



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume XVI, Number 4 A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska December 21, 2012 (January 2013)

AFCON OFFICERS

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Frank Edler
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Linda Parker
AFCON Archivist

Tom Black
Newsletter Editor

Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Laurie Thomas Lee

This year, in addition to my role as AFCON President, I accepted the role of Graduate Chair in my program at UNL. As part of that new duty, I presumed I would help coordinate the selection, hiring, and even supervision of our Graduate Assistants. I then discovered online that we must also evaluate our GAs. This made me wonder.

To what extent do Graduate Assistants have academic freedom?

We know that professors and students have their respective rights. But where do GAs fall when it comes to academic freedom? Since their role is not as a student, do they have academic freedom equal to their supervisory professor?

I was pleased to find a policy addressing the “Academic Freedom of Graduate Teaching Assistants.” But I was also surprised to read the following:

The academic freedom of graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) is not necessarily coextensive with that of faculty.

The policy explains that GTAs are engaged in supervised teaching or instruction, and that the supervisors are the ones responsible for defining the nature, scope and manner of instruction to be used for a course. *GTAs should follow the instructions of the supervisor.*

In fairness, it states that *[s]upervisors should communicate the extent to which GTAs have discretion to introduce additional material.* Even so, it appears GTAs do not enjoy academic freedom comparable to faculty, even when they are teaching. I suppose this is in part because GTAs are paid employees in training, so-to-speak. Yet a similar argument may be made against their professors who are also employees of the university. Does the distinction hinge on the level of professional expertise? Certainly, a need for academic freedom is

to give professionals with relevant experience the freedom to teach and determine curriculum. Thankfully for GTAs, the policy goes on to provide some measure of protection. It states:

GTAs may not be penalized for expressing their own views on matters within the scope of the course, provided they adequately represent these views as their own.

Thus, as long as these graduate students make clear that their views are personally held and not the view of the professor or university, they cannot be fired or otherwise punished. Certainly, indoctrination is not a right of academic freedom. Moreover, the personal opinions of others must never substitute for the legitimate academic judgments of faculty. Again, GTAs—perhaps like administrators and others—must defer to their expert faculty supervisor.

Of course, academic freedom was never meant to bestow some special privilege on a particular class of individuals—even supervising professors. Academic freedom is a set of principles that all individuals are obligated to follow in academia, because education requires intellectual freedom.

This obligation to academic freedom extends to faculty supervisors to ensure they respect the views expressed by GTAs. The policy states that in *interpreting teaching evaluations, supervisors shall make every effort to distinguish legitimate critiques of the course from negative evaluations due to ... (b) disagreement with viewpoints expressed by the GTA or by students in the class.* Elsewhere in a section addressing “Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities of Graduate Assistants,” it states that *[e]valuations of performance shall not be influenced ... by students’ exercise of their First Amendment freedoms of expression and association..*

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Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings, January 12, February 9. and March 9, 2013.
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

THE PRESIDENT

I could not help but note, however, that all but this last policy statement pertain to Graduate Teaching Assistants and not specifically to Graduate Research Assistants. Was this an oversight? Is assisting a faculty member with his or her research more of a matter of strict employment with fewer rights of intellectual freedom? I am not aware of any cases where a research assistant complained, although I can imagine there have been cases where a research assistant wanted to interpret or present results against the wishes of the research professor. Academic freedom is about having the autonomy to do one's job in both teaching and research. Perhaps some clarity on the academic freedom rights of research assistants is needed.

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—Peggy Adair

September 8, 2012—

Present: Laurie Thomas Lee, David Moshman, Linda Parker, Lora Leibbrandt, Frank Edler, Rod Wagner, Cathi McMurtry.

AFCON WEBSITE. Lora Leibbrandt presented a demonstration of the new AFCON website on weebly.com. The new URL is www.academicfreedom-nebraska.org (no hyphen.) We need to look at the old website to see what still may need to be transferred. Lora and Linda are the current AFCON members with administrative rights and are the web site administrators for 2012. Others on the AFCON Board can add pages. The website is officially launched. Please send information to Lora to upload. Linda Parker distributed a proposed set of protocols for administering the web site. The Webmaster is part of the constitution and should be reappointed by the president each year. By consensus, the Board approved the protocols on a provisional basis. The protocols will be reviewed in September 2013.

AFCON now has an email account afcon.nebraska@gmail.com, which we need to check on a regular basis.

AFCON needs to update its logo and brochure. Perhaps a postcard could be used as an alternative.

MINUTES: Approval of minutes of 7/14. Moshman moved and Edler seconded. Approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Corrections were made to the list of organization members. The balance as of September is \$3411.80. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NHSPA fall convention requested \$100 for an exhibit table. Their board is meeting today to consider cost of table in exhibit area. Dave moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100.00 for a table on a one time basis. Rod Wagner seconded. Motion approved. President Lee requested volunteers to staff the AFCON table on Oct. 15, Monday, in Lincoln at

the student union.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK: ACLU Events Committee was willing to help us but was not willing to spearhead. Laurie will look into finding out if Indigo Books will do something. We decided to put a link to the banned books web site at ALA. Lora will put out a press release advertising our website and the link.

SENTINEL: Next issue is due Nov 26, published Dec 21

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be in Lincoln on November 3 10-1:30, in the Lighthouse Room, Beacon Hills Restaurant. "*Conflicts, Clashes, and Compromises: Early Struggles in Academic Freedom at the University of Nebraska*". Bob Haller will do a re-enactment of Hartley Burr Alexander. A reaction panel is in development. Suggestions for the panel included Linda Pratt, Mark Lukin, and Dave Moshman. Frank distributed photocopies of letters-to-the-editor about the Nebraska professors' trial. :Publicity for the Annual Meeting was discussed. Lora and Linda volunteered to contact UNO TV about filming the program.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARDS NOMINATIONS: Tom Black, Sentinel editor. Nominated by David Moshman. Benjamin Andrews, Chancellor, post-humous award, for hiring back fired University professors. Frank Edler will look for descendants. An additional suggestion was to present Andrews award to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Motion to approve the awards for Tom Black and Benjamin Andrews was approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominees for AFCON officers will be submitted the October 2012 meeting. Volunteers for the nominating committee are Rod Wagner, Frank Edler, Nancy Comer.

POLICY COORDINATOR: David Moshman observed that there were no issues to report.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION REPORTS: Rod Wagner reported on events sponsored by the **Nebraska Center for the Book**. Check out a calendar of events can be found at

http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html.

October 13, 2012—

Present: Peggy Adair, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, Cathi McMurtry, David Moshman, Linda Parker.

MINUTES: Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on September 8, 2012 were approved as corrected, upon a motion by Edler, second by Adair, and a voice vote. Adair expressed appreciation to Parker for preparing the September minutes in Adair's absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT: McMurtry presented the treasurer's report dated October 12, 2012. Balance on hand as of October 12 is \$3,024.77. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

SENTINEL: The deadline for articles for the next issue of the *Sentinel* is **November 26**. A ballot of 2013 AFCON officers will be placed in this issue. McMurtry will find the list of people who receive the *Sentinel* via email and send the list to Haller, whose computer ate his copy of the list.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Lee has been reviewing the new website. Lee and Moshman plan to staff an AFCON table at the Nebraska High School Press Association meeting in Lincoln on October 15.

AFCON LOGO AND BROCHURE: Adair will email the updated AFCON letterhead with logo to Parker, Lee and Edler. Parker will update the AFCON brochure and email the updated version to the board by October 15 so individuals can print copies as needed.

ANNUAL MEETING: Edler prepared and sent press releases to media outlets that may have an interest in the AFCON mission and/or Benjamin Andrews' advocacy for academic freedom on the UNL campus. Panel members have been confirmed. Edler will prepare a printed program. AFCON award winners have been selected and notified.

(See **Minutes**, page 3)

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 2)

Parker asked AFCON board members to email their annual meeting photos to her so she can post them on the website.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: "We are working on it."

WEBSITE: The AFCON board discussed the draft of the website protocol. Parker will revise the protocol to reflect the board's recommendations and will present the protocol for review at the November AFCON board meeting.

Adair will post the monthly minutes to the website, or at least make a valiant effort therein. Adair will email photos from the 2011 annual meeting to Lee so she can post them on the website.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Adair reported Senator Haar, who has worked with AFCON to sponsor the Student Expression Act, faces a well-financed challenger in his bid for reelection. The legislature will also be electing a new Speaker in the coming session, so it remains to be seen what the 2013 legislative culture will be in support or opposition of academic freedom.

POLICY COORDINATOR: Moshman reported he served on a panel at the AAUP State Conference with former AFCON President John Bender and ACLU Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller, discussing academic freedom and the First Amendment.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

UNO Faculty Senate: Parker reported UNO has a goal of recruiting 20,000 students by 2020, without a clear plan for providing adequate funding for faculty and other necessary resources.

Nebraska Library Association: Parker reported the NLA state conference will be held October 17-19 in LaVista. AFCON and the NLA Intellectual Freedom Committee will share a resource table.

Nebraska State Reading Association: Comer reported the state conference will be held February 21-23, 2013, in Kearney. NSRA invited AFCON to staff a resource table at the event. Comer offered to supervise the AFCON table since she will be attending the conference.

UNL Faculty Senate: Lee reported turmoil continues as some university departments are being required to merge, with little faculty input into the process.

CONGRATULATIONS: *The AFCON Board congratulates longtime AFCON member Dick Herman who recently received the 2012 Nebraska English Language Arts Council State Intellectual Freedom Award.*

NEXT MEETING: The next meet-

ing of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be **Saturday, November 3, 2012** at Beacon Hills Restaurant, 5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln; immediately following the AFCON annual meeting.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.academicfreedomnebraska.org

November 3, 2012: Annual Membership Meeting—

Present:: Peggy Adair, legislative liaison, secretary; Dwayne Ball; Amy Birky; Tom Black, Sentinel editor, **recipient of 2012 AFCON Academic Freedom Award**; Nancy Comer; Frank Edler, president-elect; Bob Haller; Judith Healy; Michael Goff; Laurie Thomas Lee, president; Lora Leibbrandt, representing Nebraska Educational Media Association, website administrator; Cathi McMurtry, treasurer; Jim McShane; Dave Moshman, policy coordinator; Jane Neal, Linda Parker, website assistant administrator; Marcella Shortt; Mary K. Stillwell; Rod Wagner, immediate past president.

MINUTES: Members reviewed the minutes of the November 12, 2011 AFCON Annual Membership Meeting. Minutes were approved upon a motion by McShane, second by Moshman, and a voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for November 12, 2011 through November 2, 2012 was reviewed and filed for audit. Balance on hand, November 2, 2012, is \$3,152.19.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Lee thanked Bob Haller for his historic rendition of Hartley Burr Alexander, and thanked panelists David Moshman, Frank Edler and Mark Lukin. Lee also thanked Frank Edler for organizing the AFCON annual meeting, and expressed appreciation to all of the AFCON board members for their work in support of academic freedom.

Lee reviewed some of AFCON's activities for 2012: Monitoring LB990 which requires the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in all Nebraska schools.

She especially appreciated the testimony of Moshman and Edler. (The bill did not pass but the Department of Education has instituted a Pledge requirement.)

Continuing our pursuit of a stronger and more experiential model of civics instruction in Nebraska schools. Lee expressed appreciation for Haller's work in this area.

Monitoring the Kuhr case (Millard South students suspended for wearing T-shirts expressing condolence for a student who was murdered)

Unfortunately the court ruled against student expression in this case.

Continuing our work to legislate the right of students to free expression in Nebraska public schools. Lee thanked Adair and the student expression committee for their work.

Working toward getting a commitment from Sandra Day O'Connor to speak at an AFCON event in 2013. Lee thanked Parker for her work on this endeavor.

Designing a new AFCON website and developing website protocol. Lee thanked Liebrandt and Parker for their time and tech talent.

Updating the AFCON brochure and AFCON logo. Lee thanked Parker and Adair for their work.

Offering an academic freedom video contest to Nebraska high school students. Student winners at Palmer and Skutt High Schools were presented their awards at school-wide assemblies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The nominating committee of Wagner, Edler and Comer presented the slate of Cathi McMurtry, treasurer and Peggy Adair, secretary. The committee has been unable to find a person for the president-elect position. There were no nominations from the floor. The committee and the AFCON board will continue to seek a person to fill the president-elect position. Ballots will be sent out to AFCON members in the next edition of the *Sentinel*.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:

Parker reported the Nebraska Library Association has voted in favor of the intellectual freedom round table, which will increase participation and visibility.

Haller reported the Nebraska Department of Education is accepting public comments on the proposed changes to state social studies standards.

November 3, 2012—

Present:: Peggy Adair, legislative liaison, secretary; Dwayne Ball; Amy Birky; **Tom Black, Sentinel editor, recipient of 2012 AFCON Academic Freedom Award**; Nancy Comer; Frank Edler, president-elect; Bob Haller; Judith Healy; Michael Goff; Laurie Thomas Lee, president; Lora Leibbrandt, website administrator; Cathi McMurtry, treasurer; Jim McShane; Dave Moshman, policy coordinator; Jane Neal; Linda Parker, website assistant administrator; Marcella Shortt; Mary K. Stillwell; Rod Wagner, immediate past president.

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Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 3)

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 6, 2012 AFCON board meeting were not available. The October minutes will be reviewed at the next regular AFCON board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report for November 2, 2012 was reviewed and filed for audit. Balance on hand, November 2, 2012, is \$3,152.19.

WEBSITE PROTOCOL: The updated website protocol was not available. The website protocol will be reviewed at the next regular AFCON board meeting.

STUDENT EXPRESSION BILL: The Board directed the student expression committee to review strategy for introducing a student expression bill in the 2013 Nebraska legislature after the November 6 election results are confirmed.

DECEMBER AFCON BOARD MEETING: Ball presented a motion to cancel the regular AFCON board meeting for December, 2012. The motion was seconded by Edler and passed on a voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the AFCON board will be Saturday, **January 12, 2013**, at Eiseley Library in Lincoln.

Pictures and words from the 2012 Annual Meeting, November 3

(Continued through pages 4, 5, and 6)

(Special thanks to Frank Edler, President-Elect of AFCON, for organizing the Annual Meeting.)

Winners of the 2012 prestigious Academic Freedom Awards.

The AFCON Academic Freedom award is given yearly to an individual, group, or institution demonstrating exceptional courage and service in the promotion and defense of academic freedom.



Laurie Lee Thomas, AFCON President, presented an Academic Freedom Award to Peterson Brink, Assistant University Archivist. Peterson accepted the Award which posthumously recognized E. Benjamin Andrews, former Chancellor at the University of Nebraska, 1900-1908.

For a detailed description of the achievements of Andrews, see the David Moshman article on page 7 of this issue..



Cathi McMurtry, AFCON Treasurer, presented an Academic Award to Tom, Black.

For a more detailed description of Black's academic freedom efforts, see page 5 of this issue.

MORE ABOUT TOM BLACK: Born in Shenandoah, Iowa, Black attended Iowa State College and the State University of Iowa, majoring in social studies and English. He participated in and was a strong supporter of the 1950's-1960's Civil Rights Movement. In West Point, Nebraska, he taught American history, sociology, and economics for thirty-four years. Throughout, he maintained a "Free Speech Classroom" in which students were free to discuss any subject of their choosing. He served on the Nebraska State Education Board of Directors for twenty years and was on the NEA Board of Directors for five years. He has been editor of the *NSEA-Retired Corner* as well as the *NSEA-Retired Advocate*. Although not a founding member of AFCON, he attended the first AFCON meeting and became a member when he was asked to become the fifteen-year editor of the AFCON *Sentinel* that he named. Black continues his community work with youth as a member of the Board of Trustees of West Point-Bancroft TeamMates and two substance abuse programs: the Cuming County Diversion Board and as chair of the Healthy Communities Initiative—a four-county public health coalition in Northeast Nebraska.



The Panel: left to right: Mark Lukin, David Moshman, and Frank Edler. As a follow up to Dr. Robert Haller's presentation, the three discussed the issue of academic freedom and the degree to which faculty can be critics as well as promoters of community beliefs.

The Editor's Confession. You expected this *Sentinel* to be in your hands before December 21, 2012, but here it is January, 2013—a year later. WHY? I have excuses: no one said anything about not receiving it in December; I was going through a family medical crisis; the winning of the AFCON Academic Award for being the editor went to my head and pushed out all other thoughts; I've reached the age of irresponsibility. No, no excuses. The simple truth? I FORGOT!!



Dr. Robert Haller, UNL Emeritus Professor of English, brought Hartley Burr Alexander to life, one of the university's preeminent faculty members of the past to show the growth of academic freedom at the university.

Hartley Burr Alexander has a UNL building named after him, and is revered at Scripps College as well. But he ought to be much more famous. Here is a list of his accomplishments:

- * Served as the "Thematic Consultant" for the artistic program of the Nebraska State Capitol; his name is on the plaque on the right wall at the entrance to the Great Hall
- * Provided the same service for such buildings and projects as the Los Angeles Public Library, Rockefeller Center, the Joslyn, and the 1933 Chicago World's Fair.
- * Was President of the American Philosophical Association and of two regional affiliates
- * Wrote two volumes in the series *Mythology of All Races*—"North America" and "Latin America"; gave seminars at the Sorbonne on the philosophic implication of Native art and ritual.
- * Wrote and produced at least six pageants in Lincoln and Omaha, including the 1923 Ak Sar-Ben Pageant in Omaha
- * Published numerous philosophic essays and books, as well as two books of poetry, several plays based on Native American themes, political essays, literary criticism and educational theory and practice
- * Was the acknowledged leader of the University of Nebraska faculty during the 1920's and devised and supervised the curriculum of Scripps College from its opening in 1929.
- * Greatest of all, provided the inscriptions on Memorial Stadium and the State Capitol, so that everyone now knows that the salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen, and that it is not the goal but the game; not the victory but the action: in the deed the glory. Some people even know what that means.

So I have undertaken to try to give him the renown he deserves.

The Nebraska Committee for the Humanities sponsors scholars willing to impersonate significant figures in the life and history of the state and region, and I have signed up to present HBA. Since he left behind a huge body of eloquent discourse, both published and in correspondence, and especially because, for him, intellectual activity was in essence the articulation of deeply personal, educated perceptions of the world and universe, even his philosophic work has the intense feeling of passionately held commitments, it is easy to create an entertaining and enlightening script. I have such a document ready for performance, but no one had asked me to do it.

So when AFCON was looking for program when the other focus of the Annual Meeting would be a posthumous Academic Freedom Award for former Chancellor Benjamin Andrews, I volunteered to perform Alexander, who was himself hired by Andrews and was mentored by Harry Wolfe, who Andrews restored (with a nudge from Alexander) as Chair of the Philosophy Department—one of the deeds for which we were honoring him. A perfect fit.

But this had another advantage for me. Since AFCON focuses on questions of Academic Freedom, I could tailor the script to give it the same focus. Alexander had organized his fellow student to protest the firing of Harry Wolfe, for instance. He was deeply involved in the trials of Nebraska Professors during the First World War. Faculty governance was important to him: his decision to resign his Nebraska professorship and take the Scripps College job was a response to the failure of his efforts to turn back an administrative imposition of a "reform" on a faculty that could have fought back had they the integrity to do so. I based my script for the AFCON meeting on these issues; I realize as a result that I can produce a script relevant to any set of issues the audience might be interested in: architectural art, Native American symbolism, metaphysics, religion or educational reform.

And the other interesting feature of the script I followed for the AFCON meeting was the discovery that Alexander did not advocate for Academic Freedom, at least during the period of the wartime trials. He seemed to say that Academic Freedom is a luxury to be reserved for private universities, while public universities will have a faculty which will be politically active in the community and as a consequence always in danger of administrative and public scrutiny which might lead to loss of the job. On the one hand, his constant forays into public controversies provided a model for what this new public university faculty would face. On the other hand, nothing in his own experience and in the direction of public higher education in the 1920's justified his confidence that professors no longer able to count on the protections of tenure would at least get significantly better compensation and a higher community profile.

I still want to secure a higher community profile for Alexander. Having performed him once, I know that I can convey some of the eloquence and personality which were the marks of his public and private writing and something of the remarkable range of his interests and study.

I attempted to make myself look more like he did by wearing a generic wig and round (actually, Harry Potter) glasses. I may have succeeded only in looking silly (hair does that for some of us), and the glasses unfortunately were sufficiently distorting that I could not read the script very well.

So if you know of a group which would be interested in any aspect of Alexander's life and thinking, call on me to present him, sponsored by the NCH. You can guarantee that his ideas and words still resonate, and that any audience will feel enriched by a deeper knowledge of Hartley Burr Alexander.

A University Administrator Who Supported Academic Freedom

—by David Moshman

Sometimes administrators do the right thing. One who supported intellectual freedom on multiple occasions was E. Benjamin Andrews, who was honored November 3 by the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) at its 25th annual membership meeting.

Andrews, who headed both Brown University and the University of Nebraska, could not be present, having died in 1917. The award was accepted by Peterson Brink, assistant archivist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), for inclusion in a new historical exhibit.

Elisha Benjamin Andrews was born in 1844 in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. After being severely wounded in the Civil War, permanently losing his sight in one eye, he continued his education, graduating from Brown in 1870. He was subsequently ordained as a Baptist minister but returned to Brown in 1882 as Professor of History and Political Economy.

Andrews left for Cornell in 1888, to the great disappointment of students, but the following year was chosen unanimously to become Brown's next president. His presidency is noted for a rapid growth in graduate studies and the transformation of Brown into what he called "a true University."

In 1896, Nebraska populist William Jennings Bryan won the Democratic nomination for the presidency after advocating "free silver" in a speech famously proclaiming "you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." He lost the general election to Republican William McKinley, who supported

the gold standard.

Andrews had supported free silver in personal letters that were published in 1896 without his knowledge or permission. In July 1897, members of Brown's governing "Corporation" expressed their concern that his views on what had become a highly controversial political issue were so upsetting to friends of the University that they were costing gifts and legacies.

Andrews resigned immediately, but Brown faculty, students, and alumni sent petitions on his behalf, as did other college presidents. Faculty warned the Corporation that to accept the resignation "would stamp this institution, in the eyes of the country, as one in which freedom of thought and expression is not permitted when it runs counter to the views generally accepted in the community or held by those from whom the University hopes to obtain financial support."

Andrews noted that he had not "been loud, a declaimer, parading my views, ambitiously or otherwise" but insisted as a matter of academic principle that he could not surrender his freedom of speech. The Corporation asked him to withdraw his resignation, which he did.

Nevertheless, he left the following year for Chicago where, as Superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, he freed the schools from external political controls. Then, in 1900, he was appointed Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, which he transformed over the next eight years from a rapidly growing college into a genuine university.

Along with Wisconsin and Cornell, Nebraska was known at the turn of the 20th century as a haven of dissent. Andrews immediately reinforced that reputation.

In November 1900, Edward A. Ross, who was to become one of

the founders of modern sociology, was fired by Stanford University for addressing issues of social injustice. The powerful Mrs. Stanford especially objected to his concern with Chinese railroad labor, the source of the Stanford family fortune. Andrews promptly hired Ross at Nebraska.

Other Stanford professors resigned in protest of the firing, including former Nebraska professor George Howard, a staunch supporter of civil liberties who had been hired by Stanford to found its history department and had in turn hired Ross. Andrews invited Howard back to Nebraska.

Andrews also rehired Harry Kirke Wolfe, the founding father of philosophy, psychology, and education at the University of Nebraska, who had been fired in 1897 for speaking out about falsification of student enrollment data. Wolfe returned in 1906 to found the department of educational psychology and later resumed his former position as chair of philosophy.

Poor health dogged Andrews throughout his life and finally forced him to retire at the end of 1908. After his death in 1917, the renowned college president and free speech advocate Alexander Meiklejohn, an 1893 graduate of Brown, eulogized him:

"Dear, gallant, stalwart, splendid Bennie Andrews. ... Oh, what a gallant fight he made, and what a hard one!"

At both Brown and UNL there is an Andrews Hall named for E. Benjamin Andrews. At Brown it is a residence hall; at UNL it houses the Department of English. Both students and academe were served well by his respect for intellectual freedom in higher education.

This article originally appeared in the Huffington Post on November 14, 2012.

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2007)

Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Arm-bands, and School Prayer: The Evolution of Children's First Amendment Rights in America"

padair@tconl.com

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"

adball@neb.rr.com

Bob Haller: "Civics Education and the Practice of Freedom" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons from the Cen-sors"

rhaller1@unl.edu

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"

dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"

jbender1@unl.edu

dmoshman1@unl.edu

Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"

llee1@unl.edu

Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression.

(a cast of adults and students)

ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE

<http://www.nebafcon.org>

Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meet-ings; meet our Members and Officers;

REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column. **Due date for submissions to the March 15, 2013, issue is February 25.**

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or
wpc6296@cableone.net

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing
Address
Label

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

MEMBERSHIP (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

Organizational Membership (\$120) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board, one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, eligibility for office and chairing standing committees, provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director, and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

Individual Membership (\$15) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

Student Membership (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**