

p r a x i s

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Heidi Hadsell, President of Hartford Seminary, shares in the worship service during the Seminary's convocation service in September. To her left are, from left to right, Professors Benjamin K. Watts, Kelton Cobb and Efrain Agosto and Dean Ian Markham.

At Convocation

By Heidi Hadsell

Reflections Monday September 13, 2004 • Miriam Therese Winter specifically asked me to speak words of encouragement

and hope. In fact, so insistent was she that she used these words in the program. Why I asked myself would words of encouragement and hope be so important right now? Well, the answer, or one answer, is not hard to discover, and it doesn't only have to do with the fact that this is a new academic year. *Continued on page 4*

NIEMAN NAMED TO SEMINARY FACULTY



The Rev. Dr. James R. Nieman, one of the leading professors of practical theology in the country, will join the faculty at Hartford Seminary. *Story on page 5*

A Student's View

By Kevin G. Ewing

Reflections Wednesday
May 12,
2004 •

Today is an exciting day. Today I complete my first class in a Master's program. Today I turn in my first paper of more than eight pages in over 20 years.



Today is another step toward my goal of ordination in the United Church of Christ. Today marks a milestone. A stake has been placed in the ground and the time has come for me to declare. Will my faith stand?

When I told my parents that I was going to attend seminary their chief *Continued on page 4*

04

Annual Report

INSIDE

Zikmund Receives Distinguished Service Award

Barbara Brown Zikmund, president of Hartford Seminary from 1990 to 2000, was honored in June as the recipient of the Association of Theological Schools' 2004 Distinguished Service Award.

The presentation occurred at the association's biennial meeting in Los Angeles.

Instituted in 1988 to "acknowledge and honor persons who have contributed in extraordinary ways to the Association's mission," the award recognizes "persons of exceptional vision, leadership, and influence who advance the causes of our enterprise in very significant ways to the benefit of all."

ATS President David Tiede presented the award saying, "In 1986, she became the first woman to serve as president of The Association of Theological Schools and, over many years, she



year later, she took administrative responsibilities as CTS's director of studies. In 1980, she was recruited by Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley to become its dean.

She became active in ATS, being elected president in 1986. In addition to her active involvement in ATS, she has also served as president of the American Society of Church History and of WOCATI, the international association of theological school accrediting agencies. Zikmund was named to the presidency of Hartford Seminary in 1990, where she served

"Our honoree is a person who possesses two of the greatest gifts for theological education leadership—she actually enjoys meetings and she likes to write things down. She's been gone from PSR for fourteen years, but almost every week I come across a trace of her influence—from policies pertaining to students to the articulation of curricular goals for degree programs to the way PSR orients new staff and trustees," said McKinney.

"Most of you would have no reason to know of the contributions of Barbara Brown Zikmund to the life and ministry of the United Church of Christ and of the interfaith work she has led for the National Council of Churches. More than a decade ago Barbara teamed up with the late Charles Shelby Rooks to develop the seven-volume edited collection known as "The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ." This is a remarkable achievement for a person who spent most of her time managing a demanding and complex presidency," McKinney said.

"Tonight we honor a colleague whose contributions to three ATS schools, to her own denomination and to interfaith relations, to women in theological education, to our Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and to our common vocation as theological educators: Barbara Brown Zikmund, BBZ, my colleague and friend," he concluded.

"I thank you for this honor, I thank you for allowing me to serve ATS, and I thank you for many wonderful years of friendship and meaningful service," said Zikmund. "May ATS continue to remind us and those who follow us not to 'go it alone.' I am convinced that when we work together to strengthen institutions and leaders that God will be pleased."

Past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award include Krister Stendahl (1988), Robert Wood Lynn (1990), Charles Shelby Rooks (1992), Sara P. Little (1994), David A. Hubbard (1996), Martin E. Marty (1998), Vincent DePaul Cushing (2000), and Robert E. Cooley (2002).

until 2000. She is currently on the American Studies faculty at Doshisha University in Japan.

Her career included a series of firsts. Besides becoming the first woman president of ATS, she is the first woman president of a Christian theological school.

William McKinney, President of Pacific School of Religion (PSR) and former Dean of Hartford Seminary, introduced Zikmund, noting her long list of accomplishments as well as sharing several personal stories to give a taste of not just what she has done, but who BBZ, as she is known, really is.

"Our honoree is a person who possesses two of the greatest gifts for theological education leadership – she actually enjoys meetings and she likes to write things down."

- William McKinney, President of Pacific School of Religion

shared her administrative experience, knowledge, and wisdom widely across ATS in its programs of leadership education."

Zikmund's journey to the ATS Distinguished Service Award began in the Detroit public schools where as a young Christian woman living in a mostly Jewish neighborhood she felt a constant need to explain who she was religiously. This need led her to seminary and to a special vocation in interfaith understanding. After receiving her B.A. degree from Beloit College, she completed her M.Div and Ph.D. in American Church History at Duke University and traveled with her spouse, Joe Zikmund, to Alma College in Michigan. There they began raising a family and Zikmund took on part-time teaching at the college.

Zikmund was called to Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) in 1975 as its sole woman faculty member. A

Alumni/ae Council Plans Open Meeting, Selects New Members

Hartford Seminary's Alumni/ae Council is holding an open meeting on Wednesday, March 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Seminary for all alumni/ae.

The Council urges all alumni/ae to attend. They would like for them to share their ideas and to consider becoming members of the Council.

Meanwhile, several new members have joined the Alumni/ae Council. They are:

Abdullah Anteppli

Abdullah hails from Turkey and came to Hartford Seminary in 2003 to pursue an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations. After graduating from university in Turkey, Abdullah taught English as a second language and was a counselor for students at Feza High School in Samsun, Turkey. Abdullah then was a representative of PASIAD, a Turkish non-governmental organization that coordinates business and educational activities in the Far East. His first post was in Burma where he set up an international school and was the first principal of the school. Abdullah then went to Malaysia as the PASIAD representative and worked on business and educational projects.

Although Abdullah is very busy as a student at the Seminary and as the first Muslim chaplain at Wesleyan University, he has agreed to serve on the Alumni/ae Council.

Gordon Bates

Drawn to the arena of social justice while in seminary, Gordon S. Bates has worked in numerous civil rights and justice organizations over the past four decades. He has spent the major part of his career seeking ways to reform and humanize the criminal justice system.

Gordon was ordained by the Presbytery of Westchester on May 20, 1959, after completing an educational journey through Trinity College, Hartford, CT (B.S. 1956), Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA (now Pittsburgh Theological School, M.Div., 1959), and Hartford Seminary (S.T.M., 1964). He served as a New Church Development Pastor for the Presbytery of Southern New England from 1964 to 1968, and as a part-time Assistant Pastor for the South Congregational Church from 1969 to 1980. He transferred his denominational affiliation to the United Church of Christ in 1974, and was active in the Department of Church and Society. He served on the Conference Board of Directors from 1992 to 1995. Gordon joined the full-time staff of the Connecticut Prison Association, now known as Community Partners in Action, in 1969, to become the Director of Volunteer Services, having been a volunteer in that agency's program for four years during the mid-sixties. In 1980 he became the CPA's Executive Director, a position he held for the next

seventeen years, retiring in June 1997. In July of that year he began service on the staff of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ as Association Conference Minister of Program and Resources. In July 2001, his position changed to Associate Minister for Justice & Witness Ministries, from which he will retire at the end of the year.

Marijane Lacedonia (Jane)

Jane completed the WLI program in 2003.

Gwendolyn Lewis

A life-long learner, Gwen's first degree is from Center State University in Ohio where she earned a B.A. At the University of Hartford Gwen received a Master's in Education focusing on Urban Studies and graduate courses in African American Studies. At Hartford Seminary Gwen has completed the BMP and WLI certificates and is now working on the Spirituality graduate certificate. Gwen is active on the local church level as a member of Faith Congregational Church and associate member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church and on the regional and national levels of the United Church of Christ. Gwen has served on committees of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC and on the Focus Committee of the national UCC Board of World Ministry and the Christian Activities Council. Gwen is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the Farmington Valley Chapter of Links, Inc. Gwen retired from 16 years at the State Department of Public Health as a Health Program Associate.

Karen Rollins

Karen is familiar to many of us since she is the Registrar of the Seminary. Karen attended Manhattanville College and graduated in 1988. She then went to work at Hartford College for Women and Albion College before coming to Hartford Seminary in 1992. Karen completed the M.A. in Daily Life in 1999 at Hartford Seminary. Karen is active in the community serving as a Mercy Corps Volunteer and on the Red Cross Disaster Action Team. Karen was awarded the Capital Branch Volunteer of the Year in 1998 from the Red Cross.

Betsy Van Loon

Betsy is a graduate of Wellesley College and has a master's in business administration in addition to her M.A. degree from Hartford Seminary. She was able to use both her degrees as an adjunct faculty member teaching Business Ethics and Globalization with Worth Loomis in the spring of 2003. An even greater theological challenge came as Betsy taught first grade Sunday school for the first time this year. Facing energetic six year olds every Sunday morning requires great faith and good preparation. Betsy worked for twelve years in health care consulting and insurance including time with CIGNA in Bloomfield. She has been a homemaker and community service volunteer for many years. Her current volunteer focus is on Stephen Ministry through the Avon Congregational Church where she is a Stephen Leader and active Stephen Minister. In addition to teaching and volunteering, Betsy started and runs her own small business. She is a home organizer with a specialty in helping senior citizens who need to "down size" and move out of their homes of many years. This work requires the business skills of organizing and project planning and the spiritual skills of ministering and listening.

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At Convocation *Continued from page one*

There are lots of things going on in the world to make one feel sad or angry or depressed. The assault weapons ban expired today, the war in Iraq is ever more bloody and violent, violence is spreading in Afghanistan, and our presidential candidates avoid the issues and instead hurl accusations at each other. Sometimes it seems increasingly like every conflict involves religion, and that religious people add heat to conflict instead of contributing to peace as we claim that God intends for us to do.

At moments such as these it is helpful to think about what gives hope and encouragement. As people of faith we can claim together across our many differences that God is our center of hope, that we are hopeful people not because we are in charge, but because we aren't, because God is and God's will somehow manifests itself in the world.

One of the ways that God's will is manifest is through us, people of faith. And seeing you here today - students, faculty, staff alike, is for me, and I think for everyone, a source of hope and fresh new energy. Indeed Hartford Seminary gives us good

reason to be hopeful. Here we gather, people of faith, across many lines that would divide us if we let them - Protestant and Catholic, evangelical, young and old, black and white and yellow and brown, male and female, Muslim, Christian, Jew, people who come from a block away and those who come from half a world away. This is a place that engages and thinks about difference, that encourages encounter of the other, not fear or hatred of the other. This is a place that is sure that at a certain point in our learning, we learn better together across our differences, and not only do we learn about each other, but in learning together we learn more about ourselves and our own traditions than we would if we were learning separately. We don't ignore our differences, we work with and through them, and we are the better for it.

With this kind of approach to learning and to being together, Hartford Seminary is a wonderful and unique place of hope. In a modest way we bring hope not just to ourselves, but through us to a larger world, in the communities and traditions to which we belong and the places in which we find ourselves.

So I welcome you to Hartford Seminary and encourage you, as a Seminary President must, to work hard, to apply yourselves to your studies, to learn well from our excellent faculty. But I also encourage you to get to know and to encounter as many people here as you can, in class and outside of class. I can almost guarantee that over time this place will not only teach you many significant things that pertain to faith in its many dimensions - scripture, history, theology, ethics, congregational studies, dialogue, spirituality and the like, but it will also contribute to your own sense of the positive and creative role religious communities can and must play in our wounded and divided world.

Again, welcome. We are glad you are here, it's good to see you all, to catch up with those we know and to get to know those we don't. Don't be shy, this is your education, and the institution is at your service. Indeed you are an important part of it.

Heidi Hadsell is President of Hartford Seminary

A Student's View *Continued from page 1*

concern was that I would hear something that would change my beliefs. It's funny but after 40 years I finally figured out what I'd been taught all my life. We were instilled with a fear of thinking. Our teachers used scripture and doctrine to discourage us from asking questions. To question was to show unbelief and was therefore blasphemous. You either

you to get through the day. I know... I've done it, know that it works and firmly believe in it. But that doesn't stop me from thinking. That doesn't stop me from asking questions when some of the details don't fit. I think that is what we're supposed to do. I believe that we *should* ask questions. Asking questions helps us grow.

different and we are ALL correct. That excites me. That is what stirs my passion. This is the passion that this class has awakened in me. I learned to listen. I learned to hear what others are trying to say. I don't know everything so if I listen I might learn something more. Later I can decide whether to retain or dismiss all or parts of it but I will never have that

my reason to accept the faith of others. I can think and still be saved. It may sound trivial but that is a tremendous load off my shoulders. For years I have battled with this issue and now feel free to explore God's vastness. I feel I've been given a message of love and forgiveness. We *can* all just get along. We just have to listen and think. Our faith, if it is properly placed, will not change. Our God continues to be our God.

My parent's fears were unfounded. Seminary is not shaking me from me faith. Instead it is refurbishing it. It is refurbishing it. Seminary is taking my weak faith and expanding it to new depths of understanding. Because of this class, I am much better armed to continue on my journey. I have new tools and new ideas. I have learned of new richness in God. God is greater than I once thought!

WOW!

Kevin Ewing is a Master of Arts student at Hartford Seminary

"Seminary is not shaking me from me faith. Instead it is refurbishing it. Seminary is taking my weak faith and expanding it to new depths of understanding. Because of this class, I am much better armed to continue on my journey." - Kevin Ewing

believed it or you didn't. If you did, you were saved. If you didn't, you were damned. No ifs, ands or buts. No questions need be asked. That's the way it is and that is that.

Sounds harsh and trust me, as one who has been both inside and out of this community, it really is harsh. But the other thing I've come to realize is that it works. If you can accept living your life with this blind trust it really will be easier for

I know this seems to be a recurring theme in my reflections in this class (on *Job and Jonah*) but that is what our discussions have brought out in me. As I look around the room and I listen to what we say and how we say it, I see a room of people asking questions. We each have our own unique set of beliefs and I am realizing that we are all pretty much right on target. It is the great mystery of life. We are ALL

opportunity if I don't take a step back and listen.

So as I hand in this final paper and bid adieu to my fellow sojourners one final time, I must admit concern about my grade. But I realize that whatever that outcome my efforts in this class have been successful. I have gained a new confidence. I feel emboldened and reinforced by a new discovery. I can be a child of God, hold on to my faith and still allow

Nieman Named to Faculty of Hartford Seminary



The Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary and President Heidi Hadsell have named The Rev. Dr. James R. Nieman, one of the leading professors of practical theology in the country, to the faculty at Hartford Seminary.

Nieman will be Professor of Practical Theology, effective January 1, 2005. He will join the Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

"I am delighted that Jim Nieman will be joining the

theological education. The innovative directions Hartford has taken over the years and the willingness to support its faculty in those directions is evidence of a healthy institutional environment.

"Second, through the years I have become personally and professionally familiar with several present and past faculty members, during joint teaching or collaborative work on research projects. I have great respect for their

religious engagement and understanding; and the relation between preaching and Christian feasts, seasons, and the occasional rites.

Nieman has a Ph.D. from Emory University in Atlanta and a Master of Divinity from Wartburg. He is author of the forthcoming "Common Signs: Local Practices for the Whole Church" and co-author of "Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies."

Nieman was president of the Association of Practical Theology from 2002 to 2004 and serves on the Board of Directors of the Louisville Institute.

"Jim has a deep commitment to the vitality of congregations, across denominational lines."

- Heidi Hadsell

"I relish the opportunity to serve in a school that brings together contextual, interfaith, and dialogical approaches to being a Christian seminary committed to ministry in and for the world."

- the Rev. Dr. James R. Nieman

faculty at Hartford Seminary," Hadsell said. "Jim is a creative thinker who has shown great skill in working with congregations in America today. He is an excellent scholar who understands how to apply academic skills to analyze practical, every-day issues."

"And Jim has a deep commitment to the vitality of congregations, across denominational lines. He has worked extensively to help faith communities understand what it takes to remain, or become, organizationally vital through liturgy and preaching," Hadsell said.

Since 1992, Nieman has been Professor of Homiletics at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He has directed the Master of Sacred Theology program at the seminary.

When asked why he is coming to Hartford Seminary, Nieman said, "First, the school has a national reputa-

academic acumen and great enjoyment of these folks as delightful and interesting people. Finally, I relish the opportunity to serve in a school that brings together contextual, interfaith, and dialogical approaches to being a Christian seminary committed to ministry in and for the world."

Prior to his academic service, Nieman served as pastor of Inupiaq Lutheran Church in Anchorage, Alaska, and at Zion Lutheran Church in Clayton Center, Iowa, both congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

His areas of specialization are homiletics, rhetoric, practical theology, congregational studies, and ecclesiology. Nieman is currently exploring how local theologies can use critical pedagogies; theories of action that offer a connection between practical theology and other forms of research; seeing religious practices as a point of inter-

At Hartford Seminary, he said, "I hope to give specific attention to three goals for research and teaching that are on the horizon for practical theology today. These are

- (1) clarifying how theological practices can be a place of mutual attention in readiness for and improvement of public ministry;
- (2) exploring how religious practices in various traditions can be a space for interfaith engagement and understanding; and
- (3) nurturing a conversation among various professions (theology, law, medicine, arts, social work, etc.) about how our work intersects in and through human practices."

Outside work, Nieman reads, as he says, "in many different areas beyond theology," and enjoys hiking.

Seminary Receives \$150,000 Pledge for International Students Fund



Carsons Honored: Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, and Jerry Franklin, president of Connecticut Public Television, award a plaque to David E.A. and Sara F. Carson for their donation that made possible the filming of a special documentary on the challenges facing American religion today. The documentary, co-sponsored by the Seminary and CPTV, aired in June.

To promote peacebuilding in countries affected by inter-religious warfare, David E.A. and Sara F. Carson have pledged \$150,000 to inaugurate a matching scholarship program for international students.

Funds in the David E.A. Carson and Sara F. Carson Matching Sponsorship Fund for International Students will be used to recruit international students, primarily Christian pastors and other religious leaders in places such as Indonesia where conflict exists between Christians and Muslims, and provide them scholarship assistance.

The pledge also will serve to motivate other individuals, congregations and foundations to make gifts to the fund.

"Hartford Seminary is honored to receive this generous gift from David and Sara," President Heidi Hadsell said. "We share with the Carsons a commitment to promote peace and to end religious intolerance."

"We have a growing number of Muslim students studying at Hartford Seminary. Now we can recruit Christians to make Hartford Seminary a model for interreligious dialogue," she said.

In her letter thanking the Carsons, Hadsell wrote, "The purpose of this fund is to foster religious understanding,

overcome differences, and encourage young leaders to build bridges of tolerance so that religious warfare will someday cease. Hartford Seminary respects the unique contributions of world religions and encourages students to embrace their faith tradition, clearly articulate their beliefs, and respect the views of others. This Seminary is one of the few safe places in our world for this urgent activity."

Related to the new fund is a Seminary program to encourage congregations in Connecticut to participate in the work of the Seminary. One way they may participate is to host an international student.

Under this program, a congregation would "adopt" an international student while he or she is studying at the Seminary. This would ease the student's entry into a foreign culture and provide a base of support.

"We want to bring together our student body and the congregations that support our work, so that together they may learn from each other and gain greater understanding of the multifith world we live in," Hadsell said. "This will be an opportunity for members of congregations to learn first-hand what is happening in other countries."

Seminary to Receive \$75,000 for Scholarships

Hartford Seminary will receive \$75,000 for scholarships from Söz Publications, as part of a cooperative relationship with a Muslim community made up of followers of Turkish theologian Bediuzzaman Said Nursi

The community has students studying at Hartford Seminary, as well as scholars who have come to the Seminary for sabbatical work.

"I am delighted that we are partnering with this community, which is dedicated to education and deeper understanding of Islam and interfaith relations," Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, said.

Under the Seminary's agreement with Söz Publications, represented by Dr. Faris Kaya and based in Istanbul, the Seminary will provide a matching \$75,000 to create the Said Nursi Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Söz Publications' contribution will be made over three years, beginning July 1, 2004.

The endowed fund is expected to provide partial scholarships for two students at Hartford Seminary. An agree-

ment creating the fund was signed at the 7th International Bediuzzaman Symposium in

Istanbul in October.

Hartford Seminary faculty and students were well represented at this major fall conference on the work of Said Nursi.

Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, delivered one of two keynote addresses on the opening day. Her talk was titled "At the Heart of the Matter: Faith and Belief in the Poetic Imagery of Said Nursi."

"One of Nursi's favorite examples is the comparison between the selfish man and the godly man, the faithful and the faithless," Smith said. "The first he describes as able only to see the negative – the land around him seeming to be a house of mourning, full of enemies, corpses, torment and despair. The Godly man, devout with fine morals, sees the same land as full of rejoicing drumbeat and chanting that God is most great. Their respective visions represent the Zakkum Tree found in the depths of hell, and the Tuba Tree located in the exalted realms of paradise. Belief is like a valuable antique work of art of God, he says, while

unbelief is like brilliant diamonds that have become dull glass. Belief turns man into a king, while unbelief makes him an impotent beast."

"For Said Nursi it is faith that opens our eyes to the reality of the universe, its Maker, and our full participation in it," Smith said.

Delivering inaugural remarks at the opening session were Hadsell; Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations; and Colleen Keyes, a Ph.D. student.

Serving as chairs of conference sessions or delivering papers at the sessions were: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations; Ian Markham, Dean of Hartford Seminary; Hadsell, Keyes, Smith and Landau. Abu-Rabi' chaired the closing session.

The conference was titled "Bringing Faith, Meaning and Peace to Life in a Multicultural World: The Risale-I-Nur's Approach." The sponsor was the Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture. It was held from October 3 through October 5.

Also attending were Seminary students Ayat Agah, Kemal Argon, Suendam Birinci and Guat Kwee See.

Scholarship Fund Transfers to Hartford Seminary

When Lizzie Dolbeare died in 1963 at the age of 78, after a lifetime of hard work as a housekeeper and practical nurse, she wanted to leave a legacy in honor of her Christian ideals.

Dolbeare asked a cousin to use a part of her small estate to support the clergy. With the help of the New London, CT, Council of Churches, the cousin established the Lizzie Dolbeare Scholarship Fund. Ever since, the fund's trustees have awarded scholarships to applicants who are studying for full-time church-related vocations.

Now the trustees have decided to turn over management of the fund to Hartford Seminary, in accordance with its bylaws.

On November 1, the Seminary's Board of Trustees voted to accept management of the fund. The Seminary will use the earnings of the fund to award an annual Lizzie Dolbeare Memorial Scholarship.

It is Dolbeare's life of service in Connecticut's New London County that makes the fund special. In a working life that started when she was about 20, she served as a nurse at Norwich State Hospital and a Norwich children's home. After two decades, she switched to home nursing and home care.

Throughout her life, she remained a devout Christian. "It was, I believe, the one immutable element in her life," her cousin,

Francis H. Hunt, told the New London Day newspaper.

It was Hunt who received her \$12,000 bequest for clergy education, and who set up the scholarship fund, which now is valued at about \$20,000. Since it was established, about 120 clergy have received scholarships.

Now it will be Hartford Seminary that determines who, each year, will benefit from the Christian commitment of Lizzie Dolbeare.



Faculty Notes



Efrain Agosto submitted the manuscript for his book, "Jesus and Paul: Models of Leadership in the New Testament" on September 8, after a busy summer of putting together

the final touches. Chalice Press expects to publish it next fall. In October, Agosto traveled to Pittsburgh for a consultation on Hispanic/Latino/a Theological Education sponsored by the Association of Theological Schools. He offered the opening worship at this first-time gathering of some 85 Latino and Latina professors of ATS seminaries. Later that month, Agosto attended a conference on the New Testament in the context of the Roman Empire at Union Seminary in New York City. During that conference, Efrain moderated the conversation of a research group on Paul and Empire. At the Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature in November, held in San Antonio, Agosto presided over a discussion of a documentary film on African Americans and the Bible presented by the new Institute for Signifying Scriptures (Claremont Graduate University). He also presented a paper on a postcolonial and Latino reading of Paul's letter to the Philippians during a panel discussion on Latino Biblical Hermeneutics. Throughout the fall, Agosto served on the search committee for three new regional ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Steven Blackburn has continued preaching in Congregational-Christian and Unitarian-Universalist churches and congregations in the tri-state (CT, NY, NJ) region. In addition, his reviews on new publications in the field of Islam are being published in venues such as the American Library Association's journal, *Choice*.

Jackson Carroll, Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor Emeritus of Religion and Society at Duke Divinity School, has been named the 2004 distinguished alumnus at Duke Divinity School. Carroll was professor of religion and society at Hartford Seminary from 1974 to 1993 and co-founder of the Center for Social and Religious Research, now known as the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

Carl Dudley shared a time of reminiscence and reflection with Robert Lynn, formerly vice president of the Lilly Endowment, and Loren Mead, formerly director of the Alban Institute, in September. Also in September, Dudley participated in the Peacemaking Conference with the moderator of the Presbyterian Church at Stony Point, NY. He was the keynote speaker for the

Northeast Wee Kirk Conference in Pittsburgh in October and taught at the Clergy Leadership Conference of Trinity Church, Wall Street, in November.

Over the Labor Day weekend, **Heidi Hadsell** attended the annual meeting of the Islamic Society of North America in Chicago. In September, she delivered a paper, titled "The Teacher and the Prophet: Theological Education in the Light of Public Theology," at a conference on public religion honoring Professor Henry Mottu at the University of Geneva. In October, Hadsell attended and delivered inaugural remarks at the 7th International Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Symposium in Istanbul. She also participated in two consultations — a World Alliance of Reformed Churches - Roman Catholic dialogue in Venice and a meeting of the World Council of Churches on religious plurality and Christian self-understanding in Geneva — and spoke at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Committee on Interreligious Understanding, held at Hartford Seminary. Her topic was "The Challenge of Interreligious Relations."

Yehezkel Landau was in Israel from mid-September to mid-October, meeting with interfaith educators and co-existence activists there, including the staff of Open House in Ramle, the peace education center he helped found in 1991. Landau delivered a lecture on "The Land in Jewish Tradition" to a group of Danish pastors at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem and spoke about Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations to rabbinical and cantorial students at the Jerusalem campus of Hebrew Union College. From October 3 to 5, he was in Istanbul, delivering a paper entitled "Bediuzzaman Said Nursi's Life and Legacy: A Jewish Appreciation," at an international symposium sponsored by the Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture. On October 21, he was interviewed by CBS News for a TV documentary on religion and violence that is scheduled to air on December 19. Also in October, Landau participated in a panel discussion on "Sharing the Holiness of Jerusalem" at Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, and delivered the first of two lectures on Jewish tradition at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford. Twice in October and twice in November, he spoke at interfaith *iftar* celebrations, at the West Springfield, MA, mosque, twice at Wesleyan University, and in Cromwell, CT. Landau was in Hanover, NH, Nov. 5 – 8 as Sabbath Scholar-in-Residence for the Dartmouth Hillel Association and as guest speaker at a public event on Middle East peace and justice issues sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church. Also in November, he spoke on "Reclaiming Prophetic Ministry" at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford and was keynote speaker at a public interfaith forum in Lenox, MA,

on "Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations Since 9/11." Later that month, Landau delivered a lecture on "A Religious Zionist Peace Perspective" in a course on the Middle East at the Manhattan Marymount Center for Living and Learning in New York City and spoke at the annual Hartford Prayer Breakfast, whose theme was "Healing Relationships, Globally and Locally,"

Worth Loomis spoke to members of St. James Episcopal Church in New York City on the findings of the Faith Communities Today project, and attended the two day 6th Annual Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance, as well as a special dinner for visiting French members of the Society of the Cincinnati. He joined the committee that is seeking National Park Landmark Status for the Colt Factory and Coltsville site in Hartford. Loomis was one of the panelists on business ethics, meeting as part of the Yale Berkeley Divinity School's celebration of the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury. He met with the head of the Goodrich-Gannet Social Settlement in Cleveland, where he was formerly Board Chair. Loomis was a panelist at Williams College on the subject of business ethics, and spoke at the Memorial Service at St. John's Church, West Hartford, for Marjorie Anderson, the long time and much admired head of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut. Loomis also spoke at the annual 2004 Securities Forum of the Connecticut Department of Banking as part of a panel on the subject of "Promoting Ethical Conduct Through Risk Management."

Between August 1 and November 1, **Adair Lummis** gave papers at professional meetings in San Francisco and in Kansas City, also serving as an elected Council member of the Association for the Sociology of Religion and as an elected Board member of the Religious Research Association. She was also an invited participant in a conference on clergy dropouts and forced-outs from pastoral ministry sponsored by the Pastors Institute and funded by the Louisville Institute held in Indianapolis.

Ian Markham won the Course Proposal Prize for developing links between faith and culture as awarded by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. In December, he delivered the Teape Lectures, a University of Cambridge endowed lecture series in India. The theme was "Dialogue Done Differently." Speaking engagements in the late summer and fall included: moderator of a panel at Duncaster retirement community, Bloomfield, CT, on "Gay Marriage" in September; presentation of a paper on "Truth and Toleration" at the 7th International Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Symposium in Istanbul in October; adult education at St. John's, West Hartford,

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Monroe Elected Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Monroe, a Doctor of Ministry graduate at Hartford Seminary, has been elected the A.M.E. Zion Church's presiding bishop for West Africa.

Monroe had been pastor of Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in Hartford for 10 years. He received his D.Min. degree in October 2003.

Monroe will be based in Ghana. He will oversee

469 churches, 461 secondary schools, a hospital and two universities in a district that includes the countries of Ghana, Togo, Liberia and Ivory Coast.

Monroe was elected bishop at the national A.M.E. Zion conference in North Carolina in August. He left for Ghana three months ago.

Continued from previous page

on "Faith and Doubt" in October; a course in the Senior Academy at Duncaster on "Ethics in the 21st Century" in October; and chair of a panel on the "Said Nursi Achievement" at the annual American Academy of Religion conference in San Antonio in November. Markham published a review of Stephen Eric Bronner's "A Rumor About the Jews: Anti-Semitism, Conspiracy, and the Protocols of Zion" in *Conversations in Religion and Theology*, November 2004.

After months of discussion, **Ingrid Mattson** has arranged for award-winning documentary filmmaker Danny Alpert of The Kindling Group to include Hartford Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy program in a documentary about seminarians entitled "The Calling." Alpert will follow new Islamic Chaplaincy student Sohaib Sultan as he works his way through the program. Over Labor Day weekend, Mattson participated in the 42nd annual meeting of the Islamic Society of North America, of which she is the elected Vice President, in Chicago. In September, Mattson participated in a consultation in Washington, D.C., organized by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Arab and Muslim leaders and civil rights and security specialists discussed "Reframing the Challenge of Migration and Security." Mattson also gave a presentation in New York City where the SSRC, working with the New York Times Company Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation organized a week-long workshop for journalists on "Islam and Muslims in America." At the Seminary, Mattson offered a seminar on Islamic law to Connecticut judges. Other presentations Mattson has given this fall include, "Eating in the Name of God," at a conference on faith and food at North Park Seminary, "Kitchener in Dongola" at the Nawawi Foundation's roundtable on "Race and Ethnicity in Muslim America," and "The Spiritual

Athleticism of Ramadan" at Sacramento State University. Mattson also gave presentations at Westminster School (Simsbury) and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, NH).

In the past academic year, **Wayne Rollins**, Adjunct Professor of Scripture, has been busy speaking and preaching in several Connecticut churches. In a Wednesday evening forum at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, he spoke on "Jesus, Scholars, and You," pointing to new directions in thinking about the "Jesus Quest" as it relates to all of us. His reflections on this topic have been published in two essays in *Pastoral Psychology* (July, 2003), focusing on the work of New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan. Rollins also contributed to a four volume work, *The Destructive Power of Religion: Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, (2003) with an essay on "The Myth of Redemptive Violence vs. the Myth of Redemptive Love: Commentary on Walter Wink's *The Powers That Be*." His review article of Wink's path-breaking work, "The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of the Man," appeared in *Crosscurrents* (Summer, 2003), a topic to which he returned in a paper surveying Wink's work from 1973-2003, delivered at the national Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Atlanta in November 2003. Rollins also published a book review of "Depth Psychology Interpretation and the Bible: An Ontological Essay on Freud," by Brian Polka in *Studies in Religion/ Science Religieuses* (March 2003).

Jane Smith published "Women's Issues in American Islam," in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review, Festschrift for Rosemary Skinner Keller 57/3-4* (2003). Among her lectures and conferences were: Commission on Interfaith Relations of the National Council of Churches, New York City, September 9-11; lecture on "At the Heart of the Matter: Faith and Belief in the Poetic Imagery of Said Nursi," at the 7th International

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Symposium in Istanbul, October 1-6; lecture on "Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Present Realities and Future Possibilities," at St. John's Church, West Hartford, October 17; "Understanding Islam," a workshop for teachers, University of Massachusetts, October 16; "In Crisis Mode: American Muslims and the Challenge of Extremism," George Mangold Memorial Lecture at Saugatuck Congregational Church, Westport, CT, October 17; and "Training Muslims for Chaplaincy at Hartford Seminary," Middle East Studies Association, San Francisco, November 21.

In August, **Cynthia Woolever** presented on "Responsive Congregational Identity: Identity Strength and Diversity as Correlates of Vitality" to the Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting in San Francisco. Her September activities included: presentation to Consultation on Pastoral Leadership Research, *Pulpit & Pew* project, Duke University; presentation to the General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville; and workshop and presentation to the Indianapolis Center For Congregations, Connecting to Our Strengths Project, Indianapolis. In October, Woolever spoke on "What Difference Does Context Make? Congregational Vitality and Geography" at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting in Kansas City and participated in a Lilly Endowment Web Consultation in Louisville. In November, she was a participant at the annual meeting of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies in Providence and presented on congregational vitality to the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ in Boston. Woolever also hosted Robert Dixon, Director of Research for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, collaborating on research with him.



Pastor Talbert W. Swan, II (BMP, '98), pastor of Solid Rock Church of God in Christ, Indian Orchard, MA, has edited *Closing the Closet: Testimonies of Deliverance from Homosexuality*, published by Trumpet in Zion Publishing (July 2004). *Closing the Closet* is a 26-chapter book detailing the testimonies of 23 people who previously led a homosexual lifestyle and now say that God has transformed their lives so that they could leave a gay life.

Delegates to the Biennial Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of New York State have elected the **Rev. Dr. Mark S. Caruana**, a 2003 graduate of the Doctor of Ministry program, to a two-year term as the organization's President. The American Baptist Churches of New York State is one of thirty-six constituent regions of the 1.5 million member American Baptist Churches/USA. Dr. Caruana is the pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in downtown Utica, New York. Pastor Caruana has served the Tabernacle congregation since May 1999.

Theology Tapes Available

It has been my privilege as a Masters and doctoral graduate of Hartford Seminary to highlight some of its faculty, staff and visiting lecturers on my public access television series "Voices in the Wilderness," which airs across Connecticut. While most of these shows are filmed and aired in the West Hartford, CT, Community Television studio there are events that necessitate taping on location. Filming outside the studio does not offer the surety of sound control and varied camera shots. These have to be sacrificed, however, not to miss the opportunity to interview people who are on the cutting edge in the areas of theology, spirituality, religion, ecumenism, racism, sexism and homosexuality.

One such circumstance was in April 2004 when I interviewed Dr. Ted Jennings of Chicago Theological Seminary, who came to Hartford Seminary to speak about his latest book, "The Man Jesus Loved." It was shortly after that when David Barrett, director of public and institutional affairs, asked if I would be interested in interviewing the three visiting theologians who would be teaching during Summer Session in June. They were Bishop John Shelby Spong, Dr. Marcus Borg and Rev. Dr. Keith Ward. I answered, "yes," and now those three shows – A Conversation with Bishop Spong, A Conversation with Dr. Marcus Borg, and Conversations with Dr. Ian Markham and Dr. Keith Ward – have been completed and will be seen in the new year on WHC-TV and on other public access stations that cover 100 towns and cities in Connecticut.

It was after my Theology/Spirituality Group saw the three shows that they suggested that there might be an interest by others who are leading church forums, reading groups, etc. to have one, two or all three of these 30-minute VHS tapes. I will make them available with short biographies and questions for discussion for just the cost of production and mailing. For more information please email me: lbj4761@aol.com with "Re: Voices in the Wilderness" in the subject line.

*Pastor Lorraine J. Bouffard, Producer
Voices in the Wilderness*

In Memoriam

The Hartford Seminary community lost the following beloved members recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their friends and families.

Dr. Clarine Coffin Grenfell ('38 B.Div.), 93, of Orland, Maine, died September 7. Dr. Grenfell was known as an inspiring and creative teacher from her first teaching position at the age of 17 until her retirement at age 69. Dr. Grenfell taught in high schools in Maine and Connecticut and kept life-long relationships with many students.

After retirement, Dr. Grenfell began a small publishing house, publishing books by Maine authors, inspirational books, and her own memoirs and poetry. She was the author of *The Caress and the Hurt*, *Women My Husband Married*, *A Backward Look*, and *Roses in December*.

Dr. Grenfell was an active churchwoman, supply pastor, and licensed local preacher in the United Methodist Church. Dr. Grenfell preached when young and later conducted many weddings and funerals as well as teaching in Christian education programs and writing and directing church plays and pageants.

Dr. Grenfell is survived by her son, the Rev. Dr. John Millard Grenfell, and his wife, the Rev. Linda Littlefield Grenfell of Plainville, MA; and by her two daughters, the Rev. Lornagrace Grenfell Stuart, and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Robert O. Stuart, of Frenchboro, ME, and Pamela Grenfell Smith, with her husband, Eliot R. Smith, of Bloomington, IN.

The Rev. Alexander McElroy Roy, 90, of College Hill, OH, died September 5, 2004. Born of missionary parents in Egypt, Rev. Roy was known to most as "Mac." A graduate of Muskingum College in Ohio in 1935, Rev. Roy went on to attain an M.Div. from Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary in 1938. He later attended a yearlong missionary program at Hartford Seminary.

Rev. Roy and his family spent 21 years in Sudan working primarily with the Nuer tribe in the Upper Nile Province, concentrating on pastoral, educational, and translation work. In 1964 Rev. Roy and his family went to Kenya briefly when all foreigners were expelled from Sudan and traveled on to Ohio where Rev. Roy was pastor of Venice Presbyterian Church. Rev. Roy went on to serve other churches in Ohio.

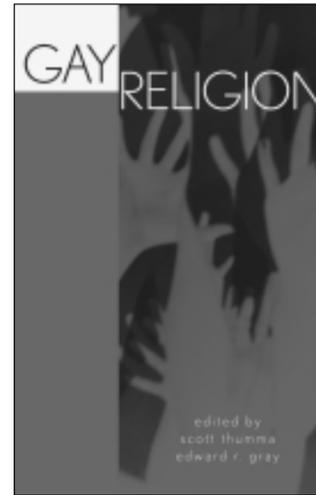
Rev. Roy is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lois Roy; a son, William Roy of Eugene, OR; and a daughter, Cynthia Roy of Providence, RI.

Rev. Irvin (Sherm) Gagnon, 55, of Meriden, CT, died July 28th, 2004. Rev. Gagnon was a Doctor of Ministry student at Hartford Seminary.

Born Jan. 8, 1949, in Fort Kent, Maine, Rev. Gagnon received a B.A. from Niagara University in 1971, and attended the Instituto Mexicano-Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales. He was received into the Episcopal Church from the Roman Catholic Church and ordained a Priest in 1983. That same year he married his wife, Diane, and began his ministry in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. He went to Texas in 1988 as Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Eagle Pass and became active in Hispanic ministry there. He joined the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1991 and became the first Chairman of the World Mission Committee. He was Rector of St. Christopher's, Fort Worth, before returning to the East Coast.

At the time of his death, Rev. Gagnon, was priest-in-charge of All Saints Church in Meriden where he was known for his work with the Hispanic community.

Fr. Gagnon is survived by his wife, Diane and their four children, Nathaniel, Anthony, Bethany, and Christopher.



Faculty Member Edits Book on Gay Religion

Conflicts over homosexuality and gay rights threaten to break apart denominations. These heated theological and political debates have obscured the fact that many gays are religiously active individuals.

Now Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion at Hartford Seminary, has joined with Edward R. Gray, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Emory University, to edit a new book, "Gay Religion," that is the first book to offer a straightforward presentation of the spiritual lives, practices and expressions of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals.

"Gay Religion" is published by AltaMira Press and is available at the Hartford Seminary bookstore. You can call or write for a copy to be shipped to you (860-509-9527 or Bookstore@hartsem.edu).

Drawing from a wide range of religious traditions, scholars explore the range of gay religious expression in denominations, sects and other religious institutions. The essays in "Gay Religion" ask what these religious innovations means to the continually evolving religious environment of North America.

The book has sections on denominational heritage expressions, sectarian expressions and popular expressions, with a conclusion on gay religion as a cultural production.

Scott Thumma will discuss the topic of "Gay Religion" and sign copies of the book at a special evening April 14 at Hartford Seminary. Call 860-509-9555 or write events@hartsem.edu to register.

New Staff

Three new staff members have joined the Hartford Seminary community recently.



Robert (Bobby) Dukes of East Hartford is the new Technology Support Assistant, working with Scott Thumma, professor of sociology of religion and director of institutional

technology. Bobby has more than 25 years of experience in Information Technology as a network engineer, software engineer and associate engineer for companies such as Mass Mutual, Pfizer, and Priceline.com. He has many certifications from Microsoft and is knowledgeable in networking, database administration, software design, website administration and help desk customer support. Bobby attended the University of Connecticut, and is seeking additional engineer certifications at The Computer Education Services in Bloomfield, CT. He is also a Microsoft & Cisco Partner, and vice president of Tolo Networks, a network-computer consulting company that specializes in assisting non-profit organizations. In his spare time, Bobby enjoys tennis, chess, classical movies and outdoor events.



Alisa Dzananovic of Newington is the new Communications Assistant, working with David Barrett, director of public and institutional affairs.

Alisa is a senior at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. She is majoring in International Studies, with a minor in Psychology. In her junior year, she organized a forum titled "Empowerment through Pennies: Economic Development of Women." Alisa is the founder and chair of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation for the United Nations Association of Greater Hartford. Previously she was a member service representative at Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union in Hartford, an intern at the Famine Early Warning System Network (where she researched the interrelationship between markets and vulnerability in Africa) and an administrative assistant at a Summer Institute on International and Political Studies. Alisa is tri-lingual; besides English, she speaks German and Serbo-Croatian. She is originally from Bosnia.



Triem Trong "Vincent" Vu of West Hartford is the new Assistant to the Registrar, working with Karen Rollins, registrar. Vincent is a student at Capital

Community College in Hartford; after he graduates, he will continue his studies at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford. Vincent also is a receptionist and clerical assistant at Goodwill Industries in Hartford and an interpreter in the West Hartford Public Schools. Vincent is a frequent public speaker and fundraiser, traveling to Catholic parishes to raise money to benefit the poor and lepers of Vietnam. Vincent is a refugee from Vietnam. When the Vietnamese Communists assumed control of the country in 1975, Vincent, as a captain in the South Vietnam Army, was placed in a prison camp. He was released four years later, but watched closely. He had to report to district police weekly and survived by trading recycled items and teaching English secretly. Finally, in 1989, he managed to escape on a wooden sailboat only 10 yards long. He left his relatives behind, and says, "It was a sorrowful separation but I left home for freedom and human dignity."



Hartford Seminary's January Intersession will run from Monday, January 10 through Friday, January 14. The Winter/Spring 2005 semester begins on Monday, January 24 and ends on Monday, May 2. The Seminary's courses are open to members of the public on a space-available basis and carry three graduate level credits. Individuals who do not wish to

take courses for credit may apply to take courses as an auditor. Many classes fill up quickly, so participants are urged to register early to ensure a place in their courses of choice. For those enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$1,265. The non-credit audit fee is \$575. A special audit fee of \$385 for those who are age 62 and older also is available.

To register, please contact the Registrar's Office at (860) 509-9511. Her e-mail is registrar@hartsem.edu. To see specific course syllabi prior to the semester or learn more about Hartford Seminary and its faculty, visit our website: www.hartsem.edu.

January Intersession

Realities of Chaplaincy in Various Settings

Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This course will introduce students to differences, commonalities and nuances involved with chaplaincy work in various institutional settings such as hospitals, local, state, and federal prisons, college campuses, and long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes and hospices). Emphasis will be placed on understanding the pastoral needs of clients in each setting, how to assess the institutional strengths and limitations in various settings and how to effectively serve in the unique setting each kind of institution presents. *Ahmed Nezar Kobeisy, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Counselor and Muslim Chaplain, Syracuse University*

Building Abrahamic Partnerships

Sunday, January 9 – Sunday, January 16

This course will build on Hartford Seminary's strengths as an interfaith, dialogical school of practical theology. It will provide resources for Jews, Christians and Muslims who seek a solid foundation in interfaith ministry. The course will educate participants about the beliefs and practices of all three faith traditions and help them acquire pastoral skills for interfaith ministry. (Program made possible by grants from the William and Mary Greve Foundation and the Alan B. Slifka Foundation.) This session of Building Abrahamic Partnerships is designed primarily for seminarians and others with limited experience in interfaith ministry. It will be an intensive experience beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. on January 9th and ending with dinner on January 16th. *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations and guest presenters*

Winter/Spring Semester

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spirituality and Work

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 27

Can one's spirituality make a difference at work? This course addresses this question by examining the spirituality in the workplace movement and the developing field of management,

spirituality and religion. Management readings, class exercises, and guest speakers will address pertinent subjects including personal values and authenticity, leadership, teamwork, and working with change. In particular, spiritual virtues will be used as a focus for reflection, analysis and processing of personal work and life experiences. The objective will be to learn how to better relate one's spiritual perspective with the demands of work. *Karen Manz, Adjunct Professor of Spirituality and author and educator in the field of spirituality and worklife*

Religion and Art: The Resonance between Religious and Aesthetic Experience

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning February 2 and ending May 4

This course will bring theories of religious and aesthetic experience together with an examination of how religious practice and artistic practice are both, ultimately, articulations of faith. Readings examining the theories and the histories of religious experience (from Kant and Scheleirmacher to Neibhur, Taylor and Bryson) will be combined with an examination of the work of a number of contemporary artists. Central to the course will be understanding that religious and artistic practices are rigorous and exacting. Visits to museums, galleries and artists' studios will be critical parts of the course. *Stephen Holmes, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Society and Director of Visual Arts, Real Art Ways, Hartford*

'Is This To Be Believed?': Religion and Conspiracy Theories

Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 25

Did the Roman Catholic Church deliberately suppress the marriage of Jesus to Mary Magdalene and did they have children? Who exactly organized the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11? Did the British Establishment deliberately have Princess Diana killed because they couldn't tolerate the thought of the mother of a King being married to a Muslim? Was Proctor and Gamble under the control of a Satanist cult? These stories are a challenge to the dominant narrative. In this course, we look at the power of story as a vehicle for transmitting faith values; in addition, we examine the nature of these stories (the ways in which they develop and capture the imagination of groups of people), the numbers of those who find them plausible, and the underlying explanations at the social, political, and economic levels for such stories. *Ian Markham, Professor of Theology and Ethics and Dean of Hartford Seminary*

ARTS OF MINISTRY

Reclaiming the Art of Preaching

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 25, February 15, March 8, April 5 and April 26

This course invites students who are or have been preaching regularly to discern their current style and context for preaching as well as explore new models and possibilities. Students will read current literature in homiletics and have opportunities to preach in class. *Benjamin K. Watts, Faculty Associate in the Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London*

ETHICS

Accountability: Business and Non-Profit Ethics in a World of Globalization

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 25

This course explores practical and theological issues involved in making ethical decisions in business and daily life. We will examine the larger socio-economic issues in the U.S. and world political economy through

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reading several recent and provocative books, while focusing on how faith and ethics can inform decision-making in the day-to-day world of organizations. Case materials, including student experiences, will be used together with readings in theology, economics and ethics. *Worth Loomis, Professor of Faith and Public Life, and Michael Rion, Adjunct Professor of Ethics and Principal, Resources for Ethics and Management*

HISTORY

Major Historical Figures: Edward Said

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 25

This course deals with Edward Said's fascinating intellectual legacy, which comprises literary, political, and religious issues. Said's classic work *Orientalism* launched him to fame the year it was published in 1978. This important work was followed by others that are no less outstanding, such as *Covering Islam, Culture and Imperialism, and Humanism and Democratic Criticism*. The course will systemically discuss Said's *oeuvre* in relation to such issues as orientalism, Islam and the West, literature and religion, the Palestine-Israeli conflict, secularism, humanism, religion and culture, imperialism, neo-colonialism and the contemporary United States. *Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

Islam in America and Western Europe

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 26

This course considers the historical and current realities of Muslims in the West, including the rise and development of Islamic institutions and forms of leadership, Muslim worship and devotional life, Islamic education and the range of issues involved in living as Muslims in western society. *Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

A History of Jewish Christian (Mis) Understanding

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 27

For most of the past two thousand years, the relationship between Christians and Jews has been a stormy one. During the past two generations, these two peoples, however, have achieved an ever-greater understanding of one another and the prospect for the future is promising. This course will trace that history and examine areas of new understanding and continuing disagreement. (Co-sponsored with the Jewish Chautauqua Society) *Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Adjunct Professor of Interfaith Relations and Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford*

LITURGY, WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

Maidservants of Allah: The Spirituality of Muslim Women

Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 26

In this class we will explore the spirituality of Muslim women past and present. We will begin with a study of the lives of female companions of the Prophet Muhammad. How did their concerns and perspectives affect the process of revelation and the spiritual development of the early Muslim community? Over the centuries, what roles did women play in the establishment of religious institutions and spiritual orders? What challenges have Muslim women faced in fulfilling their spiritual needs? What forms does female spiritual leadership take across diverse Muslim societies and cultures? Wise scholars, Medieval saints and contemporary Qur'an reciters will be our guests in chronicles and in person as we share in the spirituality of Muslim women. *Ingrid Mattson, Professor of Islamic Studies and*

Christian-Muslim Relations

Holiness in Time and Space: A Jewish Approach to Spirituality

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., beginning January 27

The Jewish people are called to consecrate both time and space, the two pillars of a this-worldly spirituality. After an introduction to Jewish identity and vocation, the focus will shift to the Sabbath and other Jewish holy days. The metaphysical dimension of these holy times will be examined along with the behavioral norms and rituals associated with the festivals. Next, the sacred dimension of space/place/land will be addressed. The political disputes over holy places and cities in Israel/Palestine will be considered from a spiritual perspective linking the Jewish experience with Christian and Muslim sensibilities. (Co-sponsored with the Jewish Chautauqua Society) *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

SACRED SCRIPTURE

New Testament Survey

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 26

This course introduces the student to the study of the origins of Christianity by means of its canonical literature, the New Testament. We will undertake a historical study of the New Testament documents, seeking to understand their plan, origin, purpose and content within their broader historical and cultural context. Appropriate interpretive method for each genre of the New Testament will be discussed. We will also seek to clarify the theological message of each document in light of its historical circumstances. *Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament*

Leadership in the New Testament: A Case Study Approach

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 25, February 15, March 8, April 5 and April 26

This course will explore the writings about Jesus and the letters of Paul as models for the theology and practices of leadership in earliest Christian communities. The case study method will be introduced as a means of biblical interpretation for ministry as well as a way of mining the gospel tradition and Paul's letters for understanding the role of leaders in these ancient faith communities. How these learnings inform the practice of leadership and ministry today constitutes a major focus of the course. *Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament*

The Hebrew Prophets: Grounding for Faith and Ministry

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

More than any other figures in the ancient world, the prophets of Israel helped to define and strengthen the covenantal bond between the people and God. They were not simply seers or social critics; they were extraordinary poets, theologians, and public educators. Their oral exhortations, preserved in written form, continue to inspire and challenge us today. How can the Hebrew prophets, revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims, help us forge a common ethical foundation for our personal and public lives? This course will examine various dimensions of Biblical prophecy. (Co-sponsored with the Jewish Chautauqua Society) *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

THEOLOGY

Thinking About Religion in the 21st Century

This course will be at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, Farmington, CT, Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., on Jan. 24 and 31, Feb. 7, 14 and 28, March 7, 14 and 21 and April 4. The final session on April 11 will be at

Continued on page 14

Hartford Seminary.

This course will provide anyone interested in the dynamic of religion in the modern world the opportunity to explore a select set of themes surrounding pluralism, modernity, and congregational life. *Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President of Hartford Seminary, will lead the course; other Hartford Seminary core faculty will teach individual seasons.*

Theology of Popular Culture

ONLINE, beginning January 24

This course will explore various theological and religious meanings that are carried in popular culture, and specifically in phenomena that are not ordinarily thought of as religious. Through reading several “theologians of culture,” we will examine contemporary novels, films, music, television, and tourism with the intent of developing ways to discern transcendent longings, anxieties, and visions of good and evil that operate below the surface of our common cultural life in the U.S. *Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics*

Doctor of Ministry Degree Awarded

To: The Reverends
Kathryn McLain Titus &
Larry Allen Titus

At: The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, Medford, MA, November 7, 2004

[Editor's Note: In a rare ceremony, Hartford Seminary awarded simultaneous Doctor of Ministry degrees to The Revs. Kathryn M. Titus and Larry A. Titus, in front of their congregation in Medford, MA. These are excerpts of the remarks delivered at the conferral.]

Members and friends of The Congregational Church of West Medford, it is a pleasure to be with you. It is a special pleasure to share in your experience of God this morning. It is a double pleasure to represent Hartford Seminary to confer the degree of Doctor of Ministry on two of your pastors.

One of the unique things about Hartford Seminary is that we do not offer a Master of Divinity degree, which prepares persons for ordination. Rather, we are committed to the continuing education of those already in ministry, lay and ordained. One implication of this is that our focus is on the practice of ministry in those ministries setting to which God has called our students. To symbolize this commitment it is our practice to confer our degrees not on our campus in Hartford; but rather to confer it in those settings where ministry takes place, where in God's meeting houses such as this we are called first to meet God, then to meet each other in God's name, and then to carry forth our experience of God into the world.

As a degree for clergy already in ministry one of the purposes of Hartford

Urban Mission in the 21st Century

Special Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., on April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 and Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Maintaining a creative and faithful witness in the city represents a significant challenge to the urban church, particularly when suburban congregations seem to have all the advantages. In this course we look at the pressures on urban ministry and examine a range of strategies from prayer to partnerships that can reinvigorate urban mission. The course will be of help to all those who wish to promote a more effective role for the Church in the contemporary city. *Rod Garner, Adjunct Professor of Urban Ministry and Diocesan Theological Consultant, Diocese of Liverpool, United Kingdom*

Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program is to renew our student's grounding in the Word of God and in the experience of the Holy Spirit. Another purpose is to help our students examine their practice of ministry. And still another purpose is to stretch oneself toward new depths of faithful and effective congregational leadership. Among the means toward the latter, our student's are invited to do a dissertation that includes the design of a ministry project and then the actual implementation of the ministry project...



Larry A. Titus and Kathryn M. Titus stand with their children and Hartford Seminary Professor David Roozen, after they receive their Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Seminary.

Larry's dissertation project was creating your congregation's website. How many of you have ever been on the website — www.cwm-medford.org? How many of you are regular users? It seems like such a trendy thing for a church to have, and perhaps even a little out of place for a congregation that just turned a hundred and fifty years old. But it is one of the better church websites you will run across according to a website that rates such things. More importantly I hope that you all appreciate the theological depth that lies behind it, and the continuity of this theological purpose across your long history...

Now some of you may have observed, as I have, that Kathryn appears to represent a wonderful “yin” to Larry's “yan,” and vice versa. And so it also seems to be in regard to their D.Min. projects — for

what could be more oppositionally complementary to the high tech “yin” of Larry's website, than the 2000 year old “yan” of Kathryn's Christian Labyrinth. How many of you have walked the labyrinth in your fellowship hall?

There is a wonderful new book out titled, *The Practicing Congregation: Imaging A New Old Church*, by Diana Butler Bass. In fact, Larry, it would probably be a good idea to put a review of it on the church's website. What makes the book so delectably readable and inspiring is that it weaves together a collection of stories about congregations, congregations such as yours, that have reclaimed ancient Christian practices, practices such as your Labyrinth, as a vehicle of spiritual renewal. And the book weaves together these stories with a serious theological argument. The argument: that such retraditioning or reclaiming of traditional Christian practices may well constitute, and I quote, “the most faithful and most hopeful possibility for renewal, vitality, growth, and spiritual and theological deepening [in mainline Protestantism today].”

Technology and Tradition — that you may better experience and express God's peace. You have been doubly blessed! And perhaps therefore you can appreciate the special sense of pride and privilege I felt in serving as their faculty advisor. And it is with this same sense of pride and privilege that I am here today to celebrate Kathryn and Larry's accomplishment with you. In this hour and in this place and in the presence of God, Praise be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of Kathryn and Larry's ministry among you.

*Dr. David A. Roozen
Director, Hartford Institute
For Religion Research
Professor of Religion and Society
Hartford Seminary*

Sustaining Fund Supports Students



Did you know that your gift to the Sustaining Fund supports students at Hartford Seminary? Your gifts help provide urgently needed financial assistance to deserving students. The typical Hartford Seminary student pays approximately 55% of

the cost of his or her education, leaving 45% to be funded by other sources. Your financial support is critical in providing an educational experience that fosters understanding and dialogue among our diverse student body.

Hartford Seminary encourages a tradition of diversity, knowing the richness it brings to our community life and our faith communities at large. Our students come to seminary representing a rainbow of cultures and economic life. Through diversity, our Seminary family — students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni/ae and friends — share a common commitment to living faithfully in our world today.

This fiscal year (July 1, 2004 — June 30, 2005) the goal of the Sustaining Fund is \$300,000, which is essential to the ongoing work of Hartford Seminary, ensuring our ability to continue to pro-

vide excellent theological education. The Sustaining Fund is important to the life of the Seminary to support students and to sustain programs that inspire our students, alumni/ae and friends to enrich their lives and their faith communities.

If you would like to contribute or increase your contribution, please contact Jennifer Schimmel, Director of Annual Giving, at (860) 509-9520 or giving@hartsem.edu. A generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, will match any new gift or gift increase dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000, so we would be grateful if you help us meet this challenge grant.

Seminary Sells Rare Manuscript

Hartford Seminary has sold at auction a single page of a Qur'an (shown at right) that dates to the late eighth or early ninth century.

Sotheby's conducted the auction, which took place in London in October. The winning bid was 45,000 pounds, with the Seminary expecting to net \$75,700.

The page is part of Surah Hud (11: 82-94) of the Qur'an. It is one of only two pages remaining from this Qur'an; the other page is housed at the Vatican.

The manuscript is written in a style of script called Kufic, which means not only that the style originated in Kufah, now part of Iraq, but that the document itself is in such an antiquated style that its legibility is problematic.

The Sotheby's catalogue for the auction says of fragments like this page, “The earliest Qur'an fragments which have filtered down to the present day through the ages are few and far between, their rarity and scarcity make them fascinating objects of historical documentation bringing new evidence to the scanty information available on these earliest scripts and manuscripts.”

Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, said, “We do not have the proper climate-controlled facilities to preserve such a rare, historic document, so we believe that good stewardship calls on us to sell those items that require special preservation.”

“In moving to preserve historic documents like this one, we are completing the task of those who brought them to the Seminary decades ago for scholarly research,” Hadsell said.



Grant Aids Bonhoeffer Project

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation has given \$200,000 to support fresh translations and publications of the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a major Christian theologian executed in the final days of the Nazi regime.

Published by Fortress Press, an imprint of Augsburg Fortress, in collaboration with the North American section of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society, the project is being developed under General Editor Wayne Whitson Floyd Jr. and General Director Clifford J. Green. Green is Professor Emeritus at Hartford Seminary.

The grant will support completion of a 16-volume English-language edition of the works of Bonhoeffer. Seven volumes have already been published, usually one per year, and plans call for publication of accessible editions of some of the volumes for student and church use.

Seminary Holds Fall Retreats

Hartford Seminary held its all-staff and Academic Council fall retreats in September at St. John's Church in West Hartford. Shown here are: (A) Technology Support Assistant Bobby Dukes, left, and Professor Scott Thumma

(B) Professors Yehezkel Landau and

Kelton Cobb (C) Professors Jane Smith, left and Cynthia Woolever

(D) Director of Administration Roseann Lezak Janow, Comptroller Lilyne Hollingworth and Professor Carl Dudley, left to right



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