

# Great Books Curriculum

Dedicated to the best that has been thought and said.

Fall 2000

Volume 3 Number 1

## Great Books Curriculum Grows: Professor Connolly and Professor Sills Join. New Classes and New Program Added

Social Science Professor Patricia Connolly and Physical Science Professor Thomas Sills have become the latest faculty to contribute their exceptionally creative skills and expertise to the Great Books Curriculum.

Professor Sills brings a reputation as one of the most widely published members of the Wright College faculty and also as one of the city's best known science educators. He will be regularly offering Astronomy 201 employing original texts from history's most important astronomers and physicists, many of whom,



**Professor Connolly**

like Aristotle, Galileo and Newton belong to the core Great Books curriculum reading list.

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**Professor Sills**

Internet and succeeded in finding public domain copies of many of these seminal astronomy

**Continued on page 6**

## Wright Students From Around The World Earn Great Books Certificates

The Great Books Curriculum takes special pride in announcing that the following students successfully achieved a Great Books certification by completing at least four Great Books Curriculum

courses.

Sabih Bin Abdullah  
Rehana Q. Ali  
Angela Nicole Bogat  
Angela Delores Coady  
Sean Patrick Connelley  
Lorena Delgado  
Elena Loretta Enescu

Petar Jankovic  
Nicholas Kettaneh  
Sabina Kryzyzak  
Eizel Capuno Makatangay  
Sonia Belle Maldonado  
Bethany Ortega  
Arcila Datonia Petty

Melissa Qadri  
Phillip Stevens  
Slawomir Sura  
Vicki Ta  
Jonathan Tsuetaki  
Diane Vargas  
David Zarzoza

# Great Books Curriculum Earns First Grant Marjorie Kovler Foundation To Fund Student and Faculty Work

The Great Books Curriculum achieved a major milestone earlier this year by receiving its first grant. The donor is the prestigious Marjorie Kovler Foundation.

One of Chicago's most prominent philanthropic organizations, the Marjorie Kovler Foundation has donated wings to the main Chicago Public Library and the Lincoln Park Zoo.

It has also funded a variety of worthy causes such as the establishment of the nation's largest healing center for torture victims, which is headquartered in Chicago.

The five thousand-dollar grant, solicited by Great Books Curriculum founder and coordinator Professor Bruce Gans, will be used to help underwrite Great Books student scholarships, cultural activities, publications and

faculty development.

"The basis of the Great Books Curriculum is recognition of the highest excellence and beauty," program Coordinator Professor Bruce Gans said. "Therefore, part of this money should be used to reward Great Books students whose grades and papers in Great Books courses reflect those values through achievement.

"Right now our scholarly journal *Symposium* exists out of the generosity of the Wright College photocopy center. I would like to see us present student work in a bit more handsome a manner to lend a little extra dignity to the contributors' achievements.

"Also," Professor Gans continued, "there are some very dedicated faculty who have taken on extra projects.

"They would also like to do very extensive course development. I would like to see them supported.

"The amount of the grant will enable us to make a beginning in these areas, in some cases very significant, in others more symbolic.

"Last year at this time, getting any grant money at all was a pipe dream. Hopefully we will also be able to get other organizations to help our students as the Marjorie Kovler Foundation has."

Kovler Foundation president Peter Kovler said, "We are very heartened to see how significant a contribution the Wright College Great Books Curriculum has made in communicating a love of these works in students that otherwise might never have

## New Great Books Scholarships—continued from page 2

Students who earn an "A" in a Great Books Curriculum course in the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 semesters will now qualify for a new, and as yet unnamed, book scholarship thanks to Wright College President Chuck Guengerich and City Colleges Chancellor Wayne Watson, who have made additional funds available for the Wright College Great Books Curriculum. The funds, available as a consequence of the national and local recognition the program has earned over the

past year, will be distributed based on the Great Books Curriculum faculty nominations program.

"The confidence that President Guengerich and Chancellor Watson are demonstrating in our efforts is extremely meaningful to both the faculty and the students," Professor Gans said. "It has a very significant, tangible impact."

In other developments, the Great Books Curriculum also announced that all

# New Great Books Curriculum Classes Created

(continued from page 1)

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Even more impressive, Professor Sills combed the Internet and succeeded in finding public domain copies of many of these seminal astronomy texts and has collected them on his web page for his students to download, an innovation which he shares with only a handful of other faculty.

Just as exciting, Professor Sills also will offer the first Great Books Curriculum Science Lecture to a campus wide audience at a date to be announced soon. His talk will concern an innovative view of Einstein's

Theory of Relativity which has already gotten the interest of the University of Chicago Press.

Professor Connolly, a Social Science faculty sociologist, introduced in the fall 2000 semester Sociology 205: Social Problems as a Great Books Curriculum course. In it students will have the opportunity to explore such questions as the Individual and Alienation, Friendship and Loyalty, Citizenship and Work, and Nationhood and War. Readings are drawn from the core Great Books Curriculum authors and include Nietzsche and Marx, among others.

"What Professor Connolly and Professor Sills are doing is exactly what I had hoped the Great Books Curriculum would accomplish," Great Books Curriculum Coordinator Professor Gans said.

"In fact, they both exceeded my wildest hopes. They seized the opportunity to independently create new reading lists and teaching approaches that are at the heart of what excites them about their own disciplines and this is precisely the way to produce inspired classrooms and inspired students."

Professor Gans himself expects to offer a new course especially designed for people who want to take a Great Books Curriculum course primarily for enrichment and

## **Great Books Spring Semester Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It is**

The Great Books Curriculum has announced its Spring 2001 theme will be "The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is." It will be investigated within and outside the classroom from a variety of angles through lectures, discussions, events and activities. Students will have an opportunity to work out with the greatest minds in history such questions as: "Do the Ends Justify the Means?" "How Ethical Is a Person Permitted to be in Society?"

"How Can Society and Individuals Realistically Be Changed for the Better?"

Great Books Curriculum faculty adopted the theme because so many Wright students are deeply concerned about such questions in their own lives. As former Dean of Instruction, Don Barshis, liked to observe, "Being able to enroll in several classes that investigate a common question will make studies more stimulating, coherent and meaningful."

# Great Books Curriculum

Dedicated to the best that has been thought and said.

## Wright College

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Professor Bruce M. Gans: Coordinator

Phone: 773 481 8014 E-mail [bmg1030@earthlink.net](mailto:bmg1030@earthlink.net)



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[Links to Individual Authors](#)

[Cure Authors](#)

[Free Great Books Online](#)

[Contributor Info Sheet for Symposium](#)

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Book it! Or rather— Bookmark It! The new Great Books Curriculum Web Site, that is. Above is a section of the new home page, which can be accessed at [www.ccc.edu/wright/gb/home.htm](http://www.ccc.edu/wright/gb/home.htm). The new site will be offering a wide variety of things to assist students with their college work. It also aims to enhance students' intellectual and cultural lives.

All Great Books Curriculum professors now have a personal page on the site and will have the opportunity to post their e-mail addresses for quick communication with students. They will also have the ability to place their syllabi and course handouts for students to download. No more missed assignments because of lost materials! Professor Gans and Professor Sills are already in the process of providing such resources.

In the future students may even be using the site to save money by eliminating the need to buy certain public domain textbooks. This semester, in fact, Professor Gans has provided on his page links to texts for his courses that can be downloaded for free.

To help students with their research and

term papers, links have been gathered on the Great Books Curriculum web site that should enable students to gain quick access to relevant secondary sources.

The web site will also carry information about upcoming Great Books Curriculum news and events. Students will be able to preview an upcoming semester's course offerings and reading lists. It will also inform students about Great Books Curriculum-sponsored events, such as field trips to classical drama, faculty and student symposia, meetings of the new Wright College Student Great Books Society, and more.

As a very special bonus, the Great Books Curriculum has provided students a gathering of choice sites for pure pleasure and exploration. Students will be able to hear classical music online from around the world, visit some of the world's best museums, peruse some of the finest literary magazines, and discover a few eclectic surprises like *The Onion*, which offers hilarious satire. Last, but far from least, the entire contents of the unique Wright College Great Books Curriculum scholarly journal, *Symposium*, written entirely by students, will be available for download in its entirety.



**Prof. Buckley**  
English



**Prof. Casal**  
Social Science



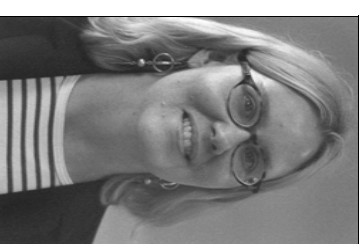
**Prof. Connolly**  
Social Science



**Prof. Gans**  
Great Books  
Coordinator



**Prof. Gariepy**  
English



**Prof. Hoover**  
Humanities

## Meet Your Great Books Curriculum Faculty



**Prof. Jaskot-Inclan**  
Speech



**Prof. Komai-  
Thompson**  
English



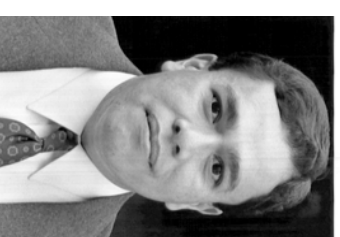
**Prof. Lee**  
Humanities



**Prof. Rosenman**  
English



**Prof. Sills**  
Physical Sciences



**Prof. Virgen**  
English

# Great Books Curriculum Receives National and Local Recognition

In just its second year of operation, the Wright Great Books Curriculum continued to receive recognition both nationally and locally. In response, City College of Chicago Chancellor Wayne Watson expressed his hope that similar programs can be formed by interested faculty at other City College of Chicago campuses.

Following a major feature article on Great Books programs in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Wall Street Journal* of college level institutions, the New York Times featured the Wright College Great Books on its front page.

In the wake of this came an editorial supporting the program in the *New York Post* and the Canadian newspaper the *Ottawa Citizen*. In addition, the national columnist Suzanne Field devoted her



**GBC Coordinator Prof. Bruce Gans assists GBC student Heidi Hernandez during New York Times reporter's classroom visit.**

syndicated column to the Great Books Curriculum and the educational issues it champions.

Locally, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a major story on the front page of its Metro section on the

impact the Great Books Curriculum was having on Wright students.

All articles stressed the success of the Great Books Curriculum in initiating students into the best of what has been thought and said in a way that enables them to see universal truths they contain, thereby transcending more parochial factors.

As a result of the recognition, Prof. Gans said, "Wright College has gotten a series of inquiries from campuses across the country discussing the possibility of setting up similar programs based on our model."

## New Great Books Curriculum Scholarships



**President Guengerich**

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**Chancellor Watson**

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# Great Books Curriculum Spring 2001 Course Schedule

Professor Buckley	Lit 211 Intro to Shakespeare Section C9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Plays and poetry by Shakespeare
Professor Gans	English 102 Section OQW9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is.	Shakespeare: <i>Coriolanus</i> Samuel Johnson: <i>Rasselas</i> Ibsen: <i>Enemy of the People</i>
Professor Gans	Lit 114: Great Books Seminar: Section OQW Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Aristotle Bible Chekhov Conrad Darwin Freud Hume Kant Marx Plato Rousseau Shakespeare Tocqueville Sophocles
Professor Gans	Lit 113: Intro to Fiction Section R9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Conrad Faulkner Joyce Kafka Melville Nabokov Swift Twain
Professor Garipey	English 102 Sections H9 and I9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Cather: "Paul's Case" Shelley: <i>Frankenstein</i> Ibsen: <i>Doll's House</i> Sophocles: <i>Oedipus Rex</i> Kafka: <i>Metamorphosis</i>
Professor Garipey	Lit 113: Intro to Fiction Section G9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Baldwin Chekhov Faulkner Gogol Hawthorne, Lawrence and others.
Professor Komai-Thompson	Lit 121 Section D9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Baldwin Ellison Wright
Prof. Rosenman	Literature 110 Section F9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Browning Faulkner Joyce Conrad Hawthorne Lawrence Dryden Ibsen Shakespeare
Professor Virgen	English 102 Sections R9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Shakespeare: <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Merchant of Venice</i>
Professor Virgen	Literature 110 Section O9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	To Be Announced
Professor Hoover	Humanities 205: World Literature Section F9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It is <sup>87</sup>	To Be Announced
Professor Lee	Philosophy 107 Sections Q9 and R9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Aristotle Kant Mill Nietzsche Plato Sartre
Professor Lee	Humanities 123 Section P9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Augustine Descartes Dostoyevsky Kant Marx Rousseau and others.
TBA	Humanities 201 Section: Misc Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	St. Augustine Plato: <i>Symposium</i> Chaucer Sophocles: <i>Antigone</i> Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i>
Professor Sills	Astronomy 201 Section P9	Aristotle Galileo Ptolemy Einstein Newton Galileo
Professor Casal	History 142 Section D9 and O9 History of World Civilization Since 1500 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Voltaire: <i>English Letters</i> Rousseau: <i>Social Contract</i>
Prof. Connolly	Sociology 203: Marriage and the Family Section D9 Theme: The Way It Should Be and the Way It Is	Aristotle Euripides Dante Machiavelli Nietzsche Plato Rousseau

# Great Books Curriculum

Wright College

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Jane Austen

Why is it that only a tiny fraction of the millions of books ever written inspire, console and intrigue people for centuries? Why for centuries has every well-educated person been expected to be acquainted with these works? The answer is because these books are the most beautiful and profound of all.

Now there is a new program at Wright College where your professors will take special pains to make sure you can understand and really enjoy the things in these works that have made them so important to mankind.

It's called the Great Books Curriculum and it has been the subject of a front page story in the New York Times and also major articles in the Chicago Tribune and the *Chronicle for Higher Education*. And you can take advantage of it without spending one extra dime. There is no complicated procedure to go through to be a member.



Thucydides

## What Makes It A Great Books Course?

A Great Books Course devotes at least half its readings to books by special authors. To enjoy the benefits, all you have to do is to look for the classes you would normally take in your class schedule. Then just sign up for the class on the list that has the special Great Books designation. That's all there is to it.

## What Can I Get Out of It?

Great Books courses are being offered in English, Humanities, Philosophy, Social Science and Astronomy. Upon successful completion of 12 Great Books credit hours, you will earn upon graduation a special *Great Books Track* certification on your official college transcript. When you apply to a four-year institution this evidence of your achievement and how serious a student you are can help impress admissions officers.



Miguel Cervantes

There are also several practical benefits for you. Great Books courses should increase your skills in reading, analytical thinking and cultural literacy. These are vital to your success in advanced college courses, your job and your personal life. Work you do at a four year college will be based on the books in the Great Books Curriculum. These courses can get you there better prepared, more confident and possessing the very deep pride that comes from mastering Great Books authors. Most importantly, you will be amazed at how your life will be expanded and enriched because you have entered into "conversations" with Great Books authors. The Great Books Curriculum will have you reading and thinking about the same books that people like Shakespeare and Einstein did when they were in your position. You will be shaped by these books just as they were.

## But Wait--There's More!

Papers you write in Great Books Curriculum courses qualify for inclusion in the scholarly publication *Symposium* and may be nominated for citations for outstanding scholarship that will be presented to you at the annual student awards banquet. There will also be a modest amount of scholarship money available, field trips to classical drama productions. Participation in annual all-school faculty and student symposia are also offered. Lastly, enrollment gives you an opportunity to meet, through classes and outside discussions, professors and other students who share your love of Great Books, thereby opening up a new social milieu of intellectual fellowship.

**For more information on how to open up new worlds call the Chairman of the Great Books Curriculum, Professor Bruce Gans, at 773-481-8014.**