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Seminary Receives More than \$2 million In Special Gifts in Past Year

Amy Hines, chair of the Board of Trustees' Development Committee, was preparing her report last spring for the Board's annual meeting when she realized that Hartford Seminary had received \$2.1 million in 2010-2011, primarily from special gifts and grants.

Hines was delighted and quickly realized, as she says, that "we need to celebrate our success in securing some wonderful, major gifts."

Often an institution is so involved in day-to-day details that it doesn't think to step back and view the big picture. It is the proverbial story of not seeing the forest for the trees.

Hines doesn't want Hartford Seminary and its Institutional Advancement team to make that mistake.

Our goal, she says, is to advance the mission and vision of Hartford Seminary, and clearly we have been successful in this goal in the past year.

Among the major gifts:

- Hartford Seminary was awarded a gift of \$1 million from the International Institute of Islamic Thought in Herndon, VA, to help endow a professorship in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations.

The gift will help fund a chair in Islamic Chaplaincy and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary's Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. The first holder of the chair will be Dr. Timur Yuskaev, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Islam and Director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program.

The gift recognizes and builds on Hartford Seminary's commitment, dating back to the 19th century, to Christian-Muslim Relations and interfaith engagement.

- The Luce Foundation awarded a \$232,500 grant for a professorship in contemporary Islam that will augment the Seminary's program in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations.

The grant will support the professorship of Dr. Yuskaev.

- The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations awarded two grants to the seminary.

One, of \$200,000, establishes a permanent endowment to generate scholarships for students in the cooperative Master of Divinity program.

The other, of \$50,000, provides funds for an innovative course, titled "Religious Leadership in an Interfaith World," and development of a set of fresh, relevant and accessible teaching materials and resources that can be used and adapted for other offerings not only at Hartford Seminary, but at other institutions, and for use with other potential constituencies such as religious educators, seminary faculty or businesses.

The project will provide the participants, who are current or potential interfaith leaders, with a core understanding of the issues and

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a member of a theater group called Vintage Players. We recently presented a staged reading of "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been" by Eric Bentley. We decided on this play as a result of the recent hearings on the subject of Muslim radicalization. These

recent hearings bear an eerie resemblance to the HUAC [House Un-American Activities Committee] hearings which are the subject of the play.

Our group does not charge admission but we decided to use some of the donations we received to foster Christian Muslim dialogue.

To this end we are enclosing a small symbolic donation for your work in this area.

Very Truly Yours,

Jane S. McMillan
Middletown, CT

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back issues 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. Our website, www.hartsem.edu, provides additional information and news about Hartford Seminary.

New Board Members Elected at Hartford Seminary

At the annual meeting of Hartford Seminary on May 23, the Corporators elected four new trustees and affirmed the appointment of Dr. Timur Yuskaev as a faculty trustee. Here are biographies of each of the new trustees.



Christel Ford Berry is an attorney and financial consultant with Ford Berry Associates in Hartford. From 1981 to 1984,

before she started her own business, she was Associate Attorney with the Shipman & Goodwin law firm and with the Hebb & Gitlin law firm, both in Hartford. She received a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. from Barnard College. Christel is a Trustee of Westfield State University and serves on the Professional Advisory Board of the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving. She is a member of the Boards of the Connecticut Bar Foundation and The Fund for Greater Hartford. Christel is a member of First Cathedral in Bloomfield and lives in Hartford.



Imam Dr. Salahuddin M. Muhammad is a Muslim Chaplain for the New York State Department of Correctional Services. He spends

a great deal of time on the lecture circuit teaching Islam and has been an adjunct professor for Mercy and Marist Colleges. A student of Islam since 1964, Salahuddin is registered and certified as an Imam by the National Association of Muslim Chaplains. He is the spiritual leader of Masjid Al Ikhlas (The Islamic Learning Center of Orange County), located in Newburgh, New York.

Salahuddin has a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary, a Masters degree in Theology and Counseling from New York Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences from the State University of New York at New Paltz. He also has received a Graduate Certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy from Hartford Seminary. Salahuddin is particularly interested in bridging the gap between the academic and religious lives of Muslim students. He lives in Beacon, N.Y.



Sydney A. Perry is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Community Center of New Haven. Previously she was Associate Executive

Director of the Federation and Director of the Department of Jewish Education, the educational arm of the Federation. Nationally, she has been called upon to give workshops in various settings. An honors graduate of Smith College, Sydney pursued graduate work at Hartford Seminary. She has taught Rabbinics and Bible at Ezra Academy in Woodbridge, CT. Sydney has been nominated for national awards for educational initiatives and serves on committees of the Jewish Educational Society of North America and Bureau Directors Fellowship. She has received the Eisner Educators' Award for community service, the Gan School's Pillar of the Community Award, Ezra Academy's Distinguished Leader Award, and the Brandeis University Award. This year she will be honored by the New Haven Jewish Historical Society. Sydney is a member of the Westville Synagogue in New Haven and lives in New Haven.



James K. Robertson Jr. is a senior partner with the Carmody & Torrance law firm in Waterbury, CT. During his thirty years of

experience as a trial lawyer, Jim has tried many cases, in a wide range of subjects, in both state and federal courts. He is also frequently selected as an arbitrator and mediator. Jim is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2009, Connecticut Magazine named him to its "Top 10 Connecticut Super Lawyer" list. This is Jim's second stint on the Seminary Board; he was vice chair from 2006 to 2009. Jim was chair of the Connecticut Humanities Council from 2006 to 2008, president of the University of Connecticut School of Law Foundation from 2004 to 2005, and chair of the Connecticut Judicial Selection Commission from 1996 to 1998. Jim is a member of First Congregational Church of Watertown. He was moderator of the national synod of the United Church of Christ, which took place in Tampa, FL, in July. Jim earned a J.D., with honors, from the University of Connecticut School of Law, an M.A. from Hartford Seminary, and a B.A., cum laude, from Yale University. He lives in Watertown, CT.



Dr. Timur Yuskaev is Assistant Professor of Contemporary Islam and Director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program at Hartford Seminary. His academic home is the Seminary's Macdonald

Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. Timur also is associate editor of the Muslim World journal.

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New Board Members

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Previously, Timur was an instructor and teaching assistant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Colorado at Boulder as well as an adjunct faculty at St. Francis College, New York City. From 1999 to 2005, he served as coordinator of educational programs at the Interfaith Center of New York. He directed the Muslims in New York Civic Life Project, funded by

Carnegie Corporation of New York. He has a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado and a B.A. from Bard College. Timur's areas of specialization include Qur'anic Studies, Anthropology of the Qur'an, Qur'anic Hermeneutics, Islamic homiletics, Muslim Modernities, Islam in North America, and American and African-

American religious history. Among his publications are several entries for the Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History and a chapter, "Training Teachers in American Religious Diversity," published in Building the Interfaith Youth Movement. He lives in Glastonbury, CT. ❁

Hartford Seminary Honors Two Professors

Hartford Seminary held a reception honoring Dean Efrain Agosto and Professor Kelton Cobb in May to recognize their service to the Seminary.

Efrain Agosto, Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament, who had been on the Hartford Seminary faculty since 1995, is now Professor of New Testament Studies at New York Theological Seminary in his hometown, New York City.

Efrain was a much appreciated colleague over the 16 years that he was at Hartford

Seminary. He served the Seminary in several capacities, as New Testament Professor, Director of the Hispanic Ministries Program, and Academic Dean.

In each case Efrain brought to his leadership, considerable knowledge and skills and also great human warmth and joy of service to others, particularly, though by no means exclusively, to the Latino community.

Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics, has accepted a teaching position with the Oregon Extension of Eastern University.

This program, located in a renovated logging camp near Ashland, Oregon is an off-campus educational program that draws undergraduate students for a single semester each fall and a short term in May for specialized study in religion and environmental studies.

Kelton had been on the faculty for 16 years. He gave important leadership to teaching theology and ethics, editing the journal *Conversations*, and coordinating the Cooperative M.Div. program. ❁



Florence Clarke, a Master of Arts student, spoke eloquently about Efrain Agosto's time at Hartford Seminary. They share an embrace after her remarks.



Jane Ellingwood, who is a Ph.D. student, thanks Professor Kelton Cobb for his sage advice as her advisor.

James Nieman Named Academic Dean



Hartford Seminary President Heidi Hadsell has named The Rev. Dr. James R. Nieman, Professor of Practical Theology, as Academic Dean, effective July 1.

Nieman, who is Director of the Seminary's Doctor of Ministry Program and a member of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, has been a faculty member since January 2005. His appointment to a three-year term was unanimously confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Seminary's Board of Trustees.

"I am very pleased that Jim has accepted this important position at Hartford Seminary," Hadsell said. "Jim is a creative thinker who has shown great skill externally in working with congregations in America and internally working with trustees, faculty, and staff on strategic planning to keep Hartford Seminary academically innovative and fiscally sound."

"He is an excellent scholar who understands how to apply academic skills to analyze practical, every-day issues," she said. "As editor of a journal on practical theology, he is a leader in his field."

Nieman succeeded Dr. Efrain Agosto, who has taken a position on the faculty of the New York Theological Seminary.

Last December, looking ahead toward his new role, Nieman said, "Some of my goals may seem mundane but are essential for an effective academic program. For example, I want to reinforce clear, efficient, and fair administrative practices that support our educational mission. Likewise, I want us to develop a culture of reflective practice and self-assessment so we can monitor our teaching and enhance our educational credibility.

"Other goals, though, are bolder and pertain to the distinctive gifts of Hartford Seminary and its incredibly innovative faculty. I want to promote and support a research ethos that advances an intellectual agenda consistent with the seminary's purposes and is helpful both to our students and to other scholars. Broader still, I want to help Hartford Seminary grow as the kind of school that others look to for understanding our complex, pluralistic, and changing religious landscape, and in ways that contribute to justice, mercy, and peace."

Reflecting on his appointment, Nieman said, "This is an enormously challenging time in theological education, not simply due to economic pressures but especially because the purpose for such education is being reshaped by rapid changes in American religious life.

"Hartford Seminary is distinctively positioned to set the tone for these needed changes and already stands as a pioneer in these crucial ventures. I am eager and honored to lead the academic program of the seminary to build further on our historic, progressive strengths in leadership development and practical theology, interfaith dialogue, and Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations."

Nieman has a Ph.D. from Emory University in Atlanta and a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

He came to Hartford Seminary from Wartburg, where he was Professor of Homiletics for thirteen years. He also directed the Master of Sacred Theology program at Wartburg.

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

His areas of academic specialization are practical theology, congregational studies, local and contextual theologies, ecclesiology, and homiletics.

Nieman is past president of the Association of Practical Theology, past secretary of the International Academy of Practical Theology, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Louisville Institute. He is editor for the International Journal of Practical Theology.

Nieman also has served as co-convenor of the Hermeneutics and Biblical Study group of the Academy of Homiletics, and co-chair of the Practical Theology group of the American Academy of Religion.

Besides many journal articles, Nieman is author of *Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching* (2008), co-editor of *Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times* (2005), and co-author of *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies* (2001). 🌸

Seminary Receives More than \$2 million In Special Gifts in Past Year

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opportunities of interfaith work and to establish an ongoing learning community for the sharing of information and insights on religious leadership.

- The Seminary received \$160,000 for scholarships and general support in the International Peacemaking Program from the Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Lynn and John Fulkerson.

In IPP, religious and lay leaders from countries in which there is interreligious conflict between Christians and Muslims spend a year at the Seminary, training in interfaith leadership.

Hartford Seminary began the program in 2004. After a year of study, interfaith encounter, and experiences in local congregations and the broader American culture, IPP students return to their home countries with skills

to promote productive interfaith dialogue, better prepared to be peacemakers.

The fourteen IPP students to date have come from Nigeria, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Bulgaria, among other countries.

- The Alavi Foundation, based in New York, donated \$35,000 to support the work of Mahmoud Ayoub, Faculty Associate in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.
- The Seminary received an anonymous gift of \$20,000 toward the endowment of a chair that will secure a professorship in Abrahamic Partnerships at Hartford Seminary, whose primary focus will be on the theory and practice of Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations.

Assorted smaller gifts and an Annual Fund total of \$202,000 brought the total to \$2.1 million.

Hines said that, while celebrating our successes, Hartford Seminary must continue to make its case to individual donors and foundations.

“We need to showcase the opportunities for special giving for capital projects, the endowment and operating funds,” she said.

A priority is completion of the endowed faculty chairs in Abrahamic Partnerships and Islamic Chaplaincy and Christian-Muslim Relations. Another priority is to build the endowment for scholarships, which are crucial to attracting students to the Seminary. ❁

Hartford Seminary Receives Donation for Peacemaking Programs

Hartford Seminary’s commitment to religious peacemaking has received a major boost through a \$60,000 donation by a local alumna and her spouse.

Lynn Fulkerson, who has a Master of Arts from the Seminary and is a founder of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, and John Fulkerson, a knee and shoulder surgeon with Orthopedic Associates of Hartford and past president of the Litchfield Land Trust, said that they want to invest their resources wisely and could think of no better way than to support Hartford Seminary’s

commitment to preparing peacemakers.

“The Seminary plays such an important role internationally in religious peacemaking,” the Fulkersons said.

The funds will be used in the Seminary’s innovative International Peacemaking Program and to support an endowed faculty chair in Abrahamic Partnerships.

The donation will pay for two students in the International Peacemaking Program. In this program, religious and lay leaders from countries in which there is

interreligious conflict between Christians and Muslims spend a year at the Seminary, training in interfaith leadership.

The gift also will provide funds toward the endowment of a chair that will secure a professorship in Abrahamic Partnerships at Hartford Seminary, whose 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 Lynn and John 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. This gift will help make this possible.”

The Fulkersons said, “Hartford Seminary offers a hopeful vision of the possibilities for peace. It brings together people of diverse religious perspectives and experiences in a unique environment of mutual respect and acceptance.”

Hartford Seminary began the International Peacemaking Program (IPP) in 2004. Christian and Muslim leaders

Continued from previous page

from countries in which there is Christian-Muslim conflict come for a year of interfaith leadership training and experience, including immersion in an American congregation. There, the students encounter the dynamics of a local church, and broaden that congregation's understanding of discipleship in other, more conflicted, cultures.

After a year of study, interfaith encounter, and experiences in local congregations and the broader American culture, IPP students return to their home countries with skills to promote productive interfaith dialogue, better prepared to be peacemakers.

The fourteen IPP students to date have come from Nigeria, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Bulgaria, among other countries.

For fall 2011, the IPP students are Haidar Reda from Iraq, Abdullah Khan from Pakistan,

and Hans Abdiel Harmakaputra from Indonesia.

In addition to this recent gift, funding for IPP has come from The David E. A. Carson and Sara F. Carson Fund, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and a dozen local churches and mosques.

It costs approximately \$22,000 to fully fund an IPP student.

The Abrahamic Partnerships chair builds on the Seminary's Building Abrahamic Partnerships (BAP) program. This program trains religious leaders by a) promoting deeper understanding of the beliefs and practices of the three faith traditions, b) providing an innovative educational opportunity that prepares clergy and lay leaders to address issues of religious diversity, c) demonstrating how seminarians, clergy and religious educators can forge mutually beneficial relationships across communal boundaries, and d) helping participants develop skills

necessary for interfaith ministry. The Seminary designed this 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.

The creation of an endowment to continue the Abrahamic Partnerships initiative affirms the Seminary's commitment to making interreligious encounter a central part of each student's experience.

Lynn Fulkerson has been involved with the Seminary not only as a student but also as a trustee and officer of the Alumni/ae Council. She began her ministry of caring for the environment while working on her M.A. at the Seminary.

She is a leading activist in her home town of Litchfield. Lynn is co-founder of the Litchfield Energy Task Force whose mission is to reduce energy consumption and increase the use of clean

renewable energy for the town, its residences and businesses. For ten years she served as Chair of the Episcopal Diocesan Committee on the Environment. She continues as co-chair of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, which is starting its second decade.

Besides his work as a physician with Orthopedic Associates of Hartford, John Fulkerson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Connecticut. He is founder of the Patellofemoral Foundation and was Medical Director of the Hartford Whalers and the Wolf Pack Hockey Club. He has served as president of the Herodicus Society, an academic sports medicine society.

John is a committed land preservationist, serving until last year as President of the Litchfield Land Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving quality land in northwest Connecticut. ❁

Faculty Appointments for 2011-2012



Dr. Lucinda Mosher will serve as Faculty Associate in Interfaith Studies for the academic year 2011-12. Dr. Mosher helped organize the summer 2011 course in Interfaith Religious Leadership and is

coordinating the new Graduate Certificate in Interfaith Chaplaincy. She also will teach "Christian-Muslim Encounter: The Theological Dimension."

Dr. Mosher comes to Hartford

Seminary from years of service in interfaith work, in particular Christian-Muslim Relations. She is an alumna of the Seminary, receiving her Master of Arts in 1992. Later she received a Doctor of Theology from

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Hartford Seminary Receives Planning Grant for Engaged Scholars Initiative

Hartford Seminary has received a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to plan new resources and audiences for the Engaged Scholars program.

James Nieman, Professor of Practical Theology, will be the project director.

The Engaged Scholars program is coordinated by the Congregational Studies Project Team, a national coalition of scholars and researchers who share an interest in congregations. The program, funded by Lilly, provides funding and mentoring for academic fellows that helps them refine research engaged with the faith life of congregations.

Since 2008, it also convened three gatherings of religious leaders and

scholars, addressing issues of common interest in studying congregations and religious life.

The new grant will support a transitional planning process. The Congregational Studies Project Team will sketch the architecture of a new web-based teaching resource in congregational studies and seek ways to identify new audiences of fellows in fields (e.g., practical theology) and institutions (e.g., seminaries and churches) that have been underrepresented in the previous fellowship awarding process.

The new website, according to the grant proposal, would assist pastors who frequently turn to online sources to inform their work, and support seminary

instructors and others charged with training the next generation of pastoral leaders.

For more than twenty-five years, the Congregational Studies Project Team has led the way in inviting scholars to engage in serious, rigorous research on congregational life and encouraging religious leaders to draw on academic research to enrich their ability to provide effective leadership to local religious communities.

Its Engaged Scholars program has invited younger scholars and religious leaders, whose focus is on the practices of local communities of faith, to enter into a program of research and networking.

Participants have:

- Honed research skills that allow them to take the life of faith communities seriously
- Built a network of mentors
- Built a cohort of colleagues who can encourage and stimulate each other in advancing understanding of how engaged scholarship works best
- Gained support for significant research and writing and the time to do it

It is expected that this transitional grant will lead to the development of a more substantial grant proposal to the Lilly Endowment for development of the website and a third round of Engaged Scholars fellowships. ❁

Hartford Seminary Receives Hoffman Foundation Grant To Provide New Computers for Students

The Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation of West Hartford, CT, has made a \$5,450 grant to Hartford Seminary to equip a new student reading room with state-of-the-art computers.

For the past two years, Hartford Seminary has been adding and modifying space to meet the need for additional study and community space for students.

In the spring, the Seminary converted the room that formerly housed its bookstore into a quiet reading room. The room is adjacent to the library, has study tables and

also houses reference books and materials.

The five new computers in the reading room will allow students to access online library resources and work on their research without interruption.

“I am very grateful for this generous gift from our neighbor, the Hoffman Foundation,” President Heidi Hadsell said. “Hartford Seminary is committed to ensuring that students have all the tools they need for a quality educational experience, and this grant allows us to provide first-class technology

to our students.”

Other steps to support students taken by Hartford Seminary this spring include:

- Removal of tall shelving in the main Dillenberger Reading Room to allow for additional seating.
- Creation of a new multi-purpose student lounge, group study and break-out room in the main building at 77 Sherman Street to give students a place to sit and chat, work on projects together, or simply rest

before and after classes.

In 2009, Hartford Seminary purchased a building adjacent to its campus to establish the Martin and Aviva Budd Interfaith Building, which houses a prayer room and a student lounge along with the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.

These rooms, along with the conference hall that offers a beautiful view of the Park River, are used by the Seminary's residential and regional students for weeknight and weekend gatherings. ❁

Seminary Receives Grant To Educate Clergy In Multifaith Studies

The Association of Theological Schools has awarded Hartford Seminary a \$5,000 grant to develop courses and a curriculum to educate parish clergy for a multi-faith world, through its Christian Hospitality and Pastoral Practices in a Multifaith Society (CHAPP) program.

Hartford Seminary is one of 18 schools to receive a grant. David Roozen, Professor of Religion and Society and Director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at the Seminary, will direct the one-year grant.

The project will include research and faculty planning to produce three components:

- A five-day non-degree continuing education program focusing on multifaith situations and issues for congregational leaders
- An introductory course for Master of Divinity students on the knowledge and capacities clergy need for dealing with multifaith situations and issues
- Development of a track in the Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program that addresses multi-faith situations and issues centered in congregations

The project will start with four focus groups with parish clergy

and then engage the Seminary's faculty through collegial sharing luncheons and a half-day session at a faculty retreat to discuss specific curriculum proposals.

"Given that the vast majority of congregational clergy today completed their formal pastoral education without any attention to multifaith leadership, this initiative is critically needed to help clergy better adapt to the intensifying multifaith character of American society," Roozen said.

In June, the Seminary offered a five-day course titled "Religious Leadership in an Interfaith World," attended mainly by professionals working in multifaith situations. The course was not oriented toward pastoral practices, Roozen pointed out. A new five-day intensive, non-degree program for dealing with multifaith situations and issues for congregational leaders is a natural extension of the Seminary's continuing education curriculum, he said.

He said that the non-degree program, in particular, has the most immediate value, "introducing already practicing clergy to the knowledge, capacities and attitudes they and their parishioners need for dealing with the multifaith situations and issues they already face."

For Hartford Seminary faculty, the grant will allow them to engage in discussion about what a multifaith world means for parish clergy, enabling them to envision and formulate a curriculum in multifaith leadership for clergy.

The seminary's strategic planning process calls for expanding the Doctor of Ministry program by reaching new constituencies. The proposed outlining of a Doctor of Ministry curriculum for parish leadership in a multifaith world, therefore, is in line with the planning process, Roozen said.

Roozen has studied innovation in theological education for more than 30 years. His two most recent pieces on theological education both deal with multifaith leadership. They include:

Changing The Way Seminaries Teach: Pedagogies for Interfaith Dialogue, edited with Seminary President Heidi Hadsell (2009) and *Educating Religious Leaders for a Multi-Religious World: Outcomes and Learning from the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions* (forthcoming).

ATS, in seeking grant proposals under the Christian Hospitality and Pastoral Practices in a Multifaith Society (CHAPP) program, said:

"Christian leaders in the United States and Canada are increasingly called upon to exercise their pastoral practices in contexts that require understanding of faith traditions other than their own. Situations call for both understanding of the faith traditions of others as well as in-depth knowledge of their own faith community's teaching and practice in relation to those other religious traditions. ATS adopted multifaith dimensions of theological education as a new area of work to help schools in this area."

It is expected that the focus groups and faculty discussions will take place over the next year, with a final report outlining the course, continuing education program and curriculum completed by September 2012. ✿

Why The Quakes Struck

By James K. Robertson, Jr.



The quake struck at 9:40 in the morning and lasted 6 minutes. Approximately 40 minutes later, an enormous tsunami engulfed the harbor and the center of the nation's capital. It is estimated that 85% of the city's buildings were destroyed and at least 30,000 of its residents were killed.

Structures containing the fragile emblems of national pride were damaged irreparably.

This was not Japan, Indonesia, Haiti or New Orleans -- or any other earthquake of our recent memory.

The city was Lisbon, and the year was 1755. Not only did the Great Earthquake devastate the region around Portugal's capital, but it also rattled the very foundation of the Enlightenment. Natural religion had been the focus of high thought. God had been understood not just through revealed religion but increasingly through the miracles and wonders of nature. Scientists were discovering divine order and harmony through reason, creative exploration and the disciplined

study of nature. The beneficence of the Clockmaker was revealed by understanding the ingenious workings of the Clock. The revealed miracle of nature revealed the beneficent mind of God.

But if God was revealed in the harmony and perfection of nature, how are we then to understand the apparently arbitrary and brutally devastating suffering that is caused by nature? How could the Deity who was revealed through nature also be responsible for the horrors in Lisbon? The quake had occurred on an important church holiday and destroyed almost every church in the city, causing untold suffering to devout believers; and yet the brothels stood. Divine harmony and order had turned into a nightmare and called into question the goodness of Creation. Are there two gods (one good, one bad); a vengeful god (punishing the many for the sins of the few), an impotent god (unable to control god's own creation), an absent god (who moved on after the work of creation) or a god who wants to teach us something (but who has abandoned all subtlety)? Or is our premise about natural religion entirely wrong? Perhaps the harmony and perfection of revealed nature reveals nothing about the true nature of God.

Scholars now argue that the Lisbon Earthquake was the birthplace of modernity because it demanded recognition of the split between nature and morality.

Immanuel Kant devoted years to the study of the quake, publishing essays on its philosophical significance. Voltaire's *Candide* ridiculed the notion that nature was the manifestation of a benevolent Deity. Evolving modernists concluded that natural and moral categories of being do not support or reflect each other. Neither nature nor natural events are either good or evil.

Then, as now, some demand moral clarity from incomprehensible suffering, and if lacking, they will demand far more dangerous simplicity. Natural catastrophes become merely well-earned, collective punishments or divine warnings of worse to come. Said some of the orthodox about Lisbon: "Think, O Spain, O Portugal! Of the millions of poor Indians that your forefathers butchered for the sake of gold!" More recently, Pat Robertson justified the earthquake in Haiti as being divine retribution for a pact with the devil made long ago by Haitian slaves. Still others will resort to the polytheistic conceptions of Hollywood evil, with vampires, devils and other malevolent beings tampering with our safety.

Undoubtedly, we will be hearing similar explanations about the natural disasters in New Orleans, Indonesia, Australia and Japan.

Despite these outcries, natural evil is now largely demythologized. Earthquakes are more a matter of plate tectonics, and we are more concerned about inadequate nuclear designs and flood dikes than about collective, supernatural punishments. But with this secularization of "natural evil," there is probably a corresponding decline in "natural religion". The previously faithful, who have grown increasingly skeptical of the religion revealed in scripture, find less faith in a Creator who is revealed in nature.

Although we can recognize the distinctions between the natural evil of earthquakes and the moral evil implicit in bigotry, terrorism and murderous home invasions, we nonetheless accept a similar secularization of their causes. Advances in psychology and neuro-biology have increasingly shifted our focus from the nature of the act and the suffering of the victim to the external forces contributing to the cause. Sin, evil and morality are going to the margin, along with theology and natural religion.

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Faculty in the News

Professor **Ingrid Mattson** is one of the scholars featured on a new website, produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary, that offers resources for the tenth anniversary commemoration of 9/11. The page has texts, talks, and music from Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions on tragedy, mourning and healing. Click here to view the website and listen to a video of Dr. Mattson.

Professor **James Nieman** spoke in May to members of the Yale Divinity School and Berkeley Divinity School leadership boards on the broad changes affecting churches and theological education at a time when mainline U.S. Protestantism is in steep decline. Video»

Professor **Scott Thumma** and co-author Warren Bird have published a new book, "The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church's Spectators into Active Participants." In the book, the authors address the question of why there are so few active attenders in church and suggest various strategies by which a church's leadership can address member mobilization and discipleship. Read more»

President **Heidi Hadsell** joined some 1,000 worldwide faith leaders and peace practitioners in May to explore the concept of "just peace" and recent advances in peacemaking practices at an International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica. The World Council

of Churches sponsored the convocation, whose theme is "Glory to God and Peace on Earth." It marks the culmination of the Decade to Overcome Violence that the council initiated in 2001. Dr. Hadsell offered a presentation on Hartford Seminary as a model for interfaith dialogue.

Professor **Ingrid Mattson**, Director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and past president of the Islamic Society of North America, is the 2011 recipient of the Muslim American Contribution Award of the Muslim Student Awareness Network and the Islamic Society at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. The network and society

annually bestow the award upon a Muslim-American who has made substantial contributions to knowledge and society. The recipient of the award is selected based on the magnitude of the impact of his or her contributions. The award ceremony was May 23 at Stanford.

Professor **Yehezkel Landau** and Aida Mansoor, a Hartford Seminary student and President of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, received the annual Human Relations Award of the National Conference for Community and Justice of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts at a banquet in downtown Hartford on April 28. ❀

Faculty Appointments for 2011-2012

Continued from page 7

General Theological Seminary in New York City.

Dr. Mosher is the founding instructor for the annual Worldviews Seminar -- an innovative introduction to America's religious diversity taught since 2002 at The University of Michigan-Dearborn.

She is a Senior Fellow at Auburn Seminary, conducting research for its Center for Multifaith Education on how religious leaders-in-training are taught about religious difference and participated

in the 2011 Building Bridges Seminar, an international gathering of Christian and Muslim scholars convened annually by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr. Ed Waggoner, who received his Ph.D. from Yale University, will serve for one year



as a Visiting Professor in Theology and Ethics.

Dr. Waggoner has taught at Yale College, Yale Divinity School and the University of New Haven, as a visiting professor and adjunct instructor. His specialty is Systematic Theology, especially studies on the doctrine of the Trinity.

In the fall, he will teach "Putting Your Theology Together," and in the spring a course called "The Triune God."

Dr. Waggoner works in the areas of systematic theology and religion and politics. His current projects include a new interpretation of Friedrich Schleiermacher's theological naturalism; a constructive doctrine of the Trinity as the basis for claims about human experience of divine 'persons;' and a critique of religious support for militarization in the United States. ❀

Smith Named Emeritus Faculty At Hartford Seminary

The Board of Trustees and Faculty of Hartford Seminary have named Dr. Jane I. Smith, a nationally known scholar in Islamic studies who taught at Hartford Seminary for 13 years, Faculty Emeritus.

Smith was Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and co-director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. She also was co-editor of *The Muslim World* journal.

She left the Seminary in July 2008 to become Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Harvard Divinity School.

Smith is an alumna of the Seminary, earning a Bachelor of Divinity degree. She earned her Ph.D. at Harvard.

“Jane made an exceptional contribution to Hartford Seminary,” President Heidi

Hadsell said. “She helped strengthen the Macdonald Center and provided leadership nationally in interfaith understanding.”

“Teaching at Hartford Seminary for almost 12 years was one of the most memorable periods of my academic career,” Smith said. “I have always seen the Seminary to be the premier religious institution for the fostering of honest, and effective, interfaith dialogue.”

“Directing the Macdonald Center and editing *The Muslim World* journal, both in partnership with the late Ibrahim Abu-Rabi’, were challenging and extremely rewarding experiences,” Smith said. “But without question my greatest joy at Hartford was teaching, and knowing personally, the many international as well as American students who came to the Seminary to learn how Christians and Muslims can live together in our increasingly troubled world. I wish the

School the very best as it continues to try to meet this formidable challenge.”

Smith teaches and writes on historical and theological relations between Christians and Muslims, Muslim communities in America, and women in Islam. She speaks and teaches on interfaith relations and is a frequent participant in Christian-Muslim dialogue meetings.

Smith is the author of *Islam in America* (1999, revised 2009) and *Muslims, Christians and the Challenge of Interfaith Dialogue* (2007). She has co-edited *Educating the Muslims of America* (with F. Senzai and Y. Haddad, 2009), *Muslim Women in America* (with Y. Haddad, 2006), *Becoming American: Immigration and Religious Life in the United States* (with J. Esposito and Y. Haddad, 2004), *Religion and Immigration: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Experiences in the United States*



(with Y. Haddad and J. Esposito, 2003), *Muslim Minorities in the West: Visible and Invisible* (with Y. Haddad, 2002), *Muslim Communities in North America* (with Y. Haddad, 1994), *Mission to America: Five Islamic Sectarian Movements in North America* (with Y. Haddad, 1992), and *The Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection* (with Y. Haddad, 1981, revised 2003).

Currently she is co-editor of Oxford University Press’ *Handbook on Islam in America*.

Smith becomes the fifth Faculty Emeritus at Hartford Seminary. 🌸

American Congregations Hurt by 2008 Recession

The 2008 recession extended a decade-long erosion of the financial health of American congregations, with just 14 percent saying in 2010 that their financial health is excellent.

Of those who characterize their financial health as declining

between 2005 and 2010, a full 80 percent reported a negative impact from the recession.

And the recession affected just about every kind of congregation equally.

These are among the conclusions drawn from a major new Faith

Communities Today 2010 survey of American congregations.

The Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership (CCSP) conducted the FACT 2010 survey, and analyzed responses from 11,077 randomly sampled congregations of all faith traditions in the United

States. The survey updates results from surveys taken in 2000, 2005, and 2008 and is the latest in CCSP’s series of trend-tracking national surveys of U.S. congregations.

David A. Roozen, Director of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership and Professor

Continued on next page

Hurt by Recession *Continued from previous page*

of Religion and Society at Hartford Seminary, said that, “Although the downward trend [in financial health] has been relatively constant, there is no doubt that the recession at least temporarily set back any hope of recovery.”

Still, he said, “To the extent that there is good news in the FACT 2010 findings regarding the impact of the recession, it is that one in ten congregations reported that they had already begun to recover from an initial recession-driven dip in income.”

“The worst of the recession’s impact on American congregations may be over,” he said.

The FACT report, entitled “Holy Toll: The Impact of the 2008 Recession on American Congregations,” examines the program, human and organizational toll of the recession.

Among the findings under the program toll:

The most frequently employed mechanism when congregations encounter financial distress is digging into savings and investments, followed closely by salary freezes or reductions and postponed capital projects.

A common fear is that mission and benevolence spending will be the first thing cut but this is not the case.

“The good news for advocates of congregational outreach,” Roozen said, “is that FACT 2010 shows virtually no difference between congregations negatively impacted by the recession and congregations spared the recession’s financial toll in the likelihood of offering outreach services. Mission remains a priority even in times of financial distress.”

“The absence of recession impact on either outreach or member-oriented programming resonates with the observation of one commentator who noted that American congregations are ‘putting off rather than pruning,’” Roozen said.

He also noted that while the program toll of the 2008 recession appears to have been minimal, the same cannot be said for the human toll.

Nine percent of congregations reported staff layoffs or furloughs because of the recession, and just over 25 percent reported salary freezes or reductions. Assuming an estimate of 350,000 congregations in the United States, employing an estimated 1.5 million staff, that equates to more than 500,000 people who lost their jobs or had their salaries reduced.

In addition, 41 percent of congregations reported that the recession had a major or

moderate impact on unemployment among members. And half the congregations for which the recession had a major impact on the unemployment of their members saw a major decline in congregational income.

This stark impact led to an increase in requests for cash assistance, pastoral counseling, and emergency housing. Nearly half of all congregations experienced an increase in requests for cash assistance, underscoring the importance of American congregations as a social safety net.

“It may well be that the organizational toll of the recession on America’s congregations turns out to be the most significant in the long term,” Roozen said.

The negative impact of the recession on congregations that had declines in income is especially dramatic for worship attendance growth, spiritual vitality, and volunteers. It also led to increased levels of conflict.

The report asks:

Will the corrosive effects of lost capacity take on a life of their own that perpetuates a downward spiral even after the immediate economic impact of the recession passes? Are there things a congregation can do that might contribute to a recovery?

The most promising, if difficult, path to recovery appears to be to grow one’s way to recovery. Enhancing spiritual vitality is another possible contributor to recovery. Openness to change is also a key element.

While the 2008 recession impacted congregations, recessions do eventually pass, Roozen said. “The longer term story,” he said, “is the downward trend, at least a decade old, in the financial health of American congregations.”

He asks: “Can American Congregations stem the now longstanding downward trend in financial health? Anyone who thinks the foreseeable future will be anything but challenging appears to have their head in the sand (or the clouds). But anyone who has begun writing about the death of the American congregation doesn’t understand or appreciate American church history.”

The report was written by Roozen, director of the Seminary’s Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

Links to view the report and related material are available at: www.faithcommunitiestoday.org.

Why The Quakes Struck

Continued from page 10

There are grave risks inherent in the secularization of both natural and moral evil. We can become dulled to the true threat of moral evil and to the true grace reflected

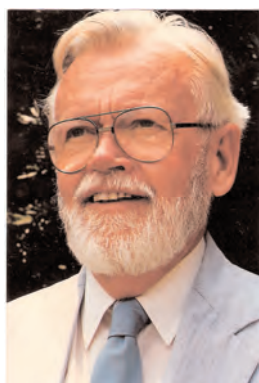
in our responses to natural evil. One of the lessons of the Holocaust is the insidiousness and banality of moral evil and one of the emblems of divine providence

is the purity of our responses to natural disasters. Evil and Goodness are often found – not in the dramatic- but in the very human actions of our day.

Atty. James K. Robertson Jr. is a Trustee of Hartford Seminary. He is teaching a course in the winter/spring term on the Problems of Evil. ✿

My View of History

By Retired President James N. Gettemy



In my old age, I reflect on my days at Hartford Seminary, how as a young man, I became president of four distinct schools and how I was warned not to try to bring them together. President Mackenzie had established a university of religion in the early 1920's based on the Oxford University model. Each school was autonomous; each school had a separate faculty and dean. I especially remember the dignity of Dean Alexander Purdy and the laughter of Professor Moses Bailey, a beloved Quaker who lived to be as old as I am now. Each school had loyal alumni who were scattered across the world.

The mustard seed was flung wide with the Kennedy School of Missions. Missionaries from The American Board, The Baptist Board, and The Presbyterian Board came to study here on their sabbaticals and settled for a term with their families on the spacious

campus. In fear and trembling, I presided over four faculties whose members were all older than I. I had learned to listen at the feet of Rheinold Niebuhr, Henry Sloan Coffin, Paul Tillich and Harry Emerson Fosdick and I had a profound respect for the Word as it had been spoken to me.

Harvey McArthur, Professor of New Testament, and Edna Baxter, head of the School of Religious Education, had come to Garden City, New York to interview the young preacher who had led the remarkable Community Church in its vision of Christian service (that vision exists today as this affluent congregation voted

unanimously to be “open and affirming”). “Go Ye into All the World” is engraved above the chancel in the simple sanctuary of colonial design, and continues to be affirmed. Their work with the East Harlem Protestant Parish, the Waldensian Church in Italy and the Community of Taize in France, developed a broad based connection to the people working there. Sometimes I believe faith is the fabric of connection.

The Board of Trustees was chaired by Berkeley Cox, a lawyer from Virginia who was chief counsel for Aetna Life Insurance Company. He was distinguished in appearance, tall with white waving hair and an unusually gentle manner. I never heard him become either alarmed or officious. But he, too, cautioned respect for the tradition of the Hartford Seminary Foundation.

I believe the young Dean of the Theological School, Chalmers Coe, had hoped to be president of

the Seminary. He certainly looked presidential, had a keen mind and was considered an excellent preacher. He and Bill Bradley, the Professor of Social Ethics, were leaders in the civil rights movement of the sixties in the Hartford area. Both were members of Center Congregational Church downtown. I remember the former Dean, Rockwell Harmon Potter, who had been called to the Seminary from Center Church. He would come to my office and visit for just ten minutes filled with stories to tell me. I also remember my long-time good friend Paul Battenhouse who became senior pastor of Center Church early in 1969.

During the sixties, we were often involved with student protest and the Great March in Washington D.C. Bill Bradley and Joe Duffy, the young associate of Peter Berger, who was the new Professor of Religious Sociology, sponsored the visit of Martin Luther King to campus. I recalled driving with

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My View of History

Continued from previous page

Dr. King to the airport. There were many students on the campus in those days. They gathered in the busy bookstore that was managed by the capable Douglas Addison; the daily chapel that I led; the commanding Library; the social life at Mackenzie Hall. It was a stimulating time and place and I loved every minute of it.

The School of Theology was gaining in vitality, while the School of Religious Education also attracted students who could direct the growing emphasis on Sunday school during the fifties and sixties. Carol Rose Ikeler, a one-time student of the school, received her BD from Yale and became our director of Christian Education in Garden City. A great friend of Professor George Riggan, our Professor of Theology, she was an editor of *The Presbyterian Faith and Life Curriculum* for many years.

The School of Missions was uncertain in its direction because denominations were establishing mission schools of their own. When Malcolm Pitt retired as the chairman of Hindu Studies, we explored the possibility of developing the Islamic World Mission Studies. The dialogue with Islam seemed to be of increasing importance and so we invited the young Dutch Scholar, Vim Bijlefeld, to join the faculty. He would make the

Christian-Muslim dialogue a permanent reality.

The fourth school, The School of Social Work would never become fully viable because the University of Connecticut School of Social Work had been established with a full faculty on the corner of Whitney and Asylum Avenue in 1948. Elwood Street and his wife, Augusta, struggled bravely, becoming the pastoral counselors to many students. I remember their care of Coz and Kogi Suzuki who had come from Japan to study and would return there for Kogi to be eventually the Chief of the Department of Mental Health in the national government office in Tokyo. They came to visit our family over the years. My wife Helen presented her work as a family therapist to a large conference of the people Kogi had trained in Japan.

Before I continue, I want to pause in my story to mention two people among the many who worked beside me to support our hopes and dreams. One was my friend and mentor, Harvey McArthur. His New Testament classes were only part of Harvey's wisdom. He was my chief advisor on the united group at the Seminary (we were able to become one faculty in the early sixties). Then, there was Helen, the person who made my journey worthwhile. Helen

raised our four daughters and entertained an endless stream of visiting lecturers, Women's Board members, Trustees, Faculty and almost all the students in the course of their studies. She became a family therapist in her own time and organized international conferences on "Hope and the Family."

Back to "my view of history" in the words of Robert Edwards, my neighbor and great friend. He was the Horace Bushnell of his time as he labored faithfully as pastor of Immanuel Church. It was there that the Seminary held so many years of convocations and commencements during the eighteen years that I walked at the end of our academic procession. I had hoods from Allegheny College and Adelphi Universities but the same old academic gown that needed constant repair.

Getting back to my periscope: I became acquainted with the emerging business leaders in the wider community who made Hartford such a vibrant city. There were often lawyers who had been educated in Connecticut. When Atty. Berkeley Cox retired after serving the Seminary for twenty-five years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, my choice as his successor was a young lawyer, Jack Riege. Jack and I were to spend many hours developing the plan to bring the

schools together, yet preserve all their unique features for the future of religious studies. This might include an association with our state university; or when the sixties changed the direction of theological education away from church growth toward theological graduate studies, we might choose to go in a more scholarly direction.

Jack and I explored all the invitations to join or link with other Seminaries. We discussed it with the Faculty and Board. We were encouraged by other members of the Faculties; Harvey McArthur, George Riggan, Peter Berger, Vim Bijlefeld, Bill Bradley and the Board of Trustees. I remember the support of Carl Furniss and Samuel Trull, in particular. We traveled to Colgate, Rochester and Eden Seminary in St. Louis, but I came to believe that we would betray our heritage if we were to leave Connecticut.

Then a special moment came when Homer Babbidge, President of the University of Connecticut, invited us to consider becoming a new Department of Religious Studies at the University of Connecticut, keeping our presence on the Hartford campus much as the medical school was being organized in Farmington. However, the Seminary campus would already be a beautiful space. I spent many hours with pads of yellow paper sketching an idea of

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Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', Noted Scholar and Colleague, Passes Away



Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', an expert on contemporary Muslim thought, died suddenly of a heart attack on July 2 while attending a conference in Amman, Jordan. He had been an esteemed Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary from 1991 to 2008.

When Dr. Abu-Rabi' came to Hartford Seminary in 1991, he was the first full-time Muslim faculty at an accredited Christian seminary. He also served as Co-Director of the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and Senior Editor of *The Muslim World* journal.

Since 2008, Dr. Abu-Rabi' taught at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta. He was the first holder of the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities Chair in Islamic Studies, the first teaching and research chair of its kind in Canada.

"Ibrahim's contribution to the study of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at Hartford Seminary was immense and reached all over the world. We will never forget him," President Heidi Hadsell said.

"We will honor and remember him in a memorial service on October 2," she said.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' received his Ph.D. at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. His dissertation topic was "Islam and the Search for Social Order in Modern Egypt: An Intellectual Biography of Shaykh 'Abd al-Halim Mahmud." He also earned a Master of Arts at Temple, and a Master of Arts at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' had a special interest in contemporary Islamic thought and movements, and the interaction between Muslims and Christians in the Muslim world. He was a modernist and was society-centered. Dr. Abu-Rabi' was in many ways Western oriented in a positive sense. This meant that he, as an intellectual, saw no contradiction between learning from the historic Islamic tradition and incorporating the best features of Western analyses.

This was clear in his 1995 book, "The Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Modern Arab World" as well as in his later

writings. He wrote critically about Islam and about major modern Islamic theologians. He balanced his critical comments with themes of Islam in the Western world.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' traveled widely in the Muslim world and believed that building bridges among faith communities is necessary in a highly globalized world. While at Hartford Seminary, he helped place the Seminary in a leading position in Muslim-Christian relations around the world.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' was a major advocate of serious interfaith dialogue and activity. Some of his major work in this regard was done with the Al-Fath Islamic Institute in Damascus, Syria. He worked closely with Shaykh Hussam-Eddin Farfour, the head of this institute. At one time, seven students from the institute studied at Hartford Seminary.

He advocated and worked to bring about Muslim-Jewish as well as Muslim-Christian interfaith dialogue.

Students came from many countries – among them Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Indonesia, Singapore, and Pakistan – to study with Dr. Abu-Rabi'.

At the Seminary, Abu-Rabi' was extremely popular with students. His hospitality at his home was

outstanding, and he made sure students received both an excellent academic experience and a comfortable living experience.

In recent years, Dr. Abu-Rabi's research interests turned to Turkey, focusing in particular on the writings of the 20th-century thinker, Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and Fethullah Gülen.

In 2006 he was the Senior Fulbright Scholar in Singapore and Indonesia at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' has published numerous articles and 19 books, the most recent of which are the edited "Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Islamic Thought" and the edited "Challenges and Responses of Contemporary Islamic Thought: The Contributions of M. Fethullah Gülen."

He worked closely with the Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture and helped plan their numerous conferences that dealt with the Turkish Islamic theologian, Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and his multi-volume work, the *Risali-i-Nur*.

In cooperation with this foundation, Dr. Abu-Rabi' edited and wrote essays for three books on Said Nursi and the *Risali*. The books are: "Islam at the

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

Virginia W. Johnson, M.A. '49, wife of Charles A Johnson, B.D. '50, died in Oro Valley, Arizona on February 7, at the age of 87. After her studies in religious education at Hartford Seminary, Virginia was a public elementary school teacher for 30 years, and a volunteer teacher following her retirement. She was a member of the Society of Friends, and loved music and singing in church and community choirs, and was an avid golfer. In addition to her husband, Virginia is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Eugene E. Grau, M.A. '46, Ph.D. '64, died on July 8, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After completing his studies at the Mission House Seminary in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Gene was ordained as a minister of the Reformed Church in 1944. When his studies at the Kennedy School of Mission were complete, he was commissioned as a missionary and taught in seminaries in the towns of Ho, Peki, and Legon (Accra) in Ghana. Gene returned permanently to the United States in 1974, and served as pastor of Brownback's UCC in Spring City, Pennsylvania until his

retirement in 1988, when he was named Pastor Emeritus of that congregation. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, four children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Doris Hartman, M.A. '41, died on July 4, in Amherst, Massachusetts. Using her degree in Christian Education, Doris worked for the Vermont Church Council, and then for 12 years as the Associate Pastor and Director of Christian Education in the Lake Region Parish in Barton, Vermont. Responding to a post-War call from the Methodist Church for short-term missionaries to Japan, Doris went to Hiroshima to teach English and bible at the Jagakuin School. What was to be a three-year posting turned into nearly 30 years of service in that country, and Doris was instrumental in founding a church in Hiroshima that had reached self-sufficiency by the time of her retirement in 1981. Upon returning to the United States, Doris became active in the Wesley United Methodist Church in Hadley, Massachusetts, and in social justice activities throughout the Pioneer Valley. Doris also wrote her memoir, titled *My Life in Hiroshima 1952-1981*, a copy of which she presented to, and is still available from, the Hartford Seminary Library.

The Alumni/ae Office was notified of the death of

Dr. William Madison Randall, Ph.D. '29 on August 24, 1987, by a researcher writing his biography. Sue Ann Cody describes that Dr. Randall "was Academic Dean (1951-1958) and then President (1958-1969) of Wilmington College (now the University of North Carolina, Wilmington) and is our library's namesake. He also served on the faculty of the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago, was in military intelligence during World War II in Cairo, Dean of Libraries at the University of Georgia and served as the first academic dean at the Merchant Marine Academy."

Priscilla Savage, M.A. '51 died on September 3, 2010 in Indianapolis. After graduating from Wells College in Aurora, New York, Priscilla completed her degree in Christian Education here at Hartford. While serving as the Christian Education Director at the First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio, she met her husband, the Rev. Frederic Waldo Savage. Priscilla and her husband "embodied the ideal of partnership ministry in that Priscilla was a faithful, enthusiastic, and energetic participant in every facet of the life of the church community." She also served in a variety of leadership positions for service organizations, including on the national board of the YWCA. She is survived by children, stepchildren and grandchildren.

Ruth Wentworth Gilchrist Addison of Farmington, Connecticut, died on March 23 at the age of 83. Her long association with Hartford Seminary began in the early 1960s, when she was on campus as a student. At the same time, her future husband, Douglas Addison, M.A. '53, was at the beginning of his 21-year career as manager of the Hartford Seminary Bookstore—though it would not be until 1995 that the two met again and married. Ruth was born in Maine, graduated from the University of Maine and later, received a Masters in Education from the University of Hartford. She served as a missionary to India in 1953-55, and returned to the United States to raise her children while teaching in schools in Waterbury and Danbury. In 1984 she began her work as Treasurer of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, a position she held until 1993. Ruth was also active in the Avery Heights Auxiliary, the Hartford Association of the Connecticut Conference, as well as her church, the Immanuel Congregational UCC here in the Hartford Seminary neighborhood. In addition to Doug, Ruth is survived by two sons, two daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her sister.

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The Rev. Malcolm J. Brummitt, B.D. '62, died on August 27, 2010 in Sun City Center, Florida. Born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, the Rev. Brummitt was a United Church of Christ pastor for 48

years. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and a sister and brother.

After completing her studies at the Kennedy School of Missions, **Helen Gordon**, M.A. '49 went to Brazil, where she and her

husband then served as medical missionaries for fifty years. Three of their four children also became missionaries to Brazil, and three grandchildren currently serve as missionaries to China, Nigeria and Ecuador. News of Helen's

death was provided by Helen's daughter-in-law, Alma Dole, who can be contacted at mrsdee@ig.com.br. ❀

Bill Inderstrodt, Seminary alumnus and UCC pastor, died in May



The Rev. William Lynn Inderstrodt, Hartford Seminary alumnus and former pastor and denomination leader for the United Church of Christ, died on Tuesday, May 17, in Topsham, Maine. He was 83.

"Bill was a person of wonderful humor, a great mentor to me personally," said the Rev. David Peters, who served with Rev. Inderstrodt in Danbury. "He loved the Church in all its manifestations: local church,

national, and state conference." "He knew how to do worship well," remembered Peters. "Make every Sunday special,' he used to tell me, and I've never forgotten that." Bill, as he was known to so many, was born on July 14, 1927, in Richmond, Indiana, to Sheridan and Inez Inderstrodt, with two other brothers, David and Richard. He grew up in the Quaker tradition, attending the Friends Meetings in Richmond, and was a boy soprano in the Quaker services. He was active in sports while growing up, attending Richmond public schools and then Earlham College, graduating in 1943. Bill expanded his education in the fall of 1949 when he attended the Hartford Seminary Foundation in Hartford. That was the same year he met his future wife, Jane Sattler of Washington, D.C., who was also attending Hartford as a graduate student. On February 6, 1954, Bill and Jane were married in the Methodist church she grew up in, with her minister and Bill's co-officiating, in a Quaker

service the couple had written. It was the beginning of a splendid marriage and partnership which would last more than 57 years. After his graduation in 1952, he became associate minister at the Westmoreland Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. Four years later, Bill and Jane moved to Washington, Connecticut, where he was the minister for the First Congregational Church. He served there for 16 years and in Danbury for eight years.

He also served as the Minister to Business and Government of the Connecticut Conference UCC, where he built housing for moderate-income seniors and managed 100 units in coastal Fairfield. He was very active in the Connecticut Memorial Society, which advocated for increased consumer protections in the funeral industry.

The many hats he wore included interim Deputy Director of the Office of Communications for the United Church of Christ in

New York City. He even served for a summer as pastor of the Church of Scotland in Bermuda. His last installed parish before retirement in 1993 was with First Parish Congregational Church UCC of York, Maine. In the years following, Bill became the interim minister at numerous churches, including Elijah Kellogg Congregational Church in Harpswell, Maine, and Pride's Corner Congregational Church UCC in Westbrook, Maine.

He also gave countless hours as a board member for Volunteers of America, the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine, and the Ethics Committee of the Office of Guardianship for Adult Services with Maine Department of Human Services. There is a named scholarship at Hartford Seminary honoring Bill and Jane. In 2001, Bill and Jane moved to The Highlands in Topsham, as both continued their very busy lives of giving back to the greater community.

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A jovial, fun person to be around, you could always find Bill by following the laughter. He also used humor to get his point

across, sometimes taking a stand when it wasn't always the most popular one, but the one he felt was right. His humor, his laugh,

his honesty will all be sorely missed, but remembered with great warmth.

Bill leaves behind his wife, Jane; a nephew, many nieces; countless friends, but few untold jokes. ❁

Alumni/ae Notes

The last edition of Praxis Alumni/ae Notes included a brief update on **Dr. Samuel V. Bhajjan**, M.A. '59. Since then, Sam has sent an autobiographical piece, as well as a recent photograph, both of which are available by writing to alum@hartsem.edu.

The Rev. Vernon L. Saldeen, '59 has been retired since 1993 in Valrico, Florida,

following his ministry of 35 years at the Central Illinois United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Anita, celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

Dan Riley, M.A. '72 writes from his home in Vista, California with a link to a blog he has created, "Church of Dan." This link connects to his reflection on the City of Hartford and the orienting influence of Hartford

Seminary in his life and work (as well as to many other pieces): <http://thenobbyworks.blogspot.com/2011/03/hartford-goes-by-uninspiring-nickname.html>.

Among the formerly lost, but now found is the **Rev. Richard Stuart Dole**, who studied at the Kennedy School of Missions in 1957-58, and received his Ed.M. the following year from Harvard's Graduate

School of Education. After serving as an educational missionary to Angola in the early 1960s, the Rev. Dole returned to the United States to complete degrees at Fuller Theological Seminary and Princeton Seminary. In the fall of 1968, Richard and his wife, Alma, began serving as missionaries in Brazil, work they continued until September 2010, when the Doles retired to New Jersey. ❁

Students Win Scholarships

Two Hartford Seminary students have won 2010-2011 Merit Scholarships.

Kevin Carson, a Master of Arts student, will receive a scholarship

from the William Thompson Fund as a degree program student who "has demonstrated notable proficiency or interest in the field of biblical studies." He won the award for his paper, "The Infancy

Narratives of Jesus: A Comparison of the Canonical Gospels and Other Sources."

Justin Peyton, a Master of Arts student, will receive a course tuition

waiver as a degree program student who "has demonstrated excellence in written expression." He won for his paper, "Islamic Legal Education in Medieval Colleges of Law." ❁



Hartford Seminary held its graduation ceremonies on June 2nd. Click here for photos of the event.

Remembering Dr. Abu-Rabi'

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Crossroads: On the Life and Thought of Beduizzaman Said Nursi"; "Spiritual Dimensions of Beduizzaman Said Nursi's Risali-i-Nur"; and "Theodicy and Justice in Modern Islamic Thought: The Case of Said Nursi."

In 2009 Dr. Abu-Rabi' became a director of the International Council for Middle East Studies

(ICMES), a relatively new think tank in Washington, D.C. At the time of his death he was directing a major ICMES project, the writing of a new book on religion and state in the Middle East.

This book, when completed, will consist of essays written by scholars from Middle East countries and will be dedicated to the memory of Ibrahim

Abu-Rabi'. This book is intended to be for Western audiences.

Dr. Abu-Rabi' spoke Arabic, Hebrew, English, French, and Turkish. He was born in Nazareth and is a graduate of Birzeit University on the West Bank.

He leaves his wife Fatima and two children, Yasmin and Yusuf.

Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, a personal and professional friend of Dr. Abu-Rabi' and professor emeritus at Central Connecticut State University, contributed to this obituary.

Please visit the Hartford Seminary website, www.hartsem.edu, for details of the October 2 memorial service. ❀

My View of History

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how we could develop a graduate program of Doctoral Studies within a public university and still train ministers.

We had two remarkable women, Janet Silloway as Dean of Women, and Barbara Sargent as Director of Public Relations. Barbara created the new image of the Seminary in calling "Praxis" into being. A creative writer, Barbara was the older daughter of Professor Paul Scherer (Union Theological Seminary). She understood the theological importance of our new direction and what it could mean to the mission of the church. Janet made Mackenzie Hall a home for students and a sparkling reception for many special events.

The new direction would mean

enlarging our faculty in the philosophy of religion, biblical studies, ethics, and psychology. We also wanted to include Hebrew and Catholic studies. With the support of The Board, we begin the search for the best young scholars in academe. There was the excitement of finding what would be a wonderful mix of recent thought about the church, theology, and its future direction. I would call it "the y-model" designed on the letter "y." We would offer two years of general graduate studies and then a year of PhD work for the candidates who wanted to teach and another branch to complete the Doctor of Ministry degree.

All we needed was the support of state funding and an influx of students who would become the teachers of tomorrow. We

brought John Priest from Drew Seminary who would be elected Dean, Leighton McCutchen from Chicago, Wayne Rollins from Yale, Robert Batchelder from Detroit, Jim Fenhagen from Washington D.C., Douglas Lewis also from Washington D.C., Jackson Carroll from Duke, Ralph Sunquist from Philadelphia and Richard Underwood from Charlotte, North Carolina. Together they and their wives were a wonderful infusion of spirit. The faculty discussions were full of life and we worked together on a new vision of theological education that would bring faith into the realm of post-graduate study, on a larger scale than previously envisioned.

For many months, we made plans in anticipation. Then, there was the fall election of 1968 and

Governor John Dempsey, who had encouraged our plans for development, was defeated by fiscal conservative Thomas Meskill. It was a brutal turn in our life together. Homer Babbidge called me at my office the next morning and said, "Jim, it is all off the drawing board. Next to you, I am the most disappointed." Indeed, I was deeply grieved.

How could we save the Seminary now? It came to me that we needed to change our course again. As the Vietnam War drew to a close, there was a drop in seminary enrollment. We pondered for a number of months. What would support the small local churches that covered New England and the pastors who served them? What could preserve our present work toward

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My View of History

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ecumenicity and Professor Bijlefeld's work in Muslim studies? How could we contribute to the church's future as we explored our Calling in a multi-cultural world? There was a future for Hartford Seminary if it could respond to the leading of The Spirit.

But how could I face those young scholars who believed our cause was set true north? I grieved for many sleepless nights. John Priest left for Florida and James Fenhagen became dean. He, Douglas Lewis, and Jackson Carroll became immersed in planning the future structure in a different direction. The only thing I could

promise was that the professors who had tenure would not be "let go." Yet, how would we tell the newer ones that we would not keep our hoped-for promises to them? It was a very painful time in my life.

Only by charting a new direction could we keep sailing. Harvey McArthur, Vim, Jack and Carl encouraged me in our course. What would happen if you stopped training men and women in a BD program and put your resources into continuing education for the present day church? What if you develop a research program to study the future direction of the church universal? This inspiration

would become well implemented under the leadership of William McKinney, Harvey's colleague. Bill later would become Dean and follow through on developing the unique research component of the present day mainline church. What if you developed an ongoing dialogue with other, world religions, particularly Islam? Sadly, implementing a future Seminary might mean moving toward a smaller campus to preserve some of our resources. It was a mighty storm, those last five years at the helm.

Finally, my usefulness seemed over when the seas calmed down. Hartford Seminary was not dashed

against the rocks, but would be renewed to sail on. I could take all the pain of transition with me and return to the pulpit. It is with joy that I see that the good ship has circled the world with renewed spirit and rich accomplishment. I am grateful to have been a part of the new vision in its inception and appreciate the current administration's development in all the fresh approaches that have revitalized theological education over the past thirty-five years.

James N. Gettemy
President for 18 years
1958-1976



Educational Events for Fall 2011

God's Word in Greek

Reading The Letter to the Hebrews

With The Rev. Dr. Edward F. Duffy, Adjunct Professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary and Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield, CT

Monthly workshop starting Tuesday, September 13, 10 a.m. to noon



A Sacred Trust: A Fall Forum on Religion and the Environment

Film: *"A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash"*
Commentary by Brent Blackwelder, past president of Friends of the Earth: Solutions and Strategies for Achieving a Clean Energy Economy

Date:

Wednesday, October 5, 6 to 9 p.m.

Co-Sponsors: Hartford Seminary and the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network



Concert

Mirabai Ceiba

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Sample of their music

Bus Tour

Architecture As Art

Tour of the Unitarian Society of Hartford, Hartford Seminary and the Charter Oak Cultural Center. The tour will end with a visit to Sukkah City of Hartford at Charter Oak Landing.

Date: Sunday, October 16, 1 p.m.

Starting location: Unitarian Society of Hartford, Hartford

Co-Sponsors: Hartford Seminary, Charter Oak Cultural Center and Unitarian Society of Hartford

Becoming Agents of Peace and Reconciliation: Leading Our Congregations Through Difficult and Conflict-Ridden Times



With Margaret Keyser, Principal at MSK Conflict Transformation International and executive director of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



The Michael R. Rion Lecture How a Courageous Remnant Can Change the World

With Bob Edgar, President of Common Cause

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 7 p.m.



Psychopathy and the New Manichean Challenge to Moral Agency

With Andrew Flescher, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y.

Date: Wednesday, November 9, 7 p.m.



Movie and Commentary The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, A Torch For Peace

Commentary by Director Teri McLuhan

Date: Thursday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

For a full description of each of the fall events and to register for any of them, [click here.](#) ❁