

PHILADELPHIA SEMINARY

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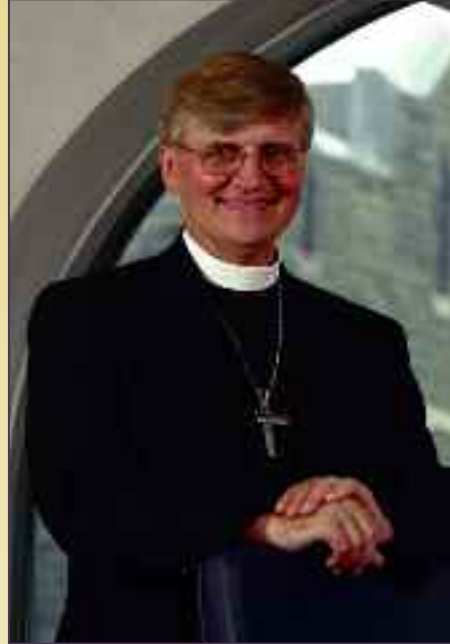
Being Public with the Bible and Theology

Two seminary scholars reflect on
connecting scripture to
living out one's faith publicly



THE
LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
AT PHILADELPHIA

Message from the president



ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR, IN FACT THE 145TH, BEGINS AT LTSP IN SEPTEMBER — a year in which we will observe an important anniversary for the seminary and the more important Centennial of the Krauth Memorial Library and its 100 years of scholarship and service. The Brossman Learning Center, except for its connection to the library, is now completed (though not all paid for yet), and the Schaeffer-Ashmead Chapel is on its way to a wonderful renovation, allowing us to turn our attention to the treasure that is the Krauth Memorial Library and equip it for continued scholarship and service. We will be lifting up the library and its stories through this year, including our plans to renovate the library, build an addition that will include a museum and new rare book room, and connect the library to The Brossman Center, making the library handicapped accessible. We hope that this project will finish what we started by 2011, with work to begin when sufficient funds have been raised.

On Saturday, September 27, we plan a Day of Remembrance and Celebration. Our library director, Dr. Karl Krueger, is organizing a special exhibit highlighting some of the library's contributions through its first 100 years. Also on that day, we will remember The Rev. Dr. William Lazareth as we recall his contributions to theology and ethics, and launch a campaign to establish a lectureship in theology and ethics in his honor. Join us for this day of celebration and remembrance beginning at 10:00 am and concluding with a memorial service at 2:00 pm.

As we welcome an exciting new class of seminarians and graduate students this fall, we also celebrate the new term of our illustrious dean of the seminary, The Rev. Dr. J. Paul

Rajashekar. The board, upon the nomination of the faculty, elected my good friend and colleague to a distinguished third term. We are thankful for his brilliant leadership in the church, the academy, and at the seminary. He is loved by students, alumni, staff, and faculty alike, and

was acclaimed by the board in his recent reelection. We will not be seeing much of Dean Rajashekar in the fall, as we promised him a much-deserved six-month sabbatical. Professors Katie Day and Robert Robinson have graciously volunteered to serve as acting deans while he is on sabbatical.

You will also read in this issue about the passing of our dear mentor and colleague emeritus, Dr. John H.P. Reumann, Ministerium Professor of New Testament and Greek Emeritus at LTSP. Like Dr. Lazareth, Dr. Reumann was truly a teacher of the church. Dr. Reumann prepared more than a generation of well-educated church leaders, and influenced the careers of countless students and alumni who passed through this wonderful school. A celebration of Dr. Reumann's life and faith was held on June 12 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. We will remember Professor Reumann at LTSP at the annual Alumni Convocation next spring, and honor his distinguished memory with a Faculty Chair in Biblical Studies established in his name.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Philip D.W. Krey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Philip D.W. Krey
President

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Philadelphia, a school of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America, is
committed to preparing ordained and
lay ministers of the Word as leaders for
the mission of the Church in the world.

THE
LUTHERAN
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AT PHILADELPHIA

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PS
of the SPIRIT + in the WORLD

LTSP Events Academic Year 2008-2009

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

OPENING DAY CONVOCATION

Dr. Robert Robinson

Scripture and Public Theology

11:30 am

The Brossman Learning Center

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

Tuesday, OCTOBER 7, 2008

CONVOCATION

Professor Laura Olson, Clemson University

The American Religious Marketplace

11:30 am/7:00 pm

The Brossman Learning Center

Saturday, OCTOBER 25, 2008

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DAY

Sunday-Tuesday

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2008

PHILLY VISIT (Prospective Student Visit Opportunity)

Thursday, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DAY

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Sunday, DECEMBER 7, 2008

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE

7:30 pm

Grace Epiphany Church, Mt. Airy

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 17, 2009

HEIN FRY LECTURES

Dr. Esther Menn, Professor of Old

Testament and Director of Advanced
Studies, Lutheran School of Theology

at Chicago

11:30 am

The Brossman Learning Center

Saturday, FEBRUARY 21, 2009

REST, REFRESHMENT AND RENEWAL FOR WOMEN

Workshops on Bible and issues of inter-
est, time for reflection and conversation

Monday-Friday,
MARCH 9-13, 2009

PREACHING WITH POWER

Tuesday, MARCH 10, 2009

CONVOCATION

UTI guest speaker

11:30 am

The Brossman Learning Center

Thursday, MARCH 19, 2009

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DAY

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

The Brossman Learning Center

Tuesday, MARCH 24, 2009

CONVOCATION

Dr. William Storrar, Center for

Theological Inquiry, Princeton

11:30 am

The Brossman Learning Center

Saturday, MARCH 28, 2009

HEALTH MINISTRY

CONFERENCE

The Brossman Learning Center

Saturday, APRIL 18, 2009

MEN IN MISSION

"Caring for God's Earth"

Bear Creek Camp

Tuesday, APRIL 21, 2009

CONVOCATION

Dr. Nelson Rivera

Scripture and Public Theology

11:30 am

The Brossman Learning Center

Monday-Wednesday,
APRIL 27-29, 2009

SPRING CONVOCATION

The Brossman Learning Center

Monday-Friday,
JUNE 15-19, 2009

LUTHERHOSTEL

What Would Luther Do?

*a week that includes Bible study and dis-
cussion, music and worship and a look at
service opportunities for older adults*

Thursday, JUNE 18, 2009

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT DAY

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

*For information and updates
go to www.Ltsp.edu or sign up
for @PS, our eNewsletter, at
Ltsp.edu/enews.*

UPCOMING DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION: THE KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND DR. WILLIAM H. LAZARETH

Saturday, September 27, 2008, will be a Day of Remembrance and Celebration at LTSP, and you're invited! The day is planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Krauth Memorial Library, and to remember and celebrate the life and ministry of The Rev. Dr. William H. Lazareth, BD '53, 1994 Distinguished Alumni, who served at LTSP as the Hagan Professor of Systematic Theology and dean of the faculty for nearly twenty years, and returned to campus as distinguished visiting professor. Prof. Lazareth, who died this past spring, was noted by ELCA Presiding Bishop The Rev. Mark Hanson for "the ecclesial, theological and ecumenical legacy that he leaves which will bless the people of the church for generations to come."

Activities of the day begin at 10:00 am and include a special exhibition prepared for the library's centennial, and reflections on the roles Prof. Lazareth played in the church and society by LTSP faculty and alumni, concluding with a memorial service at 2:00 pm. A lunch with time for personal remembrances by attendees will be provided. There is no charge for the day's events. For a schedule, and to register to attend as well as to give toward the Lazareth Lectureship, go to Ltsp.edu/celebrate08, or contact The Rev. Ellen Anderson, Director, Alumni and Church Relations, at 215-248-7301.

Also in commemoration of Dr. Lazareth, LTSP has established an annual Lectureship in Theology and Ethics. The Lectureship will be funded from gifts given by family, friends, students, colleagues, and those who have been touched by the Lazareth legacy. Go to Ltsp.edu/give to give your gift toward the Lazareth Lectureship, enclose a check in the envelope in this issue of PS, indicating "Lazareth Lectureship" on the subject line, or contact The Rev. Ellen Anderson, Director, Alumni and Church Relations, at 215-248-7301.

LTSP STUDENT APPOINTED CHAPLAIN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



LTSP PhD student The Rev. **Charles (Chaz) Howard** has been appointed chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania, where he held the interim chaplain post since January, and was associate chaplain from 2005-2008. His appointment was effective July 1.

While completing his doctorate in practical theology with a minor in contemporary theology, Chaz has also been teaching at LTSP and in Penn's Programs for Awareness in Cultural Education.

You can read the full story at: www.upenn.edu/pennnews/article.php?id=1403

HELP TO PRESERVE RARE ITEMS IN KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Conservation of valued treasures like the **Tyndale New Testament** (page 7) is essential to insure their availability for study and use by future faculty and students. Yet conservation work is expensive. To find out how you can help conserve the Krauth Memorial Library's "unique and rare items," contact library director **Dr. Karl Krueger**, kkruieger@Ltsp.edu or 215-248-6330.

Please consider creating a link for LTSP's Web site (www.Ltsp.edu) on your congregation's Web site. Thank you!

Being Public with the

TWO SEMINARY SCHOLARS of BIBLE REFLECT on CONNECTING SCRIPTURE to LIVING OUT ONE'S FAITH PUBLICLY and APPROPRIATELY in a "HOT BUTTON" WORLD

USING THE BIBLE TO SHAPE THE PUBLIC LIFE OF BELIEVERS "IS AS OLD AS THE CHURCH ITSELF," explained **The Rev. Dr. Robert B. Robinson**, the Anna Burkhalter Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP).

"Jesus did his ministry in public," Robinson said. "He participated in public life, confronting public officials. Jesus is at the core of how we understand public theology. In the Old Testament, God was active in forming the lives of people — both their personal lives and their lives together in community. God's promise was actualized in that community. It is absolutely characteristic of Old Testament faith that God cared not only about God's direct relationship with people but also about the way people relate to one another, and it becomes clear in studying the Bible how much God cares about the way we relate to one another, and that is the heart of public theology. People of faith absolutely belong in the public arena." The challenge is doing it appropriately, he said.

Robinson explained that the way certain high profile Christian leaders in the political arena have come to use Scripture to talk about hot button issues like homosexuality "has made our challenge more difficult. We want to consider the Bible in context and in a

well-rounded way as opposed to using a proof-texting approach — lifting out passages here and there to espouse a position. We don't want to use the same approaches, and so that makes us leery of getting involved at all in the public square." So the five biblical scholars who teach at LTSP have become increasingly concerned, as Robinson put it, about teaching Bible in a way that builds "a foundation for public witness in our time that is biblically appropriate." The challenge, as he put it, is "can we articulate a way for public theology that doesn't make us silent." And the challenge has led the seminary to adopt the [upcoming] academic [year] theme of "Scripture and Public Theology."

Both Robinson, a Disciples of Christ pastor, and **Dr. Erik Heen**, a Lutheran who is professor of New Testament and Greek at LTSP, believe that the new "Book of Faith" initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the kind of strategy needed across churches today to encourage believers to engage more completely in an understanding of Scripture. The initiative seeks to have 75 percent of ELCA congregations more biblically literate by 2012.

Heen, who's researched the way Lutherans understand and make use of the Bible, said many Lutherans and other Christians in North America have had an uneasy relationship with

Dr. Robert B. Robinson

e Bible and Theology

Scripture for about 100 years. He added that the profound changes that have occurred in our culture since the beginning of the twentieth century have made it, at times, challenging to relate to Scripture's pre-modern world. "That the Bible can speak directly to some of the ethical and 'scientific' issues we face is a distortion of the Word of God's function understood in terms of Law and Gospel," Heen said. "To understand the Bible on its own terms, we need to be willing to climb out of our own skin to empathize with the flesh and blood people of the biblical narrative. In this way we might, in a new way, experience Scripture as a means of grace, external to our religious instincts and categories." He added that the Bible belongs to the church, and thus it needs to be studied and pondered in community.

Heen explained that the approach to teaching scripture at the seminary today evolved out of the early twentieth century and the influence of Michael Jacobs. Two common approaches to understanding Scripture are often pitted against one another: the "conservative," and a "liberal" approach that is dismissive of scripture, Heen said. Jacobs charted a third way, neither conservative nor liberal, what he termed as a "christocentric" understanding. Christ, crucified and risen, stands at the heart of God's Word. "I simply don't accept such labels as 'conservative' and

'liberal,'" he said. "I'm more interested in exploring categories that come out of the Bible itself rather than those that are imposed upon it. For me, Luther remains a wonderful model of one who does this well, while at all times being guided by the church's Rule of Faith." Heen defined the Rule of Faith as the confessing tradition of the church catholic as it surfaces, e.g., in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds. Luther, of course, assumed this tradition and emphasized justification, Law/Gospel, and the theology of the cross.

Robinson explained that there is not a single "party line" at LTSP that defines how Bible is taught at the seminary. "My approach is more literary and poetic," he explained. "Dr. Robin Mattison (New Testament) is a structuralist. Dr. Heen has a more sociological approach. Dr. Frederick Borsch (New Testament) is more historical. Dr. Wil Gafney (Old Testament) teaches from a feminist, womanist point of view with a radical post colonial perspective."

In this way, Robinson said, "all the bases are covered and our approach to teaching the Bible is well-rounded. None of us makes the claim that our approach is the only way to go. This can be a challenge for students, but we are confident that we give them what is required to sort it all out."+

To view the companion video, go to ltsp.edu/publictheology

continued

Dr. Erik Heen



In June 2005, the late Rev. John H.P. Reumann, Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Greek at LTSP, received a Community Service Award from Rabbi George M. Stern, executive director of the Northwest Interfaith Movement (NIM) of Philadelphia. Reumann celebrated the occasion with his wife, Martha. Reumann received the award at the 16th annual assembly of NIM. NIM is an alliance of congregations that seeks "the welfare of the city" in advocacy and service through coalition initiatives. Reumann was honored for his involvement in the United States Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue since its inception and for his involvement in Lutheran-Jewish conversations.

Reumann Paved the Way

"I've been thinking a lot about how Jack Reumann's approach to teaching the Bible and serving the church paved the way for our teaching approaches today," said The Dr. Rev. Robert B. Robinson, Anna Burkhalter Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at LTSP and the "senior" member of the LTSP faculty. "Jack had a commitment to civility and collegiality even in the most strenuous theological discussion that those of us who teach Bible at the seminary have admired. Even though each of the five Biblical scholars here uses different approaches in teaching, we follow his model of respecting one another. Jack's involvement in Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues and his service in myriad ways across the church have left an unforgettable legacy that will continue to inspire us. His conviction that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has profound implications both for the community of faith and the broader society will guide us as we try to imagine afresh the role of theology in the public realm."

Reumann died June 6, 2008, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. He taught at LTSP for 45 years before retiring in 1996. He was an historically key figure in the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues that led in 1999 to the adoption at Augsburg, Germany of the "Joint Declaration on Justification" that articulated a common understanding of that central doctrine of faith. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living member of the dialogue process, in which he engaged for nearly 40 years. He served 11 times as a voting member of Lutheran Church in America and ELCA assemblies.

(See Reumann Remembrance, page 20)



KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY:
 100 YEARS of SERVICE and SCHOLARSHIP 1908-2008

Dr. Frederick Houk Vorsch shares his passion for the Tyndale Bibles housed in Krauth Memorial Library

LTSP'S 200,000-VOLUME KRAUTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY is home to one of the finest scholarly collections of any Lutheran institution in America. Library director Dr. Karl Krueger noted that a number of "unique and rare items" can be found in the collection, including several Book of Hours illuminated medieval manuscripts, original printed copies of Martin Luther's Book of Concord, and an original printed copy of the English translation of the New Testament by William Tyndale, who went back to the original Greek texts, intent on creating a translation that could be easily understood by every Englishman...

continued



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While not the first English translation of the New Testament, Tyndale's was of special interest to **The Rt. Rev. Frederick Houk Borsch**, LTSP professor of New Testament and Chair of Anglican Studies. "The story of putting the Bible in the language of the people was a thrilling story to me," observed Prof. Borsch. "That's what I've always been interested in — teaching the Bible, teaching the New Testament, getting people to understand it."

When Prof. Borsch came to LTSP, he was excited to find a 1536 Tyndale edition, "to hold in my hands, to look at, to read, to see the comments in the margins."

The story of the Tyndale translation is one of a scholar who wanted to place the New Testament "in the hands of the plough boy," Prof. Borsch said. The effort was a threat to the church in England, and the King, who was both head of the church and controlled all English printing presses, was able to stop the translation from being printed in England. Undeterred, Tyndale looked to Europe to find financial support and printers willing to print his translation and send the copies back to England.

"The way that was done is the stuff of a mystery story," said Prof. Borsch. "They couldn't just ship them, they'd be stopped at the port, so the pages were hidden in bales of cloth — of linen — and shipped to England," where they were assembled by friends and supporters of Tyndale and "put into the hands of the plough boy."

The church ordered all copies of Tyndale's translation to be confiscated and burned. "Tyndale couldn't believe that anyone would burn the words of the holy Scripture, but that's how determined they were at the time to try and keep it out of the hands of the people." Yet some survived, including the copy in the Krauth collection.

Tyndale met a worse fate. Charged with heresy, he was strangled and burned outside Brussels in 1536. Yet a great deal of Tyndale's translation was incorporated into the Authorized Edition (King James Version) of 1611. "Tyndale believed, I'm sure, that he died as a martyr for a cause that he really believed in, and very shortly thereafter his translation won the day and got into the hands of the people," noted Prof. Borsch.✚

Go to Ltsp.edu/krauth100 to watch an extended discussion by Prof. Borsch on Tyndale's Bible, his connections with Luther and Shakespeare, and readings of some of the familiar passages Tyndale translated.

The discussion is the first of a year-long Web series that will feature LTSP scholars talking about their favorite "unique and rare" treasures in the Krauth collection.



Asian Theological Summer Institute: Bridging Theological Studies and Cultural Understanding



THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA has drawn on its long history of commitment to cultural diversity in theological scholarship to offer a unique program to Asian and Asian American students: the Asian Theological Summer Institute. Funded through the Henry Luce Foundation, the Institute is essentially a doctoral seminar in which students present their proposals to a group of guest professors who act as mentors. This mentoring program differs from what most Asian and Asian American theology students are used to, however: the faculty is all Asian as well.

Through the years LTSP has reached out to communities with programs geared toward different cultures. For more than a quarter century the Urban Theological Institute (UTI) has provided theological education directed at the African American church experience. The Instituto de Teología y Pastoral is focused on the Hispanic/Latino church and its theology and culture. It was in part this focus, combined with the seminary's diverse ecumenical outreach (more than 20 denominations are rep-

resented on campus), that led in part to the creation of a program focused on the Asian and Asian American experience. Although there are some programs geared toward the Asian community on the West Coast, LTSP's program is unique in the East.

Filling A Need

Having just completed the second year of an initial three-year commitment, the Asian Summer Theological Institute was created in part through the advocacy and determination of **J. Paul Rajashekar**, Academic Dean and Luther D. Reed Professor of Systematic Theology at LTSP. Rajashekar is modest about his own role in creating the Institute but excited about what it's managed to accomplish.

"Although it's a beginning attempt on our part," he explained, "what we've done is address a growing constituency of scholars and potential scholars and worked to provide them with a forum that recognizes them beyond simple cultural labels." Most graduate schools in the United States, he said, "have no Asian or Asian American professors."

J. Jayakiran Sebastian, the director of LTSP's Multicultural Mission Resource Center and H. George Anderson Professor of Mission and Cultures, sees the Asian Theological Summer Institute as a crucial breakthrough for precisely that reason. "The Asian community in the East has been growing, and Paul Rajashekar realized this was a niche group that was looking for wider support," he explained. "In the East there was no counterpart to the African American or Latino programs that exist. There were no Asian mentoring programs and no peer groups."

The word Asian invariably brings to mind the cultures and peoples of China, Japan, and perhaps Korea. This ignores a rich and diverse cultural tapestry that includes India, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and the Philippines, to name just a few. Yet the picture of Asian culture as monolithic continues to exist — even among Asian Americans.

"The image many in the United States have of Asians as the 'model minority' hasn't made things easier for Asian Americans," noted Rajashekar.

continued



"Having mentors who share the same cultural background provides students with a sense that they're working with someone who really understands what they're going through and how they feel."

Anne Joh



"Programs like the Asian Theological Summer Institute provide students a chance not only to meet with mentors but also with their peers..."

Fumitaka Matsuoka



"We have no Asian or Asian American theology professors on the faculty..."

Courtney Goto



He cited the perception of Asians as uniformly excelling in math and the sciences as an example: "Everyone thinks of Asians as being interested only in science and math. One result of that is that fewer Asian American students might be steered toward theological scholarship — or that they won't be as readily accepted." Coupled with a lack of Asian mentors, many potential scholars might opt for a different path.

Within the Asian community in the United States, Rajashekar said, "often you'll find clusters of different cultures that don't cross-fertilize with one another." The opportunity for students from different Asian backgrounds also allows them to have "a cross-fertilization that they don't often have exposure to," he noted. "Each Asian culture has ties to different religions — Chinese and Buddhism, Japanese and Shintoism, Indians and Hinduism or Islam, for example. Those religious ties inform individual cultures and also how Asians approach Christianity."

Sebastian adds that "within Asia itself there's a strong diversity of cultures and religions, but there's also a shared identity as a continent." This can make issues of identity more difficult for Asian American students. "These young people look Japanese or Chinese, but they're American," he said. "For them, the questions of 'what is Asian-ness' and 'what is American-ness' are critically important."

Scholars Giving Back

For Asian American students, straddling two cultures along with the added challenge of pursuing a degree in Christian theology understandably leaves them wanting to find a mentor who understands their unique situation. Until recently, however, it was rare to find Asian American professors at most theological seminaries, particularly in the eastern United States. Programs like the Asian Theological Summer Institute seek to address the growing Asian presence and influence in the church by identifying young scholars who can serve as mentors to future generations of Asian and Asian American theology students.

For Anne Joh, assistant professor of theology at the Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the opportunity to serve as a faculty advisor in the program represented not only a personal achievement but also a sense of how quickly Asians and Asian Americans are advancing in theological scholarship. Joh, who received her MDiv at the Princeton Theological Seminary and her PhD from Drew University, had no Asian or Asian American professors who could serve as mentors. "Having mentors who share the same cultural background provides students with a sense that they're working with someone who really understands what they're going through and how they feel," she said.



"The give and take we had with the professors and each other provided me with a number of new perspectives that I'll be able to benefit from."

Pintor Marikot Sitanggang



"This program is a good place to network with professors and other students ... and it's a great forum for meeting others who face similar cultural issues."

Sharon Jacob



Fumitaka Matsuoka agreed. As executive director of the PANA Institute (which focuses on Pacific and Asian religion in North America) and Robert Gordon Sproul professor of theology at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, he understands the importance of developing new resources for theology students of Asian heritage. "The three main elements we need to address," he noted, "are intellectual tradition, leadership development, and public voice." These scholars and scholars-in-training benefit from broad exposure not only to the intellectual side of theological education but also developing skills to become leaders in their field and also to reach out to their own communities and beyond through public worship.

Asian American studies, especially vis-à-vis theology, "is very much in its infancy," Matsuoka said. "Programs like the Asian Theological Summer Institute provide students a chance not only to meet with mentors but also with their peers — to get exposure to other students who are working at the doctoral level." Having Asian professors and lecturers at the program, he added, "gives students a chance to talk with people who can give them a true sense of what it's like to reach that level of scholarship — and also instill a sense of the importance of giving back."

Gaining New Perspectives

Courtney Goto, a PhD candidate at Emory University in Atlanta, found the

intellectual and cultural interactions valuable, in particular the chance to meet with scholars who could give her an idea of what it's like for an Asian American theologian in the academy. "We have no Asian or Asian American theology professors on the faculty at Emory," she said. Goto, whose own religious grounding comes from the Japanese American United Methodist church, was impressed with the willingness of the participants to share their ideas and the faculty's commitment to giving the students constructive help no matter what discipline they belonged to or what stage they were at in their PhD programs.

For **Pintor Marikot Sitanggang**, a PhD candidate at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, the program gave him not only the ability to meet mentors and potential mentors, but also the chance to meet his peers "and have an interchange of ideas from many different cultures." This was especially useful, he explained, because he plans to return to his native Indonesia and focus on mission work once he completes his studies. "The give and take we had with the professors and each other provided me with a number of new perspectives that I'll be able to benefit from," he said.

Sharon Jacob, a PhD candidate at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, agreed. "This program is a good place to network with professors and other students," she said, and it's a great

forum for meeting others who face similar cultural issues. The openness with which the participants approached each other's scholarly pursuits and perspectives was also valuable. "Sometimes it's easy to feel almost as though you have to suppress your identity," said Jacob, who comes from India, "but in an informal and open setting like the Summer Institute you get to find out not only what others have to offer through their experiences, but also what you have to offer to the others."

Toward the Future

Rajashekar is pleased by the program's appeal and hopes to be able to expand it in the coming years. "We'd like to reach out to more students from a broader geographic range and make it a nationwide program," he says. "We'd also like to include more Asian scholars from Asia to serve as mentors and to provide a more direct cultural perspective from their own experiences."

The seminary's Philadelphia location is a plus, Rajashekar explained. "Philadelphia is easily accessible, and its status as a multicultural city is a major asset," he added, noting in particular "a strong Asian community in the city."

Ultimately, he said, "we want this to be a program that will continue to address the needs both of Asians who plan to pursue their callings in their home countries and Asian Americans who plan to pursue their callings here in the United States."✚

For more information, go to ltsps.edu/asianinstitute

THE 144TH COL

THE 144TH COMMENCEMENT OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA (LTSP) saw 75 students awarded the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, along with certificates of study, at ceremonies held Sunday, May 18, 2008, in The Brossman Center on the seminary campus. The first Doctor of Philosophy degree in the seminary's 144 year history was awarded to **Derek Cooper**, whose dissertation was on "The Ecumenical Exegete: Thomas Manton's Commentary on James in Relation to its Protestant Predecessors, Contemporaries, and Successors." Dr. Cooper's faculty advisor was The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert, Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor of Church History at LTSP.

Honored with Doctor of Divinity degrees were **DeLight E. Breidegam, Jr.** and **Helen S. Breidegam** (in absentia), and **Frank M. Henry** and **Dorothea W. Henry**. Commencement speaker was **Bishop David Strobel** of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Go to www.Ltsp.edu/commencement08 for more information and to view commencement video and photo gallery.



Commencement speaker Bishop David Strobel of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Co-presidents of the Class of 2008 Erika L. Wesch and William R. Kroeze

COMMENCEMENT



A presidential welcome from Dr. Philip D.W. Krey



Dr. Melinda Quivik offers the opening prayer





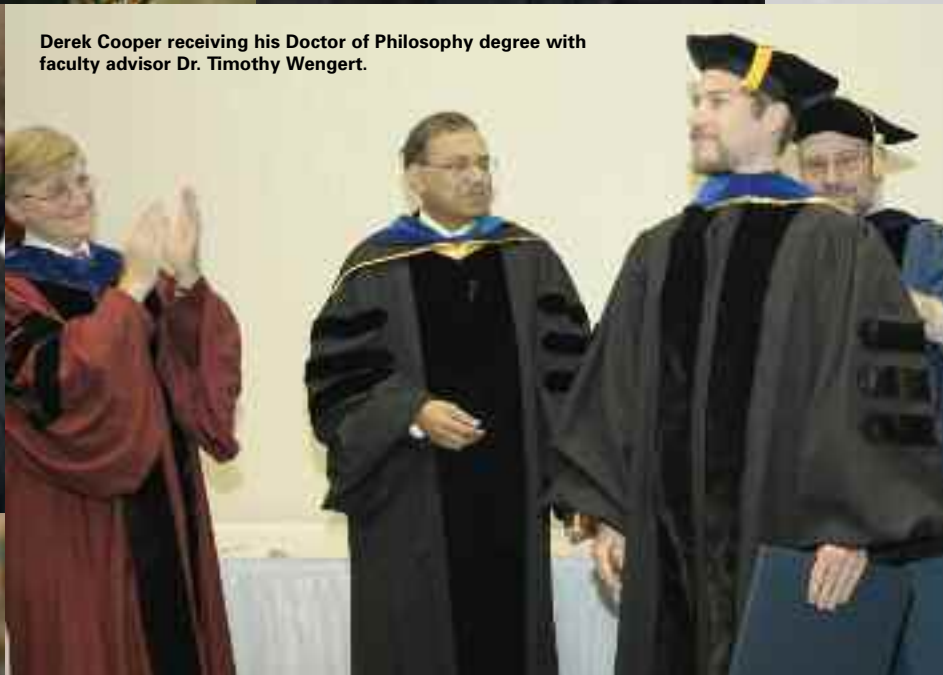
Frank M. Henry and Dorothea W. Henry are presented with an honorary Doctor of Divinity, flanked by president Philip Krey, dean J. Paul Rajashekar, and chair of the board of trustees, Dr. Addie J. Butler.

They have supported LTSP by donating the Henry Family Hall in The Brossman Center as well as a notable collection of bibles.





Derek Cooper receiving his Doctor of Philosophy degree with faculty advisor Dr. Timothy Wengert.



Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian with Danielle Lynn Miller, who received her MDiv with a concentration in Multicultural Ministry.



Emilie E. Theobald with Dr. Katie Day after receiving her MDiv degree with a concentration in Metropolitan/Urban Ministry.





(l. to r.) Lisa Renee Coleman, Flora J.M. Anderson, MDiv, and Keisha Tara Boston, MAR, with a Black Church concentration with Dr. Stephen Ray.



Dr. Nelson Rivera with Erika L. Wesch with her MDiv degree with a Latino concentration.



FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES



DR. WIL GAFNEY



DR. DAVID D. GRAFTON



DR. ERIK M. HEEN



DR. JOHN F. HOFFMEYER



DR. JON PAHL



DR. MELINDA QUIVIK



DR. NELSON RIVERA



DR. J. JAYAKIRAN SEBASTIAN

DR. WIL GAFNEY *Associate Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament* May 12, 2008: book-signing, lecture and discussion for her book *Daughters of Miriam* (Fortress Press, 2008) at the Germantown Jewish Centre, in Philadelphia. Panel participants included the Centre's Rabbi, Leonard Gordan, and Dr. Ellen Frankel, editor-in-chief of the Jewish Publication Society;



February 9, 2008: taught on Women's Words in the Word for the Women's Day of Rest Reflection and Renewal at LTSP; March 9, 2008: participated in "A conversation on Scriptural Reasoning," with a number of LTSP students, with Muslim, Jewish and Christian conversation partners at the Mishkan Shalom Synagogue in Philadelphia; April 6, 2008: participated in LTSP's Tough Texts discussion series, speaking on "Tough Texts on Gender and Sexuality." Lecture was on "Abduction, Rape and Forced Marriage in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures"; May 30, 2008: filmed an interview for HBO's forthcoming documentary on the history of vampires, discussing biblical and pre-biblical legends of night-stalking creatures from Sumer and Babylon.

DR. DAVID D. GRAFTON *Associate Professor, Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and Director, Graduate Studies* January 30, 2008: speaker, Alumni Gathering in Reading, Pennsylvania; February 23, 2008: presented a paper at the *Evangelical Missiological Society Conference, Majority World Missions and Missionaries: Organizations, Initiatives, Outcomes* entitled "Looking Back on the 1928 International Missionary Conference in Jerusalem: Lessons for Christian Mission and for Christian-Muslim Relations Today"; March 8-9, 2008: Scholar-in-Residence, Reformation Lutheran Church, Media, Pennsylvania, "Religion and Society in the Middle East: How Can We Americans Make Sense of Things?"; March 9, 2008: participant in the Scriptural Reasoning Interfaith Workshop at Mishkan Shalom Temple, Philadelphia; March-April, 2008: Seven Session Series at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Upper Dublin, Pennsylvania, "North American Christians and Islam"; March 30, April 6, and April 13, 2008: participant in the LTSP Tough Texts Series; May 4, 2008: Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover, New Jersey, Adult Forum "Introduction to Muslim Beliefs and Practices"; May 23-24, 2008: Region VIII Global Mission Event, two forums: "The Emergence of Global Christianity," and "Christians and Muslims in Egypt"; May 30, 2008: Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, forum on "Religion and Society in

the Middle East", Spring 2008: taught: "Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations"; PUBLISHED *The Arabs' in the Ecclesiastical Historians of the Fourth/Fifth Centuries: The Effects on Contemporary Christian-Muslim Relations*, HTS Theologische Studien/ Theological Studies 64/1 (2008).

DR. ERIK M. HEEN *Professor of New Testament and Greek* all-day workshops on "Scriptural Theology and the ELCA: Challenges and Resources" at three sites in Montana (First Lutheran, Glasgow; Our Redeemer, Helena; St. Paul, Missoula), April 16-18, 2008, sponsored by the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology; and at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Port Carbon, Pennsylvania, April 29, 2008, sponsored by Schuylkill Mission District; PUBLICATIONS "Resurrection of the Lord: Easter Sunday, John 20:1-18," *Lectionary Homiletics* 19:2 (February/March 2008): 61-62, "Second Sunday of Easter, John 20:19-31" *Lectionary Homiletics* 19:2 (February/March 2008): 71-72; a volume edited with Dr. Philip D.W. Krey, (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, Hebrews, Volume 10* of ed. Thomas C. Oden, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2005), has



been translated into Chinese, Italian, and most recently Arabic.

DR. JOHN F. HOFFMEYER *Associate Professor, Systematic Theology* delivered paper, "Insatiable Desire: Consumer Longing and the Christian Desire for God" for a research group on The Standardized Monetization of the Market and the Impact on Religion, Politics, Law and Ethics, in Heidelberg, Germany; keynote presentation on "Theology of Vocation" for the Pennsylvania Lutheran Network (March, 2008), and the Region VII (ELCA) Lifelong Learning Network (June, 2008); Theologian-in-Residence for a weekend at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Virginia, on the topic "Welcoming Youth and Young Adults: Ministry By and With Young People"; workshop on "Trinitarian Language" at the New England Synod (ELCA) Assembly.

DR. JON PAHL *Professor of the History of Christianity in North America* April 20, 2008: lecture, "The Dignity of Difference (Interfaith Dialogue)," Women of the ELCA, Montgomery County Chapter, Christ Lutheran Church, Kulpsville, Pennsylvania; April 18-19, 2008: participant, "Vaishnav-Christian Dialogue: 'Why Dialogue?' Washington, DC; April 6-20, 2008: "Brotherhood and Sisterhood in World Religions," three Week Lecture Series, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church; April 12, 2008: lecture, "Shopping Malls, Seminaries, and Holy Scripture," New England Synod ELCA Assembly, Bethlehem Lutheran Church,



DR. TIMOTHY J. WENGERT

Sturbridge, Massachusetts; March 30-April 13, 2008: moderator, Tough Texts, Jewish-Christian-Muslim Reflections on "Identity and the Other," "Gender and Sexuality," and "War and Peace," three week series, LTSP; March 31, 2008: "Distinct Histories, Shared Ethic, Common Future," Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue, Women of the ELCA, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Devon, Pennsylvania; March 25, 2008: "What is a Prophet?" Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue, Temple University Muslim Students Association; March 20, 2008: "The Lynching of Jeremiah Wright," in Religion in American History, at <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2008/03/jon-pahl-on-jeremiah-wright.html>; INVITED LECTURES February 17-24, 2008: "Prayer and Sacred Space," two week series, Trinity Episcopal Church, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania; February 23, 2008: "A Celebration of Brotherhood and Sisterhood," Dialogue Forum Ashura Day Event, Philadelphia; February 20, 2008: "The Violence Iceberg and the Coming Religious Peace," Religion and Anti-Violence Summit, Sponsored by Congressman Joe Sestak, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

DR. MELINDA QUIVIK *Associate Professor of Christian Assembly* February 5, 2008: lecture "Engaging Space," at LTSP in Worship Convocation series; February 20, 2008: preached in Lenten worship series at St. Paul

Lutheran Church in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

DR. NELSON RIVERA *Associate Professor, Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry; Director, Latino Concentration* February 2008: presenter for a Project Connect pre-Seminary gathering at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary under the theme "In the World of Theology, What Gifts Do Lutherans Bring to the Table?"; faculty respondent for the Hein-Fry lectures; March 2008, presenter on "Creation and Science" for a lay audience at Temple Lutheran Church in Pennsauken, New Jersey; presenter for a pastor's group at Zion Union Church in Maxatawny, Pennsylvania, on "Five Theological Books that You Should Read"; April 2008: three-part study series at Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, on "Creeds and Confessions of the Church"; granted tenure by the LTSP faculty and board, effective July 1, 2008.

DR. J. JAYAKIRAN SEBASTIAN *H. George Anderson Professor of Mission and Cultures; Director, Multicultural Mission Resource Center* December 7-9, 2007: participant, consultation for Asians/Asian North Americans on the theme "Effective Theological Education for Asian/Asian North American Seminarians," The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Commission on Accrediting, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; January 11-13, 2008: participant, 2008 Joint Convocation of ELCA/ELCIC Bishops and Theologians on the theme "Accompaniment in Theology and Practice," Eaglewood Resort and Spa, Itasca, Illinois; March 9-10, 2008: participant, Special Program in Public Theology —

North American Consultation and Luce Hall Seminar, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey; April 10-11, 2008: participant and respondent, The 2008 Luce Hall Conversations: "Thirty Years On ...? — The Founding Vision and Global Future of Theological Inquiry at the Center of Theological Inquiry (CTI)," Princeton, New Jersey; May 22-24, 2008: participant, North American Patristics Society, Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois — presented a paper entitled: "The Joy of Almsgiving: Reading Cyprian Today"; May 27-31, 2008: faculty mentor, Asian Theological Summer Institute, LTSP. PUBLICATIONS *Chapters in Books* — "Interrogating missio dei: From the mission of God toward appreciating our mission to God in India today," in Max L. Stackhouse and Lalsangkima Pachuau, eds., *News of Boundless Riches: Interrogating, Comparing, and Restructuring Mission in a Global Era*, Vol. I (Delhi: ISPCK/UTC/CTI, 2007), pp. 26-44.; "Jud(as)signing Blame," in R. S. Sugirtharajah, ed., *Still at the Margins: Biblical Scholarship Fifteen Years after the Voices from the Margin* (London: T & T Clark, 2008), pp. 98-103. *Journal Articles* — "Can We Now Bypass That Truth?" — Interrogating the Methodology of Dalit Theology," in Transformation: An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies, issue on 'Methodologies,' Vol. 25, No. 2-3 (April/July 2008), pp. 80-91.

DR. TIMOTHY J. WENGERT *Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor, Reformation History* January 25-26: Attended meetings of the ELCA Taskforce for Studies in Sexuality; April 27-28: Chief presenter for Northeast

Iowa Pastors and Laity on "Luther, Lutherans and the Book of Faith," in Waverly, Iowa; June 2-6: Attended meetings of the joint Commission of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Mennonite Conference in Strasbourg, France; June 9-30: Guest Researcher of the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Dr. Alfred C. Acer, MDiv '71, died suddenly on June 13, 2008. Pastor Acer, born in Brooklyn, New York, was ordained on October 31, 1971 at Covenant, Ridgewood, New York. He served as parish pastor of Messiah, Parlin (1971-1978), followed by the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, West Long Branch, New Jersey. Pastor Acer served a two-year term on the LTSP Alumni/ae Association Board. He is survived by his wife Judith and their daughter Jennifer and family.

The Rev. Herbert W. Tobaben, DIP '41, died July 7, 2008, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was 91. After being ordained in 1942, Pastor Tobaben first served rural parishes in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, then St. Michael's Lutheran Church (1950-1966) and Redemption Lutheran Church (1966-1982), both in Philadelphia. Pastor Tobaben is survived by his wife Ethel, his daughter Janet, his son Richard and daughter-in-law Sandra, granddaughters Kristin and Heidi, and great-granddaughter Hannah.

PASSAGES



Remembering Dr. John H.P. Reumann

The Rev. Dr. John H. P. Reumann, a New Testament professor with an encyclopedic knowledge of the Bible, and whose influence ranged from the seminary classroom to national and international ecumenical and interfaith circles, died of cancer at his Lafayette

Hill, Pennsylvania residence. He was 81.

Reumann, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Greek at LTSP, enjoyed a 45-year teaching career before retiring in 1996. Beyond that, Reumann had a profound influence on church development from a local to global level. Special areas of interest included Life-of-Jesus research and Christian origins, especially the Apostle Paul, ecumenics and Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues.

“He could have been content to stick strictly with scholarly pursuits, but that wasn’t Jack Reumann,” said The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Aden, retired professor of Pastoral Theology at the seminary and a friend. “He had many gifts and a rare breadth of knowledge about the Bible and theology, but more than that he was an excellent citizen of the church. He loved it and served it tirelessly on the local, synodical and national levels.” Reumann was a linchpin for more than 30 years in the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogues, which culminated in his role helping to shape the Joint Declaration on Justification adopted in Augsburg, Germany in 1999. A facile writer, Reumann did much writing in connection with the declaration, and his knowledge of both English and German did a lot to ease and advance the discussions.

“The Rev. John H. P. Reumann was truly a ‘teacher of the church,” said The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA. “Some church bodies identify an office of ‘teacher of the church’ within their polity. The ELCA does not have such a defined office, but if that were the case, certainly Dr. Reumann would have occupied it. He provided significant theological leadership in deliberations of the Lutheran Church in America and later the ELCA. The recommendations of the Study of Ministry that he chaired were submitted to the 1993 churchwide assembly and largely affirmed.” Hanson noted that Reumann had been the sole surviving member of the original participants in the Lutheran-Roman

Catholic Dialogue, and that Reumann had served on the Revision Committee for the New American Bible for the U.S. Roman Catholic Church from 1978 to 1987.

As a scholarly professor with Phi Beta Kappa credentials, awarded 1976, Reumann was widely regarded for his intellect and scholarship. His lecture style in the classroom was expressive, measured, careful and precise. “He was always self-assured, but never aloof,” recalled The Rev. Ellen Anderson, director of alumni/ae and church relations in the seminary’s Office of Development.

“He was so detailed and organized in the classroom,” recalled The Rev. Peter Bredlau, Muhlenberg College’s chaplain and one of the last students Reumann taught before his retirement in 1996. “He was intense. He taught me to pay attention to details in studying the Bible and not to skim passages. He was a real force in the classroom. He would never use his intellect to embarrass you.”

“Dr. Reumann was a model in every respect for many of us who have followed him at the seminary and in the church,” said Philip D.W. Krey, president of LTSP. “He mentored us graciously with faith and patience and retired well. In retirement he continued to work on his scholarly and ecumenical projects and remained unflagging in his support and as an advisor. We will miss a giant in the faith.”

Before his health declined dramatically, Reumann had turned in to his publisher at Yale University Press his voluminous commentary on Philippians, a focal point of his biblical scholarship. In addition to authoring the Philippians commentary, Reumann wrote 15 books including *Jesus in the Church’s Gospels* (Fortress Press, 1968) and edited or contributed to dozens of books and articles.

In retirement Jack and Martha Reumann were pivotal leaders in an annual Lutherhostel on the seminary campus.

In addition to his widow Martha, Reumann is survived by the couple’s three adult daughters, Rebecca Jane Reumann-Moore of Philadelphia, Amy Elizabeth of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Miriam Reumann Sadler of Wrentham, Massachusetts, and three grandchildren. †

Read more about Prof. Reumann’s contributions to the seminary and the wider church including comments from Dr. John Kaufmann, The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Aden and others at www.Ltsp.edu/reumann.





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