

# ***THE DEANERY***

**ALBION COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC NEWSLETTER**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE NEXT DEANERY ARE DUE MARCH 2, 2012.**

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### Curriculum & Resources Committee:

C&RC has approved the following policy changes that will appear in the 2012-13 Academic Catalog (changes are bolded):

#### *Proposed Policy:*

**Participation in Commencement Exercises**—Students who have attained at least 25 units may participate in commencement exercises. Students may only participate once.

#### **The Writing Competence Requirement**

Continuous development as a writer is a central part of a liberal arts education. All first-year students and new transfer students are required to take a written placement examination during orientation. The majority of students are placed into and encouraged to enroll in English 101, English Composition. Some students will be invited to enroll in English 101H, the honors section of English Composition. English 101 and 101H serve as prerequisites for all other writing courses. Those students who are placed into English 100, Writing Essentials, must complete the class during their first full semester at Albion. A student placed into English 100 may drop or withdraw from the course only if diagnostic testing done the first week of class alters the student's placement. The class must be taken for a numerical grade. Each year, a few students place out of first-year writing classes. During the sophomore year, these students may enroll in English 203, Advanced Expository Writing; English 205, Introductory Creative Writing; or English 207, Contemporary Journalism.

In order to graduate from Albion, all students must pass a Writing Competence Examination unless they received a 4 or 5 on the CEEB Advanced Placement Test in English Composition or were excused because of a high score on the Albion College Writing Placement Examination taken by entering students.

The Writing Competence Examination (WCE) must be taken before the middle of the sophomore year. Students who do not pass on their first attempt must try the examination a second time before

the end of their sophomore year. Upon a second failure, students must contact the director of writing and schedule a meeting to review their most recent WCE. After this initial consultation with the director of writing, students will be required to participate in appropriate writing practice and/or tutoring prior to attempting the examination a third time. See below for the steps required by the director of writing.

Students who have completed 14 units or more, but who have not fulfilled the writing competence requirement--or taken appropriate steps with the director of writing to prepare for this examination--will be required to register for subsequent semesters with the sophomore class.

**Transfer students who have completed 14 units or more (including transfer courses) will be expected to have taken and passed the WCE before the start of their third semester at Albion College. If the WCE is not successfully completed by the start of the third semester, the student will be required to register for subsequent semesters with the sophomore class.**

Appropriate steps with the director of writing include *all* of the following:

1. an initial meeting with the director to review the student's most recent failed WCE;
2. arrangements determined in consultation with the director for appropriate writing practice and/or tutoring from Writing Center staff;
3. review of writing strategies and guidelines, and practice WCE writing until the student is authorized by the director to attempt the WCE again.

No student may receive a degree from Albion College unless the writing competence requirement has been fulfilled. The WCE will be scheduled at least six times each academic year, and no special arrangements will be made for seniors who have not passed by the last examination, except for those students who have consulted with the director of writing and taken appropriate steps to improve their writing.

# # #

#### Faculty Development Committee

FDC has approved the following Small and Large Grants:

#### **Small Grants**

**Geoffrey Cocks**, History, to attend the Sundance Film Festival in Utah to discover new approaches to film discourse and analysis in his ongoing research on Stanley Kubrick, and to purchase videos to assist with his research and writing on a book co-authored with Aaron Barlow of CUNY on portrayal of Nazis in American movies from the 1930s to the present.

**Karla McCavit**, Academic Study Center, to participate in an On-Course Workshop in Washington, D.C., in May 2012.

**Midori Yoshii**, International Studies, to conduct research at the LBJ Library in Houston, Texas, during her spring sabbatical.

### **Combined Small and Large Grant**

**Scott Melzer**, Anthropology & Sociology, to support his research on “Unraveling Compensatory Masculinity.”

## **II ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE)** announces the second annual THATCamp (the Humanities and Technology Camp) for Liberal Arts Colleges that will take place June 1-3, 2012, at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. This unconference is a great place for faculty and staff from liberal arts colleges to connect around integrating technology into teaching, learning and research. THATCamps provide a great entry into the digital humanities community and welcomes participants from a wide range of backgrounds – humanities and social science academics, librarians, IT liaisons, and industry professionals. And the unconference will have participants with a wide range of technology skills, from serious computer pros to those just exploring the possibilities of new technologies. The only criteria that participants have to meet is an interest in technology, humanities, and a liberal education. And it's free! For additional information: <http://blogs.nitle.org/2012/02/05/an-invitation-to-thatcamp-liberal-arts-colleges-2012/>.

The **14th Council on Undergraduate Research Conference**, *Leveraging Uncertainty: Toward a New Generation of Undergraduate Research*, will be held June 23-26, 2012 at The College of New Jersey. Subthemes for the Conference include: Research Transcending Historic Disciplinary Boundaries; Sustaining Undergraduate Research in an Era of Fiscal Uncertainty; Online Technology in Undergraduate Research: Possibilities, Threats and Challenges; and The Challenges and Opportunities of Undergraduate Research in a Broad Global Context. For more information, see: <http://www.cur.org/conferences/tcnj/proposals.html>.

**The Council on International Educational Exchange** announces the *Global Perspectives: Developing strategic initiatives, educating for a world economy* conference to be held November 14-17, 2012, in Shanghai, China. For additional information, see: [www.ciee.org/conference](http://www.ciee.org/conference).

Each summer, the **National Endowment for the Humanities** supports residential seminars and institutes for faculty members who teach American undergraduates. These seminars help faculty members increase their knowledge and advance their own teaching and research. Participants in these two- to five-week projects receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. Many seminars and institutes take place on American campuses; others are held at international sites. Deadline for application is March 1, 2012. For a list of seminars and institutes for 2012, see: [www.neh.gov/projects/summer12.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/summer12.html).

The East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii announces the 22nd annual summer faculty development **Institute on Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum**, July 23 to August 10, 2012. This program, supported by a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation, is designed to meet the needs of humanities and social science faculty members and institutions aiming to develop Asia-related, undergraduate course materials. Both individuals and institutional teams are encouraged to apply. This year's Infusing Institute will focus on China and Japan, and will be directed by Fred Lau (University of Hawai'i) and Peter Hershock (East-West Center). A description of the program, a draft schedule and application instructions can be found by following the links at: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/node/21684>. As in the past, successful applicants will receive housing in Lincoln Hall, the East-West Center guesthouse, and a modest stipend of \$375. A modest program fee and travel to Honolulu will be the responsibility of participants and their home institutions. The application deadline is March 15, 2012.

Calvin College is hosting a regional symposium on the present state and future directions of **Reformation and Early Modern Studies**, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, March 30, 2012, at the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Grand Rapids, MI. There is no fee to attend but space is limited, so please fill out and return the registration form as soon as possible. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Meeter Center at [meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu).

### **III SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Nicole Garrett** (Library) will be presenting, "Lone Arranger Surprise: Processing, Preserving, and Promoting a Previously Unknown Collection of Early Modern English Manuscripts" at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, to be held at Alma College, March 2, 2012.

**Deborah Kanter** (History) presented "Making Mexican Parishes: Ethnic Succession in Chicago Churches, 1947-77" at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, January 5-8, 2012.

**Molly Mullin** (Anthropology & Sociology) presented a paper on "Coop Tours" on November 19, 2011 in Montreal in a session on "Museumizing the Animal" at the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. She also chaired a session on "Class, Culture, and Animals."