

SPRING 2010 NOTES

In just a few weeks, most of you will have completed commencement ceremonies, bade farewell to seniors, and will begin the process of shifting into summer gear, when life is supposed to be freer. Far too often there are as many things to juggle during these precious months as there were during the semester. How do we make space for reflection on the past year, plan for the year to come, orient new students and faculty, have those conversations with colleagues that kept getting postponed, and squeeze in some well-deserved “down time”?

This year’s NAC&U Summer Institute at Wagner will help answer these questions. The Institute is designed to provide an opportunity collectively to reflect on how we sustain and renew commitments to our institutions, disciplines, colleagues, and most important, to ourselves, both personally and professionally. Coming early in the summer, the institute can be a valuable apex from which to gain perspective on what has just been completed, and on how to best approach the challenges ahead. Provost Devorah Lieberman and her planning committee have spent innumerable hours to make this one of the most valuable summer experiences NAC&U has offered, and look forward to welcoming you to Wagner.

Lynette Robinson

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2010

Sustaining Community, Renewal and Meaning in Our Work, June 16-18, 2010



Wagner College invites you to enjoy its 105 tree-filled acres and breathtaking views of New York Harbor. Share best practices with NAC&U colleagues from across the country. Explore the future of education departments, discuss NSSE data with Charles Blais from the Wabash Center, talk social media with John Lawlor and Lynsy Struthers from the Lawlor Group, and hear projections for higher education in 2020 from George Dehne. Affinity groups meeting during the Institute include:

- Provosts/Chief Academic Officers
- Associate Provosts/Deans
- Communications/Marketing/Media staff
- Education Department Chairs, Deans,
- Fellowship advisors (e.g., Truman, Fulbright)
- Leaders of faculty and staff leadership development
- Directors of Teaching and Learning Centers

There will be two pre-Institute events:

Staff and Faculty Leadership Development

June 15, 1:00 – 5:00 pm; June 16, 8:30 – 11:30 am

Step I in NAC&U’s new leadership development initiative, this workshop is for those responsible for faculty/staff leadership development on their campuses. Dr. Peggy Williams, President Emerita of Ithaca College, will help participants share best campus and national practices and discuss how NAC&U can support leadership development as a consortium.

Executive Summit

June 15, 2:00 – 5:00 pm; June 16, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Peter Eckel, director of Programs and Initiatives for the Center for Effective Leaders at the American Council on Education will facilitate this “summit” of executive leadership – presidents, provosts, CFOs, and enrollment management officers – from NAC&U institutions. We will explore economic and educational models – beyond tuition increases and leveraging efficiencies – that institutions are considering as they look to a future of changing external demographics and an uncertain economic environment, as well as other related topics.

Registration deadline: May 15, 2010

[Click Here To Register Now!](#)

FEATURE STORY

Promoting Student Success by Reaching Out to Sophomores

by Michelle Apuzzio

“The ‘gloss’ of the freshman year has worn off – there’s not even any sheen left,” wrote one sophomore when Westminster College professors asked for feedback at the beginning of “**Making Sophomores Count**,” a program that helps sophomores navigate their second-year transition while choosing a major.

Most students who leave a college do so by the time they are juniors. While much attention is focused on facilitating the freshman year transition, many New American colleges and universities are working to better understand issues facing sophomores.

“The excitement and thrill of a new experience has worn off, and they now face the reality that college will be three more years of hard work, more difficult upper-level courses, and a significant financial investment.”

“Research demonstrates that sophomores experience a whole new set of stressors as they return to the college campus. They may feel they receive less hands-on institutional attention and support as compared to their first-year experience,” says Dr. Amy Avery, assistant dean for student success at North Central College. “The excitement and thrill of a new experience has worn off, and they now face the reality that college will be three more years of hard work, more difficult upper-level courses, and a significant financial investment.”

Supporting Sophomores

In Westminster College’s “Making Sophomores Count” course, the retention rate is 95 percent for those who participate. The semester-long course helps students match skills and values with areas of study and potential

career objectives. Faculty guest speakers are a staple, and topics include professional associations, grad school preparations, and networking. By the end, each student has conducted an informational interview with a potential employer and prepared a portfolio to track progress and chart an academic path. Student also reported that they learn about key resources – such as the Career Resource Center – with which they were not yet familiar.

A Collaborative Approach

The Butler University Sophomore Experience Work Group (SEWG) consists of faculty and staff who meet monthly. It formed two years ago when many were concerned that returning sophomores felt ignored and on their own after a freshmen year filled with welcoming activities and mentoring. Irene Stevens, Butler’s dean of Student Life and SEWG member, is advisor to the Sophomore Class Council and frequently solicits feedback on sophomore’s needs. In return, class officers often attend SEWG meetings. Stevens said, “Students are very creative, provide fresh perspectives, and are good at telling us what will work.”

SEWG sends a “**Sophomore Year Guide**” during the summer to returning sophomores. It describes how sophomore year experiences differ from those of freshmen – for example, more challenging classes, pressure to choose majors and career paths, new housing arrangements – and suggests 13 goals for sophomore year, including identifying personal goals and expanding one’s circle of friends. It also advises students to relate classroom experience to the real world through service learning and research, this connection of applied to theoretical knowledge being a common thread of all New American Colleges and Universities.

Widespread Outreach

At its annual Spring conference, “**How to Be a Sophomore**,” North Central College casts a wide net to reach all sophomores and their many needs. Faculty and staff from career services, study abroad, academic support, advising center, wellness center, student involvement, residence life, and financial aid give five-minute presentations in their areas related to the sophomore experience.

Drury University recently began its **Second-Year Experience Program** during which sophomore-only functions promote socialization with peers and connections across academic disciplines. Workshops and seminars on peer advising, tutoring, career mentoring, and major exploration are available, and the program director meets one-on-one with students who request additional mentoring.

Targeting the Source

In efforts to retain sophomores, campuses use data to *predict* who is more likely to leave. “We’ve looked at data each year for non-returning students and for first-year students who present at the bottom of Elon’s quartile in terms of academic credentials. It’s not so predictable,” said Becky Olive-Taylor, of **Elon University**’s Academic Advising Center. “Sometimes the weaker students succeed and the strong students with – perhaps – little self-discipline flounder. Popular wisdom has held here that students who don’t connect with an organization or an adult mentor are more likely to drop out.”

With so many reasons that might influence a sophomore to leave, it can be difficult for institutions to know the right approach. Sophomores clearly feel different pressures than first year students, whether it is financial pressure, uncertainty about a major or career direction, lack of engagement in campus life or with faculty and other students, or a combination of factors. By listening to sophomores and paying attention to factors that influence their decisions, institutions are increasing retention and graduation rates, improving campus morale, and promoting student success. Well-crafted interventions do make a difference.

To learn more or to share retention programs on your campus, contact Michelle Apuzzio at apuzzio@newamericancolleges.org.

CONSORTIUM NEWS

NAC&U Website Continues to Attract More Visitors

The number of visitors to the NAC&U website continues to grow, [averaging around 9,000 per month, a doubling of our monthly average from two years ago](#). The weekly news recaps – which many receive via email or RSS feed – supply a significant portion of new content each week. Last month the RSS feed had more than 4,200 views, making it the most popular page after the home page. To subscribe to the NAC&U free weekly email updates, just [click here](#):
<http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=AnacNews>

Senior Student Affairs Officers Review Programs



l-r, Tijuana Julian (Drury), Alan Sickbert (Hamline), Jan Walbert (Arcadia), Levester Johnson (Butler)

An NAC&U team of senior student affairs officers visited **North Central College** to assist Laurie Hamen, vice president for enrollment management, athletics and student affairs at **North Central College**, in evaluating its student affairs programs.

“I hope this visit and our report provides a model and becomes a resource for all of us to share expertise,” said Jan Walbert, chair of NAC&U’s Affinity Group for Senior Student Affairs Officers.

NAC&U Presidents Talk Leadership



Presidents Susan Scrimshaw (**Sage**), David Maxwell (**Drake**), and Mark Heckler (**Valparaiso**) discussed creating and sustaining leadership teams at the CIC Presidents Institute in January. Presidents Bobby Fong (**Butler**), Richard Guarasci (**Wagner**), Leo Lambert (**Elon**), David Maxwell (**Drake**), and Linda Hanson (**Hamline**) spoke on the same subject before a capacity-filled room at the AAC&U Annual Meeting. The next

day another crowd listened as the CFO/CAO teams from **Elon**, **Valparaiso**, and **Drake** discussed the CFO/CAO relationship.

CAMPUS CORNER

New Academic Programs

Arcadia University

- 3-year undergrad programs in *Business Administration, Communications, International Business and Culture, International Studies, and Psychology* *
- Majors Abroad Program in *French Studies*
- Dual MA in *Counseling Psychology and International Peace and Conflict Resolution*; Dual MA in *International Peace and Conflict Resolution and International Relations and Diplomacy*

Belmont University

- BFA in *Musical Theatre*; MA in *Commercial Music*
- JD in *Law* **

Drury University

- Dual nursing degree with Cox College of Nursing *
- MA in *Architecture*
- MA in *Music Therapy* *

Elon University

- BA or BS in *Statistics*
- BSBA in *Entrepreneurship, Finance, Management, and Marketing*

Hamline University

- BFA in *Creative Writing*
- Bachelor in *Business Administration (BBA)*
- MA in *Literacy Education*

Ithaca College

- BS in *Environmental Science* *
- MS in *Occupational Therapy* *

North Central College

- BA in *Art History*

Quinnipiac University

- MS in *Teacher Leadership* *

Sage Colleges

- BA in *Environmental Studies* (Russell Sage College)
- Renaissance Baccalaureate (Russell Sage College)
- MS in *Teaching Excellence* (Sage Graduate Schools)

Samford University

- BFA in *Graphic Design* *
- MA in *Theological Studies* *

University of Evansville

- BA or BS in *Criminal Justice*
- RN to BSN for diploma-trained nurses
- MS in *Education*; MA in *Teaching*
- Energy Engineering Certificate Program

Valparaiso University

- Minor in *Humanitarian Engineering*
- MS programs in *Digital Media, Information Technology and Management, International Economics and Finance, and Sports Media*
- Doctor of *Nursing Practice*

Westminster College

- BA in *Music*; BFAs in *Theatre Performance and Technical Theatre*; BA in *Theater*
- BS in *Public Health*
- Project-Based MBA and Donghua-Westminster Global MBA

* Begins Fall 2010

** Begins Fall 2011

MEMBER NEWS

NAC&U Members Among Top Business Schools

Belmont University, Butler University, Drake University, Elon University, Ithaca College, Pacific Lutheran University, Quinnipiac University, Samford University the University of Scranton, the University of Evansville, and Valparaiso University were recognized among the top 433 business schools nationwide in the 2011 edition of *USNews & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools.

Four NAC&U Members Recognized for First-Year Experiences in *USNews & World Report*

Four NAC&U institutions were recognized recently by *USNews & World Report* for providing students some of the best first-year programs and experiences in the nation.

Belmont University, Drury University, Elon University, and Wagner College were among 31 schools nationwide who received the distinction.

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/first-year-experience-programs>

New College Guide To Green Colleges

Drury University, Elon University, Ithaca College, Pacific Lutheran University, and the University of Redlands are

among the country's most environmentally responsible colleges and universities according to The Princeton Review's "Guide to 286 Green Colleges." The guide can be downloaded at www.princetonreview.com and www.usgbc.org.



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Thirteen NAC&U Members Named to President's Higher Ed Community Service Honor Roll

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. **Elon University, University of Redlands, The University of Scranton, and Westminster College** were named to the Honor Roll with Distinction while **Arcadia University, Belmont University, Butler University, Hamline University, Ithaca College, North Central College, University of Evansville, Valparaiso University, and Wagner College** made the Honor Roll.

Westminster's President Bassis in *Inside Higher Ed*

In "Changing the Equation," Michael Bassis, president of **Westminster College**, wrote: "Even before the current economic downturn, cost had become the dominant public concern about American higher education... Many of our students were graduating with considerable debt. It was obvious, as well, that cost was discouraging too many students from modest backgrounds from viewing my institution as a realistic option." [Click here](#) to continue reading "Changing the Equation."



TRANSITIONS

We wish **Dr. Stephen Jennings** and his wife Sally our very best as they prepare to leave the **University of Evansville** after nine years of leadership. During his tenure, UE has undertaken the largest capital campaign in the University's history, which has allowed construction of the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration building as well as the recently opened, national award winning William L. Ridgway University Center. Jennings served as Chair of the NAC&U Board of Directors from 2005-2007 and has been an active leader in NAC&U. He has also been a mentor to many over his career, six of whom became college presidents themselves.



Dr. Thomas A. Kazee has been selected as the institution's 23rd president. Kazee, currently the provost and executive vice president of Furman University, will assume his duties June 1, 2010.

We will deeply miss one of the longest serving IREPS, **Dr. Sally Lawrence**, who will retire as vice president for academic affairs from The Sage Colleges in June. Lawrence has served as an academic leader with four presidents and in that time has been critically involved in every big step at The Sage Colleges, including the transition of The Junior College of Albany to the four-year Sage College of Albany. A Sage colleague summed up her professional leadership and impact saying, "Sally is a transformational leader who makes things happen and who makes it possible for the rest of us to do our work."



A new position of provost has been created and will be filled by **Dr. Terry S. Weiner**, the interim dean of Sage College. Weiner will serve for three years as Sage prepares for a national search for a permanent provost.

Jan Walbert, vice president for student affairs at **Arcadia University**, has been in student services at Arcadia for 21 years. She will be leaving her position in May to become vice president of major gifts at Arcadia. Jan has provided talented and wise leadership as chair of the SSAO affinity group and on the NAC&U Board of Directors. Josh Stern, dean of students, has accepted the position of associate vice president and dean of students.



School of Music dean Greg Woodward has been named interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at **Ithaca College**, beginning June 1, 2010. Kathleen Rountree, who has served as provost since 2007, announced earlier this month that she would be stepping down from that role to serve as a faculty member in the School of Music.