reinvigorating the best that the Academy traditionally has offered, and also by interweaving with that tradition the best that we can imagine, and the finest that we can discover.

LeMoyne College, my liberal arts alma mater, taught me to deeply appreciate the wisdom and the richness available in the “canonized” curriculum; I teach some of these materials to my own students each semester, in UNC Asheville’s 41-year-old interdisciplinary core Humanities Program.

Like any good lib-ed-minded person, though, I’ve continued to learn: about myself, certainly, and my students, and about my own worlds, small and large. A few years ago, I was stunned by my first-hand introduction to a fascinating piece of that larger world, in the Aga Khan Humanities Project (AKHP) in Central Asia.

For several weeks in summer 2000 (sponsored by the Assoc. for Core Texts & Courses), I and four other American academics worked with colleagues in the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan at nine universities where the AKHP has been established. This fascinating interdisciplinary humanities program (presented by its director, Prof. Jyldyz Doolbekova, at our 2004 conference in Kansas City) focuses on historical texts and skillfully guided class discussions and activities. It gave us American academics new insights into some exemplary Western thinkers (Locke, Aristotle, Darwin, and Rousseau, for example), whose writings are taught side-by-side with traditional Islamic and Central Asian texts. Many of these were new to me, and many, I discovered,

would enrich my own university’s core humanities curriculum. Studying the traditional Kyrgyz Manas epic, for example, about one of Central Asia’s great hero-warriors, would give us and our students fresh insights into Homer’s *Iliad* and *The Song of Roland*, as well as into the particular culture which gave birth to Manas. During our visit, I learned to appreciate the use of dance in the classroom as a way of teaching students about culture through their feet—a most effective “ped”agogical technique, for American professors with a venturesome spirit!

Many other equally fascinating liberal arts and general education programs exist “over there,” and deserve (and will reward) our attention. South Korea’s Cheju University, for example, is implementing a new interdisciplinary general education curriculum that blends American liberal arts models with Korean culture and traditions. I’m particularly struck by the emergence of a number of liberal arts colleges for women in the Middle East and Asia, and by the broad and deep educational opportunities these offer—to their students, and at times to ours. At Zayed University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, an international conference, “Women as Global Leaders: Educating the Next Generation,” is planned for March 2005. I was privileged to serve as a consultant at ZU earlier this year, and found its inter-



*The passing of the gavel from outgoing AGLS President Rob Mauldin to our new AGLS president Peg Downes.*

*Continues,  
next page*

*Expanding Our Conversations, from page 1*

disciplinary liberal arts core curriculum to be truly enviable. In Jeddah, on the coast of the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia, Effat College—a women's liberal arts college focusing on the sciences—recently has been founded; Dar Al-Hekma College, too, is now established in that city. And, in Seoul City, Korea, one of my own UNC Asheville students is studying this year at Ewha Women's University, which offers a fine integrated core course in the humanities.

It's easy to search for websites for these and similar colleges and universities, world-wide (it's my favorite way to delay paper-grading). What I find, again and again, at the heart of their missions is a strong and sincere desire to help create, through liberal arts education, a free citizenry—free to think, and free to join in the best conversations, including those from the distant past and from many lands.

Clearly, many of these programs have been influenced by American convictions and curricula. But, just as clearly, they are rooted in a deep-seeded, home-grown, and explicitly stated mission to attain for their citizenry the qualities which our own founders hoped American education would nurture. As Thomas Jefferson stated, and as many contemporary American, Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and other pioneers in liberal education believe: "Enlighten the people generally, [and] tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like the evil spirits at the dawn of day."

Last April, AGLS and five other national academic organizations (Asheville Institute on Liberal Learning; Association for Core Texts & Courses; Association for Integrative Studies; American Academy for Liberal Education; and

Historically Black Colleges & Universities' Faculty Development Network) together launched the new Consortium for International General & Liberal Studies. CIGLS' goal is to assist possibilities for international academic collaboration through short- or long-term linkages, and to offer a crucial and enlivening international dimension to our colleges and universities.

This new organization is dedicated to promoting conversations about the implementation and improvement of general and liberal studies programs in colleges and universities world-wide. We of AGLS have long believed that such programs help students to develop the capacity for lifelong

learning; to understand and assume responsible citizenship; and to develop as whole persons in individual traditions that are essential parts of a global humanity. Inside, and outside, the U.S. each college and each university undertaking these programs has much to offer to enrich this stimulating conversation, and this noble quest.

We anticipate that several international colleges and universities will be represented at our 2005 conference in Fairfax, VA—a conference

we'll experience jointly with the Association for Integrative Studies. The theme of this conference, Integrations: Liberal Learning in a Diverse World, invites us all to dynamically engage our own best thoughts and practices with those of our colleagues: to question, to wonder, and to appreciate the infinite and world-wide human capacity for learning. I look forward to presiding at this conference, and to doing my best to assure each and every one of you an excellent experience!

*Dr. Peg Downes*  
*AGLS President*

*"Enlighten the people generally, [and] tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like the evil spirits at the dawn of day."*

*—Thomas Jefferson*

**AGLS Mission**

The Association for General and Liberal Studies, established in 1961, is a national organization for higher education faculty and administrators who share a commitment to the centrality of general and liberal education in the undergraduate experience. The mission of the association is to extend and enrich the educational experience of college and university students by stimulating vigorous discourse among professors, prospective professors, and academic administrators about the purpose, nature, and scope of general and liberal education. General and liberal education provide for the undergraduate the breadth of knowledge, understanding, and appreciation needed to live in the world as informed, responsible, and responsive citizens. To accomplish its goals, the association holds an annual conference, publishes a newsletter, and sponsors other professional activities to encourage reform in general education, curricular innovation and excellence in classroom teaching.

*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](mailto:marianh@admin.stedwards.edu) **AGLS News online:** [www.stedwards.edu/bss/AGLS/index.htm](http://www.stedwards.edu/bss/AGLS/index.htm)

## Jumpin' to the Beat of Liberal Studies in Kansas City

With its theme of "General Education and the New," and its setting next to Kansas City's Seville-inspired Country Club Plaza, the 44th annual national AGLS conference was designed to stimulate conversations about the core curriculum and interdisciplinarity, diversity and inclusion, tradition and innovation. Driven by the dynamic leadership of the Association for General and Liberal Studies with its commitment to general education, and energized by the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry (directed by Joe Trimmer), with its support of ground-breaking projects to enhance interdisciplinary, community-based teaching, the conference opened new ways of thinking about the future of General and Liberal Studies.

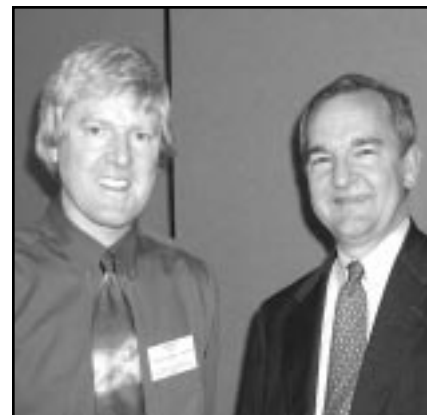
Quentin Wilson, Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education delivered a provocative keynote address, "Supporting Strong General Education Programs for all Students: A Perspective on State Interests and Opportunities." He described studies that demonstrate the positive economic effects from high numbers of students with degrees in the arts and humanities. And he challenged us to publicize the cultural benefits of what we teach. In her keynote, Marjorie Smelstor, chief acceleration officer at the Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, provided ample evidence that a liberal arts program for hospital staff has had profound effects in terms of customer service and staff retention.

At the plenary session four winners of the AGLS Joseph Katz Award—John Nichols, Karen

Schilling, Richard Weeks, and Jerry Gaff—took up Wilson's challenge. With Peg Downes presiding, they provided pragmatic demonstrations of the value of general and liberal education in contemporary contexts

Breakout sessions addressed issues including Service Learning, First Year Seminars, Assessment Strategies, Cross-Cultural Experience, Diversity in Action, Teaching with Technology, and the Core Curriculum. Special sessions were devoted to the use of Interactive Theatre to explore classroom dynamics and to the Counter-Aesthetics of Irish Republican Prison Writing.

This meeting also saw the passing of the gavel from outgoing AGLS President Rob Mauldin to the new AGLS President Peg Downes. Along the way, we celebrated collegiality and engaged teaching, enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a barbecue lunch provided by UMKC's Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and a delightful reception sponsored by the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Enquiry. Throughout, the conference was steered by Bryan Le Beau, Peg Downes, Barbara Frankle, Larry Kaptain, Rob Maudlin, and Paul Ranieri. But we all agreed that the smooth running of the conference was due to Amy Zeh, Program Coordinator for the Center for the City at UMKC.



*Plenary speaker Quentin Wilson with conference planner Stephen Dilks.*



*Past Katz Award winners Jerry Graff, John Nichols, Richard Weeks and Karen Schilling.*



*Keynote speaker Marjorie Smelstor with conference planner Larry Kaptain.*

## CAGLS Meeting in Kansas City, October 28-30, 2004



*CAGLS officers (l to r) Rob Mauldin, Emily Johnson, Bill Jenkins, and Bill Badley.*

CAGLS held one of its two annual meetings at the AGLS conference in Kansas City, and election of officers was conducted. Prior to the meeting, nominations were solicited from the membership. The results of the election were that Rob Mauldin was unanimously elected to the position of Executive Director, Jake Jakaitis was elected President-Elect, and three members were re-elected to the Board of Directors (Emily Johnson, Bill Jenkins, and Bill Badley). Bill Jenkins who has been serving as Interim Executive Director of CAGLS agreed to serve an additional six months to provide transition for Mauldin. After serving as President-Elect for the past year, Emily Johnson became the President.

CAGLS will hold a second meeting Feb. 17-19, 2005, in Atlanta, GA. CAGLS is co-sponsor of the AAC&U Network for Academic Renewal Conference, "General Education & Assessment: Creating Shared Responsibility for Learning Across the Curriculum." Please visit the CAGLS website for additional information at <http://cstl.semo.edu/cagls/>

### 2005 AGLS and AIS Joint National Conference

## "Integrations: Liberal Learning in a Diverse World"

Join us at the Hyatt Fair Lakes in Fairfax, VA, located in the heart of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, for the 45th Annual AGLS Conference on October 6-9, 2005. AGLS will be joining forces with the Association for Integrative Studies (AIS) to provide educators from across the world with a unique forum in which to explore and exchange ideas on current challenges, opportunities, and best practices in integrated learning and diversity.

This year's joint conference, sponsored by George Mason's New Century College and Virginia Tech, will focus on the theme Integrations: Liberal Learning in a Diverse World. We encourage the submission of proposals for workshops, paper presentations, or panel discussions on topics pertaining to:

- Trends in international, multicultural, and interdisciplinary education
- Integration of curricular and co-curricular learning
- Service-learning and experiential learning

- Innovative student leadership programs and leadership in the next generation
- Assessing learning in diverse student populations
- Values and character development
- Changes in student demographics

The proposal submission form is available on the conference website at [www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/proposal-form.html](http://www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/proposal-form.html). The form can be emailed to the AGLS/AIS Conference Committee at [nconf@gmu.edu](mailto:nconf@gmu.edu) or faxed to the attention of Janette Muir at 703-993-1439. (Email preferred.)

The deadline for proposals is April 30, 2005. Please contact Janette Kenner Muir, Conference Coordinator, at 703-993-4142 ([jmuir@gmu.edu](mailto:jmuir@gmu.edu)) or Ron Daniel, AGLS Conference Organizer, at 540-231-3341 ([rdaniel@vt.edu](mailto:rdaniel@vt.edu)) for further information or assistance.

Register to attend the AGLS/AIS conference online at [www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/](http://www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/)

***The proposal submission form is available on the conference website at [www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/proposalform.html](http://www.ncc.gmu.edu/integrations/proposalform.html). The deadline for proposals is April 30, 2005.***

*The University of North Carolina at Asheville in cooperation with Mercer University announces:*

### Asheville Institute on Liberal Learning 2005: "Teaching Islam in the Undergraduate Curriculum"

The University of North Carolina at Asheville welcomes participants from the colleges and universities to its lovely campus, in the cool and beautiful mountains of Western Carolina, June 2-4 for an Asheville Institute 2005: "Teaching Islam in the Undergraduate Curriculum." This two-and-a-half day conference will feature papers and panels proposed by the participants, as well as several distinguished plenary speakers. The schedule will include *luga'* at--small-group, guided conversations on specific topics. Textbooks and supplementary readings and other materials will be on display.

We encourage participants' friends and families to join them at the conclusion of the conference for a vacation in Asheville-- one of America's most exciting and relaxing small cities!

Plenary Speakers: Ahmad Dallal, PhD, of Georgetown University; Charles Kimball, PhD, of Wake Forest University; and Elise Salem, PhD, of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

**For more information and registration, see [www.unca.edu/ail/teachingislam.html](http://www.unca.edu/ail/teachingislam.html)**

## From the Executive Director

Greetings! I do hope you are faring well during this winter season. I am looking out on bright sunshine. Granted, it is only 30 degrees, but the sunshine is a welcome relief from a three-week stretch that included a major ice storm knocking out power for over 122,000 local homes. Even sections of the university lost power for three days, with some students and faculty shut off for as many as eight days.

Maybe by the time you read this you will have been greeted by a sign or two of spring!

I want to take a minute to highlight a few items of note, many of which I will return to in this space in the next newsletter. But, in brief:

✓ If you did not attend the conference in October in Kansas City, do not forget to renew your membership for 2005. Renewal forms can be found on the website [www.bsu.edu/web/agls](http://www.bsu.edu/web/agls).

✓ You might consider linking your membership to an Institutional Membership for your college or university. Details are posted on the website and the back page.

✓ Check out the website for the latest information on our upcoming 2005 annual meeting, this year co-sponsored with the Association for Integrative Studies in Fairfax, Virginia from October 6-9. Proposals are due April 30, 2005.

✓ Finally, consider nominating a deserving colleague for either the Katz Award (awarded every other year for both local and national leadership in general and liberal education) or the Gaff Faculty Award (given annually to those who have contributed to teaching and leadership in general and liberal studies at their institutions). Again, further information and nomination forms are available on the AGLS website.

That is it, in brief, for now. Stay warm.

***Granted, it is only 30 degrees, but the sunshine is a welcome relief from a three-week stretch that included a major ice storm knocking out power for over 122,000 local homes.***

***Paul Ranieri***  
***AGLS Executive Director***

### NACADA 2005 Events

***Effectively Engaging Faculty in Academic Advising Seminar***, Jan. 27-28, St. Pete Beach, FL. [www.nacada.ksu.edu/FacultySeminar/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/FacultySeminar/index.htm)

***Academic Advising Administrators Institute***, Jan. 30-Feb.1, St. Pete Beach, FL. [www.nacada.ksu.edu/AdminInst/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/AdminInst/index.htm)

***Assessment of Academic Advising Institute***, Feb. 2-4, St. Pete Beach, FL, [www.nacada.ksu.edu/AssessmentInst/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/AssessmentInst/index.htm)

#### **Regional Conferences 2005**

***Northeast***: Mar. 23-25, Montreal, Canada, "Academic Advising on the Centre Stage!"

***Mid-Atlantic***: April 17-19, Virginia Beach, VA, "Advising Toolkit—Advising Tips, Techniques and Tactics for Diverse Audiences"

***Mid-South***: April 10-12, Louisville, KY, "Excellence in Advising: Guiding Students to the Winner's Circle"

***Southeast***: Mar 6-8, Tuscaloosa, AL, "Advising STARS (Students/Teachers/Advisors/Reaching Success) Fall on Alabama"

***Great Lakes***: Mar 17-19, Toronto, Canada, "Academic Advising: Reaching New Heights"

***North Central***: April 21-22, Sioux Falls, SD, "Orienting Today's Students for Tomorrow's World"

***South Central***: Mar. 3-5, Oklahoma City, OK, "Every Student Has a Story"

***Northwest***: April 20-22, Portland, OR, "CARE—Connecting All, Reaching Everyone!—Academic Advisors in the 21st Century"

***Pacific***: (Tentative) April 13-15, Emeryville, CA, "Navigating the Course: Advisors Helping to Chart the Way"

***Rocky Mountain***: Mar. 2-4, Denver, CO, "Peak Advising: Scaling the Academic Mountain"

#### **Academic Advising Summer Institutes**

June 12-17, St. Paul, MN and July 31-Aug. 5, Colorado Springs, CO

The most comprehensive consideration of academic advising available, week-long Summer Institutes provide administrators, faculty advisors, and advisors (as teams or individuals) an opportunity to develop specific strategies for the enhancement of academic advising. Institutes will be held at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, MN, and at the Antlers Hilton Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO.

***29th National Conference on Academic Advising "Hitting the Jackpot: Making Academic Success a Sure Bet!"***

Oct. 5-8. Bally's and Paris Hotels, Las Vegas, NV

Share theories, techniques, ideas, or practices that address higher education's academic advising needs, or promote the advising profession's role in enhancing student learning and development by submitting a presentation proposal for the next National Conference on Academic Advising in Las Vegas, NV. Advisors, administrators, faculty, counselors, career development specialists, researchers, and graduate students—we want to hear from you! We earnestly encourage novice as well as experienced presenters. Proposals may be submitted online at <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/2005proposals/>. The submission deadline is Feb. 8, 2005.

#### **NACADA Clearinghouse of Academic Advising Resources**

Need advising resources immediately? Turn to the NACADA Clearinghouse of Academic Advising Resources and find resources to help advise students. Also available are practitioner authored overviews of relevant advising topics. [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/index.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/index.htm)

For more information on NACADA Regional conferences, visit [www.nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Conferences/Regional/upcoming.htm](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Events/Conferences/Regional/upcoming.htm)



27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Conference

45<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Conference



Hosted by: New Century College  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, Virginia  
October 6-9, 2005

## Invitation for Proposals AIS and AGLS Joint National Conference

### *Integrations: Liberal Learning in a Diverse World*

The Association for General and Liberal Studies and the Association for Integrative Studies are partnering to bring together educators from around the globe to exchange ideas on current challenges, opportunities, and best practices in integrated learning. We encourage submission of proposals on topics such as: trends in international, multicultural, interdisciplinary and liberal education; integration of curricular and co-curricular learning; service-learning and experiential learning possibilities; innovative student leadership programs; and mechanisms for assessing integrative learning in diverse student populations.

#### **More topic suggestions for papers/workshops/panels/poster presentations:**

- **Values and Character Development:** civic engagement, academic integrity, diversity, living/learning programs;
- **International Education:** integrative/liberal learning in study abroad programs, general and liberal studies outside the U.S., international internships and international student concerns on American campuses;
- **Partners for learning off-campus:** community-based research, service-learning, campus-community partnerships;
- **Changing student demographics:** integrating the challenges of interdisciplinary and general/liberal education with the challenges of changing student demographics such as traditional and nontraditional student distinctions, multicultural issues, community college needs, first-year learning programs;
- **Leadership in the next generation:** cultivating student leaders, mentorship programs, interdisciplinary curriculum support for leadership studies; and
- **Assessment and change:** changing ways to assess learning in diverse student populations within interdisciplinary and general/liberal studies courses.

To submit a proposal: email by April 30, 2005, to: AIS/AGLS Conference Committee at: [nconf@gmu.edu](mailto:nconf@gmu.edu) or fax to Janette Muir, 703-9931439. (Though email is preferred, faxed or mailed submissions are also accepted.)

## 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.

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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.*

### AGLS Membership

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     Adjuncts \$25     Institution \$500

**Send with your check made payable to AGLS and mail to: Paul Ranieri, AGLS Executive Director,  
 English Dept, Ball State University, RB 2109, Muncie, IN 47306-0460**

#### *Institutional Membership Benefits*

AGLS has designed this enhanced institutional membership package both to promote an institution's general/liberal studies program and to allow institutions to support individual members at their institutions. Benefits include the following:

- Listing of the member institution in AGLS newsletter, programs, website, and other appropriate publications.
- Hot linking the AGLS website with the program description of the member institution
- Three individual memberships to AGLS, designated by the member institution. Each membership includes a subscription to the *Journal of General Education* and *AGLS News*, as well as access to the AGLS listserv.
- Those same three designated institutional members receive a 20% discount on fall conference registration fees.
- An additional copy of the *Journal of General Education* and three additional copies of *AGLS News*.