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## Shining the Light in Georgia

Across our country, debate has been raging about what today's college students are learning, whether preaching is replacing teaching, whether trustees are doing their jobs, and how much college costs. But often, it's tough for concerned citizens and taxpayers to figure out what's really going on. Most of us are not on college campuses, and the academy isn't exactly forthcoming with information.

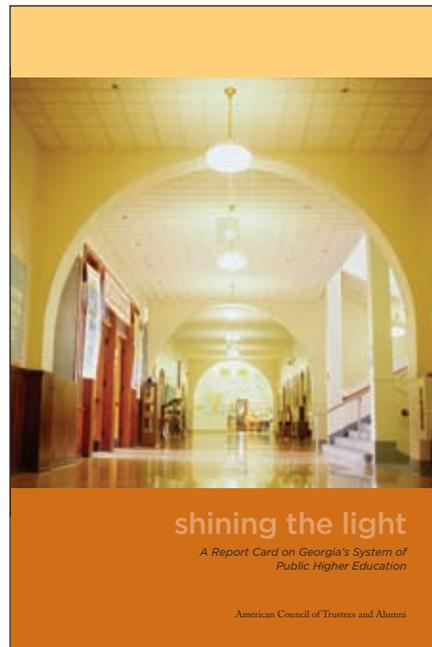
That's why ACTA has launched a series of studies examining state university systems, zeroing in, at a local level, on the issues that we have highlighted nationally—general education, intellectual diversity, governance,

and cost. Our first foray looked at North Carolina; our latest, just released, is about Georgia.

And the Peach State surely deserves

attention. In recent years, students have filed First Amendment lawsuits against four different state universities—challenging the universities' decisions to shut down free speech. Meanwhile, a mere 20 percent of those students who enter the University System for the first time actually graduate in four years or less.

Applying the same grading standard used by the System's largest institution, the University of Georgia, in this report we offer a pass or fail grade in four key



*(continued on 3)*

## Register Now for 2008 ATHENA Roundtable

Register now for ACTA's 2008 ATHENA Roundtable, "The Campaign for the American Mind," to be held on **October 16-17, 2008** at the New York Historical Society. See [www.goacta.org](http://www.goacta.org) or call us at 202-467-6787 for further details.

[www.goacta.org](http://www.goacta.org)

[info@goacta.org](mailto:info@goacta.org)

1-888-ALUMNI-8

**Anonymous Faculty Member  
College Town, Missouri**

"I'm sending this note from my non-institutional e-mail address to ensure anonymity. Compliments on the latest issue of *Inside Academe*, which I read with more than the usual interest since it deals with educational reforms in my state. Colleagues at ACTA must occasionally feel like Sisyphus but they should know that they are making substantial reforms in the academy. Just a few years ago, the educational establishment could simply ignore ACTA and similar organizations. Now it realizes that the ground beneath it is shifting...."

**Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President Emeritus  
George Washington University  
Washington, DC**

"You wowed our students. Thank you!...You provided them an opportunity to understand in great depth the complexity of the modern university and how complicated the job of the president is."

*Editor's Note: ACTA president Anne Neal was a guest lecturer at President Trachtenberg's "The University President in America" course. Her topic was "Accreditors, Associations, Legislatures and Other Governmental Bodies."*

**Governor Matt Blunt  
Jefferson City, MO**

"Thank you for sending information on higher education and a copy of *The Spellings Commission and You: What State Policymakers Can Do in Light of the Department of Education's Recent Report*. I appreciate being kept informed of the progress and solutions offered by this report. I have given copies of this information to my senior staff for consideration...."

**Linda Arey Skladany, former member, Board of Visitors  
College of William & Mary  
Alexandria, VA**

"Thanks for including Barney and me in your dinner with Stuart Taylor. It was wonderful. To me the situation at Duke is, in microcosm, the state of higher ed in macrocosm in this country. Or, in the alternative, the logical extension of the political correctness so pervasive on our finest campuses. What a shame."

*Editor's Note: On February 27, ACTA hosted a dinner colloquy with Mr. Taylor. See page 6 for details.*

**Robert Warren, President  
Colonial Area Men's Republican Association  
Williamsburg, VA**

"[T]hank you for your luncheon talk....Not only was the information you presented succinct and solidly professional, but it was unusually timely in light of the William and Mary situation. For your information, as you looked around the room, you saw many outstanding military, business and academic professionals—and the questions they asked reflected a real interest and concern about the state of America's colleges and universities. I look forward to future interaction and hope you will come to our neck of the woods...for one of your conferences."

**Michael R. O'Leary, Member  
Association of Council Members and College Trustees  
State University of New York  
Syracuse, NY**

"Many thanks for your participation in our conference. I thought that it was imperative that our members were informed about the Spellings Commission and its findings. I have been very impressed with your organization."

*Editor's Note: ACTA policy director Phyllis Palmiero coordinated a retreat for ACT members in October 2007.*

**Katie MacMillan, Class of 1951  
College of William & Mary  
Virginia Beach, VA**

"A belated 'thank you' for sending me the *Indoctrinate U* DVD. I am sharing it with friends. It makes me thankful that there are still some brave, patriotic souls out there not afraid to tell and expose the truth."

**State Representative Kenneth L. Weyler  
Kingston, NH**

"Thank you for the recent report that you sent me on the Spellings Commission's report. I am a ten-term State Representative in the New Hampshire House. I serve on the Finance Committee on the subcommittee that deals with the stipend that we give to the state university system. I have been making similar suggestions to the University administrators as the report details, since 1995. A few projects have reluctantly begun. I would hope that a few copies of your report could show my colleagues that I am not the only one asking for more efficiency."

**ACTA Addresses Council for Higher Education Accreditation**

It used to be that ACTA was a "voice in the wilderness" calling for reform of accreditation—the process by which universities are certified to receive federal financial aid dollars. But thanks to our high-profile calls for change, seconded by recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the transformation of accreditation has become a central topic in higher education.

That important discussion continued in January at the annual meeting of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation—the preeminent defender of accreditation. There ACTA president Anne Neal was invited to participate in the plenary panel discussion on "The Future of the Gatekeeping Role of Accreditation." In her remarks, she reiterated ACTA's view that the federal government should not link its dollars to accreditation.

As ACTA's 2007 policy paper "Why Accreditation Doesn't Work and What Policymakers Can Do About It" points out, accreditation was supposed to prevent taxpayer dollars from going to institutions that provide an "education in name only." But accreditation has not stopped—and in many cases has contributed to—the decline in academic standards that ACTA's studies have shown. Moreover, the Department of Education uses other means of review to ensure that institutions are financially responsible—so accreditation isn't needed there.

ACTA has already published two policy papers on the issue and continues to speak out aggressively on the topic. Surely the capacity crowd at CHEA—and the growing focus on accountability—are testament to ACTA's work. ●

**Shining the Light, continued from 1**

areas. What we found is shown in the report card below.

*Shining the Light* calls on Georgia's educational leaders—primarily the Board of Regents—to address the important issues we raise in the report. And, as ACTA has done before, we point to areas needing improvement, as well as practices deserving praise. A folded summary card gives a quick and concise look at the state of affairs.

Charles E.M. Kolb, president of the Committee for Economic Development, has endorsed the report in strong terms. "If we want our graduates to remain competitive in today's rapidly changing global environment, it's absolutely imperative that our institutions of higher learning focus on academic excellence, intellectual diversity, and accountability," he remarked. "Hopefully, this

report card will spark a renewed commitment to high standards and quality education for all students."

Emory University professor Mark Bauerlein has also drawn attention to the report, especially its findings on intellectual diversity, dubbing it "important" and saying "it should offer lawmakers and educators ample material for discussion and improvement."

We've sent *Shining the Light* to all members of the Board, as well as the chancellor of the university system, Governor Sonny Purdue, his higher education advisor, and all members of the General Assembly. If you would like to receive a copy as well, please note your interest on the enclosed envelope. ●

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA	
General Education	P
Intellectual Diversity	F
Governance	
Board Structure and Transparency of Operations	P
Board Accomplishments	F
Cost and Effectiveness	F

## Change Comes to William & Mary

It's called America's Alma Mater—and in recent months, its governing board and president have been much in the news. After months of controversy—and unrest on the part of concerned alumni and others—the College of William & Mary's Board of Visitors informed President Gene Nichol on February 10 that it would not be renewing its contract. Nichol penned a lengthy denunciation of the board and resigned immediately, refusing even to serve out his contract.

Nichol's departure came after a series of events that roiled various campus constituencies. The first arose in 2006, when the administration—virtually without consultation—removed a cross from the college's historic Wren Chapel. About 10,000 individuals—including thousands of alumni—signed a petition opposing the decision. Another was when the administration instituted an online “Bias Reporting System” that many First Amendment experts—including ACTA president Anne Neal—decried.

The decisions themselves weren't the real issue, as ACTA said in a letter to Nichol in 2007. The major problem was

the way the administration made them—typically by itself—and with little tolerance for anyone who dared to disagree.

Perhaps to no one's surprise, this management philosophy had consequences. William & Mary's student newspaper reported that 115 pledges—totaling over \$16 million—have been withdrawn since October 2006. Concerned alumni have also organized—with ACTA's help—a new group called the Society for the College.

As Neal told the media in the wake of the board's decision, “Hiring presidents, evaluating them, and deciding whether to retain them are difficult decisions, but they are ultimately for trustees to make. The Board of Visitors deserves great credit for accepting its responsibility to determine what is in the best interests of the college—as well as for inviting input from the entire community, including alumni, before making the decision.”

Alumni, of course, deserve credit for standing up and calling America's alma mater back to first principles. Now, the College is launching a presidential search. We'll keep you posted about developments. ●

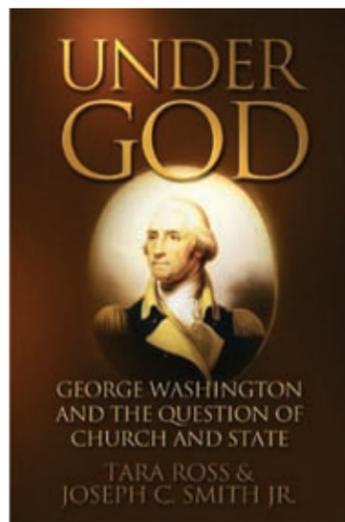
## Mr. Smith (and Mr. Washington) Goes to Press

By Charles Mitchell, ACTA Program Director

ACTA supporter Joe Smith has a passion—and it's one with which ACTA agrees. He's an admirer of our nation's first president. And he's got a new book focusing on George Washington and his attitudes toward religion. Smith is a co-author, along with Dallas-based writer Tara Ross, of *Under God: George Washington and the Question of Church and State*.

This new book has already earned the praise of author Richard Brookhiser, former U.S. attorney general Edwin Meese, and *Weekly Standard* editor William Kristol. (And if those names sound familiar—it's because Mr. Brookhiser spoke to ACTA's Society of Fellows about Alexander Hamilton, Mr. Meese is a member of our Board of Directors, and Mr. Kristol gave a tribute to his mother, Gertrude Himmelfarb, when she received our Merrill Award for Distinguished Contributions to Liberal Arts Education last fall.)

(continued on 7)



## With Burgeoning Endowments, Elite Colleges Start to Act

By Matthew Mawhinney, ACTA Program Officer

According to a January report released by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, college and university endowments in the United States and Canada grew at an average of 17.2 percent in 2007. Over the past ten years, the average growth of the 785 institutions studied is 8.6 percent.

The wealthiest 76 universities—all with endowments greater than \$1 billion—experienced an average growth rate of 21 percent for 2007. These include the institutions listed in the adjacent chart.

Despite these impressive gains, colleges and universities continue to spend a small percentage of their endowment incomes on financial aid and institutional operating costs. The average rate of endowment income spending for all 785 schools was 4.7 percent for 2007 and just 4.4 percent for the billion-dollar club.

ACTA advisor and Columbia trustee emeritus Edward Costikyan identified this trend in a prescient 1998 piece entitled “Spending Endowment

Income for Current Use: Why So Little? Mea Culpa,” taking himself and his fellow trustees to task for being asleep at the wheel when it comes to endowment spending policies.

In the piece, Costikyan also tackled the bigger issue of cost. Trustees have

Despite relatively minimal endowment spending percentages, it seems some inside higher ed are starting to get the message. As the *New York Times* recently reported, “wealthy universities have been rushing in recent months to expand financial aid, in some cases using more of their en-

dowments to increase assistance to low-income and upper-income students alike. Harvard recently said it would increase aid for families earning up to \$180,000 a year, and Yale said it would help families with annual incomes of as much as \$200,000.” Other institutions that have taken action include Stanford, Cornell, Smith, Dartmouth, and Brown.

an obligation to examine both sides of a budget and ask tough questions, he argues: Is the endowment income a viable option to closing the gap? Are tuition increases and loans the only way to address higher ed costs? Could some programs actually be closed? Are unproductive programs regularly reviewed? Are the faculty productive? Is performance a criterion for funding?

Not a bad record for Mr. Costikyan, whose piece was recently praised by Center for College Affordability and Productivity fellow Lynne Munson and Senate Finance Committee lawyer Dean Zerbe at an American Enterprise Institute symposium. If you'd like to read his ahead-of-the-times essay, visit our newly redesigned website at [www.goacta.org](http://www.goacta.org). ●

**Endowment Growth from 2006 to 2007 at 12 of the Nation's Wealthiest Institutions**

INSTITUTION	2006 ENDOWMENT FUNDS	2007 ENDOWMENT FUNDS	% CHANGE IN ENDOWMENT (2006-2007)
Amherst College	\$ 1.3 billion	\$ 1.7 billion	24.3%
Columbia University	5.9 billion	7.1 billion	20.4%
Duke University	4.5 billion	5.9 billion	31.4%
Harvard University	28.9 billion	34.6 billion	19.8%
Princeton University	13.0 billion	15.8 billion	21.0%
Stanford University	14.0 billion	17.2 billion	21.9%
Swarthmore College	1.2 billion	1.4 billion	15.7%
University of California	5.5 billion	6.4 billion	16.2%
University of Michigan	5.7 billion	7.1 billion	25.4%
University of Pennsylvania	5.3 billion	6.6 billion	24.9%
University of Texas System	13.2 billion	15.6 billion	18.0%
Yale University	18.0 billion	22.5 billion	25.0%

By Phyllis Palmiero, Director, ACTA's Institute for Effective Governance

In the wake of William and Mary president Gene Nichol's recent resignation—prompted by the Board of Visitors' decision not to renew his contract—trustees have come under fire from faculty and students at the college. Far from deserving blame, these trustees deserve praise. The recent William and Mary board action presents an excellent profile in board leadership—and here's why.

In refusing to renew Gene Nichol's contract (see page 4), the board members made a difficult decision—one they knew would be unpopular on campus. A trustee's duty is, after all, to the college or university it governs—not for the short term, but for the long haul. After significant input from the university community, alumni and others, the board concluded that Nichol's management style was not in the long-term best interest of the institution—and it took action. This is indeed what boards should do.

Compare that to actions at American University where board members, rather than addressing the president's profligate use of university resources for family needs, looked the other way and approved an exorbitant compensation package. Too often boards tend to avoid difficult decisions and succumb to internal and/or external pressures. At William and Mary, the board understood its important job and stood firm. Kudos! ●

## Stuart Taylor Leads Discussion of Political Correctness

On February 27, members of ACTA's Decade Society and Society of Fellows were treated to their first event of the year: a dinner colloquy with author and journalist Stuart Taylor. Mr. Taylor is a fellow at the Brookings Institution and writes for *National Journal* and *Newsweek*. He is also a co-author—with ACTA friend and Brooklyn College professor Robert "KC" Johnson—of *Until Proven Innocent*, the definitive book on the Duke lacrosse case.

As readers are aware, Duke has become the veritable poster child for campus political correctness—after faculty led, and administrators and trustees didn't resist, a tragic rush to judgment involving four lacrosse players falsely accused of rape. At the Metropolitan Club here in Washington, Mr. Taylor offered a stark look at Duke's politically-correct climate—and what alumni and trustees can do to stem the tide at their institutions.

The Decade Society and Society of Fellows are ACTA's preeminent donor groups. Members of the Decade Society give \$10,000 or more annually and are invited to three or more events per year like the dinner with Mr. Taylor. Society of Fellows members donate between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and are invited to at least one such event.



Stuart Taylor speaks at event for ACTA supporters.

If you're interested in being part of the action, please call ACTA program director Charles Mitchell at 202-467-6787. ●



H E A R D  
C A M P U S  
ON

### Dartmouth Update

Readers of ACTA's publications have surely seen a number of stories on Dartmouth College—where concerned alumni have been extremely active. Reform-minded candidates have won the last four trustee elections and also resoundingly won an all-alumni vote on governance in late 2006.

Despite the results of these last five votes—and a survey showing 92 percent opposition—the majority of the board voted to add eight unelected trustee seats last fall, unilaterally restricting alumni influence.

Left without any other alternative, the Dartmouth Association of Alumni responded by filing a lawsuit against the trustees. The Dartmouth establishment claimed the suit was just a nuisance and asked the judge to dismiss it. But on February 5, the alumni got a crucial bit of good news: The judge denied the trustees' motion. As one alumnus put it, the judge's decision "puts on hold, for the moment, the board's divisive and unwise plan" and gives it the chance to "work things out with Dartmouth alumni." Then, on Valentine's Day, the parties agreed to

a "ceasefire"—the board will not make any changes to its composition until further notice.

As this issue goes to press, the alumni are indeed "working things out." Elections are about to be held for the leadership of the alumni association. One slate is for parity on the board; the other is not. You can read more about the reformers at [www.dartmouthparity.com](http://www.dartmouthparity.com).

### A Call for Reform at Harvard

Here at ACTA, we don't get involved in inter-Ivy disputes. So we won't compare Dartmouth to Harvard—but we will happily report that the push for reform, and a greater focus on undergraduate education, is alive and well beyond Hanover.

That's right: This year, Harvard alumni have the chance to cast a vote for change, too. There, Robert L. Freedman, a 1962 graduate of Harvard College, is a petition candidate for the Board of Overseers, one of Harvard's two governing boards. Mr. Freedman recently published an op-ed in the *Harvard Crimson* and has a website at [www.freedmanforoverseer.com](http://www.freedmanforoverseer.com). Take a look! ●

### Mr. Smith, continued from 4

Mr. Smith has quite a good pedigree himself, a graduate of Yale—where he won faculty prizes—and the University of Chicago, where he was a Bradley Fellow and president of the Federalist Society. He's been Colorado's deputy attorney general and is now a partner at the Denver law firm of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP.

*Under God* sheds light on a fasci-

nating topic: Washington's views on church and state. As the authors point out, Washington's ideas are much less famous than Thomas Jefferson's—and as Mr. Brookhiser pointed out in his endorsement, they didn't always "see eye to eye."

It's surely illuminating that topics such as these are more likely to be examined by those with scholarly avocations than by academics. Indeed,

many historians in the modern academy diminish the study of great men such as Washington and Jefferson as wasting time on "dead white males." We applaud Joe not only for helping ACTA work to change that—but for taking a stab at it himself! And we encourage you to take a look at his book. ●

## Thanks, Hank!

By Anne D. Neal, ACTA President



Hank Brown

In his brief tenure as president of the University of Colorado, former U.S. Senator and ACTA National Council member Hank Brown managed to leave an indelible mark on CU and higher education generally.

Taking the reins in the wake of a number of scandals, Brown established a national model for institutional responsibility. Under his leadership, CU vigorously stood up for academic excellence and accountability. And the steps taken—committing

to intellectual diversity at the board level, tackling grade inflation, and performing a groundbreaking review of the tenure process—offer presidents and boards across the country an unmatched illustration of ways to ensure quality education for students and taxpayers.

In tackling the challenges before him, Brown also set an example for presidential leadership. CU's handling of the investigation and subsequent firing of Professor Ward Churchill was praiseworthy in its focus on due process and its fundamental understanding that academic standards are best set and enforced by academics themselves. At the same time, Brown understood and acknowledged the urgent need for higher education to be accountable to those who support it—and the important role citizens and alumni can play in demanding that their alma maters live up to their highest ideals.

Indeed, Brown's belief in the importance of outside input underscored

his early support of ACTA. It's gratifying indeed to review the prescient *Roll Call* article he wrote back in 1995—along with his Senate colleague Joe Lieberman—underscoring the importance of alumni and trustee voices and acknowledging that “[c]ampus political pressures often make it difficult for those on campus to defend academic freedom.”

In little more than two years, Brown has done what many said was impossible—restore CU's reputation for education excellence and accountability. In doing so, he has also restored alumni and public confidence; it's perhaps no surprise that he left CU at a time when public support for the institution is at an all-time high.

Some would have you believe that higher education reform is impossible. But, as Brown has made clear, strong presidents and engaged trustees can do much to ensure higher education quality.

For that, we are grateful indeed. Farewell, Hank, and many thanks. ●

## “SPEAKING UP”



Jane Fraser with her husband Joe Fulcher at ACTA's 2007 ATHENA Roundtable

### Don't Mess with Jane Fraser

Congratulations are due to ACTA Decade Society member and Stuttering Foundation of America president Jane Fraser for being named the *Non-Profit Times* Executive of the Year for 2007. Fraser's foundation successfully challenged new rules governing which types of non-profits may solicit funds in the annual Combined Federal Campaign—a program in which federal employees can opt to give a portion of their paychecks to selected charities. Her organization had been barred on the grounds that it is classified as a private operating foundation, rather than a public charity.

In fighting for her organization's right to be included in the CFC, in which it has participated since 1992, Fraser opened the way for several other worthy charities not organized as traditional non-profits to be eligible to

enroll. In 2006, the CFC raised \$271 million for the participating charities.

“That's the great part about being American. The field is supposed to be open, whether you believe one way, you can't be shut out,” Fraser said.

Fraser has been president of the Memphis-based Stuttering Foundation since 1982. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she took the helm when her father, Malcolm—who started the foundation in 1947—turned 80. She felt that if she did not step in, his hard work might fade away.

Most recently, Fraser has become a member of the Board of Directors of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, an “oasis of excellence” established by alumni of Hamilton College and supported by ACTA—where she was formerly a trustee. We know the AHI will benefit from her leadership. ●

## New at ACTA

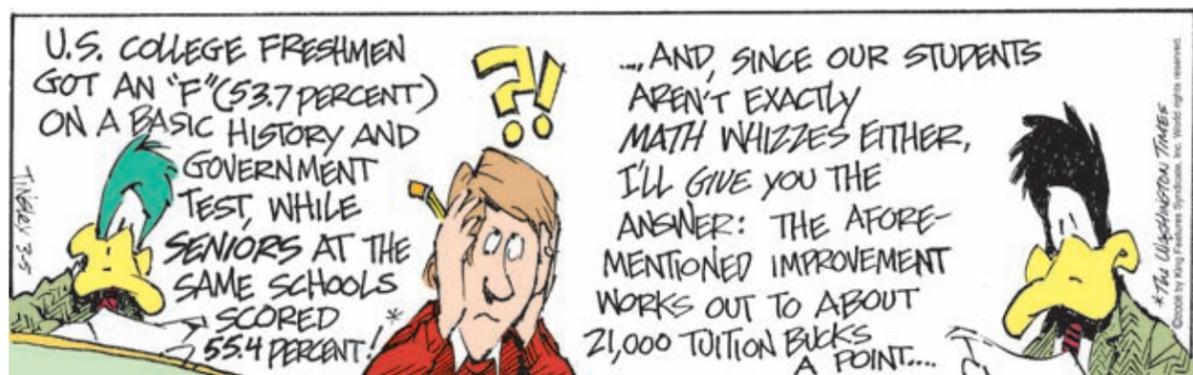
ACTA is pleased to welcome two new staff members: Matthew Mawhinney and Siyuan Xie.

Matt, a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, joined us in February as a program officer. Previously, he worked for the United States Agency for International Development and the Broward County (Florida) State Attorney's Office. Matt works closely with ACTA president Anne Neal and spends a great deal of time communicating with universities and working on media relations.

Siyuan, a 2006 graduate of Swarthmore College, is our new administrative director. After graduation, she was a Fulbright scholar in Shanghai, researching the Cultural Revolution's reeducation-through-labor programs. She has also studied at the Collegium Hieronymi Pragensis in Prague and Cambridge University. She is the first voice anyone who calls ACTA or visits our offices hears—so next time, please do say hello!

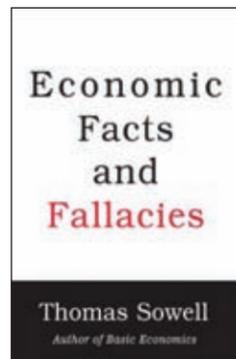
We must also give kudos to ACTA board member Stephen H. Balch. Steve, the founder and president of the National

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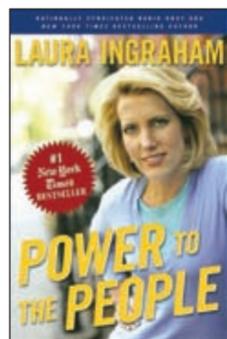


### ACTA Changing the Culture



**Economic Facts and Fallacies**, by Thomas Sowell  
(Basic Books, 2007)

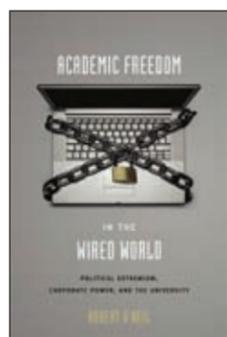
In his chapter on “Academic Facts and Fallacies,” Hoover Institution fellow Sowell criticizes the “input criteria” that accrediting agencies for colleges and universities tend to use, “with little or no regard to output quality, and with...indulgences of the preconceptions of members of the accrediting agency.” He goes on to cite approvingly ACTA’s report *Can College Accreditation Live Up to Its Promise?*.



**Power to the People**, by Laura Ingraham  
(Regnery Publishing, 2007)

“Most top colleges have no core curriculum at all. The requirements that remain in place are often so loose that a student can easily graduate without having read a word of Shakespeare or Aristotle,” notes talk radio host (and Dartmouth alumna) Ingraham. “Most top schools, however, do have diversity requirements, and no end of ridiculous course offerings.”

“An English major at Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, or most top schools can graduate without reading a word of Shakespeare,” she points out. “The American Council of Trustees and Alumni studied 70 schools, including the top 25 colleges in the country according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and found that only 15 of those 70 required their English majors to take a course that included Shakespeare. Harvard was the only Ivy League school that required the Bard for its English graduates.”



**Academic Freedom in the Wired World**, by Robert O’Neil  
(Harvard University Press, 2008)

This book, by a former president of the University of Virginia, lauds ACTA for “target[ing] threats and intrusions upon academic freedom,” making curricular issues a “special concern,” and being “vigilant in protecting both liberals and conservatives in the academy from the excesses of political correctness and other ideological pressures.”

As ACTA’s reports have documented, curricula are in a state of decay on many campuses. Key subjects such as American history are frequently going untaught—and students are graduating without the knowledge they need to be the leaders of tomorrow.

One of the best ways alumni can help solve this problem is by directing their giving toward “oases of excellence”—specific programs that might not otherwise be available—rather than to the general fund, where there is much less accountability. And we’re delighted to announce a new oasis at a key campus, the University of Texas at Austin.

Earlier this year, UT approved a new Program in

Western Civilization & American Institutions. The program, directed by Professor Rob Koons, will begin offering interdisciplinary seminars in the Great Books this fall. It will also offer students the opportunity to complete a “concentration” in the field by taking a coherent and connected sequence of seminars in the great ideas of the Western tradition: liberty, law, reason, virtue, happiness, justice, individual rights and limited government.

If you would like to support this splendid program, please call ACTA program officer Matt Mawhinney at 202-467-6787. He’ll put you in touch. ●

#### New at ACTA, continued from 9



Ed Larson at ACTA regional meeting in Baltimore

al. In presenting the medal, President Bush praised Steve for “his leadership and advocacy upholding the noblest traditions of higher education.” These efforts, including helping to found ACTA, have made Steve—as the President put it—“a proponent of reform and a champion of excellence at our nation’s universities.” Well said, Mr. President, and bravo, Steve!

Finally, it’s worth noting a new ACTA tradition: our **Regional Meetings**. At these gatherings, ACTA support-

ers and their guests have a chance to meet ACTA leadership and also hear

from some of the best minds in higher education. The first of these meetings took place on March 18 in Baltimore, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward J. Larson. Dr. Larson, a professor at the University of Georgia and Pepperdine University, provided a fascinating overview of the election of 1800—the topic of his recent book, *A Magnificent Catastrophe*. And ACTA president Anne Neal offered remarks on ACTA’s efforts to ensure that college graduates are grounded in American history and civics.

This year, we plan to hold other Regional Meetings in Chicago and Richmond. If you’d like us to visit your neck of the words, please let us know. ●

Association of Scholars, recently received the National Humanities Med-

als and their guests have a chance to meet ACTA leadership and also hear



## INSIDE ACADEME

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### National Council

**JACQUES BARZUN**, *University Professor Emeritus, Columbia University*

**WILLIAM J. BENNETT**, *former U.S. Secretary of Education*

**GEORGIE ANNE GEYER**, *Columnist, Universal Press Syndicate*

**JUDITH RICHARDS HOPE**, *former Member, Harvard Corporation; Distinguished Visitor from Practice, Georgetown University Law Center*

**MAX M. KAMPELMAN**, *former Head, Delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; Of Counsel, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP*

**IRVING KRISTOL**, *Senior Fellow Emeritus, American Enterprise Institute*

**HANS MARK**, *former Secretary of the Air Force; John J. McKetta Centennial Energy Chair in Engineering, University of Texas at Austin*

**MARTIN PERETZ**, *Editor-in-Chief, The New Republic*

**WILLIAM K. TELL, JR.**, *Retired Senior Vice President, Texaco, Inc.*

**CURTIN WINSOR, JR.**, *former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica; Trustee, W.H. Donner Foundation*

**JERRY L. MARTIN**, *Chairman; Founding President, ACTA*

**LYNNE V. CHENEY**, *Chairman Emeritus; former Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities*

**RICHARD D. LAMM**, *Vice Chairman; former Governor of Colorado; Co-Director, Institute for Public Policy Studies, University of Denver*

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