

Our Global Reach



Seminary President Heidi Hadsell and Dr. Ali Bayram sign an agreement for Dr. Bayram to fund a faculty chair in contemporary Islamic issues.

Turkish Leader Endows Chair in Islamic Studies

Hartford Seminary has been chosen for a pledge of \$2 million from Dr. Ali Bayram, a Turkish scholar and community representative, to fund a faculty chair devoted to contemporary Islamic studies. This is the largest pledge from the Muslim community in the history of Hartford Seminary.

The holder of the endowed chair will have the title "Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies."

Hartford Seminary houses the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, the oldest such center in the country and a resource for the understanding of Islam in the modern world. This chair will be housed in the Macdonald Center and enhance its program.

Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, said, "Hartford Seminary is truly honored to be the recipient *Continued on page 3*

Gift for Interfaith Professorship Announced at Clinton Initiative

Hartford Seminary is pleased to announce a \$500,000 gift by Cornelius B. and Gertrude Prior toward an endowed faculty chair at Hartford Seminary in Abrahamic Partnerships. The commitment was announced Thursday Sept. 21st at the 2006 annual conference of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City.

Photo courtesy of the Clinton Global Initiative



Recognizing the gift by Cornelius B. and Gertrude Prior are, left to right, Cornelius Prior, former U.S. President William J. Clinton and Hartford Seminary President Heidi Hadsell



Cornelius Prior is chairman of Atlantic Tele-Network Inc. in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and was chief executive officer of the company until January. Gertrude Prior is president and general manager of Coral World Marine Park and Undersea Observatory in St. Thomas. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary. *Continued on page 2*

Mattson Elected Head of Islamic Society of North America

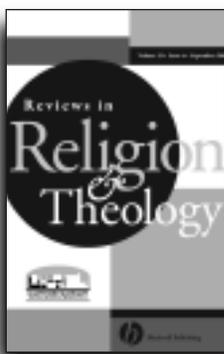
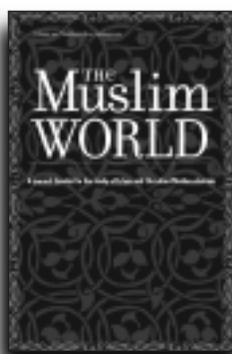
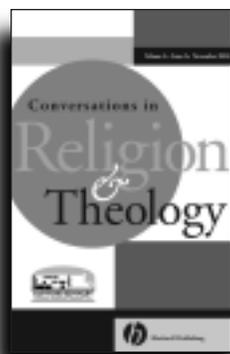
In August, Ingrid Mattson, Director of the Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy Program and Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, was elected the first female president of the Islamic



Ingrid Mattson, Director of the Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy Program and Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

Society of North America. ISNA is North America's largest and oldest Muslim organization.

Heidi Hadsell, President of Hartford Seminary, said of the election, "ISNA deserves to be congratulated for this precedent-setting decision. It is a wonderful message that women have equal rights in the Muslim community. Ingrid is an excellent *Continued on page 9*



Journals Edited by Seminary Faculty

Hartford Seminary has long been known for the academic resources it produces. Some texts are standards in classroom instruction across the country and around the world.

Books are not the only examples of the work of Seminary faculty. Faculty members also edit four journals. *Story on page 10.*

Gift for Interfaith Professorship Announced

Continued from page 1

The chair in Abrahamic Partnerships builds on the pioneering work of Professor Yehezkel Landau. In 2002 with the help of the Henry Luce Foundation, Hartford Seminary hired Landau, an Israeli-American citizen, interfaith educator, and religious peace activist, as faculty associate in interfaith relations to augment its program in Abrahamic religions. This position was a clear sign of the commitment to Christian-Muslim-Jewish leadership formation at the heart of the school's mission.

The Priors' commitment is the lead gift toward an Abrahamic Partnerships endowment that will secure this faculty chair at Hartford Seminary. Its primary focus will be on the theory and practice of Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations.

Heidi Hadsell, president of Hartford Seminary, said, "I am profoundly appreciative of the generosity of Neil and Trudie Prior and their commitment to interfaith education. We live in troubling times, and it is so important that Hartford Seminary continue its work in interreligious dialogue and understanding. The Priors' gift will help make this possible."

"Our Board joins me in appreciation for the commitment that they are making to the Abrahamic

conversation at Hartford Seminary," Hadsell said.

The creation of an endowment to establish the professorship as a permanent feature affirms the Seminary's commitment to making interreligious encounter a central part of each student's experience.

Central to the Seminary's work in Abrahamic Partnerships is its innovative *Building Abrahamic Partnerships* (BAP) program. Building on its strengths as an interfaith, dialogical school of practical theology, Hartford Seminary designed this innovative program to be a resource for Jews, Christians, and Muslims who seek a solid foundation in interfaith ministry. It is an eight-day intensive immersion in interfaith dialogue and understanding, meeting twice a year in January and June.

In April, the Seminary received an additional grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to support the professorship and the *Building Abrahamic Partnerships* program. The BAP program also has received support from the William and Mary Greve Foundation and the Alan B. Slifka Foundation

The Clinton Global Initiative is a non-partisan catalyst for action, bringing together a community of global leaders to devise and implement

innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. The mission of the William J. Clinton Foundation, and the goal of the initiative, is to increase the benefits and reduce the burdens of global interdependence; to make a world of more partners and fewer enemies; and to give more people the tools they need to build a better future. One of the areas of focus is mitigating religious and ethnic conflict.

Cornelius Prior has a B.A. from Holy Cross College and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School. He practiced law and investment banking before becoming chief executive officer of Atlantic Tele-Net. He is chairman of the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations.

Gertrude Prior has a B.S. from Tufts University and a J.D. from Washington College of Law at American University. She practiced law before becoming president of Coral World Marine Park and Undersea Observatory.



Slifka Foundation Funds BAP Expansion

Hartford Seminary received a grant of \$20,000 from the Alan B. Slifka Foundation to expand the *Building Abrahamic Partnerships* (BAP) program.

BAP, designed and coordinated by Faculty Associate Yehezkel Landau, brings Christians, Muslims and Jews together for a week-long intensive training program in interfaith relations and leadership development. Since its inception three years ago, BAP has trained more than one hundred and fifty religious leaders, both clergy and lay, to interact more effectively with other faith communities.

Now BAP will offer an advanced-level course, scheduled for July 9 to 13, 2007, for individuals who have completed the basic course and who wish to pursue more focused training in five areas:

- facilitation of interfaith dialogue
- joint study of sacred texts
- design of interfaith worship
- compassionate listening and nonbelligerent communication
- spiritual resources for conflict transformation

Individuals from the first round will enhance their practical knowledge, deepen their professional ties with other interfaith practitioners, and augment the impact they have on their local communities.

Landau, who is faculty associate in interfaith relations, envisions the advanced training as "a resource for interfaith practitioners who are on the front lines of the struggle to overcome ignorance, prejudice, and mutual estrangement. Hartford Seminary has pioneered in the field of Abrahamic studies and relationships, and this advanced-level training extends the role of the school in preparing leaders for our increasingly multi-faith society."

The Alan B. Slifka Foundation was an original supporter of the BAP program and has been working closely with Landau on this new effort. "Hartford Seminary is grateful for the on-going investment from the Foundation," Landau said.

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Turkish Religious Leader Endows Chair in Islamic Studies

Continued from page 1



Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', right, co-director of the Seminary's Macdonald Center, participated in discussions leading to the \$2-million pledge. He is shown with Dr. Ali Bayram, a Gülen community representative.

of this generous pledge, which shows the commitment of Dr. Bayram to both education, inter-faith understanding and peace. The study of Islam is especially important in these difficult times, and this gift will allow us to offer precedent-setting research and teaching on contemporary Islam as it is lived out in the world today."

"Our Board joins me in appreciation for the commitment that Dr. Bayram is making to Hartford Seminary," Hadsell said.

Dr. Bayram is one of the leading figures of a Muslim community made up of followers of Turkish theologian and religious leader Fethullah Gülen. He said that he is making the pledge because, "For many unfortunate reasons, Islam has been greatly misunderstood. There are not many credible sources of information about Islam, especially its contemporary issues. Neutral scholarly knowledge on Islam is missing from the discussion and not highlighted and we hope this chair will respond to this great need in the United States and globally."

"I also hope this will not be seen as an ordinary business deal," Dr. Bayram said. "Through this chair

we will prove to our contemporaries that members of different faith communities succeed only by working together in partnership, jointly serving the universal values of humanity."

One key aspect of the pledge is that the \$2 million will be invested in accordance with Islamic principles. For example, the money will not be invested in companies or funds that are based on the sale or promotion of alcohol, gambling or tobacco.

Hartford Seminary's Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, through co-director Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', has worked with the Gülen community since 1999 and participated in the discussions leading to the \$2-million pledge. "I am appreciative of Ibrahim's support and the Seminary owes him thanks for his effort," Hadsell said.

The academic and personal contacts of the Macdonald Center with the Gülen community resulted in a meeting of the Board of Trustees in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2005, at the invitation of the community.

The Gülen community is committed to Christian-Muslim dialogue

and interreligious dialogue with other faith communities in general. Commonly known as 'Hojafendi,' the community has several students studying at Hartford Seminary, and has had scholars come to the Seminary for sabbatical work.

Fethullah Gülen is known for his activities in the interreligious realm, his standing on the reconcilability of Islam and democracy, his public condemnation of violence in the name of Islam, and his stance on the significance of education in Islam.

The backbone of the Gülen fellowship is its elementary and high schools — more than 1,000 concentrated in Turkey and ethnically linked parts of Central Asia. It also has schools in Africa, North America, South America and Australia. The Gülen community runs six universities.

The Gülen community has a strategic spectrum of media voices: a national television channel, more than a half dozen radio stations, the Cihan news agency and one of Turkey's largest daily newspapers, Zaman, and several weekly and monthly magazines.

The professor holding the chair, besides teaching students in contemporary Islamic studies and inter-faith relations, will:

- Research and publish treatises
- Recruit visiting scholars and students to study at the Seminary
- Promote an active community outreach program, including conferences and symposia and overseas study seminars
- Assist the Seminary's programs to promote peace and understanding of all Abrahamic faiths



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Wabash Center Awards \$70,000

Hartford Seminary has received \$70,000 from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to enhance the capacity of seminaries to include interfaith dialogue in their teaching.

Heidi Hadsell, president of the Seminary and professor of social ethics, and David Roozen, director of the Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research and professor of religion and society, will direct the project.

Their work will result in:

- A book, and related electronic publications, that present six case studies of seminary-taught courses in interfaith dialogue. These case studies will include actual experiences of engaging persons across faith traditions.

- A three-day conference for theological educators on pedagogies for interfaith dialogue based on the case studies and including careful consideration of the bridges and barriers to incorporating such pedagogies in theological curriculum

"Dialogue, and the teaching of dialogue, is central to Hartford Seminary's mission, so we are delighted to receive

this grant from the Wabash Center," Hadsell said. "This grant will allow us to help shape theological education nationally, by emphasizing the importance of dialogue and of interfaith conversation and understanding. We

are grateful to the Wabash Center for their continued support of interfaith dialogue as essential to understanding in today's multi-faith world."

The title of the project is: "Pedagogies for Interfaith Dialogue: Creating and Sharing Critical Case Studies of Six Seminary Courses."

Hadsell and Roozen plan to choose case studies that lay out the full range of dialogical practices, including the advancement of mutual understanding and appreciative relationships. The case studies will be written by a working group of Hartford Seminary and external professors.

The project also is designed to deepen the strength of Hartford Seminary itself in engaging students in interfaith dialogue. At least two of the case studies will focus on Hartford Seminary courses and the entire Seminary faculty will be included in the conversations about the case studies.

Roozen, in the grant application to the Wabash Center, said that, post-September 11, one would have thought that "a subject like interfaith dialogue (as a vehicle for tolerance through enhanced understanding and connection) would be a hot-bed of interest for

theological education." The evidence, however, "is less compelling."

"For example, one will not find a single article in the Association of Theological Education's journal, *Theological Education*, about interfaith dialogue since September, 2001, nor for that matter, since the journal's inception in 1964," he said.

Hartford Seminary, on the other hand, has, since 2002:

- Added "the constructive engagement of difference" as one of its five institutional priorities
- Devoted a special issue of *The Muslim World* to interfaith dialogue
- Begun a new program in *Building Abrahamic Partnerships*
- Added "Dialogue in a World of Difference" as a required course in its Master of Arts program
- Added a graduate certificate in "Interfaith Dialogue"
- Formalized the *Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership*, an interfaith coalition of more than twenty denominational and faith-group research offices, agencies and centers, as a program of the Seminary

This grant, Roozen said, will allow the Seminary to build on what it is now doing, and inform others of the importance of interfaith dialogue in theological education.



Hartford Seminary and the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding. The council plans to serve as an interfaith hub for Singapore and the surrounding region and the Seminary will provide training in interfaith dialogue. The council also will send two scholars a year to study at Hartford Seminary and participate in the community. Shown at the signing ceremony are: At rear, left to right, Patricia L. Herbold, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Singapore; Mohd Isa Semait, the Mufti of the Republic of Singapore; Yaacob Ibrahim, Singapore's Minister of Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs; and a council official. Seated in front row, left to right, Muhammad Alami Musa, President of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore; Heidi Hadsell, President of Hartford Seminary; and Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and co-director of the Seminary's Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.

Alumni/ae Relations Will Be Strengthened

Hartford Seminary intends to strengthen its relationship with its alumni/ae, and has received a grant of \$7,500 from the Francis Asbury Palmer Fund to assist in this initiative.

The gift will allow the Seminary to host a number of regional events for alumni/ae and will provide for dissemination of the results of an alumni/ae survey conducted over the summer.

“Our alumni/ae are valued members of the Hartford Seminary family,” Heidi Hadsell, president of the Seminary, said. “We want to make sure that they are fully informed about what is happening at the Seminary, and fully involved. We want to hear from them and listen to their advice.”



The regional events will be small gatherings of alumni/ae, at which Hadsell and others will talk about the Seminary and engage in informal conversation with the alumni/ae. One event is being planned for Maine in the spring.

“It is our hope that these regional events will allow alumni/ae who live farther afield to feel more connected to the institution,” Hadsell said.

In the survey, alumni/ae who responded said that they think *Praxis* is a good way to communicate with alumni/ae. But two-fifths said they also would like an occasional separate newsletter. The Institutional Advancement Office plans to disseminate the full findings of the survey in a newsletter in the coming months.

Public Relations Also Funded

The grant from the Francis Asbury Palmer Fund also will allow the communications department to raise awareness about the Seminary beyond the local Hartford community.

The recent election of faculty member Ingrid Mattson to the presidency of the Islamic Society of North America coupled with the announcement of a financial commitment at the Clinton Global Initiative in September have helped to put Hartford Seminary in the national spotlight.

Maintaining this momentum and creating more interest in the Seminary is crucial to marketing the institution widely. With funds from this grant, the Seminary will run national advertisements in publications such as *The Christian Century* and on public radio stations in the region.

“The Francis Asbury Palmer Fund has been a generous and steadfast partner to the Seminary in years past, and has enabled the institution to extend its scholarship and service far beyond what would otherwise be possible,” Hadsell said.

Trustees Approve International Ph.D. Program

The Board of Trustees and the Faculty of Hartford Seminary have voted to make the International Doctor of Philosophy program at Hartford Seminary a permanent program of the Seminary.

The international Ph.D. program is unique in its approach and structure. First, it is a program jointly offered by Hartford Seminary and the University of Exeter in England. This partnership combines the strengths of both the United States and United Kingdom’s systems of education, as well as the strengths of world-class faculty from both institutions.

Second, this program recognizes the growing importance of international diversity, and the need for higher education to engage with international perspectives. Hartford Seminary and the University of Exeter joined forces to be at the forefront of this much needed change.

Graduates of the program will receive a Ph.D. in Religion from the University of Exeter. It will have two tracks, one in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, the other in Theology and Ethics.

“I am delighted that the Board and faculty have unanimously endorsed this new program, which is central to our mission,” Heidi Hadsell, president of the Seminary, said. “We are the premier school to train the next generation of scholars and leaders in interfaith relations, and our Ph.D. will attract these scholars and leaders,” she said.

She particularly praised Ian Markham, dean of the Seminary, who proposed the International Ph.D. program, and shepherded it through a three-year trial period. “Thanks to Ian, the program has thrived in its first three years, bringing outstanding students to Hartford Seminary.”

Currently the program has 10 students, five in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and five in Theology and Ethics.

As currently structured, students start with a transition year, during which they take three courses per semester in their field. Then, in the next year, they take a year-long course at Hartford Seminary titled “Research Methodology and Scholarly Development.” In addition to preparing all students for advanced doctoral-level independent research, this course will provide students with a cohort group for mutual support and peer criticism.

In their second year, students spend a semester at the University of Exeter.

Other program requirements will be tailor-made for each student through discussions between the advisers and the student with the ultimate goal of producing a dissertation of appropriate scholarly depth and creativity. Students will be required to pass exams after their first year of full-time study and upon completion of their dissertation. It is expected that full-time students will complete their dissertation within four years (seven years for part-time students).

To assist Markham, Heidi Gehman, Adjunct Faculty in Theology and Ethics, was named associate director of the program. Gehman will oversee admissions; along with the dean and registrar, serve as a liaison with the University of Exeter; assist in the development of an educational program for each student; and assist in evaluation of the program.

In Memoriam

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

The Rev. John S Anderson (B.S. '44), 94, died in May in Ames, IA. Mr. Anderson graduated from Bethel College and Seminary in St Paul, MN, and from Hartford Seminary Foundation's Kennedy School of Missions. He began his pastoral ministry in churches in Minnesota and Connecticut in 1935. In 1945 Mr. Anderson and his wife Elaine began service in the provinces of Manipur and Assam in north-east India with International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches. Three of their five children were born there. In 1955 the family returned to the United States and John was called as pastor to First Baptist Church in Plainfield, Iowa, followed by Forrest Avenue Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1967 the family moved to Ames when he accepted the position of administrator of the Northcrest Retirement Community. He retired in 1982 and lived at Northcrest until his death. He leaves his wife, Elaine; two daughters, two sons, one sister, one brother, as well as eleven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

The Rev. William R. Berry (M.Div. '54), 80, of Pleasant Hill, TN, died in June. Mr. Berry attended Southern Union College (a Congregational Junior College) and then graduated from Piedmont College in Demorest, GA, in 1950. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Hartford Seminary, having taken classes in both theology and social work. Mr. Berry was ordained at his first church, Antioch Congregational Church, a rural church near Andalusia, AL, in April, 1955, which he served for three years. He served United Congregational Christian Church in LaGrange, GA, for three and a half years, and then organized a new church, the United Church of Huntsville, AL. In 1967, he entered social services work on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, establishing an office in Eagle Butte, SD. For 10 years, he worked for the South Dakota Department of Social Services, in area offices and in the state office in Pierre, SD. He then served the First Congregational Church in Williamsburg, MA, for a short period of time. In 1983, he was elected as Dakota Association Minister to be the administrator of the South Dakota Sioux Indian UCC Churches, which also included pastoral services. Mr. Berry retired in 1991. He and his wife then spent three years as UCC

volunteers at Cook College and Theological School in Tempe, AZ, a school for Native Americans. In 1998, they moved to Blue Springs Terrace, a place for retired UCC pastors, in Blue Springs, MO. In 2002, they moved to their present home in Uplands Retirement Village in Pleasant Hill. Besides his wife Shirley; he leaves a daughter, a son, a foster daughter, a granddaughter, and numerous Indian "grandchildren" and "godchildren" on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Dr. Richard R. DeRidder (M.A. '56), 85, of Grand Rapids, MI, died in July. He was the author of "Discipling the Nations" and professor of mission, retired, at Calvin Theological Seminary

The Rev. Arthur Gelenian ('60), 71, of Mansfield, MA, died in May. He was pastor of Allen's Neck Meeting from 1964 to 1969. He leaves his wife Mary Gelenian.

The Rev. James R. Hutton (B.D. '54), 80, of Orwell, VT, died in October. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1959, serving in Vietnam in 1967 and retiring from the Navy in 1986. Mr. Hutton was the former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Colton, CA, from 1970 to 1978. Retiring to Vermont in 1979, he served the Peniel and Middle Granville Presbyterian Churches in New York. He leaves his wife Carolyn, two daughters and two granddaughters.

Mrs. Betty Bennett Moorhead (M.A. '50), 82, of Denver, CO, died in September. Mrs. Moorhead graduated from the University of Colorado in 1946. After that, she taught math and science in Roswell, NM. She received her M.A. in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary in 1950. She leaves her husband Ray, a daughter, a son and a grandchild.

Miss Grace J. Mutzabaugh (Kennedy School of Missions '48), 82, of Lancaster, PA, died in September. Miss Mutzabaugh received a degree from the Philadelphia School of Bible, her bachelor's degree in education from Elizabethtown College at which time she accepted a teaching position with Norfolk Christian Schools, later becoming principal of the school. She received her M.A. in education from the University of Virginia at Richmond. Miss Mutzabaugh established the first school-based program utilizing intense one-to-one cognitive strategies designed to teach students with learning disabilities at Norfolk Christian School and founded the National Institute for Learning Disabilities (NILD). She established her program in Christian schools throughout the United States and around the world. She wrote a biography of her life and the birth and growth of NILD entitled "A Work of His Grace." She leaves three sisters.

Dr. Paul Orjala (M.A. '56 and Ph.D. '70), 80, died in December, 2005, in Olathe, KS. From 1950 to 1964, Dr. Orjala and his wife Mary pioneered the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Haiti. In 1964, Dr. Orjala started the school of Missions at the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City where he was a professor from 1964 to 1986. He then served as mission field director in France from 1986 to 1989; and a religion professor at Point Loma Nazarene University from 1989 to 1995. Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, a son and six grandchildren.

The Rev. Gustave E. Peterson (M.A. '90) of South Hadley, MA, died in May.

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Sargent (M.A. '52), 77, of Ardmore, PA, died in October. A native New Yorker, Dr. Sargent earned her doctorate from Eastern Seminary (now Palmer Theological Seminary) in 1988, while serving Educational Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, USA. She received a master's degree in Christian education in 1952 from Hartford Seminary and a B.A. from Hunter College in 1950. Dr. Sargent served Educational Ministries for more than two decades, joining the American Baptists' mission board in 1973 as a program associate for the Department of Ministry with Children. She helped organize the first American Baptist educational conference for Black Christian Education and Leadership Development held at Oberlin College. Dr. Sargent retired from Educational Ministries in 1995, but continued to challenge herself. She went back to school to become a registered chaplain and was ordained into American Baptist ministry in 1998 at Saints Memorial Baptist Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. Dr. Sargent leaves a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Stennes (M.A. '61 and Ph.D. '69), 86, of Minneapolis, MN, died in October. Dr. Stennes was a clergyman-linguist who helped translate the Bible into Fulfulde, a language spoken by more than 12 million West Africans. He was devoted to the translation of scripture into African languages as a missionary for the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America. From 1951 to 1965, Stennes served as a missionary in West Africa for his church. He earned his Ph.D. in linguistics from Hartford Seminary in 1969, and was an expert in the Fulfulde language, spoken by the Fulani people of West Africa. After moving to Minneapolis in 1969, Dr. Stennes helped establish written languages for 12 other West African oral languages. For about 10 years in the 1980s and '90s, he helped run Worldwide Computer Typesetters, which specialized in typesetting Bibles or the New Testament in numerous languages, including Ojibwe. Until 2001, when he suffered

his first stroke, Dr. Stennes regularly traveled to Cameroon and Chad for workshops and seminars on translating. Besides his wife Rachel, he leaves three daughters, a brother, a sister and six grandchildren.

The Rev. Willard Edgar Thomen (M.Div. '49 and Kennedy School of Missions '50), 97, died in September in Spotsylvania County, VA. He was born in Torrington, CT, and graduated from Connecticut Agricultural College (now the University of Connecticut) in 1934 with a degree in vocational agriculture. For the next twelve years, Mr. Thomen taught at schools in Vermont, New Jersey and Connecticut. In 1946, he became director of a school for GIs in Sapporo, Japan. Upon his return in 1947, and intending to become a missionary, he entered Hartford Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1950. He served as minister of the Congregational Church, Mansfield Center, and the Baptist church of Spring Hill, both in Connecticut. From 1952 to 1956 he was called by the Hawaiian Board of Missions to be the director of the Kohala Girls School in Kohala, Hawaii, and to serve as pastor of Imiola Congregational Church. He returned to Connecticut in 1967, and served churches in Jewett City and Warrentonville. He retired in 1981. Mr. Thomen moved to Virginia in 1989 to be closer to the family of his youngest son. There, he attended Summit Presbyterian Church. He leaves three sons, a daughter, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. William P. Tolley (M.A. '53, D.R.E. '58), 79, died in March at Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA. Born in Lynchburg, VA, Dr. Tolley left high school in 1943 to enter the Marine Corps. He graduated from Elon College in North Carolina, and received an M.A. in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary in 1953. Dr. Tolley was ordained at Immanuel Congregational Church in 1957 and received his doctorate in Religious Education at the Seminary in 1958. With his wife Nancy Sicilian Tolley, he went to Angola in 1957, where she had been appointed for service by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. They left in 1961, and he became pastor at Bethany Congregational Church, Foxboro, MA, for two years. They went back to Africa in 1963, teaching for three years at Peki Seminary in Ghana. Dr. Tolley later served churches in Southwick, MA, and Newton, MA, for 24 years until his retirement in 1991. Long active in peace and justice issues, he established community hunger walks. After retiring, he lived in Wilmington, North Carolina, for nine years, moving to Pilgrim Place in 2000. Besides his wife, Dr. Tolley leaves three sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Alumni Notes

J. Alan McLean (S.T.M. '70) reports: "I arranged for Professor Jane Smith to offer a public lecture on October 1 here in New London, New Hampshire, sponsored by the ecumenical area Clergy Association. It will be called: "Christian-Muslim Relations – Why Should We Talk to Each Other?" In anticipation of Jane's lecture, I am offering a three week Adult Education Series at the First Baptist Church in town. Since Jane is going to deal with the question "Why Should We Talk to Each Other," my series will go as follows: "How Do We Talk to Each Other; What Should We Talk About; and Will Interfaith Worship Corrupt Us?" I also will be at Hartford Seminary this fall, sharing in the teaching of Jane's course, "Major Themes In The Bible and Qur'an".

Margaret Morse (M.A. '91) has written a non-fiction book, *Choices*, revised to *Torrey's Miracle*, about her husband and her walk with their daughter, Torrey, as she faced the journey of cancer. She is now a twenty-eight year survivor. In 2003, Ms. Morse wrote a book about Vermont, *Vermont Life Stories - Memories of Summer Living in the Green Mountain State*. All profits for these books go into a cancer fund for patients and their families who are in financial need. Ms. Morse now has written her first novel which will be available through www.authorhouse.com. She says to look for her name, Margaret Berger Morse, or for the book title, *A Matter of Perception: Breaking Through*. A website for the book has been created, www.amatterofperceptionbook.com. All of her books can be seen and purchased from either of these sites. Ms. Morse would be glad to hear from readers at her email, cplottie@aol.com.

Thomas Swain (M.A. '72) reports: "In 1992 I finished a Doctor of Ministry program at Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana and received a D.Min. degree. This is the school where John Morgan, fellow Hartford Seminary alumnus, is president. I retired from public education after 20 years serving as a librarian. In my last year, 2004, I was recognized by the Delaware Library Association as the "Outstanding Library/Media Specialist" for the year. I retired from Paul Hodgson Vocational Technical School (high school) in December 2004. In 2005 and 2006, I traveled among Quakers in the United Kingdom in religious service for a total of six months conducting classes in Quakerism and having a ministry of presence. On August 1, I was appointed Clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is the largest Quaker body in the United States and includes Quakers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. I also have been reappointed to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches representing the Yearly Meeting. I have been a part of the Council's on-going work in its Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Region."

Fewer Congregations Consider Themselves Financially Healthy

When it comes to their financial condition, a majority of congregations in the United States consider themselves financially healthy. But increasingly more congregations worry about their finances.

A new survey of 884 randomly sampled congregations of all faith traditions in the United States has found that 57 percent of congregations report that their financial situation is good or excellent. This represents a notable drop since 2000 when 66 percent of congregations said their situation was good or excellent.

The financial health of congregations varies considerably by faith community, the new survey found. Less than half (48%) of Old-line Protestant congregations reported that their financial situation was good or excellent, compared to 62 percent of Other Protestant congregations and Catholic and Orthodox parishes.

These figures are from the just released Faith Communities Today 2005 (FACT2005) survey. The survey updates results from a survey taken in 2000.

This new survey information appears in "Insights into Financial Giving," a new publication produced by Faith Communities Today, a coalition of American faith communities working together as the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership (CCSP).

FACT2000 and FACT2005 are the first two of an ongoing series of national surveys designed to track changes in U.S. congregations and plumb the dynamics of selected congregational practices and challenges. Researchers, consultants and program staff from a broadly ecumenical and interfaith association of thirty-three religious groups and organizations are involved in the partnership, which is managing the surveys.

David A. Roozen, Director of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership and Professor of Religion and Society at Hartford Seminary, said that the new series "will provide a quick, engaging, encouraging introduction to the how and why of addressing a particular area of congregational life, such as financial giving. The new publication will be written especially for clergy and lay leaders who suddenly find themselves challenged to think about ways to help their congregation infuse that area with new energy and purposefulness."

"We are committed to forming vital faith communities," Roozen said of the partnership, "and this is one step toward that goal."

CCSP plans to offer "Insights" as a periodic series, connecting the research it conducts with strategies for dealing with important issues facing congregations in the United States today. The first issue offers news, background information, resources and key questions to help congregational leaders study their financial condition and enhance their stewardship.

This is an important topic to congregations. The FACT2000 survey found that the most frequently cited source of conflict in congregations was over money. The FACT2005 survey found that congregational finance was among the top five challenges the respondents named.

"Insights into Financial Giving" offers tips on why financial giving is considered important, to help congregations as they plan their financial campaigns. For example, Money Matters: Personal

Giving in American Churches, a recent study of church finances, identifies four basic motivations: Thankfulness and Altruism, Reciprocity with God, Reciprocity with the individual's faith group, and Giving as an extension of the self.

"Insights into Financial Giving" poses 11 "bottom line questions" and asks congregations to consider which are appropriate to them, which take priority and what steps they would take to respond to them. One says, for example, "Remember that people give to people and not to budgets and shortages. The first rule of fundraising is to ask. Do you ask personally and connect the contributions to how they concretely assist people in their spiritual, physical, and other needs?"

Finally, to enable congregations to take advantage of the information it provides, "Insights into Financial Giving" offers a series of next steps.

"Insights into Financial Giving" was written by Dirk J. Hart, a retired pastor and denominational executive in church development.

Faith Communities Today and the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership are not-for-profit entities of Hartford Seminary and the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. FACT/CCSP offers research based resources for congregational development that are useful across faith traditions, believing that communities of faith encounter common issues and can benefit from one another's experiences. It also informs the public about the contributions of congregations to American society and about the changes affecting and emanating from one of America's major sources of voluntary association – local congregations.

To obtain a copy of "Insights into Financial Giving," contact Mary Jane Ross, at Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 860.509.9543 or mross@hartsem.edu. The six-page booklet costs \$2.00, including shipping; discounts are available on multiple copies.

Giving Through the Annual Fund

Hartford Seminary's Annual Fund sustains many of the special programs and all of the general operations of the institution, yet it is often the unsung hero of development efforts.

Providing support to the library, salaries, building maintenance and each of the three learning centers, the Annual Fund keeps the Seminary running smoothly. For many people, however, keeping the lights on in the classrooms or paying the phone bills are not as exciting as offering scholarships to international students or funding a new academic program.

What is exciting, however, is having the knowledge that your gift makes an impact. Whether you donate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, or in affirmation of the institution's mission, your gift to the Annual Fund inspires others and opens new doors to dialogue.

Whatever your reason for giving, you can make a contribution to Hartford Seminary's Annual Fund and know that your gift is key to the operation of this special place.

For more information or to make a contribution to the Annual Fund, please call (860) 509-9554, send an email to giving@hartsem.edu or visit our website at www.hartsem.edu.

Professor Heads National Association

Continued from page 1

leader, and I am confident ISNA will thrive during her tenure as president.”

Mattson earned her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of Chicago in 1999. Her research is focused on Islamic law and society.

She was born in Canada, where she studied philosophy at the University of Waterloo, Ontario (B.A. '87). From 1987-1988 she lived in Pakistan where she worked with Afghan refugee women. In 2001 she was elected Vice President of ISNA.

Mattson, on the Seminary website, says of her work at Hartford Seminary, “I am fortunate to teach and work among colleagues who are engaged in educating students and the public on many different ethical issues: women’s rights, environmental ethics, interfaith relations, business ethics etc. There is so much to do, so much to learn, and none of us will be able to understand and address all these complex issues. What we can do is support and encourage those who are working to educate themselves and others on these important issues, and to advocate for peaceful and just relations between individuals and societies.”

ISNA began as a Muslim students’ association in 1963 and has become an umbrella organization for Muslim students, professional groups, about 300 mosques and Islamic centers, and some 20,000 individual members.

The election of a woman sends a clear message that Islam does not prohibit them from taking leadership positions, said the society’s former president.

“We did that to prove it is (religiously) acceptable,” Sheikh Muhammad Nur Abdullah said. “Muslim women who are qualified can be leaders. They are partners with brothers in the Islamic world.”

Mattson said her focus will be on building institutions that raise the standards for representatives of the

Muslim community in order to better respond to the challenges facing Muslims.

“My major concern is institution-building and to emphasize the need for standards in our community. There is no ordination in Islam, no hierarchical church that determines what all communities should do. We don’t want to be that, but at the same time we can help the community develop some standards for religious leaders and our religious community. We can raise the level of professionalism in our communities and harness the energy and goodwill that is in our congregation,” Mattson said.

“Unfortunately, many of our communities are not functioning in a really dynamic and vital fashion. So we need to implement more training, provide educational opportunities for those running these institutions, and give models of successful communities that engage both their congregants and the broader community,” she said.

Mattson also said a new initiative is an office in Washington, D.C., for interfaith and community alliances.

Mattson said that ISNA is primarily about community building, strengthening relationships among the diverse Muslim communities and with other communities. “We need to provide guidance to Muslim communities,” she said, “not just through talk. We need to show how Muslims are contributing.”

Mattson expects that ISNA will help local communities hold events, such as conferences and outreach programs, in different parts of the country. It will provide speakers, resources and training. “The goal is for the communities to engage with those around them,” Mattson said.

The president serves a two-year term, leading the society’s committees and executive boards that set policy through consultation with its members.

Fuchs Honored

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, CT, has received the “Legion of Honor” award by the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national non-profit organization which gives this honor to those who exhibit “outstanding, sacrificial volunteer service to one’s community and fellow human beings without regard for faith or race.”

The award recognizes Fuchs’ work in the community and acknowledges his Memorial Day Speech at West Hartford Town Hall in which he retold the story of the heroism of the four Chaplains, two Protestant Ministers, a Catholic Priest and a Rabbi who served on the troop ship *Dorchester* which was torpedoed and sunk in the waters of the North Atlantic by a German submarine on February 3, 1943.

West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka made the presentation of the award. Fuchs is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary.

Victoria Rogers of Hartford has returned to Hartford Seminary on a part-time basis as an assistant with the Congregational Relations Program and as a special events coordinator for the Development office. The Congregational Relations Program brings Christians from overseas settings where there is significant inter-religious conflict. They spend an intensive year studying interfaith dialogue, and leave with the skills and knowledge to engage in productive interfaith dialogue at home. During their year in Hartford, these students are embedded in local congregations where they can experience American Christianity first hand. Rogers will assist The Rev. Dr. Ralph Ahlberg, the director of the program, in matching students with churches, and in helping participating churches maximize their year with these students.

In addition to her responsibilities with the Congregational Relations Program, Rogers will be planning special events on behalf of the Development office. Her goal is to create intimate events that bring diverse groups together for casual socializing in conjunction with other programming offered by the Seminary.

You can reach her at (860) 509-9518 or vrogers@hartsem.edu.

New Staff



Vanessa Avery-Wall of West Hartford is the new Admissions and Student Support Manager, working with Karen Rollins, director of enrollment management and registrar. A student in the Doctor of Ministry program, Vanessa has served as a founding director of VAST Consultants, a firm that offers diversity consulting. She has prepared and conducted presentations for a wide variety of constituencies on topics such as “Understanding World Religions,” “Customer Service in a Multicultural Environment,” and “Gurus, Prophets and Rabbis: Learning Leadership from Spiritual Pros.” She is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, and holds two Master’s degrees,

one from Yale University and one from King’s College, London. In her free time, Vanessa enjoys family life with her husband, Craig, and her 2 1/2 year old son, Daelen. She also enjoys playing volleyball, playing and writing music, traveling, and antiques.

Journals Edited by Hartford Seminary

Continued from page 1

- The premier journal in Christian-Muslim relations
- Two journals at the heart of the academic enterprise – evaluating and debating books
- The only truly international journal in practical theology

Why are they important to the mission of Hartford Seminary? As Ian Markham, dean of the Seminary said about *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, “We strive to inform the public. Here is a tool that will enable any person who strives to be literate in theology and religious studies to know what is coming out and how it is regarded by a specialist in the field.”

Here is a look at each of the journals

The Muslim World

Founded in 1911 and edited by Hartford Seminary since 1938, *The Muslim World* is dedicated to the dissemination of scholarly research on Islam and Muslim societies and on historical and current aspects of Muslim-Christian relations. The journal includes research articles, book reviews, notices and surveys of periodicals. It has subscribers in 65 countries.

The journal is edited by Ibrahim Abu-Rabi' and Jane Smith, the co-directors of the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.

Smith said that *The Muslim World* is distinctive because it publishes in two distinct, but overlapping areas, Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations. “The first is a carefully defined academic field that contains many different disciplines. The second is an area of specialization. In both, I believe, our journal makes significant contributions,” she said.

“We receive more articles in the study of Islam simply because many more scholars are writing in that area. We cover history, politics, social movements, law, theology, textual studies and many more fields within the general discipline of Islamic studies,” Smith said. “We have fewer articles doing real comparisons between Islam and Christianity, but are encouraging contributions in that field whenever possible.”

“One of the interesting strengths,” Smith said, “is that *The Muslim World* features both special issues focused on a particular area or topic and issues that contain articles about a number of different studies but without any common theme. I don't know another journal that does exactly that.”

The journal is in line with the Seminary's commitment to further the study of interfaith, specifically Christian-Muslim, relations. Smith said, “It provides a link with our past history and points to the direction that Hartford Seminary has committed itself to take. It allows us to remain in contact with constituencies all over the world, including former students and visiting scholars. It provides entrée into the range of disciplines in which our faculty have expertise.”

Reviews in Religion and Theology Conversations in Religion and Theology

Every year, the amount published in the area of theology and religious studies increases and diversifies. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* offers a guide to contemporary developments in religion and theology, providing a forum in which the latest publications are evaluated and discussed.

The journal's publisher, Blackwell Publishing, says it “aims to provide clearly written, constructive and prompt reviews of the vast range of publications in theology and religious studies, or that are of relevance to those interested in these fields (for example, in anthropology, cultural studies, history, literature or philosophy).”

Conversations in Religion and Theology publishes substantial reviews of the best writing in theology and religious studies, immediately followed by the author's reply. The goal is a high quality exchange that explores the major themes in theology and religious studies.

Markham is the editor of both journals. Seminary Professors Uriah Kim and Worth Loomis are associate editors of RRT. Seminary Professor Kelton Cobb is associate editor of CRT. Ph.D. student Christy Lohr is assistant editor of RRT.

Markham said *Reviews in Religion and Theology* “is the journal that promises to review everything worth reviewing while the books are still in print. One problem for many professors is that by the time a book review appears, the book is out of print. We pride ourselves on the rapid turn around of high quality reviews. Lots of authors find the first review of their monograph in the pages of RRT.”

Of *Conversations in Religion and Theology*, he said, “Where RRT promises breath, CRT promises depth. The goal of this journal is to take the finest writing in religion and theology and offer a book review article, with a reply from the author. The exchanges are often riveting reading, with authors often developing the ideas for their next book in the journal.”

“Books remain the heart of the academic

enterprise,” Markham said. “Ideas are disseminated in books, which shape the academic debates in our various disciplines. RRT enables professors to appreciate the developments in their field, determine which books they will read, and have a sense of the growing trajectory in their discipline. CRT is the only journal dedicated to the conversation. Learning from exchange is a key quality of the academy. We strive to encapsulate this in the journal.”

He said that *Conversations in Religion and Theology* reflects the Seminary's mission because it is a “dialogical journal, which embodies the Seminary commitment to dialogue in the pages of a journal.” RRT is consistent with the mission to inform the public.

The International Journal of Practical Theology

The International Journal of Practical Theology is an academic journal published in Germany by Walter de Gruyter. De Gruyter says of the journal that “it is intended for practical theologians and teachers of religious education, scientists specializing in religion, and representatives of other cultural-scientific disciplines. The aim of the journal is to promote an international and interdisciplinary dialogue.”

James Nieman, Professor of Practical Theology in the Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research, is one of three editors of the journal. The journal is refereed, which means that each article is sent for review by two outside experts before a decision is made whether to publish it.

The journal contains contributions on ecclesiastical and religious practices in society. Primarily, it deals with descriptions of religion as it is practiced.

In addition to general articles on a wide range of topics, each issue of the International Journal of Practical Theology offers a “Research Report” which tells the current state of affairs in a particular sub-discipline of practical theology (such as homiletics or administration) or the results of recent research projects. Journal issues also contain an “International Report” which presents the scholarly development and present situation of practical theology in various countries, regions, or language groups. Finally, each issue concludes with a selection of “Reviews” which give information on important new publications in the field of practical theology.

Nieman said the journal is distinctive because it combines articles on pastoral disciplines (such as liturgics or pastoral care), discussions of particular religious practices in a wide range of situations, and empirical studies of congregations, churches or reli-

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gious groups.

As a bilingual journal (English and German) with a worldwide distribution, its focus is the whole range of the field of practical theology. The journal also is distinctive because de Gruyter is committed to longer articles that allow scholars to develop a far more extensive examination of their topics. It therefore has an archival function of preserving important scholarly insights and developments from around the globe.



Nieman has been co-editor of the journal for four years, starting before he came to Hartford Seminary. He said his work on the journal “signals both the Seminary’s and the Hartford Institute’s commitment to practical theology, a recognition that it is an important part of what we do here.”

Blackwell Publishing publishes *The Muslim World*, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* and *Conversations in Religion and Theology*. For subscription information, visit the Blackwell Publishing website, www.blackwellpublishing.com. For subscription information for the *International Journal of Practical Theology*, visit www.degruyter.com.

Seminary Education Shapes a Pioneer

“I enjoyed my studies very much. For the first time in life, I was getting a liberal education. My courses were in the areas of psychology, my major; sociology;

philosophy; New Testament; and education. I studied hard and did well that first semester.”

These are the words of James S. Peters, II, Ph.D, who traveled from Louisiana at the age of 23 to study at Hartford Seminary’s School of Religious Education. Today Peters, who is 89, lives in Storrs, CT, and remembers the Seminary as “the place that opened things up for me.”

How Peters came to Hartford is interesting in itself. While he was a student at Southern University, friends told him about the Hartford School of Religious Education. Later, he began teaching in Natchitoches, LA. While celebrating the Christmas holidays in 1940, “an event occurred that changed my life forever.” His college friend George David, who had moved to Hartford, asked him to come to Hartford with him. It did not take much persuading because Peters had known that he would someday leave the South.

He arrived in Hartford in January 1941, and began school in the second semester. Through the next year and a half, Peters both attended the school of religious education and worked to support himself. His thesis topic was “A Study of the Psychological and Social Problems of Negro Migrants in Hartford and its Vicinity.”

Peters graduated from the School of Religious Education in 1942 with a Master of Arts in social psychology. He immediately encountered racial discrimination at Colt Patent Firearms, where he had been hired as a machine operator. In his book “Memoirs of a Black Southern New Englander,” Peters explains what happened when Colt closed its plastics division:

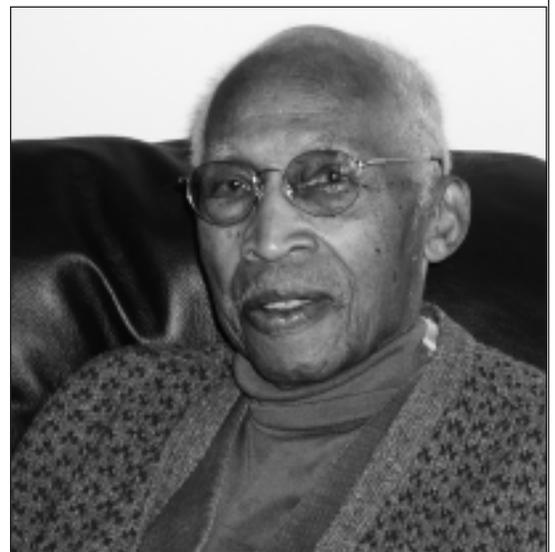
“The company and the union arranged for the transfer of all the white workers who were skilled and semiskilled to the guns division on Park Street. They offered me a job there, too, but to be an elevator operator. . . . I refused the offer, went to my union for help (United Electrical, CIO), but it did nothing but take me to the personnel director who would not assist me. This was a case of discrimination so I decided to go on a one-man strike against Colt.”

In the end, after writing to the Fair Employment Practice Committee in Washington, D.C., Peters was hired back as a machine operator. His stand for justice was repeated, in more dramatic fashion, after he was drafted into the U.S. Navy during World War II.

In the Navy, Peters was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. This was a segregated facility. As he had done at Colt Patent Firearms, Peters worked for change:

“Along with so many other black G.I.’s and civilians, I protested against this racism. I wrote articles to the black press telling of this injustice in the navy. It was a great day for me when I awoke one morning in 1945 and found black and white sailors marching and living together.”

During his time at Great Lakes, Peters was in a unit that tested Navy personnel, both blacks and whites. He was one of the first black psychologists in the Navy, working with graduates of Ivy League schools.



James S. Peters, II, Ph.D

“I showed them the results of many of the black sailors. They said, ‘Why are they segregated? They should be officers, on ships.’”

Peters said that two arguments were made by those who favored segregated units: that whites would resent blacks and that blacks were not intellectual. “But the test results showed that this was not true,” he said, and persuaded Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal to integrate the Navy. It wasn’t until three years later that the other services were ordered to integrate.

After he was discharged, Peters began an accomplished career as a psychologist. He was associate commissioner of the division of vocational rehabilitation, Connecticut Department of Education, for 25 years, from 1956 until 1981. Since then he has held a number of adjunct and visiting professorships.

Peters has his Ph.D. from Purdue University in counseling psychology and his Master of Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology in clinical psychology.

In 2005, Peters was named to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Peters is proud of his career as a pioneer in race relations. His story bears credence to the belief that knowledge is power.

Faculty Notes



In September, **Efrain Agosto** participated in a Latino/a clergy forum on universal health care in New Haven, in which he gave a talk on “Health and Healing in the World of Jesus – and Ours.” His essay on this topic was published by the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut and distributed at this meeting for the first time. In October, Agosto spoke on the topic “Clergy Leadership in the 21st Century: A New Testament Reflection and Discussion” at the Clergy Day gathering of Connecticut Episcopal priests and deacons, held in Bridgeport. Later that month, he was the retreat speaker for a gathering of Episcopal deacons of Province One (New England states), held in Portland, Maine, during which he spoke about “The Deacon as Servant Leader: A New Testament Reflection and Discussion.” During that same weekend he also preached at the Cathedral of Maine, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Portland, at both their Spanish-language service on Saturday evening and their Sunday morning worship service. In mid-October, Agosto led a bible study on the Book of Revelation for an adult forum at St. Timothy’s Roman Catholic Church in West Hartford. In November, he preached the stewardship sermon for both the English and Spanish language Sunday morning services at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Hartford. Then he flew off to Istanbul, Turkey to participate in the biannual Nursi Conference on Islamic Studies, in which he delivered a paper comparing theodicy in Nursi and the Apostle Paul. While in Turkey, Efrain visited Pauline and other Christian sites in Ephesus.

This fall ZH Online published **Steven Blackburn**’s article “Muslim Perspectives on Jerusalem” as part of their Hartford Seminary on Religion / Perspective column. In terms of denominational service, Blackburn has been elected as a financial officer of the Fellowship of Connecticut Congregational Christian Churches, an association of more than 40 congregations which Blackburn served as Executive from 1988 to 1997. He continues to fill area pulpits on occasion, most recently in mid-November at the Third Congregational Church of Middletown, CT.

Heidi Hadsell attended a conference and Board meeting for Globethics.net in the Netherlands in August. In September, she participated in the annual conference of the Clinton Global Initiative held in New York City. Announcement of a gift by Trudie and Neil Prior to the Seminary was the centerpiece of her participation. She then traveled with Ibrahim Abu-Rabi’ to Singapore and Indonesia. In Singapore, she signed a memorandum of understanding with the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore. In Indonesia, she met with the heads of several universities, to discuss student and scholar exchanges. In October, Hadsell was a participant at a World Council of Churches interfaith conference in Coimbatore, India. She delivered an address, “Cosmopolitan

Christianity,” at the annual meeting of the United Church of Christ, Connecticut Conference, in Hartford. The address is available for viewing on her faculty page of the Seminary’s web site at http://www.hartsem.edu/centers/hadsell_article2.htm. Also in October, Hadsell was a convener of a Theological Educators for Presbyterian Social Witness conference in Princeton, NJ, and spoke at the McCauley Home in West Hartford on “Coping with Global Warming: The Crucial Role of Human Values, Attitudes and Behavior.”

Decolonizing Josiah by **Uriah Kim** came out in a paperback edition in August. Also in August, Kim participated in the Asian Pacific Americans and Religion Research Initiative’s annual conference in Berkeley, CA. In November, he spoke on the story of Joseph at First Presbyterian Church of Hartford’s Adult Forum.

Yehezkel Landau’s activities include: In September: participated in a conference on “Jewish Fundamentalism” at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, CA, delivering a presentation on “Religious Peacemaking in the Abrahamic Family”; led a session of the M.A. course, “Dialogue in a World of Difference”; addressed a gathering in Columbus, OH, convened by the local Harvard Club on the religious dimension of Middle East peacemaking and delivered the keynote address at an interfaith *Iftar* dinner sponsored by the Scioto Educational Foundation. In October: spoke at an interfaith *Iftar* in Philadelphia; spoke twice on interfaith relations and Middle East peace-building at the University of Illinois, Chicago, spoke at an orientation meeting for host families in the Moderate Voices for Progress (MVP) program, which brings Jewish and Arab young adults to Hartford for coexistence leadership training; conducted a seminar in Brookline, MA, on Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations for Jewish and Catholic Holocaust educators, under the auspices of the “Facing History and Ourselves” program; spoke to an interfaith group in Santa Clara, CA, on the destructive and reconciling power of sacred stories, then delivered a public lecture at Santa Clara University on “Healing the Holy Land”; was guest lecturer in classes at San Jose State University and conducted a public seminar there on “Difficult Dialogues in the Abrahamic Traditions”; taught on “Peacemaking Lessons from Genesis” and “Building Abrahamic Partnerships” at two liberal synagogues in San Jose and Los Gatos, CA. In November: co-led a Jewish-Muslim dialogue for the Kehilat Chaverim Jewish congregation in West Hartford; for the MVP program, chaired an evening interfaith panel and then co-facilitated a day-long training on anti-discrimination strategies and methods; delivered two talks at the Gann Academy/New Jewish High School in Waltham, MA, then co-led a discussion on “Teaching Judaism to Christians and Muslims” for a group of Hartford-area religion professors. An article Landau co-authored with Saliba Sarsar from Monmouth University, entitled “Reclaiming Dignity and Hope,” was published in *Middle East Times* and other electronic publications.

Adair Lummis has a chapter titled

“Hispanic Ministry in Fourteen Protestant Denominations” on what national denominational offices are doing for Hispanic ministry, in Edwin I. Hernandez et al. eds, *Emerging Voices, Urgent Choices: Essays on Latino/a Religious Leadership* (Brill, 2006). On the basis of survey results and telephone interviews with students and graduates of Hartford Seminary’s Black Ministries Program, Lummis presented two papers: one in August in Montreal at the Association for the Sociology of Religion, entitled “Heart and Head’ in Reaching Pastors of Black Churches” and another in October in Portland, Oregon at the Religious Research Association meetings, entitled “Openness to Diversity Within Black Ministries.” At the Portland meeting, she also organized and convened an author meets critics session for a former Hartford Seminary professor, Jackson Carroll, for his new book, *God’s Potters: Pastoral Leaders and the Shaping of Congregations*.

The latest book by **Ian Markham**, *Do Morals Matter? A Guide to Contemporary Ethics*, was published by Blackwell Publishing. Articles on ‘Sin’ and ‘Humanism’ appeared in *A Dictionary of Jewish-Christian Relations* and an editorial on ‘Limits to Conversation’ appeared in *Conversations in Religion and Theology*. In September, Markham preached at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford; spoke on ‘Being on an Accreditation Visit for the First Time’ for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in Boston., and preached at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Southington, CT. In October, Markham served as consultant at Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, and spoke on ‘Thinking Theologically about Pastoral Care’ at Hartford Hospital and on ‘Understanding Creationism’ at Old St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Bloomfield, CT. In November, Markham talked on ‘The Problem of Evil’ for the St. James Episcopal Church Women’s Group and delivered several papers: ‘Living Life in the Light of Death’ for the Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, ‘What Christians Can Learn from Said Nursi’ in Sophia, Bulgaria, and ‘Trends in Ethics’ for the Independent Schools Religious Studies Association, at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea, London, UK.

James Nieman participated in several activities that bridge between Hartford Seminary and other publics. As a board member for the Louisville Institute, he participated in the summer board meeting in August. His “Discerning Theologies” grant project, funded by the Lilly Endowment, held its first meeting in September. He taught and preached at the Bishop’s Convocation for the ELCA New England Synod in October, and also attended the synod’s ministry candidacy committee in November. With Kathleen Calahan, he completed the article “Mapping the Field of Practical Theology,” which will be included in a collected volume on practical theology to be published in 2007. He also served as convener of a session of the new Practical Theology Group at the American Academy of Religion’s annual meeting in Washington DC in November, where the session topic will be “Political Aspects of Practical Theology.”

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In August **David Roozen** chaired the annual meeting of the Cooperative Congregational Partnership in

Chicago, at which the CCSP received the results from the FACT2005 national survey of congregations, voted to continue its "Leadership & Transformation" electronic newsletter; voted to expand its "Insights Into ..." congregational development resource series, voted to conduct a FACT2008 national survey of congregations; and instructed the research task force to begin planning for the FACT2010 survey. In September, Roozen led a two-day workshop for the national staff of the Church of the Nazarene. In October he participated with other HIRR faculty in the joint annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association. Former HIRR post-doctorate associate Dan Olson delivered the RRA presidential address at the meetings held in Portland, Oregon. In October Roozen and Heidi Hadsell received word from the Wabash Center that they had received a grant for \$70,000 for their proposed study of pedagogies for Interfaith Dialogue.

In September, **Jane Smith** chaired a panel on "Forgiveness and Reconciliation" at the 9-11 Global Congress of World's Religions in Montreal, and attended a meeting of the National Council of Churches Commission on Interfaith Relations, also in Montreal. In October, Smith spoke on "Christian-Muslim Relations: Why Should We Talk to Each Other?" at the Kearsarge Area Clergy Association, New London, NH, and on "Islam and the Family" at the Congregational Library Conference, South Congregational Church, Hartford. She was the speaker at the annual iftar of the Muslim Student Association of Yale University and chair of the 35th Annual Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists, "Muslim Identities: Shifting Boundaries and Dialogues," co-sponsored by Hartford Seminary and held at Hartford Seminary. In November, Smith was a participant in a meeting of the Harvard Divinity School Visiting Committee and was a panelist at a conference on "The 'Sympathetic' Study of World Religions: Peril and Promise," Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. She published "American Islamic Communities," in Mark Juergensmeyer, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Global Religions* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Scott Thumma spent much of this quarter traveling and speaking on his research. In August he attended the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership in Chicago to plan the next several years of research and outreach with that group. In September he was at the Religion Newswriters Association conference in Salt Lake City publicizing the work of the Hartford Institute and Seminary and discussing his megachurch research with more than 300 reporters. In October he gave a talk at St. John's Episcopal Church on his research, two weeks later he participated in the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association conference in Portland, Oregon, by organizing and chairing two sessions and presenting three papers, two of which will soon be journal articles. Thumma will be the Religious Research Association conference organizer for 2007 as well as publicity person for both organizations. At the end of the month, he organized an annual conference of Lilly Endowment supported website managers in Louisville, Ky. In early November he participated in a Hartford Seminary outreach event on church growth within the liberal church. The following week he was in San Diego doing a workshop for 100 pastors at an evangelical Outreach conference. In early December he will gather with the leading researchers of megachurches to talk about strategies and future directions for new research. Throughout this period his work continues to be featured in news articles, including an article about what can all churches learn from megachurches in *Zion's Herald*. Additionally, a year long process has concluded with the Hartford Institute website (hirr.hartsem.edu) having a new look and additional helpful content. Finally, his manuscript entitled *Beyond Megachurch Myths* is at the publisher with a June 2007 publication date.

Miriam Therese Winter gave the keynote address at a Diocesan Conference for Catholic women in San Bernardino, California in October and several major presentations at the national Call to Action Conference in Milwaukee in November.

Cynthia Woolever was on sabbatical in the fall semester. With co-author Deborah Bruce, she completed a book manuscript on the influence of religious geography on congregational life (the third book based on the U.S. Congregational Life Survey). In September, Woolever gave a presentation to the Episcopal Church Pension Group, New York City. In November, she traveled to Australia where she gave a presentation on congregational identity at Australia Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia, and worked with Robert Dixon, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Monash University.

Books by Seminary Faculty Since 2003

Ibrahim Abu-Rabi'

The Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Islamic Thought, editor (Blackwell Publishing, 2006)

Challenges and Responses of Contemporary Islamic Thought: The Contributions of M. Fethullah Gulen, editor (State University of New York Press, forthcoming)

Translation of Fouad Zakariyya's *Myth and Reality in the Contemporary Islamist Movement* (Pluto Press, 2005)

Islam in Modern Turkey: An Intellectual Biography of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (author: Sukran Vahide), editor (State University of New York Press, 2005).

Contemporary Arab Thought: Studies in Post-1967 Arab Intellectual History (Pluto Press, 2004)

Efrain Agosto

Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul (Chalice Press, 2005)

Kelton Cobb

The Blackwell Guide to Theology and Popular Culture (Blackwell Publishing, 2005)

Heidi Hadsell

Beyond Idealism: A Way Ahead for Ecumenical Social Ethics, co-editor (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006)

Uriah Y. Kim

Decolonizing Josiah: Toward a Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic History (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2005)

Ian Markham

Globalization, Ethics and Islam: The Case of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, co-editor (Ashgate, 2005)

Christian Hope, Christian Practice: A Funeral Guide, co-author (Hendrickson, 2004)

A Theology of Engagement (Blackwell Publishing, 2003)

Do Morals Matter? (Blackwell Publishing, 2006)

Ingrid Mattson

The Qur'an and its Place in Muslim Societies (Blackwell Publishing, forthcoming)

James Nieman

and **David Roozen**
Church, Identity and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times, co-editors (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005)

David Roozen

The State of American Congregations: 2005 (Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 2006)

Listening To Congregations, guest editor (*Theological Education, Volume 40 Supplement*, 2005)

Jane Smith

Becoming American: Immigration and Religious Life in the United States, editor (Altamira Press, 2003)

Islam and the West Post 9/11, editor (Ashgate, 2005)

Muslim Women in America: The Challenge of Islamic Identity Today, co-author (Oxford University Press, 2006)

Christian-Muslim Relations in North America (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

Scott Thumma

Gay Religion, co-editor (AltaMira Press, 2005)

Miriam Therese Winter
eucharist with a small e (Orbis Books, 2005)

Cynthia Woolever

Beyond the Ordinary: 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations, co-author (Westminster John Knox Press, 2004)

From Place to Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location, co-author (Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming)

Faculty Team

Why Liberal Churches are Growing, co-edited by Ian Markham (T & T Clark International, 2006)

EDITED JOURNALS

Conversations in Religion and Theology, editor: Ian Markham; associate editor: Kelton Cobb (published by Blackwell)

International Journal of Practical Theology, co-editor: James Nieman (published by Walter de Gruyter)

Reviews in Religion and Theology, editor: Ian Markham; associate editors: Uriah Kim and Worth Loomis (published by Blackwell)

The Muslim World, editors: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi' and Jane Smith; associate editor: Ingrid Mattson (published by Blackwell)

JANUARY INTERSESSION AND WINTER/SPRING COURSES 2007



Hartford Seminary's January Intersession will run from Monday, January 8 through Friday, January 12. The Winter/Spring 2007 Semester begins on Monday, January 29 and ends on Monday, May 7. The Seminary's courses are open to members of the public on a space-available basis and carry three graduate level credits. Individuals with a bachelor's degree who wish to take courses for credit but are

not currently matriculated into a Hartford Seminary degree program may apply to take courses as a special student. Individuals who do not wish to take courses for credit may apply to take courses as an auditor. For those enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$1,460. The non-credit audit fee is \$575.

We offer a special audit rate of \$385 for: Persons age 62 and older; Graduates of Hartford Seminary degree programs or the Certificate of Professional Ministry (cooperative M.Div.); Donors of \$250 a year or more; Hartford Seminary Adjunct Faculty; and Pastors whose churches participate in the Congregational Relations Program of the Seminary.

To register, please contact the Registrar's Office at (860) 509-9511. Her email is registrar@hartsem.edu. To learn more about Hartford Seminary and its faculty, visit our website: www.hartsem.edu. Course syllabi submitted prior to the semester will be posted on the website.

JANUARY INTERSESSION

Building Abrahamic Partnerships

Sunday, January 7 – Sunday, January 14 (intensive schedule, includes some evenings)

This eight-day intensive training program offers a practical foundation for mutual understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

Realities of Chaplaincies in Various Settings

Monday, January 8 through Friday, January 12, 9 a.m. to 4 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, long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes and hospices), etc. 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*

WINTER/SPRING SEMESTER

ONLINE

American Religious History

In God we trust. If America is the most religious country in the world, how did we get that distinction? This course is designed to offer students a glimpse at the rich diversity of religious history of the United States. After looking at the religious patterns within U.S. history, the course will end by speculating on future forms of American religion in the 21st century. *Randall Balmer, Adjunct Professor of History, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of American Religion at Barnard College, Columbia University, and author of "Thy Kingdom Come - An Evangelical's Lament: How The Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America"*

Understanding Catholicism

Roman Catholicism is the largest Christian denomination in the world. In this course, we examine the history, theology, ecclesiology, and ethics of the Roman Catholic Church. Taught by an Episcopalian, the course will stress the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church to ecumenical and interfaith relations. At the end of the course, students will have a good grasp of the rationale behind the worldview of Roman Catholics. *Ian Markham, Dean of the Seminary and Professor of Theology and Ethics*

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad

The Prophet Muhammad is believed by Muslims to be the final prophet of God and the model for their lives as individuals and communities. Through translated selections of original historical sources, the course will survey interpretations of the personality and achievement of the Prophet made by Muslim and non-Muslim scholars. Muslim emulation of the Prophet will be examined with reference to the Hadith literature and devotional prayers. *Gazi Erdem, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies and attaché for religious affairs to the Turkish Consulate, New York City*

ARTS OF MINISTRY

How We Speak Here: Preaching in Particular Places

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 30, February 27, March 20, April 17 and May 8

Christian preaching is but one example of the widespread religious practice of "strong public utterance." How such utterance is able to connect with the communities in which it occurs is a complex and underrated challenge. It calls especially for understanding the cultural frames and theological language of a setting, both within and beyond a religious group. This course will be an appreciative inquiry into the ways different theological and religious traditions treat "strong public utterance" and address the contextual challenge. *James R. Nieman, Professor of Practical Theology*

Essential Skills in Pastoral Counseling and Ministry

Tuesdays, from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 30

This course will offer pastors, lay ministers and caregivers an opportunity to learn basic counseling skills for use in pastoral settings. Students will develop skills in assessment, honoring ethical concerns and addressing the most common diagnoses such as depression and anxiety. *Benjamin K. Watts, Faculty Associate in the Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London*

DIALOGUE

Learning from Africa: Faith, Community and Family

Thursdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning February 1

The African reality is as complex and changing as the continent is vast. In this course, we will focus on how members of the three major religions in Ghana – indigenous, Christianity and Islam – interact in ways that minimize interreligious conflicts and promote peaceful and harmonious relationships. The course will use, as a case study, the paradigm of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, as a model for interfaith relations. *Elizabeth Amoah, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Senior Lecturer in Religion, University of Ghana*

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ETHICS

Theological Ethics and Public Life

Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning January 31
Ethics involves examining life in an attempt to interpret what is going on. Theological ethics undertakes this examination with the conviction that all things exist in relation to God. In this course we will survey models of our common life that have prevailed in western Christianity in the modern period, reflect on the religious symbols, stories, practices and habits by which we make sense of what is going on in public life, and consider what possibilities exist for fostering a civil society. *Ian Markham, Dean of the Seminary and Professor of Theology and Ethics*

HISTORY

Islam in America and Western Europe

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 31
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*

Religion and Modernity: Christianity and Islam

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 30, February 27, March 20, April 17 and May 8
A historical overview of the development of modernity in the West and its impact on both Christianity and Islam. Special attention will be given to contemporary Christian and Muslim writing on modernity, postmodernity and the resurgence of traditionalism. *Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

The Religious Right: Evangelicalism's Influence on 21st Century Religion

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning January 30
This course will provide a social scientific overview of Conservative Christianity in the United States. It will begin by looking briefly at the theology and characteristics of Evangelicalism in its "pure doctrinal form." Then the course will trace the history of this theological movement as it develops, from the early 1800's through early Pentecostalism, in both its theology and adaptations to changes in the American culture. The course will show how Evangelicalism has shaped societal changes over the past century and how it is dealing with religious pluralism and the interfaith reality of the United States today. *Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion*

SCRIPTURE

New Testament Survey

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 30
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. *Edward F. Duffy, Adjunct Professor of New Testament and Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT*

Readings in Arabic Religious Texts

Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 31
The aim of this course is to improve students' reading fluency in classical Arabic. Students will read selections of Islamic religious texts including the Qur'an and Hadith. *Steven Blackburn, Faculty Associate in Semitic Scriptures*

Job and Jonah: Suffering, Repentance and Spiritual Transformation

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning February 1
Job and Jonah are probably the two most "unorthodox" books in the Hebrew Bible. Their principal characters try to make sense of experiences that do not fit the images of God presented in the other books. Moreover, these challenging portrayals evoke the existential questions we all must face: Is there any meaning in suffering, and can the pain or trauma be redeemed? How do we repent, and how might we invite others, including our leaders, to repent? How can we transform ourselves and our communities to be more in keeping with God's promises and moral imperatives? Aiming at an inclusive method of "practical exegesis," the course will juxtapose Jewish interpretations with teachings in the Christian and Muslim traditions. *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

David and His Supporting Cast

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning February 1
David is one of the most well developed characters in the Hebrew Bible, however, David's complex character is often sacrificed for the sake of portraying him as a person of model faith. David and his relationship to God and his supporting cast, which include Joab, Nathan, and his wives and children, among others, reflect the complex reality of our world, God and the Hebrew Bible. This course will read 1 & 2 Samuel carefully, reflectively, and critically to understand David and his relationship to his supporting cast and God. *Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible*

THEOLOGY

The Hardest Doctrines

Tuesdays, from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 30
Christian theology has evolved over the centuries since the first efforts of Paul to make sense of the impact of the life and work of Jesus. In response to some more difficult moments in the history of the church, and in an effort to faithfully chart the implications of the biblical record, Christian theology has generated some "hard doctrines," hard to comprehend or hard to reconcile with what we would wish were true. In this course we will look at some of the more perplexing of these, i.e., the Trinity, predestination, hell, and sacrificial atonement—how they arose as doctrines, who believes them, what insights they contain and what new difficulties they leave us with. *Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics and Seminary Academic Advisor*

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

Maidservants of Allah: The Spirituality of Muslim Women

Mondays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning January 29
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*

Coming Up

Hartford Seminary will present lectures, seminars and special events for people of all faiths starting in January. For more information or to register for any of the programs listed below, please call the Public and Institutional Affairs Office at 860-509-9555 or send an email message to events@hartsem.edu.

God's Word in Greek: Readings in the New Testament

With *The Rev. Edward F. Duffy*, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield, CT, and Adjunct Professor of Greek
Tuesdays, January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Qur'anic Recitation (Tajweed)

With *Ahmed Dewidar*, Imam of the Islamic Society of Mid-Manhattan, New York, and tied for first place in an international competition in Qur'anic recitation in Teheran, Iran, in 1998
Wednesdays, January 31, February 7, 14, 21 and 28 and March 7, 14 and 21
7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Peacemaking on the Ground: Abrahamic Initiatives in the United States

With *John Borelli*, special assistant to the president for interreligious initiative at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., and national coordinator for interreligious dialogue for the U.S. Jesuit Conference; *Daisy Kahn*, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, New York, NY; and *Rabbi Arthur Waskow*, director of the Shalom Center, Philadelphia, PA
Monday, February 5
7 p.m.

A Drumming Circle

With *Jan Gregory*, executive director of the Renaissance Center: A Conservatory of Music in Southbury, and director of music ministry, Congregational Church of Easton
Mondays, March 12 and 26, April 9 and 23, and May 7 and 21
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Scrapbooking and Spirituality: Visualizing Your Story

With *Cathi Nelson*, Senior Director of Creative Memories
Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 27, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Women and Religious Leadership in West and North Africa: Christian and Muslim Perspectives

With *Elizabeth Amoah*, Senior Lecturer in Religion, University of Ghana, and *Fatima Sadiqi*, president of the Centre for Studies and Research on Women and Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies at Fes University, Morocco. Response by *The Rev. Dr. Barbara Headley*, senior pastor of Faith Congregational Church, Hartford
Tuesday, April 17
7 p.m.

FACTs on Congregational Life

With *David Roozen*, director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and Professor of Religion and Society at Hartford Seminary, and guest lecturers
Monday, April 23 – Friday, April 27
Online

Why Bother With the Church

With *Gustav Nelson*, former executive presbyter of the Des Moines Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA and director of Project 21, a three-year experiment aimed at developing "a new paradigm for the church in the twenty-first century"
Tuesday, April 24
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rion Lecture: Bluegrass Gospel

With the Bluegrass Gospel Project
Friday, May 4
6:30 p.m.



International Students at Hartford Seminary

Hartford Seminary has 30 international students and scholars studying and doing research at the Seminary this fall. Shown here, during a trip to the Hartford riverfront, are, from left to right, *The Rev. Amjad Samuel*, pastor of Laal Girja Parish, Church of Pakistan, Multan, Pakistan; *Zalman Putra Ahmad Ali*, head of the Research & Development Strategic Unit of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore in Singapore; *Minlib Dallh*, a friar in the Dominican Order of Preachers, United States Southern Province, and originally from Burkina Faso; *The Rev. Samson Abdullah*, pastor of Dorothy Memorial Church, Church of Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan; *Meliani Murtiningsih*, a recent graduate of the Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia with a B.A. in Theology; *Bishop John Danbinta*, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Gusau, Gusau, Nigeria; and *Turgay Gunduz*, Professor of Theology at Uludağ University, Bursa, Turkey.



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