

# NAS...UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS

FOR REASONED SCHOLARSHIP IN A FREE SOCIETY

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## Statement on the Occasion of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11th

The National Association of Scholars is one with America in expressing our outrage at the terrorist attacks, committed on American soil, of September 11th. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the thousands of innocents who have fallen. We also wish to express our gratitude and admiration for the heroic actions and sacrifices of so many of our fellow citizens in the face of this unspeakable evil.

We fully recognize that the freedom enjoyed by our universities in pursuing their educational missions is one of the blessings of liberty secured by the principles and practice of our constitutional democracy and honorably defended with American blood and treasure. That the free and open pursuit of knowledge in the contemporary world depends on the safety and vigor of the American republic is, to us, self-evident. We also understand that our democracy's ability to act with courage, confidence, and wisdom in defense of human freedom depends on an informed awareness and appreciation of the nature of our free institutions and of the civilization that sustains them.

As we have been arguing for many years, American colleges and universities have, since the 1960s, slighted the study of the intellectual and historical foundations and experience of Western civilization in general, and of the American experiment in self-government in particular. We hope that we shall witness a new awakening of higher education to its civic responsibility to offer such learning to all who seek an American education. [Ω](#)

## NAS Seeks Nominations for 2002-2003 Olin Faculty Fellowship Program

The NAS begins its third year of administering the John M. Olin Faculty Fellowship Program by calling for nominations from senior scholars of qualified candidates for the fellowship. The program offers 12-month full-time fellowships to scholars in the fields of economics, law, government, political science, political philosophy, sociology, history, journalism, religion, and

international affairs. The program is particularly aimed at scholars whose research is in some area of political theory, public policy, American institutions, American foreign policy, or the historical study of government or economics.

To be eligible, nominees must, during the fellowship year, be untenured professors who have earned a Ph.D. or J.D. and whose research interests would be significantly advanced by a year off from teaching responsibilities. Priority will be given to candidates holding academic positions with the prospect of tenure.

*Continued on page 4*

# OUTLOOK

## The Shame of the Campuses

by Stephen H. Balch, President

The appalling events of September 11th are concentrating the American mind. Naturally, most reflection has been on core issues of national security. But if the ghastly carnage at the Twin Towers has awakened us to the world's realities, certain civilian habits of thoughts will also have to be reexamined.

Metaphors cannot be destroyed physically. But that of the Ivory Tower shouldn't escape unscathed from terrorism's shock. The tower stands upon the same bedrock as do other American institutions. If that cracks, it crumbles.

The Ivory Tower is a valuable metaphor. It suggests a proper distance between the intellectual concerns of the academy and those of everyday life. Yet it is also insufficient. Though academe should keep itself some steps removed from quotidian realities, its doings profoundly affect them. What happens in the classroom, the lab, or the scholar's study may not have an immediate impact on the street, but it eventually directs the traffic's flow. And this vast, collective consequence is everyone's concern.

Unfortunately, a great deal of academe lives in a cartoon world whose reigning assumption is that behavior has no consequence. For some academics, this childish fantasy has become a matter of philosophic principle; reality is whatever you, or your "epistemic community," would have it be. But even outside the fever swamps, many believers in the laws of physics carry on as if they had a personal dispensation. Harvesting the fruits of a free and prosperous civilization, they daily sow salt in its furrows.

Much of this recklessness is banal, as in the neglect of teaching. But the worst inheres in attitude and professional style. Apart from that of the zealots, for whom it is a matter of mission, academic recklessness is usually a quite casual affair, manifested in a variety of small but telling

ways. Raised eyebrows, arched tones, a quick dismissive wave of hand, that sophisticated smile, all mark commission. In short, it wreaks its damage through the air of superiority which so many of us—all of us occasionally—affect toward the society from which derive our comforts, freedoms, and lives.

It's not difficult to mistake our campus for Olympus, even when its failings are transparent. We and our friends (and most of our foes as well) seem so clever, tasteful, and lofty. We work at home, travel abroad, summer in the mountains, and can name our wines and cheeses. Before our students we brim with intellectual confidence, hoping they'll think "what doesn't he know?"—while fully aware how much that actually is. Our modesty is like that of Socrates, grounded in a recognition of ignorance, yet leading to continual self-assertion. We often find ourselves becoming a little Socrates, effortlessly demolishing anything that smacks of convention, tradition, or received wisdom. Questioning authority, we steadily advance our own.

And yes, there is a place for this—it stimulates "critical thinking," that much prized goal. And, yes, without doubt, we should follow truth, according to our lights, wherever truth may lead. (Though few of us are pathfinders, and those who are almost always trace a narrow one.) But surely, in addition to all the useful provocations, we should, together with our charges, stop every so often to look around. *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*, we may remember, applying far more to the edifice of civilization, than to the works of Mr. Wren. Our civilization—so easily taken for granted—rises about us, the labor of millennia, lifting us within it, nourishing our intelligence, spirit, and humanity.

Civilization is our sustainer, especially as men of mind, and, if our sustainer, surely something to be treated with a measure of respect. Who'll

gainsay? And yet we all (or almost all) too often do, more eager to serve fashionable flippancy than any greater power.

It would do us better to feel the lightness of our being. Our civilization's force and grandeur dwarfs private pretensions as the sea the ship it bears. Yet civilization is ultimately as insubstantial as those it carries. It lives only in their minds, and derives its force only from their hearts. Should these minds and hearts fail, it will vanish along with its creatures. As academics, it befalls us, more than any one else, to keep minds and hearts from flagging.

And most of all it befalls us here in America, who have so richly enjoyed civilization's blessings and abundance. We ride its crest, its forward surging point, carrying mankind's hopes with us. Because of this, we must never forget that we are its chief stewards, and that this status imposes obligations.

The shame of our campuses lies in their rejection of this stewardship, in their reflexive disdain for so much of what makes their defining activities possible. Shaken out of complacency, perhaps the time has arrived to restrain hauteur and, in descanting on our civilization's ills, start doing so with a decent respect. Of course, not all our colleagues will heed this advice. And toward them—while upholding their right, our civilization's greatest gift, to go their chosen way—we should direct both argument and disapprobation. Our stewardship demands conviction, and they should feel its moral energy. The shame of our campuses will only be removed when those most responsible for it themselves become ashamed. Good collegueship, and good stewardship, demand that we help them toward this painful self-awareness. [Ω](#)

## Florida Scholars Elect Officers

The Florida Association of Scholars met on January 29, 2001 at the Sheraton Yankee Trader Beach Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale to elect officers. **Laurin A. Wollan, Jr.** of Florida State University, who served as the FAS's first president from 1992 to 1994, was elected president again, succeeding **Marshall L. De Rosa** of Florida Atlantic University. Other officers elected included **Michael D. Grimes** of Miami-Dade

Community College as vice president, and as secretary-treasurer, **Eugene H. Czajkoski**, emeritus dean of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Dean Czajkoski and the late **Werner Baum**, emeritus dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Florida State University, were the founders of the Florida Association of Scholars.

The speaker at the meeting was **Jeffrey J. Poelvoorde** of Converse College, president of the South Carolina Association of Scholars, who spoke on "The Meaning of Liberal Education."

The FAS invites suggestions for its future activities, to be sent to Mr. Wollan at 634 West College Street, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1127. [Ω](#)

## Annual Membership Meeting

The election of new members to the NAS Board of Directors will be held during the Annual General Membership Meeting to take place at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 8, 2001 at the Tabard Inn, 1739 N Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

The nominating committee of the current board has placed the following individuals in nomination for the term beginning January 1, 2002 and ending December 31, 2005:

1. Dr. William A. Donohue
2. Professor Gail Heriot
3. Professor E. Christian Kopff
4. Dr. Jerry L. Martin
5. Professor Dorothy Lang
6. Professor Thomas C. Reeves
7. Professor Barry Smith
8. Professor Ted J. Smith

Jeffrey J. Poelvoorde has been nominated to fill the seat vacated by Dick Tomasson's death for the remainder of the term, which ends in 2003. NAS members wishing to make additional nominations to the board must notify NAS secretary B. Nelson Ong in writing no later than November 8, 2001 (please address correspondence to NAS headquarters in Princeton). Nominating petitions must designate the number of the seat for which an individual is being nominated and include signatures of ten NAS members in good standing. [Ω](#)

## Bruce Cole Tapped for NEH Chairmanship

President Bush in May nominated long-time NAS member **Bruce Cole** to serve as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. On September 14th, Professor Cole was quietly confirmed by unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate. He will assume his duties as chairman in December.

Professor Cole is Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts at Indiana University at Bloomington and the author of 12 books, devoted primarily to the art of the Italian Renaissance. In 1992, he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the National Council for the Humanities, which helps set policies for the NEH, and served until 1999.

Professor Cole succeeds **William R. Ferris**, a folklorist appointed in 1977, and **Sheldon Hackney**, former University of Pennsylvania president whose name will be forever linked with one of the most notorious episodes in the history of political correctness: The Water Buffalo Affair. Of Mr. Hackney, Alan Kors and Harvey Silverglate once observed in *Academic Questions*, "He inherited a free and dignified university. He passed on, to his successors, an unfree, partisan, intrusive, and absurd university." Mr. Hackney's tenure at the NEH was memorable only for his funding and promotion of *The National Conversation*, notable for its one-sidedness and intellectual failure.

Mr. Ferris came to the NEH from the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, an early church of the cultural studies gospel now so fashionable in the academy. In 1995, two years before Mr. Ferris's appointment to the NEH chairmanship, his center, in the words of a spokesman, "shred the veil of academic elitism" by sponsoring two international conferences on Elvis Presley, campy anti-intellectual carnivals that featured impersonators of the King such as Mexico's "El Vez" and the cross-dressing "Herselvis." Upon being selected for his NEH post, Mr. Ferris informed the press that, for scholars, "it's not so much the subject as how you do it." "Twain or Goo Goo Clusters," he said, "are both worthy of serious scholarly examination."

Mr. Ferris's four years at NEH have been devoted to avoiding high-profile controversy while hastening the erosion of the distinction between high culture and popular culture, or between the humanities as defined by, say, Matthew Arnold and the humanities as defined by the Women's Studies Program at SUNY New Paltz. His legacy-in-progress is the establishment of ten regional culture centers at major universities. These centers are designed ostensibly to replace the idea of the humanities as a body of national and international literature and art that transcends in meaning and significance the circumstances of its origin with another that views all human thought as the expression of one regional cave or another. Of course, given the monoculture that governs today's university, Mr. Ferris's centers will most likely all turn out the same product from the same cave, that of group identity rooted in race, class, and gender.

It's fair to say that Professor Cole will bring a different perspective on the humanities to the NEH. In addition to his own work that includes historical surveys aimed at the student and general reader, he is a pioneer in the movement to restore the foundations of art scholarship, having co-founded, in 1997, the Association for Art History, an organization devoted to furthering intellectually serious interpretations of art history. The association has attracted an enthusiastic response from art scholars, and has enlisted more than 1,500 members to date.

As NAS president **Stephen H. Balch** noted in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "Almost everyone who has their heads on right about what scholarship is supposed to be will see that they have an ally in Bruce Cole." We heartily congratulate Bruce Cole and look forward to a high-toning of the NEH and its work. Ω

*NAS SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2002-2003 OLIN FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM...continued from page 1*

If you are a senior scholar in a field relevant to the program and know of such a candidate, we would welcome your submission of his or her name and materials. Our deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, December 7, 2001. Awards will be announced by February 11, 2002.

Instructions for nomination and a summary of the program are on the facing page. Ω

## John M. Olin Faculty Fellowships for Junior Professors, 2002-2003

**ELIGIBILITY:** Junior professors who have completed a Ph.D. or J.D. degree and who hold academic appointments in the fields of economics, law, government, political science, sociology, journalism, history, political philosophy, religion, and international affairs. Candidates should have an interest in some aspect of political theory, public policy, American institutions, American foreign policy, or the historical study of government or economics. Priority will be given to candidates holding academic positions with the prospect of tenure.

**STIPENDS:** Equivalent of academic year salary, but not to exceed \$75,000, plus benefits in an amount not to exceed 30% of salary or \$22,500. In addition, a flat summer research stipend of two-ninths of salary (up to a maximum stipend of \$16,667) will be provided for either the summer of 2002 or 2003, at the fellow's discretion. The award must be paid to the fellow's academic institution, and cannot be paid directly to individuals.

**DESIGNATION:** John M. Olin Faculty Fellow

**NUMBER OF FELLOWS:** Up to eight for the academic year 2002-2003

**NOMINATION:** By senior scholars in the appropriate fields

**SELECTION:** By a committee of senior scholars

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:** December 7, 2001

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTIONS:** By February 11, 2002

**NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS:** Please submit in one packet: (1) Current vita; (2) a brief statement (five to ten pages), prepared by the candidate, of research and publication plans for the fellowship year; (3) one published article or one chapter from a published book singly authored by the candidate; and (4) a cover letter from the nominator stating his or her reasons for the nomination. The above should be sent to:

Bradford P. Wilson  
Executive Director  
National Association of Scholars  
221 Witherspoon Street, 2nd Floor  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542-3215  
(609) 683-7878; wilson@dir.nas.org

## Recipients of the 2001-2002 John M. Olin Faculty Fellowship

**Esther Duflo**, Assistant Professor  
of Economics, MIT  
PROJECT: Women's Empowerment,  
Child Investment, and Public Good  
Provision in Developing Countries

**Darren Filson**, Assistant Professor  
of Economics, Claremont  
Graduate University  
PROJECT: Economic Dynamics

**Gregory Wawro**, Assistant Professor of  
Political Science, Columbia University  
PROJECT: Political Economy: Federal  
elections and local economic conditions

**Carson Holloway**, Assistant Professor  
of Political Science, Concord College  
PROJECT: Tocqueville's Political Science  
and the New Darwinian Political Science:  
A Comparison

**Paul Moreno**, Assistant Professor  
of History, Hillsdale College  
PROJECT: Racial Discrimination and  
Organized Labor Since Reconstruction

**Ronald J. Pestritto**, Assistant Professor  
of Politics, University of Dallas  
PROJECT: Woodrow Wilson's New  
Constitutionalism

**Michael J. Rosano**, Assistant Professor  
of Political Science, University of  
Michigan, Dearborn  
PROJECT: Political Obligation in  
Plato's *Crito*

**Albert Keith Whitaker**,  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
Boston College  
PROJECT: A Guidebook to Plato's *Laws*

## California Scholars Receive Grant for Study

The California Association of Scholars has received a grant to support another study questioning the claim that campus racial diversity has educational benefits. The authors of the study, to be distributed by the NAS, will again be **Thomas E. Wood**, executive director of the CAS, and **Malcolm J. Sherman**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics at SUNY Albany. Drs. Wood and Sherman previously co-authored the NAS/CAS study, *Race and Higher Education: Why Justice Powell's Diversity Rationale for Racial Preferences in Higher Education Must Be Rejected* (available at [www.nas.org/rhe.pdf](http://www.nas.org/rhe.pdf)).

The CAS is planning two lectures this fall (one in southern and one in northern California) by **David Benjamin**, a consultant who specializes in university admissions. Mr. Benjamin is an outspoken critic of UC. President Richard Atkinson's recent proposal to replace SAT I with SAT II.

The CAS has also filed Public Record Acts requests with UC campuses to obtain all relevant documents pertaining to the University's handling of the racially exclusive Gates Millennium Scholarships. The CAS has been informed that the University's Office of the President will be replying to these public records act requests. [Ω](#)

## Connecticut Association President Speaks in Litchfield

**Dr. Jay Bergman**, professor of history at Central Connecticut State University and president of the Connecticut Association of Scholars, was the guest speaker for the Litchfield-Morris Rotary Club on Thursday, February 15, 2001 at the Litchfield Inn in Litchfield, Connecticut. He spoke on the NAS and its efforts to combat political correctness and racial and other preferences. A shorter version of his talk appeared as an op-ed in the *Republican-American*, published in Waterbury, Connecticut. [Ω](#)

## Vermont Scholars Hold Conference

On July 14, 2001, the Vermont Association of Scholars hosted its first conference, on “Teaching and the Life of the Mind,” at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington, Vermont. Speakers and conference attendees came from Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont.

The conference’s morning session focused on Vermont’s national leadership in implementing successful methods for awakening the minds of autistic children. Speakers included **Laurie Morrow**, formerly a professor of English at Louisiana State University/Shreveport and the mother of an autistic child, **Kathy Andrews** of the Vermont Department of Education, behavioral psychologist **Edward Sbardellati**, and **Nicole Vandenburg-Luce** of the Autism Society of Vermont.

Following a luncheon in the Radisson’s glass-walled private restaurant overlooking Lake Champlain, Dr. **Sandra Stotsky**, Senior Associate Commissioner for Standards, Academic Review, and Research at the Massachusetts Department of Education, presented the keynote lecture. Dr. Stotsky spoke about improving teacher education through collaboration between Education and Arts and Sciences Faculty.

Professor **Paul Hollander** of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst chaired the afternoon session, which focused on the Great Books. Professor Hollander also presented a paper, speaking on the importance of “Rehabilitating the Great Books: The Quality of Literature and Life.” **Tom DuBose** of Louisiana State University at Shreveport offered wisdom and humor concerning “Enkidu Undead: Relevance, Reluctance, and the Great Works.” **Gary Brasor**, Associate Director of the National Association of Scholars (and native Vermonter), presented “Montesquieu’s *Persian Letters*: A Model for Multicultural Inquiry.” Finally, Vermont technocrat/engineer **Dan Foty** (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) urged “Stop Imitating Us! An Engineer Looks at the State of the Humanities.”

The conference concluded with a business meeting of the Vermont Association of Scholars, during which Laurie Morrow (who had recently moved to the state) was elected president and

Dr. **Warren Sanderson** of Shelburne, vice-president. The conference received television coverage on two network affiliates (ABC and NBC), despite running against a quadruple homicide. Interested parties may contact Laurie Morrow at [lpmmorrow@msn.com](mailto:lpmmorrow@msn.com). [Ω](#)

The Vermont Association of Scholars again made the news on July 17, 2001, when president Laurie Morrow followed through on a decision made at the July 14th meeting to support a new initiative for school choice in Vermont. Dr. Morrow was an invited guest at the press conference on “Schoolchildren First,” a report and reform plan issued by a Vermont think tank, the Ethan Allen Institute. EAI President **John McClaughry** announced before television and print media the support of the Vermont Association of Scholars for EAI’s school choice initiative. [Ω](#)

## Science Insights Available on Website

**R**enamed *Science Insights* with the current issue, the recently revived former NAS *Science Newslist* is now available on the NAS website at [www.nas.org/publications.html](http://www.nas.org/publications.html). Members with specializations in the sciences and mathematics (unless they indicate otherwise) automatically receive notification of new releases of the NAS-SNL by e-mail, as do other members who have so requested. If you would like to be added to the NAS-SNL e-mail notification list, please send your e-mail address to [sciencenews@nas.org](mailto:sciencenews@nas.org). [Ω](#)

*please remember us. . .  
when you are writing or updating your will.  
A bequest made to the National Association of  
Scholars will help us continue to champion  
reasoned discourse and intellectual freedom in  
higher education for years to come.*

## NAS Mourns Dick Tomasson

*Richard Tomasson, retired sociology professor and former president and chairman of the New Mexico Association of Scholars, died on September 6th after a long illness at the age of 73. The eulogy below, written by NAS president Steve Balch, was composed for the September 14th memorial service for Dick.*

I first met Dick in 1990 when the New Mexico Association of Scholars was being organized. Little did I know just what a character was entering my life. I use the word character in its double sense. Dick was certainly a character in being an inimitably colorful personality, though always in the most enjoyable way. His *joie de vivre* bubbled over onto everyone in his presence. Being with him was figuratively, and sometimes quite literally, to be caught up in his embrace. He was a man who could never quite contain his exuberant good nature, and I, like almost everyone else, was immensely cheered by exposure to it.

But Dick exemplified character in its second sense as well. He was a man of uncompromising devotion to principle, and his principles were of the finest. Dick's charm with his friends was matched by the delicious mercilessness with which he dissected foes. And he chose these foes most carefully, singling out especially the power-mad paragons of diversity doubletalk, greedy administrative featherbeds, and members of those ideological SWAT teams that now police so many of our campuses. The malefactors on the UNM campus were, of course, his prime concern, and they regularly felt his lash. Often he let into them with utmost seriousness and, as a good sociologist, with an array of damning facts. But these targets were relatively lucky. Those who fell victim to his flare for ingenious satire fared far worse. (While the rest of us got bellyaches from laughter.) Dick never let up in his devotion to academic excellence, individual merit, intellectual freedom, and plain old-fashioned honesty. And he never, ever, backed away from a necessary fight.

Dick and Tamara lived in the most artistically decorated home I ever visited—Windsor Castle and the Breakers not excepted. I never left it without some longing for the life they lived there.

It embodied such an exquisite concern for getting things just right. Dick was truly exceptional at getting things just right, and for that reason I, and all the members of the NAS whom he knew, will miss him terribly. [Ω](#)

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## Upcoming Event

### VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS

Date: October 12-14, 2001  
Event: Annual Conference and Meeting  
Place: Charlottesville, Virginia  
Title: "Remembering Why: Reform in Higher Education"

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### AGENDA

#### October 12th (evening)

Place: Rococo's Restaurant  
Speaker: David Mulroy  
Topic: "Curricular Reform: Opportunities, Pitfalls, and Underlying Issues"

#### October 13th

Place: Omni Charlottesville Hotel

*Business Meeting* (morning)

*Panel* (afternoon):

"The SAT: Its Nature and Role"

Hans C. Rott, Virginia Tech

Eva Brann, St. John's College

Patricia Hausman,  
Independent Women's Forum

Nicholas Lemann, *New Yorker* magazine

Charles Murray, American  
Enterprise Institute

*Banquet* (evening)

Speaker: Alvin B. Kernan, Andrew W. Mellon  
Foundation

Topic: "The Old University and the New"

#### October 14th

Event: Board Meeting (morning)

## NAS Files Briefs in Michigan Appeals

In conjunction with the release its study, *Race and Higher Education: Why Justice Powell's Diversity Rationale for Racial Preferences in Higher Education Must Be Rejected*, the NAS has filed amicus briefs in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit supporting a reversal of *Gratz v. Bollinger* and an affirmation of *Grutter v. Bollinger*.

In the Gratz case, a federal district court affirmed the legality of the racially discriminatory undergraduate admissions policy currently in effect at the University of Michigan. In the Grutter case, a different federal court ruled that the University of Michigan Law School's racially preferential admissions policy was unconstitutional.

The University of Michigan is defending its regime of race preferences by arguing that a racially diverse student body produces significant educational benefits, and that these benefits make such diversity a compelling governmental interest that can be pursued by means of racial preferences.

The NAS briefs take aim at the University's legal position and especially the bogus empirical claims on behalf of diversity made by the University and its hired hands. Our briefs rely on *Race and Higher Education* (available at <http://www.nas.org/rhe.html>) demonstrating that all available evidence, including the very evidence relied upon by the lower court, refutes the notion that campus racial diversity is positively correlated with specific educational benefits.

NAS affiliates in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia united to file another joint amicus brief in the Gratz case. The affiliates' brief addressed points of social science research and method based on a report by NAS members **Robert Lerner** and **Althea Nagai** published by the Center for Equal Opportunity.

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the pro bono assistance of attorneys **Brice Clagett**, **Oscar Garibaldi**, and **Keith Noreika** of the Washington office of Covington and Burling in preparing the NAS's briefs. We also want to thank

**Thomas E. Wood**, executive director of the California Association of Scholars, and **Malcolm J. Sherman** of SUNY/Albany for their many excellent contributions to the briefs, including an appendix to the Grutter brief that refutes criticisms, orchestrated by the University of Michigan, of *Race and Higher Education*, which they coauthored.

The NAS amicus briefs can be found online at [www.nas.org](http://www.nas.org). [Ω](#)

## ACTA Orients New Florida Trustees

In an important development in higher education reform, the Florida Board of Education selected NAS's ally in the struggle for the academy's soul, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, rather than One Dupont Circle's Association of Governing Boards to orient Florida trustees. In the last year, Florida has reorganized the governance structure at all levels of education. Governor **Jeb Bush** was given the authority to appoint all 145 college and university trustees and the seven members of a new "superboard" of the entire educational landscape.

On July 25th, ACTA president **Jerry Martin** and vice president **Anne Neal** ran a day-long seminar at Florida International University for the new appointees on their responsibilities as trustees and on the opportunities for academic reform now before them. Governor Bush attended, as did Lt. Governor **Frank Brogan** and all but a few of the new board members. **Bradford Wilson**, executive director of the NAS, spoke to the trustees on the nature of academic freedom and on the need for a strengthening of the undergraduate general education curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences.

While the guardians of the academic status quo no doubt view this event with fear and trembling, we are heartened by the willingness of Florida's education leaders to move beyond the tired clichés of an ossified higher education establishment and hear some straight talk from knowledgeable observers with nothing to hide. [Ω](#)

## South Carolina Scholars Meet

The South Carolina Association of Scholars held its annual General Meeting in Columbia on Friday, May 18th. In addition to embracing two broad programming goals for coming years (working to raise the standards for teacher certification as a part of an overall examination of education school quality and promoting the addition of “great books” curricula at the state’s two-year institutions), the membership voted to censure the academic leadership of Charleston Southern University (CSU) for its dismissal of **David Aiken**, an SCAS/NAS member. The Board and members of SCAS found credible Professor Aiken’s claims that the university demonstrated a lack of procedural fairness, compounded by motivations of enforcing “political correctness.” SCAS will protest CSU’s action with a “public letter” addressed to CSU’s academic leadership, its governing board, the leadership of South Carolina’s colleges and universities and several state newspapers.

SCAS also welcomed NAS executive director **Bradford Wilson** as the meeting’s keynote speaker, who had come to Columbia to speak on “Academic Freedom and Academic Integrity: Contemporary Threats.” SCAS also welcomed as its guest Florida State University Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence **Laurin A. Wollan, Jr.**, president of the Florida Association of Scholars.

The South Carolina and Florida affiliates have been discussing the possibility of forming a regional consortium of southeastern NAS state affiliates. Additionally, during the last six months, SCAS has begun an extensive three-year membership outreach campaign by mailing an invitation to join to every academic in the state at both public and private colleges and universities. Ω

## Ohio Affiliate Debates Diversity

The Ohio Association of Scholars held its annual meeting on June 1st at Ohio State University (OSU). The meeting featured a panel discussion and open forum on OSU’s new diversity action plan. OAS president **George Dent** described the previously published OAS response criticizing the plan. Dean **Carole Anderson** defended the plan on behalf of OSU’s administration. Dean Anderson admitted that the plan was premised on anecdotes and impressions that minorities face special problems at OSU; OSU had no empirical evidence of these problems.

OAS member **Boris Mityagin** discussed the administration’s violation of OSU’s own rules by not submitting the plan for faculty senate approval. OAS member **Ed Crenshaw** reported a survey showing that OSU faculty oppose by a 2-1 margin faculty hiring preferences based on race, gender, and ethnicity. Guest speaker **Stanley Rothman**, chairman of the NAS, presented findings from a recent study belying claims that diversity has educational benefits.

After this session, the OAS members agreed to create a committee to study and publicize problems of low academic standards and fiscal waste at OSU as well as the flaws of the diversity plan and to recommend steps to improve OSU.

At dinner, NAS president **Stephen H. Balch** described the past, present, and future activities of the NAS and encouraged OAS members to work to restore liberal education with high standards of teaching and scholarship. Ω

*don't forget to mark your calendar. . .*

*the Tenth National NAS Conference will convene at the Washington Marriott,*

*1221 22nd Street, Washington, D.C. from May 31 through June 2, 2002.*

*More information on the conference will be provided in the next issue of NAS Update.*

**ALABAMA**

President: Thomas F. Woods  
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