



## 2009 Montaigne Scholars



The Michel de Montaigne Scholarship is a scholarship competition that is held each February. The competition is based upon a student's merit in writing and a Shimer-like discussion of a reading. This February's 3rd annual competition had 50 prospective students competing for two full-tuition and two half-tuition renewable scholarships. The scholarship recipients who joined Shimer this fall, the two full-tuition scholarship recipients, serve to exemplify the quality of students attending Shimer.

**Naomi Neal**, 18, is from San Francisco, California. She loves anything involving swimming, baking, and loud music. She also claims that to choose just one book from her favorites is an impossible task, but she'll favor any piece of writing with an untrustworthy narrator. Naomi is ecstatic to have a chance to attend Shimer College and after graduating plans to write, "or maybe stay in grad school for the rest of my life" she says.

**Michael Doherty**, 18, hails from Evanston, Illinois. Michael plays numerous instruments including the banjo, guitar, piano, and drums. He also belongs to a band named "Color Card." Among his other passions are languages (especially German), Old-English poetry, film-making, drawing, writing, and using his musical talents to compose songs. After completing his studies at Shimer, Michael says that any career he pursues must incorporate Russian and Japanese literature, and if that were the case he would even be happy to "live the rest of [his] life on a farm."

## Alumni Spotlight

### Maggie (Nash) Kast ('57)

Maggie (Nash) Kast's ('57) memoir, *The Crack between the Worlds: A Dancer's Memoir of Loss and Faith*, tells of her life's spiritual journey. It begins with a career in modern dance, which is then reformed through personal tragedy into a religious awakening, taking the form of liturgical dance, theological study, and writing. After attending Shimer College for a year, like many others, Maggie transferred to the University of Chicago where she continued to study the Great Books. After graduating from the University of Chicago, Maggie

## Fall Lecture Series

### Lecture - Dr. Gary Glenn **9/24/2009 7:00 PM**

Dr. Glenn, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Northern Illinois University, will be giving a lecture entitled *On the Future Possibility of Liberal Education*.

### Lecture - F.H. Buckley **10/6/2009 7:00 PM**

F.H. Buckley, member of the Shimer College Board of Trustees and Executive Director of the Law & Economics Center, Associate Dean, and Foundation Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law, will be giving a lecture on *The Morality of Laughter*.

### Lecture - Todd DuBose **11/6/2009 6:30 PM**

Todd DuBose of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology will be giving a lecture on *Existential Psychotherapy: Radical, Anarchic Challenges to 'Best Practices' in Mental Health*.

## Upcoming Events

### Fall 2009 Convocation **10/17/2009 2:00 PM**

Join Shimer College in welcoming and celebrating the Class of 2013.

founded one of the first modern dance companies in Chicago, the Chicago Contemporary Dance Theater. The Chicago Contemporary Dance Theater was in residence at the Body Politic Theatre, performed at festivals and venues throughout the city, and toured from Alaska to Jamaica. Maggie, as well as other dancers and invited guests, choreographed cutting edge pieces for the company.

Unfortunately, at the height of her modern dance career, Maggie's life was struck by tragedy. While on a family vacation, a car accident took the life of her three-year-old daughter, forever changing her life. Afterwards Maggie struggled with the loss of her daughter. "Where was she, and what did 'gone' mean?" she agonized. Though Maggie grew up with no traditional religion, three years of mourning and reflection led her to investigate Catholicism and eventually enter the Church. As Maggie states, "I found a community of faith that helped me make sense of a catalytic experience." Maggie's new found spirituality and her lifelong passion for art and dance intersected when, after her study of liturgy at Catholic Theological Union, she began performing and teaching liturgical dance.



Maggie also speaks to her writing career, which has its roots in the time around her husband's death. She began to write and take classes and workshops. Eventually, she received an M.F.A. in fiction from Vermont College. Her essays have been published in publications such as *America*, *Image Journal*, and *Rosebud Magazine*. She also teaches Writing and Rhetoric part-time at Columbia College Chicago. *The Crack between the Worlds* is her first book, which speaks to her life and as Maggie stated speaks to how she got "to A from Z when they are so far apart."

Join in the celebration at Maggie's official book launch on Thursday, September 24, 7pm at Women & Children Books, 5133 N. Clark in Chicago. A reception will follow. You can read more about Maggie's memoir at [www.maggiekast.com](http://www.maggiekast.com). Maggie appreciates all your support and encourages you to visit your independent book seller for a copy of her book.

### **Have News to Share With Other Alumni?**

Maybe you started a new job, moved, got married, completed your doctorate, or wrote a book. Submit an alumni note in time to be included in the fall issue of the *Symposium*. [Submit a note online](#) (you will be asked to log in) or email [alumni@shimer.edu](mailto:alumni@shimer.edu).

## **News from Shimer**

### **Student Life Staff at Shimer**

Meet the people who are helping students navigate the educational and professional difficulties of college.

### **What are Shimer Students Reading?**

See what Shimer students are taking this term. Find class syllabuses, including reading lists, online.

### **Updated Alumni Profiles**

[Aryal, Siddhi \(1999\)](#)  
[Bussell, Hilary \(2005\)](#)  
[Deitch, Richard \(1965\)](#)  
[Harmison, Charles \(2005\)](#)  
[Holmes, Kim \(2004\)](#)  
[Honaker, Damon \(2007\)](#)  
[Irilli, Suzanne \(1987\)](#)  
[Keil, Robert \(1969\)](#)  
[Kruglyashova, Anastasia \(1999\)](#)  
[Kunitz, Joan \(1956\)](#)  
[Lefebvre, Nathaniel \(2008\)](#)  
[Meissner, Robert \(1970\)](#)  
[Minas, Susan \(1971\)](#)  
[Morris, Robert \(1993\)](#)  
[Mraz, David \(1968\)](#)  
[Noble, Jo \(1966\)](#)  
[O'Dwyer, Joan \(1966\)](#)  
[Rocke, David \(1966\)](#)  
[Rosenberg, Alan \(1972\)](#)  
[Sejbl, Margie-Kay \(1987\)](#)  
[Sosa, Maria \(1972\)](#)  
[Sutherland, Richard \(1981\)](#)  
[Unrath, Craig \(1978\)](#)  
[Valaska, Jeanne \(1945\)](#)  
[Williams, Wesley \(1972\)](#)  
[Yancey, Sally \(1975\)](#)  
[Yronwode, Catherine \(1968\)](#)