

# SYMPOSIUM



A Publication of Shimer College

Fall 2011



# From the President's Desk:

## ON EMBRACING CHANGE, THOUGHTFULLY

The other day, when I picked up the dry-cleaning, the owner of the store asked me if I knew about Shimer since his son went there and is now teaching in Seoul.

I said I did know about Shimer.

I told him I was the president, but he charged me anyway.

In my first year as president, I've had conversations with many graduates, and they all tell me that going to Shimer enriched their lives. They tell me that Shimer helped them handle change with grace and courage, to navigate new terrain, to negotiate the blurring of boundaries that increasingly defines our lives.

A Shimer education teaches us how to apply the great lessons of our past to new and unexpected challenges of the future.

My hope for this coming year is that we emerge from our recent history with a renewed sense of unity. This is the time to work together to create the foundations of a dependable, sustainable—even predictable—Shimer College. We are already well on our way. We have established great student services, hired new staff and three new faculty members, and begun to strengthen

Shimer's ties to the schools with which we share our campus and to the city of Chicago. Now let us make sure that everything we do is, in the words of one graduate, as excellent as our curriculum.

That does not mean that we should ever shun change. Instead we should do what Shimerians do so well: combine tradition with innovation. At our staff retreat before the semester began, I quoted one of my favorite lines from Robert Frost: "Most of the change we think we see in life is due to truths being in and out of favor."

To truly be an independent thinker, you have to be able to recognize the difference between a trend and real change, and you have to know that truth is never a question of fashion. Shimer teaches us both these things.

I hope our renewed spirit of unity supports our ever-changing community for a long, long time to come.



Ed Noonan  
President



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## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Shimer College is seeking comments about the College from the public in preparation for the periodic visit of its regional accrediting agency. Shimer College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on December 5-7, 2011 by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for the purpose of renewing its accreditation. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

#### The public is invited to submit comments regarding Shimer College to:

Public Comment on Shimer College  
The Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1413

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; they cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by October 31, 2011.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Ada S. McKinley Community Services summer program was held at Shimer for six weeks in June and July. The program provides reading, writing, and math tutoring for middle school students as part of a comprehensive program of college preparation services. Cynthia Perry, Program Director for Early Intervention at McKinley, said that holding the summer program on a college campus helps to acclimate students to college life. Shimer enabled smaller groupings in a more intimate setting.
- **Michael Anderson '12** and **Pablo Otavalo '13** are the first place winners of the 2011 Shimer College Poetry Contest, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets and endowed by poet and Shimer alumnus **Peter Cooley '62**. Honorable mentions were awarded to **Michael Doherty '13** and **Dinah Gumms '14**. Read all four poems at [alumni.shimer.edu/poetry11](http://alumni.shimer.edu/poetry11).
- The Shimer community is pleased to announce new appointments in its volunteer leadership. **Sally Brown '65** is the new Chair of the Board of Trustees; **Phil Farina '73** is Vice Chair. **Nancy Nickel '76** will be serving as President of the Alumni Association, and **Sarah Delezen '01** as the Association's Vice President.
- **Barbara Stone** returns for a third term as Dean of the College. She takes over the position from **David Shiner**, who stays on as Associate Dean.
- **Simon Creek '12**, **Sara Hall '12**, **Kieran Kelley '12**, **Katie Martin Seaver '12**, **Allie Peluso '12**, and **Howard Ruan '12** have returned from the Shimer-in-Oxford Program. **Jesus Aviña '11**, **Robert Carpenter '11**, **Juan Andrés Guerrero Saade '11**, **Eugene Lim '11**, **Adrian Nelson '11**, **Ari Robbins '11**, and **Jon Timm '11**, who also participated in the program, graduated from Shimer last spring.



# Oriented, and a Little Dizzy

With reporting by *Mobini Lal '14*

**Mark** wants to be a composer. **Nate** used to be in the navy. **Isaac** likes rock climbing and is an early entrant, as is **Gavin**. **Alex** and **Vince** both know Greek. They went to the same high school but didn't really know each other, and now both they and their families have become fast friends. **Steve** is an avid Go player and started a club within a week of being at Shimer. **Sofie** likes slasher movies and Jane Austen. **Adam** is big into musical theater and has seen dozen of shows. **Sam** likes to sing. **Kelsey** was a student teacher and has been an editor. **Laura** is a feminist and is way into social action. **Marcus** loves basketball.

We're thrilled to welcome these students, and the entire new group of 35 smart, talented, unconventional young people—the Class of 2015—into the Shimer community. They've already accomplished all kinds of things in their lives. We can't wait to see what they do with the next four years.

That we are awed by our new students every fall is nothing new. This year, however, there was something unusual about Orientation: for the first time, Convocation was held prior to the start of classes. **Dean of the College Barbara Stone**, who reminded us of the Latin roots of the word, spoke of this calling together at the beginning of the year as a new tradition. Tomorrow another convocation would take place, she said in her speech to the assembled students, faculty, and staff. For the first time



this year—and many times thereafter—there would be a calling together to discuss the great ideas that have shaped our world. That, she added, constituted quite an old tradition.

**After a frenzy of moving  
over the summer...  
“inspiration for each other  
and innovation for us all.”**

Barbara spoke of the Great Books in another context. She pointed out that there had been a dizzying frenzy of moving on the Shimer floor over the summer, and that the subsequent disorientation from running around in circles hunting down a particular office might cause a person to think hard about Lorenz' *On Aggression*.

At the same time, certain things remain the same at Shimer. **Ed Noonan, President of the College**, exhorted students to continue the tradition of providing “inspiration for each other and innovation for us all.” He urged us to explore the great city of Chicago on the Lake. He reminded students that Shimer is a place where their work will be taken seriously. He told us a possibly apocryphal story about how Shimer students are identified on the IIT campus by the way they bump into trees and walls while they walk around reading.

Between the two speeches ran a thread that Shimer is about old and new traditions helping each other and exploring the unfamiliar, about stability and change. Barbara ended her speech by giving us an answer to a different sort of Great Question: “Why did I agree to be Dean yet again?” She admitted to being motivated in life by “an irritating, nagging, and, from a certain vantage point, idiotic fear of boredom.” The first time she had been Dean, she told us, she wanted to see if she could do it at all. The second time had come during the move to Chicago, when everything was different and it felt like the first time all over again. But this time, Barbara agreed to be Dean because of her confidence that Shimer's growth “is no longer in the future; it is here and now.” We are, thanks in no small part to another great group of first-year students, here to stay.

And that isn't boring.



## SIX MONTHS IN, STUDENT LIFE TAKES OFF

When **Dean of Students B David Galt** is asked for his reflections on what the Student Life Center has accomplished after its first semester in operation, he tells the story of a special request by a donor. Last spring, **Kathryn Jane Ripley '68** wrote a letter saying that she was “delighted to hear of all the activities going on for the students,” and asked that her annual donation be used to buy something “really cool” for the Center that wasn’t otherwise in the budget. She had one stipulation: don’t just put it toward a computer.

B David discussed the matter with students and together they decided to purchase headphones so students could listen to music while they worked or surfed the web. It is, B David admits, a computer *accessory*. But before Jane’s thoughtful gift, students had been sharing a single pair of headphones, unclaimed from the lost and found, between six stations.

### PORTRAIT OF A WEEKENDER

**Amy Williams '15** already has an undergraduate degree. But she wanted to learn in a different capacity, one that encourages independent thinking and intellectual growth. “I want to be a better person; I don’t want to simply follow ideas my culture tells me,” she says. “I want to figure it out on my own.” So Amy began talking with Shimer’s Admission Office, and this fall, she started the Weekend College program.

To do so, Amy flies to Chicago every third week from Washington D.C. where she lives. (“Yes, I come just for Shimer,” she told this reporter whose voice undoubtedly betrayed some incredulity about the commute). Shimer’s Weekend College fits the bill for Amy; quite literally: she found it affordable compared to other Great Books programs to which she applied and was admitted. Additionally, since the program takes place on weekends, Amy can continue to work, and she appreciates sharing classes with other working students.

The most important aspect of the Weekend Program for Amy, however, is the Great Books curriculum. Working for an American company in Germany after spending eight years in the Air Force, Amy decided four years ago that she wanted to make a real change in her life. She enrolled in Gutenberg College in Oregon but

This was definitely a “want” rather than a “need,” B David wrote in his reply to Jane. “As I write this, there are four students who are using the computers and wearing headphones. I can only imagine what music they are listening to!”

B David, who has run eighteen marathons and keeps hours on the Shimer floor that seem strongly to correlate with the genetic variation for short sleepers, has had only a few months to transform the former computer lab into the central nerve of the college, where students work, socialize, and initiate projects.

“It continues to amaze me what a gathering place it has become, a one-stop shop, a place where students can go to get answers or be directed to whomever can give them answers,” B David said. “The Center has empowered and supported students to really create and enhance the classroom experience through a variety of social, personal, and intellectual activities.”

left last spring, dissatisfied with the amount of lecturing that took place in the courses. She recalled one time suggesting to her classmates that they not ask the professors for answers to their questions. The response she got frustrated her: “We’re not smart enough to know what Plato thinks.”

**“Some of the books are hard; it’s just that I don’t give up so easily.”**

On the first day of classes this fall, Amy and her classmates discussed their decisions to come to Shimer. Amy discovered a good deal of common ground: “People who want to go to Shimer enjoy learning and knowledge.”

Not everyone in her life understands her choice, however. She gets the sense that some people think she’s pretentious, or worse, wasting her time. Why would she want to labor over dense, obscure tomes? “Some of the books are hard,” she said. “It’s just that I don’t give up so easily.” Amy likens her interest in life-long learning to the pursuit of a hobby. When her mother mentioned an interest in taking an ethics course, Amy saw an opportunity to make an analogy. Shimer, she explained, was “about day-to-day ethics.”

--Continued on p7

Students appreciate the changes. Some like the reorganization of the open lounge spaces at Shimer, and many more have taken part in traditional events like Community Tuesday, Orange Horse, Fortnightly, and Solidarity Night, which drew record numbers in the spring.

Others have taken advantage of the partnership with IIT, which offers access to activities and events. “B David has done a great job of stressing the services IIT provides,” says **Mohini Lal '14**, who serves as vice-president of the IIT club Feminists United. She also participated in the new student orientation, and was happy with the longer, more extensive training the Center made possible this year. **SaraLouise Dawson '14** is the president of IIT Dance 101, **Landis Masnor '13** founded a cinema society, **Pablo Otavalo '13** has started the botanical club “Botanists of Desire,” and joined **Sara Hall '12** and **Michael Doherty '13** in creating a literary magazine—all groups that involve IIT students. The first event to bring all campuses together (Shimer, IIT, and VanderCook) was initiated by **Alex Rosenberg '13** who has organized Red Dance, a fundraiser for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago that takes place October 21st.

Clearly, the presence of the Center has fundamentally changed the experience of being a student at Shimer. After only a semester, it has become a cherished resource—with a highly resourceful director. According to one student, B David is like a magician who makes gold out of air.



# INTERNSHIPS CREATE LINK BETWEEN IDEAS & WORK

There is something startling about being closely observed by an insect. **Renee Meschi '14** knows this; she spent the summer interning at the Mariposario Bed & Breakfast and Butterfly Garden in Costa Rica, where she captured a butterfly on video swiveling its head to follow the back-and-forth sweep of her camera, like a spectator at a tennis match. "It intently maintains eye contact no matter what!" Renee writes on the Shimer blog ([blog.shimer.edu](http://blog.shimer.edu)).

Renee and three other Shimer students, **Zach Fazio '14**, **Stephanie Fong '13**, and **Landis Masnor '13**, participated in the Shimer Internship/Mentorship (SIM) Program, which offers students the ability to develop leadership potential in the areas of business, technology, and not-for-profits through a combination of internship funding and career mentoring. The mentorship component, in which students are matched with Shimer alumni, is an aspect of the program **Dean of Students B David Galt** is working to expand.

The significance of such a comprehensive program for a liberal arts curriculum like Shimer's lies in the connection it enables students to make between the classroom and the workplace. "I was surprised by how much a Shimer education prepared me for this work," say Zach of his City Hall internship, which

involved plenty of writing and research. For Stephanie, the nonhierarchical organization of the Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University offered the opportunity to apply collaborative experiences from Assembly and other community events to the workplace. "I feel lucky to have found a place where I was an equal alongside other staff members and had the opportunity to learn a lot because I got to *do* a lot," Stephanie wrote in an email.

**"I feel lucky to have found a place where I was an equal alongside other staff members and had the opportunity to learn a lot because I got to *do* a lot."**

But internships are perhaps most valuable for the transformative experiences they facilitate. Renee initially chose to intern at a bed and breakfast because of her interest in a career in hospitality. What she discovered, however, was that the more profound experience of cultural exchange happened not at the reception desk, where she interacted with travelers from all over the world, but between species. Giving tours of the butterfly garden to tourists, Renee began to take on the role of "ambassa-

dor for arthropods to humans." At the end of the internship, she was invited to accompany Mariposario's resident entomologist to the Washington coast where she spent the week before classes studying maritime invertebrates and rare forest spiders.

To participate in the program, qualifying students find an internship that interests them and submit their choice to a committee for approval. Landis chose to intern with the microlending organization Fonkoze in Haiti, with which Shimer has a long-term relationship through Steve Werlin, faculty member and manager at one of Fonkoze's branches. Being at Shimer influenced students' choices in other ways, for example by what they read. Stephanie lists Evelyn Fox Keller's "Feminism and Science," as one of her favorite readings from the spring, and a video Landis posted to the internship blog shows him packing Dorothy Day and Muhammad Yunus to take with him to Haiti—alongside vast quantities of bug repellent and sun block.

This year marks the end of the Kemper grant that supported fifteen students in a wide variety of internships for four years. According to B David, Kemper has changed its funding priorities and is no longer available to renew support for the program. "Kemper has been a great donor and supporter of the SIM Program, and we are very appreciative," B David said. "We are now excited to be exploring other funding possibilities." Finding those sources is a top priority, agrees newly-hired **Development Director, Mary Pat Barbarie**. "Career development and the cultivation of individual students' talents and interests continue to be central to the vitality of the college. I would welcome the conversation with donors about supporting this and other exciting student programs."

**"The most honest answer I have is, I have a lot to learn"**

Should there be any question of the complementarity between internships and a Shimer education, consider Zach's Socratic response to queries about what he learned while at City Hall: "The most honest answer I have is, I have a lot to learn."



# Class of 2011 Celebrates

**Samira Ahmed**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
*Divided Self:  
Confronting the Dilemma of the Hijab*

**Elizabeth Marie Allen**

Bachelor of Science in Humanities  
*A Woman's Journey Through Mythology:  
A Pathway To Transformation*

**Jesus Roberto Aviña**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
*New Institutional Consciousness:  
A Comparison of Historical Awareness in  
New Institutional Economics  
and G.W.F. Hegel's Historical Consciousness*

**Taylor Glendora Buck**

Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences  
with Distinction  
*Human Well-Being and Profit:  
The Role of Social Service Nonprofits  
in a Capitalist Society*

**Robert Henry Carpenter**

Bachelor of Science in Humanities  
with Distinction  
*On the Evolution of Metaphysical  
Explanation in Cosmological Modeling*

**Juan Andrés Guerrero Saade**

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
with Distinction  
*The Pursuit of the Unrecognizable:  
Re-envisioning the Lost Project of Artificial  
Intelligence in the Aftermath of Ludwig  
Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy*

**Jeremy W. Haynes**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
*Family: A Great Idea*

**Kimberly S. Leverenz**

Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences  
*Back to Eden: The First Four Chapters of  
Genesis in John Steinbeck's Novels*

**Eugene Yong Lim**

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
with Great Distinction  
*A Translation of Arthur Rimbaud's  
ILLUMINATIONS*

**Margaret Nelson\***

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
with Great Distinction  
*Her Voice That Made The Sky*

**Erik Randall\***

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
with Distinction  
*Seeing Only the Seen in the Seen:  
Relating to the Senses in Theravāda Buddhism*

**Ari Martin Robbins**

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
with Distinction  
*The Reallissimum of Narcissus*

**Christin Eli Smith**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
with Distinction  
*A Period Piece: Questioning the Biological  
Necessity of Menstruation and its Effects  
on Female Gender Identity*

**Hupp Purnell Smith**

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
*The Missed*

**Jonathan David Roop Timm**

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies  
with Distinction  
*Contextualizing Truth, Ethics, and Political Analysis*

**Gerald Welch**

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities  
*The Ghost Sonata*

\*Student Speaker



— Continued from p5 —

Amy's second-career goal is to teach college. She knows that pursuing a second bachelor's degree makes an already long road still longer, but believes the core values of a Great Books education, especially Shimer's emphasis on discussions that lead not to mastery but to more and better-informed questioning, are crucial for herself and for the country as a whole. "What the college teaches is self-awareness. We want Americans to learn in order to fit into our society and graduate into a certain system. This country needs schools that teach people to question why they think a certain way." She mentioned that she knows plenty of intelligent people who are hard-pressed to give real, substantive reasons for their beliefs. "If you have self-awareness, you can think about why."

ALUMNI.SHIMER.EDU/COMMENCEMENT2011

## HOSTETTER-BENNETT AWARD

The first reaction of **Pablo Otavalo '13** to being named a Hostetter-Bennett Award recipient at Commencement on May 7 was surprise. "I wasn't aware that it existed," he recalled.

Awarded only when the faculty has determined that a student's improvement in academic performance has been outstanding, the award bearing the portrait of long-time staff member Myrtie Stevens Bennett carries with it the responsibility of being in the recipient's care for the next year. "It's been in the hands of many students" said Pablo, whose name will be added to the list of all previous winners on the back of the frame. "It's held together by tape."

Pablo has placed the award in a bookshelf where it sits amid pottery from the Andes. From that vantage point, he imagines that Bennett looks over him as he reads or contemplates the marvels of the universe. This should get him her approval, but Pablo doesn't seem too worried. "You can only really win the award once," he explained. Once you've improved, you've improved. "So there's no pressure."



## Don Moon Honored

On May 6th, the Board of Trustees, faculty & staff, alumni and friends of the college gathered to commemorate the 44 years of service of **Don Moon**. The capstone of the evening was the launch of the Don P. Moon Scholarship Fund, which in its first night grew to \$87,000.

Throughout the evening, speakers shared their stories of Don. **David Shiner** compared him to Frances Wood Shimer, who was also at the college for 44 years. **Jonathan Timm '11** recognized Don as a professor who constantly challenged students in class, but always with compassion and humor. **President Ed Noonan** also mentioned Don's humor, and that it was Don's example that taught him to keep laughing to ensure success as a President.

The Don P. Moon  
Scholarship Fund  
is growing.

You can still make  
a donation:

[ALUMNI.SHIMER.EDU/](http://ALUMNI.SHIMER.EDU/)  
[MOONRECETION](http://MOONRECETION)



## {SCHOLARSHIP}

The Michel de Montaigne Scholar's Competition awards scholarships based on a competitive contest in which prospective students discuss and write about a Montaigne essay. It is held on location at Shimer College every February. At this year's 5th annual competition, more than 50 students competed for one full and two half-tuition scholarships. Honorable mention scholarships were also awarded. All scholarships are entirely merit-based and renewable.

# MONTAIGNE SCHOLARS

by *Mohini Lal '14*



Full Montaigne Scholarship winner **Mark Surya '15** found his expectations fulfilled when he came to Shimer. "I was expecting a lot of people who like books for the sake of books, and I wasn't disappointed," he says. "I've mostly seen books used as academic or social tools, but not here."

Mark, originally from the New York/New Jersey area, has found similar satisfaction with the city of Chicago. "I sneezed on the street yesterday, and everyone around me turned to say "bless you," he laughs. "In New York, they'd have run in the other direction or yelled at me for spreading germs."

Although Mark hopes to ultimately become a composer, he chose to come to Shimer for an interdisciplinary education first. "I like going to concerts: classical, jazz, hip-hop," he said, "but I also like the visual arts, such as painting and film."

**Kelsey Crick '15** says, "I would hands down not be here without the Montaigne Scholarship."

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Kelsey found Shimer by chance. "I usually didn't open letters from colleges," Kelsey said, "but I was amused by the brochures from Shimer." Though she is interested in writing, editing, and student teaching, Kelsey came to Shimer because of the seminar-style classes. "I always liked discussion-based education. It's being told to think instead of what to think."

Kelsey plans on attending graduate school when leaving Shimer. "I like the idea of Shimer as an undergraduate education because it's an education that teaches you how to learn. Shimer teaches you general knowledge that can take you anywhere."

**Ed Vlcek '15** discovered Shimer through cross-registration between Shimer and Harold Washington, and decided to transfer after winning a Montaigne scholarship.

Without the scholarship, "I wouldn't be here," Ed said. "I've gone in a lot of different directions, and I realized I didn't have to limit myself. Self-governance drew me here from other programs."

After Shimer, Ed hopes to attend graduate school to explore the relationship between the social sciences and environmental issues. "It's about being able to explore these issues without specialization but while still having a good understanding of different scientific issues."



# MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Edie Barschi '75**

Financial Advisor  
Berkeley, California

**Sally Brown '65**

**Chair**

Richmond, Virginia

**Barry J. Carroll '66**

Carroll International  
Lake Forest, Illinois

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Chicago, Illinois

**Shirley A. Conibear '68**

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**James Donovan**

Professor of Natural Science  
Faculty Representative

**Timothy Eident '13**

Weekend Student Representative

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Lafayette, Colorado

**Mary Lou Kennedy '74**

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VP and Senior National Counsel  
First American Title Insurance Company  
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**Robert Keohane '61**

Professor of Political Science  
Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University  
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**Linda Levy '78**

Sales Representative  
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**Katherine Martin Seaver '12**

Weekday Student Representative

**Christopher B. Nelson**

President  
St. John's College  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Nancy Nickel '76**

President  
Shimer College Alumni Association  
Evanston, Illinois

**Edward Noonan**

President  
Shimer College

**Phillip Pappas '75**

Chicago, Illinois

**Peter Schroth '66**

South Glastonbury, Connecticut

**Daniel Shiner '77**

Dan's Books  
Mill Valley, California

**Barbara Stone**

Dean of the College  
Professor of German & Humanities  
Faculty Representative

**Rebecca Sundin '99**

Americaneagle.com  
Grayslake, Illinois

**Edward W. Walbridge '56**

Chicago, Illinois

Emeritus Members

**Ralph Conant**

Trinidad, California

**Don Moon**

President Emeritus  
Chicago, Illinois

When Bill Rice approached me about coming on the Board five or six years ago, I was adjunct teaching and was shocked at the inability of students to perform successfully at a college level. Teaching as I had been taught at Shimer, I could see firsthand how many students today did not know how to think for themselves. The experience convinced me that colleges like Shimer must succeed, and instilled in me the passion that all Board members share to work hard for this institution and pay for the privilege.

I was asked to become a Trustee because of my long-term experience serving on nonprofit boards. With that perspective, I am very happy to be able to say that the future, today, looks very bright for Shimer. Last year, we announced the Hostetter Society to recognize those who have designated Shimer a beneficiary in their wills. We raised \$100,000 to initiate a scholarship in honor of Don Moon. Ed Noonan has created an Advisory Board of some prominent Chicago citizens to help raise our visibility. Development, Finance, and Admission continue to become more professionalized and effective. But most of all, I'm made hopeful by our incredible faculty, and the students we are able to attract—and retain—in ever-growing numbers.

I didn't actually graduate from Shimer. I left after two years. Even though the student body was about 300 strong, it was too small and isolated for me. Were Shimer situated as it is today, I would have continued. I have degrees from two other universities, but I think of Shimer as my alma mater and have supported it financially since 1965. Now, almost 50 years later, I continue to experience how my brief time at Shimer changed my life and affected the choices I have made both personally and professionally.

-SALLY BROWN '65  
*Chair of the Board of Trustees*

# MEET THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Life has been a series of surprises since my student days at Shimer. Spending 15 years doing theater in Chicago, and then transitioning into a career as a communications director for a not-for-profit organization, which is what I do now, were never on my radar.

When the events of the last few years unfolded at Shimer, I was surprised at the depth of feelings that were stirred within me. The open, rigorous inquiry and wonderful sense of creativity and community that were so formative to me as a college student were gifts that I wanted ongoing generations of Shimer students to experience, enjoy, and put to good use in the world. Being on the board of the Alumni Association, and now serving as its president, have been unanticipated but very gratifying ways for me to say, "Thank you."

My sincere hope is that we alums will continue to share our time, presence, expertise, and financial resources in support of this wonderful institution, which has helped us think more clearly, care more deeply, act more thoughtfully, and participate more meaningfully wherever life surprisingly, has taken us.

**-NANCY NICKEL '76**  
*President of the Shimer College Alumni Association*

I'm currently working as a Senior Project Manager, serving as the Owner's Representative for the expansion of the DuSable Museum of African American History. Previously I led the renovation of the Chicago History Museum. I enjoy the museum environment and being responsible for coordinating the diverse group of stakeholders and design professionals involved in these types of projects.

I'm hoping to make the alumni association an effective conduit for sharing important information about what is going on Shimer College, and to encourage more alumni participation in Shimer events such as assembly meetings and the lecture series. We are hoping that our efforts will create more of a sense of connectedness between alumni and the internal Shimer Community.

**-SARAH DELEZEN '01**  
*Vice President of the Shimer College Alumni Association*

**Erik Badger '97**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Racheal Borgman '06**  
Decatur, Georgia

**Sarah Delezen '01**  
**Vice President**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Alan Dowty '59**  
South Bend, Indiana

**Jay Goldenberg '54**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Paul Huntwork '57**  
Chetek, Wisconsin

**Elisabeth Matthews '95**  
Bothell, Washington

**Nancy Nickel '76**  
**President**  
Evanston, Illinois

**Christopher Richardson '04**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Nick Schmitt '08**  
Sunnyside, New York

**Ed Walbridge '56**  
**Immediate Past President**  
Chicago, Illinois

**John Wold '57**  
Evanston, Illinois

**Steve Zolno '71**  
Oakland, California

## Mark Your Calendar

**Friday, September 16**  
Lecture by Dr. Jim Donovan

**Saturday, September 24**  
Shimer Volunteer Day (see right)

**Friday, September 30**  
Lecture by Dr. Carol Adams

**Saturday, September 24**  
Shimer Volunteer Day

**Monday, October 10 - Sunday, October 16**  
Shimer Days

**Friday, October 14**  
Alumni Association Reception

**Friday, October 28**  
Lecture by Dirk Huelstrunk

**Saturday, November 12**  
Orange Horse

**Sunday, November 13**  
Assembly Meeting

**Wednesday, November 16**  
Shimer Theater Presents: A One Act Play

**Saturday, November 19**  
Shimer Volunteer Day

## SHIMER VOLUNTEER DAY

Volunteer Day is a Saturday set aside each month when volunteer alumni, parents, students, staff, faculty & friends can come and volunteer their time on various projects that need to happen around the College. Projects vary depending on what is most pressing and may include envelope stuffing, filing, cleaning, organizing, moving furniture, etc.

For more information or to sign-up to help, please contact Aaron Garland at [a.garland@shimer.edu](mailto:a.garland@shimer.edu).

# 2011-12 LECTURE & PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Community Through Conversation

The Shimer College Lecture & Performing Arts Series is organized annually to bring the great conversation to the community. Shimer hosts scholars, educators, and performers to engage in conversation about a variety of topics. Shimer believes that education that begins in the classroom is enhanced by what occurs outside of the classroom. Shimer is proud to help build community through conversation.

## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE "WHAT" IN THE WORLD?

**DARK MATTER, DARK ENERGY, PHYSICS & BEAUTY**

**Dr. Jim Donovan**

*Professor of Natural Sciences  
Shimer College*

**Friday, September 16, 2011 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Auditorium, MTCC



## THE PATHWAY TO A BETTER LIFE FONKOZE AND THE MICROFINANCE RESPONSE TO EXTREME POVERTY IN HAITI

**Steven Werlin**

*Branch Manager, Fonkoze & Shimer Faculty*

**Friday, January 27, 2012 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Auditorium, MTCC



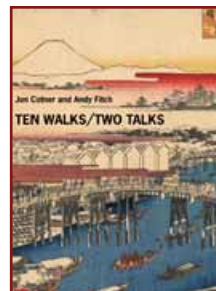
## WHOSE 'HOOD IS THIS ANYWAY?

**A CANDID CONVERSATION ABOUT  
NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESSION  
PATTERNS IN CHICAGO**

**Dr. Carol L. Adams**

*President and CEO  
DuSable Museum of African American History*

**Friday, September 30, 2011 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Auditorium, MTCC



## TEN WALKS / TWO TALKS

**AN INTRODUCTION &  
DIALOGIC PERFORMANCE**

**Jon Cotner**

*Author and Shimer Alumna*

**Friday, February 24, 2012 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Auditorium, MTCC

## THE POETRY OF SOUND INTRODUCTION TO SOUND POETRY & THE WORK OF DIRK HUELSTRUNK

**Dirk Huelstrunk**

*Poet & Writer*

**Friday, October 28, 2011 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Ballroom, MTCC



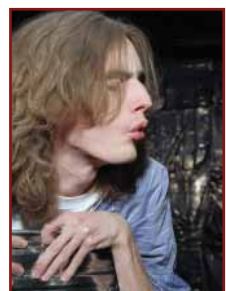
## 35 YEARS OF ART & SCIENCE COLLABORATION

**HISTORY OF THE ELECTRONIC  
VISUALIZATION LAB AT UIC**

**Daniel Sandin**

*Co-Director, Electronic Visualization Lab  
University of Illinois at Chicago*

**Friday, March 9, 2012 @7:00pm**  
McCloska Auditorium, MTCC



## SHIMER THEATER PRESENTS A ONE-ACT PLAY TBA

**Duncan Riddell, Director**

*Shimer College Theater Program*

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011 @7:00pm**  
IIT Tower Auditorium



## SHIMER THEATER PRESENTS ANNUAL SPRING PLAY TBA

**Duncan Riddell, Director**

*Shimer College Theater Program*

**Thursday, April 12, 2012 @7:00pm**  
**Friday, April 13, 2012 @7:00pm**  
**Saturday, April 14, 2012 @7:00pm**  
**Sunday, April 15, 2012 @2:00pm**  
IIT Tower Auditorium



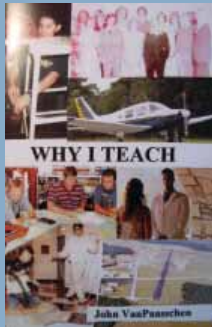
**1950's**

**John Wold '57** was elected this June to the Shimer College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**1960's**

**Rev. Ron Partridge '64** is parish priest of All Saints Church in Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, UK. It is a part of a cluster of six rural churches.

**John Van Paasschen '65** is an award-winning educator who has published a book *Why I Teach*, a collection of short stories of actual classroom situations that when put together define excellence in teaching. More information at [www.mvpaviationinc.com](http://www.mvpaviationinc.com).

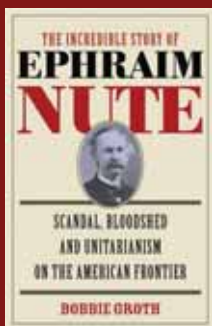


**Jan (Ackerman) Maher '64** had a short story published in the summer 2011 issue of *Third Wednesday*. However, it was unfortunately attributed to John Maher.

**Dr. M. Louise Ripley '68** has been promoted to Full Professor at York University in Toronto where she teaches Marketing and Women's Studies.

**1970's**

**Bobbie Groth '74** published *The Incredible Story of Ephraim Nute: Scandal, Bloodshed, and Unitarianism on the American Frontier* this spring.



**Warner Johnston '73** retired after 34 years as an electrical engineer with ABC-TV.

**Lorre Smith '75** has just published "Looking Back, Moving Forward in the Digital Age A Review of the Collection Management and Development Literature, 2004-8" in *Library Resources and Technical Services* with her co-author Daryl Bullis.

**1980's**

**Dave Wieneke '83** spent the year keynoting on the Future of Digital Marketing at conferences across the US and UK, and he started a digital business consulting practice for an agency based in Portland, Oregon. He was named the 27th top marketing professor in social media, and he currently teaches at Northeastern University in Boston.



**1990's**

**Stephen Compton '96** had his book *Exodus Lost* published.

**Michael Sussman '98** recently earned his Ph.D. in astronomy from New Mexico State University. He is currently working at the University of Louisville as an Astronomy Research Associate running climate simulations of the outer gas giant planets.

**2000's**

**Jason Blaesing '00** moved to Chicago this fall to begin graduate studies in social science and anthropology at the University of Chicago.

**Katrina Liddle-Futrill '06** and her husband Rob are expecting their first child early in 2012.

**UPDATE SHIMER & WIN**

*Haven't updated your contact information since graduation? Recently moved?*

Help us make sure you receive alumni information including invitations to alumni events and the alumni magazine, *Symposium*, and Shimer's monthly e-mail newsletter.

Every alumni who sends their contact information (home address, phone number, and e-mail address) by **December 1, 2011** will be entered into a drawing to win one of several Shimer items, including **tote**, **t-shirt**, and **mug**.

**Send your contact information to:**  
[alumni@shimer.edu](mailto:alumni@shimer.edu)



**Zachary Hamm '07** has begun a Ph.D. program in philosophy at Emory University in Atlanta.

**Noah Kippley-Ogman '07** moved to New York this fall to begin a Ph.D. program in the History of Education at New York University.

**2010's**

**Taylor Buck '11** took a full time position as Safe Haven Program Staff & Volunteer Coordinator at Deborah's Place in Chicago after a successful internship last summer. She has also recently started an MA program at DePaul in Social and Cultural Foundations in Education.

**Justin Lockwood '11** began studying this fall at Pace Law School in New York.

**Juan Andrés Guerrero Saade '11** has started a Masters of Philosophy program at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Got married?  
Moved?  
Began a new job?  
Started grad school?  
Had a baby?  
[ALUMNI.SHIMER.EDU/](http://ALUMNI.SHIMER.EDU/)  
CLASSNOTES

**IN MEMORIUM**

- Beverly (Chapel) Caliento '50
- Elizabeth (Clark) Browning Dawson '63
- Elaine (Flaxman) Marks '41
- Beth Fox '46
- Aneta Mary Frost '48
- Merilyn Granger Nelson '49
- Laverne Kirchhoff Smith '43
- Katherine Lindeman '36
- John C. Marienau (Former Trustee)
- Sharona Marquitz '63
- Judith Ann Moshure '62
- Robert W. Russell (Former Faculty)
- Joseph Francis Withhart '48
- Barbara R. Wright '45

## FROM THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

My first visit to Shimer was on a sunny day this July. Ed Noonan pointed out of the western-most windows on the ground floor to a set of picnic tables clustered under a tree. Students had gathered on the green weatherproof benches. “Shimer has always been a community,” he said. “No matter the place, we have always been Shimer.”

Later that month, I was honored by being welcomed into the Shimer community as Director of Development, along with **Isabella Winkler**, whom I am happy to introduce to you all as your External Relations and

Development Writer (alternately, with **Aaron Garland’s** guidance, as the new voice of *Symposium*). Isabella has been involved in higher education all her career, and six years in a public science museum taught me the immense value that people place on discussing questions of scientific and cultural literacy.

With these perspectives, Isabella and I have spent the last months absolutely immersed in Shimer culture and community. Some things feel very new to us and some very familiar, but all around is the constant sense of possibility, growth, and opportunity. I am awed by the

alumni and donor groups, which not only fund the college but also continually take part in the dialogue that builds and sustains it. Talking with **Noah Kippley-Ogman ’07** as he leaves the development office gave me a wonderful sense of where and how Shimer graduates find themselves in the world. I hope to continue this conversation with you as the college grows further in stability.

Thank you for your support.

**Mary Pat Barbaric**  
Director of Development

## LEAVING A LEGACY: Charlie Pak ’57

*You have received a number of prestigious awards for your research, which has been lauded for being “translational,” that is, transferable from lab to bedside. Could you tell us a little about your past and current work?*

I have written more than 570 medical articles, most of them on kidney stones and osteoporosis. I have developed three kidney stone drugs (Calcibind®, Thiola®, and Urocit®-K), a stone diagnostic kit (StoneRisk® Profile), and a calcium supplement (Citracal®). I am now working on another drug for preventing bone loss and kidney stones following bariatric surgery, and a device to measure bone quality. For my work, I was recognized by the F.D.A., U.S.P.H.S., University of Texas, University of Chicago (Distinguished Alumni Award), and many professional societies (including Bartter Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Scribner Award from the American Society of Nephrology and Lattimer Award from the American Urological Association).

*Please describe how your intellectual journey has contributed to your interest in your research projects.*

My development of drugs and diagnostics was research-driven. I originated my ideas from laboratory work or review of the literature. I conducted short-term pharmacology work and long-term clinical

trials and obtained approval from the F.D.A. I continued to conduct research on the technologies after their introduction to better understand how they worked and could be safely used.

*We are very honored by your decision to give back to Shimer by joining the Hostetter Society. Can you talk a little about what prompted that decision?*

Shimer taught me the important life lessons that were crucial to success in my career: to think clearly and question everything. Hard work and perseverance took care of the rest. Being a member of the legacy society is a small way for me to return some of the benefits I received.

*Do you have a particular memory from your days at Shimer that you could share with us?*

I remember the inspiring and devoted teaching of Mr. R.W. Russell in English. “The key to writing a great composition,” he said, “is to look at and appreciate the whole picture first. Before you start to write, formulate in your mind the special message you wish to convey, and determine the exact steps you have to take in order to convey that message. If you can do so, there is no need for a written outline.”

I have followed Mr. Russell’s advice in writing every one of my papers.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS OF HOSTETTER SOCIETY

- Barbara Aubin ’45
- Edith Barschi ’75
- Juanita Barschi
- Roger Burke ’57
- Barry Carroll ’66
- Shirley A. Conibear ’68
- William Davis
- Christopher H. English ’72  
& Meda S. Lane
- Geoffrey Goldsmith ’63
- Steve Heller ’71
- Mary Lou Kennedy ’74
- David Lukens (Faculty Emeritus)
- Barbara Marshall ’50
- Mary Ellen McGinness ’44
- Charles ’57 & Jane Pak
- Kathryn Jane Ripley ’68
- Edward Walbridge ’56

### LEAVE YOUR OWN LEGACY

[WWW.SHIMER.EDU/  
HOSTETTERSOCIETY](http://WWW.SHIMER.EDU/HOSTETTERSOCIETY)

# Welcome New Faculty

## DANIELA BARBARIS

*Assistant Professor of History of Science & Social Sciences*

Daniela received her Ph.D. from the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science at the University of Chicago. She has held various post-doctoral fellowships, including at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, and most recently taught at Michigan State University. Daniela is currently working on a book on the development of French epistemology in the late 19th to early 20th century. She grew up in Brazil but is originally from Argentina, and has recently started taking tango lessons.



## ARON DUNLAP

*Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts*



Aron was raised and went to college in the Seattle area, and moved to Philadelphia eleven years ago to play music and pursue a doctorate in religion. He received his degree from Temple University in 2008 and subsequently taught in Temple's Intellectual Heritage program for the next two years. His scholarly work centers on issues in Christian theology and psychoanalysis – with frequent diversions into children's literature and cinema – and he is currently finishing a book entitled *Lacan on Religion*. He also writes poetry and fairy tales, with his first published poem to appear in an upcoming issue of *The Anglican Theological Review*.

He has performed with many musical groups over the past fifteen years but now plays mostly with his wife, Pauline Sachar, in Good Dust.

## ADAM KOTSKO

*Assistant Professor of Humanities*

Adam holds a Ph.D. from the Chicago Theological Seminary and taught at Kalamazoo College in Michigan before joining the Shimer College faculty. Adam is the author of *Zizek and Theology, Politics of Redemption: The Social Logic of Salvation, Awkwardness*, and the forthcoming *Why We Love Sociopaths: A Guide to Late Capitalist Television*. His current research interests include contemporary continental philosophy, the place of the devil in Christian theology, and the role of creepiness in popular culture.



## FACULTY NOTES

**Adam Kotsko** will participate on a panel on Antonio Negri's book *The Labor of Job: The Biblical Text as a Parable of Human Labor* at the American Academy of Religion conference in San Francisco in November.

President Emeritus **Don Moon**, who was recently named Trustee Emeritus, retired after the 2010-11 academic year after 44 years of service to Shimer.

**Stuart Patterson** has an article entitled "Social Programs of the New Deal" forthcoming in the compilation volume *New Interpretations of the New Deal and Great Depression* from Kent State University Press. He is also working as Humanities Consultant to an NEH Historical and Cultural Organizations grant-in-application entitled "Planning Interpretive Augmented Reality and Web Exhibitions of the First Federal New Deal Community."

Over the summer, **Bev Thurber** gave a paper called "How Sleipnir Ran: The Physics of Octopedal Equine Locomotion" at the Fiske Conference on Medieval Icelandic Studies at Cornell University. Additionally, she reviewed Tadao Shimomiyā's *Alliteration in the Poetic Edda* for The Linguist List.

**Barbara Stone** (pictured below) and **Harold Stone** attended the annual meeting of the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) in April 2011. Barbara presented her paper, "All Quiet on the Western Front: A Plea for Universal Compassion." Harold's paper was entitled "Teaching the Laocoön."





# Shimer

The Great Books  
College of Chicago

3424 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60616  
800.998.9705  
WWW.SHIMER.EDU

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### ALL DAY/WEEK

Shimer History Displays  
Shimer Hidden Search

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:30am - 5:00pm  
Shimer College For a Day

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Shimer History & Lore Panel

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Community Service Project

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Community Service Project

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Alumni Association Reception



**COMPLETE DETAILS  
AND SCHEDULE**



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

10:00am - 11:00am  
Student Academic Presentations

11:00am - Noon  
Student Internship Presentations

12:00pm - 1:00pm  
Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm  
Switch and Slate (various 30 min  
discussions/presentations to choose)

IIT Pumpkin Launch

2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Student Creative Presentations

Tour of IIT Campus with  
President Ed Noonan

3:00pm - 4:00 pm  
Parent Association Meeting

Alumni Association Social

Now For Something Completely  
Different (variety of activities)

6:30pm - 8:30pm  
All Inclusive Social Evening  
featuring Pictionary Challenge

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Free time for all to enjoy

## Shimer Days

A Shared Dialogue...  
...A Shared Discovery

**October 10 - 16, 2011**

*Come Home to Shimer*



[WWW.SHIMER.EDU/SHIMERDAYS](http://WWW.SHIMER.EDU/SHIMERDAYS)