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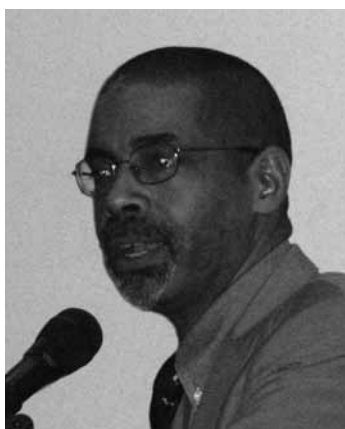
News from Hartford Seminary • August 2009 • Vol. XXI • No. 2



RION LECTURE

Yale University
Professor **STEPHEN
CARTER** speaks on
“Christianity
and the Problem
of War” in June.
Additional
photos on page

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STEPHEN CARTER



GRADUATION 2009

Hartford Courant
columnist **SUSAN
CAMPBELL** delivers
this year’s graduation
address. Campbell’s
text and
additional photos
begin on page

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SUSAN CAMPBELL

New trustees elected

The corporators of Hartford Seminary elected three new trustees at the Seminary's annual meeting on May 18. Joining the board, as of July 1, are:



Courtney B. Bourns, a partner in the Hartford law firm Berman, Bourns, Aaron & Dembo. Bourns practices in the area of matrimonial and family law, with a focus on alternative dispute resolution and mediation. He is a member of the Hartford County, CT, and American Bar Associations and the Academy of Family Mediators. He received a B.S. degree from Tufts University and an LL.B. from Duke University Law School, where he was an editor of the Duke Law Journal. Bourns is the founder of The Gathering Place, a charitable organization that serves as a bridge between Hartford and suburban communities. The Gathering Place is best known for the restaurant it ran in downtown Hartford. Bourns is a member of the Greater Hartford Citizens Network, the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding, and the Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill. He is a member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford.

Amy Hines, senior vice president of The Alford Group in Farmington, a consulting firm working with non-profit organizations.



Hines has more than 27 years experience in the not-for-profit sector including 12 years consulting in all areas of fundraising, board development, financial planning, strategic planning, and communications. She was coordinating consultant for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Major Gifts Initiative; National Consultant for the Kresge Foundation Special Opportunities Initiative; Former Vice President at the Central Park Conservancy including Vice President for Development, Vice President for Programs and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer; and Former Special Assistant to the President and Associate Development Director at Hampshire College. Hines received an M.A. in public policy analysis from Duke University and a B.A. in history of science and American social history from Hampshire College. She is co-Founder and

Board chair for The Discovery Center, shaping positive attitudes about race and difference among 4th-6th grade students in Hartford, CT and surrounding suburban schools, a life trustee of Hampshire College, and a former trustee of St. Joseph College. Hines assisted in developing the first international Hole in the Wall Camp, in Ireland, for seriously ill children from throughout Europe.

Eliot P. Williams, a Principal of the Hartford-based New England Guild, Inc, a registered investment advisor serving individuals and non-profit organizations. Previously, Williams held positions as Partner, Conifer Investments Ltd; Chief Investment Officer, CS First Boston Investment Management; Director of Portfolio Management, The Travelers Insurance Company; and President, Travelers Investment Management Company. His investment experience has included responsibilities for equity and fixed income research, portfolio management, asset/



liability management and asset allocation. He earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in 1975. Williams has served as a member of the Editorial Review Board of the CFA Digest. He has previously served as a founding governor of CFA Institute and Trustee of the Research Foundation of the CFA Institute, President of the Hartford Society of Securities Analysts and Trustee of the American Red Cross Retirement System. Williams is a member of the boards of the University of Hartford, the Plowshares Institute, and the New Samaritan Corporation, and he is an active member of the First Church in Windsor (UCC). Williams received a B.A. from Haverford College in 1964 and an M.B.A from the University of Virginia in 1966.

PRAXIS TO PUBLISH ELECTRONICALLY
ONCE A YEAR

Hartford Seminary is facing difficult economic times, as are so many institutions today. One cost-saving measure that we have adopted is to publish Praxis in a print version twice a year and in an electronic version once a year.

This will save publication and mailing costs for one issue of the three we publish

annually. We plan to send the electronic version in the spring of each year to everyone for whom we have an email address.

The two print editions are scheduled to be mailed in the fall and winter.

Please send us your email address so that we can send you the electronic issue in the spring. Thank you.

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you plan to reprint or photocopy any part of Praxis. Letters to the editor are welcomed. If you would like additional copies of this issue of Praxis or back issues or if you

would like more information about Praxis or about Hartford Seminary, please contact David Barrett at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

New Research Offers Portrait of Megachurch Attendees

Who are the more than five million people who weekly attend megachurches around the country? What attracts and keeps them involved at these churches? How do their attitudes and spiritual activities compare to worshippers at churches of other sizes?

A just-released nationwide survey by Leadership Network and Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research provides insight on these and other questions. It is the largest national representative study of megachurch attendees to date.

Conducted from January to August 2008, the National Survey of Megachurch Attendees is based on responses from 24,900 worshippers at 12 carefully selected megachurches across the United States. Additional site visits, interviews, staff surveys and other data collection procedures contributed to the findings.

"In recent years, megachurch research -- including our own -- has revealed a great deal about the facts and fictions associated with this form of worship," said Warren Bird, Leadership Network's Director of Research and one of the principals behind the survey. "But until now, very little was known about the people who attend megachurches. The National Survey of Megachurch Attendees provides an entirely new inside perspective that will help drive a deeper understanding of the people who gather in these churches."

Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion at Hartford Seminary and author of the survey report, said the study shows that megachurch attendees are a distinct group of people -- often younger -- with complex patterns of involvement. They draft unique, customized spiritual experiences through the multitude of ministry choices and diverse avenues for involvement that megachurches offer.

"Participants interact with the megachurch on their own terms, to meet their individualized needs rather than following some prescribed or idealized plan created by the church's leadership," Thumma said.

Findings in the survey stretch from pure demographics to the nature and quality of megachurch attendees' spiritual life. Among the most prominent conclusions are:

- Nearly two-thirds of megachurch attendees are under 45 years old, as compared to only one-third for all Protestant churches (62% vs. 35%).



- Nearly a third of megachurch attendees are single, unmarried persons. In a typical church, singles account for just 10% of the congregation.
- Megachurch attendees are both more educated and more affluent than attendees at other churches.
- The majority of megachurch attendees are not necessarily new to Christianity but nearly a quarter had not recently been in another church before coming to a megachurch.
- While newcomers almost always attend a megachurch at the invitation of family, friends or co-workers, the real attraction tends to be the church's reputation, worship style and senior pastor.
- Long-term attendance flows from an appreciation for the church's music/arts, social and community outreach and adult-oriented programs.
- 45% of megachurch attendees never volunteer at the church, and 40 percent are not engaged in a small group, the mainstay of megachurch programming.

"In planning and conducting the survey, our goal went beyond simple curiosity. Rather, we looked for the threads and patterns that would be of practical benefit to researchers and church leaders," Bird said. "Take, for example, the finding that megachurch attendees are more likely to be single than their counterparts in other congregations. Pastors of mid-sized and small congregations may well want to see how adapting elements from the megachurch model would help them better serve that segment of their community."

"Similarly, the finding that 45% of megachurch attendees never volunteer at church may prompt megachurch leaders to explore new ways to increase volunteerism within their congregations."

The full report -- "Not Who You Think They Are: The Real Story of People Who Attend America's Megachurches" -- is available free at both organizations' web sites: www.leadnet.org/megachurch and <http://birr.hartsem.edu>.

Graduation Ceremonies

May 29, 2009



Faculty listen to the graduation speaker. Pictured (front row from left) are: Miriam Therese Winter, Scott Thumma, Ingrid Mattson, Yahya Michot, Heidi Gehman, and Steven Blackburn. Second row from left are Yehezkel Landau and Adair Lummis.



Meliani Endang Murtiningsih was awarded a Graduate Certificate. She receives congratulations from Dean Efrain Agosto as President Heidi Hadsell looks on.



After the ceremonies, graduates and their families joined faculty and staff at a reception in the Meeting Room.



Jean Blake-Jackson receives her Women's Leadership Institute certificate from President Heidi Hadsell and Dean Efrain Agosto.



Jane Ellingwood receives her Master of Arts hood.

Elizabeth Velez, who received an M.A. degree, was the 2009 recipient of the Celie J. Terry prize for interfaith excellence and academic achievement. She is shown here with Sanford Cloud, former Chair of the Board and founder of the annual prize.



Felix Viera receives his Hispanic Ministries Program certificate from President Heidi Hadsell. Registrar Karen Rollins is in the background.



Earning a Degree of the Soul

By Susan Campbell



Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished faculty, administrators, friends, family, and — of course — relieved graduates:

I am honored to be here on several levels. I once sat where you graduates are sitting and never in a million years would I have thought to have considered the possibility of my being up here, speaking.

I trust next year you can find a real speaker, and my apologies in advance for my deficits at the microphone. I will say right now that I'm a writer, and not much of a public speaker so that when I am finished, you don't need to turn to the person next to you and say, "You know what? She's not much of a public speaker." She knows that already.

I collected my Hartford Seminary degree in the fall of 2001, post 9-11, an interesting time about which I still don't know what to think, save for this: While all around me people were telling me to be fearful, to be cautious, even to hate, I couldn't. I'd just come off of six years sitting in classrooms with people who physically resembled me only slightly, who hadn't grown up reading my sacred text, as I hadn't grown up reading theirs, yet with whom I shared the most basic commonalities to the point that during some breaks in my classes — most of which were at night — I would wander outside and stare up at the stars and think about what just happened.

Who knew a little boy growing up in Pakistan would have the same questions as a little girl growing up in the Missouri Ozarks? Who knew we all shared so much?

If you look at the percentages of faith groups represented here, Congregationalists are about neck and neck with Muslims. You have to run your finger far, far down the list to find people like me, non-denominational, fundamentalist Christians, and yet at no point in my time here was I made to feel like an outsider. If anything my — let's call it "unique" — religious perspective felt even more welcome because I was coming from a theology many in my class hadn't experienced, or even seen from a distance.

So while all around us in 2001 I read and heard and saw the message to crouch down and be fearful, I couldn't and wouldn't. I had just completed a course of study at a school with the country's oldest center for the study of Islam and Muslim-Christian relations. I had taken an eye-opening course on Jewish-Christian misunderstandings through the centuries. I'd read the sacred text of other religions

until I could read no more. And then I kept reading.

My experience at Hartford Seminary taught me there's shockingly little to fear — save for silence. If we don't talk to one another, we will be fearful. And if we don't get each other's perspective, we're sunk, because while that little Pakistani boy and that little Missouri girl may be pondering the same life questions, we only know that if we share that.

I also learned that you have to be brave enough to risk asking stupid questions. The seminary taught me to go ahead and ask. We're all friends here.

I don't know what brought you to the seminary, but I came for context. I'd grown up in a strict Christian religion and the vestiges of that, for me, were the afore-mentioned fear, and a freakish ability to quote the Christian scriptures. I knew my Bible backward and forward — or, rather, I knew how to quote scriptures from my Bible, but what I wanted — ached for, really — was some context of what I thought I knew. To be honest, I wanted to come to the seminary and have someone tell me what to think of all that Bible study, those Sunday school lessons, those church camp Bible bowls. I wanted, frankly, to have my theology spoon-fed to me, and it wasn't until somewhat deep into my career here

I don't know the mechanism for learning — how the brain absorbs and retains information — but over time the seminary kicked the doors open for me and made me think for myself in a way I hadn't thought possible. I will be forever grateful for that, too.

on Sherman Street that I realized that just wasn't going to happen. I trust you came here with a more mature faith. I was only looking to get comfortable.

How very young was my faith, that I expected it to make me comfortable. The faith I found in the white building behind me made me most uncomfortable — deliciously so. Hartford Seminary gave me the gift of discomfort and I shall be forever grateful.

As it turns out, I didn't get comforted and I didn't get the context I sought, though I was shown how to find it for myself. No one was going to tell me how to think or interpret sacred text. I was, instead, going to learn how to do that on my own.

Ah, but I am hard-headed and it took me a while. I've told this story before. Let me tell it one more time and then maybe I'll retire it: I signed up first for a New Testament class because, well, I wrote the New Testament and I figured it would be an easy A. I walked into my first class taught by a then-new teacher, Efrain Agosto — now the dean. I was pretty sure I would impress him with my mad Bible skills and I was wrong. He dove right in and within 15

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Graduation Address

May 29, 2009

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minutes I suspected I'd do us all a favor if I quietly left the room.

But I didn't leave. I grew to love the classes and the readings. I drank in the lectures and even enjoyed writing the papers — and yes, I know how weird that sounds.

I don't know the mechanism for learning — how the brain absorbs and retains information — but over time the seminary kicked the doors open for me and made me think for myself in a way I hadn't thought possible. I will be forever grateful for that, too.

Maybe in your time here, you had child-care issues. Or work issues, or trouble balancing your schedule to make it here on time for class. I had that. It was always on class night when one of my sons would pull up lame and my husband would be at work and the full weight of my family would fall on my reluctant shoulders. Maybe your spouse was a little nervous about you going off on this particular tangent. Mine certainly was. He grew up culturally Catholic; the weight of the old rugged cross rests only slightly on his back, and he feared I would become enmeshed in a cult, I suppose, or become a televangelist with big hair, as that was his only exposure to Protestants in action.

As it turns out, he was right to be nervous. I did not become a televangelist and that's not even on my long list of career goals. As it turns out, I came to learn to ask questions for myself and once you're free to do that, you are a dangerous being, indeed. Once you understand that religion isn't an easy chair into which you relax, you can accomplish amazing things.

I can't guarantee you will remember all your classmates' names, but I guarantee you that in the near future, you will be in a discussion with someone and you will harken back to some classroom discussion and you will be grateful that you had the opportunity to take a moment, sit a spell, and think hard about your approach to the holy. That, along with the discomfort, is the gift the seminary keeps on giving. Or you'll read something in the news, or you'll hear someone talk about something remotely religious and you'll have much-needed perspective. We need people who can freely move between faith groups and help us understand one another. You just may be that precise ambassador to make all the difference.

To be honest, I've done shockingly little with my degree — if you measure using your degree by how you earn your living. I work at the same job I worked when I started as a seminary student. I wrote a book that came to me while I was a student here, but if you've ever written a book you know that unless you're among a select few, you don't earn a living from writing a book.

I didn't get my answers here — at least, I didn't get my answers the way I'd expected, in a thunderstorm with God reaching down to hand me a list of do's and don'ts. I got, instead, the understanding that

I will always have questions and the answers won't always come easily. And that the answers might not make me comfortable.

And that's O.K.

I found a new God here, a God that was more inclusive, a God that allowed me to be a sinner and fall short. I was exposed to a radical kind of theology here that demands your entire being. It was like feeling my heart open and for that, too, I am grateful.

I am also grateful for the gift that comes with knowing that neither I nor my theology has all the answers. For some of those answers, I just may have to come to you.

You are walking out of here with the highest kind of degree, a degree of the soul. Maybe you already know what you're going to do with it. Maybe you, like me, are going to fold it into what you're already doing. Whatever your choice — or whatever the job market forces upon you as a choice — I guarantee that your life will be fuller for the time you spent here.

I maintain that the will to connect with the holy is as basic as our need to eat. We ask, as did one writer: "When shall I come and behold the face of God?" Searching for the theology that drives our nation, we can at least comfort ourselves that its impetus is not entirely greed-based. Our need to connect with God — however we define God — is so great that we will find God, one way or another. The holy calls us and we must answer. We will connect, be it through our mosques, our temples, our churches, one another. In some way, we will connect.

Eileen Guder wrote in her book, "God, But I'm Bored:"

"You can live on bland food so as to avoid an ulcer, drink no tea, coffee or other stimulants in the name of health, go to bed early, avoid all controversial subjects so as to never give offense, mind your own business, avoid involvement in other people's problems, spend money only on necessities, and save all you can."

To which I would add: "And you can settle into a comfortable corner of your theology until you die and they say nice things about you at your wake."

Back to Guder:

"You can do all those things [avoid stimulants, save your money, keep your hands to yourself, live a careful life] and you can still break your neck in your bathtub. And it will serve you right."

I'd rather be uncomfortable. I hope you'll join me.

Susan Campbell, M.A. '01, spoke at graduation ceremonies on May 29. She is a columnist at The Hartford Courant newspaper and author of "Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl."

The Michael R. Rion Lecture

delivered by Prof. Stephen Carter
June 23, 2009

Christianity and the Problem of War

Stephen L. Carter is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale University. The Rion Lecture honors an individual who embodies a dedication to ministry in daily life and is committed to service to others. To listen to the lecture, visit www.hartsem.edu for a full-length podcast.



Michael Rion, former President of Hartford Seminary, speaks with Stephen Carter.



Among those at the lecture was Linda Kelly, President of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, left, and Nancy Roberts, President of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, third from left.



Talking during a reception are Stephen Carter and Seminary Dean Efrain Agosto.



Listening to the lecture are Seminary Professor Yahya Michot, student Sharareh Esfandiyari, Louise Michot, and President Heidi Hadsell.

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In Memoriam

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

Mrs. Patricia Martin Hanmer, M.A. '66 and Ph.D. '72, died in July at her home in Fort Worth, TX. She was 86. Her family moved to Fort Worth in 1937 when her father became rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. In 1949, she married Russell F. Hanmer and moved to Connecticut, where they built a church. She was "forever studying," earning a bachelor's degree from Antioch College and a master's from Texas Christian University. She earned a doctorate in theology and education from Hartford Seminary, *Continued on next page*



Robertson Elected Moderator of UCC General Synod

James K. Robertson, a long-time trustee at Hartford Seminary, has been elected moderator for the United Church of Christ's General Synod 28 in 2011 in Tampa, FL.

Robertson served on the Seminary Board from 1997 to this year, when he stepped down to devote his time to his new duties as General Synod moderator. He is a partner in the Waterbury, CT, law firm Carmody & Terrance.

Robertson has been a member of the First Congregational Church of Watertown UCC for more than 30 years and is the newly elected Moderator of the Connecticut Conference. He has taught courses at Hartford Seminary as adjunct faculty and has served as the Chairman of the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Connecticut Judicial Selection Commission and as a Trustee of the Mattatuck Museum, the Waterbury Symphony and the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation. He is a well-known and appreciated speaker on Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

In nominating him, Connecticut Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree wrote, "His spirit is very UCC and he is an avid supporter of our core values of inclusiveness, diversity, justice and peace, theological depth and breadth."

In Memoriam *continued from preceding page*

where she also focused on psychology. Dr. Hanmer's many interests included anything to do with houses. In the 1950s, her taste for cutting-edge design was evident in the home the family bought in Connecticut. "We had a free-form house that didn't have walls as much as it had large bookcases from floor to ceiling," her daughter, Patricia L. Hanmer, said. "The living room would be off to the left in the morning and be somewhere else when we came home." Dr. Hanmer returned to Forth Worth in 1978. She worked at the Lena Pope Home and later at her own Threshold's Counseling, where she offered a program for young adults.

Dr. Christine Skelton, M.A. '47 and Ed.R.D. '58, of Port Charlotte, FL, died in July. She was 89. Dr. Skelton was ordained in the United Church of Christ. She served as a Christian

Education consultant and administrator in several regional areas, including Washington State, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, California and Ohio. In 1987, she moved to Port Charlotte, where she was a member of Pilgrim, United Church of Christ.

Mrs. Nancy Evelyn Sicilian Tolley, K.S.M. '57, died in April at her home at Pilgrim Place Retirement Community in Claremont, CA. She was 77. Tolley briefly attended Beloit College in Wisconsin before graduating with a Bachelor of Science from the Teachers' College of Connecticut (now Central Connecticut State University). She then attended Hartford Seminary's Kennedy School of Missions, where she met the Rev. Dr. William P. Tolley. They married in May 1955. In 1957, Tolley and her husband went to Portugal for

language study before being placed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions as missionaries to Angola in 1959, serving there until 1961. After two years at Foxboro Congregational Church in Massachusetts, they returned to the mission field, this time working in Ghana from 1965 to 1968. From 1968 until 1991, Rev. and Mrs. Tolley served Congregational churches in Southwick and Newtonville, MA. Throughout her lifetime, Tolley was committed to, and active in, organizations dealing with issues of peace, justice and racial harmony. She also taught English and other subjects at elementary schools in Hartford and Southwick, MA, and worked for the Clerk of Courts in Westfield, MA. After retirement in 1991, Rev. and Mrs. Tolley lived in Wilmington, N.C., before moving to Pilgrim Place in 2000.

Rev. Tolley died in 2006. Mrs. Tolley leaves three sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, her brother, and one niece and one nephew.

The Rev. Lawrence E. Dunn, B.D. '50, of Greenville, S.C., died in February at the age of 71. In 2000, *Praxis* reported, "Lawrence E. Dunn, '50, and Barbara P. Dunn, '50, report that he is preaching at Catun United Methodist Church and is on the Board of Managers of Watson Homestead Conference Center and she is on the Board of Steele Memorial Library in Elmira, NY, and active at the Rockwell Museum and Ben Patterson Inn in Corning, NY."

Mrs. Gertrude Ursula (Barnes) Skinner, B.R.E. '30, died in June at the age of 107. No details were provided.

Miss Madeline M. Wynn, M.A. '53, died in April at the age of 91. No details were provided.

A Good Neighbor Policy

Some neighbors borrow a cup of sugar, but this summer Hartford Seminary borrowed something more precious from our friends and neighbors at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center just a few blocks away on

Forest Street – beautiful perennials from the historic site's Victorian gardens.

Rob Fuoco, the Stowe Center's master gardener, worked with Seminary trustee Amy Robinson to divide a large selection of plant material for transplanting around student and faculty housing on campus.

Roseann Lezak, Director of Administration and Facilities, and Louise Michot, wife of Professor Yahya Michot, joined Amy (who recently chaired the Stowe Board) in planting the hardy perennials to beautify our space.

If you have perennials you'd like to share from your garden, autumn is a perfect time for planting, especially daffodil and tulip bulbs. Or, if you'd like to volunteer your time to help garden, just contact Roseann at rlezak@hartsem.edu or 860.509.9501.



Above: Trustee Amy Robinson checks a collection of ferns shared by Katherine Kane, Executive Director of the Stowe Center. Kane is a Seminary corporator.



Above: Louise Michot and Amy Robinson transport the plantings to their new beds. *Right:* A view outside the housing where the perennials were planted. In foreground is Amy; in background is Louise.



The Rev. Hamilton F. Brown, B.D. '67, recently wrote in response to an Annual Fund appeal letter, "I am proud and moved by the Seminary's committed efforts to build bridges among the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. Even when I was at the Seminary in the mid 1960's, we had a multi-faith, multi-cultural faculty and student body. I am very proud to be a Hartford graduate. As a member of the Rock Spring UCC here in Arlington, VA, I have been active in interfaith activities in this most international of communities. My two children graduated from public schools in the last few years in which there are 104 language groups."

Dr. Gerald Cecere, M.A. '84, writes, "I graduated with a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Hartford Seminary on October 2, 1984. Sister Miriam Therese Winter was my mentor. In 1997 my wife and I moved from Middlebury, VT, to Folsom, CA. I'm retired and turned 70 in April. We are not affiliated with any church or religious organization. I'm a big fan of Bart Ehrman, the UNC Religious Studies professor and prolific author. Nonetheless, I wanted you to know that I'm alive and well and have a warm place in my heart for the memories generated by attendance at Hartford Seminary, a place that helped me on my personal journey. When I retired, I was the Head of the Graduate Studies Division of Vermont College, then owned/operated by

Norwich University in Northfield, VT, and subsequently sold to another accredited institution specializing in distance learning, though they retained the lovely Vermont College campus in Montpelier as all their degree offerings have residency requirements."

Mr. Orville R. Chapman and Mrs. Virginia L. Chapman, K.S.M. '56, recently wrote that they were missionaries to the Congo for 33 years, training village pastors and their wives. They now live at Plymouth Village Retirement community in Redlands, CA.

The Rev. George W. Easton, M.R.E. '64, writes that he has donated five batches of books, so far, to the Seminary and commends the practice. The Seminary library appreciates the donations.

Along with a recent gift to the Seminary, **Ms. Jane Ellingwood, M.A. '09**, wrote, "Please accept this donation to the Annual Fund in honor of all my professors and all the staff at Hartford Seminary who made my M.A. experience a joy as well as an incredibly powerful learning and theological experience."

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has selected Georgetown professor **Yvonne Haddad, Ph.D. '79**, as a 2009 Carnegie Scholar. Dr. Haddad is a professor at Georgetown's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. She will receive a Carnegie grant for her project, "Sayyid Qutb: From Village Boy to Islamist

Martyr." Dr. Haddad will analyze the impact of Western political and theological discourse on Islamic thought and Muslims through a re-examination of the life and works of Egyptian writer Sayyid Qutb, whose writings represent the most radical interpretation of Islam.

Mrs. Mary Alice Wagner Medlicott, M.A. '48, recently wrote, "Happy Anniversary! I find it interesting that my undergraduate degree is from Franklin College in Indiana, which is also celebrating its 175th Anniversary."

Mrs. Myra Binks Miner, M.A. '49, writes, "Received a good education at the Seminary, graduating with a M.A. in Religious Education. It has been very helpful in working with children and a great help in the direction of my life experiences."

The Rev. Barbara McNeel Moran, former professor with the Church and Ministry program at Hartford Seminary 1975-1980, is living in Philadelphia, a part time pastor of a UCC church in Bucks County, and working with the Small Church Program and the Revitalization Committee of the UCC Southeast PA conference.

Mr. Stephen J. Nelson, M.A. '72, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Bridgewater State College and Senior Scholar, Leadership Alliance, at Brown University, released his latest book, *Leaders in the Crossroads: Success and Failure in the College Presidency* (Rowman & Littlefield). It is the third in his series on college presidents.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Thomas Nolan and Mr. Robert Charles Pingpank were married on June 4, 2009, in Hartford, CT. The Rev. David T. Taylor, a minister of the United Church of Christ, officiated at the Trinity College Chapel, with the Rev. Allison Read, an Episcopal priest and the chaplain of Trinity College, taking part. Dr. Nolan and Mr. Pingpank, both 72, graduated from Trinity, where they met. Dr. Nolan retired as a professor of philosophy and social science at Mattatuck Community College in Waterbury, CT, and is the retired priest-in-residence at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Lake Worth, FL. He received a master's degree in theological studies from Hartford Seminary and a master's in religion from Yale as well as a doctoral degree in religious studies from New York University. In 1965, he was ordained as an Episcopal priest, and in 1992, he became an honorary canon at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. Mr. Pingpank retired as a mathematics teacher at Thomaston High School in Thomaston, CT. He received a master's degree in secondary school administration from the University of Hartford and also received a certificate of advanced study from Hartford Seminary.

The Rev. David C. Williams, M.Div. '64, reports that he is still doing capital campaign consulting and working with the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC as the Stewardship and Planned Giving Associate.

Faculty Notes

Efrain Agosto introduced Professor Wayne Meeks at a Seminary Educational Outreach event in April. Professor Meeks, a retired religion professor from Yale University, presented a movie on the Apostle Paul in honor of the “Year of Paul.” A second “Year of Paul” event at the Seminary took place in May, in which Agosto moderated a Christian-Muslim panel discussion of faculty on the topic of “Paul, the One whom Christians Call ‘Apostle’.” Agosto gave a talk entitled “Reflections on Pentecostalism & Evangelism” for an adult forum at St. Anthony-St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Hartford on April 29. On May 19, he concluded a year-long, Wabash Center sponsored grant on Latino/a pedagogy in theology at the Seminary by hosting a faculty workshop on multi-cultural pedagogy. June was particularly busy for Agosto, as he traveled to Boston for a conference on Interfaith Theological Education at Andover Newton Theological School and Hebrew College and attended a week-long closing colloquy in Indiana sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Religion and Theology dealing with issues of theological pedagogy in Latino/a religious and theological studies. A publication and small grant will be forthcoming from this three-part colloquy that included some 20 Hispanic colleagues from around the country. At the Hispanic Summer Workshop of the Hispanic

Theological Initiative at Princeton Seminary, Agosto moderated a panel discussion on mentoring Latino/a Ph.D. students in religion and theology and co-led a day-long career orientation workshop. At the end of July, Agosto attended a major national conference at Notre Dame sponsored by the American Bible Society and Notre Dame’s Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. At the conference, whose theme was “Camino a Emaus: The Word of God and Latino Catholics,” he presented a paper, “The Way of Justice: A Latino Protestant Reading of Luke 24:13-35.” This spring and summer also brought the publication of three pieces: “The Apostle Paul,” an essay for the *Blackwell Companion to the Theologians*; “Sola Scriptura and Latino/a Protestant Hermeneutics: An Exploration,” a chapter in *Building Bridges, Doing Justice: Constructing a Latino/a Ecumenical Theology*; and the exegetical essay on Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 for the August 30 lectionary resources published by the journal *Lectionary Homiletics* (August/September 2009 edition).

Steven Blackburn spoke in March to a class at St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT, on the Qur’an and its Language. Another Seminary graduate, who teaches at the Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT, met with Blackburn at the end of March to discuss reference resources, including electronic databases, on the subject of World Religions for a new course that is to be offered at Salisbury.

Blackburn continued his evaluation of Wesleyan University’s Arabic program with several class visits in December and consulting with Wesleyan’s dean. In April, Blackburn hosted a group of undergraduate students from Connecticut College and the University of Hartford who came to the Seminary to hear about the Library’s collections in Islamic Studies as well as to learn about graduate study opportunities at the Macdonald Center. Later in the month Blackburn spoke to a group of West Hartford Public High School teachers on Islam’s views on topics such as morality, warfare, and personal and social freedoms. Also in April, Blackburn was a member of the Connecticut Library Association’s panel on Religious Issues and Libraries, addressing the question “Can Christmas Trees Get You in Trouble?” at the association’s 118th annual meeting. During the week of June 14-20, Blackburn delivered about a dozen lectures and led half a dozen scripture (biblical and qur’anic) studies as part of the fifth annual Pastors’ Institute on Muslim-Christian Understanding, co-sponsored by the Macdonald Center and Georgetown University.

In April, **Heidi Gehman** was asked to contribute to a new religion website, *www.patheos.com*, which has “gateways” for the various religious traditions, including Islam, Catholicism, Mainline Protestant, Evangelical, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Pagan. Writing for the Mainline Protestant gateway, Gehman has contributed short

articles on such topics as Creation, Salvation, Pentecost, Abortion, Marriage, and Same-Sex Marriage.

Heidi Hadsell did a presentation on Interfaith Theological Education to leaders from Saint Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, which was holding its annual retreat at Hartford Seminary in April. Along with Yehezkel Landau and Mahmoud Ayoub, Hadsell participated in the program, “Jews, Christians and Muslims: Sharing the Abrahamic Legacy and Blessing,” sponsored by the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries of New Haven and held at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, CT. In May, Hadsell participated in a conference sponsored by the Parliament of World Religions on “Consultation on Theological and Interfaith Initiatives.” In June, she participated on a panel during the conference, “Educating Christian, Jewish and Muslim Leaders in an Age of Religious Diversity: Advancing the Conversation at Boston Theological Institute and Beyond,” held in Boston. Hadsell delivered the sermon “Insiders and Outsiders: Who Gets to Decide” at First Presbyterian Church in Hartford. In July, she was invited to attend the Council on Foreign Relations’ 3rd Annual Religion and Foreign Policy Summer Workshop in New York City. At the end of July, Hadsell was Chaplain of the Week for the Chautauqua United Church of Christ Society conference at Chautauqua, NY.

During his sabbatical, **Uriah Kim** gave a sermon in April at

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Yonsei University's Chapel Service, titled "A Reflection on Bruce Almighty and Job." He gave a talk for Yonsei's School of Theology's graduate students at their annual Ecumenical Retreat on "Leadership in Multicultural Society: King Saul and King David" and a lecture at Methodist Theological University (Seoul, Korea). The title was "Wisdom Literature." In May, Kim spoke at Yonsei's School of Theology's 40th Annual Lecture on "The Transgressive Power of Hybridity: King David and President Obama." This lecture will be published in Yonsei's *Theological Forum*. Kim finished an article in June titled "Reading the David Story with Asian Americans" to be published in Kevin Park, ed., *Reading the Bible and Doing Theology in Asian American Context: Essays in Honor of Sang Hyun Lee* (forthcoming). In July, he wrote his first blog entitled "Postmodern and the Church" for *Ephphatha Poetry* (ephphatha-poetry.blogspot.com). He also wrote an editorial for *Reviews in Religion and Theology* (issue 17:1, January 2010) titled "You're the Standard, Sir!" which is a reflection of his stay in Korea.

In April, **Yehezkel Landau** participated in a roundtable on religious peacemaking sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.; received the annual "Living Spirit Award" from the Spiritual Life Center in Bloomfield, CT, at a dinner/ceremony at the Pond House in West Hartford, CT; was Scholar-in-Residence at Mishkan Shalom synagogue in Philadelphia, delivering two talks

over the course of the Sabbath; gave a Jewish perspective on the morality of warfare as part of a Jewish-Christian-Muslim panel at the Lutheran Theological School in Philadelphia; and delivered the annual Dorothy Walker Bush Lecture at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, CT. Landau also joined Heidi Hadsell and Mahmoud Ayoub on an interfaith panel addressing "Sharing the Abrahamic Legacy and Blessing" at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, CT. In May, Landau convened a day-long seminar on the *Building Abrahamic Partnerships (BAP)* interfaith training program for educators at other seminaries, sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation. He spoke on grass-roots peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine, with *Open House* in Ramle as a case study, at Beth Hatikvah synagogue in Summit, N.J., and co-led a Scripture study session for Christian seminarians and rabbinical students under the auspices of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. In June, Landau spoke about the *BAP* program on a panel of interfaith educators, as part of a two-day conference on training Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious leaders, co-sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute and Hebrew College in Newton Centre, MA; led a morning session of Prof. Benjamin Watts's course on "Dreams as a Resource for Ministry," exploring the meaning of dreams in Jewish and Islamic traditions; and delivered the keynote address, and spoke on a multi-faith panel, at

an Interfaith Summit on "An Emerging Ethical Renaissance" in Huntsville, AL. Landau's essay on "Shi'ite Mahdism and Jewish Messianism: The Ambivalent Mingling of Piety and Politics" was posted under "Resources" at www.abrahamicfamilyreunion.org.

In July, **Adair Lummis** attended the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Anaheim, CA, for the Episcopal Church Center. Part of her work there included getting responses to a survey for the Strategic Planning Committee of the Episcopal Church. An enjoyable event she attended was the Virginia Theological Seminary dinner, with greetings at the entrance by former Hartford Seminary Dean Ian Markham, now dean and president of VTS, and Leslie Markham.

Ingrid Mattson has been involved for the past few months in consultations with the Interreligious Task Force of President Barack Obama's Faith Advisory Council. The Council develops ideas to promote interreligious cooperation on projects that promote the common good. Mattson also traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) public witness and to call for a commission of inquiry to investigate U.S. sponsored torture. NRCAT leaders met with senior White House officials after the public witness. Mattson returned to Washington on Independence Day weekend to participate in the Islamic Society of North America's 46th annual convention held there this year. She

is president of ISNA. Back in Hartford, Mattson taught a summer class, *The Qur'an and its Place in Muslim Life*.

Yahya Michot accompanied Dr. Reza Mansoor, a trustee, in April to speak about the Seminary to a group of imams at the Bosnian mosque in Hartford. At the end of April, at the invitation of the French National Center for Scientific Research, Michot went to Paris and animated a seminar on "Qur'an Exegesis in Avicenna's 'Epistle on Actions and Passions'." In May, Michot gave a public lecture on "Astronomy & Astrology in the Muslim World" at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. He also participated in an interfaith discussion on "Paul, whom the Christians call Apostle," organized at the Seminary. Besides his regular classes, Michot held weekly sessions during which he read, with three Turkish students, an Ottoman manuscript of the 17th century: the unpublished *Risâleh* of the puritanical reformist Ahmed Rûmî al-Aqhisârî.

During May, **James Nieman** was a keynote speaker at the Seventh International Symposium of Practical Theology, sponsored by the Graduate School of Practical Theology in Icheon, Korea. He spoke about the ecclesial identity of small congregations, and a vision for ministerial leadership in congregations. He also lectured at Yonsei University in Seoul about developments in practical theology in the United States, and about teaching homiletics as a practice. During June, he was a lecturer

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and respondent at a conference entitled, “Human Flourishing: Exploring Protestant Goods in Changing Contexts,” held in Kampen, The Netherlands, and sponsored by the Protestantse Theologische Universiteit. Later in June, he participated in a meeting of the Congregational Studies Project Team on Cape Cod, Mass. The Team currently mentors younger scholars interested in congregational studies through its “Engaged Scholars” fellowship program, for which Nieman is the director.

Wayne G. Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Scripture, wrote an extensive article on “John the Evangelist,” that appeared in *The Blackwell Companion to the Theologians*, published in 2009 by Wiley-Blackwell Press, Oxford, U.K. The article concluded with a postscript on the role of John as a “Gospel for all seasons” in the history and life of the church. In mid-April, Rollins offered a retreat at the First Congregational Church

of Guilford, CT, on “Paul: Fully Alive,” The three interactive and illustrated sessions focused on “Paul the Man, Warts and All, and How to Read Him,” “Paul and the Christian Life: How Do I Decide What’s Right and What’s Wrong?,” and “Paul for The Road: Words to Live By.” In early May, Rollins presented a morning and evening lecture at the Asylum Hill Congregation Church (UCC), Hartford, on “The Psyche and Human Wholeness: Where Psychology and Religion Meet in the Thought of C. G. Jung.” The lecture concluded with a slide presentation on Jung’s life, focusing on the observation Jung made after sixty years as one of the West’s premiere analytical psychologists, that “Religions are psycho-therapeutic systems in the truest sense of the word.”

In early June **Scott Thumma** released a major study on megachurch attenders that was written about in more than 30 newspapers including USA Today, the New

York Times, Christian Century, Forbes, Time, Le Pointe (France) and the Guardian (United Kingdom). He recorded three radio interviews and a web broadcast and was featured in a megachurch documentary film entitled “The Alpha and the Mega” that premiered in July. During the past few months Thumma was occupied extensively in transitioning the Seminary’s technology support to an outsourced company. Additionally, he delivered a paper entitled “The View from the Comfy Padded Pew: New Data on Megachurch Attendees” at the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture conference in Washington, D.C., and spoke at Alliance Seminary in New York on megachurches. Thumma wrote three encyclopedia entries, two for the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity* on megachurches and Internet religion and one on megachurches for the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. He authored

two chapters, “Creating a New Heaven and a New Earth: Megachurches” and “The Re-engineering of America’s Spiritual Soil” in *Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Mega-Engineering Projects* and wrote “Suburban Mega-Religion and the Future of Faith in America” for the *Cambridge History of Religions in America* as well as taught classes in spring and summer.

In April, **Miriam Therese Winter** gave a series of keynote presentations on spirituality in a quantum universe at a weekend gathering of the graduating class and former graduates of the Lay Ministries Outreach Program affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas. She spent the first week of June in London doing research on an ongoing project related to world mission; and mid-month was keynote speaker at Worship Matters, the bi-annual gathering of church musicians and leaders of worship for the United Church of Canada, meeting this year in Ottawa.

ANNUAL FUND 2008-2009 UPDATE

As we anticipated, the economy had an impact on our fundraising efforts in 2008-2009 and many donors who contributed to the Annual Fund in the past were not able to contribute in the fiscal year that ended on June 30. However, we are thankful that we were still able to raise more than \$210,000.

As you know, gifts to the Annual Fund are an important part of our fundraising efforts at Hartford Seminary... they are unrestricted gifts that help us with our every day operating

expenses. These gifts are very important to the life of the Seminary.

We would like to offer our thanks to those of you who did contribute to the 2008-2009 Annual Fund. Thank you! A few highlights for the year include:

- 50 of our 550+ donors gave gifts to the Annual Fund for the first time.
- 193 donors who had contributed to the 2007-2008 Annual Fund increased their contributions in 2008-2009.
- 100% of the Board of

Trustees gave to the Annual Fund in 2008-2009.

- Donors who contributed at the \$300 level will be invited to a biennial Donor Appreciation event in 2010, as will those who give to the 2009-2010 Annual Fund at that level.

We do recognize and appreciate that many of you contributed to the Seminary in other ways this year, such as the Carl S. Dudley Scholarship Fund and the 175th Gala event held in October, which will also support student scholarships. We

thank you for those gifts as well.

The 2009-2010 Annual Fund, which runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, is underway and we thank you in advance for your gifts this year. As we have said before, we do realize that the economy is placing a tremendous burden on our donors, so we are especially grateful for your continued support.

Questions about the Annual Fund can be directed to the Institutional Advancement Office at giving@hartsem.edu or (860) 509-9520.

Hartford Seminary's Fall Semester will begin Tuesday, September 8 and continue through Monday, December 21. The Seminary's courses are open to members of the public and carry three graduate level credits. Individuals who do not wish to take courses for credit may apply to take courses as an auditor. Many classes fill up quickly, so participants are urged to register early to ensure a place in their courses of choice. For those enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$1,680. The non-credit audit fee is \$575. A special audit fee of \$385 is available for those who are 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 up to three specially designated members of churches that participate in the International Peacemaking Program of the Seminary. There is a limit of one course per academic year to receive the special rate except persons 62 and older, for whom there is no limit.

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

ARTS OF MINISTRY

The Art of Preaching

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning Sept. 10
Combining the substance of an introduction with the intimacy of a workshop, this course will explore theological and rhetorical foundations for preaching and provide practical experience in delivery and critique. *Benjamin K. Watts, Faculty Associate in the Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London*

Urban Ministry and the Kingdom of God: In Search of Lost Treasure

Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning Sept. 9
From its beginnings, Christianity has grown largely in urban contexts. Augustine's image of the "city of God" projects the enduring notion that divine grace permeates the common good, enlivening the religious, commercial and political life of cities across the world. Now we are living at a time when fragile communities of faith are located in urban environments that are themselves equally fragile and beleaguered. What are the hopes and dreams of God for cities and city churches alike? How does the kingdom of God continue to break through the harsher realities of urban life? What lost treasures of the gospel can be discovered and re-claimed as we seek to bear witness to the kingdom of God in our cities? Through this course we will lay claim to the joy of urban ministry, explore its opportunities and its challenges, and imagine ways and practices in which city churches can thrive within the urban contexts where they have been planted. *The Rev. Dr. Edward G. Horstmann, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Senior Minister, Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford*

DIALOGUE

Dialogue in a World of Difference

Mondays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., beginning Sept. 14 (10 weeks)
Students and faculty in a collegial setting will explore

in depth the principles and the practice of dialogue in a pluralistic world. Goals of the course include the development of listening and communication skills in multi-cultural contexts; fostering an understanding of one another through information sharing and community building action; and learning how to discuss potentially divisive issues constructively and without animosity. *Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President of the Seminary and Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

Interfaith Dialogue at Home and Abroad: Parliament of World Religions

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., on Sept. 15, Oct. 6, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15 plus travel seminar from Dec. 3 through Dec. 9

This course will examine different approaches to, organization of, and levels of, interfaith dialogue. It will include visits to local interfaith groups such as the Connecticut Committee for Interfaith Understanding, and conversations with local and regional interfaith leaders. The course will include careful preparation for, and participation in, the Parliament of World Religions meeting, December 3-9, in Melbourne, Australia. Travel costs will be subsidized by a grant from the Luce Foundation to the Parliament of World Religions' Task Force on Theological Education and Interfaith Initiatives. *Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President of the Seminary*

ETHICS

Comparative Religious Ethics

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning Sept. 10
This course explores the ethics of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. The aim is to develop the ability to recognize distinctive elements of the moral consciousness that have arisen in each tradition. This will be accompanied by a more general inquiry into the relation between religious convictions and religious ethics, as well as into the extent to which these religions might find common ground in specific areas of moral concern (human rights, the environment, the use of power). *Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics*

HISTORY

The Life of the Prophet Muhammad

ONLINE, beginning week of Sept. 8
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. *Shadee M. Elmasry, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies*

American Religious History

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning Sept. 15
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. The course will conclude with an examination of current trends and possible future forms of American religion. *Borden Painter, Adjunct Professor of History and Professor of History, Emeritus, at Trinity College, Hartford, CT*

Islamic History I

Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:50 p.m., beginning Sept. 15

This course explores the

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history of Islamic societies and civilization from its beginnings in seventh century Arabia until the fall of Granada in 1492. Attention will be given to the expansion process of the *Dār al-Islām*, the changing nature of the caliphate and the development of regional powers, as well as to socio-economic realities, ideological evolutions and significant cultural achievements. *Yahya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

RELIGION & SOCIETY

Global Pentecostalism

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning Sept. 10
Since the beginning of the Twentieth Century a diverse expressivist Protestant religious movement labeled as Pentecostalism has revolutionized Christian religion around the world. This movement has altered mission efforts, reshaped indigenous worship practices, reformed religious organizations and in some cases even transformed governments and the directions of nations. This course will look at the origins of this movement and then trace its effects across the continents and influences in different layers of society. It will also examine how these changes are felt in local congregations of many different non-pentecostal traditions. *Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion*

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Bible Survey II

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning Sept. 10
An introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, this course will apply historical-critical methods of study to develop a framework for understanding the origins of the texts and the relationship of the texts to one another. Survey II will examine the prophetic corpus, poetry wisdom and the rest of “the writings” in the Hebrew Bible. *Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible*

Matthew, Mark and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning Sept. 9
This course is an in-depth study of the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith in light of current biblical scholarship with special attention to the theological perspectives of Matthew, Mark and Luke as reflected in their varying presentations of the Good News in these three “synoptic” Gospels. *Wayne Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Scripture*

Biblical Models of Leadership for Ministry Today: Jesus and Paul

ONLINE, beginning week of Sept. 8
This course mines the gospel stories and the letters of Paul to explore issues of leadership theory and practice in earliest Christianity with a view toward understanding the role of religious leadership in the exercise of ministry today. We will pay particular attention to the picture of leadership presented in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and leaders and practices which Paul discusses in various ways in his letters. *Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament and Academic Dean of the Seminary*

Major Themes of the Bible and the Qur’an

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning Sept. 15
This course will study in depth the worldviews of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qur’an. This will be done through an examination of common and divergent themes in the three Scriptures. More

specifically, we shall study the three major themes of Revelation, Creation and Salvation. Within this framework, we shall pay special attention to such major themes as mercy, love and justice, atonement, sin and forgiveness, and the theology of creation, redemption and eschatology. *Mahmoud Ayoub, Faculty Associate in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*

THEOLOGY

Putting Your Theology Together: A Systematic Theology

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning Sept. 15
In this course students will be invited to reflect on the shape of theology which is suitable for today’s world. Starting with the questions of why do systematic theology and how to do systematic theology, students will be invited to look at the Trinity, Creation, Sin, Evil, Providence, Incarnation, Atonement, Ecclesiology, Sacraments, and Eschatology (and on the way learn what all these words mean). Different approaches to systematic theology will be described. And at the end, students will be encouraged to have formulated their own views on these issues. *Heidi Gehman, Faculty Associate in Theology and Ethics*

Major Religious Figures: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 15 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 6, Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15
Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s theology and ethics as seen through the new editions of his writings and the latest research. Readings in his main works including Discipleship, Life Together, Ethics, and Letters and Papers from Prison. Study of Bonhoeffer in his historical context of Hitler’s Germany, but equally with concern for Christian life, ministry, and the church in twenty-first century America. *Clifford Green, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics. Prof. Green is author of “Bonhoeffer: A Theology of Sociality”*

WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY

Women’s Leadership Institute

Fridays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 26-27, Oct. 24-25, Nov. 21-22, and Dec. 19-20
A year-long six credit course in leadership and applied spirituality rooted in women’s experience and from a feminist perspective that meets monthly from September through May and requires a separate admissions process. Prerequisite: enrollment in the Women’s Leadership Institute. *Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality and Director, Women’s Leadership Institute*

Spiritual Autobiography

Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (12 weeks), beginning Sept. 9
Have you ever wished you could tell your story in such a way that your experience of God and your grappling with grace were the primary storyline? Guided by selected readings and literary examples, we will explore depths that underlie and thin places that surround the bare bones of biographical data, revealing a testament to faith and an evolving spirituality. Participants will creatively chronicle their spiritual autobiographies in ways that are individually fulfilling as a keepsake of the past and a legacy for the future. *Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality and Director, Women’s Leadership Institute*

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

God's Word in Greek: Reading the Gospel of Matthew

A monthly workshop with the Rev. Edward F. Duffy, Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield, CT, and Adjunct Professor of New Testament Greek at Hartford Seminary
Tuesdays, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Drumming Circle

African hand drumming with Jan Gregory, owner of the Renaissance Center: Your Community Music School, and Director of Music Ministry, South Britain Congregational Church, UCC, both in Southbury, CT
Mondays: September 28, October 12 and 26, and November 9 and 30
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

SACRED TRUST: A FORUM ON RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Coming Home: The Oikos of God and Climate Change

Keynote Address: Michael Schut, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer of The Episcopal Church of the United States of America. He edited and co-wrote "Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective." Includes workshops and displays.

Thursday, October 15
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Co-Sponsor: Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Connecticut's Interfaith Power and Light
Location: Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford

Pastoral Ministry and the Ecological Crisis

A workshop with the Rev. Thomas Carr, pastor of The First Baptist Church, West Hartford, CT, and co-chair of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
Wednesday, October 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Transformative Power of King David and President Barack Obama

A lecture and discussion with Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hartford Seminary and author of "Identity and Loyalty in the David Story: A Postcolonial Reading" and "Decolonizing Josiah: Toward a Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic History"
Wednesday, November 4
7 p.m.

Beyond the Linear Lens: A Focus on Spirituality

An interfaith evening of celebration of the Spirit with Seminary Professors Yehzekel Landau (Interfaith Relations), Yabya Michot (Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations) and Miriam Therese Winter (Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality)
Thursday, November 19
7 p.m.

"The Institutes" in the Making: John Calvin's Pastoral Voice

A lecture and response with Elsie McKee, Archibald Alexander Professor of Reformation Studies and the History of Worship at Princeton Theological Seminary, and Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Hartford Seminary
Monday, November 23
7 p.m.

MOVIE AND COMMENTARY
The Road to Mecca: The Journey of Muhammad Asad

A film presentation followed by discussion with Yabya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, and Herb Brockman, Rabbi of Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden, CT and faculty at Yale Divinity School
Wednesday, December 2
6:30 p.m.

Innovation, Social Change, and the Emerging Future of American Congregations

A Continuing Education Course for religious leaders with Dr. Gerardo Marti, L. Richardson King Assistant Professor of Sociology at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C.
Monday, January 4 - Wednesday, January 6
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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