

praxis

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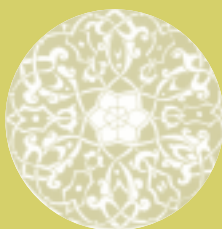


TURKEY: GAINING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING



Above: Ali Antar, right, a trustee of Hartford Seminary, enjoys a boat ride along the Bosphorus, with several of his hosts. They are seated under the flag of Turkey.

Above right: Louise Loomis, wife of Hartford Seminary Professor Worth Loomis and founder of the New England Cognitive Center, enjoys a moment with a group of Turkish youth who are practicing their English in conversation with her. Loomis, who used to live in Turkey, is practicing her Turkish at the same time.



Allison Chisolm called the trip “a journey to new worlds.” • “The genuine warmth and kindness of the Turkish people caused us to reexamine our own desiccated New England concept of hospitality,” said James Robertson. • “As often happens when traveling,” said Amy Robinson, “I was reminded that the human connection enriches my experience and heightens my awareness of the unity of people, in spite of differences in faith, custom or culture.” • Chisolm, Robertson and Robinson were among the trustees of Hartford Seminary who spent a busy three days in Istanbul, Turkey, in May, getting to know a key international partner of the Seminary — the Gulen faith community. • The Board of Trustees held its regular May meeting while in Istanbul and also met with, and dined with, leading figures both of the Muslim community and of other faiths. • Several trustees wrote about the experience; their reflections, with photos and additional comment on the trip, start on page 4.

Heilshorn Awarded Terry Prize

first annual Celie J. Terry Prize, for demonstrating a commitment to academic achievement and excellence in interfaith community work.

Heilshorn is pastor of the First Congregational Church of Woodbury, United Church of Christ. He organized an interfaith summit in Woodbury in April.

Sanford Cloud Jr., former Chairman of the Board, made the presentation. His generosity underwrote the prize, which is named in honor of Celie Terry, his long-time executive assistant.

In her memory, Cloud established a fund at Hartford Seminary. The fund will be used to award the prize, which consists of a set of Scriptures and \$500 that will be awarded annually.

Sheldon Elected to Preservation Board

Scott Sheldon, Chief Development Officer at Hartford Seminary, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Partners for Sacred Places, the nation's leading non-profit organization providing information, resources and advocacy to save America's diverse historic houses of worship and to strengthen communities.

Founded in 1989, Partners is headquartered in Philadelphia. Currently, Partners is embarking on an initiative to raise \$10 million to establish and endow the Philadelphia Regional Fund for Sacred Places. It will be the largest fund of its type in the nation, providing investment to make urgently needed repairs to various religious structures in the region. Sheldon will serve on the Board's Development and Program Committees, both of which will be involved in implementing the Philadelphia Regional Fund.

Partners' mission is rooted in congregational studies and religion research for which Hartford Seminary is noted.

At graduation ceremonies on June 3, the Rev. Mark Heilshorn received the



The Rev. Mark Heilshorn, left, received the first annual Celie Terry Prize, awarded by Sanford Cloud Jr., center. Standing with them is President Heidi Hadsell.

Cooley to Lead Unitarian Universalist District

The Massachusetts Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Churches has named the Rev. Dr. Terasa G. Cooley, a Trustee of Hartford Seminary, as District Executive, effective July 1.

In announcing the appointment, the district wrote, "Terasa brings a wealth of experience as a parish minister, teacher, and leader. Since 2000, she has been serving as Senior Minister of the Unitarian Society of Hartford and previously served congregations in Bridgeport, Chicago, and Detroit. She earned her ministerial degrees at Harvard Divinity School and Hartford Seminary.

"The Search Committee was particularly impressed with Terasa's understanding of organizational dynamics in congregations, social justice work in UU and interfaith settings, commitment to lay leadership development, and experience leading UU institutions through transitional periods. This is a time of change and growth for the Massachusetts Bay District and we feel Terasa's leadership will strengthen and spread our UU beliefs and values throughout the district."

Zikmund Wins Award

Barbara Brown Zikmund, former president of Hartford Seminary, has been chosen as one of two recipients of the 2005 Antoinette Brown Award, which honors ordained women in the United Church of Christ.

The award is given to women whose ministry exemplifies the contributions that women can make through ordained ministry and who have demonstrated outstanding work in parish or other church related institutions and sensitivity to the problems and possibilities of women in ministry and advocacy on behalf of women.

The award was presented in July at the 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta.

United States Has More Megachurches Than Previously Thought

New research shows 50 percent more megachurches in the United States than previously thought.

Initial analysis of a cooperative project to survey all megachurches in the United States by Scott Thumma of Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research, and Dave Travis and Warren Bird of Leadership Network uncovered at least 1,200 Protestant churches that claim more than 2,000 weekly worship attenders.

This figure is nearly 50 percent more than the figure of 850 commonly assumed and quoted by both organizations and other researchers of very large churches.

"I would never have guessed that either of our groups could have missed so many additional megachurches," said Thumma, a professor of sociology at Hartford Seminary who specializes in the study of such churches.

Many of the new congregations were uncovered when the two groups, which both keep separate lists of megachurches, compared their records. Each group knew of different sets of congregations, with the two lists overlapping on about 600 churches. It was the names of those that did not overlap that pushed the total list to just over the 1,200 mark.

"Our preliminary research for the major survey effort indicates there could very well be another 200 to 400 megachurches in addition to these," Bird said. "We'll have to see what infor-

mation the questionnaires return to know for sure."

The 2005 Megachurches Today questionnaires were mailed and emailed to more than 1,700 very large congregations in the spring.

"We hope and pray that each megachurch that receives a survey will fill it out and return it so that we can help correct misperceptions and better network these churches with each other," said Travis.

There are many misconceptions about megachurches in the minds of the general public, he said. This new study, which will be repeated at least every two years, will shed new light on the megachurch phenomenon that gener-

**Preliminary analysis shows that 1,200 churches...
account for more than four million weekly attenders
and possibly as many as 8 to 12 million members.**

ates such attention from the media and the religious world alike. For more information about this survey visit the website <http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/megachurchresearch.html>.

Preliminary analysis shows that the 1,200 churches represent three tenths of one percent of all congregations. They account for more than four million weekly attenders, however, and possibly as many as 8 to 12 million members. This pattern supports what Mark Chaves noted in his recent book, that "the largest 10% of congregations contain about half of all churchgoers" (*Congregations in America*, pp.18-19).

There are megachurches in 45 out of 50 states. The states with the most megachurches are Texas with 174 (14%), California with 169 (13.7%),

Florida with 83 (6.7%) and Georgia with 64 (5.2%). Houston and Dallas alone account for 56 megachurches or 4.5% of the total.

In terms of affiliation, the greatest number of megachurches are Nondenominational or Southern Baptist, followed to a lesser percent by the Assemblies of God, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the United Methodist Church. These are preliminary indications in the data. Much more will be known with certainty as the questionnaires come in and are processed.

Considerable research on megachurches can be found at the Hartford Institute website at <http://hrr.hartsem.edu/megachurch/megachurchresearch.html>. Thumma has been researching megachurches since 1988

and is considered one of the leading scholars in this area. He maintains an online database of what he formerly considered to be most of the megachurches in the country. His extensive online database is now being updated to include the new information.

The Leadership Network (www.lead-net.org) is the foremost networking and resource organization in the country for very large churches and their leadership. Since 1984 its mission has been to identify, connect and help high-capacity Christian leaders multiply their impact. Dave Travis is Senior Vice President of the Leadership Network. Warren Bird is Leadership Network's Director of Leadership Community Intellectual Capital Support as well as a prolific author.

Students Win Scholarships

Six Hartford Seminary students have won 2004-05 Merit Scholarships.

Jonathan Dean-Lee, a Doctor of Ministry 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, "Suffering in Ministry: Pluses and Minuses."

Wendy Hammond and Salma Kazmi, Master of Arts students, will receive scholarships from the Hartranft Scholarship Fund for demonstrating "excellence in written expression." Hammond won for her paper, "How

Bonhoeffer Discerned." Kazmi won for her paper, "The View of Warfare in the Life of Muhammad."

Three other students won awards from the Bennett Tyler Scholarship Fund for excellence in written expression. They are:

- Ilona W. Kwiecien (Master of Arts) Paper: "Interfaith Reflections on the Prayer of Saint Francis in Our Post 9/11 World"
- Crystal Owens (Women's Leadership Institute) Poem: "In Our Voices, We Speak"
- Bernard J. Estey, Jr. (Black Ministries Program) Paper: "Ezekiel 22: Jerusalem Condemned."

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Board of Trustees Meets in Turkey



The Board of Trustees' meeting in Istanbul was the result of an invitation by the Muslim community made up of followers of Turkish theologian Fethullah Gülen.

Besides the board meeting, the trustees visited Fatih University, talked with leaders of the Journalists and Writers Foundation which promotes interfaith dialogue through major international conferences, and met with the Archbishop of the Assyrian Church, the Vatican Ambassador to Istanbul and numerous members of the interfaith community. One evening, board members visited the homes of their Turkish hosts.

Martin L. Budd, chair of the board, thanked the trustees and the Gülen community, saying "It was great that so many members of the Board made the trip to Turkey. And the Gülen community's hospitality was extraordinary."

President Heidi Hadsell, who stayed to participate in the Seminary's study tour after the Board had left, shared Budd's appreciation of the Board commitment to spend time meeting with the Gülen community. "Interfaith dialogue is central to the mission of

Hartford Seminary, and this trip underlined how seriously we take our mission. By spending three days in meetings with Muslim leaders in their homeland, Board members were able to put the mission into practice and gain a deeper understanding of Christian-Muslim relations. They had the opportunity to engage in Christian-Muslim understanding first-hand, over an extended period of time. The conversations at the hosts' homes, in particular, gave Board members a special insight into how Muslims practice their faith in a secular society."

She also was pleased to gain a deeper understanding of Turkey. "The country is home to an important partner of the Seminary, and thus it is incumbent on us to understand the culture of the country," Hadsell said. "There is no substitute for original research, done in this case through the Seminary study tour."

The Gülen community sees faith as a starting point for dialogue. It is committed to Christian-Muslim dialogue and dialogue with other faith communities in general.

The movement is influenced by the concept of "Turkish Islam" formulated by some nationalist thinkers, and also the Nur movement that developed around the writings of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi.

Continued on next page

Photos, below: **A.** Harun Tokak, president of the Journalists and Writers Foundation, talks with Heidi Hadsell, Seminary President, and Ali Bayrum, a leader of the Gülen community and a host of the trustees during their stay in Istanbul.

B. Speaking at a dinner on the final night of the study tour is Faris Kaya, a leader of one of the Nursi communities and a host on the tour.

C. Trustee Trudie Prior addresses her colleagues and hosts.

D. The trustees gather together outside Fatih University in Istanbul.



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During the Seminary's study tour across Turkey, the participants held a worship service in a cave in the Cappadocia region. The Rev. Marjorie Nunes, a Doctor of Ministry student at the Seminary, delivered the sermon, in which she said:

"These early believers [of 2,000 years ago] had to grasp the fact that when they claimed the name 'Christian' they would be expected to: a) Be witness to the 'good news' of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. b) But there also was a greater commandment that preceded that and that is 'to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Thus, my sisters and brothers, when we claim the name and then proclaim that we are Christians, we must begin with love. And they will know we are Christians by our love."



A Journey to New Worlds

By Allison Chisolm

The week before we left for Istanbul, Newsweek magazine ran an explosive story that American guards at Guantanamo Bay prison had flushed the Qur'an down a toilet. Riots erupted in Islamic communities around the world. While the magazine retracted the story as I got to John F. Kennedy International Airport, the damage was done.

In Turkey, a country where 98 percent of the population is Muslim, the subject never came up. I expected people to keep their distance. Instead I found warmth. I expected people to attack President Bush, complain about American foreign policy, but the sole political question I got was an inquiry about Dick Cheney running in 2008 – and that was from a vendor in the Grand Bazaar.

I learned firsthand how a secular, yet Muslim country tries to operate in two worlds simultaneously. May 19, the day before the board members gathered (I arrived early to fight off my jetlag) was Youth and Sports Day, commemorating the start of Turkey's War of Independence in 1919. Banners bearing the face of the republic's founder Kemal Atatürk hung across streets and off buildings. Yet this man did not want the new nation to be a religious one. He intentionally kept the government and its institutions secular. As I discussed with a Hartford Seminary graduate the restrictive effects of Atatürk's legacy on religious women in Turkey, we could hear the call to prayer broadcast across the neighborhood.

The next day, I found myself outside the Dolmabaçe Mosque, just before the main Friday prayer service. Dozens of men came running toward the building from every

direction. The muezzin's recording seemed to grow more insistent. The steps outside the mosque soon filled with men, prayer rugs and shoes. Women in headscarves stood to the side, not included in the service. I felt out of place, yet privileged to witness this solemn event.

This journey helped me understand a country and a faith in ways a class could never achieve. The trip exceeded any expectations I had, because of the many opportunities to speak with Turkish residents and learn about life outside the guidebooks. Gülen community members, who see faith as a starting point for dialogue, were welcoming, generous and sincere. We shared a meal in family homes. Before I left our host family that Saturday evening, their daughter handed me her school photo and asked me for my daughter's email address. At 14 years old, they could bridge 5,000 miles and separate cultures with a click of a mouse. And possibly create a new foundation for interfaith understanding.



Just Like Us

By Kelton Cobb

The comment that has stayed with me from the days that the Board spent with the Gülen community was the forthright explanation that Ali Bayram offered for why they have sought a connection with Hartford Seminary. He said that they need friends in the West, and particularly an established institution like Hartford Seminary that can speak with credibility to Christians and get the word out that not all Muslims are zealots like Osama bin Laden.

"Look around you," he said. And I did. I saw fathers and sons just like the ones I had just eaten breakfast with, rising businessmen who own small textile factories or heavy equipment contractors, and their



An Inspirational Experience

By Reza Mansoor

We landed in Istanbul on Friday the 20th of May and were treated to hospitality without parallel by our hosts, the Gülen community. We were put up in a beautiful hotel, treated to meals with multiple courses and shown around the city of Istanbul by bus, car and a ferry ride on the Bosphorus. Traveling between the Asian and European sides of Istanbul and breathing in this historic city, the capital of three empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman, was truly amazing. The Gülen community, under the guidance of Fethullah Gülen, is a very organized group that has developed many schools (in particular in Turkey and the Central Asian republics), a wonderful university and the second largest newspaper and a television station in Turkey.

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The Trip to Turkey

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What for me was most memorable was the interfaith meal on Sunday evening, not least because at no notice I was asked to address the group in front of TV cameras to be aired on Turkish television a few minutes later. What really was inspirational was that the gathering consisted of the Archbishop of the Assyrian Church, the Vatican Ambassador to Istanbul and numerous members of the interfaith community as well as members of the Gülen community. The Archbishop's opening prayer in Arabic and partly from the Qur'an was consistent with the level to which their interfaith dialogue had progressed. The Vatican ambassador also quoted the Qur'an and what I understood as the essence of the message of these two learned men was that the solution to the problems we face at the present time depended not on war, but educating ourselves about each other which frees us from fear and prevents disputes that lead to violence.

They were very admiring of the Gülen community's record on working toward better interfaith understanding using the various tools at their disposal, in particular the media but also through education by including people of all faiths in their schools and helping whoever cannot afford it, regardless of religion. The evening ended with some of the TV programs that were in production. The goal was to have educational as well as socially and morally responsible coverage of events. As the Muslim community in America is acutely aware, the media can, by lack of balance and educational pieces and its reliance on sensationalism in their coverage, be a major contributor to the misunderstanding of religion, in this case Islam. I think it would be wonderful for Hartford Seminary to build on this relationship with the Gülen community.



A Valuable Education, Although Brief

By Trudie Prior

I thought picking one event as "the most interesting" of our trip to Istanbul for our May Board meeting would be easy. Instead, I am having difficulty isolating events among the steady stream of activities scheduled by our hosts for our three-day visit. If forced to pick one, I would probably choose our visit to an assembly at Fatih University on Sunday morning for a couple of reasons, neither of which has anything to do with the substance of the speeches. I was stunned by the turnout. I am not good at estimating crowds, but I would say several hundred people came to see and hear some of their

own and a few of us speak. Although pleased at the Gülen community's outpouring of interest in our visit, I was rather disappointed at the marked absence of women in the crowd, particularly because we were in a university environment. On the other hand, I was very impressed with the superbly equipped science and computer laboratories at the high school and university, visible evidence of the Gülen community's commitment to education in science and technology for both women and men.

Fethullah Gülen's reconciliation of traditional Islamic values with modern life in theory holds promise as a means of harmonizing the opposing forces of religion and secularism that confront Turkey. I hoped during this visit to observe how his followers practice what he preaches. We had several opportunities in different settings to speak informally with businesspeople, academics, religious leaders, and students, although our three-day visit was just enough to whet my appetite for more discussion. I spoke with two young women, both Fatih University students, on our Bosphorus boat trip who exemplify the religious/secular tension in Turkey. Betül, a chemical engineering student whose professor described her as brilliant, wore a head scarf and conservative dress. She would like to be able to wear a head scarf at school, but the law prohibits her doing so. Aysenur, a computer engineering student, does not care to wear a head scarf in or out of school. They both agree, however, that they want religious freedom of choice and that religion, as the teaching of morality rather than faith, is an important element of their university education. I heard these same sentiments from other students, male and female.

But there appear to be limits to the liberal and modern characteristics of Fethullah Gülen's teachings in practice. We were invited one evening to dine with a family in their home. We received a warm welcome from our hostess who then disappeared, I assume into the kitchen, until after dinner. Our host Musa informed us that his elder daughter intended to study psychiatry and later proudly introduced his wife as helping high school students prepare for university. Under the circumstances, I was surprised that neither of them joined us for the meal. Although there certainly seems to be equality of men and women in the classrooms of Fatih University, that equality does not appear to extend to the home. It was a pleasant, but for me somewhat awkward, evening.

As we look to expand Hartford Seminary's relationship with the Gülen community, we members of the Board have an obligation to learn as much as we can about its members. Our trip, albeit brief, provided valuable insights into the community.



Encountering the Other

By James K. Robertson, Jr.

[Editor's note: James Robertson attended the three-day Board session in Istanbul and then remained

in Turkey as a member of a separate two-week study tour arranged by the Seminary. This tour traveled across Turkey to a variety of religious, historical and cultural sites.]

"Tolerance" and "dialogue" are now so politically correct that they risk becoming platitudes. There is often less than meets the eye in programs that now carry their banner. Through its recent engagement in Turkey, however, the Seminary added some depth and heft to these worthy ideals. Its new tagline — "Exploring differences; deepening faith" — became far more than a slogan.

Modern Turkey is an aggressively secular state, whose inhabitants are 98% Muslim. It is also much more than that. It is also the birthplace of both the early Christian Church and of the shared ancestor of the three Abrahamic faiths. One of the most invigorating aspects of this trip was that amidst the strangeness and discordances of this foreign culture, we learned so much about our own faith values and our own faith heritage. Muslim scholars brought us to places that resonate with both Christians and Jews: Antioch, Tarsus, Cappadocia, Harran and Ur. It was there that we studied the birthplaces of Abraham and Paul, the traveling ministries of Peter, Paul, John, Barnabas and Timothy. We walked along the Euphrates, among the lands of the Philistines, the Hittites and the Galatians. We talked with the women of Harran, which is where Rachel, Leah and Rebecca were recruited as wives for Isaac and Jacob. All seven of the early Church's ecumenical councils were held in Anatolia. We worshipped in a cave where the early Christians worshipped, and we climbed through the tunnels of an underground city where the early Christians hid from invaders. We shared these experiences with interesting and faithful colleagues of all three monotheistic faiths, and we learned from the sharing.

Turkey is rapidly emerging from the wreckage of two defunct empires, and it is now at several crossroads: the secular and the religious; the modern and the traditional; Europe and Asia; western ecumenism and an inner-directed Islam. The resulting tensions are easily misunderstood by sheltered Americans. We are irritated by the omnipresent pictures and statues of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. We wouldn't tolerate that form of megalomania from George Washington. We are troubled by

the role to which women, both veiled and otherwise, are apparently relegated, and we are perplexed by the totems warding off the "evil eye." We are amazed by the secular state's control over the imams and their mosques, and we are frightened by the sharp-edged rhetoric of the political Islamists. But through real dialogue, we learned at least the history and context of these strange customs and tensions, and in many respects this dialogue led to understanding and tolerance.

By the same token, the genuine warmth and kindness of the Turkish people caused us to reexamine our own desiccated New England concept of hospitality. One of our Turkish hosts explained to us that it was not until 1960 that a particular Turkish city received its first hotel. The inhabitants were outraged, complaining that there was no need for a hotel when they had so many homes within which to welcome all strangers. The Turks embraced us with true hospitality—inviting us into their homes, showering us with gifts and expressing genuine interest in our well-being. On several occasions, strangers went far out of their way to help us with directions, advice and assistance. Consider this one simple example: one day, our group was deep beneath the earth, exploring one of the underground cities in Cappadocia. Heidi Hadsell stayed behind, sitting under the shade of a Mulberry tree, enjoying a rare moment of solitude. Some old, thin and tired Turkish men sat nearby. After a while, one of them walked over to her and silently offered her some of his bread. After she politely refused, he returned to his friends and they then shared the bread together. There is a unique depth to that expression of hospitality. Or, put these images in your mind's eye: our distinguished colleague Louise Loomis surrounded by young Turkish children who are happily fascinated by her words and her presence; or groups of successful, religiously minded businessmen, intently conferring with our Trustees, evidently modest, gentle and eager to understand us. We learned a lot by exploring the differences in our understandings of hospitality.

Our faith is usually expressed privately in the West, and then only once a week (or so). On the other hand, our Muslim travel companions prayed publicly five times each day. We joined them at vast, magnificent mosques and in the quiet corners of modest hotels while they prayed and bowed to Mecca. We watched hundreds of Turkish men, probably strangers to each other, kneeling side by side reciting in common certain verses from the Qur'an. This is not a discipline presently enjoyed by the mainline Protestant churches. We can deepen our own faiths by exploring these differences in our faith traditions.

This type of personal contact is a powerful instrument against prejudice and ignorance.

There is also a strong philosophical and theological basis for such encounters, as is clearly expressed in the disparate writings of the Jewish philosophers Martin Buber and Emmanuel Levinas; the Muslim sages Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and Fethullah Gülen; and the Christian theologians John Hick and Wesley Ariarajah. The Seminary, therefore, needs to continue this form of personal, inter-faith dialogue. The Nur community should be a good dialogue partner for us. It stresses the compatibility of Islam with modernity, democracy and progress. Its many proponents are dedicated to education, tolerance and dialogue. Gülen defines religion metaphorically as "a symphony of God's blessings and mercy." We need to do our part to promote the harmony of the parts.



"Friends have all things in common"

— Plato, *Dialogues*, *Phaedrus*

By Amy Robinson

Our trip to Istanbul was a tangible expression of Plato's wise words as we discovered that friendship with our hosts revealed the things we had in common rather than those separating us. The Board of Trustees came in the spirit of interfaith dialogue and understanding, a spirit that was returned by our generous Turkish hosts.

As often happens when traveling, I was reminded that the human connection enriches my experience and heightens my awareness of the unity of people, in spite of differences in faith, custom or culture. For example, my husband and I, along with two other couples, were invited into the home of the Deveci family, who welcomed us warmly and treated us to an incredible meal. Sharing food around the table gave us an opportunity to know the husband Yusuf, wife Zaynep, and their three children, including college-age Kaan (dressed in the teenage uniform of jeans and tee shirt), high-schooler Seyda, an aspiring fashion designer, and little Ecem, who shyly hid from her American guests.

We shared conversation about families, faith, work, food, travel and health. We laughed, commiserated and crossed language and cultural boundaries to discover that we had much in common, including a dedication to peace and interfaith understanding.

I also got to know Seminary faculty, staff and my fellow trustees in a way that would not be possible during our meetings at the Seminary, a pleasure that will certainly enhance our collegiality as we work to support its mission, vision and values. The exhilaration and exhaustion that came from

our busy schedule deepened friendships and enriched our conversations, a gift that will certainly serve us in the future.



Religious Fellowship

By The Rev. James Walker

My wife Delois and I could never say enough about the hospitality and graciousness of

each person who hosted us while we were in Turkey. We felt as if there was a mutual conspiracy to fatten us, spoil us and cater to our every need and we were content to play the role of cooperative co-conspirators. We also offer the highest commendations to Hartford Seminary's administration for a fantastic job of preparation and detailed planning.

As a Christian pastor, I know what it is like to live as a part of the religious majority. In Turkey, I heard what it was like for fellow board member Ali Antar to come to Connecticut and find only one mosque. People in the religious minority are often underserved, and frequently un-served as faith participants. Thus, I wanted and needed to experience Turkey as a part of the Christian minority. So, in symbolic solidarity, I wore my cross daily in Turkey.

An evangelical named Ron saw my cross and we had a conversation. Ron spoke of the many governmental limitations on his work. Seeing my cross meant he could ask for prayer and support.

An elderly man at our hotel saw the cross. He enveloped it in his fist and asked, "Are you Christian?" I responded, "Yes, I am Christian." He kissed the cross and then we kissed each other. "He is Christian," he told his friends. To him, the cross meant fellowship with another believer.

When leaving Turkey, Delois and I were detained for an hour. A Muslim teenager from New Jersey volunteered to be our interpreter and he waited with us until we boarded. He saw my cross and figured we needed help. He was a follower of Fethullah Gülen and to him, responding to my cross was a gesture of love.

While I wished our group had taken a moment to engage religious minorities in Turkey, my cross afforded me brief interludes that I will forever cherish.

Why Support the Annual Fund?

By Jennifer Schimmel

Close your eyes and imagine a place where peace exists, a place where extraordinary people teach, learn, grow, question, and seek knowledge. A place where harmony is created in understanding one another through faith and dialogue. You have imagined Hartford Seminary.

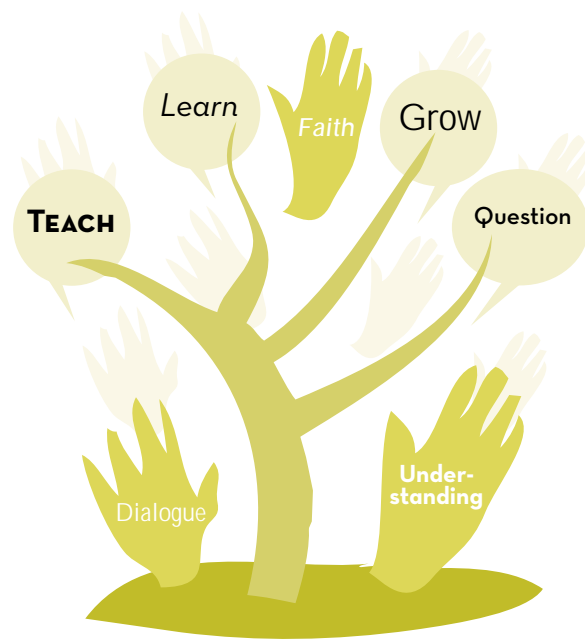
It is a remarkable experience to witness Christians, Muslims, Jews and people of other faith traditions, studying together in peaceful coexistence, maintaining their own beliefs while learning about other faiths and traditions. What better way to build partnerships in this world?

It is through these extraordinary people that Hartford Seminary's vision of peace is given a chance to grow, to touch lives in meaningful ways, and to foster relationships that help heal a conflicted world. Hartford Seminary cannot do it alone. We need your help to ensure that Hartford Seminary will be here for many years to come, training leaders and building peace.

So again, I ask - Why support the Annual Fund? Because Hartford Seminary's work is evidence that peaceful coexistence is possible. Supporting the Annual Fund is critical to providing an educational experience that fosters understanding and dialogue among our diverse student body. Your gifts will help us to continue this important work into tomorrow.

If you have any questions regarding Hartford Seminary's Annual Fund, please call (860) 509-9520 or send e-mail to giving@hartsem.edu. Information about the Annual Fund is also available on our website, www.hartsem.edu.

Jennifer Schimmel is Associate for Development Operations and Donor Relations in the Institutional Advancement Department



2004-2005 Annual Fund Update

A total of 698 Donors raised a total of \$234,861

We extend a special thank you to our Board of Trustees, faculty and full-time staff for their complete participation in our fundraising efforts.

Constituency	Amount Raised
Trustees	\$43,843
President Council Members	\$13,427
Corporators	\$16,965
Faculty/Staff	\$9,255
Alumni/ae	\$52,481
Students	\$3,761
Friends	\$19,930
Synagogues, Churches & Mosques	\$16,854
Businesses	\$3,556
Foundations	\$53,964
Adjunct Faculty	\$825

Websites Revised, Improved

By Alisa Dzananovic

Recently the Hartford Seminary website, www.hartsem.edu, has undergone several changes to make it more attractive to prospective students and to provide up-to-date news from the Seminary.

The Seminary home page now displays the faces of faculty and students in a rotating gallery, which also includes what the faculty and students find most appealing about the Seminary. An information bar on the right side of the screen provides the latest news, course listings and events at the Seminary. This information is updated regularly.

"The changes have been made to accommodate and to benefit the tens of thousands of monthly visitors to the Seminary's website," said Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion and Director of Web and Distance Education.

Other recent website changes include the launching of a new website for the Islamic Chaplaincy Program as well as the develop-

ment of a new website for the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.

Several months ago Hartford Seminary created a new website for the Islamic Chaplaincy

Program, <http://macdonald.hartsem.edu/chaplaincy/>, to provide students and other constituents with information about the program and also to provide insightful information on Islamic Chaplaincy.

The website, for example, includes a "Profiles in Chaplaincy Section" offering interviews with current Muslim chaplains serving communities at colleges, hospitals and prisons.

"Chaplaincy is a relatively new program and opportunity for Muslims," said Ingrid Mattson, the director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program at the Seminary. "The website gives interested individuals models from the community to consider," she said.

The newly designed website also includes a resources section, book reviews and useful links on Islam and Islamic Chaplaincy.

"The Macdonald Center, <http://macdonald.hartsem.edu>, recently received a generous grant from an anonymous donor to redesign its website. The new design will

soon be chosen and considerable work has taken place to provide new content and resources for the site," said Thumma about changes which will be introduced in coming months.

Thumma said that the Seminary's library also had a recent major overhaul of its site, <http://library.hartsem.edu>. While it looks similar to the old site, it has vastly improved functioning and navigation capabilities.

In the near future there will be a redesign of the current Hartford Institute for Religion Research website. This much anticipated project will be completed with a generous grant of \$25,300 by the Lilly Endowment.

In addition the Seminary will be updating its "Faith Communities Today" website. This website, <http://fact.hartsem.edu>, supports the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership, a program of interfaith cooperation. The partnership has a national survey of congregations in the field; the results of the survey and other research information will be available on its updated website.

With all these improvements, "Come join the crowds!", Thumma said.

Alisa Dzananovic works in the Communications Office.

The New Role of Muslim Chaplains

by Teresa Mendez
Staff Writer
The Christian Science Monitor

(HARTFORD, CT.) When Trinity College students return to their snow-bitten campus next week, for the first time they will discover a Muslim chaplain working there.

Sohaib Nazeer Sultan is one of only a handful of Muslim chaplains at colleges and universities across the country.

But as the number of Muslim college students continues to grow - along with the desire to understand religious and cultural complexities at play in a post-9/11 world - more schools are hiring Muslim chaplains.

In the past - and still at many schools today - a volunteer from the community would fill the role of spiritual adviser and advocate for Muslim students. Frequently, a student leads fellow students in prayer.

Before Sept. 11, many of these leaders were international students with strong backgrounds in Islam, well-versed in both Arabic and the Qur'an, says Ingrid Mattson, director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program at Hartford Seminary. But recent visa restrictions have reduced their numbers, heightening the need to train chaplains in the United States.

As the number of Muslim students on college campuses has increased, so have MSA chapters. There are currently close to 600 in the US and Canada, up from around 400 10 years ago.

Sultan got his chaplaincy start through the MSA. During his four years at Indiana University in Bloomington, he was the public relations officer for the organization, as vice president, president, and student adviser.

After he began to give weekly sermons, Sultan realized that though still a student himself, his peers had "started seeing someone who had answers to certain things" - a totally false perception, he says, laughing.

Hartford [Seminary]'s is the country's only accredited Islamic Chaplaincy Program. Enrollment has grown from two students in 2000, when it was established, to 12 this year, half of whom are women.

Mr. Sultan is a slight man with a soothing demeanor. In khaki pants, a navy tunic, and square, dark-rimmed glasses he could easily pass for a young graduate student.

In many ways, he seems older and wiser than his 24 years. He has already written a book - "The Koran for Dummies" - published last year. He speaks of the need to create a culture not just of tolerance, but of acceptance. He sees his job as a Muslim chaplain as a divine calling.

Yet he's also down-to-earth, self-deprecating, and compassionate when he discusses the many obstacles - both spiritual and secular - that young Muslims on their own for the first time are likely to encounter.

In 1999 Georgetown University hired Yahya Hendi - the first full-time Muslim chaplain at an American university. Today, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) estimates that 14 institutions of higher education provide for a Muslim chaplain.

As here at Trinity, however, many of these positions are part-time jobs.

He received phone calls and e-mails from students seeking guidance. There were the questions that any student might face - who am I and what am I doing? But there were also moral dilemmas specific to a Muslim - how to navigate a setting saturated with alcohol, strictly forbidden to Muslims. And then there were students experiencing profound culture shock - those wondering, as Sultan says, "Holy Morocco, where am I?"

He remembers one student in particular, a young woman who had lived in Afghanistan during the Russian occupation and seen all six of her siblings killed by soldiers. Back home, her family had rallied around her in support, but on her own in a foreign country, many of those feelings came flooding back.

Settling into a leather chair in the vergers room at Trinity College's chapel, Sultan confesses that he was in no way prepared to advise anyone back then.

He consulted his father - a teacher of Islamic education - local Imams, and books on psychology and counseling. What he discovered, he says, was that he'd been doing everything wrong. He



Sohaib Nazeer Sultan

had been doling out advice, when "really it's about listening so that people can come to solutions that are usually already present in their own hearts," he says.

As a college senior with a degree in political science and journalism, but no clear career plan, he came across the Islamic Chaplaincy Program at Hartford Seminary. He realized "it was exactly what I was doing, and I was unaware that I was doing it."

Last year - after a brief stint as a journalist and the year it took to complete his book - Sultan enrolled at Hartford Seminary, where he is working toward a master's degree in Islamic chaplaincy, Islamic studies, and Christian-Muslim relations.

Hartford's is the country's only accredited Islamic Chaplaincy Program. Enrollment has grown from two students in 2000, when it was established, to 12 this year, half of whom are women.

Founded in 1893, the Seminary's Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations is the oldest of its kind, and most Muslim chaplains working today are in some way affiliated with it.

Still, Hartford isn't known for its Muslim presence in the way that Chicago and some other urban centers are. There are three mosques in the city. And of 2,000 students, Trinity has identified about 20 who are Muslim.

Sultan imagines there are more, and he sees himself as a counselor, teacher, and advocate for these students. But equally important, he says that he hopes to be a resource on Islam for the entire community - both Muslims and non-Muslims. He is plunging right in, planning with the start of the semester to begin a weekly lesson on the Qur'an - open to all who are interested.

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Graduation: The Seminary Celebrates



A.

Hartford Seminary held its graduation ceremonies on June 3, on the lawn outside the main Seminary building.

Photos, from top:

A. and B. The Rev. Dr. David F. Crabtree, Connecticut Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, delivered the charge to the graduates. During her talk, Dr. Crabtree released a ball representing the world into the audience.

C. Faculty members Scott Thumma, Adair Lummis, Ingrid Mattson and Carl Dudley join in the singing of a hymn.

D. Master of Arts graduates await the awarding of their degrees. Left to right are JoAnn Bourquard, Linda Beher, Gideon Adjei and Sowatei Lomotey.

E. Linda Beher, a Master of Arts graduate, is congratulated by Dean Ian Markham.

F. The Rev. Wilfrido Ramos, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, welcomed the audience.

G. President Heidi Hadsell awards a certificate to James Rodriguez, graduate of the Hispanic Ministries Program. Dean Ian Markham looks on.

H. Graduates of the Black Ministries Program are recognized during the program.

I. President Heidi Hadsell and Dean Ian Markham wait for the next recipient to come to the stage.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.



H.

Graduates – Class of 2005

Doctor of Ministry

Karen Lynn Bailey-Francois
"Cooperative Ecumenical Youth Ministry among City Churches in Hartford, Connecticut: Exploring a Way for Churches to Work Together to Strengthen and Stabilize their Ministry to Youth in Grades 6-9"

Michael Ruthven Bernard
"The Impact of Moving on Pastors, Families, and Congregations"

Susanne Underwood Hayes
"Creating a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Chicopee, Massachusetts"

Gary F. Lewis
"Decentralizing Ministry through Small-Group Leadership Development in the Congregational Church of Vergennes, Vermont, United Church of Christ"

Eric B. Smith
"Enhancing the Spirituality of Community Baptist Church in New Haven, Connecticut"

Kathryn Titus
"Placing and Using a Labyrinth for Fellowship, Spirituality, and Outreach at the Congregational Church of West Medford"

Larry A. Titus
"Website Development as a Process for Congregational Study, Education and Evangelism: www.ccwn-medford.org"

Thomas John Vencuss
"Congregational Evangelism"

Master of Arts

Gideon Ishmael Adjei
Linda K. Beher
JoAnn Bourquard
Zahra Boussalah
Arthur L. Gaither
Ilona W. Kwiecien
Sowatei K. Lomotey
Gretchen Weber Mayne
Anne McGuinness

Graduate Certificates

Maria Vincenta Dynia
James FitzGerald
Joseph W. Flynn
Cathryn Ford Oles
Karen Lynne Houseknecht
Peggy R. Johnson
Gwendolyn H. Lewis
Franky Riko Londa
Linda Mayo-Perez
Luverne Mott
Jennifer Ida Regan
Linda Gracy Sparks
Cynthia I.G. Wilusz

Certificate of Advanced Pastoral Studies

Irvin Gagnon
(awarded posthumously)
Nathaniel Smith

Black Ministries Program

Sonya G. Campbell
Fitzroy E. Carr
Walter L. Cisero
Stacey Copeland
Pamela Drummond
Calvin Ellerbee, Jr.
Lauriston Alexander Elliott
Brayard D. Gordon
Beverly Graham
Lurline Handy-Muschett
Maria E. Jeffrey
James J. Johnson
Carlton H. Mack
Nerese Martell
Andrea V. Murphy-Morris
Kimberly Norrington
Sharlene Perry
Malinda Reid
Tracy Scott
Donald R. A. Toussaint, Sr.

Cleo D. White, Sr.
Donnamarie Williams
Francine E. Wilson

Programa de Ministerios Hispanos

Angel Borrero
Denise Cruz
Ramon Cruz
Miriam Medina
Abimael Ortiz
James P. Rodriguez
Magda E. Rodriguez

Women's Leadership Institute

Nancy G. Aker
Patricia A. Ayars
Nancy R. Benben
Suendam Birinci
Judy Berger Blatt
Leslie A. Carter
Angela J. Cimadon-Dyer
Orsella Renea Cooper
Kristen Dunn
Eleanor Pratt Frazier
Mary E. Friel, SND
Jane V. Gallagher
Sumera Ghazi
Wendy Hammond
Ruth A. Hofstatter
Amy Hollis
Irma B. Ingram
Jane Cunningham Jones
Dora V. Lewis
Sally Wallace Lynch
JoAnne McCrann
Hyacinth A. Miller
Andrea C. Minelli
Martha H. Monroe
LeAnne D. Morgan
Kathleen Grib Novak
Christo D. Owens
Kathleen Parulski
Donna Jean Potvin-Dube
Kim Elinor Radda
Patricia A. Rovetti
Kathryne C. Sams
Katherine E. Taylor
Jenipher Young-Hall



In Memoriam

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

The Rev. Ariel M. Zambrano ('55 C.E.), 81, of Claremont, CA died on February 9, following a 4-month illness. The child of ordained ministers, Rev. Zambrano was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, on September 27, 1923. He was the fourth of seven children in the family of Congregational minister Apolinar Zambrano and his wife, Hermelinda Medina de Zambrano. Rev. Zambrano's early education was at the Instituto Colon in Guadalajara, founded by the Congregational mission. At the age of 18, he entered Union Evangelical Seminary in Mexico City. After completing seminary studies, Rev. Zambrano was assigned to Pomona, California where he served for a relatively brief time before being called back to Mexico to work in the Evangelical Council of Churches. Through the Council, he was sent for a year of study in Christain Education at Hartford Seminary.

The Rev. Geoffrey L. Barnes ('61 STM), 79, of North Epping, Australia, died on January 27. After graduation from Hartford Seminary in 1961, Rev. Barnes earned his Ph.D. at the Macquarie University of Sydney, Australia. He has had very bad health for the last 5 years and died peacefully at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in January. He had a very distinguished career, at all levels of the Uniting Church of Australia. Many tributes have flowed in and there were between 500 and 600 faculty, friends, and colleagues at his serving of Thanksgiving. When he retired in 1992, he was Vice Principal of the United Theological College in Sydney, teaching church history.

Hartford Seminary also recently learned of this passing:

The Rev. Dr. Wesley C. Ewert ('47 B.D. & '53 Th.D.) passed away on January 12.

Faculty Notes



In late March, **Ibrahim Abu-Rabi'** traveled to Turkey, North Cyprus, Azerbaijan and Jordan to give a number of talks on Islam and the West, Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and contemporary religious issues in Turkey, as well as education in Central Asia and the USA. In May, he spoke at the Center of Religious Enquiry in New York on Islam and Modernity. On May 19th, with the help of several people from the Seminary, he led a two-week international study tour to Turkey, attended by 43 people. The study tour visited Istanbul and Southeast Turkey. In June, Pluto Press in London published Abu-Rabi's translation of *Myth and Reality in the Contemporary Islamist Movement* by Fouad Zakariyya.

In April, **Efrain Agosto** visited Fuller Seminary on behalf of the Hispanic Theological Initiative for whom he mentors a Latino Ph.D. student who studies in that Pasadena, CA graduate school. The following weekend he drove to Syracuse University to attend a conference on "St. Paul and the Philosophers" in which an eclectic group of philosophers, historians and Pauline scholars explored the interaction between ancient Greek philosophy, Pauline theology, and postmodern philosophical concerns. He also attended the Regional Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature in Boston at the end of April, where he heard various papers pertinent to his research on Paul as well. May brought two meetings relevant to Agosto's work with the Hispanic Ministries Program — a tri-state (NY, CT, NJ) Latino Leadership Forum in New York City at the American Bible Society and a meeting of the local Hartford-area Latino Ministerial Alliance to hear about a new program addressing economic issues impacting the Latino community in Hartford. In June, Agosto hosted the 10th Anniversary Celebration for PMH. Agosto participated in the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast on June 16, sponsored by the national faith-based organization, Esperanza, U.S.A. Among several speakers at the breakfast, from both the religious and political worlds, was President Bush. After that, Agosto enrolled in the course on United Church of Christ History, Theology and Polity, offered this summer at Hartford Seminary, as he considers seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ. July brought a week at Iliff School of Theology in Denver to participate as a faculty member of the Case Teaching Summer Institute and three days at Princeton Seminary to attend the Hispanic Theological Initiative's Summer Workshop in order to teach dissertation year students about

"The Search: The Process of Finding a Faculty Position in Religious and Theological Studies." Agosto will use his experience on search committees with Hartford Seminary to help prepare these Latino/a graduate students in this area.

In April, **Dale Bishop** led a workshop on mission for First Church of Christ (UCC) in New Britain. Later that month he traveled with Heidi Hadsell to Lebanon where they met with Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant seminary leadership and began efforts to recruit students for study at Hartford Seminary. In May, Bishop preached at First Congregational Church, UCC, in Appleton, WI, and led two workshops — one on the rehabilitation of mission and the second on mission and the local church at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC in Wallingford, CT. In July, Bishop led Bible Study at the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta, GA.

During the final week of June, **Steven Blackburn** made presentations on the interpretation of the Qur'an as well as on the mosque at the Institute for Pastors and Pastoral Workers on Islam/Christian-Muslim Relations. The Institute, where Blackburn also led half a dozen Qur'anic scripture studies, was co-sponsored by the Macdonald Center and the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Blackburn also continued his occasional preaching in area Congregational-Christian churches, including Farmington, Hartland and Harwinton.

Kelton Cobb was the moderator at a Scriptural Reasoning conference held at the Seminary in April with international guests who spoke on the topic of "Studying the 'Other,' Understanding the 'Self': Scripture, Reason and the Contemporary Islam-West Encounter." Along with Yehezkel Landau and Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', he helped lead the Woodbury Summit, a daylong workshop on interfaith relations. He assisted Landau in teaching the "Building Abrahamic Partnerships" course in January and in June. He had the distinct honor of introducing the conceptual artist Vitaly Komar on a recent visit to Hartford in a lecture that was jointly sponsored by the Seminary and Real Art Ways. And he accompanied the Seminary Board of Trustees on their May trip to Istanbul, Turkey.

Carl Dudley completed a review of a half century of ministry in May, gathered through a six-session Celebrating Clergy Careers series. In June, Dudley was the speaker at the Interim Ministry Network national meeting in Boston, and shared in the developing work of the

Congregational Studies Project Team, which met on Cape Cod.

Heidi Hadsell's article, "Experiencing the Holy, Sharing Our Faith," was published in the May/June issue of Zion's Herald magazine. In the spring, she made several presentations on end-of-life ethical issues and Congregational relations. In April she traveled with Dale Bishop to Lebanon where they met with Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant seminary leadership and began efforts to recruit students for study at Hartford Seminary. Hadsell traveled to Turkey in May for the Board of Trustees meeting and the Seminary study tour. She attended a Catholic-Reformed dialogue in Rome at the end of June.

In April, **Yehezkel Landau** conducted two workshops on "Jewish/Arab Peacebuilding in Israel" as part of an educational program at Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford. He joined Kelton Cobb and Ibrahim Abu-Rabi' for a day-long interfaith seminar entitled "Religion: Source of Conflict, Source of Hope" at First Congregational Church in Woodbury, CT. and delivered a presentation at the Jewish Community of Amherst on "Healing History: Is an Authentic Jewish-Christian Partnership Possible?" Landau also delivered a public lecture at Boston College on "Healing the Holy Land." In May, he spoke on "Shabbat Spirituality and Peacemaking" at a day-long seminar/concert at Harvard University; preached a sermon for Memorial Day entitled "Memory and Hope: Moving from War to Peace," at the Unitarian Society of Hartford and participated in a Jewish-Christian-Muslim panel at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford, with Dean Ian Markham and Professor Ingrid Mattson. Activities in June included: Leading a seminar for Episcopal clergy and lay leaders on "Healing the Holy Land: Spiritual and Political Challenges" in Providence, RI; traveling to Maine to deliver the keynote address and participate in an interfaith study and dialogue institute, cosponsored by Bangor Theological Seminary, the University of Southern Maine, and Saint Joseph's College, on the theme "Religion and the Challenge of America: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"; co-facilitating an interfaith discussion in Springfield, MA; and, at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, speaking on the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict to host families in the Moderate Voices for Progress program. At the end of June, Landau participated in a strategy session on stopping the Darfur genocide, convened by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation. He has joined the Advisory Board of the JCRC. In July, Landau participated in a Jewish-Christian-Muslim discussion on "Family

Continued from previous page

and Community in Our Faith Traditions," as part of the annual convention of the Islamic Circle of North America, held at the new Hartford Convention Center.

Worth Loomis reports: "April 2005 started off with the Hartford area network of professors who study religion holding their semiannual dinner at Saint Joseph College, West Hartford. Other events of the month were a meeting of the Macdonald Center Advisory Council; a meeting with Judith Schiff, Yale Archivist, attended by Heidi Hadsell; and a meeting with Alberto Ibarguen, formerly of the Hartford Courant and currently Publisher of The Miami Herald, who subsequently addressed the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Council on Philanthropy. In May the Moderate Voices for Peace organization held an annual event at the Seminary at which I spoke briefly about the life of one of its founders, Millard Pryor, a man whose recent death is a great loss to his family, friends and to Hartford. I began my duties as Associate Editor of Blackwell's *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, and finished the month on the Seminary Study Tour of Turkey. During June and July I had a very pleasant series of Independent Study Sessions with student John Lang in which we concluded that Thomas Friedman's new book "The World is Flat" is an even better book than Friedman's excellent "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," published in 1999 – I anxiously await David Roozen's assessment."

Ian Markham published an article titled "The Idea of a Christian University" in "The Idea of a Christian University: Essays on Theology and Higher Education." He also published an article on "Global Peace and Justice: The Christian Perspective" in *Policy Perspectives*, published by the Institute of Policy Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan. He contributed two chapters to a new book, "Globalization, Ethics and Islam:

The Case of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi," which he co-edited. Markham was on sabbatical from May to August, during which he practiced clinical and pastoral education at Hartford Hospital as part of his process of ordination in the Episcopal Church. In May, Markham preached at Westminster Presbyterian Church and in June he spoke on the "Da Vinci Code" at the Free Mason Fraternity in Colchester, CT.

Ingrid Mattson finished teaching her new class "Maidservants of Allah: the Spirituality of Muslim Women" this spring. This was a transformative experience for many involved and yielded some wonderful projects that will be published on Hartford Seminary's new Spirituality web site. In June, Mattson contributed to the Building Abrahamic Partnerships class and taught a week-long intensive class, "The Qur'an and its Place in Muslim Society." In April, Mattson spoke at the University of Connecticut and the Islamic Center of Naperville (IL) and moderated a panel at the Yale University conference, "Critical Islamic Reflections." In May, Mattson met with the faculty of Princeton University's Office of Religious Life to discuss their interest in engaging a Muslim chaplain on campus. In June, Mattson participated in the Eighth International Women's Policy Research Conference in Washington, DC. Over the July 4th weekend, Mattson represented Hartford Seminary at the Islamic Circle of North America-Muslim American Society national conference in Hartford and later spoke in Dallas at the Islamic Society of North America's regional conference in that city.

Spring lectures by **Jane Smith** included: "Does Islam Encourage Pluralism? American Muslims Engage the Debate," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars conference on "The Influence of American Islamic Thinkers on Islamic Thought Abroad," May 11; "Muslim Women in America," for

"Muslim Women of the 21st Century: Awareness, Analysis, & Activism" conference sponsored by Sisters United at Boston University, May 23. Smith published "Da'wa in the West: Islamic Mission in American Form," in *Mixed Messages. Materiality, Textuality, Missions*, and "Islam and Christianity," in *Christianity: A Complete Guide*. She was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding in June and attended a meeting of the Spears Board of Advisors, Choate-Rosemary Hall, in April.

Following the release of his new book, *Gay Religion*, **Scott Thumma** had a book signing at the Seminary in April and then was invited to a consultation at Princeton University on the future of research on LGBT religion. He spent part of May and June in Seoul, Korea as the keynote speaker at several gatherings of pastors and scholars discussing his research on U.S. megachurches and exploring large churches in that country. He has partnered with the Dallas organization, Leadership Network, and is currently doing a large-scale replication of his 1999 megachurch study in conjunction with the national Faith Communities Today 2005 survey effort. This project will result in significant new insights regarding megachurches, and has already garnered considerable press attention.

Miriam Therese Winter gave the keynote address and a workshop at the West Coast Call to Action Conference in Sacramento, California, a keynote talk at a Women's Conference organized by St. Anne's Parish in Fiskdale, Massachusetts, a song/prayer program at Wisdom House in Litchfield as part of a weekend event led by the popular writer Diarmuid O'Murchu, and held her 16th annual benefit concert for Covenant to Care, which raised \$10,200 for needy children in the state of Connecticut.



New Staff

Sally Carotenuti of West Hartford is the new Technology Support Assistant at Hartford Seminary. Sally holds a Computer Programmer Certificate from Computer Processing Institute and she was also a student at Manchester Community College. Sally worked for many years in the field of Information Technology; her professional experiences include working for Aetna, Travelers and Federal Credit Union based in Groton. In her spare time Sally loves to read, crotchet and knit as well as to configure and rebuild personal computers.

Continued on next page



Trustees Sworn In Elected in May to the Board of Trustees are: Jane Smith, Allison Chisolm, Stan Kemmerer, Amy Robinson and Reza Mansoor. Smith, a faculty member, serves a two-year term; the others serve three-year terms. The election took place at the annual meeting of the Seminary.



Trustees Honored Dr. M Saleem Bajwa, left, and the Rev. Dr. Ralph Ahlberg retired from the Board of Trustees in May after nine and 12 years on the Board, respectively. Here President Heidi Hadsell joins them as they hold plaques they received in recognition of their service.

Alumni/ae Gatherings Heading Your Way!

Beginning this year, the Alumni/ae Council will be testing a pilot program of alumni/ae gatherings throughout the southern New England area. These gatherings will be two-hour events and will include lunch.

Each gathering will provide a forum for conversation among alumni/ae related to their experiences at and impressions of the Seminary, and an opportunity for alumni/ae to network with each other.

Scott Sheldon, the Seminary's chief development officer, and Meg Wichser, director of educational services, will attend the gatherings and facilitate the conversation along with a member of the Alumni/ae Council. The Council will host five gatherings during the 2005-2006 year.

Exact dates and locations are still in the works, however, gatherings will be held on a Tuesday or Wednesday in the months of October, November, February, March, and April.

If you are interested in hosting an event or for more information, please contact Jenn Schimmel, Associate for Development Operations and Donor Relations, at 860-509-9520 or jschimmel@hartsem.edu.



Alumni/ae Share Memories

The reunion of the classes of the 1950's — Remembering the Good Old Days — was a great success. Nearly 30 alumni/ae came back to campus for a day of sharing and celebration on June 4.

Reunion participants reflected on the Seminary's past, present and future throughout the day. Bill Zito, class of '59 & '87, began the festivities by leading a chapel service that energized the group. Following chapel, President Heidi Hadsell shared her vision for Hartford Seminary. This was an opportunity to be updated on the Seminary and to learn what is on the horizon for the next decade. Then it was off to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center for a wonderful guided tour.

In the evening the group gathered at Hosmer Hall on the 1950's campus to enjoy each other's company over dinner. George Conklin, class of '56, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. George led the group through the tradition of singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" at the start of the meal. At the conclusion of dinner the group heard some clips from "The Songs of Our Times" and Rockwell Harmon Potter's 1st year student address, followed by a presentation of photographs from the 1950's provided by Edward Blumenfeld, class of 1955. Then it was story time!

Memorable stories of Hartford Seminary were shared by all and delighted everyone. It was truly a time for remembering the Good Old Days, a chance to catch a glimpse of the past and to celebrate friendships that have stood the test of time.

A. The Rev. Dr. Robert Berkey, Class of 1958, listens as speakers remember their studies at Hartford Seminary.

B. The Rev. Robert Lane, Class of 1952, right, talks with Dr. Harvey McArthur, a Ph.D. graduate of the Seminary and retired faculty member.

C. Jane Inderstrodt, Class of 1951, shares a moment with Scott Sheldon, Chief Development Officer, before dinner.

The Black Ministries Program Graduation Banquet



The Black Ministries Program's Class of 2005 held its graduation banquet on June 2, the day before the Seminary's graduation ceremonies. The students, their families and their friends filled the Meeting Room to listen to the Rev. Shelley D.B. Copeland deliver the keynote address and share in praise and worship with the Judah singers.

Pictured here are:
(A.) Rev. Copeland delivering the keynote remarks,
(B.) Cleo White Sr., Class President, talking about their shared BMP experience, and
(C.) White awarding a plaque to thank the Rev. Dr. Benjamin K. Watts, director of the BMP program and adjunct faculty at Hartford Seminary.



Programa de Ministerios Hispanos Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Hispanic Ministries Program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special banquet on June 11 at Hartford Seminary. Clockwise, from left: (A.) Professor Efrain Agosto, director of the program, greeted Adelina Diaz, a graduate. (B.) Providing special music was the worship team of Grace Fellowship in East Haven. Singing was Denise Cruz, a program graduate. (C.) Bishop Wilfrido Ramos, a member of the Seminary Board of Trustees and Professor Agosto. (D.) The Rev. Pablo Diaz, director of ministries for Guideposts magazine, was the keynote speaker.





Hartford Seminary's fall semester will run from Monday, September 12 through Thursday, December 15. The Seminary's courses are open to members of the public on a space-available basis 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 \$1,360. The non-credit audit fee is \$575.

This fall, we are introducing a new **special audit** rate of \$385 for: Persons age 62 and older; Graduates of Hartford Seminary degree programs or the Certificate of Professional Ministry; Donors of \$250 a year or more; Hartford Seminary Adjunct Faculty; and Pastors whose churches participate in the Congregational Relations Program of the Seminary.

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

ARTS OF MINISTRY

The Art of Preaching

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning September 13
Combining the substance of an introduction with the intimacy of a workshop, this course will explore theological and rhetorical foundations for preaching and provide practical experience in delivery and critique. *Benjamin K. Watts, Faculty Associate in the Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London*

Counseling American Muslim Families

This course will meet on a special schedule over three week-ends beginning on Saturday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and continuing on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following dates: 9/17-9/18, 10/29-10/30, and 12/10-12/11. This course outlines both the religious and cultural diversity within the Muslim population of the United States. It examines the challenges American Muslim families face in the United States and how these challenges affect their lives. *Ahmed Nezar Kobeisy, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Counselor and Muslim Chaplain, Syracuse University*

DIALOGUE

Dialogue in a World of Difference

Mondays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., beginning September 12 (10 weeks)
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. *Ian Markham, Professor of Theology and Ethics and Dean of the Seminary; David A. Roozen, Professor of Religion and Society; and Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

ETHICS

Global Ethics

Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (10 weeks) beginning September 14
Learning to live together is the challenge of our age. This course explores the resources in and across traditions that can help us confront this challenge. In addition to exploring the work in this area of Hans Küng and the World Council of Churches, this course looks at how these attempts to arrive at a Global Ethic might be applied to predicaments facing humanity in the 21st century. *Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President of Hartford Seminary*

HISTORY

Introduction to World Religions

Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning September 15
This course introduces students to some alternative ways of being religious, historically and in the contemporary world, in the context of historical and theological development of several of the major world religions. Readings will be in religious biography and autobiography, with background materials provided in class sessions. *Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

Islamic History I

ONLINE
This course will explore the history of Islamic civilization from its beginnings in seventh century Arabia until the establishment of the Ottoman Empire in the fifteenth century. *Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

Islam in Contemporary Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning September 15
This course explores the relationship between religion and society in three contemporary Islamic countries. It deals with the nation-state and its impact on religion and religious organizations since the 1950s. *Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations*

LITURGY, WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality 2005: Celebrating Eucharist with a Small "c"

Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., beginning September 14 (10 weeks)
Join a circle of wisdom gathered for dialogue and prayer and learn to see how your life can be a source of grace, a wellspring of blessing, a resource for giving thanks and praise. *Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality and Director, Women's Leadership Institute*

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RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Religion as a Social Phenomenon: The Sociology of Religion

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning September 20
All religion is a social phenomenon. Although faith has a private dimension, human beings experience religion in groups or through forms created by social organizations. Much can be learned about religion from a sociological perspective, from reading classical sociological theories of religious organization and practice including those of Weber, Durkheim, and Marx. However, be forewarned, "It is the conviction of many thoughtful persons that the objective study of religion is at best impossible, and at worst dangerous." Milton Yinger, *Religion, Society and the Individual*. *Grace Davie, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Society and Professor of Sociology at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom*

Varieties of Gay and Lesbian Religious Life in the U.S.

ONLINE
This online course will examine the history of the tension between homosexuality and religious organizations and explore the multifaceted methods adopted by gays and lesbians to meet their spiritual needs in modern American society. *Edward R. Gray, Adjunct Professor of Religion and Society and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Emory University. Gray is executive director of YouthPride, a community based youth service and advocacy organization in Atlanta.*

Contemporary American Religion

D. Min. Schedule – Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 20, October 11, November 1 and 15 and December 13
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. Topics will include among others, the reemergence of evangelical and Pentecostal Christianity, new varieties of African-American religion, immigrant and ethnic religion, "cult" controversies, and a deinstitutionalized "spirituality" of many modern Americans. *Scott Thumma, Professor of Sociology of Religion*

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Bible Survey 1

Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning September 13
An introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, this course will apply historical-critical methods of study to develop a framework for understanding the origins of the texts and the relationship of the texts to one another. Attention will be given to contemporary theories of biblical interpretation. Survey I will cover the materials in the Torah and Prophets (Genesis-Kings). *Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible*

A Political Reading of Paul's Letters

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning September 14
This course will explore the letters of the Apostle Paul from the perspective of power and politics, in particular how Paul and his congregations engaged the Roman imperial order of his day. A case study will be undertaken in how Paul addressed a critical institution of the Roman order - slavery - in his Letter to Philemon. *Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament*

Faces of Jesus: Christology from the New Testament to the 21st Century

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning September 15
This course is an exploration of the portraits of Jesus in the major New Testament writings, the non-canonical gospels of recent Da Vinci Code fame, and in the history of the church and the arts from the first to the twenty-first century. *Wayne Rollins, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies*

THEOLOGY

Christian Theology: An Historical Introduction

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., beginning September 13
This course is a survey of the history of Christian doctrine from its origins in the Bible to the doctrine of modern day. Starting with the Christian roots in the Hebrew Bible, the course looks at the development of the creeds, the major preoccupation of the medieval church, culminating in the impact of modernity on the shape of Christianity in the West. *Ian Markham, Professor of Theology and Ethics and Dean of the Seminary*

Religion, Conflict and Peacemaking

D. Min. Schedule – Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 20, October 11, November 1 and 15 and December 13
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. Theoretical approaches to this paradox, drawn from the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, will be supplemented by practical case studies, with particular attention given to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab dispute over the "Holy Land." *Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations*

Major Religious Figures: Paul Tillich

Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:20 p.m., beginning September 14
Paul Tillich was a creative and influential Protestant theologian in the 20th century and his work is one of the most commonly traveled routes between traditional Christian doctrine and theological reflection in the 21st century. In this course we will read through his three volume Systematic Theology and reflect on the task he has undertaken to relate Christian doctrines of God, creation, humanity, Christ, and salvation in a coherent way to the best interpretations of life that can be found in other fields of inquiry (art, philosophy, history, economics, etc.). *Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics*

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

**The Bible Institute:
Understanding the Bible**

With Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament at Hartford Seminary, and Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hartford Seminary
Friday, September 9, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m. - noon

**God's Word in Greek:
Reading the Lectionary to
Prepare for Preaching**

With The Rev. Edward F. Duffy, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield, CT
Wednesdays, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

A Drumming Circle

With Jan Gregory, executive director of the Renaissance Center: A Conservatory of Music in Southbury, and director of music ministry, Congregational Church of Easton
Mondays, September 26, October 10 and 24, November 7 and 21
Basics: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Beyond Basics for Experienced Drummers: 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Special Evening and Book Signing

eucharist with a small "e"

With Miriam Therese Winter, Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality at Hartford Seminary and Director of its Women's Leadership Institute
Tuesday, September 20, 7 p.m.

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

With Peter deMenocal, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Columbia University. Includes workshops and displays.
Tuesday, October 11, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
LOCATION: St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

**Faith and Feminism:
A Holy Alliance**

With Helen LaKelly Hunt, founder and president of The Sister Fund and author of Faith and Feminism: A Holy Alliance
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
Co-Sponsor: Charter Oak Cultural Center

**Dignity at the End of Life:
Ethical, Legal, Medical and
Personal Perspectives**

Led by Heidi Hadsell, Professor of Social Ethics and President of Hartford Seminary. Offering essays and sharing in the discussion will be: The Rev. Donald L. Hamer, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford, and a former Probate Court Judge; Kathleen Muller, Chaplain to Inpatients and Bereavement Coordinator, St. John Hospice, Tulsa, OK; and Dr. Gerald Neuberg, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine and Member, Medical Ethics Committee, Columbia University, New York.
Monday, October 24 – Friday, October 28 – ONLINE

**Steering the Way Through the
Storm: Leadership Skills in Times
of Congregational Conflict**

With Karen Nell Smith, Pastor of the Congregational Church of Christ, UCC, North Leominster, MA, and Beverly Priestwood-Taylor an ordained United Church of Christ minister. Smith and Prestwood-Taylor are involved in the creation of the Roots of Shalom Institute in Brookfield, MA, a center for healing and renewal of the community, the person and the earth.
Wednesdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special Lecture and Book Signing

**The Slumbering Doctrine
of Providence**

With Kelton Cobb, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Hartford Seminary
Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

**Interfaith Relations: Why They
Matter to Local Congregations**

With Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford; The Rev. Mark L. Heilshorn, Pastor of First Church of Woodbury, UCC.; and Imam Qasim Sharief of the Muhammad Islamic Center in Hartford
Monday, November 14, 7 p.m.

**King Josiah's Death: The Politics
of Interpretation and Identity**

With Uriah Kim, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hartford Seminary
Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m.

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