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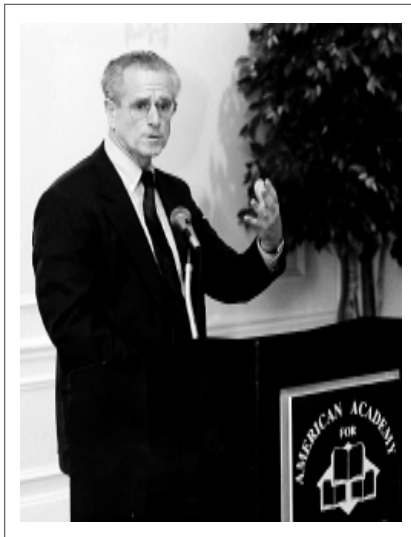
NEWSLETTER



Summer 1998 Vol. 4, No. 2

Quality Assurance and the Liberal Arts

Presidents and Provosts Meet in Chapel Hill



The Pew Charitable Trusts Education Director Russell Edgerton discusses quality assurance in Chapel Hill.

Under the joint sponsorship of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and AALE, college and university presidents, provosts and deans from across the country assembled with leading foundation representatives at the Kenan Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to discuss the future of liberal arts education in America.

The two-day convocation signals the beginning of a unique discourse between higher education institutions and the nation's only liberal arts accreditor.

William C. Friday, executive director of the Kenan Trust, delivered welcoming remarks before the opening dinner and keynote address, which expressed concern for the quality, affordability, access to, and relevance of liberal education in the coming century.

After Friday's remarks, Thomas S. Kenan, III, chairman of the Kenan Board of Trustees, introduced the evening's keynote speaker, Robert Connor.

Connor, professor of classics at Princeton University and director of the National Humanities Center, delivered the opening keynote address, "The Role of Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century," emphasizing both the history and proven importance of liberal education in the creation of responsible, reflective citizens for a democratic society.

The second day of the convocation began with a discussion of quality assurance in higher education.

Opening speaker, Russell Edgerton, director of Education Programs at The Pew Charitable Trusts and past president of the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), emphasized



(Left to Right) Hollins College President Janet Rasmussen, James Madison College Dean William Allen, and Dickinson College President Lee Fritschler chat before the opening keynote address.

the failure of the current system of accreditation to address quality assurance. He called for the more rigorous establishment of benchmark standards of excellence as well as a "community of evidence" that would document examples of effective assessment of quality in higher education.

Richard Ekman, secretary of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, discussed the

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AALE President Jeffrey Wallin spoke to graduates in May at the University of Dallas.

Wallin Delivers Commencement Addresses

April and May typically see a flurry of lecture and commencement activity and this year has been no exception.

AALE President Jeffrey D. Wallin was invited to deliver two commencement addresses in May. He first visited the University of South Carolina-Lancaster and delivered the address, "What Will Last?," which encouraged graduates to consider their investments in education as more than a means to a job.

Dr. Wallin reminded the audience that Aristotle distinguished between the technical arts, a means to an end and the liberal arts, which are ends unto themselves. And though the technical arts are important pursuits, they provide no basis for "judging for ourselves what is worth pursuing, what is worth having, what is worth knowing and what is worth enjoying for its own sake." The liberal arts on the other hand, set one free "to nurture those habits of body and mind ... that allow each of us to take our rightful place as citizens and participants in the polis, in the body politic."

In late May, Dr. Wallin traveled to the University of Dallas (UD) and delivered a commencement address that encouraged graduates to live life to the fullest and reflect on themselves despite the existence such reflection might bring.

To live life to its fullest, Dr. Wallin referred to former UD President Donald Cowan, who suggested that "the public purpose of the university is to prepare [students to provide] the leadership that will be needed in the next forty years. The private purpose is [to provide students] with liberal learning: learning in the things that make life worth living, whether it be now or forty years from now."

However, as Dr. Wallin pointed out, living life to the fullest presents human beings with problems and questions. We seek to know everything, especially about our own selves, yet we cannot know everything. We ask: "Who am I?," but attempts to answer this question "lead us both inward and outward: to the self and to politics: to the thing that would be free, and to the conditions of its freedom. When this desire for freedom turns wholly inward, it risks intellectual and emotional solipsism, and too often results in idiosyncrasy for its own sake; when turned wholly outward, it may secure one's own freedom, but at the expense of everyone else: to

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The American Academy for Liberal Education is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education as a national agency for the accreditation and pre-accreditation of institutions of higher education and programs within institutions of higher education that offer liberal arts degrees at the baccalaureate level. The AALE is a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-partisan organization incorporated in the District of Columbia.

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Accreditation Reform Project Moves Forward



AALE Faculty Fellows gather in Cincinnati (left to right): David Dedo, John Reiff, Amy Driscoll, AALE Executive Director George Lucas, Clark McCauley, AALE Director of Accreditation John Harris, and Mark Howenstein

Dr. John Harris, AALE director of accreditation, and George Lucas, AALE executive director, attended the American Association for Higher Education's (AAHE) annual Assessment Forum in Cincinnati, OH, June 13-17, 1998, to introduce leading assessment scholars from around the nation to AALE's newly-selected Faculty Fellows in Assessment and to discuss the future of liberal arts education in America.

On hand to welcome AALE's fellows at a reception and dinner were; Margaret Miller, president of AAHE, Judith Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), Barbara Cambridge, AAHE Assessment Forum director, together with leading assessment and educational policy experts Peter Ewell, Trudy Banta, George Kuh, and Ted Marchese, editor of *Change* magazine. Representatives from the North Central

Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges were also on hand to welcome the AALE Faculty Fellows from Bryn Mawr College, Portland State University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Samford University, and Tusculum College.

With the support of major grants from The Pew Charitable Trusts and The John S. and James

L. Knight Foundation, these Faculty Fellows will work with Harris and Lucas to translate their institutions' practices of self-study and student learning assessment into models of institutional

practice that will both streamline the procedure for accreditation of liberal arts institutions and general education programs and respond to the demands for benchmark standards of performance and quality assurance in undergraduate education.

Representing Bryn Mawr College is Dr. Clark McCauley, professor of psychology. He is joined by Dr. Amy Driscoll, professor of curriculum and instruction, and director of community-university partnerships in the Center for Academic Excellence at Portland State University, and Dr. John Reiff, professor of American culture and director of the Warren

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(Left to right) AALE Faculty Fellow Amy Driscoll speaks with CHEA Director Judith Eaton and Change Editor Ted Marchese

[From Page 1, *Quality Assurance*]

increasing relevance of the core values of liberal education to a healthy society and the growing public distrust of the higher education “delivery system” in assuring reliable and affordable access to such education for coming generations.

Both speakers’ presentations emphasized the importance of recognizing and rewarding excellent undergraduate teaching as pivotal to quality assurance, and as a traditional strength of liberal arts institutions.

The afternoon discussions concluded with a summit roundtable of college and university presidents and chief academic officers from around the nation. Lee Fritschler, president of Dickinson College, led a lively discussion of the role of accreditation in supporting and defending the importance of the liberal arts. Gordon Haaland, president of Gettysburg College



Meeting participants gather for a roundtable summit in the Kenan Center Board Room.

Participating Institutions

Bard College
Birmingham Southern College
Bryn Mawr College
Claremont McKenna
College of William & Mary
Dickinson College
Furman University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hollins College
Hood College
James Madison College, Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Reed College
St. John’s College - Annapolis
Samford University
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Wake Forest University
Washington, and Jefferson College
W of ford College

and Thomas Corts, president of Samford University, pointed to the importance of promoting the quality and advocating the importance of liberal education to an increasingly disillusioned and skeptical public.

The conference concluded with a dinner and remarks by William C. Friday, who praised each participant for attending what is clearly the beginning of an important and long-term discussion of the state of liberal arts in higher education today. ■■■

[From Page 3, *Accreditation . . .*]

W. Hobbie Center for the Civic Arts at Tusculum College in Tennessee. The group of fellows is rounded out by Dr. Mark Howenstein, professor of law and society at Ramapo College of New Jersey, and Dr. David R. Dedo, professor of English and director of the Writing Center and the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at Samford University. AALE’s Faculty Fellows represent private and public liberal arts colleges, as well as private and public comprehensive universities.

In addition to their intro-

duction, the fellows were gathered at the AAHE Assessment Forum to learn more about ongoing discussions of assessment and its link to accreditation, as well as ascertain how AALE’s concern to establish benchmark standards for excellence in student achievement in the liberal arts, could be translated into a workable program of significant accreditation and quality assurance for liberal arts institutions and programs. The fellows heard Dr. Miller address the history of public concern for accountability, the threat of state and federal intervention in higher education to guarantee quality,

competence, and cost effectiveness, and the attempts to link quality assurance with the existing system of voluntary accreditation. They likewise heard Dr. Eaton of CHEA, indict the failure of that same accreditation system to pay sufficient attention to results as well as to the structure and processes in institutional accreditation.

AALE expects to report the results of its five institutional case studies in the fall of 1998 and in the final year of the project, testing these models while accrediting several colleges and universities. ■■■

AALE Officers Spread Their Message

Wallin and Lucas Speak Around the Nation

AALE President Jeffrey D. Wallin and Executive Director George R. Lucas, Jr., have maintained busy lecture and appearance schedules throughout 1998, speaking to students, deans and international education leaders around the country.

Dr. Wallin recently attended the American Conference of Academic Deans' "Leadership for Liberal Education" meeting, held in Washington, DC, where he appeared as a panelist during the session entitled "Standards for Liberal Education in the 21st Century."

Dr. Wallin spoke of "The Role of AALE in the Formation of Standards for Liberal Education," saying that AALE's Education Standards "go a long way toward establishing standards for the future." But ironically, because institutions like St. John's College-Annapolis, "turn out students with superb liberal educations" without a formal history requirement, AALE recognized that "it was not exposure TO certain subjects that it wanted to ensure, but rather, demonstrated outcomes ... IN certain subjects and modes of thought." Therefore, AALE has begun to shift its focus from a "checklist mentality" with regard to accreditation to an "assessment mentality concentrating on a common core of outcomes or results."

In early March, Dr. Lucas was invited to speak at the University of Maryland-College Park as a guest lecturer for the graduate

course entitled, "The Curriculum in Higher Education." The course is taught by Professor Steven Selden in the Department of Education Policy, Planning and Administration.

Dr. Lucas discussed a variety of topics from the rationale for liberal arts in the curriculum and the history of accreditation, to AALE's unique position with regard to liberal arts education and quality assurance in higher education. Most importantly, Dr. Lucas emphasized AALE's ability to offer itself as an accreditor whose focus on assessment, rather than educational inputs, is unique in higher education accreditation.

In April, Drs. Wallin and Lucas hosted Miroslav Pospisil, founder and director of the Jan Hus Foundation located in the Czech Republic. The Foundation is an organization dedicated to creating a civil society through education and within education. Since 1990, the foundation has worked with Czech and Slovak university departments in support of the teaching of humanities and social sciences and in the preparation of young faculty for their academic careers.

Mr. Pospisil toured the United States this spring as a member of the USIA's International Visitor Program in an effort to learn more about the US higher education system, civic education, and NGO management. His interest in higher education accreditation drew him to AALE and its Education Standards.

Dr. Wallin was on the road again in early June when he traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to serve as a convener for the session "Scholarship Reconsidered" at The Boyer Legacy Conference.

The conference sponsor, the Boyer Center for Advanced Studies, was established in 1997 in order to preserve and advance the educational vision of Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. The center extends the themes and values of Dr. Boyer's work through a variety of workshops, seminars, colloquia, and conferences across the country.

On May 1, Dr. Lucas attended the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) in Philadelphia, where he served as a delegate and a panelist for the session "ACLS Delegates as a Scholarly Community," which discussed the future role of society delegates in the conduct of this important umbrella organization.

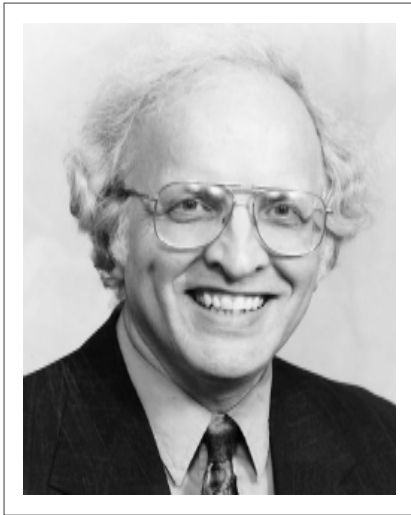
While there, Dr. Lucas met with James Herbert, director of the Division of Education and Research at the NEH, and Dr. Carol Schneider, the newly elected president of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Their conversation focused on the meaning of "quality" in the context of liberal education, which is the theme of AAC&U's forthcoming annual meeting, for which AALE has submitted a major program proposal. ■■■

Board & Council Update

AALÉ Welcomes New Members to Board and Council

In an effort to maintain the high standard of quality of the AALE Board of Trustees and Council of Scholars, several additions to both were recently approved.

Dr. Glen Thurow comes to the AALE Board of Trustees as provost of the University of Dallas



Dr. Glen Thurow

(UD). Dr. Thurow began his tenure at UD in 1973 as a member of the politics department where he served as chairman from 1980-1990. Thurow served as Dean of the Braniff Graduate School in 1990 and assumed the position of interim provost in the fall of 1993, later becoming the permanent provost. Dr. Thurow has taught at Bucknell University, the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Georgia, and the University of Virginia.

Thurow received his BA from Williams College and his MA and PhD from Harvard University. He has published widely on the presidency, civil rights and

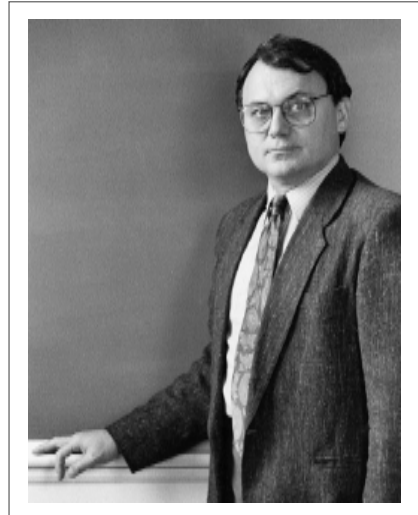
Constitutional law, the American founding, and environmental law.

As a result of his work on the AALE Accreditation Reform Project, Dr. Sheldon Rothblatt was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Rothblatt was educated at the University of California-Berkeley, and King's College, Cambridge University, where he was the Efram Student. He has taught at Berkeley since 1963 and is currently Professor of the Graduate School (History) as well as professor of history at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Rothblatt has held numerous fellowships including those from the Guggenheim Foundation, Davis Center at Princeton University, the Social Sciences Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, Nuffield College, Oxford University, and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences. He has also been a scholar in residence at the Rockefeller Foundation, Villia Sebelloni, Bellagio, Italy. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Britain, a Permanent Fellow of the Society for Research in Higher Education (UK) and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Education (US) in 1996.

Dr. Peter Kalkavage joins the AALE Board of Trustees as a member of the faculty of St. John's College-Annapolis, where he has devoted himself to the rigors of its all-required undergraduate

program. Although initially drawn to St. John's by its philosophic approach to the reading of great works and by its extensive mathematics and science curriculum, Dr. Kalkavage became increasingly absorbed in the teaching of music and French



Dr. Peter Kalkavage

poetry, especially the works of Baudelaire and Paul Valéry.

Dr. Kalkavage earned his doctorate in philosophy at Pennsylvania State University and his published essays include "Animals in Motion: the Flattery of Becoming in Plato's *Timaeus*," "Dante and Ulysses: A Reading of *Inferno* XXVI," "The Trouble with Grammar," and the entry on Descartes for the *Encyclopedia of Time*.

Dr. Kalkavage has played an active role in St. John's administration in several capacities including terms on the

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Instruction Committee, director of the Summer Freshmen and Special Administrative Assistant to the Dean.

Dr. Jocelyn Chadwick-Joshua joins the Council of Scholars as the director of American Studies at The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Chadwick-Joshua has taught at all levels of education, but she is proudest of her work with remedial and at-risk students. Through this work she established and oversaw the writing portion of the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP).

Dr. Chadwick-Joshua is the author of *The Jim Dilemma: Reading Race in Huckleberry Finn*, which is her most recent publication, and "TASP: A Rhetoric for the Evolving Writer," which helps prepare first-year college students to complete the state-mandated TASP test. Her next book, to be published by Oxford University Press, is *Divas: The Voices, the Myth, The Reality*, focuses on the Harlem Renaissance, and will provide material for a larger Public Television series on WGBH Boston. Dr. Chadwick-Joshua participates in national and international conferences on women's studies, ethnographic and rhetorical studies, and multiculturalism. She is the editor of the *Toni Morrison Newsletter*.

AALE is proud to have these individuals join its Board of Trustees and Council of Scholars and it looks forward to their future service. ■■■

AALE Welcomes New Executive Director

After an exhaustive and months-long search, AALE is pleased to announce that Dr. George R. Lucas, Jr., joined the staff as Executive Director in June. In addition to Dr. Lucas' many administrative responsibilities, he will oversee and coordinate the AALE Accreditation Reform Project and other special projects.

Dr. Lucas holds tenure as professor of philosophy in the Department of Leadership, Ethics, and Law at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, MD, where he helped design and implement the USNA's new core requirement in ethics and wrote the study materials for the Academy's monthly "Integrity Development Seminars" (modeled after St. John's College's liberal arts seminars). From 1990 through 1995, he was Assistant Director of the Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, DC, supervising staff and programs in International Research, Centers for Advanced Study, Fellowships for College and for University Teachers, Conferences, Collaborative Research, Archaeology, and Humanities Studies of Science and Technology. He has taught at Georgetown University, Emory University, Randolph-Macon College, the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), and he served as Philosophy Department Chairman at the University of Santa Clara in California.



*Dr. George R. Lucas, Jr.
AALE Executive Director*

Dr. Lucas received his PhD in philosophy from Northwestern University in 1978, and is the author of three books and over forty journal articles, translations, and book reviews. He has edited eight book-length collections of articles in philosophy and ethics. In addition, he serves as Philosophy Series Editor for the State University of New York Press (Albany, New York), and as senior consulting editor in philosophy for Grolier's *Encyclopedia Americana*. ■■■

AALE

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tyranny.”

Dr. Wallin’s closing remarks reminded the graduates of what Socrates once said: “just as others take delight in a good horse, or a dog, or a bird, in the same way and even more so I take delight in good friends; together we read the treasures of the wise men of old which they have left behind in their writings, and if we discover in them something good, we gather it, and we regard it as a great gain when we thus, through this activity, become friends.’ And thereby dispel, if only just a little, the melancholy of choice, if not of finitude.” ■■

AALE Loses Staff Member

AALE Executive Assistant to the President Scott Slatton has resigned his position in order to pursue a career in local government administration in his native South Carolina.

Slatton recently earned a Master of Public Administration at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, where he concentrated on state and local government administration, local economic development, and local transportation issues.

He and his wife Angie, a high school special education teacher, will reside in Rock Hill, South Carolina. AALE wishes both of them the best of luck in their future endeavors. ■■

AALE On the Web: www.aale.org

In early July AALE established itself in cyberspace with its Internet website address, www.aale.org. The website contains information about AALE including its Board of Trustees, Council of Scholars, Education Standards, Special Projects, and publications. In addition, individuals and institutions will find AALE’s application procedures and fee structure online.

If cyberspace denizens need information not found on the AALE website, they can e-mail questions or comments to info@aale.org. ■■