

FALL 2008 NOTES

I have just returned from an exciting week with ANAC colleagues. The inauguration of Mark Heckler as the 18th president of Valparaiso was a moving blend of Mark's personal and professional worlds and aspirations. At Butler, I met the new provost, Jamie Comstock, and caught up with President Bobby Fong and CFO Bruce Arick. I then joined Fran Navakas, associate academic dean at North Central, and John Burney, vice provost at Drake, on a panel at the Association for Integrative Studies. We showcased examples of innovative programs at Drake and North Central that reflect the ANAC mission. In spite of the concerns posed by current economic challenges, these institutional leaders were full of energy, confidence, and optimism, rooted in a deep belief in and commitment to providing the distinctive educational opportunities for which ANAC institutions are individually, and increasingly collectively, identified.

Lynette Robinson, Executive Director

ANAC Welcomes Samford University

At the Summer Institute in June, the ANAC Board of Directors invited Samford University to become its 22nd member, and our first member from Alabama. Located in Birmingham, Samford is a nationally-ranked university offering 26 degree programs and 102 majors in eight schools and more than 100 student organizations. It emphasizes engaged learning for its 4500 students, and has been recognized in *The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Building* for its First-Year and Civic Education programs.



Executive Director Lynette Robinson welcomes Andy Westmoreland to ANAC at the June Board meeting.

Samford achieves high scores for student engagement on the National Survey of Student Engagement, with particularly high scores in community service, practicum, and internships.

“Joining ANAC puts us in the company of distinguished, like-minded institutions who believe

that rigorous academics alone are not enough to prepare our students. Combining what happens in the classroom with what happens beyond is critical if we are to provide the best learning experiences,” said Samford president Andrew Westmoreland. ●

Trading Spaces: Student Exchange Launches



Earlier this month 13 ANAC institutions became pilot members of the newest ANAC initiative: **The Student Exchange program**. Through The Exchange, students pay tuition as they normally would to their home campus, while spending a semester at another ANAC campus.

Hal Wilde, president, North Central College, was one of the original advocates for this program. “The ANAC Student Exchange program developed out of a keen awareness that, for many students with regional ties, there are exceptional opportunities to experience distinctive programs at partner institutions throughout the country that are similar in size and educational philosophy. Whether it is a music business program in Nashville, service learning in

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North Carolina, ecological study of the Rocky Mountains, or dynamic interdisciplinary urban programs, among many others, these avenues for mutual enrichment can only benefit our students and our respective campus communities,” he said in a recent interview.

Opportunities for students are extensive. While most participating colleges and universities are offering their standard curriculum, many are playing up their strengths. Schools in urban settings are offering city-based curriculum and field study. Others are leveraging their locations for internships or extracurricular activities. Courses in less common fields, such as aviation and meteorology, are now more accessible to interested students from campuses that do not offer these majors.

Each participating campus has a Student Exchange representative who is responsible for coordinating the exchange on their respective campuses. Charles Taylor, dean of the College at Drury, and Cid Seidelman, provost at Westminster, co-chair the advisory committee overseeing this program and ANAC Study Abroad. The first group of exchange students is expected to enroll in spring 2009. The goal is to have all member institutions participate by spring 2010. A complete list of programs and campus representatives is available at www.anac.org.

2009 Student Exchange members

Arcadia · Belmont · Drury · Elon · Ithaca · North Central · Sage · Simmons · Evansville · Scranton · Valparaiso · Wagner · Westminster

Summer Institute Participants Share Ideas, Enjoy Southern Hospitality

Before Belmont University hosted a Presidential debate this fall, its hosting skills were put to the test at this year’s Summer Institute. Not surprisingly, event organizers passed with flying colors.

Held annually, the Summer Institute provides professional development and networking opportunities as well as a forum for discussing solutions for issues common to our members. This year 138 attendees from 22 campuses gathered on the Nashville campus for a three-day conference with the theme: “Designing for Learning.”

Plenary addresses focused on campus design, student assessment, and upcoming challenges. Poster sessions gave institutions a chance to highlight exemplary programs. Regardless of their specific institutional roles, participants sat elbow-to-elbow at breakout sessions and roundtables. They shared their successes and challenges, getting to know other ANAC members from across the country as well as colleagues from their home campuses.

Perhaps the most insightful of comments was overheard at a roundtable session discussing the integration of liberal arts and professional studies. A participant from The University of Scranton preceded his contribution with: “That’s the nice thing about ANAC. I never have to explain where I’m coming from because we’re all striving to do the same things.” ●

SAVE THE DATE: Next Summer’s Institute, on Diversity, will be at the University of Redlands, June 24-26.

ANAC Provides Forum for Leadership, Future Growth *Redlands President Stuart Dorsey addresses Summer Institute 2008*

Having shared his path from chief academic officer to university president – giving thanks to the wonderful mentors and connections he found through ANAC – University of Redlands President Stuart Dorsey delivered the closing address at the Summer Institute held this summer at Belmont.



While President Dorsey acknowledged that much of the future remains uncertain, he shared his optimism that ANAC members – and their similar missions and resources – would “collectively and individually thrive” in the coming years. As the “sturdy American hybrid,” Dr. Dorsey asserted that New American Colleges and Universities would be grounded in two primary assets: brand identity and a culture of flexibility, creativity, and adaptability.

He went on further to outline three strengths inherent to ANAC institutions – a culture that

focuses on student learning and success, creativity and ingenuity, and our reputation. He urged fellow members to extend those opportunities to adult learners, a demographic in which higher education demand is growing. To the second point, Dr. Dorsey explained that less bureaucracy has been the key to efficient decision-making that drives progress at our institutions, in spite of modest endowments. Finally, Dr. Dorsey extolled the value of ANAC as “creating a training ground for future leaders” while giving all of us a chance to share our knowledge and our challenges in this ever-changing environment. •

CAMPUS CORNER

Welcome to new presidents: *Helen Drinan (Simmons)*, *Mark Heckler (Valparaiso)*, *Tom Rochon (Ithaca)*, and *Susan Scrimshaw (The Sage Colleges)*; new provosts, *Jamie Comstock (Butler)* and *Mark Thompson (Quinnipiac)*; new cfo's *Stefano Falconi (Simmons)* and *Ed Steinmetz, (Scranton)*.

ANAC Members Shine in U.S. News Rankings:

Recognized for having recently made “striking improvements or innovations,” **Belmont University, Butler University, Elon University, Pacific Lutheran University, Quinnipiac University, The University of Scranton, Valparaiso University and Wagner College** (more than one-third of our membership) were among 70 institutions nationwide listed as “schools to watch” in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2009 rankings of *America's Best Colleges*. These institutions were all in the top four of their respective geographic regions on the “Up-and-Coming” list. Elon and Belmont were cited most overall during the nomination process, and Elon and Quinnipiac were top-ranked in their regions.



In “Programs to Look For”, the Study Abroad category cited four ANAC members -- **Elon, Arcadia, Butler and Pacific Lutheran. Hampton University** ranked #4 on the “Best Historically Black Colleges” list, and several ANAC members were recognized on the “Great Schools, Great Prices” and “A+ Options for B Students” lists.

Overall, ANAC members placed high in their respective categories. Nineteen regionally ranked master's level universities placed in the top 25 in their regions, and 47 percent were in the top ten. **Samford University** ranked #130 out of 262 national universities, and **Susquehanna University** ranked #115 out of 265 liberal arts colleges.

Entrepreneur magazine and *The Princeton Review* ranked entrepreneurship programs at **Simmons College** and **Belmont University** among the top 25 in the nation. Five New American Colleges and Universities were recognized in *The Princeton Review's* 2009 edition of the “Best 296 Business Schools” -- **Elon University, Ithaca College, Quinnipiac University, The University of Scranton, and Valparaiso University. Drake University's** School of Law was named to the list of “Best 174 Law Schools.”

Presidents of Butler University, Drury University, Elon University, Wagner College, and Westminster College were chosen to participate in the Leadership Coalition of the Bringing Theory to Practice Project.

On October 17, Mark A. Heckler was inaugurated as **Valparaiso University's** 18th president. Previously he was chief academic officer at the University of Colorado Denver. He was there for a decade, having joined the institution as director of the School of the Arts and a professor of theatre. He also served as UC Denver's coordinator of the International College at Beijing, 1996-98. Dr. Heckler and his wife Veronica have four children. To watch the video of the ceremony or read Dr. Heckler's inaugural address, please visit: <http://www.valpo.edu/inauguration/>.



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ANAC at the Debates

On October 7, **Belmont University** hosted the Town Hall-style Presidential debate in its Curb Event Center. “We were honored to have this opportunity to participate so directly in such a vital element of our nation's governing process,” commented President Bob Fisher, seen below with President-elect Obama!



Simmons College 1977 alumna Gwen Ifill moderated the Vice Presidential debate. Ifill is a senior correspondent for “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” and moderator and managing editor of “Washington Week.” She also moderated the VP debate in 2004.

UPCOMING MEETINGS in JANUARY

For other meetings, go to

<http://www.anac.org/events.html>

January 7-8, 2009

ANAC Presidents and Board meetings, Coconut Point Hyatt, Bonita Springs, Florida

Wednesday, January 7

- ANAC Presidents Meeting: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Board of Directors Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Directors Meeting: 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 8

January 20-23, 2009

CAO affinity group, Associate Dean/Provost affinity group, and IREP meeting, Pacific Lutheran University

- 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, until 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 21
- Summer Institute Advisory Committee: 7:00 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2008, at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Seattle

ANAC Panels at National Meetings

Eleven teaching and administrative faculty from eight member institutions represented or will represent ANAC at the following meetings:

AIS Annual Meeting

October 23-25, 2008; Springfield, IL

Advancing Interdisciplinary and Integrative Themes—From Integrating Liberal Arts and Professional Programs to Organizational Structure: ANAC Case Studies and Provocations

- John Burney, vice provost for Academic Affairs, **Drake University**
- Francine Navakas, associate academic dean and Bramsen Professor in the Humanities, **North Central College**
- Lynette Robinson, executive director, Associated New American Colleges

AAC&U's Annual Meeting

January 22-26; Seattle, Washington

Innovations in GE Reform and the Challenges of Assessment

- Ed Wingenbach, chair, Department of Government, **University of Redlands**
- Piers Britton, chair, Department of Art History, **University of Redlands**
- Jean Schwind, associate professor of English, **Elon University**
- Andrea Crivelli-Kovach, associate professor and director of Community Health Programs, **Arcadia University**
- Moderator: Roy Austensen, provost, **Valparaiso University**

Service Learning for Sustainable Change

- Larry Baas, professor and the chair of the Political Science Department and director of the Community Research and Service Center, **Valparaiso University**
- Gary Daynes, director, Center for Civic Engagement, **Westminster College**
- Cassia Freedland, director, Center for Leadership, **Wagner College**
- Moderator: Devorah Lieberman, provost, **Wagner College**