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ACTA Names Pano Kanelos as Our 2025 Hero of Intellectual Freedom

This year, ACTA will honor University of Austin (UATX) Chancellor Pano Kanelos as our 2025 Hero of Intellectual Freedom.

Dr. Kanelos served as founding president of UATX from 2021 to Summer 2024, when he became the university's chancellor. Under his leadership, UATX has devoted itself to showing how higher education can be rescued from the illiberalism that has strangled discourse on too many American campuses. Dr. Kanelos and his fellow co-founders formed the new university to preserve the "lively clash of ideas and opinions" that fuels discovery, innovation, and the search for truth.

UATX welcomes the "canceled," the "censored," and all other students and faculty who crave a campus environment

where, in Dr. Kanelos's words, "intellectual dissent is protected and fashionable opinions are scrutinized." The university treasures intellectual freedom and pluralism. In a

2022 interview with ACTA, Dr. Kanelos shared, "We wanted to be able to bring together students and faculty from across ideological boundaries and throw in front of them some of the most vexing questions of the day, questions around empire or gender or race, and create a circle of trust where these students and faculty, who differ in so many ways, find what I call the highest common

denominator."

Dr. Kanelos ensured that UATX abided by the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression and the principle of institutional neutrality. He remarked, "Politics should

(continued on 3)



See ACTA's 30TH Anniversary Gala Invite Inside!

ACTA's 30th Anniversary Celebration, **We Hold These Truths... America at 250**, will take place on **October 24**. The day will begin with a colloquy at the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. Eminent historians will examine the indispensable role of civic education in America's quest for a more perfect union. At an evening gala and dinner at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, we will present the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education to **Lawrence H. Summers**, the Charles W. Eliot University Professor and president emeritus at Harvard University. For more information or to register for the event, please visit www.GoACTA.org/event/anniversary.

The Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Former Governor, Indiana
Former President, Purdue University

“Michael, your essay on Harvard in *Law & Liberty* was the best anyone has produced. Right on target, or rather targets . . . thanks for an excellent column.”

Note: On June 11, 2025, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff published an article in *Law & Liberty* entitled, “Moral Failure and Government Intrusion at Harvard.”

Debra J. Saunders
“Trump wants to make Harvard great again,” May 28, 2025,
Las Vegas Review-Journal

“Michael Poliakoff, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, is a man in the middle. ACTA has been working to deliver true ideological diversity—not the false diversity that rewards like-minded liberals—by exposing students to the rough-and-tumble of spirited debate.”

Jon Medved
Former President and CEO, Current, Inc.
Colorado Springs, CO

“I’d like you to know that my wife and I relied on ACTA’s *The Intelligent Donor’s Guide to College Giving* as the “bible” when we structured our philanthropy plan for the University of Colorado including the University of Colorado–Colorado Springs. This 40-page pamphlet (small but mighty) provided the blue print for devising and implementing our giving strategy. We now feel confident that the money we are donating will be expended in areas and programs that align with our values.”

Clark Patterson
Member, Open Discourse Coalition
University of Texas–Austin

“I can’t say enough good things about you guys at ACTA, as well as the folks at AFSA and FIRE . . . and all of the great help that [you all] have offered me.”

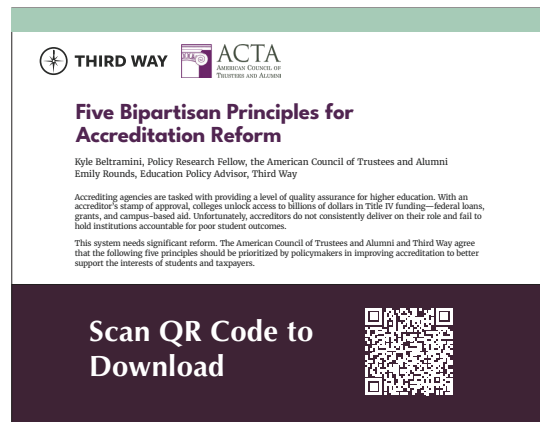
Broken Accreditation System Under Pressure

On June 26, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced a new six-state accreditation group that will be devoted to “rigorous, transparent and adoptable outcome-based standards.” The Commission for Public Higher Education will include university systems in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as the Texas A&M University System. Governor DeSantis stated, “It will upend the monopoly of the woke accreditation cartels, and it will provide institutions with an alternative . . . focused on student achievement rather than the ideological fads that have so permeated those accrediting bodies.”

It is past time to overhaul the accreditation system. Currently, more than 35% of accredited colleges fail to graduate half of their students, yet they continue to receive more than \$20 billion in federal student aid each year. This cannot continue. On June 10, ACTA Policy Research Fellow Kyle Beltramini published a short guide in partnership with Emily Rounds of Third Way, entitled “**Five Bipartisan Principles for Accreditation Reform.**” The guide states, “By focusing on educational inputs and processes rather than outcomes, accreditors have created a system that appears primarily concerned with checking boxes over encouraging real improvement. As a result, each year colleges and universities need to spend billions of dollars on a bureaucratic practice that offers few tangible, institutional benefits.”

Meaningful change will require congressional action. Mr. Beltramini and Ms. Rounds explain, “Current legislation does not require accreditors to set benchmarks for student outcomes and prohibits the Secretary of Education from setting those standards for accreditors. Congress should require accreditors to consider student outcomes—including results from nationally normed assessments, as well as borrowing levels and retention, graduation, and loan repayment rates.” They continue, “Legislation should require accreditors to work with the institutions in their portfolio to establish target levels for key student outcomes to maintain access to Title IV funds. Accreditors can then use those standards to hold schools accountable if they fail to meet the mark.”

Students and taxpayers deserve an accreditation system that provides reliable quality assurance focused on objective standards rather than prestige, endowment size, or political correctness. As state governments take action to break up the accreditation cartel, ACTA calls on federal policymakers from both sides of the aisle to implement these commonsense reforms. **●**



THIRD WAY **ACTA**
 AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
 TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

**Five Bipartisan Principles for
 Accreditation Reform**

Kyle Beltramini, Policy Research Fellow, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni
 Emily Rounds, Education Policy Adviser, Third Way

Accrediting agencies are tasked with providing a level of quality assurance for higher education. With an accreditor's stamp of approval, colleges unlock access to billions of dollars in Title IV funding—federal loans, grants, and campus-based aid. Unfortunately, accreditors do not consistently deliver on their role and fail to hold institutions accountable for poor student outcomes.

This system needs significant reform. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni and Third Way agree that the following five principles should be prioritized by policymakers in improving accreditation to better support the interests of students and taxpayers.

**Scan QR Code to
 Download**

Students Lack Knowledge of American Literature, History, and Scientific Achievements

ACTA has released a new survey in partnership with College Pulse entitled, *The Forgotten Fundamentals*. It assesses college students' knowledge of American arts and sciences. Complementing our U.S. history survey released last year, the new study asked a sample of 3,215 undergraduates basic questions about American literature, scientific achievements, and historic sites.

We found that a majority of college students are unacquainted with many of our literary greats. Only one-quarter of students know that Ernest Hemingway wrote *A Farewell to Arms*, and just one-third know that Herman Melville is the author of *Moby-Dick*. While a majority of students (72%) know Mark Twain wrote *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, less than half could correctly identify the authors of *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *Native Son*, and several other major American novels. Sadly, one in five students have not read a book outside of one that was required in a college class in the last year.

When it comes to the sciences, only 28% of students know that Jonas Salk developed the first polio vaccine, and only 37% correctly identify Thomas Edison as the inventor of the phonograph. Eighty-five percent of students know that J. Robert Oppenheimer is considered the “father of the atomic bomb,” perhaps less because they

In a press release, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff remarked, “The failure to teach American history at institutions of higher education has decimated not only civic knowledge, but also appreciation of America’s cultural heritage. . . .

“What this survey measured, and what we are all witnessing, is nothing less than the dumbing down of a whole generation, at the very moment when we need our future voters and citizens to be conversant in politics, government, and the wider elements of American civilization. No American student should be able to obtain a bachelor’s degree without a comprehensive grasp of our rich national heritage.”

ACTA is urging every institution to require the study of American history. On October 3, our National Commission on American History and Civic Education will convene to identify the core elements of a required undergraduate course on the American story and recommend an implementation strategy for university leaders, trustees, and legislators. ❶

ONLY 33% OF STUDENTS SURVEYED KNOW THAT HERMAN MELVILLE IS THE AUTHOR OF *MOBY-DICK*.



Scan QR to Download Survey

took a strong core curriculum and more because of the recent Hollywood film.

We also queried students about a series of national historic sites. Less than half of students (48%) know that George Washington lived at Mount Vernon; just 36% know that Thomas Jefferson designed Monticello; and still fewer (24%) know that Montpelier is the historic home of James Madison.

Pano Kanelos, *continued from 1*

be studied at a university. It shouldn’t be the operating system of the university. Any university that is identifiably political is not fulfilling its highest mission.” UATX’s small, seminar-style classes combat self-censorship by adhering to the Chatham House Rule, which dictates that students can share perspectives and information they have heard in the classroom but may not identify the person who shared it. In an article in *RealClearEducation*, ACTA Fellow Solveig Gold commented, “The hope at UATX is that students will be more likely to test new—and sometimes provocative—hypotheses if they do not have to fear retribution from classmates quoting them on social media.”

A passionate advocate for liberal education, Dr. Kanelos previously served as president of St. John’s College–Annapolis, the storied Great Books college, from 2017 to 2021. He founded the Cropper Center for Creative Writing at the University of San Diego and is a noted Shakespeare scholar.

ACTA will honor Chancellor Kanelos as our 2025 Hero of Intellectual Freedom at our 30th anniversary ATHENA Roundtable Conference on October 24 at the Mount Vernon George Washington Presidential Library. Please join us as we recognize one of higher education’s most inspiring defenders of free expression and open discourse. ❶

Effective TRUSTEESHIP

From Major to Market, an ACTA Report on Virginia's Academic Programs

Virginia, like many states, is experiencing a decrease in two- and four-year college enrollment, a trend that will likely only worsen over the next decade. At the same time, Virginia's population is growing, putting pressure on the state's employers to fill jobs when fewer college-educated workers are available. To support Virginia's institutions and employers, ACTA recently published *From Major to Market: How Virginia Colleges Can Drive Workforce Growth and Regional Prosperity*.

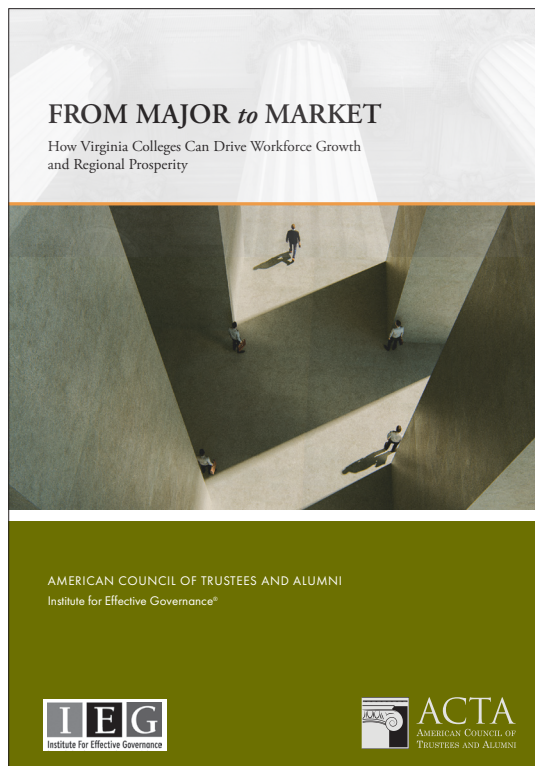
Using data from the U.S. Department of Education, ACTA examined enrollment for certificate programs, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees for two- and four-year public colleges and universities in four regions across Virginia. ACTA then matched this data with the fastest-growing careers in each respective region and made suggestions as to what programs colleges and universities should expand or merge in order to use their resources most effectively. The report is accompanied by a virtual program map that allows users to see which programs have the fewest graduates and find schools nearby that offer the same program.

For example, health care is one of the largest employers in the Richmond area. All four public institutions in the area offer

a degree in registered nursing, but Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) program has the highest enrollment. ACTA recommends that Virginia State University combine its nursing program with VCU in order to save resources and give students greater access to a high-demand field of employment.

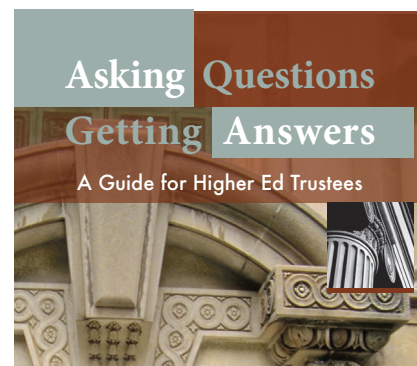
ACTA also performed an in-depth analysis of classroom and class laboratory utilization at Virginia's two- and four-year institutions. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) stipulates that classrooms should be in use at least 40 hours per week and laboratories should be in use at least 24 hours per week. Of the four-year institutions we evaluated, no school met the full classroom utilization guidelines, and only James Madison University fulfilled the class lab utilization rate. No two-year institution met the full guidelines for classroom or laboratory utilization.

To prepare for coming enrollment changes, Virginia's public institutions will need to prioritize high-demand fields and collaborate with other schools to merge low-enrollment programs and save money, while allowing students to continue their studies as seamlessly as possible. ACTA stands ready to assist institution leaders as they seek to provide exceptional higher education for the citizens of Virginia. ❶



ACTA Can Help Trustees Increase Efficiency

Beginning conversations about program efficiency and prioritization can be difficult, even for the most savvy board members. ACTA's short pamphlet, *Asking Questions, Getting Answers: A Guide for Higher Ed Trustees*, outlines key questions board members can ask to ascertain what students at their institutions are learning and ensure they are receiving an education that will prepare them to be informed citizens, effective workers, and lifelong learners. The pamphlet includes practical guidance on reducing administrative bloat, increasing space and classroom utilization, and combining or eliminating programs. Download this resource for free on GoACTA.org! ❷



On June 11, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff published an essay in *Law & Liberty* entitled, "Moral Failure and Government Intrusion at Harvard." Excerpts from his essay, which has received wide acclaim, appear below. Read the full essay at <https://www.goacta.org/2025/06/moral-failure-and-government-intrusion-at-harvard/>.

To understand the crisis in American higher education, it is necessary to hold two thoughts at once. American higher education remains the envy of the world, with seven of its universities in the top 10 of *Times Higher Education's* World University Rankings. Yet the behavior on many campuses has caused public confidence in higher education to plummet. With a recent drop of 21 percentage points, only 36 percent now express a lot of confidence, while 32 percent have little or no confidence. Among those dissatisfied with higher education, politicization stands as a major cause of their dismay. Significantly, though, the public does not seem happy about the attacks on higher education coming from the administration, with only 27 percent approving. Those mixed messages may be the fingerpost for finding a solution.

Harvard has been among the worst offenders, with cancellations, shout-downs, disruptive encampments, and egregious antisemitic conduct. It makes a poor example of an innocent victim of unjust governmental persecution, as shown below. But whose interests are served if the cancellation of a \$60 million federal contract and nearly \$3 billion in grants and revocation of tax-exempt status cripple one of our country's great research hubs? While the government is rightly concerned about apparent civil rights violations, discrimination, and campus behavior that violates the law, the treatment Harvard is receiving from the Trump administration is neither measured

nor reasonable nor, according to many legal scholars across the ideological spectrum, within statutory authority. Yet worse is the federal government's apparent willingness to accept the damage being done to American scientific progress. The administration's indiscriminate cuts have impeded research to combat tuberculosis, HIV, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease. . . .

What, then, is the way forward?

On April 11, 2025, the General Services Administration, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services sent a five-page letter to President Garber with the administration's demands. Many of the demands are straightforward and reasonable, such as procedures to curtail disruption and deplatforming, a policy to control the wearing of masks, better student disciplinary codes, merit-based hiring and admissions, monitoring of donations from overseas, and ending DEI. Others, like the demand for changes in governance procedures, submission of admissions and hiring data to the federal government, and hiring a "critical mass" (unspecified) of new faculty to achieve intellectual diversity in each department, along with the admission of a "critical mass of students," suggest a dangerous agenda of governmental control.

There is room for productive negotiation. There are even issues outside the April 11 letter that could meaningfully be addressed. Indirect cost rates that universities add to the cost of implementing a federal grant for their administrative expenses deserve scru-

tiny and transparency. . . . Moreover, a campus nearly devoid of faculty identifying as libertarian or conservative is *prima facie* evidence of ideological discrimination. Harvard will need more than verbal assurance of meritocratic hiring practices to convince anyone of its newly asserted ethic, though there are less intrusive ways to do this than the precipitous hiring demanded by the federal government.

Attempts to evade the Supreme Court ruling ending race-based admissions are unconscionable. At the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, the co-defendant in *SFFA v. Harvard*, the board of trustees resolved not only to ensure scrupulous observance of the decision but to extend race-blind practices to hiring and contracting. Nothing like that came from Harvard. Governing boards that, for good reason, do not want Leviathan's intrusion into their campuses need to ensure fair admissions, fair hiring, and freedom from discrimination. This is their moment for strong, principled institutional governance. There are powerful figures within the Harvard community who understand this and are speaking out forcefully and eloquently.

But it must be said out loud: Limited government is a core value within the American concept of liberty, especially for classical liberals and conservatives. It is reasonable and wholesome in a free society for private institutions to challenge governmental fiat and intrusion into their operations. It behooves the Trump administration to respect such boundaries. ●



H E A R D

C A M P U S ON

Professors Get Back to Basics to Combat Abuse of AI

A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ), entitled “They Were Every Student’s Worst Nightmare. Now Blue Books Are Back,” reports that professors across the country are dusting off the iconic exam booklets to combat widespread cheating. As ChatGPT and other applications become more sophisticated and harder to detect, students are using artificial intelligence for everything from writing papers to solving problem sets.

The WSJ reports, “Sales of blue books this school year have gone up more than 30% at Texas A&M University and nearly 50% at the University of Florida.” Humanities professors are abandoning take-home essays in favor of oral exams and in-class essays, without notes. STEM faculty have begun requiring students to

leave behind their phones during exam bathroom breaks because ChatGPT and other AI tools “make calculators look like abaci.”

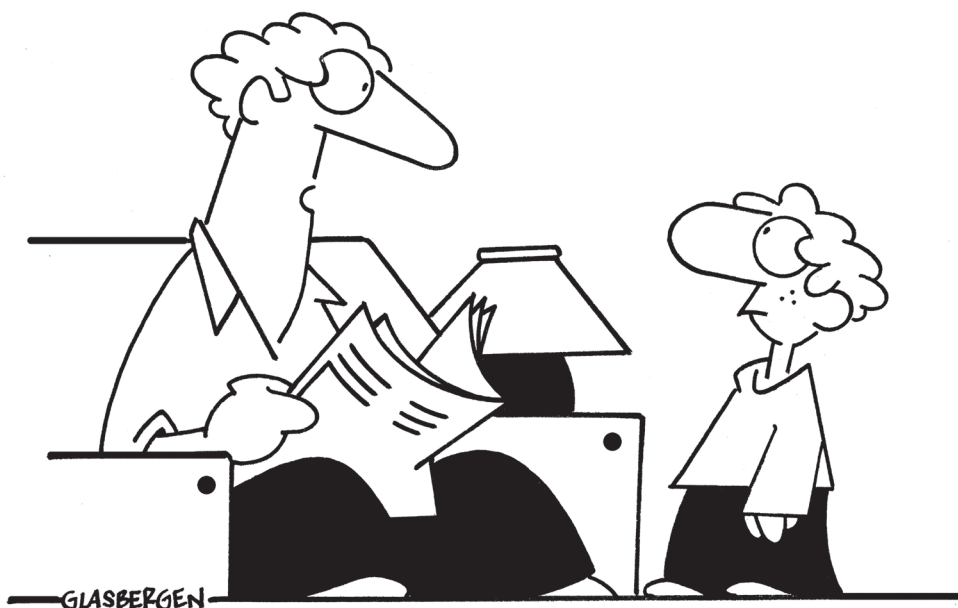
Samuel Abrams, an ACTA Hero of Intellectual Freedom and professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College, recently wrote that his final exam “will be in blue books and with pencils and paper. I will allow students to bring in hard-copy notes that they can prepare in advance, but will not provide them with question prompts or allow any digital devices when they are doing this work.” He continued, “I am completely confident that AI advances will undeniably compel me to change my seminars to incorporate applications” but “for now, I will share with my students that we are going to focus on some ‘old school’ learning methods because there is no downside to mastering critical reading

and writing and learning how to blend ideas, data, and reason.”

New ACTA Podcast on Campus Freedom

ACTA’s Campus Freedom Initiative™ (CFI) has launched a new video podcast called Radio Free Campus. Each episode takes listeners behind the front lines in the battle to expand free expression, viewpoint diversity, and civil discourse in higher education. The podcast, available on YouTube, is hosted by CFI Director Steven McGuire and Research Fellow for Campus Freedom Justin Garrison. In the pilot episode, entitled “The DEI Pipeline,” our hosts interview Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow John Sailer and bestow their first “Hero of the People” and “Apparatchik of the Month” awards. The podcast can be found at youtube.com/@RadioFreeCampus. ●

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“Artificial intelligence is when you get a college degree, but you’re still stupid when you graduate.”

ACTA Welcomes Civic-Minded Interns

This summer, ACTA welcomed three interns, Joseph Kavetsky, Peter Scott, and Kaleb Dueberry. The interns provided valuable assistance to many of ACTA’s departments by reviewing bills, researching accreditation and free speech issues, and maintaining our databases. They also enjoyed workshops by ACTA staff and higher education leaders as well as a guided tour of the Capitol.

Mr. Kavetsky recently graduated from Arizona State University (ASU) with a B.A. from the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership and a B.A. in political science. He will be returning to ASU to complete an M.A. in classical liberal education and

(continued on 7)

IN MEMORIAM: The MacNeils

By Michael Poliakoff

ACTA was saddened by the news that our longtime friend Sandy MacNeil has died. His dedication to the best in higher education was an ongoing inspiration for all of us.

Jonathan Carlton “Sandy” MacNeil was born on April 25, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He studied at Colby College and then the University of Wisconsin (UW)—Madison. In 1957, Sandy married Virginia (Ginny) Roby.

His career included military service and his family business, MacNeil & Moore, a clothing store with four locations in Wisconsin.

He later transitioned to a successful career in the investment industry. His philanthropic devotion was intense, and he served on numerous boards, including the Rotary Club, Ten Chimneys, the Salvation Army, Nashotah House, Forest Home Cemetery, Pabst Farms, and his church vestry. He also served on several corporate boards, including ANR Pipeline Company, Coastal Corporation, and El Paso Energy. Sandy was deeply involved in Wisconsin state politics, serving as state finance chairman for Wisconsin’s Republican party and in an informal capacity as an advisor to Governor Tommy Thompson.

Upon retirement, Sandy and Ginny moved to North Carolina. In 2007, their funding and vision launched The Tocqueville Center for the Study of Democracy and Society at Furman University. The Tocqueville Center, one of ACTA’s Oases of Excellence, continues to bring intellectual diversity and deep academic experiences to the university community. It provides opportunities for students and faculty to engage with topics that too often are absent from campus life: religion, politics, ethics, in other words, the fabric of civilization. These were matters at the very core of Sandy and Ginny’s vision of education.

The MacNeils were tireless fundraisers for the Tocqueville Center, helping to build its capacity and resources. Sandy was a member of ACTA’s Legacy Society, and his generous bequest will be an immense help in advancing ACTA’s mission to promote the highest academic standards in higher education.

Those of us who interacted with Sandy will remember his penetrating wit, energy, and insight. His was a life very well lived, an inspiration to continue to devote ourselves to the kind of education that shapes thoughtful and engaged citizens.

We also mourn the passing of our friend Ginny MacNeil, Sandy’s wife, who left us shortly after Sandy. She was also an alumna of UW and served on the University of Wisconsin System’s Board of Regents for seven years. Before retiring with Sandy to North Carolina, she was the senior vice president of development for the Milwaukee School of Engineering, where she won several awards for accomplishments in fundraising. She and Sandy were true partners in their philanthropic work and they leave behind a rich legacy of generosity. ●



Sandy and Ginny MacNeil with Dr. Anthony Kronman.
Photo by Jeremy Fleming.

Interns, *continued from 6*

civic leadership and hopes to teach at the university level.

Mr. Scott is a rising junior at Boston College, where he is pursuing a B.A. in philosophy. After he graduates, he plans to attend law school. He hopes to become an attorney and eventually teach jurisprudence.

Mr. Dueberry is a rising senior at Arizona Christian University, where he is pursuing a B.A. in political science. He plans to attend law school and specialize in business and constitutional law. Ultimately, he seeks a career in the judiciary.

Reflecting on his internship with ACTA, Mr. Dueberry commented, “Higher education’s aim should be to foster intellectual diversity and the pursuit of knowledge. Through my involvement with ACTA, I’ve realized that universities need reform to enhance this diversity and help prepare the next generation to challenge their beliefs and seek truth beyond political agendas and set narratives.” ●



Interns Peter Scott, Joseph Kavetsky, and Kaleb Dueberry.

ACTA ANNIVERSARY *Celebration*

We Hold These Truths . . . America at 250

OCTOBER 24, 2025

George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon
National Museum of Women in the Arts | Washington, DC



— JOIN US FOR ACTA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION —

Friday, October 24 (Day)

■ COLLOQUY: Educating for a More Perfect Union

President Ronald Reagan called for "informed patriotism." President John Kennedy wrote that Americans uninformed about their history stand defenseless before the world. For 30 years, ACTA has vigorously advocated for a recommitment to the collegiate study of American history and government. Our colloquy of distinguished historians will examine the indispensable role of civic education in America's quest for a more perfect union. Participants include **Anne D. Neal**, moderator, regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and co-founder & former president of ACTA; **Douglas Bradburn**, director of George Washington's Mount Vernon; **Wilfred M. McClay**, Victor Davis Hanson Chair in Classical History and Western Civilization at Hillsdale College and author of *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story*; **Louise Mirror**, president of The New York Historical; and **Richard Brookhiser**, American journalist, biographer, historian, and senior editor of the *National Review*.

■ Presentation of the 2025 Hero of Intellectual Freedom Award

Following the colloquy, Steven McGuire, ACTA's Paul & Karen Levy Fellow in Campus Freedom, will present the Hero of Intellectual Freedom award to **Panayiotis (Pano) Kanelos**, chancellor of the University of Austin. **Jacob Howland**, former provost, senior vice president for academic affairs, and dean of intellectual foundations at the University of Austin, will deliver a tribute.

Friday, October 24 (Evening)

■ GALA CELEBRATION: Presentation of the 2025 Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education

ACTA will present the 2025 Philip Merrill Award to **Lawrence H. Summers**, the Charles W. Eliot University Professor and president emeritus at Harvard University. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Dr. Summers has walked a path of uncompromising integrity of purpose and vision. He has championed rigorous undergraduate requirements, not infrequently against popular fashion and faculty hostility. While far too many in the academy have sought to curtail free speech, President Summers has stood firm in defense of the free exchange of ideas. And while many used a false liberalism as a mask for antisemitism, Larry Summers sounded the warning bell decades ago. He has placed his skills in the service of our nation as secretary of the treasury (1999–2001) and continues to be a pivotal participant in current economic policy debates. ACTA is privileged to present him with our highest award for service to liberal arts education.

Tribute speakers include **Tom Rollins**, founder of The Great Courses; **Nadine Strossen**, John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law Emerita at New York Law School and past president of the American Civil Liberties Union (by video); and **Steven Pinker**, Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology at Harvard University.



ACTA's 30TH Anniversary Celebration | October 24, 2025

Please send this completed form in the enclosed envelope with your registration fee by **October 1**, or register online at **GoACTA.org/event/anniversary**. For more information, contact ACTA at 1-888-ALUMNI-8.

Name and Title: _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email (must provide email to use credit card): _____

I (WE) WILL ATTEND:

☐ COLLOQUY AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AT MOUNT VERNON (\$150.00/person)

October 24, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

A continental breakfast will be served on the Founders' Terrace at 8:30 a.m. The colloquy will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon at the Mount Vernon Inn.

A shuttle to Mount Vernon will depart from the Hamilton Hotel at 8:00 a.m. and leave Mount Vernon at 1:30 p.m. to return to the hotel.

Guest(s): _____

☐ GALA CELEBRATION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS (\$250.00/person)

October 24, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

1250 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005

Cocktail reception on mezzanine, 6:30 p.m.

Gala dinner on lower level, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

A shuttle to the museum will depart from the Hamilton Hotel at 6:00 p.m. and leave the museum at 9:45 p.m. to return to the hotel.

Guest(s): _____

☐ BOTH COLLOQUY & GALA (\$350.00/person)

Guest(s): _____

ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE:

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to "ACTA."

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

Check one:

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ American Express

Name (as it appears on credit card)

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date _____ CSV Code _____

Cardholder's Signature

☐ I (we) cannot attend but enclose a contribution to support ACTA's work: \$ _____.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hamilton Hotel, 1001 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

A block of rooms is available at the historic Hamilton Hotel for celebration attendees at a rate of \$349.00/night.

To reserve your room, please scan the **QR code** or register online at **GoACTA.org/event/anniversary**. Guests may also call **(866) 407-1764** and reference the group code 102225ACT. The room block is for

October 22–26, 2025. Reservations must be made by October 1.



SPONSORSHIPS: Sponsorship opportunities are available for the event. Contributors may purchase tables at the gala celebration and receive special recognition. Please contact **Grant Vargo-Willeford** at **gwilleford@GoACTA.org** or **(202) 467-6787** to discuss the available options. We are grateful for your support!

PLEASE REGISTER BY OCTOBER 1.



ACTA
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INSIDE ACADEME

published by ACTA, Washington, DC

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Editor: Greta Wagley
Production & Design: Lauri Kempson

Celebrate ACTA's 30th Birthday with the Simple and Powerful Gift of Life Insurance

Do you have an outdated or redundant life insurance policy—such as one that provides for children who are now grown or financial security for a spouse? Life insurance policies (“whole” or “term”) can be a powerful and simple way to support ACTA's work.

By making ACTA the irrevocable owner and beneficiary of an existing, paid-up life insurance policy, you will be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the fair market value of the policy or your cost basis, whatever is less. Additionally, you may assign ownership and beneficiary status to ACTA and enjoy a charitable deduction each time you make a premium payment.

Perhaps the easiest way to support our work with life insurance is simply to name ACTA as the revocable beneficiary of a current life insurance policy. Although this designation will not result in an upfront charitable tax deduction during your lifetime, you will receive an estate tax deduction for the value of the policy passing to ACTA.

If you have any questions, please contact ACTA Development Specialist Nancy Phillips at (804) 519-8537 or nphillips@GoACTA.org. 

