

This Week in the News: Whistleblowing UCLA Professor Still Making Headlines and Hamilton College Wins Muzzle Award

April 15, 2011

Like

Sign Up to see what your friends like.



<u>UCLA's gross violation of the rights of Dr. Enstrom</u>, the whisteblowing professor fighting for his job after being told he did not fit his department's "mission," continued to elicit outrage in the media this week. Debra Saunders of the San Francisco Chronicle published both a <u>column (reprinted</u> in Townhall.com) and a shorter <u>blog post</u> (containing <u>Reason.tv's video</u> on the case) criticizing the university's actions. Also don't miss <u>Adam's excellent interview</u> about the case with Mike Slater of *The Mike Slater Show*.

Up north, Hamilton College earned a <u>Muzzle Award</u> for <u>forcing all first-year male students to attend "She Fears You,"</u> a lecture by Keith Edwards that he described as an "emotional and cognitive intervention" aiming to teach that certain views about masculinity will be "no longer acceptable in any way." For those who missed Adam's <u>excellent post</u> (<u>reprinted</u> by *The Moral Liberal*) on the topic, <u>Muzzle Awards</u> are "awarded" annually by the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression to those who engage in "egregious or ridiculous affronts to free expression."

An <u>article</u> by Daniel P. Bader in the *Utica Observer-Dispatch* (Utica, NY) about Hamilton's Muzzle Award features quotes from Adam and Hamilton College freshmen concerning the "She Fears You" controversy. Ronald Bailey of Reason.com also <u>wrote about</u> the controversy, as well as several other Muzzle Award winners, over at *Hit & Run*.

Torch readers will recall the plight of Sinclair Community College (SCC) student Ethel Borel-Donohue, who was banned from distributing literature about abortion, birth control, and breast cancer to her classmates after class. This week, Fergus Hodgson of *WorldNetDaily* wrote about FIRE's defense of Borel-Donohue's right to distribute literature after class and the pressure we're placing on SCC to revise its unconstitutional ban on distributing flyers (see Section IV.3). Additionally, Sheila Liaugminas of *MercatorNet* pointed to segments of our press release from last week on the case in expressing her outrage at SCC.

FIRE filed an *amici curiae* brief on Monday with the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in the case of *Barnes v. Zaccari*, in which we asked the Eleventh Circuit to uphold a federal district court's <u>September 2010 ruling</u> denying the defense of qualified immunity to former Valdosta State University (VSU) President Ronald M. Zaccari. For those who don't remember this <u>horrific case</u>, President Zaccari expelled student Hayden Barnes on the grounds that he was a "clear and present danger" after he posted a collage page on Facebook protesting Zaccari's proposed parking deck!

Greg wrote a <u>column</u> for *The Huffington Post* pointing to the formidable coalition of 15 organizations from across the political spectrum that have co-signed this brief, and the constitutional issues at stake in this case for students and

administrators at public universities. Meanwhile, Ilya Shapiro of the Cato Institute, one of the 14 other organizations who signed off on the brief, <u>criticized Zaccari's actions and expressed his hope that the September 2010 ruling be upheld</u> at *Cato@Liberty*. A <u>blog post</u> on *JDSupra* from the Cato Institute also argued that Zaccari should still be denied qualified immunity for his blatant abuse of presidential power.

Speaking of the Supreme Court, *Torch* readers will remember FIRE's extensive coverage of the Supreme Court's decision last summer in <u>CLS v. Martinez</u>. This week, Michael De Groote of the <u>Deseret News</u> (Salt Lake City) wrote an <u>extensive article</u>, including a map from FIRE data as well as quotes from Greg and Adam, about the controversy over Christian groups on campus in the aftermath of the <u>Martinez</u> case.

Moving from the Supreme Court to the Capitol, Will, writing in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, once again tackles the proposed Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act. He eloquently argues that the proposed legislation would do little to prevent harassment above what is already being done, but would do a lot to chill protected speech by creating a vague standard for peer harassment that conflicts with Supreme Court precedent.

Heading over to the executive branch, On April 4, the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) sent the nation's school officials a <u>letter</u> urging them to <u>water down due process</u> and other protections for students and staff accused of sexual harassment. FIRE issued a <u>statement</u> in response to the letter, in which he protested its failure to discuss the importance of balancing punishing sexual harassment with protecting free speech. This week, Hans Bader, writing for OpenMarket.org, mentioned FIRE's criticism of the letter in his <u>article</u> lambasting the letter.

Azhar was recently quoted in an <u>article</u> in *The Herald Journal* (Logan, Utah) about free speech restrictions at Utah State University (USU). The article focused primarily on USU's red-light <u>"Responsibilities of Students"</u> policy, which Azhar believes is vague and encompasses protected expression.

Adam spoke last week at another red-light school, Iowa State University. After the lecture, Matt Wettengel of *Iowa State Daily* quoted Adam in an <u>article</u> about some of Iowa State's speech-chilling red- and yellow-light policies. In another <u>article</u> by Wettengel, Keith Bystrom of the Office of University Counsel argued that FIRE's ratings are inaccurate and that our free speech concerns at Iowa State are overblown. FIRE, of course, disagrees with Bystrom's assessment.

Finally, Jaclyn Hall, Associate Director of the Campus Freedom Network, was recently <u>interviewed</u> by Internships.com's *Eye of the Intern* blog about FIRE's ten-week Summer Internship Program for undergraduates. Jaclyn, a former FIRE intern herself, talked about how to get involved in the free speech movement, what prospective interns can do to stand out from the crowd, and how they can really shine during and, perhaps more importantly, after their internships.

Used with the permission of The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

Share this: Facebook 2 StumbleUpon Digg Reddit Email Print

Post Published: 15 April 2011

Author: admin

Found in section: Education, TheFIRE.org

Previous Topic: Gainesville State College Remains Unaccountable for Censorship of Faculty Artwork

Next Topic: Help Stop Government Appliance Mandates

Latest Topics



Perry E-mails Show Involvement in Higher Ed Program »

...



Univ. of San Francisco Evicting Upward Bound Program »

• • •



How Sacred is Your Property? »

. . .



The Gates Doctrine: Balance Idealism with Realism »

•••



Benjamin Franklin »

...



Cat Naps on Break are Healthy — T.F. Stern »

...



Earth Day and Environmental Insanity »

...



Must 5th Graders Learn Arabic? »

...



Dump "The Donald" »

...



Honoring a beloved teacher, Ron Moeller»

...



Mr. Smith ... On Steroids »

. . .



The Budgetary 'Showdown' and the Unitary Party »

...



Alexis de Tocqueville and the Influence of Christianity in America »

...



Saving the Warfare-Welfare State: Sheldon Richman »

. . .

Top posts

- Mitt Romney: The Man Who Gave Us Homosexual Marriage
- This Week in the News: Whistleblowing UCLA Professor Still Making Headlines and Hamilton College Wins Muzzle Award
- Illinois Homeschoolers Thwart State Registration?
- Volunteers Needed for Wisconsin
- Japan's Supposed Silver Lining

•

• Log in

□ Powered by WordPress Copyright © 2011 The Moral Liberal All rights reserved News Magazine Theme 640 designed by antisocialmediallc.com