

# p r a x i s

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## New York Rabbinical Students, in Pioneering Program, Study at Hartford Seminary

Left: Professor Yehezkel Landau talks with Fran Snyder

When Fran Snyder, a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, started the Building Abrahamic Partnerships class at Hartford Seminary in June, she assumed “there would be ‘make-nice talk’ and surface learning.”

What Snyder did not anticipate was being drawn in, personally.

“Sitting in a room for an entire week, talking and learning, testing the deeper waters -- say, the politics of the Middle East and how that influences our thinking about each other, leaving the room only to take meals but together, has an accumulated effect on our feelings,” she said.

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## Smith Named New Testament Professor

The Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary and President Heidi Hadsell have named Dr. Shanell T. Smith, a New

Testament scholar, to the faculty at Hartford Seminary.

Smith was appointed Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, effective August 1.

“I am delighted that Shanell Smith will be joining the faculty at Hartford Seminary,” Hadsell said. “Shanell is an innovative thinker who brings a fresh approach to New Testament scholarship. She has a passion for teaching in a Seminary context and a deep desire to mentor students, helping them develop the skills to become leaders in their ministry settings.”

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## New York Rabbinical Students, in Pioneering Program, Study at Hartford Seminary (continued)



Jason Kirschner with classmates on the final day of the class

“We begin to like each other and want to trust each other. A Roman Catholic friend of mine told me a story about a priest who was his teacher; the priest said, ‘It’s good that the Gospel tells us to love one another, not like one another.’ And as a political premise, I think that’s fine and good. It acknowledges that ‘like’ is more difficult than ‘love.’ ‘Like’ takes more time and effort. BAP affords both,” Snyder said.

Fran Snyder and two other JTS students enrolled in the BAP course under a pioneering agreement between Hartford Seminary and JTS. The cooperation between the two seminaries was made possible by a \$25,000 grant from the Prior Family Foundation, which will enable JTS students to study at Hartford Seminary during the next three years.

A second JTS student, Jonathan Kremer, also spoke highly of the experience and the class:

“The informal gatherings and meals out with smaller groupings were great! Also notable were the camaraderie, shared

interests and concerns, and common curiosity -- that we all hit a point of losing inhibitions about asking or commenting (respectfully, of course!),” Kremer said.

“This week showed me the value of interfaith work, of group interaction, and of a well-structured program.

Particularly gratifying was seeing (and feeling) the growing ease and trust among the participants. What apprehension I had about discussing religion (and other things) with those of other faiths was dispelled. I look forward to putting this experience into action when (if not before) I am serving a congregation,” he said.



(left to right) Jonathan Kremer, Fran Snyder and Jason Kirschner

Building Abrahamic Partnerships is an eight-day intensive course for Jewish, Christian, and Muslim students that offers a practical foundation for mutual understanding and cooperation among the three religions. It started on Sunday, June 24 and continued through Sunday, July 1.

Twenty-five students were enrolled – seven Jews, eight Muslims and ten Christians.

Hartford Seminary has offered BAP 14 times over the past eight years. Participants learn about the tenets and practices of the three faiths, study texts from their respective scriptures together, attend worship at a mosque, synagogue, and church, and acquire pastoral skills useful in interfaith ministry.

Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations at Hartford Seminary and director of BAP, praised the new partnership. “Jews, Muslims, and Christians throughout North America need visionary religious leaders to help them understand that our common future requires mutual understanding, sensitivity, and cooperation among our communities of faith.

“Both JTS and Hartford Seminary are committed to training faithful leaders for our increasingly pluralistic society who demonstrate these qualities in their religious vocations,” Landau said.

A key component of the program involves the opportunity for the JTS

students to live on campus in Hartford while attending intensive classes such as BAP during the summer. In this way, students will benefit from a lived experience of what is learned in the classroom.

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## Uriah Kim Named Interim Academic Dean at Hartford Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible, is the new Interim Academic Dean of Hartford Seminary, effective August 1.

Hartford Seminary President Heidi Hadsell made the announcement.



studies, and to serve as a professor at Hartford Seminary is a result of my sincere desire to know the truth, to love God, and to serve others,” Kim said.

Recently in the Seminary’s Praxis newsletter, Kim wrote about why he likes teaching at Hartford

Seminary:

“I like and value our students’ wisdom that comes from life experiences and admire and appreciate their commitment to theological education. I think one anecdote would suffice to capture my feeling. About once a year, usually when I teach the course on prophets, I share my feeling of dissatisfaction about being a seminary professor. I tell them that I wish I were a scientist because I believe I would’ve had more opportunities (and money) to do positive things for the world.

“I’m always surprised but pleasantly so by their reaction. They strongly disagree that what I’m doing is less valuable than what I’d have done as a scientist. In fact, they argue that what I teach is invaluable.

“If these words had come from younger folk who had less experience in life than me, I may have taken their encouragement and affirmation with a pinch of salt. However, knowing that many of our students have had years of experience in the real world and have chosen to study theology makes their words

credible. It is a moment like this that makes me feel good about teaching at Hartford Seminary.”

Kim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy at New York University, a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology degree at Emory University. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, in 2004.

Previously he was Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY and Visiting Professor at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, and Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA.

Kim has published “*Decolonizing Josiah: Toward a Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic History*” and “*Identity and Loyalty in the David Story: A Postcolonial Reading*.” Forthcoming are “*The Politics of Othering in the Book of Judges: A Postcolonial Reading*” and “*1 & 2 Chronicles*.”

He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Asian Pacific Americans and Religion Research Initiative.

Hadsell said that a Search Committee will be appointed to fill the Academic Dean position on a permanent basis. 🌸

Kim succeeds The Rev. Dr. James Nieman, who left the Seminary at the end of July to become President of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

“I am very pleased that Uriah has accepted this important position at Hartford Seminary,” Hadsell said. “Uriah is an excellent scholar who has shown great skill in developing new, fresh interpretations of Hebrew Bible texts and also an excellent colleague who has worked collaboratively with faculty and staff at the Seminary on a variety of initiatives.”

“I am confident that Uriah will contribute significantly to keeping Hartford Seminary academically innovative,” Hadsell said.

Kim also directs the Seminary’s Cooperative Master of Divinity program. He was Senior Editor of Reviews in Religion and Theology, a quarterly publication, for four years.

“My decision to go to a seminary after college, to do doctoral studies in biblical

## McMurtry Named Chair of Board of Trustees



Vanda McMurtry, a lawyer and business consultant who has been associated with Hartford Seminary as a corporator and trustee for nearly

20 years, has been elected Chair of the Seminary's Board of Trustees for a three-year term.

McMurtry is a partner with Davis & Harman LLP, a law firm in Washington, D.C., that specializes in employee benefits and insurance taxation.

McMurtry, who joined the Board of Trustees in 2000, said "With its dedication to interfaith dialogue, its history of supporting people and communities of faith in practical ways, its cutting-edge research and its commitment to public engagement, Hartford Seminary is unique in American higher education. I consider it at once a privilege and an opportunity to be asked to work with the board, administration, faculty and student body of an institution that is making such an important difference in today's world."

McMurtry added that his priorities as Chair will be to intensify the interfaith focus of Hartford Seminary, to increase the size and diversity of the student body and to attract the very best scholars and teachers to the faculty.

McMurtry succeeds William J. Cronin, who will remain on the Board as Chair Emeritus.

Previously McMurtry was a senior executive with Aetna, Cornell University, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as a senior staff member in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, including a four-year stint as Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Senate Finance Committee.

"I look forward to working with Van in leading Hartford Seminary because he brings great insight into the future of higher education and its challenges and opportunities," Heidi Hadsell, Hartford Seminary President, said. "Van also appreciates our commitment to interfaith understanding and the importance of preparing leaders for a plural world."

At Davis & Harman, McMurtry advises

clients on issues regarding corporate tax, health care reform, insurance and financial services, and employee benefits. He holds special expertise in lobbying and strategic planning. In his career, he has represented large corporations, sovereign governments and research universities.

When not at work, McMurtry enjoys being with his family, listening to music, traveling, reading, and spending time outdoors, especially on the many hiking trails in the Finger Lakes Region of New York.

A native of rural Minnesota and former resident of Farmington, CT, McMurtry brings a practical, problem-solving approach to his work. "I look for the big picture when I approach a problem. I try to bring people together around potential solutions," he said.

McMurtry has a J.D. from Georgetown University, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Philosophy from Cornell University and an M.A.S. in Public Administration from the Johns Hopkins University. 🌿

Bishop Disani Christopher Senyonjo, D.Min. '83, met former President Barbara Brown Zikmund at an AIDS Conferences in Washington, D.C. in July. Bishop Senyonjo is a strong advocate for LGBT people in the face of great discrimination in Uganda. He is Bishop of West Buganda and lives in Masaka, Uganda.





## New Trustees

Elected to the Board of Trustees at the May 2012 Annual Meeting were:



**The Rev. Dr. Karen Bailey-Francois**, a Hartford Seminary alumna and associate pastor of Ellington Congregational Church, Ellington, CT. She has served at Storrs Congregational Church, First Church of Christ in Hartford and Union Congregational Church in Vernon, CT. Dr. Bailey-Francois has held a number of positions with the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, including

moderator of the Hartford Association, member of the Executive Committee, and founder/facilitator of the Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry with Children and Youth. Dr. Bailey-Francois is chair of Hands on Hartford; for Hands on Hartford, she was interim program director of the Center for Youth. She earned a B.Sc. and M.B.A. from the University of Vermont, a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School, and a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary.



**Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Al Shingieti**, Executive Director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) in Herndon, VA. He also is the Vice President for Islamic Programs at the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD) and President of American Muslims for Constructive Engagement (AMCE). Dr.

Shingieti has been a Research Associate at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. In addition, he served as editor of Islamic Horizons, a monthly magazine of the Islamic Society of North America and was a founding member of the Society for Islamic Thought and Culture in Khartoum, Sudan. Dr. Shingieti held key

government positions in Sudan during the 1990's. He was the Director of Political Affairs at the Presidency; Secretary General of Sudan's Information Council, and diplomat with Ambassador Rank at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For over a decade, he was involved in the search for peace in Sudan, particularly in building bridges with the United States that helped facilitate a greater and more constructive role for the United States in the peace process in Sudan. During the past six years, Dr. Shingieti played a pivotal role in bringing together American Muslim community leaders with policymakers from different U.S. government circles. Dr. Shingieti earned a B.Sc. (Honors) in Architecture from the University of Khartoum, a graduate diploma from the Institute of African and Asian Studies at the University of Khartoum, and a Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA. ❁



## Najib Awad, new theology professor, starts at Hartford Seminary

Uriah Kim, interim academic dean, at right, greets Najib Awad, the newly-appointed Associate Professor of Christian Theology, who will teach Introduction to Christian Theology in the fall semester.

Awad also will serve as Director of the International Ph.D. Program. He will work with the University of Exeter, the Seminary's partner in the program, overseeing formal agreements, academic standards, and overall structure. He also will represent the program to external constituencies. ❁

## Smith named New Testament Professor (continued)

Smith said that she decided to come to Hartford Seminary because she was attracted to its multi-faith community, which makes for great opportunities for a rich curriculum, liturgy, and most especially, dialogue.

“At Hartford Seminary, faculty and students are able to identify both similarities and differences between their

faiths, helping them to realize that despite any differences they can work together toward common goals. I must also say that when I visited Hartford Seminary, the faculty and staff were so welcoming, and interested in me as a person and not just what I can do for the Seminary, that it just felt right,” Smith said.

Smith also will serve as coordinator of the Seminary’s International Ph.D. program, working with the University of Exeter on the operation of the program and as liaison for student progress.

Smith has a Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate Division of Religion at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Her dissertation topic, for which Drew awarded her the Rabbi Dr. Sheldon J. Weltman Prize for the Best Dissertation in

Biblical Studies, was “Empire, Gender and Ambivalence: Toward a Postcolonial Womanist Interpretation of the Woman Babylon in the Book of Revelation.”



Previously, Smith was an instructor at Drew University and a Teaching Assistant at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Society

of Biblical Literature (SBL), serving on the Committee for Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. In 2011, Smith served on the Steering Committee of the African American Biblical Hermeneutics Program Unit of SBL.

Smith wrote “A Perspective on Revelation” in “Global Perspectives on the Bible” (Pearson Prentice Hall, forthcoming 2012).

Smith described the strength of Hartford Seminary as “a leader and trendsetter in interreligious dialogue and concerns.”

She added, “One of the biggest problems that I see that hinders unity in diversity with regard to various religious groups is ignorance -- that is, a lack of knowledge about each other’s’ religious beliefs and tenets. With open, honest, and critical communication, people of different religious faiths will begin to see points of ‘working’ intersections where commonality can lead to cooperative collaboration on certain goals.”

“My priorities will include getting to know my colleagues, their scholarly interests, and goals for their students in efforts to contribute most effectively and efficiently not only to the advancement of each other’s scholarship, but also to the quality of education that our students receive, and the collective goals of the Seminary,” Smith said.

“Of equal importance will be my intentional effort to know my students, their ambitions, and what they desire from the education they receive. My primary tasks will be to inspire and challenge my students by bringing together faith and intellect, and to help them acquire and hone the skills that are necessary for the practice of ministry,” she said.

In the fall semester, Smith will teach “New Testament Survey.”

Outside work, Smith says, “I love spending quality time with family (tossing the football, playing classic games such as Sorry, Operation, and now Wii). I also love cooking, listening to music, writing poetry, running, watching movies....I could go on!”

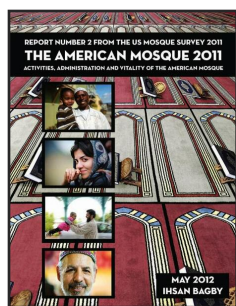


## Profile of Nondenominational and Independent Churches Released

The 2010 U.S. Religious Congregations & Membership Study was released on May 1 by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion at Hartford Seminary, participated in the study, collecting data on non-denominational churches. **Read the Report by Professor Thumma »**

### Excerpt:

*If the nation's independent and nondenominational churches were combined into a single group they would represent the third largest cluster of congregations in the country, following the Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention; second largest number of churches – following the Southern Baptist. Overall, this research found over 35,000 churches representing more than 12,200,000 adherents. In total, four percent of the US population worships in an independent or nondenominational church.* ❀



## Comprehensive Study of U.S. Mosques

The second report from the US Mosque Survey 2011, which is a comprehensive study of mosques in America, was released in June. The first report focused on the basic demographics of mosques and attitudes of mosque leaders to

America and involvement in American society. This second report focuses on mosque activities, administration and vitality

A coalition of major American Muslim and academic organizations, including Hartford Seminary, released the report. To conduct the survey, researchers counted all mosques in America and then conducted telephone interviews with mosque leaders. More than 2,000 mosques were counted and more than 500 leaders were interviewed.

The full report - **The American Mosque 2011 - report 2** is available in PDF format.

Sponsors of the U.S. Mosque Survey 2011 include: The Hartford Institute for Religion Research (Hartford Seminary), the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Islamic Society of North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, and the International Institute of Islamic Thought.

The U.S. Mosque Survey 2011 is part of a larger study of American congregations called Faith Communities Today (FACT), which is a project of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership, a collaborative, multifaith coalition of American faith communities affiliated with Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

### The major findings of the new mosque report are:

- Mosques in America have a good record of engaging in a wide variety of activities including:
  - Worship—77% of mosques conduct all five daily prayers (salah)
  - Social and Group Activities—93% organize community gatherings
  - Interfaith—79% are involved in interfaith activities
  - Outreach—63% conducted an open house in the last 12 months
  - Social and community service activities—44% are involved in community social justice activities
- Mosques are under-staffed. Only 44% of all Imams are full-time and paid. Half of all mosques have no full-time staff. Program staff such as youth directors or outreach directors account for only 5% of all full-time staff.
- Mosques are under-financed. While mosque attendance is higher than other American religious congregations, mosque budgets are less than half the budget of other congregations.
- Almost half (48%) of Imams have at least a BA in Islam. This is an increase from 2000 when 37% of Imams had some formal degree.
- The role of the Imam in the mosque is evolving. In 26% of all mosques, the Imam is not considered the leader; and in 55% of mosques the Imam is considered the leader (19% of mosques do not have an Imam). This is a significant change from 2000 when in 40% of mosques the Imam was not the leader and in 41% of mosques the Imam was considered the leader.
- Mosques, which have an Imam, follow three basic governance patterns: in 47% of mosques the Board and Imam share responsibilities whereby the Board runs administrative aspects of the mosque and the Imam runs religious and educational aspects; in 31% of mosques the Imam is in charge of all aspects of the mosque; and in 22% the Board is in charge of most aspects and the Imam has a minor role.
- Mosque leaders report that their mosques have a relatively high level of spirituality, brotherhood and sense of purpose. ❀

## New York Rabbinical Students, in Pioneering Program, Study at Hartford Seminary (continued)



Jonathan Kremer talks with colleagues in the class

The third JTS participant, Jason Kirschner, cited this interaction as a highlight, saying he was enriched by “the various opportunities for socializing and informal interaction between participants.” “It gave me a chance to get to know the individuals regardless of their viewpoints and helped me build skills for interacting with individuals across religious lines,” Kirschner said.

When the program was announced, Seminary President Heidi Hadsell said, “It is vitally important to prepare religious leaders of all faiths to lead their faith communities in an increasingly plural environment. Hartford Seminary is a key player in this effort, through our various interfaith initiatives and now through this program.”

Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky, Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies and Director of the Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue at JTS, added, “The opportunity for rabbinical students from the Jewish Theological Seminary to study at Hartford Seminary in the multi-faith environment of Christian and Muslim colleagues is a Godsend,”

The unusual partnership drew the attention of The Hartford Courant newspaper, which published a front-page interview with the three JTS students.

This recent gift by the Prior Family Foundation to enable the partnership reinforces an earlier gift of \$500,000 that the Prior Foundation made toward an endowed faculty chair at Hartford Seminary in Abrahamic Partnerships.

Cornelius B. Prior, Jr., chairman of Atlantic Tele-Network Inc., headquartered in Beverly, MA, is the grantor of the Prior Family Foundation. Gertrude J. Prior, president and general manager of Coral World Ocean Park in St. Thomas, V.I., is trustee. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary.

Cornelius Prior practiced law and investment banking in New York City before co-founding Atlantic Tele-Network (ATN) in 1987. He is the chairman of ATN, a public telecommunications industry holding company and the chairman of Caribbean – Central American Action (CCAA), a not-for-profit organization

promoting investment in the Caribbean. He graduated from Holy Cross College and currently serves as a member of its President’s Advisory Council.

His law degree came from Harvard Law School, followed by graduate work at the University of São Paulo Law School as a Fulbright Scholar.

Gertrude Prior practiced law in Washington, D.C., before becoming president of Coral World Ocean Park. She is a former President of the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas and currently serves as a member of the Board.

The program is further evidence of Hartford Seminary’s precedent-setting approach to theological education. The Seminary offers the only accredited program to educate Muslim chaplains and in the past year has begun certificates for imams and Muslim community leaders and for chaplains serving in multifaith contexts.

Kremer said the joint program “offered an opportunity that was hard to pass up.” “I have had social contact (mostly in my neighborhood) with people of varied faiths, but we rarely, if ever, discuss religion,” he said.

Now, he said, “BAP gave me greater sensitivity to other religions’ beliefs and practices, and helped me understand differences between religious demands and cultural practices. Another goal was to prove to myself that I could explain — in cogent and even compelling ways— Jewish belief and practice to those of other faiths.” ❁

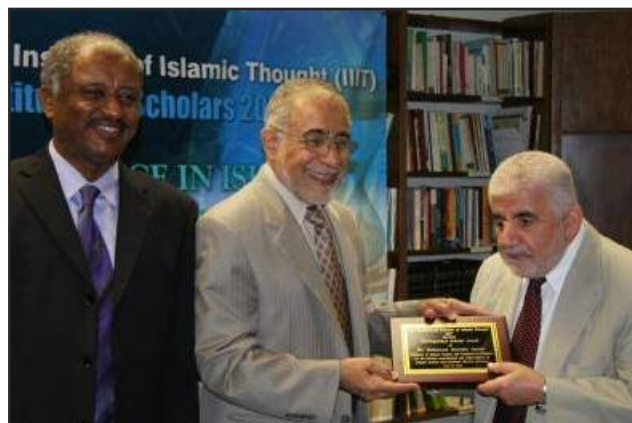


## Mahmoud Ayoub Receives Distinguished Scholar Award



Professor Mahmoud Ayoub, Faculty Associate in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, has received the 2012 Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) for his leadership in the Institute's Summer Institute for Scholars.

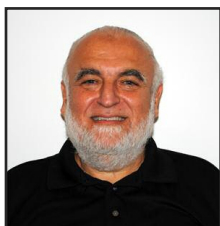
Dr. Ayoub, who received the award at a ceremony on Wednesday, July 18, said that he is honored by the recognition. He also praised the Institute for its commitment to "Islamic studies and Muslim Unity." He complimented Jamal al-Barzinji, vice president of IIIT, and Abubaker Al Shingieti, executive director, for their creative leadership.



Left to right, Abubaker al-Shingieti, Executive Director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Board member; Hartford Seminary; Jamal Barzinji, Vice President of IIIT; and Professor Mahmoud Ayoub

The Summer Institute for Scholars 2012 started at IIIT headquarters in Herndon, VA, on July 9 with an opening lecture on "Ethics and Government: Ibn Taymiyya Against Extremism" by Yahya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary. The theme of the gathering this year was "Good Governance in Islam: Classical and Contemporary Approaches." ❁

## New Staff: Sami Shamma; Susan Wright



**Sami Shamma** is the new Administrative Assistant at the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and Coordinator for Distance Learning. Sami, who is the first graduate of the Seminary's Certificate in Imam and Muslim Community Leadership, also will assist with student life on campus and will teach courses and seminars on Arabic Language and the use of technology in writing. Sami has studied Electrical Engineering. He has a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and finished his Master of Arts in Islamic Studies. Sami comes to Hartford from Virginia, where he taught Qur'anic Arabic and worked in Information Technology. Sami served as an Imam in Fredericksburg, VA. He has spent many years in the commercial world where he ran his own companies and traveled the world extensively. Sami has three sons and is passionate about life in general and the Arabic language and poetry in particular. Sami is a SCUBA dive master and Class (A) Builder.



**Susan Wright** of Manchester is the new Associate Director of Institutional Advancement. She was the Development Associate and Volunteer Coordinator at VNA HealthCare for the past four years. In her work there, she was involved in the department's major fundraising events. As well as coordinating the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons, Susan was a team member coordinating this year's prestigious Nightingale Nursing Awards dinner which was hosted by the agency. Her past professional background includes management positions in marketing and advertising and retail businesses. As a member of Unity Church of Hartford, she served as President of the Board of Trustees as well as co-chair of the church's capital campaign committee and helped organize fundraising events to support the community's move from West Hartford to the new facility in South Windsor. As a past member of the Worship Team, she assisted in Sunday services leading the congregation in prayer. Susan has a wide range of personal interests, many of which are in a variety of art and design media and techniques, and is a sewing and quilt making enthusiast. She has donated a number of her finished quilts to groups for their particular fundraising efforts. She is also an avid reader and loves to travel to learn more about different communities and cultures. ❁

## Islamic Art Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Hartford Seminary hosted an evening gathering at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Saturday, May 12 -- partly to enjoy the Museum's new "Galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and Later South Asia," and partly to enjoy a reception in the company of Seminary supporters, program partners, students, graduates, trustees, faculty, staff, and old and new friends.

Please enjoy these additional photos of the event. »

Remarks by President Heidi Hadsell » ❁



Trustee Amy Robinson views one of the museum pieces.

## Bishop Thomas Hoyt Speaks at Hartford Seminary

Senior Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, was the main speaker at the 2012 Graduation Banquet of the Black Ministries Program, which he founded. The banquet was held on May 31.

The Black Ministries Program (BMP) is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Bishop Hoyt discussed its founding and its importance to the urban communities that it has served.

He also delivered the charge to graduates during graduation ceremonies at the Seminary on Friday, June 1.

The Black Ministries Program is a national model for building the leadership, training and preaching skills of laity and clergy in the urban church. Men and women, deeply concerned about the fate of our society, enroll to become effective leaders and advocates.

Since its founding in 1982, BMP has prepared more than 1,000 men and women for effective service.



Two celebrants at the banquet

The current director of the program is Bishop Benjamin K. Watts, Faculty Associate in Religion and Community Life. Dr. Watts also is Senior Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in New London, CT.

More banquet photographs are [available online](#) » ❁

## Celebrating Graduation 2012

On June 1, a beautiful spring evening, Hartford Seminary held its 2012 graduation ceremony. Professor Ingrid Mattson delivered a **moving graduation address**.

More photographs from the ceremony are [available online](#) »



Jennifer Sanborn receives her Master of Arts hood from her husband and family



Faculty during the ceremony

## Hartford Seminary Awards Three Writing Prizes

Three Hartford Seminary students have been awarded prizes for their scholarship and writing.

Amy Poppinga, a student in the International Ph.D. Program, has received a scholarship from the Hartranft Scholarship Fund for her paper, "Setting Priorities: Sexual Abuse of Children as an Individual and Communal Responsibility in Islam."

The Hartranft Scholarship Fund provides a course tuition waiver to a degree program student who "has demonstrated excellence in written expression." The prize is in the name of Chester David Hartranft, who was President of the Seminary from 1889 to 1903, and was Professor of Biblical and Ecclesiastical History from 1878 to 1914.

Jean Amos Lys, a student in the Master of Arts Program, has received a scholarship from the William Thompson Fund for his paper, "Reflection on the Book of Job: Do We Fear God for Nothing?"

The William Thompson Fund provides a course tuition waiver to a degree program student who "has demonstrated notable proficiency or interest in the field of biblical studies." The prize is in the name of William Thompson, who was Dean and Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature from 1834 to 1881, after which he was Dean Emeritus until 1889.

Tricia Pethic, a student in the Islamic Chaplaincy Program, has received a scholarship from the Bennett Tyler Scholarship Fund for her paper, "The Power

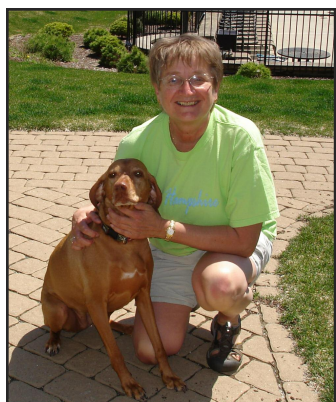
of Private Islam: Hamza Yusuf's Political Theology"

The Bennett Tyler Scholarship Fund provides a course tuition waiver to any student of the Seminary (degree or certificate) who has demonstrated "excellence in written expression." The prize is in the name of the first president of Hartford Seminary, Bennett Tyler, who was also a Professor of Theology from 1834 to 1857.

The recipients of the three prizes were recognized at graduation ceremonies on June 1. 🌸



## Hartford Seminary: Taking The Next Step



When Ilona Kwiecien enrolled as an auditor in the Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary, it was the start of a journey that has led to a new career. And the Seminary helped

her get there.'

In WLI, Ilona quickly discovered that "the energy and spirit-expanding experience within Hartford Seminary was what I had been looking for (knowingly or not!) for a while." She continued on to complete a Graduate Certificate and "when I just couldn't stop," a Master of Arts with a focus in spirituality.

Ilona did not have a job in mind when she started but she hoped to use what she was learning in a meaningful way. During her first

Certified Pastoral Education course, she realized she had found her vocation – as a chaplain.

"The flexibility I had in the type of courses I took allowed me to discover where my passions lay and design a program which really helped prepare me for the challenges of being an interfaith chaplain. The Seminary's interfaith dialogue classes were a treasure in this regard, as were the spirituality courses and other favorites," Ilona says.

When she was nearing completion of her degree, she was offered a job as hospice chaplain by the organization where she had been a volunteer. "This would not have occurred if I had not gone to Hartford Seminary," she says.

Ilona would tell people considering the Seminary that it can be of help either in furthering a career or, as in her case, discovering a new one. ❁

## Alumni/ae Notes

The Rev. **Robert H. Calvert**, B.D. '55, sent along information on a book authored in 2008 by classmate Dr. **Robert L. Polk**, B.D. '55, entitled, "Tight Little Island: Chicago's West Woodlawn Neighborhood, 1900-1950 in the Words of Its Inhabitants." Dr. Polk was born and raised in the West Woodlawn section of Chicago, and went on to serve in a variety of ministerial positions, including 14 years at the Riverside Church in New York City, and as dean of the chapel at Dillard University in New Orleans. Just before his retirement, Dr. Polk was Executive Director of the New York City Council of Churches. Now living in the Philadelphia area, he is able to connect with the Rev. Calvert and his wife Anne, and more Class of 1955 friends, the Rev. **Charles Baboian** and his wife Sandra.

**Craig Phillips**, M.A. '12 and his wife, Mahdiye, have relocated to Falls Church, Virginia, and Craig now works in Washington, DC, at the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) in the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Among the office's functions are to serve as an agency liaison to the faith community, most often with faith-based organizations doing development work around the world.

Along with his contribution to the 2012 Annual Fund, the Rev. **Howard L. Harris**, M.Div. '47, included a note which read, "The 77 Sherman St. address has many good memories. It was our address from 1944 to 1947. As Quakers we especially remember Alexander Purdy and Moses Bailey. It was a great growing time in my life and my late wife Rosemary. I am professor emeritus, anthropology, Western Washington University, and 94 years old. I still teach a couple of correspondence courses."

The Rev. **Chuck West**, B.D. '53, recently communicated news of the death of his wife, Mary Ellen, in August of 2011, and shared "best wishes for everyone at Hartford."

In addition to his work as a consultant in the healthcare field, improving revenue cycle systems in hospitals and medical practices, the Rev. Dr. **Mark Heilshorn**, D.Min. '08, continues to do ministry in the area of men's spirituality, writing and leading both workshops and retreats on the subject. This fall Mark will be teaching a men's spirituality course through the Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford called "On the Edge of Fire." ❁



## Hartford Seminary Community Mourns the Deaths of James Fenhagen, Walter Wink



The Rev. Canon **James C. Fenhagen**, who was Director of the Church and Ministry Program at Hartford Seminary in the late 1970s, has passed away. After he left the Seminary, he became Dean and President

of General Theological Seminary. A Eucharist in his memory was celebrated in the Chapel of Good Shepherd at GTS in May.



The Rev. Dr. **Walter Wink**, who taught at Hartford Seminary from 1976 to 1980, passed away on May 10.

**James Fenhagen** (PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC) - The Reverend James Corner Fenhagen, 82, died at Tidelands Community Hospice on April 5, 2012.

The Reverend Fenhagen was a native of Baltimore, MD and graduated from St. Paul's School. He attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington VA before receiving his BA from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN in 1951. He received a Master of Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1954, and in later years was awarded honorary degrees from the Virginia Theological Seminary, the University of the South School of Theology, and Washington and Lee University.

The Reverend Fenhagen served as Rector of several parishes in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and at St. Michael and All

Angels' Episcopal Church in Columbia SC before becoming active in academic settings.

He was Director of the Church and Ministry Program at the Hartford Seminary Foundation.

He was named President and Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York City in 1978 and retired from there in 1992.

He then became Director of the Cornerstone Project of the Episcopal Church Foundation, retiring in 1995. He came out of retirement to serve as President and Warden of the College of Preachers at Washington National Cathedral, from 2001-2004.

He authored five books and lectured at and led conferences in the US and abroad.

Locally, he served as the Chairman for the Georgetown County Mental Health Association and was a member of Friends of Brookgreen Gardens.

He attended Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church, Pawleys Island, SC.

The Reverend Fenhagen is survived by his wife Eulalie McFall Fenhagen; two sons, James Corner Fenhagen III and his wife Julianne (Montclair NJ) and John McFall Fenhagen (Georgetown, SC); and two grandchildren, Aaron David Fenhagen and Jessica Moreno Trahan. He was predeceased in 2005 by a daughter Eulalie Swinton Fenhagen.

**Walter Wink**, a groundbreaking figure in the field of New Testament theology, died on May 10 in Sandisfield, Mass., at the age of 76.

Wink's seminal work focused on the biblical "principalities and powers," the psycho-socio-political structures governing society throughout history, and the Christian

response to such powers. He is considered a major contributor to progressive Christian thinking on current political and cultural issues.

Wink wrote about non-violence, lectured on the topic around the world, and coined the phrase "the myth of redemptive violence," addressing the underlying justification for

the use of violence throughout our culture. He was active with nonviolence training throughout the world, including apartheid-era South Africa.

He also wrote and spoke on topics such as homosexuality and the Bible, psychology and biblical studies, and Jesus as a historical figure. *Continued on Page 14*

His teaching focused on his pioneering method of Bible study incorporating Jungian interpretation, meditation, artwork, and movement. This method and its rationale were first presented in his controversial book, *The Bible in Human Transformation* (1973), which has since found wide acceptance.

Most of Wink's workshops were presented jointly with his wife, June Keener Wink, who specializes in creative movement.

He was Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City from 1976 until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 2005.

Wink was the author of over a dozen books, including the award-winning *Naming the Powers* (1982), *Unmasking the Powers* (1986), *Engaging the Powers* (1992), *When the Powers Fall* (1998), and *The Human Being* (2002).

He also received numerous awards for his work as a scholar and activist, including the Unitas Award from Union Theological Seminary, The United States Institute for Peace, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Born in Dallas, Texas in 1935, he graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1956 and was ordained a United Methodist minister in 1961. He served as Pastor of First

United Methodist Church, in Hitchcock, Texas from 1962 to 1967.

He earned Master of Divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he taught until 1976.

For many years he attended the South County Friends Meeting in Great Barrington, MA.

He is survived by his wife June, brother Dick, sons Steve and Chris, daughter Rebecca, stepsons Kim and Kurt, and eight grandchildren.

## In Memoriam

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

The Seminary community mourned the death of **Dawn Mays-Hardy**, 53, who had been studying in the Doctor of Ministry program. Dawn died on June 3. She was born in Atlantic City, NJ, and graduated from Rutgers University and New York Theological Seminary, from which she received her Master of Divinity. Dawn worked as a policy director for the American Lung Association in New England, ministered at Cross Street AME Zion Church in Middletown, and had come to Hartford Seminary to explore her vision of holistic ministry. She is survived by her husband, Clarence, daughter, LaRae, her mother and four siblings.

Both Paul Varga, B.D. '54 and Bob Calvert, B.D. '55, sent word that **Carol J. Thomas**, wife of their classmate the Rev. Oliver Thomas, '55, died on May 3, 2012 in Minnesota. Carol studied in the School of Religious Education while her husband pursued his divinity degree. She "will be remembered for her emotional strength and optimism. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Thomas is survived by her daughter and two sons, two grandsons, and her brother.

The Right Reverend **John H. Smith**, D.Min. '80, died on June 2 in Brunswick, Maine after a two-year struggle with leukemia. He was 82. Ordained in 1965, Bishop Smith led the Diocese of West Virginia from 1989 to 1999, after serving parishes in Maine and Vermont. In addition to Hartford Seminary, he was a graduate of General Theological Seminary, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from both General and Virginia Theological Seminary. An advocate for the vitality of small parishes, Bishop Smith wrote "Cluster Ministry: A Faithful Response to Change" in 1996. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, two daughters, a son and four grandchildren.

The Rev. **Ned Pierson**, B.D. '54, died April 15, 2012 in Holland, MI, at the age of 82. A native of Connecticut, Ned was ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA and served congregations in Brooklyn, New York; Framingham, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Rocky River, Ohio; and Orchard Lake and Albion, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Jean, his sister, daughter and son, two granddaughters and a great-grandson. ❀

## Educational Events at Hartford Seminary

If you wish to register for any of these educational events, you can register at [www.hartsem.edu](http://www.hartsem.edu) and where appropriate pay online by clicking the "register and pay" icon. Or you can contact [events@hartsem.edu](mailto:events@hartsem.edu) for a registration form.

### God's Word in Greek

#### **Reading "The Letter to the Hebrews"**

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

Monthly workshop, starting September 6 in Fairfield, CT, and September 11 in Hartford

### A Lunchtime Talk and Book Signing

#### **Ibn Taymiyya: Against Extremisms**

*With Yahya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

Monday, September 24

Noon

### Carew/Purdy Lecture

#### **Money in Politics: The High Cost of "Free" Speech**

*With Dr. Michael Rion, President of Hartford Seminary from 1983-1989 and recently retired after more than two decades as an independent business ethics consultant*

Thursday, October 4

7 p.m.

### Lecture

#### **Understanding Muslim Societies**

*With Yale University Professor Ellen Lust*

Wednesday, October 17

6:30 p.m.

Co-Sponsor: World Affairs Council of Connecticut

### Concert

#### **Brenda McMorrow, Canadian Devotional Chant artist**

Thursday, October 18

7:30 p.m.

### Panel Discussion

#### **Contemplative Traditions within Judaism, Christianity and Islam**

*With Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations; Yahya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations; and Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality*

Friday, October 19

1:30 p.m.

Location: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

This panel discussion will be part of "Mindful Education: Building Inner Resilience," a day of reflection and meditation, organized by the Central Forum for Contemplative Practices at Central Connecticut State University.

## Educational Events at Hartford Seminary (continued)

### A Lunchtime Talk

#### **Monotheism from the Perspective of the Abrahamic Faiths**

*with Master of Arts Student Safi Haider*

Tuesday, October 23

Noon

### Book Signing and Commentary

#### **A Willing Heart: How to Serve When You Think You Can't**

*with author Marci Alborghetti*

Thursday, November 8

7 p.m.

### Biennial Willem A. Bijlefeld Lecture

#### **Sunnism and Shi'ism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

*With Dr. Seyyed Hossain Nasr*

Tuesday, November 13

7 p.m.

### Workshop

#### **Growing Sustainable Ministries For and With Youth**

*With The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults in the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ*

Wednesday, Nov. 14

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **Pantheism to Polytheism: From the One to the Many**

*With Dr. Sheenu Srinivasan, Hindu priest and author of "Hinduism for Dummies"*

Tuesday, November 20

7 p.m.

#### **How Do Christians Envision the Future of Interreligious Relationships in the Post-Assad Syria?**

*With Najib Awad, Associate Professor of Christian Theology*

Tuesday, November 27

7 p.m.

### Book Signing and Commentary

#### **Master Kierkegaard: Summer 1847, Fall/Winter/Spring 1847–1848 and Summer 1848**

*With author Ellen Brown*

Thursday, December 6

7 p.m.



## Fall Course Schedule

Hartford Seminary's 2012 Fall Semester will run from Tuesday, September 4 through Thursday, December 20. The Seminary's courses are open to 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.

For those enrolled in a three-credit course, the cost is \$1,890. The non-credit audit fee is \$575. A special audit fee of \$385 is available for: persons age 60 and older, persons 55 and older receiving disability income, 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 age 60 and older, for whom there is no limit.

To register, please contact the registrar's office at (860) 509-9511. Her email is [registrar@hartsem.edu](mailto:registrar@hartsem.edu). To see specific course syllabi or learn more about Hartford Seminary and its faculty, visit our website, [www.hartsem.edu](http://www.hartsem.edu).

You also may access a [registration form online](#).

### ARTS OF MINISTRY

#### **Mental Health: An Islamic Perspective** (AM-653)

*Online, beginning September 4*

This course will familiarize students with the basic concepts of mental illness to facilitate their communication with multidisciplinary teams including both health and mental health professionals, and help them to gain an awareness of the cultural factors particular to the Muslim community. Hamada Hamid, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Clinical Instructor in Neurology and in Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine.

#### **Information Literacy for Islamic Studies** (AM-677)

*Thursdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning September 6*

Students will learn how to think critically concerning information produced about Islam from both within and without the religion. Prerequisite: one year of Arabic or permission of the instructor. Steven Blackburn, Faculty Associate in Semitic Scriptures and Librarian

### DIALOGUE

#### **Dialogue in a World of Difference** (DI-530)

*Friday, 9/7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 9/8 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9/9 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

*Friday, 10/12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday 10/13 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 10/14 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

*Friday, 11/9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday 11/10 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 11/11 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

Students and faculty in a collegial setting will explore in depth the principles and the practice of dialogue in a pluralistic world through dialogical listening and cross-cultural conversations in a context of diversity. Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President, Hartford Seminary; Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations; and Omar Awass, Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

## Fall Course Schedule (continued)

### ETHICS

#### **Theological Ethics and the Personal Life** (ET-545)

*Online, beginning September 4*

This course will examine issues of personal morality and faith. The course begins with a brief introduction to theological ethics, and then moves to practical issues in personal morality, which will be discussed in relation to family and society. The Rev. Dr. Molly James, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Priest, Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

### HISTORY

#### **The Life of the Prophet Muhammad** (HI-536)

*Online, beginning September 4*

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. Omer Awass, Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

#### **Building an Inclusive Christianity: Listening to the Voices of Women** (HI-612) **NEW**

*Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4, Dec. 18* (Make-up day if needed)

The focus of this course is the careful, critical reading of primary texts by and about women from the Bible to the 21st century, with a focus on the Middle Ages. Elizabeth Dreyer, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Professor of Religious Studies at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT

#### **Islamic History II** (HI-625)

*Tuesdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning September 4*

This course continues the exploration of the history of Islamic societies and civilization, from the beginnings of the major pre-modern Islamic empires and Islam's expansion into Africa and South-Asia until the colonization of most of the Islamic world by European powers, the struggles for independence and the creation of contemporary Muslim nation-states. Timur Yuskaev, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Islam

### LANGUAGE

#### **Introduction to New Testament Greek, Part I** (LG-561)

*Tuesdays, from 12:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., beginning September 4*

The focus of this introductory course, which assumes no prior knowledge of the Greek language, is on the basic grammar and vocabulary of New Testament Greek. Edward F. Duffy, Adjunct Professor of New Testament and Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT

#### **Introduction to Arabic: Phonology and Script** (LG-580)

*Mondays and Wednesdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., beginning September 5*

Students will master the writing system of standard Arabic, as well as the sounds of the language. A basic vocabulary of over 100 words will be learned, and at the end of the term students will be able to engage in short, simple conversations. Steven Blackburn, Faculty Associate in Semitic Scriptures and Librarian

#### **Readings in the Greek New Testament, Part I** (LG-661)

*Tuesdays, from 12:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., beginning September 4*

This intermediate level course is designed to enable students to read the New Testament in Greek, concentrating on grammar and vocabulary building. Edward F. Duffy, Adjunct Professor of New Testament and Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, CT

## Fall Course Schedule (continued)

### RELIGION AND SOCIETY

#### **World Religions and Worldly Politics: Church/State Relations Around the World (RS-655)**

*Tuesdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning September 4*

There are a wide variety of constitutional approaches to “church/state” relations around the world. This course will explore a broad spectrum of these and how their roots and current implementation and implications are inextricably intertwined with religious politics. David Roozen, Professor of Religion and Society

#### **Contemporary American Religion (RS-667)**

*Wednesdays, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 5*

This course introduces students to the religious diversity that has arisen in the U.S. over the past 50 years. It also explores the prominent place of religion in our seemingly secular nation. Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion and Director, Doctor of Ministry Program

### SCRIPTURE

#### **Hebrew Bible Survey II (SC-520)**

*Wednesdays, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 5*

Survey II will examine the prophetic corpus, poetry wisdom and the rest of “the writings” in the Hebrew Bible. Uriah Kim, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible

#### **New Testament Survey (SC-531)**

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:40 p.m. to 9:10 p.m., beginning September 4*

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

#### **Images of Jesus in Christian and Muslim Sacred Writings (SC-636)**

*Mondays, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 10*

In this course we will study the birth, mission, death and resurrection and eschatological role of Jesus in Christian and Muslim sacred writings. Mahmoud Ayoub, Faculty Associate in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations

#### **Psychological Insight into Scripture: New Directions in Biblical Studies (SC-660)**

*Thursdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning September 6*

An introduction to psychological biblical criticism, exploring the contributions of C. G. Jung, Sigmund Freud, and Viktor Frankl, along with insights from cognitive, developmental and behavioral psychology, toward an understanding of the human psyche (soul) and its role in the history of the Bible and biblical interpretation. Wayne Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies

### THEOLOGY

#### **Introduction to Christian Theology: The Basic Components of Christian Faith and Life (TH-500) NEW**

*Mondays and Wednesdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., beginning September 5*

This course aims at getting students into a comprehensive survey of all the major dogmatic elements in the Christian confessions and theological discourses. Najib Awad, Associate Professor of Christian Theology

## Fall Course Schedule (continued)

### THEOLOGY (continued)

#### **Introduction to Black Theology** (TH-526)

*Mondays, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 10*

This course will examine the human condition in light of God's liberating activity. Liberation theology, womanist theology, and the theologies of oppressed peoples will be explored as a method of investigating, explicating, and critiquing religious thought. Benjamin Warts, Faculty Associate in the Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London, CT

#### **Introduction to Islamic Theology** (TH-553)

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:40 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning September 6 (12 weeks)*

This course explores the content and structure of Islamic belief, as elaborated by Muslim classical thinkers (7th-15th centuries), in relation to a selection of representative texts. Yahya Michot, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

#### **Religion, Conflict and Peacemaking** (TH-648)

*Thursdays, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning September 6*

This course will explore the paradox of religion as a source of division and conflict, on the one hand, and of peaceful aspirations and compassionate, sacrificial service on the other. Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations

### WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

#### **Resurrecting Jesus: Quantum Spirit, Inclusive Spirituality** (WS-642)

*Mondays, from 5:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., beginning September 10 (11 sessions)*

In this course we return to Jesus, the Jewish mystic at the core of Christianity, to wrestle once again with such challenging questions as: "Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?" Together we will seek to discern his 21st-century spirit as we shape an emerging spirituality made visible through a quantum lens. Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship, Spirituality and Feminist Studies