

Great Lakes Colleges Association  
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Albion • Allegheny • Antioch • Denison • DePauw • Earlham • Hope • Kalamazoo • Kenyon • Oberlin  
Ohio Wesleyan • Wabash • Wooster

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## Our Mission

The mission of the Great Lakes Colleges Association is to take actions that will help strengthen and preserve our colleges; and be a leading force on behalf of education in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences. Rich in tradition, GLCA will continue to enhance our colleges by leading as new areas of opportunity and challenge emerge.

## FEATURE STORY—New York Arts Program

New York Arts Program announces that the Summer Conservatory 2012 promises to be bigger and better than ever.

NY Theatre Intensive is a 6-week summer program for actors, writers and directors in New York City focusing on the skills of New Play development and the collaborative process. Everyone participates in all disciplines and will leave the program with two new pieces written by them and for others, a published work and an experience of a lifetime.

Faculty includes artists from the ranks of the famed Ensemble Studio Theatre, NYU and the NY theatre scene. This year there will be a closer relationship with the Berkshire Playwrights Lab and Southampton Writers Conference, offering students a real inside look at new work as it is being created for the American theatre.

Past guest speakers have included Pulitzer Prize winners David Auburn and Donald Margulies, Lois Smith (*Trueblood*), Dominic Chianese (*Sopranos*), Jerry Zaks (*Sister Act*)

and many more.

Susan Merson will actually be in the Chicago area in late February and plans to visit GLCA campuses to talk about the program with students.

Please feel free to urge theatre students and faculty who may be interested in being a part of the program this summer to [summerconservatory@gmail.com](mailto:summerconservatory@gmail.com). University credit and professional development programs are offered.

For additional information on the program, check out this video: <http://nytheatreintensives.org/registration.htm>




## Call for Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Beacon* is March 23, 2012. Please send submissions electronically as e-mail text or attachments to Charla White, Editor at [white@glca.org](mailto:white@glca.org). Submissions may be edited for length. Feedback and comments are always welcome.

## NEWS ABOUT GLCA SCHOOLS

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### Albion—Fed Challenge and Patience in the Lab

Teamwork and preparation paid off for Albion's "Fed Challenge" team, as the group took an honorable mention in the national College Challenge hosted by the Federal Reserve on November 29.



*Albion's "Fed Challenge" Team, 2011*

"How many other times will you see Albion and Harvard competing?" asked team member Heather Waldron. "We all worked really hard to get here, and it was an once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Harvard finished first in the competition; Rutgers finished second, while Lafayette and North Carolina-Chapel Hill each received an honorable mention with Albion. The five schools reached the national finals after winning their respective regional Fed Challenges, with Albion representing the Federal Reserve's Chicago district.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke opened the competition, held in the Federal Open Market Committee conference room, "where the course of monetary policy is determined," said economics and management professor Kotaro Yoshida, the team's coach.

A three-judge panel, including Federal Reserve Governor Elizabeth Duke, watched Albion's performance and then grilled the team with spontaneous questions. A question on the European economic crisis and its impact on the domestic economy "was exactly what we had prepared for a number of times," said Yoshida. The other three questions, covering technical knowledge and informed opinion, "were also things we had studied before, so the Q&A went fairly well," Yoshida added.

Team captain Thomas Worden noted the team's commitment was a key factor. "I underestimated the amount of time you have to devote to the competition," he said, explaining that "in the last few weeks before the regional competition, we were spending 20 to 35 hours a week preparing. It was an enormous amount of work, but it paid off."

"It was a wonderful experience in my last semester at Albion College," said team member Kurt Tech. "In all my classes, I have never had an experience that brought all of the theories

and models into practice, and to see how the real world varies so much from the classroom. I hope to see teams competing from our school in the years to come."

"Personally, I learned a great deal of the current economic and financial conditions and current monetary policymaking," Yoshida commented. "At the same time, I was able to observe how different personalities with different skills can come together and complement each other as a team. One of the judges spoke highly of our teamwork. This was a very rewarding experience for me."

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Albion chemistry students working in Professor Kevin Metz's lab have learned that patience is important through Lyndsey Reynolds' breakthrough, which led to her winning a best poster award at the Midwestern Undergraduate Symposium on Research in Chemistry at Michigan State University.

"The amount of progress we have accomplished in one year with Lyndsey, I would anticipate it would take two or maybe three years with multiple students," Metz said. "There were 50-plus posters at the conference and she walked away with one of three awards. It's a nice poster that she can thoroughly and confidently explain."

"Students interested in moving on to medical school come to us and we give them a specific, narrow project that requires deep thinking, but they don't get exposed to many processes. It shows she can learn a wide variety of interrelated multidisciplinary tasks quickly and she can tie them all together to answer a specific question she's interested in," added Metz.



*Lyndsey Reynolds in the lab*

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## Denison—Educational Access and Inequity in Nation’s Capital

*Jerome Price '12 raised questions about education in the U.S. and recently took that thinking to Washington, D.C. for a Break Away service trip. Price shares some of his thoughts and observations ...*

You can learn a lot about a community through its schools. They are the depth and breadth of the people and places they serve. They represent the promise and hope for the future. In Washington, D.C., that reality was no different, as I witnessed during the last week of winter break while exploring the complexities of what drives me most: education in America.

I traveled there with 13 other Denison students, as a co-leader of a Break Away service trip. Our itinerary involved visits to three different sites: a revolutionary open-enrollment college preparatory charter school, an infamously under-resourced public high school, and an elite co-educational Quaker day school. One of our objectives was to learn about educational access and inequities in the nation’s capital. Here was the opportunity I had been waiting for. I spend a lot of time discussing and thinking about our nation’s educational systems. The week represented the opportunity to spend time within those very systems, and learn from both teachers and students alike.

We arrived on Sunday, Jan. 8, passing through the historic Georgetown neighborhood en route to our housing site at the Steinbruck Center for Urban Studies. As we rode down Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, I began to think about the moving scene in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, when actor Will Smith states, “They all looked so happy.” It was clear that an abundance of economic opportunity coupled with affluence and wealth resided in the nation’s capital. Within minutes, however, poverty and limited access to livelihood became overtly apparent. It was obvious that several pockets across the city had yet to be reached.

Our first visit was to the KIPP DC: Promise Academy, which serves grades 1-3. KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) is a nationally renowned K-12 educational system that aims

to move students from low-income communities into and through college. KIPP achieves this goal with longer school days, high expectations for its students, and a dedicated team of administrators and teachers who share a sense of teamwork and community, an atmosphere not found in many other schools. The Promise Academy culture is at once meticulous—from the “Class of 2023” banner that graced the halls to the cell phones staff members carried to be reached at all times—and yet fun, fresh and avante-garde. “You’ve got to read, baby, read,” sang a class full of third graders. It shaped my thinking, and I soon realized that KIPP schools have to make up for the social inequalities present in the daily lives of the children they serve.

A few miles away, at Anacostia Senior High School, we witnessed the game-changing challenges public education faces. We already knew that the quality of public education in America is largely determined by neighborhoods, not laws, and Anacostia proves the point. After walking in the side entrance of Anacostia, we had to go through a metal detector, one by one. Such an experience can be unnerving, especially after leaving KIPP. I could easily see the obstacles many underperforming schools face, such as crowded classrooms and limited resources. But on a more profound level, I found it hard to get a clear vision of what it hoped its students would achieve. I recalled KIPP’s banner-adorned hallways, and noted that Anacostia’s walls are bare. And Anacostia’s students are stuck there, fundamentally locked into that particular school system—unless, that is, they are lucky enough to be chosen in a lottery to attend schools like KIPP. Was this America? Even though Promise Academy admitted students from the same neighborhood as Anacostia, the school cultures were visibly divergent.

Finally, we visited Sidwell Friends School in the northwestern section of the city. Sidwell is a highly esteemed Quaker school, with alumni ranging from CEOs to world leaders. After lunch (where I stood in line with Malia Obama, the President’s eldest daughter), we toured the middle school facility and participated in a question-and-answer session with

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## Denison—Educational Access and Inequity in Nation's Capital *cont'd*

of Sidwell embraces creativity and allows for both academic and social freedom among students and faculty alike. Its crème de la crème eco-friendly facilities are remarkable. Throughout our tour, I continued to think: If only the kids across town knew what was being offered at schools like Sidwell and an education at Sidwell was largely maintained for students of the upper crust.

What I know for sure from my experience is that there is currently a movement in the nation's capitol to transform educational opportunity. Programs like [Teach For America](#) work to ensure that all children in this nation have an equal shot at a quality education.

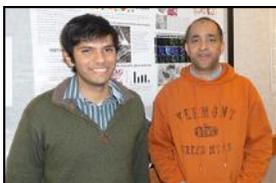
Was it luck that made all of the difference for the children in D.C.? Socioeconomic status alone does not define a person's chance to receive a top-notch education in America. However, children in low-income communi-

ties will continue to have a tougher time reaching a leveled playing field with boys and girls from some of the most well-to-do neighborhoods in the nation. That is, unless the standards of quality education for all children are raised across the board. Lawmakers and government officials who send their children to such well-resourced schools cannot afford to ignore the limited opportunities many students are forced to endure each day.

I am hungry to see more revolutionary models in K-12 education. Every day, I yearn for more school leaders and community members with enough gusto to say that the time to transform education in the free world has come. Realizing the potential for excellence in teaching and learning within the hardest hit communities and acting on it will fundamentally transform the culture of education in America—whether public, charter, or independent.

## DePauw—Heart Regeneration Study

Six DePauw students who worked in Assistant Professor of Biology Pascal Lafontant's heart regeneration lab contributed to a recently published study. Appearing in the February 2012 issue of [The Anatomical Record](#), their research used the giant danio fish as a model of cardiac regeneration.



Tanmoy Lala Das and  
Professor Pascal Lafontant

In the article, Lafontant and his students describe inflammation, collagen deposition and tissue remodeling in the hearts of the small fish. In humans, these processes occur following heart attacks, leading to scarring of the heart muscle that weakens it significantly. In the giant danio, however, the researchers demonstrate that the heart of the three-inch fish can regenerate even in the presence of these limiting processes. Lafontant believes that by understanding the regeneration process in the giant danio, researchers may be able to reduce the threat of heart disease in humans.

"Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States," Lafontant explains. "According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 750,000 Americans have a heart attack every year, and the cost of caring for heart disease patients topped \$300 billion in 2010.

"The Holy Grail of cardiovascular research is to replace tissue damaged by a heart attack with new functional tissue. Scientists study heart attacks and heart failure using different animals such as mice and zebrafish. We thought that the giant danio, which has been used as a model of skeletal growth, could be a good model for heart attack and regeneration. We are interested in finding out how the fish achieve this remarkable feat in the hope that someday we can apply this knowledge toward potential intervention in humans."

Four of Lafontant's students are listed as co-authors of the paper: Jamie A. Grivas '10, currently serving as assistant director of on-campus programs at DePauw; Mary Ann Lesch '10, a second-year medical student at Indiana University School of Medicine; Tyler D. Frounfelter '09, a third-year student at IU Dental School; and Tanmoy Lala Das '12, a senior biology student. Benjamin L. Golden '10 and Amanda R. Miller '11, a physician assistant student at Indiana State University, are acknowledged for their technical help performing specific assays.

Das won an award for his role in the research in the American Association of Anatomists' Undergraduate Poster Competition at Experi-

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## DePauw—Heart Regeneration Study *Cont'd*

mental Biology 2011. He was invited to travel to Washington, D.C., by the association last August to discuss how to increase undergraduate students' participation in research. An essay reflecting his experience doing research at DePauw appeared in the American Association of Anatomists News in December.

"It is quite unusual to have undergraduate students as co-authors in a publication," Lafontant says. "However, being at a small liberal arts institution is highly beneficial to students because many faculty members depend on undergraduates to conduct research. The students receive excellent training, and they get to be trusted in conducting crucial and significant portions of the investigations. Students in the lab are generally excited and committed to what they see as important work.

They get to travel to major conferences to present parts of the work, and they realize that many things that are worthwhile to pursue take time, so they persevere."

Because the research and publication process can take many years, it's rare for a single student to see a project through to its completion. However, the turnover gives more students a chance to participate in the research, and Lafontant says that graduates of his lab have a clearer picture of where to go next.

"It's very rewarding to see students grow in confidence at being able to do original research, at being able to ask pertinent questions and designing and carrying out experiments," he adds. "This confidence seems to allow them to envision success at the next level."

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## Earlham—Annual United Nations (ECMUN) Conference

The Earlham campus became an epicenter for global problem solving during the annual Earlham College Model United Nations (ECMUN) Conference January 27 and 28.

ECMUN 2012 boasted 230 high school students and 25 advisors, nearly twice the size of the previous largest conference on campus, according to Welling Hall, politics professor and ECMUN faculty supervisor.

High school students from around the region attended the welcoming session of Earlham's Model United Nations conference in Goddard Auditorium in January. "I think the main reason for such a significant increase is our growing reputation from year to year," says Ivan Babic, a junior from Bosnia, who served as ECMUN secretary-general. "I personally believe that Model United Nations conferences are life-changing experiences, especially here at Earlham where you can meet people from more than 70 countries around the world. Another important aspect that sets the ECMUN experience apart from others is the fact that our conference is almost 100 percent run by Earlham students." Babic says that nearly 30 highly motivated members of ECMUN Club organized and ran the conference including serving as committee chairs. This year, members of Welling Hall's "International Relations" course assisted the club.

"We have the most internationally diverse staff in the region; we are an interactive hands-on conference. Also, we focus on the substance of the issues as bearing on the lives of real people rather than as an extension of a debating club to score debating points," says Hall.

High school participants register and learn of their countries and issues beforehand. The students research their designated country before arriving at the academic simulation where they take on roles as UN diplomats. Using parliamentary procedure, students consult, negotiate and debate with others to develop solutions and resolutions to real-world problems.

Mary Grabianowski, Zionsville High School teacher and Model UN sponsor, has brought a group to ECMUN every year since at least 1999. "We compete in several MUNS and Earlham's is the one the students most look forward to," Grabianowski says. "It is organized and well-run. They are learning first-hand from citizens of other countries what is going on in that country," she says.

[Click here for excerpts from the opening session.](#)



*2012 United Nations Conference Attendees*



*Ivan Babic, ECMUN secretary-general*

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## Hope—Students Earn National and Regional Research Awards

Xander Krieg, a senior from Franklin, will receive a national Undergraduate Research Award for his research project “Attachment and Hikikomori: a Psychosocial Developmental Model.” The recognition will be presented by Psi Chi during the national convention of the American Psychological Association in August.

In May, the Midwestern chapter of Psi Chi will present research awards to students for two different studies. The team of junior Ariana Cappuccitti, junior Rachel Cho, senior Allyson Dreger and senior Heather Stiff is being honored for “Physiological and Psychological Anxiety Levels in Dancers during Performance Compared to Rehearsal.” Senior Elizabeth Fast is being honored for “Lexical class and explicitness as modulators of the neural mechanisms of metaphor comprehension.” She had the assistance of seniors Ashley Drew and Audrey Weil in the completion of the project. The regional awards will be presented during the 84<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in May.

Since 2000, four Hope students have received national research awards from Psi Chi and a total of 19 Hope research teams have received the regional recognition.

Krieg’s research investigated risk factors that could potentially predict “hikikomori,” a condition of acute social withdrawal, found primarily in Japan, in which individuals shut themselves away from society for months or years on end. Hikikomori are often adolescents or young adults—and even into middle age—who isolate themselves in their rooms in their parents’ homes, with an estimated 700,000 individuals in Japan affected by the condition. Measuring a variety of characteristics, the study found that the combination of “ambivalent attachment” (a “warm-cold” pattern in close relationships, often a consequence of childhood experience) and peer rejection together significantly predict hikikomori.

Krieg is dual-majoring in Japanese studies and psychology and minoring in sociology. He collected data for the research while spending his fall 2010 semester studying in Tokyo, comparing a clinical sample of hikikomori with a contrast group of undergraduate stu-

dents. He conducted his research with Jane Dickie, psychology.

The dance study, a unique collaboration involving three departments (biology, dance and psychology), considered how dancers’ anxiety levels differed between rehearsal and performance settings, as well as before and after performances. Involving 73 of the college’s dance students, the study measured the amount of cortisol—a hormone that spikes in response to stress—in the dancers’ saliva and examined their mental state through a series of questions. The study found that anxiety levels were higher before performances than before rehearsals, but also showed the benefit of training and experience: dancers with more experience were less anxious both before and after performances than those with less.

All four of the research students are themselves involved in the dance program: Cappuccitti is dual-majoring in dance and psychology, Cho is dual-majoring in dance and chemistry, Dreger is majoring in exercise science and minoring in dance, and Stiff is dual-majoring in dance and chemistry. The students conducted their research with Greg Fralley, biology; Linda Graham, dance; and Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, psychology.

The metaphor-comprehension study considered whether or not there are differences within the brain when an individual is confronted with either literal or metaphorical statements. The study participants were presented with literal sentences like “There was chaos in the city after the earthquake” and metaphorical sentences like “The unexpected divorce was an earthquake,” as well as “anomalous” control sentences like “He sloppily taped the picture to the earthquake.” The study used the department’s EEG (electroencephalography) system machine to measure N400 waves (an index of semantic processing), finding a larger N400 for metaphorical statements than for literal ones.

Fast is a psychology major and neuroscience minor. She conducted her research with Gwenda Schmidt, psychology, whose research emphases include semantic processing, neural correlates of language processing, the role of the right hemisphere in language processing, figurative language processing, and language and figurative language deficits in autism.

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## Kalamazoo—Winning at Student Competitions



*Kalamazoo students at Battle of Brains: Will Guedes '15, Tibin John '15, Chris Clerville '13, Jiakan Wang '13, Lucas Kushner '14, and Trung Hoang '12.*

Kalamazoo took second place in the 2011 Michigan Autumn Take Home Challenge (MATH Challenge). "K" finished 11 points behind Connecticut College and nine points ahead of third-place Calvin College. "This year we fielded six teams, the most we've ever entered," said John Fink, Mathematics and Computer Science. Four of those teams finished in the top 10 of the 66 teams that participated. Congratulations to: 2nd place--Trung Huong, Hang Nguyen, Jiakan Wang; 5th place --Jake Arnett, Aidan Klobuchar, Jake Price; 7th place (tie with University of Detroit Mercy)--Jinyhuan Huang, Greg Toprak, Umang Varma; 9th place--Tibin John and Fayang Pan; 22nd place--Utsav Adhikari, Mojtaba Akhavantafi, Dan Esman; and 36th place--Mehmet Kolgolu, Sajjan Silwal, Sina Yakhshitafti.

Additionally, students from Kalamazoo worked together to build their mental endurance and speed in anticipation of a big test. No, not mid-terms—the 36th annual Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest sponsored by IBM. Regional competitions for the so-called "Battle of the Brains" attracted tens of thou-

sands of students from schools in about 90 countries on six continents, all with the same dream to walk away with prizes, scholarships, job opportunities, and a coveted spot among the top 100 teams invited to the World Finals in Poland in May 2012. Two Kalamazoo teams competed against the smartest collegiate IT talent from 122 colleges and universities in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, including teams from MSU, UM, Purdue, Notre Dame, and Ohio State. Each three-student team applied its programming skills to solve complex real world problems under a grueling five-hour deadline huddled around a single computer. "The two 'K' teams did great," said Pam Cutter, Computer Science. "We had seniors through freshmen participating." The "Black Hornets" finished tied for 48th, and the "Orange Hornets" finishing 53rd. "We're proud of their effort and for standing up to the 'big schools.' It was time well spent and a great learning experience for all." Congratulations to students Will Guedes '15, Tibin John '15, Chris Clerville '13, Jiakan Wang '13, Lucas Kushner '14, and Trung Hoang '12.

## Ohio Wesleyan —Undergraduate Wins NSF Grant

Sean Williams '11 has been selected to receive a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. These pre-doctoral awards are more typically presented to graduate students, but the Foundation cited Williams' "outstanding abilities and accomplishments" in recommending him for the Fellowship.

The Fellowship includes an annual stipend, a cost-of-education allowance, international travel and professional development opportunities, and access to the TeraGrid scientific supercomputer network.

In addition to the NSF grant, Williams, a pre-professional zoology major from South Boston, has been awarded a University Enrichment Fellowship from Michigan State University, where he will pursue his doctorate. Fewer than 5 percent of accepted graduates receive this fellowship, which includes a stipend and health insurance.

"For undergraduate students, the NSF Fellow-

ship is the Holy Grail," says Edward H. "Jed" Burt, Williams' mentor throughout his OWU career. "However, Sean has the two qualities necessary to win it; he is absolutely passionate about his subject, birds—he just can't learn enough about them—and he has the dedication and discipline to carry that passion into creative, cutting-edge science.

"I think of him as a colleague," Burt continued. "We have published together, and this spring, we lectured together at Wheaton College and the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The Wheaton invitation came to me, but the Audubon Society invitation came to Sean. We decided that since the two lectures were only a couple of days apart and not far from each other, we'd do them together."

As Burt points out, Williams is well-known in his own right. "I expect that that he will finish four papers for publication this summer, and he's the lead author of an article published last September in *Birding* magazine," Burt said.



Sean Williams, '11

## Ohio Wesleyan—Undergraduate Wins NSF Grant *Cont'd*

“He’s presented three posters and three oral papers at national meetings of different ornithological societies. He’s scheduled to give another paper in July. He’s the only undergraduate ever to serve on a working committee of the American Ornithologists’ Union. That appointment didn’t come about because of me; he was invited by the chair of the committee, and Sean told me about it later.”

“Sean has also edited a complete volume of the *Ohio Cardinal*, the state ornithological journal, which meant summarizing the observations from A to Z for birds in Ohio during 2010—the distributions of all species that breed, winter, or migrate through the state and all rare bird sightings. I was surprised he took that on because it’s a tremendous amount of work. I wasn’t surprised, but very pleased, at what a great job he did with it.”

“On reflecting on the achievements that merited the award, I attribute every opportunity to the encouragement and guidance from the Zoology Department and the University as a

whole,” he says. “The NSF reviewers were particularly pleased with the presentations at national meetings. ... My research in Costa Rica was equally impressive [to them], which was funded by the Theory-to-Practice program. I am ... confident that I could not have achieved more at any other university in the country.”

Williams plans to work “on the conservation and ecology of birds in the tropics,” he says. “This summer I have an Early Start Fellowship, which will allow me to go to Panama with my adviser at MSU to explore a field site for a potential study. In November I plan to go to Peru with my adviser to attend the Neotropical Ornithological Congress.”

“Sean’s work throughout his college career has been exceptional,” says Rock Jones, president of Ohio Wesleyan. “The amount and quality of research he has produced is noteworthy, and the University community is delighted with the recognition that has come to him.”

## Ohio Wesleyan—Professor of the Year

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education named Edward H. “Jed” Burt Jr., Ph.D., of Ohio Wesleyan University as the 2011 Ohio Professor of the Year.

Burt, a zoology professor at Ohio Wesleyan since 1977, was recognized at a Washington, D.C., ceremony hosted by the two prestigious higher education organizations. In their words, the ceremony is intended “to honor the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country – those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students.”

Ohio Wesleyan President Rock Jones, Ph.D., said Burt is a perfect choice to receive the Ohio Professor of the Year Award.

“Jed says his mission is to help students grow into ‘mature citizen-scholars,’ and he does it with an uncommon combination of warmth, high expectations, and passion,” Jones said. “He fully exemplifies the qualities required for Professor of the Year. He changes lives every day – and at Ohio Wesleyan, we have the priv-

ilege of watching him do it.”

With Burt’s mentorship and support have helped several students receive prestigious awards. Two include: Williams was selected while an Ohio Wesleyan undergraduate to receive a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Williams also was awarded a University Enrichment Fellowship from Michigan State University, where he is pursuing his doctorate. Fewer than 5 percent of accepted Michigan State graduates receive this fellowship. 2011 Ohio Wesleyan graduate Kristin Lear, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in April to use her research skills in Australia to develop a conservation plan for the critically endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat. Lear is spending a year living and working in Naracoorte Caves National Park in South Australia.

Burt said watching students such as Williams and Lear succeed in their professional and personal lives motivates and inspires him. “The most exciting part of teaching is working one-on-one to help each student fulfill her or his special potential,” he said. “As a friend,

*“Awakening a passion in a young person and helping each student fulfill a newly formulated dream is the essence of teaching,” Burt said. “There is no higher calling, no greater purpose in life.”*

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**Ohio Wesleyan—Professor of the Year cont'd**

colleague, and mentor, I can share my values by living them and sometimes by speaking of them when consulted by a student dealing with a difficult situation. I hope that I convey to all students my passion for the birds I love, the science that provides me with boundless excitement, and the privilege I feel in becoming a trusted confidant in their lives.

During his career, Burt has delivered 115 presentations at national and international scientific meetings, including presentations with 53 different undergraduate students. He has received 16 research grants totaling more than \$3 million, which helped to provide research stipends to 89 students. He has been awarded two patents and three equipment grants totaling approximately \$800,000, which helped Ohio Wesleyan to purchase its original scanning electron microscope and its new replacement scanning transmission electron microscope. He has written four books, 54 research papers with 26 different student co-authors, and three papers on teaching methodology with four different student co-authors.

Burt has been awarded honorary life member-

ships in the Association of Field Ornithologists and Wilson Ornithological Society. He also has been elected as a Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society, American Ornithologists' Union, Ohio Academy of Sciences, and the International Ornithologists' Union. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and master's and doctoral degrees in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching have been partners in the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program since 1981. Washington, D.C.-based CASE is one of the largest international associations of education institutions, serving more than 3,400 universities, colleges, schools, and related organizations in 74 countries. The Stanford, Calif.-based Carnegie Foundation was founded in 1905 by Andrew Carnegie "to do all things necessary to encourage, uphold and dignify the profession of teaching." The foundation is the only advanced-study center for teachers in the world and the third-oldest foundation in the nation.

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**Wabash—Where Learning Never Ends**

Undergraduate students rarely, if ever, get to teach their professors, alumni, and friends in a single semi-formal academic setting. But that's exactly what happened at the Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year at the Col-

lege. "To me, the Celebration always looks like an open house at one of the nation's finest graduate research institutions, except that there isn't a graduate student in sight," said National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) President Greg Castanias '87. "It's a visual testament to the fact that Wabash College doesn't just give a 'good enough' education, but an education that transcends what most other colleges expect of young men and women. I think it's also a fine testament to how Wabash and its faculty see that our students are capable of even more than they themselves may believe they are capable of."

The presentations ranged from plans for local business ventures to an analysis of the fall of a

Libyan dictator to research in chemistry, biology, and physics. This year's Celebration also offered original photography, poetry, and a student film that has been screened across the country and around the world. Eighty students with interests as diverse as the 17 academic departments they represented taught on Friday. Their common denominator: the individual work ethic and close collaboration with faculty members that characterizes Wabash academics.

"To me, the level of intensity of the projects is always a rise. . . it's not just a science fair. And it's not just an art fair," said Lon Porter, Chemistry, who chaired this year's event.

Juniors William Costakis and Jonathan Wong presented a poster entitled "Attenuation Lengths of MoNA and LISA Detectors." The pair used a spatial light modulator machine to control the way light is rendered to the eye. Eventually, technology like this will allow television sets and screen monitors to render real 3-D images without the need for glasses.



*Chris Wright with  
Jingwei Song '15*



*Collin McKinney with  
Mike Lu '12 and Joe  
Granger '13*

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**Wabash—Where Learning Never Ends *Cont'd***

Casey Wright '12 with Trustee Fred Ruebeck

As for the pedagogy involved, Costakis appreciated the opportunity to explain his research to others. “It was nice figuring out different ways to relate our research in simpler terms,” Costakis said.

For Porter, the Celebration also says something about the College’s commitment to its own students: “It’s important that we come inward and appreciate the core of the liberal arts and share with each other as opposed to going off campus and sharing with others.”

The College’s trustees and members of the NAWM also attended the Celebration, most of them graduates from before the College offered this event—the only afternoon of the

year that classes are cancelled. “There was nothing this dramatic when I was a student here,” said Castanias. “I would have remembered if I had had to defend my English literature or philosophy research in front of a bunch of guests, including successful alumni from all around the world.”

For Castanias, new traditions—like the Celebration—add to the life of the College. “Alumni need to get back more often to remind themselves that not all the traditions of our days are still around, that new traditions have replaced the old—but even so, Wabash is still, at its essence, the same Wabash committed to a superior liberal arts education and the making of better men.”

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**Wooster—Earns All-American Honors at Moot Court Nationals**

Eight students from The College of Wooster earned All-American honors at the 2012 American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Tournament, which was hosted by Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, Calif., in January. Stephen Perrott, a junior, led the way with a trifecta — All-American honors in three categories. He was chosen as one of the Top 10 Orators (finishing eighth overall) and joined sophomore teammate Andrea Patton in advancing to the Round of 32 and finishing third in the Brief Writing competition.

“It is always gratifying to represent The College of Wooster and compete with a level of confidence that is developed through the rigorous academic challenges that Wooster and the Moot Court program provides,” said Perrott. “It is our goal to improve on the team’s history of sustained success by continuing to qualify the maximum amount of teams that the national tournament permits and continuing to compete with various institutions at the national level in both oral argument and brief writing.”

Six of Wooster’s eight teams “broke” into the second day of competition, led by juniors Janet Zahorsky and Rachel Shonebarger, who earned All-American honors by making it to the quarterfinals. Also earning All-American honors were senior John Carter and junior Amanda Collins, as well as senior Jacob Sklar and sophomore Erica Rickey.

“If you look at our team, we are represented by

a very diverse group,” said Zahorsky. “We have students from almost every aspect of student life at Wooster,” she said. “We also have international students on the team. We are all so diverse; but, in every step of the way, we have worked with each other to become better.”

Mark Weaver, political science and head coach of Wooster’s Moot Court team, expressed disappointment about being eliminated in the quarterfinals but praised his participants for their efforts. “I think we were just as well prepared and competitive as we were last year, but the judging is necessarily subjective, and this year we lost several close rounds that we won last year,” he said. “I was impressed by the hard work, commitment, and solidarity that our team exhibited throughout the year.”

Also competing for Wooster at nationals were the duos of sophomores Mae Manupipatpong and Eric Petry, who netted honorable mention honors for their Brief for Respondent; sophomore Daniel Cohen and senior Leann Do; seniors Scott Merrifield and Cassandra Zavis; and sophomores Rachel Myers and Daniel Ikuma.

Overall, 270 teams competed in eight ACMA regional tournaments (including the Midwest Regional at Wooster, which was the largest) to qualify for the national tournament. A total of 80 teams from 35 different colleges and universities received bids to this year’s national competition.

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**Wooster—Earns All-American Honors at Moot Court Nationals** *Cont'd*

“There is truly no equal to being a part of The College of Wooster’s Moot Court team,” said Rickey. “The fact that we are among the best teams in the nation speaks to the quality of the team itself as well as to the superb coaching we receive from Professor Weaver. I am so proud to say that I am a part of Wooster’s excellent Moot Court program.”

Carter voiced similar sentiments. “There should never be any doubt about the value of having a Moot Court team,” he said. “As a senior preparing for a life after Wooster, I can already see the skills that I have been able to gain and improve in the last four years. Without a doubt, Wooster will claim another national title in the next few years.”

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**Green News**

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**Allegheny—Solar Panels and Natural Lighting**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Allegheny a grant to engage elementary and secondary students in research on the impact of shale gas extraction on their local streams and the communities that use water from them.

The new component of Creek Connections, which James Palmer founded at Allegheny College in 1995 to promote regional watershed education among students from kindergarten through high school and be carried out during a two-year period. The Allegheny initiative will involve 20 elementary and secondary schools in five southwestern Pennsylvania counties.

The grant will provide the education, equipment and training needed by teachers and their students to monitor streams and their water quality. The project will focus on potential water chemistry changes resulting from dramatically expanded natural gas exploration and extraction in the region.

Creek Connections, which uses the watersheds of French Creek and the Allegheny and Ohio rivers as outdoor laboratories for water-quality investigations, has grown from five to 50 teachers at 40 elementary and secondary schools in Pennsylvania and New York.

The college will partner with Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, adapting the organization’s techniques for testing and assessing water quality to the project. It is believed that the extensive shale gas exploration in western Pennsylvania may have significant impact on water used by communities whose schools will be involved in the project.

Palmer said, “This grant will help get hundreds of kids into creeks in their communities to learn science and technology skills while collecting basic water quality data. The funding also supports teacher professional-development workshops focused on land use and surface water quality issues of particular interest in areas of gas extraction.”

The college and Creek Connections will provide all sampling materials, teacher workshops, annual student research symposia, ongoing technical assistance and at least 15 watershed curricular modules in the testing process. The college will also manage all the data at its website and make it available to the public via the Internet and at environmental education conferences.

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Allegheny received a grant from the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to bring energy-efficient natural lighting to renovation of the college’s Carr Hall.

The grant will help fund “daylighting” construction techniques, including installation of solar tubes and skylights that will allow sunlight to penetrate into interior rooms. Skylights installed in the lobby will allow more natural light into the space throughout the day.

“One of the key principles of the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies is to promote the development and use of renewable energy and clean energy technologies, so we are pleased to support Allegheny with the energy efficiency improvements that are being imple-



## Allegheny—Solar Panels and Natural Lighting *Cont'd*



“One of the key principles of the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies is to promote the development and use of renewable energy and clean energy technologies, so we are pleased to support Allegheny with the energy efficiency improvements that are being implemented at Carr Hall,” said Angie Berzonski, the foundation’s program and communications officer. “Furthermore, we applaud the college’s overall commitment to sustainability and climate neutrality.”

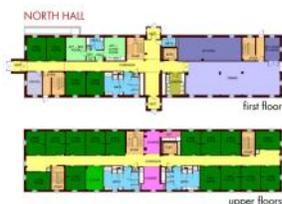
Allegheny is in the midst of a \$5.7 million renovation of Carr Hall, which will house the college’s environmental science department. The renovation also will enhance teaching spaces for the physics department, which occupies the lower level of Carr, and will significantly improve the lobby of Carr to make it a

welcoming space for students to meet and study

“This generous grant helps Allegheny move forward in our quest to become a campus that is more and more energy conscious,” said Kelly Boulton, the college’s sustainability coordinator. “The College takes its responsibility to move toward more sustainable building construction very seriously.”

Carr Hall, which will house the Richard J. Cook Center for Environmental Science when renovations are complete in summer 2012, is the focus of the Better Buildings Challenge program at the college. The renovations to Carr Hall, which was built in 1964, also will include high-efficiency HVAC systems, as well as glazing, shading and a vestibule to increase the lobby’s energy efficiency.

## Antioch—Green Renovations



The Antioch College Board of Trustees authorized College administrators to move ahead with plans for a renovation of North Hall, one of three original buildings on the 160-year-old campus, President Mark Roosevelt said.

“If we are successful in reaching our recruiting goal next year—and we think we will be—we will not have enough beds in Birch to house all of our new students,” Roosevelt said. “Restoring one of our original campus buildings would also be an incredibly important symbolic win for us as we continue to rebuild Antioch College.”

Scheduled to begin in November, the North Hall renovation is based on plans submitted by Pittsburgh firm MacLachlan, Cornelius & Fi-

loni after several visits to campus and meetings with a steering committee that included senior administrators, faculty, and representatives of the Board of Trustees’ facilities committee.

In keeping with the College’s focus on sustainability, the renovation includes several green features: double rooms and shared bathrooms; improvements to the building’s envelope; low-flow plumbing fixtures; a geothermal mechanical system; lighting controls; heat recovery systems; low VOC materials; repurposed furniture; and use of regional materials. Once the renovation is complete, the contractor would seek LEED certification, recognized national standard for measuring building sustainability.



## DePauw—Campus Farm for Students and Local Community

DePauw University students, faculty and staff are creating a campus farm for students to learn more about food, the environment and related socioeconomic issues. Sodexo, a main partner on the project, plans to use much of the produce in the university’s dining halls to increase the amount of local and sustainable food available to students. This commitment was inspired by President Obama’s Food Se-

curity Initiative, the university’s Office of Spiritual Life aims to use the farm to reduce hunger in the area as well as teach the community how to grow and preserve their own food.

## Kenyon—Let's Count the Green Ways

**Compost** - Kenyon is involved in a nationally recognized composting program that recycles waste from Peirce Dining Hall to create soil for use around campus. The program reduces the weight of landfill material by 6,000 pounds per week. At this rate, landfill waste will be cut by 312,000 pounds per year. For more information, see "[A Greener Operation](#)."

**Biodiesel** - Dudley Thomas, director of the Chemistry Department labs, has produced 80 gallons of biodiesel from dining hall waste. Maintenance staff supplement traditional fuel sources with biodiesel in lawn mowers and packers used to collect garbage.

**Green Library and Technology**—Kenyon's Library and Information Services (LBIS) is exploring many different ways to reduce the environmental impact of the school's technology infrastructure. Recently, printers in com-

puter labs across campus were converted to double-sided printing in order to conserve paper. LBIS has begun to purchase energy-efficient equipment for all future installations and upgrades. Staff also are conducting workshops and tutorials for students and faculty about how to conserve energy in electronics and technology.

**Alumni**—Lee Kane ('74) and Meryl Brott ('91) are the founders of Kenyon Green Alumni, an affinity group for graduates with a professional interest in the environment. It serves to provide opportunities for networking and fellowship, to help Kenyon students build environmental careers, and to advance environmental stewardship at the College. To join the group or to ask questions please contact Meryl Brott ([meryl@alumni.kenyon.edu](mailto:meryl@alumni.kenyon.edu)).

## Oberlin—Green Opera?

"Is there such a thing as 'Green Opera'?" a post on the Oberlin Opera Theater [Facebook page](#) asks. The cast and crew of the *Orpheus Project*, a winter-term production to be staged in Warner Main in February, is intent on proving that there is: the production is the first on campus to rely on digital rather than traditional paper scores, using iPads instead of photocopies of sheet music during the rehearsal process.

Directed by Assistant Director of Opera Theater Productions Victoria Vaughan, the *Orpheus Project* uses excerpts from Monteverdi, Gluck, and Milhaud to retell the story of Orpheus and Eurydice, a Greek myth about a young musician who attempts to rescue his lover from the Underworld. All the members of the cast have iPads, which they use to view their scores during rehearsals.

Using the iAnnotate app, singers may add notes to their scores with the swipe of a finger, marking shifts in tempo or the pronunciation of a certain word or syllable. The app has zoom-in and zoom-out functions, so users can focus on a certain section of the music at a given time, and a vocal annotation option is also available, which allows vocalists to record a section and play it back within the score.

As a participant of the Oberlin Center for

Technologically Enhanced Teaching (OCTET) 2010 iPad Pilot Program, Vaughan has used iPads as teaching tools in a number of her courses. However, *Orpheus* marks the first time that she has used the device during rehearsals. "We used the iPad as a prop during last year's spring production, which was a modern-day version of Mozart's *Clemenza di Tito*," she says. "But this is the first time that it's been used as a tool that's actually part of the process."

Since its introduction in 2010, the iPad has been incorporated into classrooms across the country as a high-tech teaching tool. However, it hasn't been until fairly recently that iPads have been used in classical music education or performance. Although the classical community as a whole has yet to embrace the tablet, Vaughan says that the benefits of using iPads in rehearsals are manifold. For instance, instead of wasting paper by printing out multiple copies of the hundred-page score, Vaughan was able to upload PDFs of the *Orpheus* score, which the rest of the cast downloaded to their iPads. "There aren't many ways that the process of music-making can change drastically to become more 'green,' but this is certainly one good example," she says.

Conservatory junior Nikki Levesque, who

### Oberlin—Green Opera?



Conservatory senior Emily Thebaut and junior Nicole Levesque rehearse.

plays Orpheus in a few scenes, says that because she usually has to lug hundreds of pages of sheet music in her backpack, using the iPad has reduced her load by at least five pounds, making it easier to immerse herself fully in the rehearsal process. “Usually during rehearsal, you have to carry around a huge binder and go through dozens of sheets of paper to find your character and your vocal selection,” she says. “Having it all in one place with the iPad is kind of nice.”

Levesque also says that the iAnnotate app makes the process of reading music “a more personal experience. “For a vocalist, the performance notes, like ‘drop your jaw,’ or ‘take a breath here,’ are often more important than the music itself,” she says. “With the notes from the iAnnotate app, the music becomes yours after a while.”

Nonetheless, Vaughan acknowledges that there are some drawbacks to using the device as a substitute for a traditional score. As is the case with all computer programs, glitches and the occasional crash are often a risk, so users must remember to save their updated scores frequently. Vaughan also admits that the digital annotation app took “a bit getting used to.” “It’s like with any new technology – you have to play with it all the time to adapt to it,” she says. “Some people in the cast enjoyed this, while others thought it was a bit of a chore.”

Still, most of the *Orpheus* cast maintains that using the iPad was a positive experience. Vaughan says she intends to explore the device further in her courses, and Levesque says that her friends in the spring theater production have even borrowed her tablet to work on their own scores.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Students of Color Leadership Conference 2011

The Students of Color Leadership Conference (SOCLC) was held at Allegheny in November 2011. Over 150 students, faculty and staff participated. In addition to the main speakers (Michael Benitez, Jr., Alice Y. Hom, and Dr. Antwi Akom) many student and faculty led sessions were well attended and received. One

student described the SOCLC thusly: “Engaging and challenging; inspired, informed and empowered.” Another reported that, “all speakers had such great missions and points of views that were clearly and passionately delivered.”



## Faculty News



**Albion** – Dianne Guenin-Lelle, French, and Ronney Mourad, Religion, co-authored two books: “Jeanne Guyon: Selected Writings,” published by Paulist Press and “The Prison Narratives of Jeanne Guyon,” published by Oxford University Press.

**Hope** — The following faculty were recognized and given awards for honoring teaching, service, and scholarship by Hope College: Aaron Putzke, Biology; Billy Mayer, Art; Sonja Trent-Brown, Psychology; Barry Bandstra, Religion; Deirdre Johnston, Communication; and, Tracey Nally, Sponsored Research Programs;

Caroline Simon, authored “Bringing Sex into Focus: The Quest for Sexual Integrity” published by InterVarsity Press of Downers Grove, IL.

Jeff Johnson, Chemistry, received a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award from the National Science Foundation for ongoing research and development of introductory First-Year Seminar in green chemistry.

**Kalamazoo** – Kiran Cunningham, Anthropology and Sociology, and Joe Brockington, International Programs, are among five co-authors of a chapter in the book “Developing Strategic International Partnerships: Models for Initiating and Sustaining Innovative Institutional Linkages. The chapter is entitled, “Social Justice and Capacity Building: A New Model for Strategic International Partnerships at Liberal Arts Colleges.”

Regina Stevens-Truss, Chemistry, delivered the keynote lecture at the University of Michigan’s Interdisciplinary Research Experiences for Undergraduates in the Structure and Function of Proteins.

**Ohio Wesleyan** – Lee Fratantuono, Classics, published a paper in the second issue of 2011 in peer reviewed Italian classics journal *Bollettino di studi latini*. His paper was entitled, “Virgil’s Fury Allecto, the Dirae, and Jupiter’s Parthian Defeat.”

Emmanuel K. Tweisigye, Religion, was elected president of the newly formed Developing Education (DevEd) for Africa organization designed to develop new initiatives in educa-

tion for Africa and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Gulimina Mahamuti, Music, performed a solo at Carnegie Hall’s elegant Weill Recital Hall in January 2012. An accomplished soloist, collaborative pianist, piano teacher and lecturer. More information on her performance is available via [www.gulimina.com](http://www.gulimina.com).

Karen Poremski, English, was honored with a 2011 “Exemplary Teacher Award” from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. This award recognizes faculty members at United Methodist-affiliated colleges who exemplify excellence in teaching; civility, concern for students and colleagues; commitment to value-centered education; and service to students, the institution and community.

**Wooster** – Setsuko Matsuzawa, authored “Horizontal Dynamics in Transnational Activism: The Case of Nu River Anti-dam Activism in China” in *Mobilization: The International Quarterly Review of Social Movement Research* 16(3): 369-87 (2011).

Daniel Bourne, English, published his poem “The Last Bestiary” featured on *Guernica*, a major on-line journal of international art and politics and *Verse Daily*, a high-profile website that showcases the best poems recently published in American literary journals.

John Rudisill, Philosophy, received the Lensen Prize, a national award from the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, for writing, in the past two years, the best article on teaching philosophy. There were 180 competitors for this honor.

### *In Memorium:*

Betty Jo Mastrine, Executive Assistant to the President, passed away January 15 after thirty years at the College of Wooster. She began her career at Wooster in 1979 and served presidents Henry Copeland, Stanton Hales and Grant Cornwell.

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Your feedback, sugges-  
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**GLCA Calendar  
2012**

March 19-21	GLCA IT Conference	Wabash
April 4-7	Border Studies Review	Tucson, AZ
April 30-May 2	Dean's Council/Board Joint Meeting	Ohio Wesleyan
May 30-31	Teagle Lattice Meeting	Ann Arbor, MI
June 21-22	Chief Admission Officers	Ann Arbor, MI
June 22-24	Global Liberal Arts Alliance Meeting	Greece
July 20-22	CUR Workshop	Kenyon