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AGLS News

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

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From the President

Is Interest in General Education Declining?

Mike Gress (Vincennes University and member of AGLS Executive Board) suggested to me that interest in general education might be waning because there is no one hot topic in general education to capture the attention of higher education. Indeed, attendance at our annual conference in Charlotte continued a downward trend. We had about 200 participants at our conference in 1998 in St. Louis. Each year since that time we have seen attendance at AGLS annual conferences drop to a low of about 90 people at the 2003 annual conference in Charlotte. Much discussion took place during the conference regarding why the attendance was down. Wanting to follow up on this discussion, I asked the membership (via our listserv, AGLS-L@LISTSERV.BSU.EDU) for reasons why they thought the attendance was down.

Eleven people wrote that tight budgets were to blame (the most frequent response). Janice Green pointed out that when budgets are tight, faculty members are put in a difficult situation by having to choose whether to go to a conference in the discipline or attend our general education conference. As often happens when general education competes with the major, general education loses. AGLS member Laurel Black made the point that the money to support participation in general education conferences typically comes from a central office tasked with administering the institution's general education program (if such an office even exists). These offices and associated budgets are prime targets for budget cuts as evidenced by the sad news from Bob Frankle that the provost at the University of Memphis decided to eliminate the directorship of their general education program.

There were nine people who stated that timing was not good since October is a busy season

for conferences. Indeed, we might want to reconsider when we have our conferences in the future.

Finally, four people stated that they simply had too much going on and two members noted that the location of the conference was too far away.

Now for the good news. The general consensus of participants in the listserv discussion was that interest in general education is not declining. Even though there does not appear to be one hot topic in general education, several pointed to the topics of assessment and interdisciplinarity that are at the forefront of discussions about general education. At the conference, I found that even though attendance was down, enthusiasm for our cause of championing general education was at an all-time high. Virtually every person who responded to the listserv noted that they had been to AGLS conferences before and found them to be extremely valuable. At the conference, I observed more interest than ever before on behalf of attendees to volunteer their time to projects focused on strengthening general education. There was a real sense that we, as an organization, can have a positive impact on our students' lives. There was a recognition that we need to cooperate with the major yet at the same time defend the small part of the curriculum that we have left. Many new faces were present at the conference and they seemed to be very glad to have found other like-minded folks with similar values and experiences. We had a genuine joint conference with the HBCU Faculty Development Network—the kind of joint conference that preserved traditions of the two organizations yet enabled us to join together and learn from each other.

Please join us in Kansas City, October 28-30, as we continue our discussion of general educa-

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Executive Director Changes

Message from Tom Lowe:

For the past six years I have had the pleasure of serving as the Executive Director of AGLS. There is an old American Indian saying, "The gift must always move." So after two terms it is time for someone else to assume this work. The Executive Council searched for a replacement and determined the most logical "volunteer" was Dr. Paul Ranieri at Ball State. Paul is committed to general education. He has served as Chair of the English Department and last year was Interim Associate Dean of the College of Sciences and Humanities at BSU. I have known Paul for many years and respect his judgment and his ability to carry on the work of our organization. He was appointed Executive Director for a three-year term by the Executive Council in



(L to r) Paul Ranieri and Tom Lowe

October 2003. I will be here to help in the transition, and Becky Amato in my office will continue to provide administrative support for Paul, as she did for me. Another advantage of this arrangement is that it allows the AGLS webpage to continue to be supported here at Ball State.

My association with AGLS will continue. It has been great to work with so many people who haven't forgotten the true purpose of undergraduate education, and I look forward to our continued relationship.

Tom Lowe
Associate Provost and Dean
University College

*From the
President, from
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tion. It will be one of the very best AGLS conferences yet. We plan to focus on issues regarding new faculty members. Local businesses and institutions of higher education will be involved. We plan on having a poster session as well. The executive council will be discussing reduced rates for

bringing groups of people from their institutions, so submit a proposal and bring a colleague!

Rob Mauldin, Ph.D.
President, AGLS

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

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AGLS News online:
www.stedwards.edu/bss/AGLS/index.htm

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.

Collaborative conference provides networking with diverse group

The Association for General and Liberal Studies held a collaborative conference with the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Faculty Development Network October 23-25, 2003, in Charlotte, NC, and an intellectually enriching time was had by all.

Attendees could attend all the events of each conference, so a wide range of sessions on curriculum development, general education, multicultural and global education, service learning and community engagement, assessment and faculty development were available.

Highlights included a witty and incisive luncheon plenary by John Gardner on "Developing Hallmarks of Excellence in the First College Year: What is the Role of General and Liberal Studies?" Sandra Y. McGuire, Louisiana State University inspired us with a joint plenary presentation on "Building a



Plenary speaker John C. Gardner



Dorothy Cowser Yancy, president of Johnson C. Smith University



Joint plenary speaker Sandra Y. McGuire (m) with conference organizers Phyllis Dawkins (l) and Barbara Frankle.



AGLS Faculty Awards were named in recognition of Jerry Gaff

the university and becoming a ThinkPad University. The Friday evening reception was hosted by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Crawfordsville, Indiana, AGLS and the HBCU Network. It was special that AGLS honored Karen Schilling, longtime leader in the field and loyal participant in AGLS with the Katz Award for contributions to general education at the Friday reception. Jerry Gaff received special recognition for his remarkable corpus of work on general education, as AGLS appropriately named the annual faculty award for him. This year's faculty awards were presented to Dr. Anthony Edmonds of Ball State University and to Dr. John Habel of Western Carolina University.

The host institutions for the conference was Johnson C. Smith University, and co-host was LeMoyne-Owen College, making this the first AGLS event hosted by historically Black institutions. It was good to network and learn from such a rich and diverse group of participants and presenters.

*Barbara Frankle
Academic Dean
LeMoyne Owen College*

*Phyllis Worthy Dawkins
Director of Faculty Development
Johnson C. Smith University
Co-Director of the HBCU Faculty
Development Network*

Bridge to Academic Success: Teach Students HOW to Learn!" Food and fun were featured at the reception hospitably hosted by Johnson C. Smith University and sponsored by their president, Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, who provided a stimulating speech about the history of



(l to r) Karen Schilling received the Katz Award, presented by Peg Downes



(top to bottom) John Habel and Tony Edmonds, recipients of the Gaff Faculty Award

A report on the October 2003 HBCU/AGLS conference

2004 AGLS Conference

Kansas City and all that jazz... jumpin' to the beat of liberal studies

The 2004 National AGLS Conference will be held at the Country Club Plaza Marriott Oct. 28-30. The Commissioner of Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education, Quentin Wilson, will be a featured speaker. The themes for this conference will be "General Education and the New—new faculty, new technology, new practices, and new conceptions."

Attendees will stay on Kansas City's historic Country Club plaza—the first shopping center in the country (www.countryclubplaza.com). Go on a walking tour of one of the greatest battles of the Civil War—the Battle of Westport (www.westporthistorical.org). Or just kick back and relax. Some of the nation's foremost jazz artists perform across the street at Jardine's Restaurant and Jazz Club. Just behind the Marriott is the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art (www.kemperart.org).

(Note: Café Sebastian is *tres chic*, a place to see and be seen.) After the museum (and cafe) walk through the campus of the Kansas City Art Institute (www.kcai.edu/) and arrive at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art (www.nelson-atkins.org/). When you look out the south doors of the museum, you will see the campus of UMKC. Venture down the hill and see a play at the Missouri Repertory Theater (missourireptheatre.org) or hear a concert at the UMKC Conservatory of Music (www.umkc.edu/conservatory).

Very soon we will have a date for the call for papers and presentations. Keep an eye on the AGLS website: www.bsu.edu/web/agls/.

Larry Kaptain
Co-host/planner AGLS 2004
kaptainl@umkc.edu

CAGLS News

The Council for Administration of General and Liberal Studies (CAGLS) held its annual meeting at the AGLS Conference in Charlotte, NC. Because President of CAGLS John Nichols was unable to attend the meeting, Bill Badley, as President-Elect, assumed the office of President and conducted the meeting. Since many of the Board of Directors were unable to attend the conference and a quorum was lacking, there was a general discussion of plans for increasing both attendance at the AGLS conference and membership in CAGLS. There were areas discussed in which AGLS and CAGLS can cooperate: co-listing of the Consultants List, sharing information on List Servs, and consulting on increasing participation of two-year institutions. The Executive Committee of CAGLS decided to seek, by email, additional nominations for the Board of Directors and for the office of President-Elect. It was decided that the election for the Board and President-Elect would be on-line.

CAGLS, which is co-sponsor of the conference, will meet at the AAC&U's The Network for Academic Renewal Conference, "General Education and Assessment: Generating Commitment, Value, and Evidence," March 4-6, 2004, at Long Beach, California.

If you have questions, please call or email Bill Badley (615-904-8416; wbadley@mtsu.edu). For membership questions or additional information, please see <http://cstl.semo.edu/cagls/> or email sludwig@semo.edu.

Upcoming NACADA events

For more information contact the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Executive Office, (785) 532-5717; e-mail, mailto:nacada@ksu.edu

Academic Advising Administrators' Institute

What are skills I need to be more effective as an advising administrator? What ways can I effectively evaluate, motivate, and reward academic advisors? How can I affect significant and positive change on my campus in regard to academic advising?

If you are an academic advising administrator and have asked any of the above questions and more, then attending the NACADA Academic Advising Administrators Institute Feb. 2-4, 2004, St. Pete Beach, FL, is essential for you!

Assessment of Academic Advising Seminar

Do you know that you need an assessment program but wonder: where to start? what instruments are available for your use? what others are doing in assessment?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, find the answers you are looking for at the Assessment Seminar, Feb. 5-6, 2004, St. Pete Beach, FL! This intensive day-and-a-half seminar will focus on the components of a successful assessment program as well as provide specific strategies and tools for developing and implementing assessment programs.

Call for Participants for '04 Asheville Institute on Liberal Learning

UNCA will welcome selected teams from colleges and universities who will gather in Asheville, NC, for four days of consultations and conversations on best practices in liberal learning. Each five-member team will include an administrator, two faculty members, and two students.

The Institute will feature presentations by acknowledged leaders in US higher education;

small-group consultations focused on the topics of most interest to teams; and opportunities for teams to work with other teams or on their own.

Among the topics for the Institute are:

Undergraduate Research, First-Year/Capstone Experiences, Assessment, Learning Communities, Service-Learning, Learning-Centered Classrooms, Imaginative Uses of Technology, Internationalized Liberal Learning, Diverse Ways of Learning, Interdisciplinarity, Writing Across the Disciplines, and Summer Reading Assignments

The fee for each team, which includes services of all consultants, housing and all meals for five team members, and certain materials, is

*The University of North Carolina at Asheville
Invites applications for the 2004 Asheville Institute on Liberal Learning*
May 26-30, 2004*

www.unca.edu/ail

** A successor to the Asheville Institute on General Education, which was a collaboration with the Association of American Colleges & Universities, 1991-2003.*

\$5,000. Housing will be in single rooms in double suites in a modern dormitory.

Outcomes: Teams will be expected to return to their home campuses with plans to implement or improve one or more best practices in liberal learning. There will be a follow-up report to the Institute organizers, to be shared with all participants by means of the website, and a follow-up meeting for team leaders

in the spring 2005.

Applications are due by February 1, 2004. To receive an application form, or to learn more about the Asheville Institute, please Fax Merritt Moseley or Margaret Downes, the co-directors, at 828-251-6603 or email moseley@unca.edu or downes@unca.edu.

Supporting Organizations: Association for General & Liberal Studies; Association for Core Texts & Courses; Association for Integrative Studies; Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College; Historically Black Colleges and Universities Faculty Development Network.

Cross-Referencing of Lists of Consultants for AGLS and CAGLS

The Council for the Administration of General and Liberal Studies (CAGLS) is a group that provides support to people who are responsible for administering general education programs. The external review of general education programs is an administrative function that is designed to provide advice to institutions that are reviewing their programs. As such, CAGLS developed a list of consultants for this purpose a few years ago. AGLS, with its mission to advance the centrality of general and liberal education, developed a list of consultants at about the same time. At recent meetings of the executive councils of AGLS and CAGLS, both groups agreed to cross-reference their lists of consultants so that a person who is looking for an external reviewer would have as many choices as possible. This action is in the best interests of individuals who are searching for

external reviewers and is yet another indication of collaboration between these two groups.

If you would like to be added to one of these lists of consultants, you must be a member of that particular organization. Contact Fred Janzow, Executive Director of CAGLS, if you would like to be added to the list for CAGLS. Contact Paul Ranieri, Executive Director of AGLS, if you would like to be added to the list for AGLS. (See box for contacts)

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Rob Mauldin
President, AGLS

*2004 Conference
of the Association
for Integrative
Studies*

Practices of Integration: Improving Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning

Come to the 2004 Conference of the Association for Integrative Studies, hosted by Johnson C. Smith University, October 14-17, 2004, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Integrating knowledge among disciplines and cultivating new forms of interdisciplinary knowing, learning, and acting in the world have been the mainstay of the AIS and continue to provide exciting avenues for intellectual discourse, especially in an age of "accountability" and technology. As interdisciplinary and integrative programs mature, improving interdisciplinary learning, teaching and assessment is of increasing interest and urgency to educators, administrators, grant agencies, and accreditors. Situating interdisciplinary and integrative activities within a cycle that attends to issues of theory, design, implementation, assessment and reflection allows us to see "the big picture" and to plan responsively. With an awareness that interdisciplinary learning helps us to solve complicated problems in an increasingly global era, we still have much to do to identify ways of deepening our teaching and learning approaches, of assessing the impact of our efforts, and of updating the ways that our teaching can utilize technology reflective of best practices for achieving student learning outcomes. Papers, presentations, panels and roundtables might address these topics:

- The practices of interdisciplinary theory: sessions might include scholarly papers,

and presentations on curricula, programs or courses.

- The practices of design: sessions might include presentations on curricula, programs, courses or assignments, ways to integrate assessment with planning, and best practices for utilizing technology in the design process.

- The practices of implementation: sessions might focus on pedagogy, issues related to administration and the allocation of resources, and best practice for utilizing technology in instructional delivery.

- The practices of assessment: sessions might include presentations of student portfolios, faculty portfolios, writing rubrics, assignment rubrics, student learning outcomes, program reviews, and best practice for utilizing technology to collect, analyze, archive and report assessment data and materials.

- The practices of reflection: sessions might present ideas on interdisciplinary integration, program and course planning, and program and course improvement.

For further information as it becomes available, see www.muohio.edu/ais/.

*William Newell
AIS Executive Director
newellwh@muohio.edu*



At the AGLS Executive Council Meeting in Charlotte we welcomed three new Executive Council members for October 2003 to October 2006: (l to r) Gigi Derballa, Thomas Lowe and Michael Farrall.

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, 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