



ASSOCIATED
COLLEGES
OF THE SOUTH

PALLADIAN

Fall 2007

Features:

- Grant for Faculty and Institutional Rejuvenation
- ACS and University of Georgia Create New Partnership
- Mini-Grants Available for Environmental, Diversity, and Interdisciplinary Projects

ACS Receives Grant for Faculty and Institutional Rejuvenation

The consortium is delighted to announce that The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has provided a grant of \$648,000 to ACS for faculty and institutional rejuvenation. The grant, which will cover a three-year period, will provide numerous opportunities for ACS faculty in the areas of professional, civic and personal development. Frances Lucas, the president of Millsaps College and chair of the ACS board of directors, commented that “we are deeply grateful to the Mellon Foundation for this extraordinary grant, which will have an extremely positive impact on faculty throughout our sixteen member institutions. We very much appreciate the Foundation’s vote of confidence in the consortium’s ability to create and manage initiatives that can make a difference in the lives of faculty and their institutions.”

The focus of the grant is threefold: professional development, civic development and personal development. The faculty development portion will provide opportunities to carry out activities that can enhance teaching, research and service roles. Examples are learning a new language which would enhance teaching and research capabilities, bringing groups together in new interdisciplinary efforts and initiating departmental cooperation across institutional boundaries.

The second focal point is civic development, meaning opportunities for faculty to learn about, prepare for and explore new leadership opportunities. Examples could include mentoring relations within a campus or across campuses and special workshops and seminars that emphasize

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ACS and University of Georgia Create New Partnership

The ACS and the University of Georgia signed a new partnership agreement on June 7 at the annual meeting of the ACS board of directors. Signing for ACS was President Jake B. Schrum of Southwestern University, who was also chair of the ACS board of directors, and Provost Arnett Mace of the University of the Georgia. The agreement calls for a number of mutually beneficial projects to be carried out over the next five years.

Specific projects include smoothing the way for ACS students to apply to graduate and professional school at the University of Georgia – a fast track for them to be considered for admissions and financial aid. Financial support is foreseen for the

students or “ACS scholars,” as they will be called. The agreement also calls for the University of Georgia to make available graduate students and post-doctoral students to ACS campuses where they can be of service in teaching and advising students while they learn about the advantages of teaching and spending their careers on liberal arts campuses.

Another feature of the partnership is to offer opportunities for ACS and UGA faculty to develop academic partnerships, enabling faculty to work together on joint research projects, use facilities on various campuses, produce joint publications and collaborate in other ways as well.

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ACS Member Institutions

Birmingham-Southern College
Centenary College of Louisiana
Centre College
Davidson College
Furman University
Hendrix College
Millsaps College
Morehouse College
Rhodes College
Rollins College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Southwestern University
Spelman College
Trinity University
University of Richmond
Washington and Lee University

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ACS Receives Grant for Faculty and Institutional Rejuvenation

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decision making and acquisition of leadership skills, preparing faculty for taking positions on key committees, becoming department chairs and assuming other administrative responsibilities.

The third focal point is on the personal development of faculty, encompassing opportunities for retirement planning, ways of utilizing retired faculty and experiences in alternative settings that

could be helpful both personally and professionally.

Information will be distributed shortly on the program's organization, application guidelines, the proposal review process and time tables. In the meantime, questions may be addressed to the ACS director of program development, Marcia White at mwhite@colleges.org.

ACS and University of Georgia Create New Partnership

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Provost Mace and President Schrum sign the new partnership arrangement between ACS and UGA. In President Schrum's words, "This is a most promising and exciting arrangement for the future."

Collaboration in environmental studies is also anticipated, with both partners to share their considerable

resources in working together on new initiatives. Conversations have already begun in the international area, as the partners look at opening up a wide variety of overseas programs to students from the participating institutions. Finally, a clearinghouse of information will be established so that faculty can be fully informed about a variety of activities – such as special workshops and conferences – in which they may like to participate.

An initial organization meeting was held in July and further details will be provided in the near future. Interested parties are encouraged to look at the ACS website or contact Marcia White at mwhite@colleges.org.

Upcoming ACS Events

September 14-15, 2007	Deans' Meeting <i>Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana</i>
September 14-16, 2007	Undergraduate Research in the Humanities Conference <i>Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas</i>
October 19-20, 2007	Diversity Planning Committee Meeting <i>Sewanee: The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee</i>
October 19-20, 2007	Faculty in Chinese Studies Meeting <i>Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida</i>
November 1-2, 2007	Human Resources Directors' Meeting <i>Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina</i>
December 2-4, 2007	Student Affairs and Residence Life Directors' Meeting <i>Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi</i>
February 15-16, 2008	Deans' Meeting <i>Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina</i>
February 15-16, 2008	British Studies Conference <i>Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama</i>
February 15-17, 2008	ACS Environmental Initiative Key Players Brainstorming Workshop <i>Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina</i>
March 14-15, 2008	Latin American Studies Symposium <i>Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama</i>

International Programs

ACS Fall Semester in Turkey Program Underway

The ACS Fall Semester program in Turkey is underway – with sixteen students participating. Following the usual pattern of the last seven years, they began the program in Istanbul, studying the Turkish language at Istanbul Technical University (ITU). After three and a half weeks in Istanbul, they moved to Ankara where they take classes at the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bilkent University. The program, which is made available to students in the ACS, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, and Great Lakes Colleges Association, is led this year by Kathy Kamp and

John Whitaker, professors of anthropology at Grinnell College. Administrative aspects of the program are managed by Anne Ledvina, associate director of international programs at Birmingham-Southern College. Academic program questions may be addressed to Kathy Kamp at kamp@grinnell.edu, and administrative questions to Anne Ledvina at gpturkey@bsc.edu.

ACS faculty are encouraged to bring the fall 2008 program to the attention of their students – the deadline for application is February 15, 2008.

Faculty Development Seminar in Costa Rica

In June 2007, Rollins College organized and led the second annual faculty development seminar on Sustainable Development in Monteverde, Costa Rica, for the 42 colleges of the Global Partners Project.

The seminar examined the tension between conservation and development in one of the world's "last great places." Ten faculty from Birmingham-Southern, Centre, Furman, Millsaps, Rollins, and Knox College participated, with a generous subsidy from Rollins for half their expenses to significantly reduce costs. One participant commented that he was "particularly impressed by the commitment to faculty global experiences



2007 Costa Rica Faculty Development Seminar participants.
Photo Credit: Li Wei, Rollins College

in the Rollins internationalization effort." Another stated "this is a wonderful learning opportunity, our students could never pull all these things together sitting in a classroom." Rollins has International Learning Centers in both Costa Rica and Shanghai, China, fulfilling its long-term goal of developing multiple international learning centers for liberal arts institutions. Another seminar is planned for next summer. For more information, see the website at http://www.colleges.org/enviro/programs/faculty_seminar07.html, or contact Barry Allen at ballen@rollins.edu.

16th Latin American Studies Symposium at Birmingham-Southern College

BSC Latin American Studies Program invites proposals from students for the 16th Annual LAS Symposium hosted by the Birmingham-Southern College on March 14-15, 2008. This interdisciplinary conference aims to promote undergraduate research focused on Latin America.

All topics pertaining to Latin America are welcome, and presentations should be 15 minutes in length. Proposals of panels are encouraged and faculty members are invited to serve as panel chairs and discussants. Papers in English, Spanish and Portuguese will be considered.

Registration: All participants are asked to register for the conference. The registration fee is \$20.00.

Submissions: Please send panel/paper proposals to the address below or submit online.
Deadline: November 30, 2007

By Mail:

Barbara Domcekova
Latin American Studies Symposium, Director
Birmingham-Southern College
900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254

Phone: (205) 226-4975

Fax: (205) 226-3089

Online:

<http://www.bsc.edu/academics/las/symposium.htm>

British Studies Conference in 2008

The February 15-16, 2008 conference on British Studies will be the third in a series -- and all have been exceptionally well received by participating students and faculty. This year's conference will be held at Birmingham-Southern. Information on the conference may be obtained from Michael Leslie at Rhodes College (LESLIE@rhodes.edu) or Mark Lester (mlester@bsc.edu).

Related to the conference is the very successful long-term Summer program offered by Rhodes on British Studies at Oxford, which is in its 38th year. Information on this Summer program for 2008 may be obtained from Michael Leslie at LESLIE@rhodes.edu.

Environmental Programs

Grants Available

Last year, ACS awarded 20 environmental mini-grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000 to 31 students, faculty, and staff at ten different ACS institutions, for environmental projects such as curriculum development, campus-community partnerships, service learning, environmental justice projects, student teaching assistantships, and environmental internships. Again this year, three inter-institutional alliances (Curriculum and Faculty Development, Student

Development and Engagement, and Campus-Community Partnerships) seek proposals. Alliances now have a rolling deadline for proposals; support is awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis. RFPs are online at www.colleges.org/enviro, and successful proposals are at www.colleges.org/enviro/proposals/past_proposals.html.

For more information, contact Elizabeth MacNabb at emacnabb@centre.edu or 859-238-6234.

Presidents Climate Commitment (PCC)

Five ACS institutions (Birmingham-Southern College, Centre College, Furman University, Sewanee: The University of the South, and Washington and Lee University) have joined the Presidents Climate Commitment, a nationwide movement to “address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate” (www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/about.php). Signatories agree to conduct a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas

emissions within one year, and within two years, to develop an institutional plan and a target date for becoming “climate neutral.” Additionally, six ACS institutions (Morehouse College, University of Richmond, Rollins College, Sewanee: The University of the South, Southwestern University, and Washington and Lee University) have signed another sustainability agreement, the Talloires Declaration (TD). The TD is international in focus, and is much broader and less binding than the PCC, and requires no deadlines.

For more information, visit www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires_td.html.

February Workshop Scheduled

The ACS Environmental Initiative (ACSEI) will host a “Key Players Brainstorming Workshop” at Davidson College February 15-17th, 2008. The workshop, which will run concurrently with the quarterly ACS Deans Meeting at Davidson, will have two primary goals: 1) to provide an opportunity for faculty and deans to meet to discuss the future of ACSEI and its programs on each campus; and 2) to share information about the Presidents Climate Commitment. At least one faculty member from each of the sixteen

campuses will receive an invitation to attend. ACSEI will pay for the faculty member’s travel and accommodations expenses. It is hoped that this brainstorming workshop will assist ACS campuses to continue environmental programs with or without outside financial support.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth MacNabb at emacnabb@centre.edu or 859-238-6234.

Campus activities

Green Living

Ten ACS campuses have achieved the goal of providing a “green” residence for students who wish to live in an environmentally friendly fashion. In construction are Birmingham-Southern’s Ecohouse and environmental lake/park area, as well as Centre’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Pearl Hall. Davidson’s sustainable living co-op (the Eco-Op) has been approved for 2007-2008, as has Millsaps’ freshman environmental residence hall, and Southwestern’s Green Hall. Due to its long-term success, Furman’s Eco-Cottage space doubled in size this year, to house 16 students. Details about Hendrix’s Ecohouse can be found on page 5. Sewanee has supported an Ecohouse for 4 years. Spelman is slated to become the first historically black college to build a LEED-certified residence hall. And last but not least, Trinity’s

LEED-renovated Lightner Hall will host a community of 48 students dedicated to increasing environmental awareness in 2007-2008. For more details about these residences, please read the most recent *Green Times* online at <http://www.colleges.org/enviro/newsletters/JUN07GrnTimes.pdf>

BSC Eco-Scape

Located within walking distance of Birmingham-Southern College (BSC), the new College Hills EcoScape was officially dedicated on June 9, 2007. This 10,000 square foot outdoor classroom is the seventh urban garden to be dedicated by BSC’s Southern Environmental Center (SEC) in metro Birmingham since 1996, and the third this year. The EcoScape will function as a community park, and will be used as an outdoor classroom by both BSC’s Urban Environmental Studies Program and Northstar Children’s

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Environmental Programs

Campus activities

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Camp. As a result of a grant from the ACS Campus-Community Partnerships Alliance, a compost center was created within the EcoScape. SEC director Roald Hazelhoff and BSC student Emmy Corey, along with other BSC students, hope the project will engage College Hills neighborhood residents in the creation and maintenance of the composting station. For more information about the Southern Environmental Center and its EcoScapes, please go to www.myecoscapes.org/ecoscape.

Richmond



Photo Credit: Christie Lencsak and Ashley LeClare
University of Richmond

collaboration involving the UR School of Law, Women in Living and Learning, and the Jepson Leadership School. In addition, Interns worked with numerous campus organizations to develop programs such as the Student Sierra Club Build-It Community Fair, where they potted plants with about 60 inner city children at a fair on campus (see photo).

University of Richmond Interns Christie Lencsak and Ashley LeClare last year organized and collaborated to bring numerous environmental events to campus, including over 21 environmental speakers, films, and activities, in an unprecedented

Hendrix Eco House

Hendrix's Eco-House (<http://www.hendrix.edu/eventsnews/eventsnews.aspx?id=4542>) is home to six student residents and a host of earth-friendly projects that applicants must propose in order to live there, including a rain barrel that collects and holds rain to use for watering the lawn, and an herb garden to be used by Eco-House residents. In addition, residents run a green bicycle program for all Hendrix students, with bikes being shared at no cost; this bike program began with a mini-grant from ACS Environmental Programs.

Sewanee garden party



Students at the garden party enjoying the organic greens and organic fruit juice from Greenlife.
Photo Credit: Melissa Early,
Sewanee: the University of the South

On Earth Day, ACS Interns, ERs and residents of the Sewanee Ecohouse hosted an organic garden party. The fruits of yearlong labor paid off with the harvest of several kinds of greens from the garden, which were turned into a sumptuous meal. Partakers of the feast were strongly encouraged to bike or walk to the party, in order to arrive fossil fuel free. According to the Interns' report, about 98% did.

New Appointments

Officers of the ACS Board of Directors, for 2007-2009

Chair – Frances Lucas, President, Millsaps College
Vice Chair – John Roush, President, Centre College
Secretary – Lewis Duncan, President, Rollins College
Treasurer – Timothy Cloyd, President, Hendrix College

The ACS Council of Deans for 2007-2009

Chair – Darrell Colson, Provost and Dean of the College
Centenary College of Louisiana

New Academic Officers

- June Aprille was hired by Washington and Lee as the new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2007. Aprille was the provost at the University of Richmond. Prior to moving to Richmond, Aprille was a teacher and an administrator at Tufts University.

- John Gatta has been appointed dean of the college at Sewanee: The University of the South. Gatta replaced Dean Rita Kipp at the end of the Summer. Gatta was the associate dean of the college for faculty affairs since 2004. He has also served as visiting professor and Brown Foundation Fellow teaching English, humanities, and a non-departmental course. Gatta graduated from the University of Notre Dame and earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University.
- Laurie M. Joyner was appointed dean of faculty at Rollins College, effective July 1, 2007. Joyner served as associate dean of the faculty and student affairs at the Loyola University College of Arts and Sciences since 2005. She has a doctorate and a master of arts in sociology, both from Tulane University, as well as a bachelor's degree from Loyola University in New Orleans, also in sociology.

Program Development

Opportunity to Apply for Diversity Mini-Grants

Two types of Diversity Mini-Grants are available with Rolling Deadlines:

1. Student Led Collaboration with Faculty & Staff for Diversity Mini-Grants

The ACS Diversity Planning Committee invites students, in collaboration with faculty/staff, at all ACS institutions to submit proposals for Diversity Mini-Grant Awards. Proposals may be submitted for any type of diversity issues/concerns that directly affect and challenge campus climate. Projects considered for funding include, but are not limited to, workshops, research, internships, service projects, campus leadership projects, campus conferences, residence hall programs or summer campus activities.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 8, 2008 for grants up to \$2,500 each. Projects must be completed and final reports submitted by May 15, 2008. Information on guidelines, selection criteria, and required proposal cover sheet are found at http://www.colleges.org/diversity/programs/minigrant_students.html. Direct questions to Marcia White at mwhite@colleges.org.

2. Workshop Mini-Grants for Campus Diversity Leadership Models

The ACS Diversity Program Planning Committee is offering grants of up to \$2,000 each. These mini-grants are offered to offset expenses associated with hosting a campus workshop to develop and promote staff, faculty, and student Diversity Leadership. Diversity Leadership models include, but are not limited to, those provided by National Coalition Building Institute [NCBI], the Anti-Defamation League, Training for Social Change, and the National Conference for Community and Justice. Other models also may be used. Please note that these grants are different from the Diversity Mini-Grants for Student Led Collaboration with Faculty and Staff. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 8, 2008.** Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by May 15, 2008. Proposal and submission guidelines, selection criteria, and required forms are found at <http://www.colleges.org/diversity/programs/leadershipmodelsgrants.html>. Direct questions to Idella Glenn, Furman University, at idella.glenn@furman.edu.

Opportunity to apply for Interdisciplinary Mini-Grants

The Interdisciplinary Opportunities Task Force invites all ACS institutions to submit proposals for mini-grants. The final date for proposals, funded up to \$8,500 for initial proposals and \$4,250 for supplemental proposals, is October 15, 2007. Supplemental proposals may be submitted for projects to repeat or continue a project previously funded by an ACS Interdisciplinary mini grant. Projects may be for the Fall 2007 or Spring 2008 semesters. Submission guidelines, selection criteria, and the required standard cover sheet are found at <http://www.colleges.org/newmodels/interdisciplinary/minigrants.html>.

The purposes of these grants are to promote campus dialogue about the need and place of interdisciplinary opportunities in a Liberal Arts education; to encourage effective curricular and co-curricular changes at ACS institutions; to support innovative models and practices

through the design, evaluation, redesign, and implementation of curricular and/or co-curricular interdisciplinary opportunities and to provide a venue for the sharing of existing and new interdisciplinary models within and beyond the consortium.

While Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary often are used interchangeably, they are quite distinct in their characteristics. The Interdisciplinary Task Force developed a working definition of these two terms to guide its work and the mini-grant selection process. These definitions are found online at <http://www.colleges.org/newmodels/interdisciplinary/definition.html>. Those planning to submit proposals will want to review these definitions beforehand. Questions should be addressed to Marcia White at mwhite@colleges.org.

SDE Alliance Welcomes New Director

The Student Development and Engagement (SDE) Alliance welcomes a new director, Laura Hobgood-Oster, who teaches in the Environmental Studies program and holds the Elizabeth Root Paden Chair in Religion in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Southwestern University. A former co-director for the Sustainability,

Humanities and the Environment Alliance (2001-2003), Hobgood-Oster has been a valued member of the ACS environmental team since the program's inception in 1998, acting in a number of capacities, including Environmental Fellow.

Program Development

Diversity Sub-Committee Meeting



Jim Hunt and Ron Swain (Southwestern University) and Eric Benjamin (Sewanee: The University of the South) at the Diversity Sub-Committee Meeting.

Photo Credit: Marcia White, ACS

The Diversity Sub-Committee met in Atlanta on July 24 to review programs and activities of the Woodruff New Models grant and plan for future activities including a full committee meeting October 19-20, 2007 at Sewanee. The group reviewed programs resulting from grants given to date for Campus Leadership and for Diversity Programs that are Student Led Collaborations with faculty or staff.

Diversity Group to Meet at Sewanee

There will be a gathering of the Diversity planning committee on October 19-20 at Sewanee: The University of the South. It will center on sharing results and looking at strides made in diversity within ACS through the activities of the Woodruff Foundation funded New Models program.

The attendees will evaluate progress and plan for next steps beyond the ending of the grant in June 2008. Participants will include recipients of the mini-grants, members of the planning committee and invited guests.

Twenty one grants have been given to 12 ACS institutions. More grant funding is available and the grant ending date has been extended to June 2008. The group discussed how to increase proposal submissions as some ACS institutions have not taken advantage of the opportunity. See <http://www.colleges.org/diversity/programs/minigrants.html> for a list of current recipients.

A call for sharing of best practices in multicultural programs across the ACS was discussed and will be implemented this fall and winter on the diversity website. Idella Glenn, Director of Multicultural Affairs at Furman University, will be giving a conference session in November 2007 at the Southern Association of Colleges Student Affairs (SACSA) meeting in Dallas, Texas on Campus Diversity Leadership Models and Programs. These are projects resulting from the ACS Woodruff diversity grant initiative. With the extension of the grant ending date, it was also decided to have a meeting in early June of 2008 of key campus leaders and students to look at the focus and priorities for the future of the Diversity initiative.

During the grant period to date, two workshops have been held, one on Minority Faculty Searches and another, a Conversation With Minority Faculty. Consortial diversity web pages have been created, a campus climate survey has been considered for use by ACS and students have met with Deans on several campuses to voice their opinions and concerns. Several mini-grant recipients have been invited to present their projects and results at the meeting.

For information on the meeting, contact Marcia White at mwhite@colleges.org or Eric Benjamin at ebenjami@sewanee.edu.

Summer Teaching and Learning Workshop

The dates for the 2008 ACS Summer Teaching and Learning Workshop are June 3-8, 2008. Held each year at Rollins College in Winter Park FL, the workshop is designed for good teachers who want to hone their craft and build a culture of excellent teaching on their respective campuses. Both senior and junior faculty from all disciplines will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their teaching, trade ideas and techniques, and discuss

the unique pedagogical challenges and opportunities of the liberal arts environment. If you are interested in attending this year's workshop, please contact your academic dean or provost who will then nominate you for participation. ACS will notify faculty members of their participation by March 1. If you would like more information, please visit the workshop homepage at <http://www.colleges.org/summerteach/summerteach.html>.

The National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE)

Grant Received by Centre College

Centre College received a grant of \$24,900 from NITLE's Southern Advisory Council, as part of NITLE's new Instructional Innovation Fund. The funds will be used to build stronger collaborative relationships among IT and technology staff across NITLE institutions. The program features a symposium to be held in the Fall of 2008, during which representatives from the schools will present an overview of the major initiatives, issues, and problems affecting their campus over the past year. The purpose of these summaries will be to help each participant understand what is happening and relevant on each of the campuses, as well as to provide a level by which to measure where each college stands on various initiatives.

Additionally, in this session, participants will learn about people to contact if they want more information on how to implement any given service successfully.

At the close of the symposium, participants will complete a survey assessing the effectiveness of the workshops. Participants will then be surveyed six months following the symposium to elicit information about how the workshops have (or have not) impacted the support services offered on their campuses.

For information on the NITLE's Instructional Innovation Fund, contact Michael Nanfito at michael.nanfito@nitle.org. A total of \$145,000 remains in the fund.

NITLE Professional Development Workshops Offered

NITLE will offer the following upcoming professional development workshops for faculty and staff:

- Teaching and Learning Centers: Models and Practices, September 21-23, 2007, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT
- Technology and the Language House Curriculum, September 27 - 30, 2007, Austin College, Sherman, TX
- Copyright and Digital Materials, October 7 - 9, 2007, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
- Planning Collaborative Approaches to Teaching Upper-Level Arabic, October 12 - 14, 2007, Davidson College, Davidson, NC
- Managing and Supporting GIS: a Workshop for Instructional Technologists, Librarians, and GIS Specialists, October 17 - 20, 2007, Furman University, Greenville, SC
- Technology-Assisted Approaches to Teaching Chinese, November 18 - 20, 2007, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
- Scholarly Collaboration and Small Colleges in the Digital Age, January 10 - 12, 2008, Pomona College, Claremont, CA
- Developing and Supporting Data Fluency, March 13 - 15, 2008, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
- Enhancing Study Abroad: the Role of Technology, March 28 - 30, 2008, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

- Instructional Technology Leaders Conference, April 13 - 15, 2008, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA
- Learning to Write in the Digital Age: Writing with Technology across the Curriculum, April 16 - 18, 2008, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

Please visit <http://www.nitle.org/index.php/nitle/opportunities> for more information on these offerings, including details on how to participate.



ACS Member News



Birmingham-Southern College

Birmingham-Southern College officials launched the new Hess Center Fellows Program, which provided summer internships for eight students to examine approaches to shaping public policy.

Building upon a 20-year BSC tradition of student volunteerism and leadership, the Hess Center Fellows Program follows the service learning model of experiential learning to pair eight to ten students with nonprofit agencies that are working for systemic change both locally and globally. The internships included conducting focus groups on tax reform in the Black Belt, working with the Birmingham-Southern Council on HIV-related issues, and reevaluating Birmingham's plan to eradicate homelessness, in which the students examined and addressed critical social and economic problems. For more information on this project, go to <http://www.bsc.edu/academics/hess/leadership/hcf/fellows.htm>.



Members of **Centenary College's** Mark R. Miller Chapter of the National Residence Hall

Honorary are celebrating five regional award winners just announced by the Southwest Affiliate of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. Award winners for April 2007 from Centenary are:

- Chris Ciocchetti, Advisor of the Month, for his work with both Centenary's Honor Court and the Philosophy Discussion Group, as well as his outstanding work as a professor.
- Georgette Lang, who graduated in May, Executive Board Member of the Month. The outgoing president of the Student Government Association, she worked very hard in April to organize various events, including a banquet for Residence Life.
- Centenary's Cross Country Team, Regional Community Service Program of the Month. In April, the Cross Country team organized a "Cross Country Fun Run," inviting local children to participate. The goal of the program was to promote a healthy lifestyle and to help build community with the neighborhoods around Centenary.
- Outreach, Regional Diversity Program of the Month, for organizing a program for the National Day of Silence and designing armbands to encourage students to take a stand against violence. Originally, the program was designed to allow students to take a stand against hate crimes. However, after the Virginia Tech tragedy, the program was extended to include violence of all kinds.
- Sophomore Mindy McKoin, campus Resident Assistant of the Month.



An important promise is made to students enrolling at **Centre College**: if students meet normal academic and social obligations, they will be able to take part in an internship, will get a chance to study abroad, and will graduate in four years. If this promise is not fulfilled, Centre will pay for up to another year of tuition.

This pledge, called "The Centre Commitment," reinforces Centre's goal of providing students a personal education in a four-year time frame.

Centre makes the opportunity to participate in an internship program widely accessible and more than 80 percent of the College's students study abroad.

"The vast majority of our students graduate in four years," says Carey Thompson, dean of admission. "They arrive in the work force or in graduate programs in a more timely manner than students at other Kentucky institutions."



As part of the broadly supported plan to improve science education in American high schools and universities, two **Davidson College** professors are helping lead efforts to revamp the AP curriculum in their fields of physics and biology.

Larry Cain, professor and chair of the Physics Department, is co-chair of the AP Physics redesign committee. Composed of five high school teachers and seven college professors from across the country, Cain's committee has proposed to split up the material currently covered in AP Physics B into two AP Physics courses, among other suggested changes.

Malcolm Campbell, professor of biology and James G. Martin Program Director of Genomics, is one of just six national college faculty members appointed to the committee for AP Biology. That group has trimmed the course material covered, and chosen new topics in biology, like genomics, to include in the course. Campbell, who wrote the first college textbook for genomics, hopes the updated curriculum will keep students excited about science.

The College Board, which is also redesigning three AP history courses, charged each redesign group to help AP classes give students a "deep conceptual understanding" of their subjects at the introductory college level and make the curriculum more relevant in their ever-evolving fields.



FURMAN **Furman University** signed the Presidents Climate

Commitment, a high-visibility national effort to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education so it can help equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate. The Presidents Climate Commitment is an effort to put

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colleges and universities in the forefront of the mushrooming national emphasis on sustainability, environmental awareness and energy independence. Modeled after a successful initiative adopted by many of the nation's major cities, it focuses on garnering institutional commitments to reduce and eventually eliminate global warming emissions on campus.

"Furman's holistic commitment to sustainability, endorsed by the university's Board of Trustees in 2001, makes the university a natural participant in the Presidents Climate Commitment," President David Shi said. He added that "The Climate Commitment represents a powerful and public form of institutional engagement—which is an especially apt role for Furman, given our longstanding emphasis on engaged learning, environmental sustainability and civic responsibility."

Action plans will include measures such as the use of renewable sources of energy, energy conservation, high performance "green" buildings, and curricular initiatives designed to educate young people about climate change and environmental stewardship.



The Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation has awarded **Hendrix College** a \$2.3 million challenge grant, a grant to endow the Walker Odyssey Scholars Program that provides Hendrix students with significant and life-building engaged learning experiences. The endowment will expand in perpetuity the college's already successful Walker Odyssey Scholars Program, previously funded through two grants from the foundation totaling \$300,000.

Last year, more than 100 Hendrix students were selected as Walker Odyssey Scholars, choosing to develop ambitious, outside-the-classroom projects through the college's Odyssey program. These students participated in various one-of-a-kind projects – converting an aquarium in the college's life sciences building into a coral reef ecosystem, rebuilding a gas kiln for the art department's ceramics studio, developing the "Summer Stories" arts program for central Arkansas children, and engaging in international travel experiences such as studying Aboriginal culture first-hand in the Australian Outback.



Millsaps College has announced that it is beginning to offer two new majors—biochemistry and public management—starting in the 2007-08 academic year. The new programs bring Millsaps' offerings to 30 majors within the divisions of arts and letters, sciences and the Else School of Management, plus an option for a self-designed major.

Tim Ward, dean of the division of sciences and a chemistry professor, and Patrick Hopkins, a philosophy professor interested in biomedical ethics, introduced the biochemistry major to the Millsaps faculty late last year. The addition of biochemistry to Millsaps' offerings shows the emphasis the college places on offering strong premedical programs. Biochemistry majors attend graduate school and are also employed often by hospitals, private laboratories and chemical manufacturers.

The public management major will combine and build on existing management and political science courses at the college. Richard A. Smith, senior vice president and dean of the college, says the program meets a need for preparation for public service careers. The public management degree at Millsaps is the first undergraduate degree of its kind in the state.



The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has donated \$2 million to endow The Goldman Sachs Leadership Chair in Civil and Human Rights at **Morehouse College**. The first person to hold the Chair will be the new director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, consisting of 10,000 pieces of the late Dr. King's writings and memorabilia.

Goldman Sachs will work closely with the holder of this new Chair, as well as with the faculty and administration of Morehouse, to develop programs both on campus and at the firm around the theme of leadership as exemplified by the life of Dr. King.

There is a connection between Goldman Sachs and Morehouse dating back nearly 100 years. John Hope, the first black president of Morehouse, and Walter Sachs, the son of one of the founders of Goldman Sachs, played significant leadership roles in founding the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Goldman Sachs has actively recruited at Morehouse for a number of years and today there are 39 Morehouse alumni on the professional staff at Goldman Sachs.

Rhodes College has entered into an early selection program with The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences that will allow outstanding sophomore pre-med students to be conditionally accepted into medical school. Accepted students will have considerable flexibility in both sequencing and completing premedical requirements, thus allowing them to pursue varied academic interests. An additional benefit is relief from the pressure of preparing for the MCAT exam.

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To qualify, students must have scored 1250 on the SAT (or equivalent on the ACT) and have completed 60 credits at Rhodes while maintaining a 3.3 GPA with no grades below a B- in any science course. Interested students will write a detailed proposal that outlines academic goals and indicates how coursework and academic plans will change upon acceptance into the program. Applicants will be screened by the Rhodes Health Professions Advising Committee (RHPAC) and selected by the George Washington Committee on Admissions. Successful applicants will be mentored their remaining two undergraduate years at Rhodes by the RHPAC.

"We are delighted to make this program available to our students," says Rhodes provost Charlotte Borst. "The George Washington University Medical Center is internationally known for its outstanding medical education, research and clinical care, and this program is a clear indication that they recognize the value of attracting students from strong liberal arts programs. Our partnerships with institutions like George Washington University and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital offer opportunities to Rhodes students that aren't available at many large research universities."



Ninety-eight Rollins College faculty and staff members have had the opportunity to travel abroad since Rollins

received a \$12-million gift for internationalization from Thomas J. Petters in November 2005.

For example, head of Archives and Special Collections for Olin Library and Associate Professor Wenxian Zhang, Associate Professor of History Yusheng Yao and Professor of Anthropology Robert Moore led a group of 22 to Shanghai, China, in summer 2006. A trip to Morocco took place this past January, with 16 Rollins attendees. Twelve people traveled to Prague in May, and there is a trip planned for Tanzania in spring 2008.

The trips, although faculty- and staff-focused, ultimately have one purpose: to benefit students. Assistant Professor of Anthropology Rachel Newcomb, who led the trip to Morocco, said of the trips, "I think they give faculty a new perspective on an increasingly connected world, particularly since they focus on areas where many have never had the chance to travel. With the Morocco trip, for example, most had never had any experience in a Muslim country, so it was a good opportunity for them to get to see a part of the Muslim world that's very peaceful and moderate. They'll bring back this knowledge to their students, and I expect it will definitely enhance their teaching."

SEWANEE

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) have named George Poe, professor of French at **Sewanee: The University of the South**, the 2006 Tennessee Professor of the Year.

"George Poe is an extraordinary professor," said Joel Cunningham, vice chancellor and president of the University. "He is a devoted teacher and an inspiring mentor who has brought the joy of language and international exploration to many years of students and alumni. The University of the South is honored to have him as a faculty member." Poe began teaching in 1978 and joined the Sewanee faculty in 1988. He has noted the advantages of both new resources and the tradition of generations of professors before him. "I embrace the new technologies and remain increasingly in awe of their potentialities," he says. "But I also continue to promote the more traditional power of the textual and spoken word and the importance of knowing, through disciplined study, the structural skeleton underlying the French language." Poe says that the combination of approaches builds a foundation that lasts long after students graduate.

Southwestern University

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

Aaron Prevots, an assistant professor of French, has created a website devoted to teaching and learning French through music – a website with a worldwide following. It's called "French through Songs and Singing," and can be found at www.southwestern.edu/~prevots/songs/. The site became available to the public in October 2006, and already gets between 25,000 and 30,000 "hits" per month. Professor Prevots says the idea for the website came about when he began to reflect on how to incorporate music more in French language, literature and culture classes while also sharing the educational benefits of the experience.

"The original impetus for the site was students, who over the years enjoyed learning language and culture through songs and expressed great interest in this aspect of my courses," says Prevots, who has been a member of the Southwestern faculty since 2004. "It was not unusual for them to applaud the role of singing as an invaluable activity for improving speaking and comprehension."

Prevots received a grant to support his project from the Associated Colleges of the South and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. He recorded and mixed an initial set of 50 songs to post online, then developed the website.

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Spelman College and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have signed a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding that seeks to bring the ideals of Spelman and EPA together on environmental initiatives and stewardship. Since 1993, when Spelman and EPA signed their first agreement, many Spelman students have been awarded internships and fellowships within EPA, and many have gone on to become EPA professionals. The latest agreement will serve as a building block in a solid foundation of partnership upon which both organizations will build. For example, an EPA administrator will serve as a guest lecturer for Spelman's political science environmental policy and politics class.

"Spelman has always been a progressive institution that prides itself on ethical mobility and leadership, and it is such a wonderful occurrence that our ethical mindset has caught the eye of the EPA, and particularly the EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson," said Johnnella Butler, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "We are looking forward not only to continuing our relationship with the EPA but also to strengthening our capacity to prepare for environmental challenges of the future."



TRINITY
UNIVERSITY

In order to hone student skills at finding information that is both useful and relevant, **Trinity University** has adopted an initiative called Expanding Horizons: Using Information in the Twenty-first Century Knowledge Economy. The concept of achieving information literacy was proposed by staff members of the Elizabeth Huth Coates Library after consulting with various professors on campus. The goal of the initiative is to develop the critical thinking skills, research capabilities, and writing proficiencies of students so that they can master learning objectives and strategies in the classroom as well as within the library's walls.

The campus-wide conversation about ways to enhance student learning at Trinity began a year ago with a series of proposals from staff, faculty, and students. Over the next 10 years, strategies will be integrated into the University's curriculum through directed discussions, research papers, and other academic pursuits. Planning for implementation has begun this summer and will continue in the fall. Trinity President John R. Brazil noted, "This plan has the potential of strengthening every student's ability to use, understand, and critically discriminate among the unprecedented number of information resources and research materials, both print and electronic, available today."



Seven **University of Richmond** students have won outstanding national awards: Three 2007 graduates have been awarded grants by the U.S. Department of State's Fulbright Program, which provides funds for international graduate study, research and teaching: Genevieve Goulding of Corapeake, North Carolina, Jessica Loman of New Port Richey, Florida and Kate McKinney, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Jill Petroski, a rising junior from Farmington, Connecticut, received a Clare Booth Luce Scholarship, which covers tuition, room and board for her junior and senior years. The program promotes the advancement of women in the sciences and engineering.

Three students have also been named winners of the 2006-07 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship competition, the premier undergraduate scholarship in mathematics, science and engineering. The winners were: Bryan Der, a junior biochemistry major from Chester, Virginia, Alex Moore, a sophomore biochemistry major from Chesapeake, Virginia and Evan Wang, a sophomore double-majoring in chemistry and mathematics from Midlothian, Virginia.



Washington and Lee University has received an extraordinary gift of \$100 million, the largest in the

258-year-old school's history and one of the largest ever received by a liberal arts college. "This act of generosity, vision and loyalty ensures that Washington and Lee will fulfill its historic mission to educate leaders who possess integrity and a commitment to service," said W&L President Kenneth P. Ruscio.

Of the total sum, \$85 million will increase existing funds for need-based aid at the university. "We want top students who can benefit from one of the country's best, most personal liberal arts education" said Ruscio. "This gift means that financial circumstances need not prevent such students from choosing W&L." The endowment gift will enable the University to establish a new scholarship program, create two new professorships, establish a lecture series and symposium to shape a national conversation on leadership in the 21st century, and establish a leadership experience program that will enable rising seniors to pursue a summer project or an internship to develop their leadership potential.

In April of this year, W&L received a matching grant of \$33 million from another donor, to increase and maintain faculty salaries. Both gifts undergird the university's new strategic plan, which W&L completed in May.



Associated Colleges of the South