



Shimer

The Great Books College of Chicago

Welcome to the December 2007 e-newsletter!

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Quick Notes

- Shimer Faculty member Barbara Stone will be teaching a seminar at Chicagos Newberry Library in Spring 2008. The seminar is titled *Women's Voices in American Fiction: Short Novels by Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather and Eudora Welty*. The course will utilize the resources of the Newberry Library which has extensive holdings on these writers, including Kate Chopin's papers. For more information, contact [Barbara Stone](#).
- On Sunday, December 9th, Shimer alums, staff members, faculty members, and even some students beleaguered from their writing-week efforts ordered four pizzas, hunkered down with snacks, and spent over seven hours working the Holiday Telethon, calling 368 Shimer alums and urging them to donate. You'll hear from us in February about the total pledge amount. **Thanks to all the alums who pledged to donate!**
- We're starting to plan the **155th Annual Shimer Reunion (June 13-15 2008)**. Stay tuned for updates on planned keynote speakers, musical events, museum outings, and chances to gather with friends, new and old. To help us make this an enjoyable event for all involved, please declare your intent to attend (online registration is not yet set up, but it will be) at: [Shimers Reunion Registration Website](#).

Shimer Chess Tournament Plays Out Nicely

After two months of exciting play, Meg Nelson, a home-schooled freshman from Aurora, Illinois, defeated John Terhune, a junior from Middletown, Ohio in the championship match of Shimers Fall 2007 Chess Tournament. Weekend student Terry Baker, a junior from Chicago, finished third, with yet another junior, Tory Helgeson from Kenosha, Wisconsin, picking up fourth prize. The tournament was directed by Academic Dean David Shiner.

About her first Shimer chess tournament experience, winner Meg Nelson said, I've been in chess tournaments before, but my opponents were so serious about it. This was a lot more fun. Its totally Shimer. You win, you lose, it doesnt matter as long as you learn something.

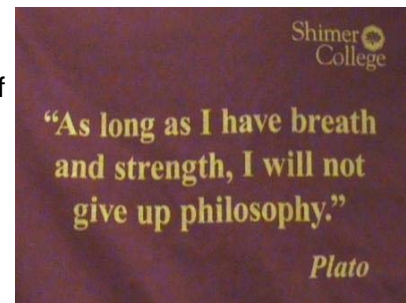
Shimer has a long chess tradition, dating to the mid-1980s when chess master and local chess organizer Kevin Bachler directed the Shimer chess club. The triumphs of Shimers chess team over the years include a first-place finish in their section of the prestigious Pan-American games in 1991. That team was led by Jesse Kraai, then a sophomore who eventually went on to earn a Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Science. Earlier this year, Kraai qualified to become one of the few International Grandmasters in the chess world.

This semesters Shimer Chess Tournament boasted 15 entries, 14 from students and one from staff member Zachary Hamm, a 2007 Shimer graduate. The vast majority of those entrants completed all their games, and all of them earned prizes for doing so. Nelson, as the only undefeated player in the tournament, was a worthy champion. The rest of the chess-playing student body will doubtless be taking aim at her in a friendly way, of course when next semesters tournament comes around.

Vote the Quote: Democracy and the New Shimer t-Shirt

In November the Shimer bookstore held the first "Vote the Quote" contest through which community members could suggest quotes they'd like to see on a Shimer t-shirt and then vote for them online. Dozens of quotes were suggested and scores of people voted. In the end, David Shiner's favorite Plato quote took the day: "As long as I have breath and strength, I will not give up philosophy."

Along with the new quote, the bookstore has updated its stock to include both burgundy and black and small through XL options for the Plato, Einstein, de Beauvoir, Marx and Sappho quote t-shirts. They are well-made, sweatshop-free American Apparel, unisex t-shirts and they cost \$16 each. If you're interested in buying one, visit the Shimer bookstore online or click on the image to the right.



Great Books Curriculum Scholar to Speak at Shimer

Tim Lacy came to our attention as a result of an entry on his blog that he wrote about the November 4th [New York Times article about Shimer College](#). You can read his well-informed commentary here: [History and Education Blog](#).



Tim Lacy completed his History Ph.D. in 2006 at Loyola University Chicago with a dissertation titled, *Making a Democratic Culture: The Great Books Idea, Mortimer J. Adler, and Twentieth-Century America*.

Tim Lacy will be presenting a lecture on the history of the Great Books curriculum at 2pm on January 29th in the Cinderella Room, on the second floor at Shimer (3424 S. State Street in Chicago).

Please contact faculty member Stuart Patterson for more information.

Webmasters: Link to Shimer!

Are you a webmaster, business owner, blogger, or web editor? If so, help expand Shimer awareness by linking to our website, www.shimer.edu.

Please feel free to use the logo below, or contact our website administrator, Zachary Hamm, at z.hamm@shimer.edu to receive the URL and logo.

Your continued support and dedication to Shimer College make a huge difference.

