

# Praxis

News from  
Hartford Seminary  
April 2002  
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## Meet Ian Markham

By Christine Palm

# A

casual encounter leaves one with two immediate impressions of Ian Markham, Hartford Seminary's new dean: his youthful exuberance and his wry sense of humor. Wait just a bit longer, however, and what soon emerges is a fuller sense of all Markham brings to the Seminary: a mind that is rigorous, scholarly and inquisitive, and a heart that seems to have the right combination of compassion, faith,

skepticism and hope. ✿ Markham is known for his ability to synthesize seemingly disparate qualities: his numerous publications range from the heady *Plurality and Christian Ethics* to the breezy *Church Wedding Handbook*. *Continued on page 8*

## New Faculty Book Explores Sept. 11

Under the leadership of Ian Markham, Hartford Seminary's new dean, Seminary faculty joined together this fall and winter to write a new book on the September 11 tragedy for publication in July.

Titled *September 11: Historical, Theological and Social Perspectives*, the collection of essays will be published by Oneworld Publications. The editors are Markham and Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and co-director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and

Christian-Muslim Relations.

Markham explained the importance of the book in his initial proposal: "It is clear that the tragedy of September 11, 2001 is a pivotal event in relations between the western and Islamic

*Continued on page 5*



## Hartford Seminary Receives Three New Grants

Hartford Seminary recently received generous program-enhancing grants from the H.A. Vance Foundation, the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning and the J. Walton Bissell Foundation.

The H.A. Vance Foundation grant of \$50,000 over two years (\$25,000 per year for 2002 and 2003) was given to support "Building Strong Christian-Muslim Relations," in cooperation with the National Council of Churches of Christ. This grant will strengthen the Seminary's renowned program of Christian-Muslim study and dialogue which has been in place for more than 100 years.

In the first year, the grant will support a special course being offered in June, *Essentials of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations: A Course for Christian Leaders*. Jane I. Smith, professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and co-director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, will teach the course.

The grant also helped finance a re-issue of the book *God is One: The Way of Islam* with a new introduction.

In 2002 and 2003, the grant will provide scholarship money to attract two Indonesian Christian leaders skilled in interfaith relations with Muslims who, while students at Hartford Seminary, will help Christian communities understand the dynamics of these relationships here in the United States. The leaders will be resources for American churches, as well as taking courses at the Seminary.

### Correction

In the last issue of *Praxis*, we incorrectly listed the year of death of Mary Miller (BMP '82), who was the mother of Jewel Miller-Ellison (BMP '90). Mary Miller died on April 27, 2001. We apologize for any confusion.

Cover photograph by David S. Barrett, Director of Public and Institutional Affairs, Hartford Seminary

In addition, the Seminary will support the National Council of Churches as it develops a national program of enabling Christian churches across the United States to start interfaith discussion groups among their members. The NCC plans to train facilitator leaders for these local congregational discussion groups through regional training events. *God is One*, written by R. Marston Speight, a Hartford Seminary alumnus and winner of this year's Distinguished Alumnus award, will be the major discussion group text.

**In October,  
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The Seminary's support will include offering its facilities as a resource to churches and mosques in New England that are involved in the NCC discussion groups. Leaders who have participated in the June "Essentials of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations" course would be available to assist the discussion groups.

The Wabash Center For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, a program at Wabash College funded by the Lilly Endowment, is awarding the Seminary \$38,962 to organize a conference on best practices in teaching interfaith dialogue.

The title of the project is "Embedding Dialogue as a Learning Outcome in Theological Education." At the conference, which is likely to take place in October, national experts in teaching dialogue will gather with Seminary faculty to reflect on the best ways to include dialogue as a core value in theological education.

Ian Markham, dean of the Seminary, thanked Wabash for the grant and said, "This is an important project. Our age desperately needs leaders of our churches and religious institutions who are committed to dialogue. This has always been at the heart of Hartford Seminary and this will help make us even stronger in this area."

The J. Walton Bissell Foundation has given \$9,000 in support of the Seminary's three Certificate Programs: The Black Ministries Program (BMP), El Programa de Ministerios Hispanos (PMH), and the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI). The funds, which will be divided among the three programs, will be used for scholarships during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 academic years.

"This generous grant from the Bissell Foundation will help ensure educational opportunity for those seeking an introduction to theological education who wish to enhance their leadership skills in service to religious congregations," said Institutional Advancement Executive Director Tom Missett.

Editor: Christine Palm • Designer: James Baker  
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## Thomas Missett Named Director of Institutional Advancement

By David S. Barrett



Sometimes you don't have to look very far to find what you are looking for – but you don't know it.

In 2001, Hartford

Seminary conducted a nationwide search for just the right person to head its Institutional Advancement Department. The Seminary placed ads in the *Chronicle for Higher Education* and other national publications.

So where did the new executive director for institutional advancement come from? A school less than five miles away, the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT.

Thomas R. Missett brings a wealth of experience and a world of enthusiasm to his new position at the Seminary. He arrives with an understanding of the importance of theological education and an appreciation of the work that has made Hartford Seminary known locally, nationally and globally.

"When I first met Tom, I was impressed with his commitment to Hartford Seminary's mission to serve God through education," Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, said. "As we talked, I realized that Tom would do an excellent job at interpreting the important roles Hartford Seminary plays in the theological education of religious and lay leaders in the city of Hartford and beyond, in informing the public about religion in the United States and abroad, and in inter-religious and especially Muslim-Christian dialogue. After just a few months in the job, Tom is indeed expanding the network of new friends of the Seminary even

as he encourages our existing friends to stay engaged."

Missett has attended events and programs at the Seminary dating back more than a decade. When asked what impressed him about the Seminary, he replied, "What Hartford Seminary does is very, very important in today's world, as regards the global scene, the local community and personal life."

Missett started at the beginning of the year and, one month into his job, he praised the environment at the Seminary as "so stimulating, so welcoming, so open to ideas and to critical discussion."

He said that he sees the Seminary as a place that will allow him the opportunity to integrate his core beliefs with his work.

Missett has had to get used to a different educational atmosphere at the Seminary. At a graduate school, like the Seminary, the faculty operate more independently than they do at a kindergarten to 12th grade institution, he said. He is working to develop an understanding of each faculty member's work in order to identify the possibilities for outside funding to support that work.

In talking with faculty and trustees, Missett has explained that he sees development first as cultivating relationships. He plans a strong communications program "to educate our friends and the public on what the Seminary does." This is a first step to successful development, he said.

He listed four priorities:

- The Annual Fund, which Missett believes should grow each year. He praised the current staff who have built the fund to its current level and said he knows how challenging it is to secure new contributions and replace contributions that have disappeared.
- Grants. He asked, "Are we maximizing our potential? Are the major foundations interested in religion making grants to Hartford Seminary?"
- Scholarships
- Planned giving. This is a critical area because of the inter-generational transfer of wealth now occurring, Missett said.

Overall, Missett hopes to bring what he has learned to Hartford Seminary, to help the Seminary maximize its potential.

A look at his resume seems to indicate that here is someone who trained to work at Hartford Seminary. Missett has a Master of Arts in counseling from St. Joseph College in West Hartford and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and Advanced Studies in theology from St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. He was a priest and school administrator for the Archdiocese of Hartford for 12 years.

After resigning from active ministry in 1981, Missett turned to development as a career, first at Boys Village Youth and Family Services in Milford, Connecticut, and then at American School for the Deaf. At the school for the deaf, he was responsible for all fund development functions and community affairs, heading both the development and public relations offices.

In 1986, Missett became a charter member of the Planned Giving Group of Connecticut, serving as president in 1989 and 1990. He holds national certification as a Certified Fund Raising Executive and is a member of the national and state chapters of the Association of Fund Raising Professionals.

Missett sits on the Board of the Directors of The American Catholic newspaper and was a consultant to the capital campaign for Mercyknoll in West Hartford, CT, which considerably surpassed its \$1-million goal.

Missett lives in Southington with his wife Cathy, a medical technologist, and two teen-age sons, Colin and Brendan, who attend Southington High School. He attends St. Dominic Church in Southington.

He loves running and biking; once a marathoner, he now limits himself to half-marathons. His reading tends toward non-fiction; recently, he read *Freedom at Midnight*, an account of India's struggle to gain independence.

Among his other interests are baseball (he is a fan of the Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies), math and logic puzzles and camping.

# Muslim leader transformed at Hartford Seminary

By W. Evan Golder

Under the leadership of its imam, or spiritual leader, Fawaz Damra, the Islamic Center of Cleveland hosts a fair share of interfaith dinners, prayer services and open houses each year. And at least once a week, an outside group will take a tour of the six-year-old facility located in the suburb of Parma just southwest of Cleveland.

But interfaith relations have not always been Damra's stock in trade. Last September, following the September 11 tragedy, Cleveland's Fox TV outlet showed a decade-old videotape, released by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, of the imam raising money for a radical Palestinian group and making racial slurs against Jews.

What turned Damra around?

As he sees it, it was time spent at Hartford Seminary, where he earned a Master's degree in 1998.

"I am someone who came from a background of complete ignorance of how to get along with people who are different," he explained to a gathering in December at the United Church of Christ's Church House in Cleveland. "There are things that I have said in the past of which I am ashamed and for which I have apologized many times. I was living in ignorance and I did not know any better."

Damra was born in 1961 to a Muslim family in Nablus, in what is now the West Bank in Israeli-occupied territory. After studying Islamic law he graduated from the University of Jordan in 1984 and emigrated to the United States. In Brooklyn, N.Y., he became the imam of a small mosque.

In 1991 Damra moved to Cleveland to become the imam of a mosque there. "At that time I still had no contact basically with people of different faiths nor people of different ethnicity," he explains. "I was living in a cultural ghetto, an intellectual ghetto. Ignorance breeds bigotry. I am a good example."

Then in 1993 a friend of his, Ibrahim Abu Rabi, co-director of the Seminary's Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, urged him to take summer courses there.

**"When I began to get acquainted with different faith communities, especially after I had been to Hartford Seminary, I came to realize that I could not make a judgment on people just because they belonged to a certain race or to a certain faith."**

**Fawaz Damra**

"My political transformation started at that time. In Cleveland I began to see different immigrants who are living here. They are citizens of this country, their children are second generation, they are living not in isolation but mostly with other educated people of different backgrounds, not just with people of the same background like it was when I came to Brooklyn."

The seminary experience also challenged Damra's own faith. "When you study your own faith from one traditional way, you look at the world from one traditional angle," he says. "But when you study your own faith from the faith perspective of a different faith community, it gives you a different understanding, a different view."

Damra has called for the Israelis and

Palestinians to end their violence toward each other and live side-by-side by in separate, independent states with security and peace for both.

"As a Palestinian myself, I came to see the atrocities that were committed on the Palestinian people," he says. "I was horrified and terrified and I had very strong feelings about the Israelis. But when I began to get acquainted with different faith communities, especially after I had been to Hartford Seminary, I came to realize that I could not make a judgment

on people just because they belonged to a certain race or to a certain faith, and so on."

In November, The Medina Sun quoted Damra as saying, "I began to appreciate what other faiths and what America provides for me. There were a lot of things I could learn from other faiths. Then I realized that is what Islam teaches."

Abu Rabi remembers Damra as keeping an open mind and applying himself as hard as possible to study the interaction amongst Judaism, Christianity and Islam. "I think he left the seminary believing in larger dialogue between people," he says.

Another of his professors, Jane I. Smith, co-director of the Macdonald Center, describes Damra as intelligent, articulate and enthusiastic. "He speaks passionately about concerns, but with an openness to hear others," she says. "I have really nothing but very good things to say about him."

She adds that Damra now serves as a "corporator" for Hartford Seminary, i.e., someone supportive of the seminary's goals and programs. "We're very pleased to have him be part of our operation here," she says.

"I can say that without Hartford

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Seminary I would not be where I am right now," says Damra, "meaning that I am a person who is working hard since that time to reach out to persons of different faiths."

In Cleveland Damra has been a leader in interfaith gatherings. Following the September 11 attacks – which he calls "absolutely horrible," saying they are "absolutely forbidden" by the Qur'an – he and the Roman Catholic bishop hugged each other at an interfaith service at St. John Cathedral.

Since the INS released the videotape of his decade-old remarks, Damra has apologized repeatedly for who he was in the past and what he said. "Not only do such sentiments not represent my attitudes today, they are antithetical to my values and faith, my commitment to tolerance and peace," he wrote in a column in The Plain

Dealer, Cleveland's daily newspaper.

When his congregation built the new mosque in 1995, many of his people opposed his initiative to invite people of different faiths to the mosque. But after they saw Christians and Jews participating in interfaith dinners and prayer services, he says, "the resistance started fading away. Nowadays our interfaith dinners will include even Buddhists and Hindus.

"Quite honestly," he says, "those who have known me since that time would say to you that this has come as a result of the initiative that I took since I went to Hartford Seminary."

*The Rev. W. Evan Golder is Editor of United Church News, the national newspaper of the United Church of Christ, where this article first appeared. It is reprinted here with permission.*

## Faculty Book *Continued from page one*

worlds. Given that religious misunderstanding is at the heart of it, a critique by historically sensitive specialists in the field is urgently needed. The book aims to provide that critique."

The book will include chapters on the event itself, the cultural and social context, theological reflections and the broader issues of recording the moment and internal security versus civil liberties. A sampling of the chapter titles indicates the breadth of the book:

- Grieving Together: September 11 as a Measure of Social Capital in the United States, by Nancy Tatom Ammerman, professor of sociology of religion
- Witnessing to the Spirit: Reflections on an Emerging American Spirituality, by Miriam Therese Winter, professor of liturgy, worship and spirituality
- Religious Leadership in the Aftermath of September 11: Some Lessons from Jesus and Paul, by Efrain Agosto, professor of New Testament
- Contrasting Reactions and the Challenge of Dialogue, by Markham

Internal Security and Civil Liberties: Moral Dilemmas and Debates, by Heidi Hadsell, professor of social ethics and Seminary president

In the introduction, Markham and Abu-Rabi' say, "September 11, 2001 illustrates the complexity of coping that confronts us. We must come to terms with the 'skill' required to embark on the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, the thousands of devastated lives, and the gargantuan task of responding appropriately. The temptation when confronted with such complexity is to resort to silence. Silence, at least, ensures that we avoid the platitudinous or fatuous.

"Yet silence also ensures that we do not start to grapple with the complexity: It makes it less likely that our subsequent actions will be considered and reflective. So it is, with some nervousness and trepidation, that the faculty of Hartford Seminary invites you to join a conversation about who we are and what is happening in our society after September 11.

"When approaching complexity, we do so with humility and with a strong commitment to pluralism. This book promises no answers. Instead as you turn the pages, you are joining us on a journey to understand the events of September 11 and the aftermath."

They add, "We do not promise to reflect on all your questions, but we do promise to make a start."

Finally, they say, "It is perhaps necessary to stress that no one of us represents Hartford Seminary. Each contributor is simply expressing his or her own views. We are all very aware of the differences among ourselves, but these are differences that we believe are important to articulate and explore together. We are inviting you to get annoyed with some contributions, agree, perhaps, with others, but most important of all, participate in taking seriously the issues that are so important as we learn to live in a world changed by September 11."

The book is scheduled to be available in July, with an official launch at the time of the anniversary of September 11.

## Major Gift to Endowment Received from Graduates

President Heidi Hadsell and the entire Hartford Seminary community extend their heartfelt thanks to The Rev. William L. Inderstrod, '52, and Mrs. Jane Sattler Inderstrod, '51, for their recent gift of \$50,000 to the Seminary's Endowment. This generous gift was given in commemoration of their fiftieth anniversaries of having graduated from The Hartford Seminary Foundation, Jane from the School of Religious Education and Bill from the Hartford Theological Seminary. It was also given in memory of Helen Edick and Moses Bailey, and in celebration of Heidi Hadsell's appointment as President.

### In Memoriam

Winifred J. Utne Bartunek, '48, died at her home in Sebring, Ohio, on November 4, 2001. Family friend Thomas Niccolls writes, "She and her husband Edward Bartunek, '49, '55, and '63, met at the Seminary and became engaged. Their long marriage and life of service in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were an inspiration to many. Win was known as an innovative and skilled Christian educator, a loving mother and grandmother, an avid reader, and lover of games."

Wayne Poe Daugherty, '63, recently died in Altoona, Pennsylvania, of Alzheimer's Disease. Following completion of his studies at HTS, Mr. Daugherty worked in ecumenical inner city ministries in Buffalo and Ithaca, New York, before accepting a position as a staff pastoral counselor at the Binghamton, New York, Mental Health Center, where he worked for nearly 20 years before his retirement. He held his ministerial standing in the Western New York Association of the United Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Connie, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, three daughters, and four step-sons.

Hiram Horace Hilty, '40, husband of Janet Brown Hilty, '41, died on October 24, 2001. He was 88. Hilty graduated from Bluffton College, Ohio, received a Bachelor of Divinity from Hartford Theological Seminary and a doctorate in history from Duke University. He served as pastor of Clinton Corners Meeting, New York, and then went with his family to serve in Cuba under the American Friends Mission Board. Later he taught Spanish at Guilford College and later became head of the Department of Foreign Languages, retiring in 1978. He remained active in missionary work to Cuba, making eight trips altogether, and also worked with Mexican Friends. The author of five books and many journal articles, he also belonged to the Greensboro Historical Society. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Janet Hilty, their three daughters and several relatives.

Alver M. Napper, '37, died on February 7, 2002 at the age of 91. Napper graduated from Virginia State College in Etterick and earned a master's degree from the School of Religious Education of the Hartford Seminary Foundation and did additional graduate work at New York University, Fairfield University, The New York

School of Social Research, The New York School of Social Work, and the University of Bridgeport. In 1938, Napper became the first black toll collector on the Merritt Parkway, leaving as Supervisor in 1943 to become Executive Director of Crispus Attucks Center in Greenwich until 1957. After four years as a building maintenance contractor, he joined the Connecticut Department of Adult Probation in 1961, retiring as Chief Probation Officer in 1976. He married Berenice Norwood, of Norwalk, in 1940. Napper was a charter member of the Greenwich branch of the NAACP, a board member of the Stamford Child Guidance Center, a member of the Connecticut Probation and Parole Association, and one of the seven founding members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Fairfield, Connecticut chapter. After retirement, he served as Deputy Sheriff/Bailiff for the Superior Court in Stamford, CT. Napper was honored by the Town of Greenwich, in 1982, for Distinguished Service to the Community. He is survived by two sisters, a daughter and a son.

Andrew R. Shelly, '42, died peacefully in his sleep with family at his side on Sunday, November 18, 2001, after a long illness.

Bradley F. Skinner, '37, died at home in Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 30, 2002 at the age of 89. His daughter Joan Scott writes, "Dad engaged life with enthusiasm and energy until the moment of death. He was mentally strong and a non-stop reader of the latest writing in theological and social issues as well as history and biography. In the two days prior to his death he got out to his beloved clergy and lay professionals' reading-discussion group and to the Holladay UCC annual meeting at which he spoke forcefully about the need for the church to take a stand against recent legislation permitting weapons in Utah churches. He died as he had lived — ready to meet the day." In describing a 1999 visit that Joan took with Dr. Skinner to Hartford Seminary, she writes "I was struck by how much respect he had both for the new, symbolized by the stark, multi-faith chapel, as well as the old, as he led me down the portrait wall, telling me once again of Hartford's great professors."

Betty J. Wolf, the wife of C. Umhau Wolf, '42, died on April 8, 2001. On May 11, 2002, there was a memorial dedication of the entrance to the Magee Marsh Wilderness Refuge near Lake Erie.

## Jeffrey R. Partridge



Jeffrey R. Partridge, a valued former trustee and good friend of Hartford Seminary, died on

Feb. 21 of this year. Partridge, who was 51, was on vacation with his wife in London at the time of his death.

Jeff's commitment to the Seminary was felt keenly by everyone who had the privilege of working with him on the numerous committees and projects to which he devoted his considerable talent and energy. That he was a person of deep faith was always evident, and his spiritual side shone through his pragmatic, businesslike approach. His warmth and humor were also evident in all he did; Jeff managed to exude seriousness of purpose, even while wearing his signature John Lennon "Imagine" tie.

Ruth Tureckova was one of many people who came to know Jeff in the course of working at the Seminary. "I was fortunate enough to know Jeff Partridge as a friend and mentor, as well as a champion of Hartford Seminary," Tureckova remembers. "Jeff chaired the Hartford Seminary Annual Fund for the first two years I worked on that campaign. At his memorial service earlier this month I learned just how extensive Jeff's work was with the community

of Hartford. Until then, I'd never realized much he did outside of his Hartford Seminary volunteering because he always made whomever he was working with feel that the work they did together was the most important thing to him."

At the time of his death, Jeff was Senior Vice President, Manager of the Life/Employee Benefits Insurance Division and a member of the Board of Directors of R.C. Knox in Hartford. He served a term as Commissioner on the State Ethics Commission.

A native of Meriden, he graduated from Platt High School in 1968 and earned his B.A. in English from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1973. Jeff was an avid fitness enthusiast, and helped to found the Hartford Marathon, on whose foundation board he served. He was also a director of the Hartford YMCA and was a founding member of the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Forum.

The Seminary community's heartfelt prayers go out to his wife Jacqueline Murray Partridge, their five children, and Jeff's many siblings, especially Pamela Partridge West, who is also an ardent supporter of the Seminary.

—C.P.

*Editor's Note: This citation was given to Jeffrey Partridge at Convocation, Oct. 6, 1998, upon his retirement from the Hartford Seminary Board of Trustees after many years of invaluable service.*

### JEFFREY R. PARTRIDGE

We, the entire Hartford Seminary community, honor you today for your many years of dedicated service.

For your intrepid leadership,

The Seminary Board of Trustees has been enriched.

For your resourceful development work,

The institution has been strengthened.

For your thoughtful strategic planning,

Our direction has grown more innovative.

For your unflagging willingness to volunteer,

Our work has been made easier.

And for your wise and insightful counsel,

We have all learned much and are grateful.

Today, and always, we cherish the indelible mark you have left on Hartford Seminary.

*October 6, 1998  
Hartford, Connecticut*

## Ian Markham

Continued from page one

**“I believe that helping to shape an institution is a privilege – in much the same way scholarly research and writing are – and that it is absolutely essential in deepening people’s values.”**

He is equally at home talking about Christocentrism as he is about the Beatles (who hailed, of course, from Liverpool, where he taught before coming to Hartford Seminary). And despite his gentle demeanor, he has already firmly established his authority and vision, one byproduct of which is the Seminary’s new Center for Faith in Practice (see back page).

Markham, who took over from Dean Worth Loomis on August 1, 2001, is unabashedly enthusiastic about his new position.

“Hartford Seminary is, without a doubt, the most important institution for inter-religious relations for the 21st century,” Markham says without qualification. “I made a decision a long time ago that I was both a scholar and someone who believes in shaping institutions. A lot of people see these (activities) as mutually exclusive, but I believe that helping to shape an institution is a privilege – in much the same way scholarly research and writing are – and that it is absolutely essential in deepening people’s values.”

Markham is devoutly committed to furthering interfaith understanding, and finds this aspect of life at Hartford Seminary especially exciting.

“I don’t think you can do Christian theology without regard for ‘the other,’ ” he says, “because if I believe that God is the creator of the whole world, I have an obligation to learn of the diversity of that world.”

Markham taught for a time at Liverpool Hope University College, a school which, given its close proximity to the drama of the religious strife in Northern Ireland, deepened his concern for the need for dialogue and tolerance.

“This school in Liverpool, which had both Roman Catholic and Protestant students, reflected much of the tension felt in Belfast,” Markham recalls. “It trained me to see how important it is for people of different traditions to find ways of co-existing

and it brought home the importance of the process of open conversation. But it also taught me the importance of a larger interfaith conversation, out of the context of Great Britain. Here, at the Seminary, I want to insist that a commitment to that conversation is a commitment to finding the truth – that it is, in fact, an act of Christian fidelity. You don’t just do it for pragmatic reasons, you do it because God requires us to be humble in what we hold to be true. God needs to be discerned wherever God is found. This individual discovery, often found in other traditions, is not something Christians always learn; for example, the centrality of compassion for the non-human world.”

As a well-respected scholar, Markham speaks confidently about his beliefs; at the same time, he speaks convincingly about the importance of remaining open to new theological ideas.

“On the whole, I tend to feel that the ecumenical movement was going to flow into the interfaith movement. There is – or should be – a realization among Christians that just as Jesus is supposed to be a unifier among Christian sects, so God should be a unifier among Christians, Jews and Muslims. I am quite comfortable with Hartford Seminary’s being increasingly theistic and less Christocentric; the focus is on God.”

What does Markham predict for the future of the Seminary?

“My hope is that Hartford Seminary will continue to flourish as a strong regional school which strengthens ministry. Simultaneously, it will be a cutting edge leader in theological discourse and a high-profile engine for innovative sociological research. We want to attract, cultivate and retain scholars of international excellence.” Markham is candid in his insistence on this quality. (He points out proudly that of the 20 or so books reviewed by the New York Times on the Sept. 11 attack, few had footnotes, as Hartford Seminary’s contribution will.) *Continued on page 9*

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There is something disarming about Markham’s candor in discussing the life of the mind. One can’t help but be drawn into his optimism.

“I think the world does belong to ideas,” he says. “Transforming lives through the process of education creates political revolution. Hartford Seminary indeed has the power to change the world.”

Markham has written numerous books, including the widely used *Encountering Religion*, which he edited with Tinu Ruparell, (Blackwell Publishers, Oxford, 2001) and the new *Theology of Engagement*, due out from Blackwell’s in July of 2003. He also has co-written several general interest books, including one on god-parenting. He is at work on his third general interest book, a guide to funerals. These two, along with the wedding handbook, form a trilogy which Markham jokingly refers to as a

series on being “hatched, matched and dispatched.”

Markham, who describes himself as “a proud father,” has a playful side which keeps his more lofty nature in check. For example, he says emphatically that “all animals are redeemed,” and predicts that if he gets to heaven, “I expect everybody to be there, yes, including Jack the Ripper, and lots of dinosaurs, too.”

Markham, who is 39, lives in West Hartford with his five-year-old son Luke and his wife Lesley, who has expertise in both environmental science and tax accounting. Markham’s avocations range from improving his golf game to watching obscure foreign films. He also describes himself as “a bit of a gadget person,” and is contemplating coaching in his son’s youth soccer league. In an uncharacteristic bout of caution, he adds, “That may be too much of a leap for me.”

## Staff News



**Karen Rollins**

**Karen B. Rollins** has returned as registrar at Hartford Seminary, after a three-year absence.

Karen served as registrar and recruitment coordinator from 1992 to 1998. In 1998, she said, she was “inspired by the commitment of Hartford Seminary to social justice and wanted to serve God’s people more fully.”

She joined the Mercy Volunteer Corps and was assigned to work as a full-time volunteer for Catholic Charities in Albany, New York. She worked in a homeless shelter, low-income heating assistance program and a children’s camp. Upon returning to Hartford,



**Marilyn Garcia**

**Marilyn Garcia** has been named administrative assistant for the new Center for Faith in Practice at Hartford Seminary and Admissions. Garcia, of New Britain, also serves as volunteer Director of Religious Education at St. Augustine’s Church in Hartford, a position she has held for four years.

Karen, who lives across the street from the Seminary, became the Seminary’s registrar for a second time last July. When asked if she has detected any changes since her first term, Karen said that there is a significant growth in students, especially in the Master of Arts program.

Before coming to Hartford Seminary, Garcia served as secretary for the CHOICE program of the Capital Region Education Council (CREC). CHOICE facilitates the exchange of urban and suburban students. In her new position, Garcia hopes to take advantage of the many study opportunities the Seminary offers.



## Faculty Notes

**Ibrahim Abu-Rabi'** received word that his edited volume, *Islam at the Crossroads: On the Life and Thought of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi*, has been accepted by SUNY Press, with publication later this year. The book's 21 articles contain one written by Abu-Rabi', another by colleague Kelton Cobb, and a third by Cindy Mosher, a Hartford Seminary alumna. Abu-Rabi' has contracted with SUNY Press to edit seven volumes of the collected works of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi. They are scheduled for publication over the next five years. In December, Abu-Rabi' attended a conference in Cairo on Christian-Muslim relations, convened by the Middle East Council of Churches. He also flew to Turkey, where he gave a number of seminars in Istanbul. Local speaking engagements include: The Hartford Club, Avon High School, New Milford United Church of Christ, and Pomfret High School.

During the Winter/Spring semester, **Efrain Agosto** has been a guest lecturer on weekends for the Hispanic/Latino Pastoral Ministries Program of the General Theological Seminary in New York City, teaching, in Spanish, on the topic, "New Testament Introduction: The Synoptic Gospels and the Pauline Epistles." In February, he delivered a lecture, "Paul vs. Empire: A Postcolonial Reading of Philippians" for the West Regional Meeting of the Hispanic Theological Initiative held at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He preached the installation sermon on March 3 for the new Associate Minister of the West Parish Church of Andover, Massachusetts, the Rev. Esther Rendon-Thompson, a Hartford Seminary M.A. graduate. In January, Agosto submitted his essay, "Religious Leadership in the Aftermath of September 11: Some Lessons from Jesus and Paul," for the forthcoming Hartford Seminary faculty book, *September 11, 2001: Historical, Theological and Social Perspectives*.

**Kelton Cobb** is on sabbatical during the spring, writing a book on how to do theological analysis of popular culture. In February he gave a series of talks at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford on the church and popular culture. He has also

contributed a chapter, "Violent Faith," to the September 11th book that is being jointly written by Hartford Seminary faculty.

In January **Carl Dudley** served on the faculty for the Congregational Studies Institute for Perkins School of Theology and in February addressed the Connecticut Ecumenical Small Church Conference and a New England Ecumenical Leadership gathering at Stony Point. In March, Dudley delivered the keynote to the Association of Nazarenes in Social Research in Kansas City. Over the late winter and early spring months he also addressed or consulted with Holy Cross Catholic Church, Dallas; Simsbury United Methodist Church, Simsbury; First Presbyterian Church, Hartford; First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich; Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis; and The Presbytery of Southern New England. Dudley also met with the Congregational Studies Project Team in Miami Beach and with a national gathering of the Faith Communities Today FACT project in Atlanta. He co-authored, with Nancy Ammerman, *Congregations in Transition*.

**Judy Fentress-Williams**, after returning from sabbatical, gave the B. Julian Smith Lectures at the annual CME Pastors' Conference in Atlanta, Georgia and was one of the Earls Lecturers at Pacific School of Religion. This year's theme was "Image to Insight" and focused on theology and film. Her lecture was entitled, "Moses at the Matinee: A Dialogue Between Scripture and Film." In addition, she was awarded a research grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning for her project, "The Bible in Dialogue."

**Heidi Hadsell** wrote several papers this winter, including "For the Sake of the Neighbor, For the Sake of the World," published in December in the Presbyterian Church, USA's Biblical and Theological Perspectives, and "International Security and Civil Liberties: Moral Dilemmas & Debates," for publication in the forthcoming Hartford Seminary faculty book, *September 11, 2001: Historical, Theological and Social Perspectives*. In December, she spoke at Congregation Beth Israel to a Senior Center gathering. In January, Hadsell discussed interfaith dialogue on the "Voices in the Wilderness" cable television show and spoke at the annual conference of the Northeast, National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff in Stony Point, New York, the annual meeting of the Society

of Christian Ethics in Vancouver and a meeting of the Christian Conference of Connecticut. In February, she spoke on feminist theology at the Hope of Reconciliation Today conference in Stony Point and addressed the UCC Pastor's Study Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Groton. In March, Hadsell delivered the sermon on St. Patrick's Day at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford and participated in a panel discussion on "An Earth Charter for a Sustainable, Equitable and Stable Society" at St. Joseph College in West Hartford.

**Ian Markham**, in addition to numerous tasks as dean, has written and seen publication of three articles in *The New Dictionary of Pastoral Studies*, edited by Wesley Carr (SPCK 2002). The articles are on: "Belief," "Pluralism," and "Religion." He assembled the faculty chapters of the Seminary's book, *September 11, 2001: Historical, Theological and Social Perspectives*, and wrote one of the chapters.

**Ingrid Mattson** continued to respond to the urgent demand for public education on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations that arose as the result of the tragic events in the fall. In December, Mattson spoke at St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center in Manhattan on "Dignity and the Care of the Patient: an Islamic/Catholic Dialogue." Later that month, she participated in a panel at Hebrew Union College on Islam and the future of Muslim-Jewish relations. On December 20th and January 17th, she was the guest on Conn. State Representative Andrew Fleishman's "Connecticut Conversations." Several January appearances include: a presentation on "Islam: Faith and Culture" at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, a talk on Islam at Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, the Vespers service at Avon Old Farms School, and two presentations on Islam to staff at the New Britain Public Library. In February, she spoke at the Islamic center in Santa Clara (California), My Father's House (a Catholic retreat center), and at the University of Toronto on "Women and Islam." Mattson was also part of a panel at Yale New Haven Hospital, speaking about the health care and religious accommodation needs of Muslim patients and staff. In March, Mattson gave talks at Osgoode Law School in Toronto, New York University Law School, the University of Illinois and Loyola University in Chicago. She is on



## Fentress-Williams to Take Virginia Post

Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, a much-loved and respected member of Hartford Seminary's faculty since 1994, has been appointed Professor of Hebrew Bible at Virginia Theological Seminary, starting in September.

Dr. Fentress-Williams has been director of the Black Ministries Program and Professor of Hebrew Scriptures.

In making the announcement, Ian Markham, Dean of the Seminary, said, "Naturally we are delighted for Judy. This will give her the opportunity to cultivate and develop her growing reputation as a Hebrew Bible specialist. We are, however, extremely sad to see her go.

"She has been an exceptionally able Director of the Black Ministries Program and an extremely popular and dedicated teacher. The Faculty will miss her wisdom at Academic Council."

Virginia Theological Seminary, an Episcopal theological seminary, is located in Alexandria, Va.

sabbatical during the spring semester, writing articles and translating a classical Arabic religious text.

In December, **David Roozen** convened the third meeting of the Lilly "Learning Communities" grant at the Interdenominational Executive Learning Community, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Sandra Trice Gray, planning consultant and editor of Evaluation with Power, was the meeting's special guest. In January, Roozen gave a "Faith Communities Today" presentation at the annual conference of the Northeast, National Association of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Staff. Also in January, he was a participant in the Fund for Theological Education/Lilly Forum on "Good Ministry: Theological School Programs for Strengthening Congregational Leadership" in Indianapolis, Indiana. In February, Roozen gave two plenary addresses to the 67th annual Springfield (Massachusetts) Pastors' Study Conference on "FACT and the Four Mega-Trends changing America's Religious Landscape" and "Churches, Choice and Covenant." In addition, Roozen wrote four pieces for the forthcoming Faith Community Today series in The Christian Century on "FACTs for Churches: Three Sources of American Religious Renewal"; "FACTs on the Old-line: The West or the Rest"; "FACTs about Personal Religious Practice: Meeting Evangelicals Halfway"; and "FACTs on Theological Education: Are Seminaries Failing the Test?" Finally, he helped prepare clergy estimates for use by the U.S. Military Chaplains Office to set priority targets for recruitment of chaplains.

Over the past months **Jane Smith** has given numerous lectures on the topic of Christian-Muslim relations including, in January: First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich on "Why are they so mad at us?"; The Connecticut Conference on Faith & Order on "Interfaith Relations on an Ecumenical Basis"; First Church in Windsor on "Christians Understanding Islam: New Opportunities for Christian-Muslim Relations"; First Congregational Church in Bristol on "How can Christians Better Understand Islam?"; and a radio talk show on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations with the Rev. Stephen Sidorak. February lectures included those at Chester Village West on "Essentials of Islam"; Trinity College on "Women in the Qur'an"; The National Council of Churches Commission on Interfaith Relations, New York; Round Hill Community Church in Greenwich on "How Can Christians Better Understand Islam?"; and First Congregational Church of Southington. In March, Smith spoke at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Bloomfield on "Islam and Interfaith Relations"; and Greenwich High School on "Muslims in America." Also in March, she attended a week-long session at The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland. In April, Smith spoke to Church Women United

in Middletown and at the University of Connecticut at Stamford on "Women in the Qur'an: Old Paradigms and New Possibilities." Smith also served as an Advisor/Consultant to PBS, for its program "One Nation Under God." Her recent publications include *Muslim Minorities in the West: Visible and Invisible*, co-edited with Yvonne Haddad (AltaMira Press, 2002); "Women in Islam: Clothes and Convictions" in The Christian Century (January 30-February 6, 2002); "Thinking Globally about Islam" in Global Religions (ed. Mark Juergensmeyer, Oxford University Press, 2002); *Barriers and Heights: Sunni Islam and Mulla Sadra on Barzakh and A'raf* (Proceedings of the Mulla Sadra World Conference, 2000) Tehran: Sadra Islamic Philosophy Research Institute (SIPRn), 2002.

**Scott Thumma** has accepted the position of Faculty Associate in Web and Distance Education at the Seminary. Beginning in July 2002 he will be responsible for development of all the Seminary web sites and the nascent distance-learning program. He presented on the Faith Communities Today project, with Carl Dudley and David Roozen at the New England Interfaith Group of the National Association of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Staff. His work on megachurches has been cited recently in the New York Times, the Kansas City Star, The Baltimore Sun, The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, and the St. Louis Dispatch, as well as several other newspapers. He signed a contract with Alta Mira for a book on Gay Religion.

In January **Miriam Therese Winter** was the visiting scholar for the Sixth Annual Community Lecture sponsored by United Theological Seminary, the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia. The weekend event on the theme "Call of the Spirit" consisted of a public lecture on Friday evening, an all-day workshop on Saturday, and Sunday morning at St. Paul's, where she preached at the 9 and 11 a.m. services and spoke at the 10 a.m. adult forum. In February The Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church sponsored a public lecture and book-signing in Framingham, Massachusetts featuring Winter and her book *Out of the Depths: The Story of Ludmila Javorova, Roman Catholic Priest*; and she was keynote speaker at three major events in March: the Fourth Annual Liturgical Music Conference at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey; the Tenth Women in Church and Ministry Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary; and a World Day of Prayer event in Washington, DC sponsored by the Women's Ordination Conference. She also taught a weekend course at the Sophia Center in Culture and Spirituality at Holy Names College in Oakland, California.

## Alumni/ae Notes



Compiled by Mary Kalencik, Director of Annual Fund and Database Coordinator

EDITOR'S NOTE: SEVERAL ALUMNI/AE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SEMINARY COMMUNITY SENT SPECIAL GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR PEACE, IN THE WAKE OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF SEPT. 11, 2001. THEY ARE EXCERPTED HERE.

**Elizabeth Wirth Avery**, '47, writes "What exciting classes you have this Spring, but so far from me. Oh well, I'll read in between my volunteering in school and daycare. May our Easter time be one of new understanding in the Community that God Created. Peace."

Responding to the peace message in this year's Annual Fund appeal letter, **James A. Benjamin**, '84, writes, "Salaam, Ram-Ceta-Ram. Palegee-Baba, Palegee. Shalom."

Corporator **William L. Bradley** writes, "As a former professor, I wish the best for my many students and to (the) trustees."

**Virginia H. Child**, '99, writes that she has been called to pastor the Congregational Church of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts.

In January, **Esther Sausser Clark**, '36, wrote, "I am proud of my school to see it (mentioned in) print in the 'Mass. News' this week."

**Blanche Craig**, '39, is living in the independent living area of Friendsview Manor at 1015 Cherry Street, No. 8, in Newberg, OR, and would love to hear from classmates and friends. She has been there for six years. Blanche can also be reached by e-mail at BCraig16@aol.com.

**Loralee F. Huston**, '85 and '90, was one of three Connecticut Honored Laywomen celebrated and awarded at the United Church of Christ National General Synod in July 2001 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Former student **Kathleen S. Johnston** writes, "Continue your good work. I have such happy memories of the Seminary. Did not get a degree, but took most of (my) courses in Christian Education while working as a director in the area."

Former student **Emmalou H. Kirchmeier** writes, "I've accepted a full-time position as Chaplain with the United Methodist Homes of Wyoming Conference, NY. I was fortunate to have the varied religious and CPE program (credits) they required, including Islamic Studies taken at HSF (they have Muslim nurses in our building). Thank you for your excellent guidance and training."

**Ruth Miller Manter**, '37, asks that her recent Annual Fund contribution "...be used for the Seminary in gratitude for the training in Christian education I received

there years ago. It enhanced my life in many ways as I served the church in parishes and in my life as a clergyman's wife."

**Richard T. Nolan**, '63, is in retirement in West Palm Beach and editing the website [www.philosophy-religion.org](http://www.philosophy-religion.org).

**Gwendolyn Aldridge Olds-Lewis**, '33, writes, "I fully enjoyed my year with you. Since then I married John Olds, a 1934 seminarian. We had a great marriage for 52 years. I have used my Hartford Seminary information in every church we served. Thanks for your help. I'm now 89 years old."

**Jack H. Pettyjohn**, '62 and '63, retired from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in June 1999 with 39 years of service. In retirement he serves a UMC and continues a volunteer jail ministry one day a week. After receiving a Masters degree in School Psychology at James Madison University in 1973, he worked as a School Psychologist for 13 years. In 1981 he was licensed by the State of Virginia as a Professional Counselor and practiced in group and private settings as a Pastoral Counselor. Jack also writes, "Keep up your good work. Hope to visit sometime. My wife, who was with me during my last two seminary years, is still with me. I am blessed."

**Hazel Key Shoonmaker**, '48, who always has nice things to say about Hartford Seminary and Praxis, writes, "I look forward to Praxis with its news and stimulating articles. It seems to me that exciting things are happening there and I'm pleased to be associated with Hartford."

**L. Pablo Stone**, '53, visited Win and Callie Stone (no relation) in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee last year. They were classmates in 1952 and 1953.

**James Tully**, '93, who served for years with the Xaverian Mission in Sierra Leone, sent a Christmas letter filled with love this past December. He wrote, "I hope that each of you will be able to be with your family and with those you love this Christmas and New Year. Enjoy them. God's love and his presence with us is felt in the love we have and share with others."

**Richard L. Waddell, Jr.**, '86, is into his second year as interim senior minister of Holladay United Church of Christ in Holladay (Salt Lake City), Utah.

**James O. West, Jr.**, '40, sends his "humble thanks to our Abba Heavenly Father, His son, Jesus and God's Holy Spirit for the inspiration I received at Hartford 62 years ago with Drs. Barstow and Potter and others."

## 2001-2002 Annual Fund

We would like to thank those individuals, businesses, organizations, and places of worship that have contributed to the Seminary's 2001-2002 Annual Fund. Thanks, too, to our dedicated volunteers who have helped in so many ways. Prior to our April phonathon, we had reached 75% of our \$177,590 goal with gifts and pledges.

We offer this gentle reminder that the current Annual Fund ends at the close of the fiscal year, which is June 30. Your gifts are needed and appreciated! So if you have not already done so, please consider sending your gift or pledge payment today.

If you have any questions about the Annual Fund, please call us at (860) 509-9520 or send e-mail to [giving@hartsem.edu](mailto:giving@hartsem.edu).

## Marston Speight is Distinguished Alumnus



The Rev. Dr. R. Marston Speight has been chosen as Hartford Seminary's Distinguished Alumnus for 2002. Dr. Speight will receive this award at the Seminary's Reunion 2002 Distinguished Alumni/ae Dinner May 3, 2002. The dinner is being held at Capital Community College from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

Dr. Speight was unanimously chosen by the Alumni/ae Council to be this year's recipient due to his lifetime of work in Muslim-Christian relations. He is a native of Texas, graduated from Baylor University and completed his formal studies at Hartford Seminary with an M.A. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in the history of religions in 1970.

He lived in northern Africa from 1951 to 1979, serving churches in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and later co-directing the Christian Center for North African Studies in Algiers and directing a United Methodist research program on Christian-Muslim relations in Tunis. He was a participant in the Muslim-Christian Research Group (Groupe de Recherche Islamo-Chretien), an outstanding model of serious interfaith encounter that resulted in the publication of numerous interfaith resources.

From 1972 to 1978 Dr. Speight was research associate with the Institute for the Study of Religions at the Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He has participated in many international conferences for dialogue between Muslims and Christians and has lectured in France, England, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Nigeria, Benin and the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Speight was a director for Christian-Muslim Concerns of the Working Group on Interfaith Relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. from 1979 to 1992, serving as co-director until 1988 and thereafter working as the director. In this role, he facilitated many encounters of Christians with persons and groups in the Muslim community in the United States, including facilitation of conversations in this country under the auspices of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Speight continues to be actively involved in Muslim-Christian dialogue

and has taught several times at Hartford Seminary in recent years. For many years he was a member of the editorial board for Muslim World, a Hartford Seminary publication that is a world-renowned scholarly journal, which reaches subscribers in more than 60 countries.

He has written and translated many books, including *God Is One: The Way of Islam - Second Edition (2002)* which has recently been republished by Friendship Press with a new afterword prepared by the faculty of Hartford Seminary and its Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. This section adds information on Muslims in North America and on present-day issues and developments in Islam worldwide.

*God Is One: The Way of Islam* is a book that is vital in this time of misinformation about people of Islamic faith. The book presents the lives of Muslims and by so doing helps the reader understand fundamental points such as:

- Who was Muhammad and what inspired him?
- What is the Qur'an and what does it say?
- What do Muslims believe about Christ?
- How can Christians and Muslims meet and talk today?

The United Methodist News Service highlights the excellence of this work succinctly. "This book clearly explains the Islamic faith and highlights such points of agreement for Christians and Muslims as the devotion to one God. It presents who Muslims are, what they believe and how their faith not only unites them but also shapes every aspect of their lives."

In February 2002, the National Council of Churches Commission on Interfaith Relations honored Dr. Speight for his work in Muslim-Christian Relations.

He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. He currently lives with his family in Cromwell, Connecticut.



## Summer Studies

### From Ritual to Reconciliation

Biennial Congregational Studies Institute in June

Hartford Seminary's 2002 summer session begins on Monday, June 10 and ends Friday, June 28, with the exception of an evening course that begins on Tuesday, May 28 and the United Church of Christ polity course that begins on Monday, June 3. These courses are open to qualified members of the public on a space-available basis. Most courses carry three graduate level credits. Due to the intensive weeklong format of summer courses, most courses have required reading lists, which are mailed to students in advance. In addition, many classes fill up quickly. Students are urged to register early to ensure a place in their courses of choice as well as ensure receipt of the reading list in time to prepare for their courses. For students enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$975. The non-credit audit fee is \$450. A special audit fee of \$225 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 krollins@hartsem.edu.

#### Area I: Texts and Traditions

##### Religion in African-American History

Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course surveys religious developments among people of African descent, from slavery to the present. Religious practices among slaves, the formation of autonomous religious institutions, religion in popular culture and political activities among religious groups will be explored. *Joan Bryant, Adjunct Professor of History and Assistant Professor of African-American History, Brandeis University*

##### Matthew, Mark and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels

Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course is an in-depth study of the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith in light of current biblical scholarship with special attention to the theological perspectives of Matthew, Mark and Luke as reflected in their varying presentations of the Good News in the synoptic Gospels. *Wayne Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Scripture and History and Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies, Assumption College*

#### Area II: Faith and Reflection

##### Readings in Hispanic Theology

Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course explores the various themes, methodologies and major theologians in Hispanic/Latino theology in the United States. The focus of the course will be on such topics and figures as biblical hermeneutics (Fernando Segovia), missiology

(Orlando Costas), *mujerista* theology (Ada Maria Isasi-Díaz), and Pentecostalism (Eldin Villafañe). In addition, the major contours of a Hispanic/Latino theology as laid out by such theologians as Justo Gonzalez ("manana theology") and Virgilio Elizondo ("mestizo theology") will be discussed. *Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament and Director, Programa de Ministerios Hispanos, Hartford Seminary*

##### Theology and the Practice of Ministry in a Secular and Pluralist Culture

Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To what extent can contemporary Western society be regarded as 'secular'? How should theology try and engage with contemporary culture? Should churches try and resist cultural pluralism, in an attempt to remain distinctive? Or should churches attempt to accommodate contemporary culture in an effort to remain relevant? This course will examine some of the recent Christian theological responses to contemporary culture, as well as examining the character and resilience of religion within secular society. Insights will be developed to reflect upon ministry and the shaping of Christian communities for the twenty-first century. *Martyn Percy, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Sheffield, England, and Emma Percy, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Millhouses, Sheffield, England*

##### Reconciliation for Congregations and Communities in a Global Context

Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course will use a case method approach to help religious leaders develop skills to be agents of reconciliation within their congregations, communities, and nations. "Empowering for reconciliation with justice" will be the biblical and theological mandate explored in the course. Case studies will be drawn from around the world with a special emphasis on ecological justice as an essential component in building a network of collaborative peace builders across the dividing lines of race, ethnicity, gender, and geography. *Robert A. Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of Plowshares Institute and Alice Frazer Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of Writing and Research, Plowshares Institute*

##### The Art of Spiritual Decision

Evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on May 28 and 29, June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17 and 19 and Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This course explores the ministry and dynamics of spiritual direction. Topics include the history and scope of spiritual direction, especially within the Christian tradition, the theo-

*Continued on next page*

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logical foundations, and the variety of expressions of spiritual direction within personal, interpersonal, and social contexts. *Cathleen Murtha, D.W., Adjunct Professor in Arts of Ministry and Director, Spiritual Life Center*

#### Area III: Practices and Institutions

##### The Ministry of Women: Emerging Models of Leadership for Ministerial Practice

Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More and more women are serving as pastors, bishops, presiding elders, conference ministers, chaplains, seminary professors and lay leaders. This course will examine how the increased presence of women in non-traditional church and denominational leadership positions has transformed the church's understanding of leadership and its images of leaders. Emphasis will be given to how feminist and Womanist theologies have helped shape women's understandings and practice of leadership within the church. *Barbara E. Headley, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Faith Congregational Church, Hartford*

#### Area IV: Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

##### Rituals and Responsibilities of Muslim Leaders in America

Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course is designed for Muslim leaders, including imams and chaplains, who are serving American Muslim communities. The course examines Muslim leaders' role and responsibilities as well as the proper application and performance of some important areas of Islamic ritual law. Emphasis is on practical application of the law and much of the course is taught in workshop format. *Sheikh Muhammad Nur Abdullah, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Religious Affairs and Imam of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis*

##### Essentials of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations:

###### A Course for Christian Leaders

Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hartford Seminary, in conjunction with the National Council of Churches of Christ, would like to announce a new one-week intensive course designed for Christian clergy and lay leaders to meet the growing need for information about Islam following the tragic events of September 11. Class presentations will be designed for denominational officials, pastors and laypersons wanting to know more about Islam and interfaith relations, persons preparing for service in Muslim countries, and other interested Christians. *Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and Co-Director of the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for The Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary.*

## SPECIAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### THE TENTH ANNUAL 2002 SUMMER INSTITUTE: UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND POLITY

Week 1- June 3-7 Week 2- June 10-14  
The Summer Institute is designed as a two-week experience primarily for those needing basic work in United Church of Christ history, theology and polity. The Institute is also designed for those students who are graduating from seminaries where a UCC polity course is not offered, or who are pursuing an alternative route to ordination. Sponsored by Andover Newton Theological School, Bangor Theological Seminary and Hartford Seminary, Summer Institute 2002 is being coordinated by Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105. For further information and to register, please contact Karen Rollins, Registrar, at (860) 509-9511, E-mail: krollins@hartsem.edu

### BIENNIAL CONGREGATIONAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

Thursday, June 20 – Tuesday, June 25  
With Nancy T. Ammerman, Carl S. Dudley, David A. Roozen and Scott L. Thumma of Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research and James R. Nieman of Wartburg Theological Seminary  
More than ever before, expertise in congregational studies is vital to scholars, clergy, consultants and religious leaders. Join the faculty of Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research for a week of lectures, workshops and field experience. This disciplined immersion experience will use the basic tools for congregational analysis and renewal from the book, *Studying Congregations* (edited by Nancy T. Ammerman, Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley and William McKinney, Abingdon Press, 1998). Beginning with readings, plenary sessions, an introduction to web resources and interviews in local communities, small group field studies will be used to examine several significantly different congregations, compare their approaches, and develop options with their leaders.

- Tuition cost for this six-day institute (including classes, field trips, materials and some meals) is \$750. Three graduate level credits are available at an additional cost of \$490.
- For more information and an application, please call Yvonne Bowen-Mack at (860) 509-9553, E-mail: yvonne@hartsem.edu.

## A MUSICAL EVENING



Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer delivered a highly entertaining and informative talk in January on the development of African-American spiritual music. The talk, titled "The Old 'Meter Hymn' and Other Types of Gospel Songs," drew a full house of more than 100 people to the Seminary. Boyer explained the origins of gospel songs, dating back to the turn of the 20th century in small rural congregations of Christian denominations in the deep South, and guided his audience to an understanding of the more structured music that is sung today. Part of his presentation was musical, as he provided his own piano accompaniment to his singing. Dr. Boyer is professor emeritus of music theory and African American music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the author of *How Sweet the Sound - the Golden Age of Gospel*. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford co-sponsored the event, providing a generous donation to underwrite it.

# New Center for Faith in Practice

Hartford Seminary has created a Center for Faith in Practice that will emphasize understanding the dynamics of the Christian faith in an applied context.

This theme of "faith in practice" is central to the teaching at Hartford Seminary, particularly in the fields of biblical studies, theology and ethics and liturgy, worship and spirituality.

Ian Markham, dean of the seminary, said that the center will be especially sensitive to the needs of those communities that are easily marginalized by the dominant discourse and will work to cultivate leadership capacity.

Participating as faculty in the center will be Efrain Agosto, professor of New Testament and director of El Programa de Ministerios Hispanos; Kelton Cobb, professor of theology and ethics; Judy Fentress-Williams, professor of Hebrew scriptures and director of the Black Ministries

Program; and Miriam Therese Winter, professor of liturgy, worship, spirituality and feminist studies and director of the Women's Leadership Institute. Heidi Hadsell, president of the Seminary and professor of social ethics, and Markham, who is professor of theology and ethics, are ex officio members of the center.

As the new center starts to get off the ground, it is envisaged that it would operate differently than the two established centers at Hartford Seminary, the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. These centers have an intensity of activity centered around well-defined missions specific to the centers. The Center for Faith in Practice, because all faculty teach courses that reflect its educational mission, would seek to have all faculty participate in its discussions of educational initiatives.

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