



**Wayne State College Honors Program**  
**Fall 2006 Honors Colloquium Presentations**

**KATHERYNE ALMEIDA**

EQUAL PROTECTION AND END OF LIFE CARE: AN  
EXAMINATION OF GONZALEZ V. OREGON, VACCO  
V. QUILL, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT AND THEIR  
IMPACT ON MODERN ASSISTED SUICIDE CASES

Instructor: Dr. Mark Leeper

Presentation: Monday, December 11, 2006; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Dr. Jack Kevorkian brought the question of assisted suicide to a national spotlight with his insistence that citizens have the right to take their own life as a means of asserting dignity. Since then, countless court battles have been waged to answer the legal questions behind assisted suicide and end-of-life care. Most recently, *Vacco v. Quill* and *Gonzalez v. Oregon* have examined the question of assisted suicide under the light of the Fourteenth Amendment. This colloquium examines the two most recent assisted suicide cases brought before the Supreme Court and how the Court's decision will impact future assisted suicide cases.

Autobiography

Katheryne Almeida is the daughter of Andrew and Emily Friend of San Leandro, California and the wife of Scott Almeida of Papillion, Nebraska. Katheryne is a Secondary Education major with endorsements in Spanish and Political Science. She is currently student teaching at St. Francis of Assisi School in West Des Moines, Iowa. While at Wayne State College, Katheryne was a Learning Center Peer Tutor and Office Assistant, a sister of Zeta Tau Omega sorority, a member of Wayne Political Union and member of the honor societies Sigma Delta Pi, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Pi Gamma Mu.

**ERIN GASPERS**

LEGENDS IN THE NIGHT SKY: AN INTENSIVE LOOK  
AT THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS AS  
INFLUENCED BY THEIR SOCIETY

Instructor: Dr. Janet Gilligan

Presentation: Monday, December 11, 2006; 12:30 p.m.; Carhart Science, Planetarium

Abstract

The problem with today's view of Ancient Cultural Mythology--specifically that of the Greeks--is that the topic continues to be studied through the lens of a scientific and information-based society. The people of the ancient world, however, did not see their religious beliefs as inconsequential; rather they were the believers of a strong and mysterious faith. Little is known about their rituals and rites, but from

what has been gathered in the light of recent archeological finds, their religion can be traced back to 3000 B.C. This paper and presentation seek to unravel a bit of the mystery that surrounds the ancient cult of the Greeks; where they began, where they were going, and who, indeed, they believed in. It is proposed that their gods and rituals stemmed from the various changes that took place in their society and that who and what they believed in was tempered by societal needs. The presentation will also include the stories of the famous myths as told by the stars in the heavens.

### Autobiography

Erin Gaspers is the daughter of Mark and Diana Gaspers of Norfolk, Nebraska. She is a graduate of Norfolk Catholic High School and is currently pursuing a degree in Language Arts Secondary Education with a minor in Music Performance and a concentration in Percussion. While at Wayne State College Erin has been on the Dean's List each year; nominated as a member of the Who's Who in American College Students; vice president of Lambda Pi Eta; president of Sigma Tau Delta; head of the Philanthropy, Homecoming, Relay for Life, and Public Relations committees for Zeta Tau Omega; president of Habitat for Humanity; vice president of Berry Hall Council; member of the National Resident's Hall Association; secretary of the Catholic Newman Center; vice president of the Wayne Political Union; a devoted member of the WSC Marching Band; and jester for the Madrigal Singers. In the spring of 2007, Erin will be student teaching at Norfolk Public Senior High School and she will graduate in May.

### **ASHLEY NEMMERS**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT IN THE CLASSROOM: A CASE STUDY OF FREE EXPRESSION IN SCHOOLS**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Leeper

Presentation: Monday, December 11, 2006; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

### Abstract

Free expression in high school has changed dramatically since the fundamental 1<sup>st</sup> amendment case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969). Since the Supreme Court ruling in 1969, there have been numerous cases that have tested the boundaries of administrative authority in schools. The most recent limitations placed on students today are in dress codes and uniforms. This paper will begin by examining the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) and *Bethel School District No. 403 v Fraser* (1986) as well as identifying the importance other cases had on students' rights. These will then be used as guides to examine current students' expression cases currently working through the lower court system. Finally, this paper will draw conclusions as to how the Court may rule in future cases dealing with student and free expression.

### Autobiography

Ashley Nemmers is the daughter of James Nemmers and the late Vivian Nemmers of Lincoln, NE. She is majoring in Education with concentrations in both History and Political Science. While at Wayne State College, Ashley has served as a Pile Hall Resident Assistant, President of Navigators and GAMMA, Sergeant at Arms of Zeta Tau Omega, as well as a member of Greek Council, Wayne Political Union, Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Gamma Mu, and Cardinal Key. Ashley is currently student teaching at Lincoln Southeast High School and will graduate in December.

**AUDREY VICTOR**

**A SOLDIER'S STORY: EXPERIENCES OF PRISONERS OF  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC THEATRE OF WORLD WAR II**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Leeper

Presentation: Monday, December 11, 2006; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 113

Abstract

World War II was an historical event that resulted in many stories of bravery and courage. While much has been written about concentration camps and prisoners of the Germans, comparatively little information has been written about prisoners in the Pacific Theater. Not every story has been told. Harold (Eifler) Wellwood is one of these unsung heroes, and his story as a prisoner of war of the Japanese will be examined. Along with Mr. Wellwood's experiences, this paper will examine the trials and tribulations endured by other prisoners held by the Japanese. Through a personal interview with Mr. Wellwood and other personal reflections, this paper will explicate daily life in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Autobiography

Audrey Victor is the daughter of Mike and Marta Victor. A graduate of Laurel-Concord High School, Audrey is a Secondary Education major with subject endorsements in History and Political Science. While at Wayne State College, she has been on the Dean's List, historian for Wayne State Student Education Association of Nebraska, vice president of Pi Gamma Mu, and vice president of Phi Alpha Theta. She is also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and Cardinal Key. Audrey will graduate in May 2007 after completing her student teaching.