



AABC

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Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

NEWSLETTER

Route To:



Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

From the Director's Desk



It is with enthusiasm that I write this column as a follow-up to our 2001 Annual Meeting in Atlanta in February. I came away from the conference thoroughly energized with respect to the future of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges and the role that I have the opportunity of playing in its advancement. It is my joy to serve as your new Executive Director. Thank you to the many of you who offered encouragement and affirmation to me and to our staff.

We certainly have not lacked for activity since returning from Atlanta. Permit me to bring you up to date on a few of the latest developments:

Annual Meeting Follow-up: The weeks following the Annual Meeting have bustled with activity including Commission on Accreditation, Board, and standing committees communication, follow-up correspondence from Atlanta, and the preliminary planning of next year's conference here in Orlando.

Office Relocation: I am pleased to report that we will be moving to a new and larger office within a short distance of where we are currently located. We will be able to double the size of our current office while maintaining a high profile location that is convenient to the Orlando Airport. The new office will provide expanded office and storage space along with an attractive conference room. We will make the physical move in late July. More details will follow in the next AABC Newsletter.

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USDE Recognition Process: Dr. Bell has recently begun to prepare the petition for renewal of recognition with the U.S. Department of Education. The document must be submitted by late May. Representatives of the Association are scheduled to meet with the National Advisory Council of the U.S. Secretary of Education at the Fall 2001 meeting to consider renewal of the AABC Commission's recognition by USDE. The forthcoming review cycle will be the first experienced by AABC under the 1998 Higher Education Amendments. Although we are certainly optimistic that this process will be completed successfully, there is a great deal of work to be done.

Review of AABC Standards Committee: The Committee for the comprehensive review of AABC standards has been confirmed. The Committee is composed of Wayne Lowen (Florida Christian College)-Chair, Steve Kemp (Moody Bible Institute), Connie Pearson (Tennessee Temple University), Mae Stewart (Philadelphia Biblical University), Yvonne Thigpen (public representative). Each of these individuals has extensive involvement on the Board, Commission, or Distance Education Task Force. There will also be a student representative. This Committee will convene for the first time in October. In the meantime, a questionnaire will be sent out to the membership to solicit feedback in reference to needed changes, current educational issues, and accreditation implications.

Pilot Study with Florida Faith-Based Colleges: Through the initiative of Dr. Wayne Freeberg, Executive Director of the Florida State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities and an AABC Board Member, plans are being developed to launch a pilot project that will enable AABC to interact with many of the faith-based, non-accredited institutions that are authorized within the state of Florida. One of the reasons for this project is to explore how many of these schools are potentially

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interested in some type of affiliate relationship with AABC. We will use this as a test case to determine whether we should move ahead with a non-member affiliate category for institutions that wish to relate to the Association without pursuing accreditation.

Initial Foundation Contacts: I have started to make contact with several private foundations relative to potential funding for AABC. Any suggestions or assistance you can provide in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

I trust this column serves as an appropriate update on current AABC activities. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

May God give you grace as you pursue the work of advancing and assuring quality Biblical higher education. **D**



Prayer of Commitment & Dedication for Dr. & Mrs. Larry McKinney -- Atlanta, GA

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2001 AABC Evaluation Team Visits

Under USDE regulation 602.27(d), recognized accrediting bodies must make public the dates when an institution's accreditation or preaccreditation (candidate) status is being reviewed in order to provide opportunity for third-party comment. In view of this requirement, notice is given that the following institutions are scheduled for evaluation during calendar year 2001. Persons wishing to submit third-party comments regarding any of these institutions should direct them to the AABC office at the following address: P.O. Box 780339, Orlando, FL 32878-0339; Fax: 407-207-0840; E-mail: exdir@aacbc.org.

(IA = initial accreditation; IC = initial candidacy; RA = 10-year reaffirmation)

2001

Arlington Baptist College (TX) - RA

September 24-26, 2001

Central Pentecostal College (SK) - RA

April 2-4, 2001

Crown College (MN) - RA

November 7-9, 2001

Faith Baptist Bible College (IA) - RA

April 18-20, 2001

Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN) - RA

April 2-4, 2001

Prairie Bible College (AB) - RA

January 15-17, 2001

Rosedale Bible Institute (OH) - IA

October 17-19, 2001

School of Urban Missions (LA) - IC

April 16-18, 2001

Trinity College of FL - RA

October 3-5, 2001

Vennard College (IA) - RA

October 8-10, 2001

Washington Bible College (MD) - RA

April 23-25, 2001

Somerset Christian College (NJ) - IA

October 3-5, 2001

2001 Commission on Accreditation Actions

At its February 11-14, 2001 meetings, the Commission on Accreditation of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges took the following actions regarding the accredited status of institutions:

1. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the **accredited status of the following institutions was **reaffirmed for 10 years**:**

- Calvary Bible College (MO)
- Heritage Baptist College (ON)
- LIFE Bible College (CA)
- North American Baptist College (AB)
- Trinity Bible College (ND)
- Western Pentecostal Bible College (BC)
- Wesley College (MS)

2. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were **granted Candidate [pre-accredited] status:**

- Carver Bible College (GA)
- Winston-Salem Bible College (NC)



Robert Crummie, President
Clifford Ice, Chairman of the Board



Ray Kelly, President

3. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were **granted initial Accredited status for 5 years:**

- Bethesda Christian University (CA)
- Colegio Pentecostal Mizpa (PR)
- Northwest Bible College (AB)
- Zion Bible Institute (RI)



Colegio Pentecostal Mizpa Reps.



(L-R) Ken Roset, Gerald Johnson, Larry Lindoff
Northwest Bible College



(L-R) Matthew Ropiecki, Pat Gallagher, George Cope
Zion Bible Institute

4. In light of its failure to satisfactorily strengthen its compliance with AABC Criteria for Accreditation, specifically in reference to financial stability, the following institution was **denied reaffirmation, continued on accreditation, and retained on PROBATION for one more year:**

- Puget Sound Christian College (WA)

Newly Elected AABC Board Members

Congratulations to the following who were elected to the AABC Board and Commission on Accreditation at our 2001 Annual Meeting:



**Vice-President/
President-Elect**
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Daniel R. Lockwood
Multnomah Bible College &
Biblical Seminary
Portland, OR



Member-At-Large
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Marta E. Alvarado
Moody Bible Institute
Chicago, IL



Member-At-Large
(3-Year Term)
Dr. Philip McLeod
Valley Forge Christian College
Phoenixville, PA



Member-At-Large
(1-Year Unexpired Term)
Dr. Martha E. MacCullough
Philadelphia Biblical University
Langhorne, PA



Member-At-Large
(2-Year Unexpired Term)
Dr. James Richards
Western Pentecostal
Bible College
Abbotsford, BC



Public Member
(4-Year Term)
(Appointed not Elected)
Mr. Curran C. Tiffany
Attorney-at-Law
Virginia

(COA Actions Cont'd from Page 2)

5. On the basis of a written request, the voluntary withdrawal from AABC accreditation of the following institution was acknowledged:
 - Mid-American Bible College (OK) [accredited]

6. Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to those colleges that meet the Association's *Conditions of Eligibility* and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate [pre-accreditation] status within four years. **The following institutions were granted applicant status:**
 - Atlantic Southern Bible College (GA)
 - LIFE Bible College East (VA)
 - Selma University (AL)
 - Temple Baptist College (OH)
 - World Mission University (OH)

7. On the basis of a satisfactory closure report, the cessation of undergraduate offerings for the following institution was acknowledged. **Accreditation was continued for 18 additional months only for the purpose of graduating students who can complete degree requirements under the "teach out" arrangements made.**
 - Northwest Baptist Theological College D



(L-R) Sung Jin Lim, Seon Mook Shin
World Mission University

Newly Elected AABC Commission on Accreditation Members



4-Year Term
Dr. Charlotte Bates
Prairie Bible College
Three Hills, AB



1-Year Unexpired Term
Dr. Helen Sullivan
Arlington Baptist College
Arlington, TX



4-Year Term
Mr. Gary Schellenberg
Providence College & Seminary
Otterburne, MB



Public Member
(4-Year Term)
(Appointed not Elected)
Mr. Elden McDirmit
McDirmit, Davis,
Pucket, Vogel & Co.
Orlando, FL

D D

(Cont'd, Next Column) *



2001 Annual Meeting



AABC Office Team



Signing Autographs Already!



L-R: Dolores Peterson, Charles Bethel, Dan Anderson, Ken Idleman, David Eubanks, Sherrill & Linda Babb



L-R: Gil Peterson, George Houghton, Charles Faber, Wayne Lowen



L-R: Jim Eckman, Nick Wallace, Yvonne Thigpen, April Lindsey



Joe & Rose Wong



L-R: Dwight Perry, Debbie McKinney, Eva & David Grubbs



L-R: Wayne Freeberg & Marvin Brubacher



Connie & Ted Pearson



Carol & Randy Bell



Dan & Rosalie Anderson



Pictorial Highlights



General Session - The Omni Hotel at CNN Center



Former AABC President Gil Peterson (Left) and Incoming AABC President Dan Anderson (Right)



Pianist Extraordinaire - Tony Buchanan



Worship Leaders Rhonda & Nicholas Walmer



Sam & Sandie Bruce



Gil & Dolores Peterson



Debbie McKinney



Exhibitor Prize Winner Helen Sullivan



Enrollment Growth Award Recipient Major Ray Harris with Bryan Beyer on Behalf of Wm. & Catherine Booth College



AABC Exhibitor Program



AABC Volunteers Keith Shuler & Dan Hartzler



Jay Courtney & Linda Daniels

Service in Christian Higher Education

Service is a recurring theme I have noted throughout my years in Christian Higher Education. Christian Higher Education invites those who wish to learn to serve together with others and it is frequently identified in our mission statements. Service is a basic Christian ideal that we hold to even when we do not verbalize it. In as far as service is one of the ideals that informs our purposes, we take seriously the command of our leader when he said:

You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Jesus, Mark 10:43-45)

Service is influenced by a multitude of motivations, some of which are more noble than others. We may serve out of self-interest, out of our need for achievement, out of a sense of responsibility, out of a desire for recognition, out of a respect for authority, because the task is intrinsically satisfying, or out of loyalty to a person or organization. We may serve because of our religious values, our family and personal value systems, our commitment to the ethic of caring, our respect for the value of community, our sense of what is good and right, our desire to serve, and our desire to serve ideals.

These diverse motivations come together to form our personal identity, that is, the way we think about ourselves and who we are and this is the basis upon which we learn to serve. In an interview with Robert Coles, one civil rights activist put it this way: "It matters

... to me and my family, [because] that's the kind of people we are and this is what we believe in doing."

Service involves a happy marriage of personal mission with ability. To serve effectively we must consider carefully the way in which our life experiences interact with our belief system. Servants must come to see personal gains such as money and prestige as less important than serving others. Those who feel that their personal satisfaction lies in getting as much as possible for themselves rather than in serving others are likely to seek impatient and superficial self-fulfillment and achievement rather than service. If thinking about oneself as a generous, altruistic person who can be of service to others promotes helping and caring over time, it follows that one of the purposes of Christian Higher Education is to assist students in seeing themselves as (and genuinely being) generous and altruistic.

Those who would serve must come to think for themselves against the current of popular opinion. This is because service stands in direct opposition to the radical individualism of our culture in which individuals are seen as sovereign and without obligation to one another. In such a setting, if the community meets the expectations of the individuals within it, they remain; if the community does not meet these expectations, they go elsewhere in search of more for themselves. In this view, community has no meaning or value except as a vehicle to deliver goods and services to individuals. This community can place on individuals only those obligations they are willing to accept. This promotes the dissolution of community bonds and results in isolation within which service cannot be effectively fostered.

A Christian college experience is an opportunity to be a community in which everyone gives as well as receives service. When long-term, healthy community relationships are valued, cultivated and maintained; faculty, staff and students alike can explore service opportunities. They have opportunity to experiment, to try different things and to be given honest feedback about their involvement. These things are fostered by reciprocally trusting relationships within the Christian Community. Service is about a community commitment to one another and to Christian ideals. A Christian college has the opportunity to model service in that it can be a place where the student can observe service and then move to guided participation in which he or she comes to embrace the values and world-view commanded by Christ in Mark 10. We invite you to come to live, learn and serve together with us.

-- **Antoinette van Kuik, Ph.D.**

Vice President for College Academics
Providence College & Seminary
Otterburne, Manitoba

**Also published in Christian
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Spring 2001**

**He Is Risen!
He Is Risen Indeed!**



Transfer Credit Practices: An Update

By: Dr. Randall Bell, Associate Director, AABC

Last July, we provided a brief report on developments with respect to the transfer of credit issue. At that time, we reported that a CHEA working group was developing a policy recommendation for the higher education community. By now, many *Newsletter* readers will know that the CHEA statement has been published. Presented as "A Statement to the Community," **Transfer and the Public Interest** summarizes developments that lead to the preparation of the statement. The items mentioned were that: the majority of baccalaureate graduates have attended two or more institutions; students are enrolling in one institution and taking distance education courses from another; students attending corporate universities and other unaccredited educational providers are seeking to transfer their coursework into accredited institutions; increasingly nontraditional providers are forming partnerships with traditional providers to offer academic work; growing numbers of people are attending international institutions and seeking recognition for such work in accredited American institutions; and innovative new practices are being proposed for the management of credit accumulation and transfer.

Given all these factors, the CHEA statement discusses the roles and responsibilities of institutions, accreditors, and the national higher education associations. While affirming the autonomy of institutions in making transfer decisions, the statement asserts that institutions must balance their "responsiveness to students' preferences about transfer with institutional commitment to the value and quality of degrees or other credentials." Accreditors, on the other hand, must assure that "institutional transfer practices are consistent with accreditation standards and policies on transfer." The statement calls upon the national higher education organizations to "lead the ongoing national conversation about transfer."

The statement essentially affirms the 1978 Joint Statement on Transfer and Award of Academic Credit. Most readers will recognize that the joint statement cited three transfer criteria: educational quality; comparability of credit; and the appropriateness and applicability of the credit in relation to the programs offered by the receiving institution. To these considerations the

CHEA statement adds four more criteria:

- Balance in the use of accreditation status in transfer decisions – transfer decisions should not be "made solely on the source of accreditation of the sending program or institution." Students should be given a clear rationale for decisions regarding transfer.
- Consistency – given "changing student attendance patterns," the complexity of transfer issues will continue to increase. Accordingly, institutions will need to work ever harder to be consistent in making transfer decisions.
- Accountability for effective public communication – institutions and accreditors need to make sure that students and the public are "fully and accurately informed" about their transfer policies and practices and they must also give evidence of a "strong commitment to fairness and efficiency."
- Commitment to Address Innovation – institutions and accreditors need to be "flexible and open in managing transfer when these approaches will benefit students." This is particularly true in the face of developments in technology and distance education.

Under the sponsorship of CHEA, accreditors met in Chicago on February 22 for one of the most open and informed discussions of the issue that I have ever witness in my nearly 28 years of involvement with accreditation. Participants agreed to keep the discussions going and to work on development of materials that will assist institutions in their efforts to implement the CHEA statement.

On March 13, the American Council on Education circulated a letter to college and university presidents calling attention to the CHEA statement and encouraging them to make sure their policies on transfer of credits are not "being arbitrarily applied," but "are made in a balanced and consistent manner." The letter noted "while accreditation status is an important consideration in transfer decisions, the type of accreditation of a sending institution (e.g., whether the institution is accredited by a regional or national organization) should not be the sole determinant of whether credits will be accepted by a receiving institution." **D**

DISTANCE EDUCATORS MEET IN CHICAGO

Approximately 100 people attended the 30th annual conference of ACCESS, which met in Chicago January 17-20. The meeting coincided with Moody Bible Institute's 100th anniversary of distance education. Among some of the keynote speakers were Joe Stowell (President of MBI), Steve Crow (Executive Director of the North Central Accrediting Association), Michael Lambert (Executive Director of the Distance Education and Training Council – professional accrediting association approved by the DOE), Ted Ward (Trinity International University), and a host of other Christian distance education practitioners, including Merrill Dyck, Donald Tucker, and Larry McCullough from AABC schools.

Some of the workshops focused upon developing quality in online programs, establishing and maintaining your brand identity, dealing with organizational change, church-based ministry training, developing a prior learning assessment program, managing remote staff, and trends in Christian distance education. Participants were very enthusiastic about the high quality and practical nature of the conference, and enjoyed fellowship with ministry colleagues and networking opportunities. Dr. Jay Fernlund, Director of Academics for Moody Extended Studies, was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by ACCESS.

According to Larry McCullough, Executive Director of ACCESS, the organization's members are committed to extending education to Christians worldwide that is **access-ible**, given people's commitments to family, work, community and ministry. The training and equipping of Christians for effective ministry depends significantly upon schools and seminaries making this education **access-ible**.

Next year's conference will be in mid-January in southern California. Inquiries about institutional or individual membership should be directed to the Executive Director Larry@access.org. You are also invited to visit the ACCESS website: www.accessweb.org. ACCESS, the original Christian distance education association, desires to be of service to more AABC member schools. **D**



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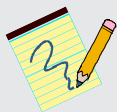
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Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

Dr. Randall E. Bell
Associate Director



Make a Note of It!

Upcoming Events

- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges (ACBC) Annual Conference**
May 24-26, 2001
Canadian Bible College
Regina, SK
Plenary Speaker: John Fischer
- **CSA 2001 Summer Institute**
June 13-16, 2001
Founders Inn.
Virginia Beach
- **CSA 2001 National Conference**
September 16-18, 2001
New Marriott-Downtown
Indianapolis, Indiana

Mark Your Calendar
AABC Annual Meeting



2002

February 14-16
The Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, Florida

Theme:

Celebrating Biblical Higher Education

Pre-Convention Workshop:
Governance & Trusteeship
❖ **Dr. Robert Andringa**, President
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

We'll keep you posted on Annual Meeting details as they become available.