14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
ACTC Association for Core Texts and Courses
Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6, 2008

WHO ARE WE? OLD, NEW, AND TIMELESS ANSWERS FROM CORE TEXTS

Sponsored by
Assumption College
and Co-sponsored by
Saint Anselm College & Thomas More College

The Radisson Plymouth Harbor Hotel, Plymouth, Massachusetts

Book Displays Outside the Plymouth Ballroom and in Reception Area

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
2:00-5:30 PM ACTC Board Meeting
BOARD ROOM, 1ST FLOOR

6:00 PM Reception: ACTC Members and Conference Attendees,
RECEPTION AREA, 2ND FLOOR
7:00-8:00 Dinner: PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
8:00-9:00 Opening Plenary Address: Wm. Theodore de Bary, Columbia University,
author of Confucian Tradition and Global Education, “The Great Civilized Conversation: The
Great Learning as a Classic Case in Point.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008 MORNING
7:30-8:10 Breakfast: PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
8:10-9:05 Presidential Welcoming Address: Phillip R. Sloan, President, ACTC, and
Professor in the Graduate Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame, “Paideia in a Post-Darwinian World: Reconnecting Education and Biology.”
Friday Morning Panels

PLYMPTON, 1st Floor
Conference Sponsor's Panel: Assumption College. Fortin & Gonthier Foundations of Western Civilization Program and General Education
Chair: Bainard Cowan, Assumption College and Louisiana State University

MAYFLOWER, 1st Floor
Seeking East Asian Traditions Part I: Asian World Classics in the Core
Huixuan Xu, Chinese University of Hong Kong, “The Confucian School's answer for ‘What constitutes a good life and a good society?’” Julie Steward, Samford University, “Incorporating Eastern Texts into a Western Core: Teaching the Tao Te Ching in Conversation with Wallace Stevens.” Jie Yang, Chinese University of Hong Kong, “Who are we? The answers from Chuan Tzu.” Lawrence Schmidt, Hendrix College, “Good Cop, Bad Cop: Interrogating Human Nature with Mencius and Xunxi.” Rachel Chung, Columbia University, “Rethinking the Rites –“Music” Relationship in Confucian Tradition”
Chair: David Eckel, Boston University

CONFERENCE SUITE 402, 4th Floor
Reconsidering The Romans: What Can They Offer Us?
Chair: Edgar Vélez, Columbus State Community College

BOARD ROOM, 1st Floor
Rhetoric and Philosophy: Seeking Identity in the Logos
Chair: Paul Gallagher, Assumption College

CARVER, 1st Floor
Rousseau, Tocqueville, and the Democratic Self
Chair: John Eastby, Hampden-Sydney College
HALIFAX, 3RD FLOOR
Thinking Through Drama: Shakespeare’s Formation of Student Character
Chair: Gretchen Schulz

AMPHITHEATRE, 1ST FLOOR
What Makes a Paper A “Classic” in the Sciences?
Chair: Marian Glenn, Seton Hall University

MANOMET, 3RD FLOOR
Great Books: Student Comprehension and Use
Chair: Remica Bingham, Norfolk State University

CONFERENCE SUITE 302, 3RD FLOOR
National Endowment for the Humanities: Grants and Programs to Support Core Texts
William Craig Rice, Director, Division of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Rice will present a wide range of NEH programs, from support for individual scholars to program development and institutional support.

FRIDAY APRIL 4, 2008 AFTERNOON
12:10-1:00 PM Lunch: PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
1:00-1:50 Plenary Speaker, Joseph Bottum, Editor, First Things, “Finding Himself: David Copperfield’s Quest for His True Name.”
CONFERENCES UTE 402, 4TH FLOOR
Learning to Connect the Advancement of Science with the Foreshadowings of Core Texts: How do we do it?
Chair: Kevin Vogel, St. Bonaventure University

CONFERENCES UTE 302, 3RD FLOOR
Who Are We? Core Texts and the Disciplines
Chair: Denise Schaeffer

PEMBROKE, 4TH FLOOR
Identity as Consciousness & Process in the Western Tradition
Chair: Bradford Smith, Oglethorpe University

SUITE 315, 3RD FLOOR
On the Edge of Stability: Saving, Endangering, and Destroying Regimes
Chair: Eric Berg, MacMurray College

PLYMPTON, 1ST FLOOR
Religious Identity Within the State
Chair: David Livingstone, Malaspina University-College

PUBLLET, 2ND FLOOR
Apollo and Dionysus
Chair: Mathew Fisher, University of St. Francis
CARVER, 1ST FLOOR
Careful Reading: Student Acquisition of the Art
   Kristen Coster, University of Dallas, “Propertius Compares His Dead Beloved to Patroklos.” Charles Hamaker, Saint Mary’s College of California, “Judgment or Stratagem.” Edwin Lee Conner, Kentucky State University, “How We Know: Keat’s Four Great Odes as an Epistemological Quartet.” Kathleen Kelly and Phyllis Anina Moriarty, Babson College, “Georg Simmel’s The Metropolis and Mental Life in the First-Year Core.”
   Chair: Daniel Brooks, Aquinas College

HALIFAX, 3RD FLOOR
My Big Fat Novel: Preparing the Core Feast
   Chair: James Walter, Southeastern Louisiana University

MANOMET, 3RD FLOOR
Sufficiency of Reason, Part I: Beginnings
   Chair: Patrick Flynn, Benedictine University

BOARDROOM, 1ST FLOOR
Politics, Fables, and the Imagination
   Chair: Roger Barrus, Hampden-Sydney College

MAYFLOWER, 1ST FLOOR
Peering Through A Veil to See Women: Narrative Disclosure in Literature and Poetry
   Tina J. Wray, Salve Regina University, “Who Are We, Whose Are We? Women as God’s Agents of Change in the Hebrew Bible.” Judith Chelius Stark, Seton Hall University, “Voices and Visions of Women in Augustine’s Confessions.” Henriette M. Morelli, University of Saskatchewan, “God’s Universal Law: Fall and Regeneration as Movement from Femininity to Masculinity in John Milton’s Samson Agonistes.” Paula A. Zeuge, Salve Regina University, “Jane Austen’s Mansfield Park: A Revolutionary Text.”
   Chair: Marilyn Thie, Colgate University

AMPHITHEATRE, 1ST FLOOR
The Divided Self
   Chair: Jenny Olin Shanahan
**MARSHFIELD, 4th Floor**

**ACTC Workshop on Grant to Integrate Western and Asian Core Texts**

ACTC is proposing a grant project to help institutions and faculty build core text curricula integrating classical texts from the Western and Eastern traditions. Parties interested in their institutions building such curricula and integrating core texts from Asia and the West are invited to attend this workshop on the grant project.

Chairs: J. Scott Lee, ACTC, and Rachel Chung, Columbia University

4:15-6:00  **Friday Afternoon, Second Panels**

**PUBLLET, 2nd Floor**

**On Friendship**


Chair: Martin Tracey, Benedictine University

**MARSHFIELD, 4th Floor**

**Professional Life, Professional Thought: Recasting Professional Education Through Core Texts**


Chair: Robert Von der Ohe, Rockford College

**PEMBROKE, 4th Floor**

**Modernity, Post-Modernity, and the Question of Classics and Traditions of Literature**


Chair: Stuart Patterson, Shimer College

**CONFERENCE SUITE 302, 3rd Floor**

**Sontag’s Wish: Erotics of Core Texts**


Chair: Mary Ann Drake, Mercer University

**AMPHITHEATRE, 1st Floor**

**Exploring Foreign Policy through Reason**


Chair: Peter Wakefield, Emory University
MANOMET, 3rd Floor
Disposition of Soul: Glory, Contemplation, Happiness, and Harmony for Students
  Michael Jones, University of Dallas, “Achilles and Destiny.” Ann Charney Colmo, Dominican University, “Plato’s Cave and Descartes’ Mind.” Raymond Ciacci, University of Chicago, “Some Early Perspectives on Who We Are.”
  Chair: David M. Dolence, Dominican University

HALIFAX, 3rd Floor
Self, Conventions and Restraints, and Perennial Truths
  Chair: Roderick Hughes, St. Bonaventure University

CARVER, 1st Floor
Philosophy and the Poets: An Argument in Every Place, a Poem for Every Sphere
  Chair: Allen Speight

PLYMPTON, 1st Floor
Figuring Out Who You Are and Who You Want To Be
  Christopher Metress, Samford University, “Plato’s Republic and the Student as Craftsman.” Allison Wee, Luther College, “Godlike, or Scions of Evil?” Mary Shelley Explores the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Human Nature.” Susan Bussey, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, “Man Thinking About Emerson: A suggestion for re-teaching core texts.” Deborah Vlock, Babson College, “Hard Times for the First-Year College Student.”
  Chair: Ellen McManus, Dominican University

MAYFLOWER, 1st Floor
Taking Stock of the Core: ACTC Veterans Look Backwards and Forwards
  Chair: Peggy Heller

BOARDROOM, 1st Floor
Do Not Try This at Home: Core Texts as Cautionary Tales
  Chair: Kurt Fosso, Lewis & Clark College
CONGRESS SUITE 402, 4TH FLOOR

Students from Assumption and Thomas More Colleges

Chair: Nalin Ranasinghe

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, MORNING

7:30-8:10 AM  Breakfast:  PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
8:10-9:00  Plenary Address:  Anne Leavitt, Dean of Social Sciences, Malaspina University-College.  Title: “Old Maps, New Worlds.”
9:20-11:50  Saturday Morning Panels

AMPHITHEATRE, 1ST FLOOR
Music in the Old and New Liberal Arts
Chair: Stephen C. Zelnick, Temple University

CONFERENCE SUITE 302, 3RD FLOOR
Teaching Aristophanes
Chair: Darcy Wudel, Deep Springs College

PLYMPTON, 1ST FLOOR
Faith, Philosophy, and Belief
Chair: Patrick Corrigan, Assumption College

MANOMET, 3RD FLOOR
On Family
Chair: Page Laws, Norfolk State University

BOARDROOM, 1ST FLOOR

Hope and Despair in the Humanistic Project of Self-Knowing

Chair: James Woelfel, University of Kansas

HALIFAX, 3RD FLOOR

Constructing Human Identity through Core Texts

Chair: John McDowell, Pacific Union College

MAYFLOWER, 1ST FLOOR

American Identity

Chair: Molly Flynn, Assumption College

CARVER, 1ST FLOOR

Core Texts in Undergraduate Honors Programs

Chair: James Otteson, Yeshiva University

SUITE 213, 2ND FLOOR

Students from Assumption and St. Anselm Colleges
Chair: Bainard Cowan
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008 AFTERNOON
12:10-1:00 PM Lunch: PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
1:00-1:50 Plenary Speaker: Theophus H. Smith, Emory University, Author, Conjuring Culture: Biblical Formations of Black America. Title of Address: “Dark Night of Our Souls’ Democratic Vistas.”

2:10-3:55 Saturday Afternoon, First Panels

CARVER, 1ST FLOOR
CONFERENCE CO-SPONSOR’S PANEL: Thomas More College of Liberal Arts. The Cowan Program of Liberal Arts: No Electives.
   Chair: Mary Mumbach

SUITE 315, 3RD FLOOR
Begin with the End: War and Memorialization as Core Texts in American Culture
   Kieran Bonner, University of Waterloo, “Antigone.” Cecilia Macheski, LaGuardia/City University of New York, “Begin with the End: Edith Wharton’s War and Memory.” Mary Anne Schofield, Villanova University, “War and Remembrance.”
   Chair: Prescott Evarts, Monmouth University

PUBLET, 2ND FLOOR
Heart of Darkness & Heart of Hope: New Novels for the Core
   Chair: Stephanie Walker, Norfolk State University

MANOMET, 3RD FLOOR
Opening the Mind: Learning to Read for Form, Character, and Aesthetic Sense
   Chair: Donald Marshall, Pepperdine University

SUITE 213, 2ND FLOOR
Sufficiency of Reason, Part II: Continuations
   Chair: Christopher Constas, Boston College
MARSHFIELD, 4TH FLOOR
Mathematics: Can We Be Liberal Artists without It?
    Tucker Landy, Kentucky State University, “Plato’s *Timaeus*, Quantum Mechanics, and
the Pythagorean Dream.” Dana Densmore, Green Lion Press, “Vanishing Differences, Vanishing
Quantities.”
    Chair: Nicholas Maistrellis, St. John’s College, Annapolis

CONFERENCE SUITE 302, 3RD FLOOR
August Wilson: A Playwright Dramatizing Who We Are
    Remica Bingham, Norfolk State University, “In Search of the ‘Shining Man’: Identity
and Spirituality in August Wilson’s *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*. Page Laws, Norfolk State
University, “From Tit to Tat: August Wilson’s *The Piano Lesson* as Core Text.” Benson Prigg,
Lincoln University, “Canonizing Sons and Daughters of African Americans: August Wilson and
P. J. Gibson.”
    Chair: Richard Burke, Lynchburg College

PLYMPTON, 1ST FLOOR
Myth, Classic Quality, and Satisfying the Soul: What Makes Myth so Important?
    John Tutuska, University of Dallas, “No Nudes: Plato’s Sketches of the Soul.” Max J.
Latona, Saint Anselm College, “The Four Roots of Plato’s Recollection.” Anne Marie Flanagan,
University of the Sciences, “Pan’s Labyrinth: Timeless Answers from Core Texts and Magical
Realism.”
    Chair: Susan Bertolino, Temple University

CONFERENCE SUITE 402, 4TH FLOOR
Human Uniqueness
    Lois Marie Eveleth, Salve Regina University, “Emerson’s Transparent Eyeball.” Vesna
Marcina, Orange Coast College, “The Character of Obligation in Thoreau.” Alicia Cordoba Tait
and Alfred Martin, Benedictine University, “The Realization of Human Uniqueness as a
Culmination of Scientific and Revealed Thought.”
    Chair: Pattie Dillon, Spalding University

BOARDROOM, 1ST FLOOR
Conflicting Ideals, Conflicting Identities: The Search for Self through Core Texts
    Ken Betsalel, University of North Carolina at Asheville, “Why Heidegger Matters:
Reading Core Texts through an Existential Lens.” Paul Dry, Paul Dry Books, “What’s New in
Herodotus?” Martin Kearney, Southeastern Louisiana State University, “Shifty Characters and
Shifting Identities in Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*.” Stephanie Walker, Norfolk State
University, “Frying Bacon: Incorporating Core Texts at HBCU’s.”
    Chair: Richard Heitman, Carthage College

AMPHITHEATRE, 1ST FLOOR
Are Democracies All They Are Cracked Up to Be?
    Khalil Habib, Salve Regina University, “Aristophanes’ *The Birds*.” James Wood, Boston
University, “Freedom, Justice, and Empire.” Peter Wakefield, Emory University, “Interlocutors
with Democracy: Opposing Rejections of the Democratic Project in Plato and Rushdie.” Richard
Kamber, “The Fragility of Democracy: Reflections on Sinclair Lewis’ *It Can’t Happen Here*.”
    Chair: Glen Thurow, University of Dallas
HALIFAX, 3RD FLOOR

Seeking East Asian Traditions, Part II: Synthesis
    Chair: Jane Rodeheffer

MAYFLOWER, 1ST FLOOR

Nature, Science and God: Does Choosing One Deny the Others?
    Chair: Mary Troxell, Boston University

PEMBROKE, 4TH FLOOR

ACTC Workshop on Developing a Community College Core Text Initiative
    This workshop will discuss the development of a syllabus and structure for a grant proposal. The grant will help community college faculty create their own models of core text curricula which emphasize Western Civilization and reading skills.
    Chair: J. Scott Lee, ACTC

4:15-6:00 Saturday Afternoon, Second Panels

PUBLET, 1ST FLOOR

A Glimpse of Character: Film and Biography
    Chair: Christine Farina, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

SUITE 213, 2ND FLOOR

Psychology: The Philosophical Science of the Soul. Or is it?
    Chair: Charles Hamaker, Saint Mary’s College of California

CONFERENCE SUITE 302, 3RD FLOOR

Persuading Texts: What Makes Some Good and Some Just Awful?
    Chair: Dutton Kearney, Aquinas College
CONFERANCE SUITE 402, 4TH FLOOR

European Journeys and Recovering the Self


Chair: Ronald Weber, University of Texas at El Paso

PEMBROKE, 4TH FLOOR

Human Improvement, Human Progress: What Does Darwin Say to Our Students?


Chair: Vanessa Georg, University of Chicago

MANOMET, 3RD FLOOR

Conceptions of Human Nature in Dostoevsky’s Brothers Karamazov


Chair: John-Paul Spiro, Villanova University

HALIFAX, 3RD FLOOR

Cultural Fidelity in the Hispanic Tradition: Imagining the Possibilities Between Solitude and Empty Internationalism

Leonardo Ordóñez, Rosario University, “Who Are We In Latin America?” Edgar A. Vélez, Columbus State Community College, “1 and 2 Maccabees: Cosmopolitanism and Fidelity to Cultural Identity.” Maria P. Valencia, Columbia University, “Teaching the Core in Latin America: A quixotic endeavor?”

Chair: Christian Schumacher, Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar

MAYFLOWER, 1ST FLOOR

Frieze, Ledger, and Photograph: Fictional Images of History in the Making of Identity


Chair: Kathleen Burk, University of Dallas

AMPHITHEATRE, 1ST FLOOR

Core Texts and Core Art: Insight, Imagination, and Intelligibility


Chair: Ann Dunn, University of North Carolina at Asheville
PLYMPTON, 1ST FLOOR
Symbol, Folk Saying, and Folk Tales: Teaching Concise Understanding
Maria Polski, East-West University, “Proverbs as the Ultimate Communication Theory.”
Robert Gardner, Saint Mary’s College of California, “The Shield of Achilles.” Michael Daher,
Henry Ford Community College, “The Complexions of a Machine: The Model T in Death in the
Family and Ragtime.”
Chair: David Sweet, University of Dallas

CARVER, 1ST FLOOR
Virtue, Freedom, and Vice
David M. Dolence, Dominican University, “Choosing Vengeance or Justice: The Role
Freedom Plays in Who We Are.” Jason Giannetti, Regis College, “Plato’s Gorgias on Freedom
and Virtue.” Paul Gallagher, Assumption College, “Will the Real Callicles Please Stand Up?”
Michael Krom, St. Vincent College, “The Lives of the Soul in Plato’s Republic.”
Chair: Ben DeSmidt, Carthage College

MARSHFIELD, 4TH FLOOR
ACTC Workshop on a New Bridging the Gap Between the Humanities and Sciences Grant
Proposal
ACTC ran a three-year curriculum and faculty development project on Bridging the Gap
Between the Humanities and Sciences between 2003 and 2006. ACTC is applying for a new
grant that will be an 18-month project. Parties interested in building relations, courses, and
curricula that will Bridge the Gap on their campuses are invited to attend, as are “old hands” in
the original project. J. Scott Lee, ACTC, and Nicholas Maistrellis, St. John’s College, Annapolis,
will brief attendees on the project.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008 MORNING
9:00- 9:45AM Continental Breakfast: PLYMOUTH BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
9:45- 11:00 Business Meeting

Conference Closes
Thanks for coming!