



Shimer
The Great Books
College of Chicago



SHIMER COLLEGE CLASS OF 2009

would be honored by your presence at their

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 2pm

Atrium of the University Technology Park, at IIT

10 West 35th Street, Chicago, Illinois

News

Montaigne Scholarship Competition

By Jesus Avina ('11)

Shimer College hosted the Montaigne Scholarship competition on February 13-14. Fifty competitors visited over the weekend (compared to 40 last year and 20 the first year). It is expected that within the bounds of what is appropriate to Shimer's small community, both the event and enrollment will continue to grow. Last year, half of the students who participated in the competition enrolled the following fall, including all the winners--making up around half of our entire incoming class.



Events

Chicago Area Reading & Discussion Group

5/6/2009 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Professor Barbara Stone will lead a discussion of Carson McCullers' story *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe* on Thursday, May 6th, 2009.

Commencement Ceremony

5/9/2009 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

The Shimer College class of 2009 invites you to their Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 9th at 2pm.

Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream

4/17/2009 8:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Shimer College Theatre presents scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Duncan Riddle.

Alumni Profile

Warner W. Johnston ('73) Serving as Chair of the New York Section of IEEE

Warner W. Johnston ('73) entered Shimer as an early entrant in '64 and later returned to Shimer to finish his degree after serving in the military. Warner was one of the students in the pre-engineering program while at Shimer, many of who later became engineers. While in the military, he received training and was an honor graduate from the US Army Signal School in Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey.

In January, Warner began serving his term as Chair of the New York Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). For 35 years, Warner has worked in the area of electronic communications with ABC television. Most recently, he has worked with ABC Television as Manager of Digital Standards.



Warner has also served on administrative committees of two professional societies of IEEE, Consumer Electronic Systems and Director of Audio Video Standards for Broadcast Technology. Warner is also very active in the Consumer Electronics Association, chairing the two working groups that have documented Closed Captioning in North America. In 2005, Warner's employer, ABC, along with PBS and the Consumer Electronics Association won a technical Emmy for work in which Warner participated in. This Emmy, which Warner can be seen holding in the picture below, was for "Documenting Closed Captioning."

Warner is now semi-retired and is looking forward to undertaking serious gardening. He also continues to enjoy some of his hobbies such as woodworking and food, particularly the art of charcuterie (sausages, ham, pâtés, and other cooked or processed meat foods). Warner occasionally blogs about his food at blog.charcouteire.com and does some photography technical work for his wife's food blog at menu.vldyson.com. Warner is also still fostering an interested in theater, which is at least partially rooted in his time at Shimer. While attending Shimer, Warner served as technical director of Shimer theater for two and half years. Looking back, he says "Shimer did well in helping me learn how to learn."

The Scholarship competition is an opportunity for students to visit Shimer and experience first hand the Socratic based classes and to tour the campus. The unfunded scholarship-the College absorbs the costs of the tuition discounts- grants the opportunity for exceptionally bright students to enroll who might not otherwise be able to afford the costs of attendance. Each competitor read an essay by Michel de Montaigne, a 16th century French writer who popularized the essay, prior to arriving on the South Side campus. Performance in the competition was judged on the basis of an essay written by each competitor in response to Montaigne's work and participation in a class discussion held in Shimer's unique seminar style.

Michael Doherty from Evanston, Illinois and Naomi Neal from Pacifica, California won this year's full tuition prizes. Alyssa DeWitt from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Kristen Watterson from New Castle, Indiana won the half tuition prizes. The Admission Office considers the Third Annual Montaigne Scholars' Competition to have been a huge success. The faculty had a difficult time awarding the grand prizes because so many of this year's competitors put in an exemplary showing. Better still, just about everyone had a lot of fun and got to know Shimer better.

Lecture Series: Professor David Schweickart

By Jonathan Timm ('11)

On Wednesday, March 25th, Loyola University Professor David Schweickart visited Shimer to give a lecture on Economic Democracy. Dr. Schweickart holds two Ph.D.s (one in mathematics and one in philosophy) and is a leading theorist in Economic Democracy. Economic Democracy is a form of market-socialism, composing of democratically operated workplaces and socially controlled investments. He has written extensively on the topic, the most recent books being [Against Capitalism](#) and [Market Socialism: The Debate Among Socialists](#).



In his lecture, Dr. Schweickart argued that capitalism creates an inevitably unstable economy -- a problem which he says Obama's economic plans will not be effective enough to solve. Furthermore, claims Schweickart, capitalism contributes to the mounting problem of climate change. But Schweickart holds that there *are* alternatives to capitalism, which not only maintain a stable economy but also allow for habits which promote global sustainability. The lecture was followed by a Q & A session and reception.