



## Dr. Gary Glenn Kicks Off Fall Lecture Series

Shimer welcomed Dr. Gary Glenn, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Northern Illinois University, to the Shimer campus on September 24th as part of its Fall Lecture Series.

Dr. Glenn titled his lecture to Shimer College, *On the Future Possibility of Liberal Education*, and he concisely addressed just that idea. He began by defining what a liberal education is, drawing on numerous authors and intellectuals including John Stuart Mill and Horace Mann, followed with a depiction of six obstacles facing liberal education today. Due to a combination of historical, cultural, economic, and philosophical challenges



Dr. Glenn believes liberal education at most universities and colleges will likely continue to be an "institutionally marginal activity, a matter of bare possibility, [and] almost pure chance." He believes that a classically defined liberal education will continue to be a rare and difficult thing to acquire. According to Dr. Glenn:

"This is because it will continue to depend on students who have the capacity to think, and who love to think; and who are driven by a desire to seek to understand how human beings can best live together, by comparing available alternatives presented in some books that our civilization has passed down to us as having stood the test of time, and thereby having shown that they address enduring questions and enduring plausible answers; and it will also continue to depend on such students somehow finding their way to the vanishingly few teachers who have studied these matters from such books, and who have some skill at helping make those books accessible to those students."

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session, which featured a lively discussion on the definition and future of liberal education. Among the most provocative questions asked were: What can be done to revitalize liberal education? How valid are those proposed causes for the lack of students interested in and able to participate in the discussions needed? Is the future that bleak, and if so, is there a way to help revitalize liberal education?

[Read the full text of Dr. Glenn's lecture here.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Fall 2009 Convocation

**10/17/2009 2:00 PM**

Celebrate a new academic year with keynote speaker Dr. David R. Koukal ('90) and a performance by the Elgin Symphony Orchestra String Trio.

### 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*.

## News from Shimer

### Great Art Complementing the Great Books

Consider making a special gift to help provide great art to complement the Great Books.

### Notes from Weekend College

Harold Stone, Director of Weekend College, welcomes the start of a new year.

### Shimer's Twist on Constitution Day

Students debate the Constitutionality of Constitution Day.

## **Admissions Staff Heads West**

During October, Cheryl Park, Assistant Director of Admissions, is heading westward. She has various events planned up and down the west coast from Los Angeles to Seattle. Events will include sample discussion classes, receptions, informational sessions, and school visits. Cheryl took a similar trip last year, which helped increase the awareness of Shimer College, and this fall there was an increased number of applicants and students attending Shimer from the west coast.

If you would like to attend and help at any of these events, please contact Cheryl at [c.park@shimer.edu](mailto:c.park@shimer.edu). The trip will include these stops:

**October 9th, 11am-1pm**  
**Santa Barbara, California**  
Santa Barbara City College  
Reception hosted by Shimer

**October 10th, 2pm-4pm**  
**Manhattan Beach, California**  
Manhattan Beach Marriott Hotel, View Restaurant  
Sample class led by Shimer faculty, Stuart Patterson  
Followed by information session

**October 14th, 7pm-9pm**  
**Berkeley, California**  
Doubletree Hotel, Berkeley Marina  
Bay area information session

**October 17th, 1pm-3pm**  
**Seattle, Washington**  
Hotel Deca  
Seattle area information session

**October 23rd, 2pm-4pm**  
**Monterey, California**  
Monterey Peninsula College  
Reception hosted by Shimer

**October 25th, 5pm-7pm**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
Oregon Convention Center  
Reception hosted by Shimer

## **Updated Alumni Profiles**

[Adam, Suzanne \(1950\)](#)  
[Adler, Barry \(1968\)](#)  
[Barschi, Edith \(1975\)](#)  
[Bigos, Gus \(1975\)](#)  
[Bloch, James \(1967\)](#)  
[Bower, Monica \(2005\)](#)  
[Collins, Virginia \(1955\)](#)  
[Deitch, Richard \(1965\)](#)  
[Dyke, Lancelot \(2009\)](#)  
[Helenihi, Noah \(1996\)](#)  
[Hether, Steven \(1970\)](#)  
[Hockenbury, Sandra \(1974\)](#)  
[Honaker, Barbara \(2006\)](#)  
[Keil, Robert \(1969\)](#)  
[Kruglyashova, Anastasia \(1999\)](#)  
[McDermott, John \(2003\)](#)  
[Milano, Michael \(2006\)](#)  
[Mraz, David \(1968\)](#)  
[Nowaczyk, Thomas \(1997\)](#)  
[O'Dwyer, Joan \(1966\)](#)  
[Plantz, Charles \(1969\)](#)  
[Ready, Psyche \(2000\)](#)  
[Rosenblatt, Brian \(2001\)](#)  
[Thomas, Kathryn \(1992\)](#)  
[Weinman, Michael \(1998\)](#)  
[Winston, Douglas \(1989\)](#)

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