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Submissions are welcome!

Visit our website: www.muohio.edu/ais/ Username: issues Password: INTERDIS (all caps)

Dr. Joan B. Fiscella:

First recipient of The William H. Newell Award for Exemplary Service

Every professional organization seeks to recognize those who have distinguished themselves in meaningful ways that support and enhance the organization. In 1990, the AIS initiated its first award, named for a foremost scholar in interdisciplinary social science, Kenneth E. Boulding. This award was established to recognize those who had established brilliant scholarly records and had influenced broadly and deeply the field of interdisciplinary studies during their professional career. Almost two decades later and in celebration of three decades of AIS, the Board of Directors was pleased and proud to announce a new award at the 2009 AIS conference, hosted by the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa (October 8-11): The William H. Newell Award for Exemplary Service. The award bears Bill Newell's name, for there is no one in AIS who has dedicated himself more fully to serving AIS from its birth and infancy to the present day.

On that special evening at the conference, Dr. Joan B. Fiscella became the first recipient of The William H. Newell Award for Exemplary Service. Her lasting service contributions to AIS

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Dr. Joan B. Fiscella and Bill Newell after she was presented the Award for Exemplary Service.

AIS 31st annual conference: Creativity and play in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

By Jim Hall, University of Alabama

The University of Alabama's New College program was thrilled to host the 31st annual conference of the Association for Integrative Studies, with the theme of "Creativity and Play Across the Disciplines." The program was barely settled in its new facilities when approximately 160 guests hit town from across the country and around the world. It was a great way to celebrate our new space and renewed commitment on the part of UA to interdisciplinary and integrative learning. Our conference theme resonated well with a number of campus-based initiatives, and as such we had good participation at the conference with perhaps a further 30 UA faculty, staff,

undergraduate and graduate students, visiting an AIS conference, many, if not most, for the very first time.

In tough economic times, we were not surprised that much of the conference attendance was regional—approximately one in three participants were from the southeast United States—but even at a moment of disastrous budgets we were thrilled to have good participation from all parts of the U.S. Without question, a highlight of the conference was the continued enthusiastic participation of colleagues from the Netherlands, and we're much appreciative of Machiel Keestra's leadership in helping us maintain and grow a vital international presence.

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Dr. Joan B. Fiscella ...

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in the areas of leadership, advanced technology, and librarianship have collectively been critical to the development and flowering of AIS during the last decade.

An active member of AIS for well over two decades and a longtime member of the Board, Dr. Fiscella served as president from 1999 to 2001. During her presidency, AIS transformed from a venue for discussion of intellectual issues into an organization as concerned with providing services to the profession as with exploring ideas. She oversaw a major expansion of the range of AIS leadership activities in the interdisciplinary studies profession: from evaluating and developing methods of assessment and accreditation, to making new scholarship on interdisciplinarity Web-

accessible, to preparing for a directory of interdisciplinary doctoral programs, to collaborating with other national organizations, to professionalizing interdisciplinary consulting.

Of special significance are Dr. Fiscella's contributions to our journal, *Issues in Integrative Studies*, most especially as co-editor (2004-2007). In addition to the meticulous task of editing papers, the co-editors held mentoring sessions on interdisciplinary scholarship at AIS conferences, created a series of templates for communicating with authors, set up a Web-based electronic system for sharing manuscripts between editors, and researched copyright laws.

As a professional librarian, moreover, Joan Fiscella has been proactive

for AIS in the areas of information technology, electronic databases, archiving, the role of interdisciplinary publications in promotion and tenure, and online publication. Not only has Joan been a consistent and reliable consultant and resource on emerging electronic technology, she is almost single-handedly responsible for the emergence of AIS into the electronic age.

Dr. Joan Fiscella's work has been essential to the transformation of AIS into a highly effective and productive service organization for interdisciplinary studies professionals. We thank our valued colleague for her broad and deep contributions to AIS, and we congratulate her as the first recipient of The William H. Newell Award for Exemplary Service. ■■■■

AIS moves towards contested elections

As AIS grows in size and matures as an organization, the Board of Directors would like to encourage more members to become involved in the leadership of the Association by making some Board positions contested. While only one candidate will still be nominated for the offices of president and vice presidents, as of the next election the nominating committee will nominate two candidates for at-large positions and directorships. Thus, the overall membership will decide who should enter the Board, while the nominating committee will continue to evaluate which entry-level Board members should advance to higher leadership positions. The nominating committee is comprised of past presidents of AIS, who have the longest-term view of the Association and the greatest demonstrated commitment to it. This model of governance attempts to balance continuity and change, competition and collaboration.

There are four at-large positions on

the Board of Directors with staggered terms, so two at-large positions become open each year. There are also two director positions with one-year terms: a director of development (fund-raising, membership, and relations with other organizations) and a director of information technology. The information technology position has never been filled.

To propose a candidate (yourself or another member) for consideration by the nominating committee, contact the president (currently Karen Moranski) before May 1. The nominating committee considers the following, so be sure to address as many of these points in your proposal as possible:

- attendance and active participation at AIS conferences,
- service contributions to AIS (such as publishing

articles in the newsletter or in *Issues in Integrative Studies*, participation on AIS committees or task forces, representation of AIS at other conferences),

- intellectual leadership in interdisciplinary studies,
- demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, and
- willingness to devote time and energy.

Not considered are academic rank and institutional affiliation.

Please note that the AIS Board of Directors serves without compensation or reimbursement of expenditures. Board members are expected to attend meetings the day before the annual conference begins as well as a 3-day midyear meeting, generally a weekend in March. ■■■■

Renew your AIS membership for 2010 today
Go online to www.muohio.edu/ais to charge your payment

31st annual conference ...

(continued from page 1)

Conference participants enthusiastically embraced the program theme and gave testimony to rich interdisciplinary arts initiatives across the country and provided much food for thought as to the ways in which “creativity” remains a rich conceptual resource in further refining theories of interdisciplinary and integrative learning and research. As always, conference participants exchanged ideas around crucial questions of program sustenance and development in a number of sessions that highlighted both opportunities and threats in measures of the health of interdisciplinary studies throughout the United States. Two of our luncheon programs—by Joe Trimmer of the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry at Ball State University and by Paul Jones and Amalia Amaki, speaking of the Paul Jones collection of African American art—revealed the diverse ways in which creative enterprises can facilitate integrative learning and understanding. Trimmer engaged the Friday lunch crowd with exciting stories of major integrative learning projects initiated by the Ball Center where small teams of students with cross-disciplinary faculty supervision produce significant learning products of community import. At the Saturday luncheon, art collector and civil rights pioneer, Mr. Paul Jones, and curator and art historian, Dr. Amala Amaki, talked of their hopes for the integration of his distinguished collection of African American art into the University of Alabama curriculum. No mere secondary outcome to this presentation, audience members were captivated by Mr. Jones’ testimony about his persistence in his career and avocation, from his rejection because of his skin color to the University of Alabama law school in the late 1940s, through his advisory role to Presidents Johnson and Nixon, and the development of major art gifts to both UA and the University of Delaware.

This connection between creativity and community engagement was addressed most directly by our keynote speaker, Dr. Timothy K. Eatman, Director of Research for the Imagining America



Red Mountain Band performs traditional music at the 2009 AIS Conference

project and Assistant Professor of Education at Syracuse University. Eatman gave an account of Imagining America’s Tenure Team Initiative Report, which highlighted the struggles of faculty who wish to stretch the boundaries of what is commonly understood as research to gain appropriate rewards and acknowledgement for community-based work. The Thursday evening audience acknowledged and affirmed this challenge while also asking challenging questions about the more general erosion of tenure as a baseline condition of scholarly and teaching life.

A further pleasurable extension of this inquiry was the presence at our Friday night cabaret of the Alabama Blues Project and the old-time music outfit Red Mountain. The Alabama Blues Project provides after-school music instruction to at-risk children in the Tuscaloosa area, while further supplementing K-12 educational offerings by integrating social studies, art, and literacy education with lessons about the history of the blues and other American musical forms. Executive Director Debbie Bond presented the project’s advanced youth band, and audience members were moved by the poise, musicianship, and professionalism of the 14- to 16-year-old musicians. In a similar vein, Red Mountain bandleader, Joyce Cauthen, discussed the education work that her group does to tell the story of American string-band and old-time music traditions. Cauthen sees this work as contiguous with her work as Executive Director of the Alabama Folklife Association, a statewide non-profit that

brings awareness of Alabama’s rich folk traditions to a diverse set of audiences.

We do not yet have an exact count on conference participants that were first-time attendees, but we expect that, again, this is no small number. As such, we’re much appreciative to have had conference sessions and workshops that effectively introduced the work and commitments of AIS and its various initiatives.

Thanks are due to the University of Alabama Supply Store for operating a comprehensive bookstore for conference-goers. The success of the book exhibit speaks to the continued vitality of interdisciplinary studies publishing ventures, and the conference was happy, in particular, to celebrate the publication of two new books, Tanya Augsborg and Stuart Henry’s *The Politics of Interdisciplinary Studies: Essays on Transformations in American Undergraduate Programs* and Karri Holley’s *Understanding Interdisciplinary Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education*.

For many folks, the highlight of the conference was the announcement of the establishment of the William H. Newell Award for Exemplary Service. Dr. Joan B. Fiscella, a past president of AIS, was announced as the first recipient.

Our rich and healthy gathering in Tuscaloosa in challenging economic times speaks to the continued vitality of our work and points to a successful and exciting gathering in San Diego, California, in 2010. ■■■



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the 32nd Association for Integrative Studies annual conference in October 2010. The School of Public Affairs and the Division of Undergraduate Studies at San Diego State University, together with the Ethics Center for Science and Technology, will be co-hosting the conference, which will take place Thursday, October 7, through Sunday, October 10, 2010, at the Kona Kai Resort and Spa. Kona Kai is located on eleven acres of tropical gardens situated at the tip of Shelter Island in the dramatic San Diego Bay. The location is three miles from San Diego International Airport and just five miles from downtown.



The 2010 theme will be “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Integrating Ethics and Sustainability.” Sustainability refers to the infinite maintenance of resources; sustainable development, as originally defined by the Brundtland Commission, addresses how to serve present needs “without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The scope of sustainability also includes ongoing maintenance of economic, social, institutional and environmental dimensions of human society and the ways educational and academic institutions can be adapted to provide a more collaborative and supportive role to enable sustainability. Sustainability carries an ethical imperative but also raises ethical questions. How ethics and sustainability can be integrated will be a key theme of the conference.

San Diego State’s School of Public Affairs (SPA) is an interdisciplinary applied social science school housing degree programs in criminal justice, public administration, and city planning. It is 42 years old and has 1000 majors in undergraduate and graduate degree programs; SDSU’s Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) houses not only the Interdisciplinary Honors Program (Honors without Borders) and the university’s faculty association for study abroad (Scholars without Borders), but also an Interdisciplinary Major through three Departments and the Center for Regional Sustainability. Faculty of both SPA and DUS have participated in AIS conferences for several years, and Dr. Stuart Henry and Dr. Chris Frost have both played significant roles in AIS. We welcome you here to talk about designing and teaching interdisciplinary classes, administering and sustaining interdisciplinary programs, and thinking and writing about interdisciplinarity and integration.

We’re planning an exciting, engaging and timely conference in an idyllic location. You’ll fly into San Diego’s user-friendly Lindbergh Field International Airport, take a free shuttle, and be at the beautiful Kona Kai conference resort on the San Diego Bay in ten minutes. Alternatively, West Coasters might choose to take the train to downtown Spanish mission-style Santa Fe Depot Station and take complimentary transportation to Shelter Island. Given San Diego’s resort qualities as “America’s finest city,” you’ll be able to mingle with colleagues in this idyllic setting for the duration of the conference.

You can also blend into the beach culture and visit local attractions if you arrive before the conference starts or stay after it ends. The Kona Kai Resort is just a very short drive from both Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. Within an hour’s drive, you can spend the day at San Diego Wild Animal Park. Many other great places to visit include Cabrillo National Monument, Historic Old Town, Downtown including Gaslamp District and Seaport Village, Balboa Park Museums, Palomar Observatory and the Del Mar Race Track. Tijuana, Mexico, is accessible on the Trolley some 40 minutes ride from downtown San Diego.

My conference planning team and I look forward to greeting you here in San Diego in October 2010!

Warm regards,

Stuart Henry, Ph.D.

Conference Planning Chair

E-mail: stuart.henry@sdsu.edu

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“Interdisciplinary Approaches to Integrating Ethics and Sustainability”

32nd Annual Association for Integrative Studies Conference

October 7-10, 2010

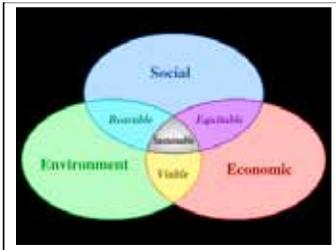
Hosted by San Diego State University

College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, School of Public Affairs

Division of Undergraduate Studies

Ethics Center for Science and Technology

As the academic community has become increasingly aware of the need to conserve the world’s resources, attention has focused on the core concept of “sustainability.” Sustainability or sustainable development, as defined by the Brundtland Commission, refers to the infinite maintenance of resources: development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainability does not simply refer to material resources but includes the ongoing maintenance of economic, social, institutional and environmental dimensions of human society. It



also refers to the ways, for example, that educational and academic institutions can be adapted to provide a more collaborative and supportive role to enable sustainability. This involves incorporating social, political, economic and environmental issues into a holistic framework, and developing an interdisciplinary learning model of networking to serve educational and research needs. The aim of such education is to develop a new kind of researcher/practitioner who will be knowledgeable about science and technology and their complex interrelationships with ecology, economics and society. Integrating ethics and sustainability addresses how to integrate sustainability in higher education curriculum, through teaching practices and research.

We welcome proposals for presentations in multiple formats, including, but not limited to, roundtable discussions, integrated panels, papers, and performances that address issues such as:

- Ethics and sustainability
- Ethics across the disciplines
- Ethics and the arts
- Sustainable development
- Environmental sustainability
- Sustainability governance
- Sustainability science
- Sustainability accounting
- Sustainable education

While the program committee welcomes sharing best practices, we are especially interested in presentations, events and conversations that self-consciously consider the complex and dynamic relationship among ethics, sustainability, interdisciplinarity, and integrative learning.

As always, the Association for Integrative Studies welcomes more general presentations that advance its mission to promote the interchange of ideas among scholars and administrators in all of the arts and sciences on intellectual and organizational issues related to integrative and interdisciplinary studies.

The Proposal Submission Form for the 2010 AIS Conference will be available on the AIS Conference website by January 1, 2010, and all submissions must be made electronically. Contact information for presenters and co-presenters, a brief—50-word—bio for each, a proposal of 250 words, an abstract of 75 words, A-V needs, length and type of presentation (paper, panel discussion, roundtable, etc.) will be required. The deadline is April 1, 2010, and we expect to respond to proposal writers by May 15th, 2010.

2nd national conference on IMPs:

'Assessment of Effective Learning & Best Practices' is focus

In March 2009 a substantial gathering of Individualized Major Program (IMP) directors, faculty, advisors, and students came together at Indiana University for an inaugural conference with the goal "to explore what we already do well, what difficulties we face, and what we might do to sustain program strengths and address the challenges." Participants discussed IMP design, organization, curricula, and courses. IMPs share commitments to give students reasonable freedom and responsibility for the design of their individualized majors, as well as to provide structures of support for interdisciplinary and integrative learning in students' undergraduate studies. A summary report of the 2009 conference is available on the IMP conference website: www.umass.edu/imp.

"Individualized Major Programs: Assessment of Effective Learning & Best Practices" is the focus of the second national conference March 4-5, 2010, which will assemble faculty, staff, administrators, and students associated with or interested in individualized majors to move the discussion beyond the getting-acquainted stage. The conference organizers want to encourage participants to share examples of effective curricular features, courses, and types of student learning through case studies and detailed examples. The organizers also want to encourage rich descriptions of student learning outcomes and academic products to illustrate interdisciplinary and integrative learning in practice.

The conference organizers seek proposals consistent with the conference goals from faculty and administrators as well as staff, students, and alumni of IMPs. The conference will assemble panels and forums with 2-4 members making very brief presentations leading into large group discussions. These events will run consecutively in general session. Following the conference, the

organizers will provide a summary report and place on the IMP website a resource compiled from selected position.

Some possible themes are outlined below, but the organizers will welcome specific proposals under other themes. The list of themes includes:

1. IMP Courses & Curricula—Case Study Examples of Effective Practices
2. IMP Capstone Projects—Evaluating Student Projects in Context
3. Types of Learning in IMP Programs
4. IMPs and Encouragement of the "Practical Liberal Arts"
5. Relevant Research: Analysis Tailored to IMPs on Student-centered Learning, Intentionality, and Integration
6. IMP Program Evaluation and Assessment—Experience, Progress, and Plan

The deadline to submit a proposal is December 15, 2009. It should include the presenter's name, affiliation, e-mail address, type of presentation (panel, paper, forum, or poster), the presentation title, and a brief description (3-4 sentences) of the presentation theme. The proposals should be sent to: Professor John McDowell, IMP Director, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ballantine Hall 129, 1020 E. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47405-7103 Phone: 812-855-9588; Fax: 812-856-2015; mcdowell@indiana.edu

Each presenter will be asked to contribute a 3-5 page position paper, with suggested readings, capturing the main points of the presentation and providing background information. Conference organizers will select from these position papers to populate a web-based resource on IMPs, to be housed on the IMP website. The papers should be sent to Professor John McDowell, IMP Director, Indiana University, Bloomington, in advance of the conference. ■■■

5-year program offers graduate fellowships in sustainability

The Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI), a partnership between the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine, offers unprecedented opportunities for graduate students to experience a truly interdisciplinary learning experience through a \$20 million, five-year program funded by the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR program.

The SSI's mission is to create an integrative research program and strong stakeholder partnerships to generate improved solutions to intersecting ecological, social, and economic challenges in and beyond Maine.

Graduate students will participate in collaborative research experiences with interdisciplinary faculty teams focused on urbanization, forest ecosystem management, and climate change. These efforts address the dynamics of social-ecological systems with an emphasis on moving from knowledge to action. Students with backgrounds in a wide range of disciplines are encouraged to apply: e.g. social sciences, biological, earth, and chemical sciences, natural resource management, communication, engineering, education, mathematics, and more.

Up to 25 PhD fellowships will be awarded at the University of Maine with a substantial portion of these beginning in fall 2010. Each fellowship will include a stipend of \$20,000 to 25,000 per year for up to five years, a tuition waiver, subsidy for health insurance, and some funds to support thesis research. Master's degrees opportunities will be offered at the University of Southern Maine.

For more information, students can visit <http://www.umaine.edu/sustainabilitysolutions/students/opportunities.htm>

Global Arts position open

New College, a dynamic seminar-based program of interdisciplinary and integrative studies at The University of Alabama, is seeking a tenure-track assistant professor in Interdisciplinary Global Arts, to be appointed August 16, 2010.

New College seeks a candidate with international expertise in an arts or humanities discipline (dance, theatre, music, visual arts) and/or with social scientific expertise in the study of global arts (anthropology, sociology, psychology, ethnomusicology). The successful candidate will be appointed to New College and to a partner department within the College of Arts and Sciences. He/she will maintain an interdisciplinary global arts teaching program within New College and other teaching duties in the partner department. Required also is the ability to advise a diverse group of students. The successful candidate will maintain a research, creative, and/or performance program complementary to the joint appointment; this program may contain a discipline-specific component but should also include a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinarity, cross-cultural initiatives, general arts education, and community outreach.

New College invites applications from individuals with relevant expertise who have completed their PhD, MFA, or equivalent terminal degree, and who are able to meet the specific teaching needs.

To apply, go to <https://facultyjobs.ua.edu> and complete the online application. You should attach a cover letter and CV with names of three references and include statements describing (1) your understanding of interdisciplinarity, (2) your teaching philosophy and seminars you would like to teach, and (3) your research, creative, and/or performance program. Inquiries can be directed to Search Chair, Dr. Catherine Roach at New College, Box 870229, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0229, or croach@nc.ua.edu. Review of applications will begin January 10, 2010, and the position will remain open until filled. ■■■

Jobs in Interdisciplinary Studies

UT Arlington seeks director for undergrad IDS program

The School of Urban and Public Affairs (SUPA) at the University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) invites applications for the position of Director of the undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies Program. The duties of the Director include research, teaching, and program administration as well as curriculum development, student recruitment, and working with other degree programs on campus.

The candidate will be hired as associate or full professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and preferably hold a PhD in some interdisciplinary field or demonstrate interdisciplinary scholarship. The successful candidate will have a solid research and publication record, be experienced in community outreach and collaborative service learning, and express a vision for integrative learning. Preference will be

given to candidates with administrative experience and success in securing research grants and to those who will contribute to the program's targeted area of curricular development in environmental and sustainability studies.

Applicants should submit a letter of application summarizing relevant background and experience, CV, and names and contact information of three references by mail to Dr. Michan Connor, Co-Chair of Faculty Search Committee, School of Urban and Public Affairs, Box 19588, The University of Texas, Arlington, TX 76019, or by email to ints.search@uta.edu. Review of applications will begin January 4, 2010, but will continue until the position is filled.

This is a security sensitive position, and a criminal background check will be conducted on finalists. ■■■

Rutgers seeks asst. professor for new PhD program

Rutgers University—Camden is launching an interdisciplinary PhD in Public Affairs with a principal focus on community development. Existing partnerships on a broad array of campus projects provide a strong foundation for this new program, which brings the Law School and School of Business into a collaborative relationship with researchers in social science, public policy, and public administration. The interdisciplinary curriculum focuses on international as well as domestic issues in community development.

Rutgers is seeking a tenure-track assistant professor to begin fall 2010. A PhD in Economics is preferred, although candidates who hold the PhD in Political Science, Public Affairs, Urban and Regional Planning, or a related field will be considered if qualified to teach economics courses at the undergraduate level. Candidates with a concentration in urban economics, affordable housing

and neighborhood development, community economic and workforce development, sustainable development, or urban and regional planning are particularly encouraged to apply, and those with GIS expertise will be given strong consideration. Successful candidates will have an active research program and a PhD in hand no later than August 15, 2010.

Rutgers is committed to achieving diversity among faculty and staff. Applications from women and minorities are strongly encouraged. Applicants should include a letter of interest, CV, representative publications, statement of research and teaching interests, and three letters of recommendations. Applications should be sent to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Rutgers University, 401 Cooper St., Camden, NJ 08102. The position is open until filled, but completed applications received by December 15, 2009, will receive earliest consideration. ■■■

Conference on 'Crossing Boundaries'

March 19, 2010

University of Notre Dame
PhD in Literature Program

The PhD in Literature Program at the University of Notre Dame announces an interdisciplinary conference, "Weltliteratur: Crossing Boundaries," in tribute to its objective to encourage and develop research on the place of world literature. The conference will be March 19, 2010, at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Professor David Damrosch, chair of Literature and World Literature at Harvard University and author of *What is World Literature?* and *How to Read World Literature*, will be the keynote speaker.

The motivation for the conference comes from Goethe's idea of Weltliteratur: that the epoch of world literature is at hand, and everyone must strive to hasten its approach. Goethe's conception of world literature allows us to recognize that national and cultural boundaries still exist, but that literature circulates across these boundaries, helping to reshape relations among peoples.

This conference is dedicated to considering literature as a space that extends beyond historical, linguistic, and traditional disciplinary boundaries and welcomes papers that approach literature as an alternative and/or minority discourse across cultural, political, national, institutional and social limitations. Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following ways in which literature crosses boundaries: Transmission, Translation, Transference, Transaction, Transgression.

The conference organizers invite abstracts for individual 15-20 minute papers on any related theme in literature ranging from classical to contemporary. The 300-word abstracts should be submitted by January 15, 2010, to gbusl@nd.edu. Proposals should include name, affiliation, and paper title, with the abstract attached with title only in PDF or Word format for blind review.



The Association for Integrative Studies
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