

Volume LI
Fall 2012

President Rundell
on the future
of theological
education

Getting to know
our newest
students

Immersed in
Israel/Palestine:
A student
reflects

Eight years
(and 200,000
miles) of MTSO
cross-cultural
travels

Schooler Institute
will feature
Bishop Palmer
and Marjorie
Hewitt Suchocki

For the first time,
an alum leads
the board

THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT



The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

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MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Volume LI ✱ Fall 2012

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A new spin ✱ *The MTSO campus was graced by a new permanent sculpture in early 2012. Santa Fe, N.M., artist Mark White created the kinetic, wind-driven Flame 3, which features three independently rotating elements. Standing 11 feet tall, the sculpture is a gift to the school from Jay and Kristen Rundell. President Rundell saw the sculpture on a trip to New Mexico and was reminded of the cross and flame of the United Methodist Church.*

Founded in 1958, Methodist Theological School in Ohio is one of 13 seminaries formally affiliated with and funded in part by the United Methodist Church. Located on a 72-acre campus in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Practical Theology, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. It also offers graduate-level certificate programs in Basic Theological Education, United Methodist Deacon Studies, Engaging in Ministry with the Poor and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church.

MTSO is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its degree programs are authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

We welcome your comments. Please send them to drussell@mtso.edu, or Danny Russell, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Thoughts on the future of our field

By Rev. Jay Rundell President

It is a pleasure to share with you this most recent issue of *The Story*. I trust you'll enjoy reading about the many people, ideas, experiences and commitments that carry forward the vision of Methodist Theological School in Ohio. This publication also contains our annual report to donors. I am profoundly grateful to each of you who invest in our students and in the future of the people and communities they will serve.

As a new class of seminary students joined the MTSO community in August, I was struck by two seemingly discordant realities. This class will matriculate on a campus with a long history and a distinct culture and ethos. Academic institutions

Even in secular venues, references to religion still permeate our culture. Yet we see less and less true theological literacy. That's why our mission has never been more important.

tend to have a cyclical pattern to them, and church-related institutions are characterized by deep commitment to ritual and tradition. Washing over these traditions are the fresh perspectives of students who

have come of age in a rapidly changing era. Roughly one-third of our students were born after compact discs replaced LPs, and they have always lived in households with personal computers. Collectively, they bring a much more diverse collection of ministry paths and denominational affiliations than the generation before them. It's common for them to hear multiple languages spoken and to encounter people from cultures and faiths unlike their own. They don't merely accept that this is a rapidly changing world; they expect to be part of that change.

This dynamic dance between what has been and what will be is performed on a

stage that stretches far beyond our campus. Higher education is undergoing significant transformation as well, with challenges over rising costs and student indebtedness. Schools struggle to shape technology so that



it serves education – and to guard against doing the opposite.

Overlaying those issues is the reality that the ways people function religiously and spiritually are shifting, and the Church is under great pressure to remain relevant and potent. While patterns of religious involvement are changing, commitments to religious belief and interest in spiritual practice are strong. Even in secular venues, references to religion still permeate our culture.

Yet we see less and less true theological literacy. That's why I can say with deep conviction that our mission has never been more important. Even as we continue to prepare pastors for congregational ministry, we must also embrace a sacred obligation to provide thoughtful, well-grounded religious leadership to a wider world.

As we prepare our students for ministry and service, we need to be mindful of the new ways they will work with people, churches and communities. And we need to make sure what we do is in alignment with that. Our founding motto, "To Preach the Word," is at the center of what we do and we will need to continue to define and expand what that means in a changing world.

Continues

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For more information about MTSO's trustees and the governance of the school, visit www.mtso.edu/trustees.

Our Aspiration

In response to the grace and call of God in Jesus Christ, Methodist Theological School in Ohio will prepare and invigorate transformational leaders to engage the church and the world in leadership and service.

Our Identity and Purpose

Methodist Theological School in Ohio is a center for rigorous theological inquiry, spiritual formation and professional development rooted in the scriptures and traditions of the Christian faith. We provide a vibrant learning environment for the preparation of skilled, passionate transformational leaders for churches, religious institutions, emerging faith communities and the wider world. Grounded in our Wesleyan tradition and influenced by our ecumenical and interfaith commitments, we attend to the theological, spiritual and vocational formation of a diverse group of students involved in a wide range of pursuits.

Expecting active participation in our community of learning, we maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness, teaching how to engage in conversation with the past and with others so that new and faithful perspectives may emerge. We strive for our graduates to demonstrate a deep understanding of the heritage disciplines of religious study, to be highly competent in areas of practical theology, and to show evidence of thoughtful reflection. We are committed to individual wholeness, social justice, inclusiveness and religious diversity.

We take seriously our responsibility for stewardship of the intellectual life of the church and our commitment to a just and sustainable world.

from previous page

You will find on this page our statements of Aspiration, Identity and Purpose, adopted in 2008. At that time, we also adopted a detailed strategic plan. We have accomplished much of what we set out to do in that plan, and we'll continue to fulfill what remains. At the same time, though, we have recognized the need to update and revise our strategic navigation, a process we began over the summer.

Three groups have been appointed to meet over the next five months. The first is focused on program and curriculum. The second is exploring partnerships and relationships with other institutions. The third is responsible for determining the needed resources – human, physical, technological and financial – necessary to provide the best education to the most people.

As these committees undertake their work, we also want to connect with a broader circle of interested people, including you. To that end, we are organizing interactive “virtual” gatherings on Nov. 13, Dec. 12 and Jan. 17. At all three

meetings, we'll share our plans and ideas, inviting your questions and feedback. We will soon be emailing specific instructions for joining these meetings. If you are not on our e-mail list, I hope you will visit www.mtso.edu/update and provide your address.

Our founding motto, “To Preach the Word,” is at the center of what we do, and we will need to continue to define and expand what that means.

I believe the experience and wisdom of our extended seminary community will be needed to shape our approach going forward. Thank you again for all you do to support and extend the work of this vital place.



Get social with us on the web



If you haven't already, join the more than 700 people who keep up with MTSO's latest announcements, happenings and conversations through Facebook.



In fact, Facebook is just one of the ways you can connect to your school through social media. We're on Twitter, YouTube and other media. The quickest way to get to all of them is through this web page: www.mtso.edu/socialmedia. See you online.



New lighting and repaired benches ✱ *The chapel at sunset*

Class of 2012 illuminates the Vest Outdoor Chapel

It's been an eventful year for the Gene Vest Memorial Outdoor Chapel. Built by the class of 2000 on a rise between the residences and the lower campus, the outdoor chapel has provided a tree-sheltered place of respite and reflection for more than a decade.

As their own gift to MTSO, members of the class of 2012 were inspired to renovate and improve a space they had come to appreciate.

Brian West, a member of the 2012 Senior Committee, presented the gift during the May 18 commencement ceremony. After expressing gratitude to the class of 2000 for the original gift, West said, "It was our desire 12 years later to restore the outdoor chapel's benches as well as add energy-efficient lighting, all for the purpose of enhancing and renewing this rather unique sacred space."

West and his classmates provided the funds and labor to replace rotting bench seats and pay for professional installation of the lighting. The subtle, ground-level lights mark the center aisle between benches and illuminate surrounding trees from sunset to midnight throughout the year.

Unfortunately, shortly after the gift was presented, Central Ohio was struck by a June 29 windstorm. The so-called derecho ripped large limbs from a number of campus trees, though there was very little damage to structures. One exception was the altar of the outdoor chapel, which was obliterated by a falling branch.

Thanks to the work of MTSO's buildings and grounds staff, the altar has been fully reconstructed. Even the class of 2000's commemorative plaque is back in its rightful place, and the chapel is a place of quiet once more. ✱

MTSO's ecological focus recognized

In recent years, MTSO has taken a number of steps that reflect the school's commitment to a healthy and sustainable planet. These efforts have been recognized by the Green Seminary Initiative, an organization that "encourages schools of theology to be participants in, and keepers of, God's creation in all its human, biological, geological, and ecological manifestations."

The current home page of the Green Seminary Initiative's website features a profile of MTSO's ecological efforts under the headline "Stories from Seminaries." Read MTSO's entire profile and learn more about the Initiative and its 45 member schools at www.greenseminaries.org.

Are you receiving 'Campus View' emails?

Have you read about Chris Henderson-Johns, the recent MTSO grad who now serves Anderson Hills UMC in Cincinnati through the West Ohio Conference residency program?



Are you aware of second-year MTSO student Christina Yost's work as a contributing scholar to the State of Formation website, which features writing by up-and-coming religious thinkers?

These stories and more were shared in the June edition of Campus View, MTSO's electronic newsletter. If a copy didn't show up in your email box, please visit www.mtso.edu/update to share your email address. Meanwhile, you still can read past issues online at www.mtso.edu/campusview.

They've arrived

This fall's newest students are eager to serve and lead

By April Casperson
Director of Admissions

Each new class at MTSO brings its own unique energy and perspective to campus. Among those arriving this fall, there are a lot of individuals you might call optimistic realists. They're well aware of the challenges faced by the church and the world, but they're inspired rather than discouraged by them.

As MTSO admissions staff, Sally Murphy, David Allen and I have been privileged to learn their stories and assist them in discerning their paths toward lives of significance. To give you a sense of the gifts and insights this class brings, I'd like to share a few individual profiles, featuring quotes from their excellent admissions essays. We look forward to watching them evolve as Christian leaders in the years to come.

TIMOTHY PARKER

Making the church relevant and real

The 2012 Harding Scholarship recipient, Timothy Parker has already been appointed to serve Waterford UMC in Fredericktown.

It was in a summer factory job that Parker found a unique opportunity to model a life of faith: "I worked with a group of people who were double political refugees, from Bhutan and then Nepal. I developed a close relationship with all of them and had many great conversations with them about religion. I never forced my faith upon them but I tried to exemplify it by my work and actions towards them."

He aspires to a ministry that's meaningful for those the church isn't currently reaching: "I wish to show people that there is no separation between intelligence and Christianity."



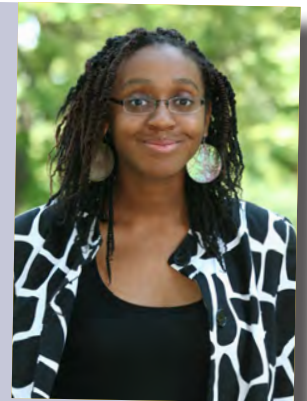
KENYA CUMMINGS

Drawn to ministry with the marginalized

University of Kentucky graduate Kenya Cummings had a formative experience as an intern with the Isaiah Project, which engages in ministry with inner-city children, youth and their families.

"I was allowed to preach, teach and lead in outreach ministries one summer in one of the largest churches in the Kentucky Conference," she said. "During that time I realized I enjoyed and excelled in working with marginalized populations. I served in ministry known as Good News Live, which served a weekly meal, had a short devotional service and ran a food pantry."

"When I first read about the certificate in Engaging in Ministry with the Poor, I could not help but be drawn to MTSO," she added. An English Scholar, Cummings believes MTSO provides what she seeks in a seminary: "an academic institution that is willing to challenge me, has a vibrant community and is inclusive."



JOHN MA

Eager to serve a constant but evolving church

While earning his B.S. in business administration, John Ma became a leader in a community- and campus-focused church in the Ohio State University area, where he still serves. A recipient of the English Scholarship, he arrives at MTSO mindful of the many paths his ministry could take.



"I am open and looking forward to serving full-time in a ministerial setting," Ma said, "whether that's becoming a counselor, an overseas missionary, an ordained minister, whatever it may be. Ultimately, I want to continue to serve the Lord, become a leader and raise leaders to engage in serving the constant but evolving church and world."

Ma is grateful for the "accommodating spirit" he has experienced already at MTSO: "As I approach this new community, I hope to one day give back and continue the relationships that I will build here."

SASHA DOWNEY

Making the most of a gift of listening

Sasha Downey majored in psychology and religion at Otterbein University, where she minored in language and culture of the deaf community. Her college work was a natural fit for someone in whom others are comfortable confiding.



"When I first realized I had a gift and an ability to listen, I knew that I wanted to help others," she said. "My goal in completing the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree is to become a clinical counselor and, eventually, a health psychologist."

A recipient of the Burton D. Morgan Foundation Scholarship, Downey has tutored children and worked with WARM, an organization that offers counseling, job placement and food to those in need.

"My greatest wish is to make an impact on the lives of the people I come into contact with," she said, "and to not only help but give them the tools and ideas to make a positive difference in how they live."

MARK RUPP

Exploring God's boundlessness

At Bluffton University, Kansas Mark Rupp began preparing for a career teaching music.

"Music education was something I enjoyed, but I always had a deep sense that I was missing out on something," he said. "During my sophomore year, I decided to switch my major to music with a concentration in ministry."

Rupp, a member of the Disciples of Christ, has been awarded the Rice Scholarship. He enters his first semester with both general and specific goals for ministry.

"While my goal is to become a voice for reconciliation between the church and those of differing sexual orientations, I understand that to reach this goal I must have a deep and broad base of knowledge in scripture, theology, ethics, ministry and many other subjects," he said. "My hope is to fully prepare myself for all aspects of ministry by exploring the boundlessness of God."



JESSICA STONECYPHER

Searching leads her back to her heritage

"I was raised in the United Methodist Church," said Jessica Stonecypher. "As a teen, I felt called to service, but I never really identified it until the past few months." In the intervening years, she was shaped by invigorating mission trips, involvement in a number of different denominations and the process of earning a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University in human development and family science, specializing in middle childhood development.



Eventually, it all led Stonecypher back to the United Methodist Church and the ministry inquiry process. She has chosen to enter the candidacy process and pursue an M.Div. degree at MTSO, where she has been awarded an Alford Scholarship.

"I was searching in so many places," she said, "and it led me back to my spiritual heritage."

Nagging doubts about the trip melted away ✱ *The MTSO group in Tel Dan*



Peggy Norvelle Sham, M.Div./MACM '13

Journey to the in-between place

During our cross-cultural immersion trip to Israel/Palestine, I didn't figure out who's right or wrong. Instead, I learned to dwell in the complicated middle.



**By Abigail Salak
M.Div./MACM '14**

I have to admit, I had a nagging worry about the summer trip to Israel/Palestine I had signed up to take. Cross-cultural immersion trips have become part of the fabric of MTSO, and I was hoping for a valuable experience. Yet Israel/Palestine is a fairly “Western” place, and a lot of the sites on our itinerary were archeological; I was unsure how immersively cross-cultural the trip could be.

Pushing through those doubts, on May 28, 2012, I boarded a plane bound for Tel Aviv with 20 of my classmates and two faculty members, Dr. John Kampen and Dr. Yvonne Zimmerman. Over the next 14 days, my concerns about the trip melted away, as I became immersed not only in the histories and perspectives of those who struggle to make that small piece of land home but in

the varied reactions of my fellow travelers.

Our visits to historical sites gave us a much-needed history of a region that has been in near constant conflict and turmoil for centuries. Without the understanding of the deep history of Israel/Palestine, we would have had no context to understand the current conflicts. We were fortunate to be able to spend time with Palestinian Christians and Muslims, as well as Orthodox and Reform Jewish Israelis. The time spent learning and in conversation with these people helped me to gain a better understanding of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the contemporary history that preceded it.

Growing up in the 1980s, I rarely heard the word “Palestinian” on the news when it wasn't followed by “terrorist.” As a college student in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood in Pittsburgh, I had a number of friends with family members who had

made aliyah (immigrated to Israel). I knew little more about Israel and Palestine than those two things – Palestinians were terrorists and Jewish people wanted to return to the Holy Land. As an adult, I learned more about the conflict and the creation of Israel, but I still had a tenuous grasp of its meaning.

Our trip changed that. As is the norm for MTSO's cross-cultural trips, our group met with a wide array of experts: Botrus Mansour, director of the Nazareth Baptist School; Dr. Mustafa Abu-Sway, director of the Islamic Research Center at Al-Quds University (Jerusalem); Dr. Cedar Duaybis, founding member of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center; Dr. Debbie Weissman, who identified herself as a religious Zionist; and Dr. David Mendelsson, head of Israel Studies at Hebrew Union College (Jerusalem). And I began to see how deeply the region's issues affect people.

It had been easy, from here on the other side of the world, to dismiss the conflict as just that – a conflict far away. Hearing the stories of the day-to-day struggles of Palestinian Christians and Muslims, of Jewish people who were looking for a homeland, I came to realize that this is not solely a political conflict. It was a struggle between individuals just trying to live out their lives and their faith in a land they all called home.

A number of my friends and classmates, after the conversations with Palestinians and Israelis, chose decisive sides, some with the Palestinians and some with the Israelis. For me, though, the conversations and understanding gained from them led to a place of comfort with the in-between places. I was easily able to see the Palestinians as a people struggling for a home. I also was reminded – particularly on a visit to Yad Vashem, the

Israeli Holocaust museum – just how important a homeland was and is to the Jewish people. For me, the visits and the personal interactions didn't lead to conclusions about who was right or wrong. Instead, they reminded me that the in-between place can be an effective space for exploring deeper conflicts.

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Each cross-cultural immersion trip is different; those in each group come to understand the communities they visit in new and varied ways. For me, the trip to Israel/Palestine allowed me to be immersed in both the historical and current cultures and conflicts.

I saw the ancient alongside the present in Jerusalem and other cities. This juxtaposition gave me a context in which to better understand the history of the two nations, as well as the multiplicity of religions and cultures that live, both together and divided, in that holy land. ✱

Why do we call it 'Israel/Palestine'?

Jen Stockwell, MTS '13



By Professor John Kampen

How people choose to name themselves and what we as foreigners do with those choices is a very interesting question. In the case of our trip to the

Middle East, we have called it a trip to Israel/Palestine.

Had we chosen to make this trip prior to 1948, there would have been only Palestine, no Israel. With the creation of the state of Israel, a new name was added to the list of countries, a name that had been used for this territory by the rabbinic tradition following biblical usage, in Hebrew Eretz Israel (“the land of Israel”). The name Palestine was attached to this region after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. and the further devastation of Jerusalem and Judea in 135 C.E. by the Romans, when they renamed the area Syria Palaestina.

In the modern era, the question of name acquired new significance in 1967 after the Israeli victory in those territories that had been under Jordanian jurisdiction since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. This led to renewed efforts by those native inhabitants who

referred to themselves as Palestinians to identify their place in this area. In 1988, the Palestinian Liberation Organization proclaimed Palestine to be a state in exile. In the Oslo agreement of 1993, early steps toward a future two-state solution were advanced in which there could be an Israel and a Palestine.

Other names can also be found on modern maps. Often the area now under Palestinian jurisdiction, which in antiquity was in Samaria, is called the West Bank. Gaza also is under Palestinian jurisdiction. You also will find maps that refer to these areas as the Occupied Territories. Many people find that the name that is most broadly accepted by the Muslim, Jewish and Christian inhabitants and interested parties is the Holy Land.

In our cross-cultural trips, we want our students to encounter the entire territory that was called Israel in

Continues

‘We go to listen and learn’

Over the course of 25 trips, MTSO’s cross-cultural travelers have arrived with questions, not answers

The 200,000-mile threshold most likely was crossed sometime in the past year. It might have been during the India trip in January, or Israel/Palestine in July. But those whose cross-cultural immersion travels comprised those miles will tell you the distance, while significant, is only part of the story.

MTSO, which has a long history of providing intercultural education, took a significant step in the fall of 2002, when it introduced the cross-cultural immersion requirement for incoming Master of Divinity students. A visit to Mexico in January 2004 was the first of 25 MTSO cross-cultural trips in the past eight years.

To understand the unique value of these trips, it’s worth considering what they aren’t. They’re not whirlwind vacation tours, marked by three great photo ops each day. Nor are they mission trips.

“We go to listen and learn. We don’t go with answers in hand,” said Tim Van Meter, assistant professor in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, who is in his fourth year coordinating cross-cultural trips.

Each trip includes at least two weeks in a different culture and is part of a three-credit-hour course. A trip is bracketed by pre-immersion and post-immersion sessions on campus. While it’s common for trips to include stops at historically and culturally significant sites, a key component is the students’ interaction with others:

the people of the area they’re visiting; faculty members leading the expedition; local experts on history and context; and their own peers.

“We tend to go to places that really shake you,” Van Meter said.

“In India, you have people living on the sidewalk who are envious of the people living in cardboard behind them.” To add context, “We have graduate-level lectures and learning about economic, political, social, cultural and theological understandings from people

who are there – not only our faculty but folks there who have the credentials to engage them to think theologically.”

“The idea is that we shift our world view,” said Lisa Withrow, associate academic dean and professor in the Dewire Chair of Christian Leadership. “We begin to think about what it might be like to have another person’s perspective, if we can possibly do that. Some students initially resist the cross-cultural program because they say they

travel a lot. I’ve traveled a lot, too, and until I went on cross-cultural trips, I didn’t understand how much of a tourist I was, rather than a human being with potential for solidarity with others.”

Withrow, who has led three cross-cultural trips, gained a new

appreciation for MTSO’s approach when she participated in a national research team that conducted a recent two-year study of 10 seminary cross-cultural and intercultural programs with funding via a Wabash grant.

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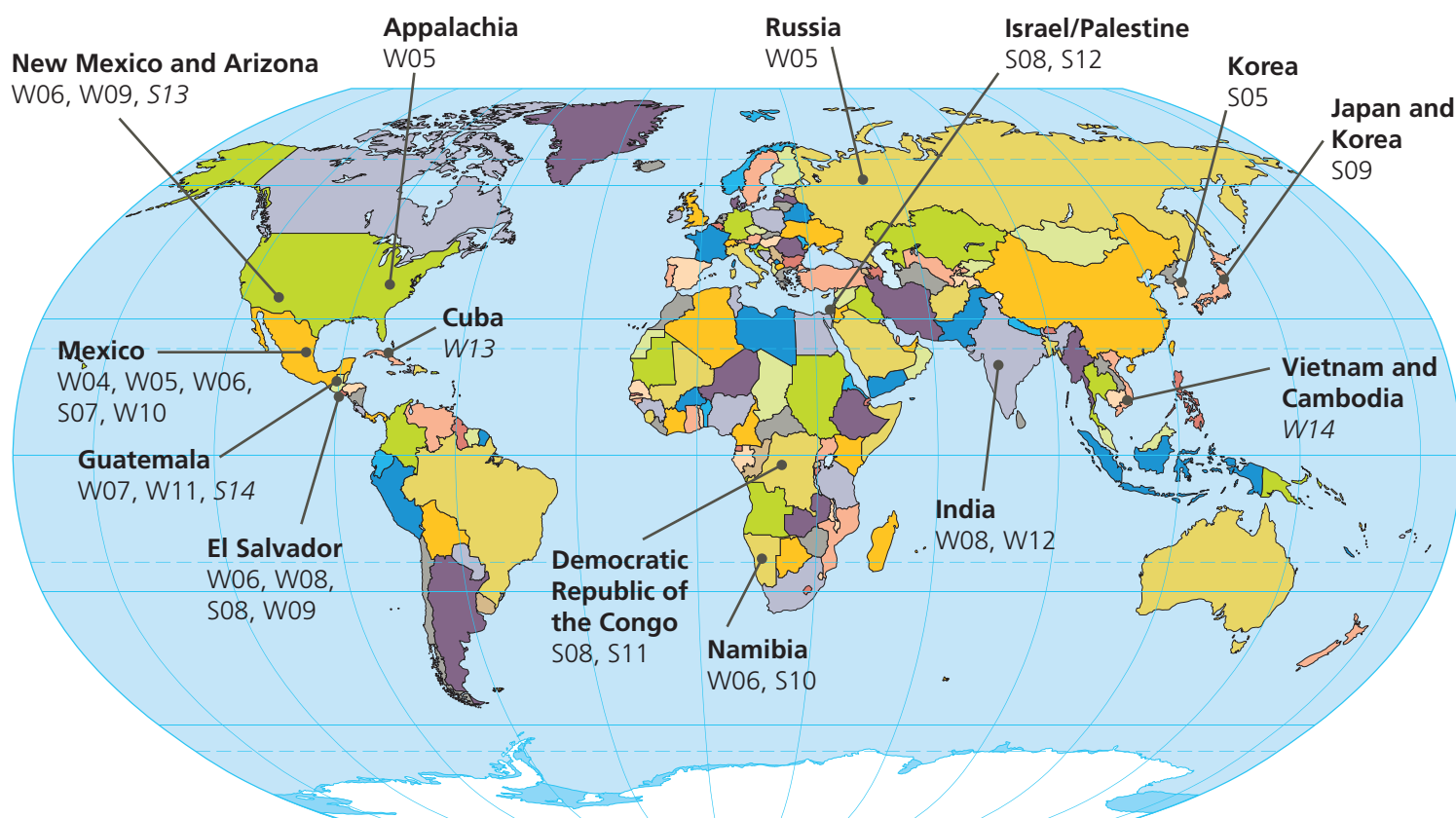
antiquity. We visit archaeological sites in Israel and in the West Bank. We speak with Israelis and Palestinians. While we spend more of our time in Israel, in Jerusalem we stay at a hotel in Arabic-speaking East Jerusalem, close to the walls of the old city.

All of the diversity and complexity of life in Israel/Palestine is part of my daily life when I am there working. It is my hope that the students experience a bit

of that during the two weeks we spend together in the Holy Land.

John Kampen, professor in the Dunn Chair in Biblical Interpretation, has visited Israel/Palestine 10 times in the past 20 years, both as a Dead Sea Scrolls scholar and as a leader of MTSO trips. He will present a campus lecture, “Modern Research on Ancient Texts: The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” at 7 p.m. Oct. 29.

Many people find that the name that is most broadly accepted by the Muslim, Jewish and Christian inhabitants and interested parties is the Holy Land.



Eight years of cross-cultural trips * MTSSO students have visited countries around the world, with plans to add Cuba, Vietnam and Cambodia to the list over the next two years. Map labels identify dates of summer and winter trips, including dates for planned travels.

“MTSSO, compared to some other institutions, has an intentionality about our program’s focus on student worldview challenges,” she said, giving credit to the time MTSSO’s travelers spend in structured discussion before and after a trip. “Those who take our trips spend a great deal of time in the pre-immersion sessions talking about cultural difference. And I think the post-immersion debriefing and processing is even more important than the pre-immersion sessions.”

Van Meter, who has led two trips to India, said the time committed to the trip and the interaction among students also are vital to the experience: “We’re there two weeks to 15 days, and we consider it barely long enough to actually be there, because it takes that long for people just to arrive in a new place. About days 7 through 10, people can actually be there.”

“This is about doing theological reflection as a community, in the midst of some very different understandings of the world,” he said. “Even if you’ve traveled a lot, you can learn something new from your peers. I’m all for travel as an individual or as a family, but when you’re with a group where people host you as a group, you engage them differently.”

This level of engagement requires a major commitment from students and faculty. But the Wabash-funded research team’s report on cross-cultural programs makes the case for its necessity in preparing a new generation of religious leaders.

“Today’s ministry contexts are reflective of major demographic changes and the increase in cross cultural interactions and shifts in cultural norms that accompany these changes,” the report says. “For

example, it is *decreasingly* likely that the ethnic identity and cultural background of a seminary graduate will match closely that of her or his ministry setting. It follows, then, that intercultural immersion programs are a critical component of seminary curricula.”

Van Meter said cross-cultural education at MTSSO is intended as a framework, central not only to academic work but to engaging in leadership and service in whatever environment a graduate encounters.

“Cross-cultural is important to our understanding of the entire curriculum for the M.Div.,” he said. “When these courses are effective, people are still doing theological reflection years later. I had people six years after India say, ‘I finally got this part we talked about there.’” *

West Ohio's new bishop featured at Schooler

Courtesy West Ohio Conference



Co-leaders for February's event * Palmer and Suchocki

United Methodist Bishop Gregory V. Palmer and United Methodist scholar Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki will lead the Schooler Institute on Preaching Feb. 10-12 on the MTSO campus. The institute will begin on a Sunday evening and continue through Tuesday. In conjunction with Schooler, the Mount Alumni Awards Luncheon will be held Feb. 11.

Palmer began his assignment with the West Ohio Conference Sept. 1, following four years leading the Illinois Area of the United Methodist Church. A native of Philadelphia, Palmer is the son of a retired United Methodist pastor, Rev. Herbert E. Palmer.

In addition to churches in North Carolina, Palmer served East Glenville UMC and Werner UMC in Cleveland; James S. Thomas UMC in Canton; and the

United Methodist Church of Berea during his pastoral career. He also was Youngstown District superintendent.

Elected to the episcopacy by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2000, Palmer served the Iowa Area until 2008, when he was assigned to the Illinois Area. From 2008 to 2010, he served as president of the Council of Bishops.

Suchocki is professor emerita at Claremont School of Theology, where for many years she taught theology and also served as dean. A United Methodist laywoman, she participates in aspects of local, national and international ministries of the denomination, currently serving on the Ministry Study Commission.

The author of many books and articles, Suchocki serves as co-director of the

Center for Process Studies at Claremont and is founder and director of the school's Whitehead International Film Festival. She also is a frequent member of ecumenical juries at major film festivals in Montreal, Berlin, and Washington, D.C.

"We're fortunate to have Dr. Suchocki and Bishop Palmer leading the Schooler Institute," said MTSO President Jay Rundell. "They're excited about working together, and we're looking forward to their perspectives on the preparation and delivery of powerful sermons."

The Schooler Institute on Preaching is presented at no cost to participants, but registration is required. To learn more and register, visit www.mtso.edu/schooler or call April Casperson at 740-362-3372. *

Class of '63 invited to march with 2013 grads

In September 2010, as MTSO celebrated its 50th anniversary, President Jay Rundell kept quiet about his idea for a sequel of sorts. It involved those who began their studies in the fall of 1960 and went on to form the core of Methesco's first graduating class.

Shortly after the class of 2012 graduated, he shared his plan. Next spring, the class of 1963 will be recognized as part of the school's Graduation Weekend. Rundell has invited the members of that historic class to

return to campus as honored guests and to share the wisdom they've gained over five decades in ministry with the class of 2013.

"We challenge our students to honor the past as they shape the future," Rundell said. "This milestone gives us a golden opportunity to do just that."

"Among other things, we're inviting members of the class of '63 to march in our commencement processional on May 18, and I hope a lot of them will take us up on it," he said. "In fact, I hope this is the start

of a new tradition for MTSO. I'd like to see our 50-year alums reunite every year to celebrate their ministries and get to know the graduates who are following in their footsteps."

Rundell has sent a letter regarding next spring's celebration to the first graduating class, and more details will be shared in future correspondence. If you are a member of the class of 1963 and haven't received a letter, please contact the president at jrundell@mtso.edu or 740-362-3121. *

A first: MTSO alum chairs the board

1973 grad David Wilcox takes the helm

The Rev. Dr. David Wilcox holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard, two master's degrees from Yale and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Yet none of those is the school he holds dearest.

"I have much more loyalty to Methesco than any of the other places I went to school," said Wilcox, who earned a Master of Divinity degree from MTSO in 1973. One tangible measure of that loyalty is his service as a trustee for the past 33 years. On July 1, he made history, becoming the first MTSO graduate to chair its Board of Trustees. Wilcox, the senior pastor of Wooster United Methodist Church, succeeds Dr. Maggie Jackson, who had chaired the board since 2008.

Wilcox also becomes the first board chair to have served during the tenures of four school presidents. Founding President John Dickhaut invited him to join the board in 1979 – at a time when Wilcox was already leading an educational board.

"I was president of the local school board when I came on the board of trustees," he said. At the time, Wilcox was serving his first pastoral appointment, at LaGrange UMC in northeastern Ohio. Shortly after arriving in LaGrange, he was encouraged by a parishioner to run for the school board. He was elected, ascended to the presidency and served until 1980, when he was appointed to Fairhope UMC in Lewisville.

Wilcox has since served at the United Methodist Church of the Cross in

Lexington, Ohio; Rockport UMC in Rocky River; and Hudson UMC. In 2005, he arrived at Wooster UMC, a church with strong ties to MTSO. Over the decades, a number of Methesco graduates have been in Wooster's pulpit, preaching to a congregation whose membership has included many Methesco trustees and friends.

"That kind of presence generates congregational support," Wilcox said. His personal support for MTSO "has to do with the importance of the few years that I was on campus."

"Between the academics of the school and the experience I had as a student pastor, it was a very formative experience for me," said Wilcox, who was a student associate at Dublin Community Church while at MTSO.

Wilcox brings an appreciation for MTSO's "commitment to education rather than simply training." He also hopes to see a renewed appreciation for the value of theological education among the church faithful.

"It was more holistic than any of the other educational experiences I've had."

"We came there with a daughter who was 5 months old, and our second child arrived while we were on campus." David and Marjorie Wilcox have three daughters, Jennifer, Rebecca and Elizabeth.

"We had a garden plot and did a lot of canning. There was a real sense of



Mike Schenk

Methesco commands his loyalty ✧ Wilcox at Wooster UMC

community there," said Wilcox, who appreciated the opportunity to process a time of national upheaval from a theological perspective.

"I was at Methesco at a very significant time in our culture's history," he said. "I came there just after the Kent State shootings, and I left just as the Watergate hearings were beginning." The experience left him with an appreciation for "the importance of theological education in the midst of significant change culturally and in the church."

As chair of the board, Wilcox brings an appreciation for MTSO's "commitment to education rather than simply training." He also realizes these are changing and challenging times for theological education, and he hopes to see a renewed appreciation for its value among the church faithful.

"I'm disappointed with the church as a whole being less willing to support the preparation of these religious leaders," he said. "I really do believe that in a world that's more complicated, it's important that the church have articulate and thoughtful spokespersons to respond to what's going on in society and the church." ✧

Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your ministry or personal milestones, please submit it via the link at www.mtso.edu/update. If you don't have an Internet connection, you may mail your news to us at Alum News, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Alum news also can be found online at www.mtso.edu/alums.

1964

Calvin King is working on "Project Nuf" ("Fun" spelled backward). He has founded a company and is writing children's stories with a mission of sharing happy stories from Planet Nuf, helping children know each is enough. calvinisking@aol.com

1967

Kenneth Morris retired from ministry in 2010. kennethmorris1@juno.com

1970

Margaret Barno has moved back to the Piney Woods of East Texas where she worked for 11 years for the Texas Department of Health and volunteered as director of religious education prior to retiring on disability in 2000. She continues to write book reviews for the *Galveston County Daily News*. Because of the progressive nature of her cervical dystonia, her voice is very soft, and she prefers communicating via email. margaretbarno@att.net

Ronald L. Figgins Iris retired in 2006 to singing, praying and teaching to the glory of God. He began farming in 2009 and volunteering in the church and community to build the sustainable kingdom of God in both. DACRoniris@aol.com

James Kuse and his wife, Kathleen Barber, are active in the Ocala First UMC Community Outreach Program and Interfaith Emergency Services of Marion County, Fla. Jim's ministry included 25 years in the East Ohio Conference and the past 18 years with the Florida Conference. barberkuse@gmail.com

1974

Rob Atchley has been appointed wing chaplain for the Florida Wing of the Civil Air Patrol/United States Air Force Auxiliary. He has served as a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol since 1999. robnsu@tampabay.rr.com

1975

Stan Dunk is completing 28 years as director of pastoral care at Fort Hamilton Hospital in Hamilton. He also has been a national Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care manager for 10 years, with deployments including the World Trade Center, Katrina and the crash of Comair 5191 in Lexington, Ky. Stanley.Dunk@khnetwork.org

Timothy Farabaugh has had his first novel published. *In Search of Revenge and Respect* is set in western Pennsylvania between the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. The main character seeks revenge for the death of his parents and tries to earn the respect of the father of the girl he loves. tdfarabaugh@comcast.net

Patricia Lawrence retired in 2011. She and her husband, Richard (class of '73), both are retired now. revslaw@aol.com

Carol Mays and two other poets have just published *Mystical Poems by Three Contemporary New England Writers*. The book is available through a number of outlets worldwide, including Amazon. It also has been provided to the Dickhaut Library. irisspring@hughes.net

Geoff Piper is now director of bereavement services at Mountain View Funeral Home, Lakewood, Wash, a licensed marriage and family therapist with a part-time private practice, and gramps to two children. He also has published an e-book on Kindle, *Stress Is an Option, Not a Requirement: Choose Stress-Free Living*. gahpiper@gmail.com

1976

Steven Miller retired in 2009 after 35 years in pastoral ministry in the Florida Conference. slmiller820@yahoo.com

1978

Mike Selleck has served eight years as the director of the Office of Connectional Ministries for the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Msell3ck@att.net

In addition to his full-time appointment at First UMC of Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., **Gary Wedgewood** is a part-time staff counselor with the Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee. gary.wedgewood@comcast.net

1979

James Gysel retired in 2011 yet is still active in ministry. He serves as a chaplain to Albion District clergy; serves as a trustee for MTSO; consults with pastors and churches; produces a weekly radio program, *Faith Forum*; and engages in local hospital chaplain ministry. jamesgysel@mac.com

1982

Bill Byrd has written *Basic Budgeting: You Can Do It!* It's available both in hard copy and as an e-book.

1983

Hal Noble, retired and living in Alabama, wants to share this message: "I remain deeply grateful for the theological education I received at MTSO, which is directly related to the professionalism of each professor and instructor. Methesco prepared me for many years of challenging and fruitful ministry and mission in the United Methodist Church." nobsail@yahoo.com

1985

Paul Wehner retired in 2006. During his ministry, he pastored a congregation in Council Bluffs, Iowa, served as a family therapist with the VA and later worked at the Vet Center in Springfield, Ill. He assisted in developing the Illinois World War II Veterans Memorial. "Methesco was a joyful, educational and affirming program that empowered my ministries throughout these years." metatron1944@comcast.net

1986

Mary (Horn) Soderholm has retired and is living in Oscoda, Mich., where she is still preaching, teaching, and doing weddings, funerals and conference camping. weezie47@mail.com

1987

Phyllis Cole-Dai has helped to organize Fast for the Earth, begun by Brookings, S.D.-area residents who are troubled by the environmental devastation being wrought by the fossil fuel industry and their financial and political supporters (www.fastfortheearth.com). The fast began Aug. 1. The goal is to have at least one person somewhere in the world fasting every single day until the Earth is once again treated with respect. coledai@brookings.net

1988

Betty Howard has opened Betty Howard's Caring Counseling Services, a private practice office in Westerville. bettyjhoward46@gmail.com

Elaine Mikesell and her husband, Alan, spent nine days on a mission trip to El Salvador, where they helped activate an official partnership between the Northwest Association of the UCC and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. The church in San Salvador supports a daily soup kitchen, a school for grades 1-9 and a dental and medical clinic. anemikesell@gmail.com

1989

Lori Burdette-Steel has been appointed pastor of the Trinity UMC in Mt. Gilead. lburdettesteale@aol.com

1995

David Hess is celebrating five years as chaplain of the Indiana Veterans' Home. RevDaveHess@yahoo.com

1999

Neldon "Ned" Adams is now retired and one of five retirees in the local congregation of Christ Church United Methodist in Tucson, Ariz. "And, we're all busy." ned.adams.72@gmail.com

John Cordes, who serves Solebury UMC in New Hope, Pa., has been elected president of the Delaware Valley Interfaith Council. mtsofan@gmail.com

2000

Joseph Branch has been hired as the program manager for Columbus Area Inc.-Bell Africentric Therapeutic Community Residential Treatment Center. branchj1@sbcglobal.net

Lynda McClanahan has a new exhibition of contemporary oil enamel folk paintings at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. "Visual Learning: Connecting Readers to Art" runs through Sept. 30. Her work also can be seen at www.lyndamccclanahanart.com. knepp4350@aol.com

2001

Ellis "Hap" Itson and his wife, Kathy, are now living in Brodhead, Wisc., where Hap is pastor of Brodhead UMC. Hap is now a member of the Wisconsin Conference. hapitson@gmail.com

2002

David MacDonald was appointed university chaplain at Ohio Northern University effective July 1, 2012. d-macdonald@onu.edu

2004

Melany Chalker's church, Concord UMC in Michigan, birthed the Open Door Free Store in the fall of 2010 and served more than 7,200 different guests its first year. Everything is free to everyone all the time. pastormelany@gmail.com

Elaine Turner is now serving at Amboy UMC in Conneaut and the Hospice of the Western Reserve in Ashtabula. eturner54@rocketmail.com

2006

Virginia Lohmann Bauman was officially installed as senior pastor at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church in Columbus in March 11. St. John's is a historic urban church affiliated with the United Church of Christ. vlb@windstream.net

Susan Brown and her husband, **Jerry Krueger**, have returned to the East Ohio Conference from Texas. Susan is senior pastor of Canfield UMC, and Jerry is serving Trinity UMC in downtown Youngstown. sbrownumc@aol.com and jkru421066@aol.com

2007

Ebenezer Appiagyei held a sacred and secular leadership seminar in Rwanda and Burundi in August. Three hundred pastors and community leaders attended. He also has started a nonprofit organization called Make a Difference International, whose mission is to empower children, especially girls, through education. eben5422@yahoo.com

Gunnar Cerda is serving as the manager of pastoral care for Grady Memorial Hospital, part of the OhioHealth system in Delaware. He had an article, "A Theology of Pastoral Care," published in the March 7, 2012, edition of *PlainViews*, a journal of healthcare chaplaincy. gunnarcerda@columbus.rr.com

2010

Patrice and William Brewer's daughter, Phaedra Elise, was born July 7. Patrice is serving Church of the Redeemer in Cleveland Heights, and William is serving Mt. Pleasant UMC in Cleveland. patrice.askewwalker@gmail.com and william.a.brewer@gmail.com

Beyond the classroom

Faculty activities 2011-12



Stephen Ahearne-Kroll
Associate Professor of
New Testament

Publications

“The Scripturally Complex Presentation of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark,” *Portraits of Jesus: Studies in Christology*, edited by Susan E. Myers; WUNT II; Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2012.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Publically Solidifying the Memories of Private Dreams and Visions in Ancient Religion,” *The Stuff that Dreams are Made of: The Interpretation, Divination and Use of Dreams in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Tenth Annual Conference of the Midwest Consortium on Ancient Religion, Ohio State University, Feb. 25, 2012.

Meetings

The Stuff that Dreams are Made of: The Interpretation, Divination and Use of Dreams in Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Tenth Annual Conference of the Midwest Consortium on Ancient Religion, Ohio State University, Feb. 24-26, 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“Jesus and the Early Church,” Westerville Community UCC, May 2012.



Jeffrey Jaynes
Professor in the
Warner Chair of Church
History

Publications

“African Christians, Christians visiting Africa: the Early Modern Narrative Cosmographies from Breydenbach to al-hassan Ibn Muhammad al-Wazzan [Leo Africanus],” in *Die Begegnung mit Fremden in ihrer Bedeutung für das Geschichtsbewusstsein*, edited by Betina Braun and Judith Becker, Veröffentlichung des Instituts für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz Beiheft 88, 2012.

Meetings

Faculty seminar participant, “German Church Complicity and the Holocaust,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., June 2012.



Judith Craig
Visiting Professor in
the Dickhaut Chair
of Church Leadership
Bishop in Residence

Church and popular lectures

Sing a New Song, reconciling event for the United Methodist Church, Aug. 31, 2011.

Study of Romans, Retreat for Central States Moravian Women, Oct. 24-25, 2011.

Leadership event for Lansing District, West Michigan Conference, Nov. 19, 2011.



John Kampen
Professor in the
Dunn Chair in Biblical
Interpretation

Publications

“‘Torah’ and Authority in the Major Sectarian Rules Texts from Qumran,” in *The Scrolls and Biblical Traditions: Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the IOQS in Helsinki* (edited by George J. Brooke, Daniel K. Falk, Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar and Molly M. Zahn; STDJ 103; Leiden: Brill, 2012).

Academic lectures and presentations

Response to Gerbern S. Oegema, “Was the Maccabean Revolt an Apocalyptic Movement?” Enoch Seminar, Nangeroni Meeting, Villa Cagnola, Gazzada, Italy, June 25-28, 2012.



Paul Kim
Professor of Hebrew
Bible in the Williams
Chair of Biblical Studies

Publications

Review of *Exile as Forced Migrations: A Sociological, Literary, and Theological Approach on the Displacement and Resettlement of the Southern Kingdom of Judah* by John J. Ahn, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 74, 2012.

“Re-reading the Adam and Eve Story,” *United Methodists in Service*, March/April 2012.

“Heroines in Exodus,” *United Methodists in Service*, May/June 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“Heaven on Earth,” sermon on Acts 4:32-35, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, April 15, 2012.

“God’s Face,” sermon on Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, April 22, 2012.

“Ministers of Our God,” sermon on Psalm 66 and John 14:15-21, Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Upper Arlington, May 29, 2011.



**Sarah Heaner
Lancaster**

Professor in the Werner
Chair of Theology

Publications

“Issues Facing Ecumenism: A Perspective from the World Council of Churches,” in *Ecumenical Directions in the United States Today: Churches on a Theological Journey*, edited by Antonios Kireopolous and Juliana Mercera, Paulist Press, 2012.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Eucharist and Soteriology,” Theology, Eucharist, and Ministry Conference, United Theological School, Dayton, May 17, 2012.

Meetings

Drafting group, World Council of Churches Faith and Order Ecclesiology Working Group, the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Celigny, Switzerland, Dec. 10-11, 2011.

World Council of Churches Faith and Order Standing Commission, Penang, Malaysia, June 18-22, 2012.

Church and popular lectures

Presentation on revision of World Council of Churches Faith and Order ecclesiology document to National Council of Churches Executive Committee, Consultation on Ecclesiology, Chicago, Nov. 10, 2011.



**Linda A.
Mercadante**

Professor of Theology
in the Straker Chair of
Historical Theology

Publications

“The seeker next door: What drives the ‘spiritual but not religious’?” *The Christian Century*, May 30, 2012.

Meetings

Chaired Religious Conversion Unit, American Academy of Religion, Winter 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“What Can the Church Do About SBNR?” Weekend speaking engagement at First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, Colo., February 2012.

Ohio Humanities Council and WOSU lecture series, guest lecturer, February 2012.

Workgroup on Constructive Theology Consultation, April 2012.



Paul Numrich

Professor in the
Snowden Chair for the
Study of Religion and
Interreligious Relations

Publications

Review of *Exploring the Spirituality of the World Religions: The Quest for Personal, Spiritual and Social Transformation* by Duncan S. Ferguson, *Theology Today*, January 2012.

Academic lectures and presentations

Organized and presented at session of Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Montreal.

“Christian Sensitivity in Interreligious Relations,” faculty lecture, MTSO, May 10, 2012.

“The Scope of Buddhist Influence in American History and Culture,” presentation at the 26th General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, Yeosu, Korea, June 13, 2012.

Taught Summer Sampler at Trinity Lutheran Seminary on the topic of world religions.

Reviews

Reviewed manuscript for *Social Forces Journal*.

Reviewed project proposal for United States Institute of Peace.

Meetings

Faith and Order Commission, Ohio Council of Churches.

Ramadan Iftar Dinner, sponsored by Scioto Educational Foundation and Students for Dialogue (OSU), Columbus.

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio open house at Masjid Al-Urooj, Dublin, Ohio.

Church of the Brethren Ministerial Ethics Training, Peoria, Ill.

Met with representative of OhioHealth regarding local religious diversity and implications for health care.

Met with leaders of local congregation regarding programming in science/religion and interreligious relations.

Awards and appointments

Appointed to editorial board of *Journal of Global Buddhism*.

Scioto Educational Foundation Award for Excellence in Dialogue, Academic Institutions category, at 7th Annual Dialogue Dinner, Columbus.

Church and popular lectures

Led workshop for Certified Lay Ministers Academy, West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

“Muslims in America,” series of three Sunday presentations, Trinity UMC, Columbus, Spring 2012.

Continues

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M. Fulgence Nyengele

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling in the Chryst Chair in Pastoral Theology

Academic lectures and presentations

Panelist, “Toward a Global United Methodist Theological Imagination: Challenges, Prospects, Possibilities,” and invitation-only consultation of 10 United Methodist scholars, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., April 15-16, 2012.

Workshop presentation: “Challenges of Postcolonial Trauma for Pastoral Theology for the 21st Century,” Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Study Conference, Long Beach, Calif., June 14, 2012.

Meetings

United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order, Nashville, March 11-13, 2012.

Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, OSU Wexner Medical Center, May 2, 2012.

Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Study Conference, Long Beach, Calif., June 14-16, 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“Living Generously,” sermon, Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 7, 2011.

Presided at Holy Communion; Ebenezer United Methodist Church; Columbus, Ohio; Dec. 4, 2011.

“Men Under Construction,” sermon, Men’s Day Celebration at First AME Zion Church, Columbus, March 25, 2012.

“The Transforming Power of Forgiveness,” sermon, Good Friday Worship Service, Northland Cluster of United Methodist Churches, Columbus, Ohio, April 6, 2012.

Sermon: “Men Striving to Be Faithful to their Calling in Christ,” Men’s Day Celebration at Hilltop United Methodist Church, Columbus, April 29, 2012.



Joon-Sik Park

Professor in the E. Stanley Jones Chair of World Evangelism

Publications

“Ecclesiology,” The Wesleyan Studies Project – Methodist Evangelism (curriculum and video series), edited by Lacey Warner, Washington, D.C., Wesley Ministry Network, 2011.

Review of *A Protestant Theology of Passion: Korean Minjung Theology Revisited* by Volker Küster, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 35, no. 2, 2011.

Review of *Eschatology and Ecology: Experiences of the Korean Church* by Paul Hang-Sik Cho, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 35, no. 3, 2011.

“Korean Protestant Christianity: A Missiological Reflection,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, April 2012.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Korean Protestant Christianity: A Missiological Reflection on Its Past, Present, and Future,” American Society of Missiology, Chicago, June 19, 2011.

Meetings

Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church, Chicago, June 28-July 1, 2011.

General Board of Discipleship Board of Directors Meeting, Nashville, July 19-22, 2011.

American Society of Missiology Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Nov. 11-12, 2011.

General Conference of the United Methodist Church, Tampa, April 24-May 4, 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“Who Do You Say I Am?” sermon, Bethel International UMC, Columbus, July 11, 2011.

“So I Send You’: A Missional Church,” sermon, Sanmaru Korean Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea, Aug. 14, 2011.

“A Community of Healing and Wholeness,” sermons, Quad Cities Korean UMC, Bettendorf, Iowa, Sept. 9-11, 2011.

“The Worldwide Nature of the UMC,” presentation, East Ohio Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, Canton, Oct. 22, 2011.

“Watchful Waiting,” sermon, Harpster UMC, Harpster, Dec. 11, 2011.

“Seek First God’s Kingdom and Righteousness,” sermon, Living Water Ministry, Cincinnati, Feb. 5, 2012.

“The Worldwide Nature of the UMC,” presentation, West Ohio Delegation to the General and Jurisdictional conferences, Tipp City, March 3, 2012.



Robin Knowles Wallace

Professor in the Taylor Chair of Church Worship and Music

Publications

Review of *Recovering the Love Feast: Broadening Our Eucharistic Celebrations* by Paul Fike Stutzman, *Homiletic* 36:2, 2011.

Review of *Music and the Wesleys*, edited by Nicholas Temperley and Stephen Banfield, and *The Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley: A Reader* by S.T. Kimbrough Jr., in *Methodist History*, April 2011.

Edited *The Hymn*, Winter and Spring 2012 issues.

Academic lectures and presentations

Taught three classes in Certified Lay Pastors’ Training Course, a joint project of the Central Southeast Association of Ohio of the United Church of Christ and the Presbytery of the Scioto Valley of the Presbyterian Church (USA), April 21, May 19 and June 16, 2012.

“Worship and Eucharist,” presentation at “Theology, Eucharist, and Ministry,”

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, May 17, 2012.

Meetings

Executive Committee of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, Dallas, Nov. 2-5, 2011.

“Music That Makes Community,” Valparaiso University Institute of Liturgical Studies, April 16, 2012.

Church and popular lectures

Sermon, North Congregational UCC, Nov. 6, 2011.

Workshop leader, *Exploration 2011*, sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry/Young Seminarians Network, St. Louis, Nov. 11-13, 2011.

Choir director, ordination of Jean Feeney at North Congregational UCC, Columbus, May 12, 2012.



Lisa Withrow

Professor in the Dewire
Chair of Christian
Leadership

Publications

Editor and contributor, *Alienation and Connection: Suffering in a Global Age*, Lexington Books, November 2011.

Co-editor (guest), “Women and Leadership,” *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Spring 2012.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Ecology of Vocation,” co-presenter, Academy of Religious Leadership, Seattle, April 2012.

Meetings

Participant, Association of Theological Schools Committee on Race and Ethnicity, Pittsburgh, March 2-4, 2012.

Awards and appointments

Named guest editor of *Journal of Religious Leadership*, 2011-12.

Church and popular lectures

Guest speaker and retreat leader, Episcopal Diocese Clergy Convocation, Syracuse, N.Y., October 2011.

“Getting Along with Neighbors,” Habitat for Humanity, Delaware, Ohio, Feb. 14, 2012.

Consultation, conflict management tools, Akron First UMC, April 2012.



**Yvonne
Zimmerman**

Assistant Professor of
Christian Ethics

Publications

“Christianity and Human Trafficking,” *Religion Compass*, October 2011.

Academic lectures and presentations

Panelist, “The Role of Religious Institutions in Combating Human Trafficking,” the Protection Project’s Sixth Annual Symposium on Trafficking in Persons. The theme of the symposium was “The Five Elements of Civil Society: A New Approach to Participation in Combatting Trafficking in Persons.” Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C., Oct. 7, 2011.

Meetings

American Academy of Religion, November 2011.

Society of Christian Ethics, January 2012.

Church and popular lectures

“Re-Examining Our Sexual Ethics,” Summit on 16th UMC, Jan. 19, 2012.



Trinity UMC expands its commitment to scholarships

From its earliest days, MTSO has enjoyed a special relationship with Trinity United Methodist Church in Columbus. MTSO’s founding president, John Dickhaut, was a former Trinity pastor, and many Trinity members have been trustees and friends of the school.

Now, thanks to fortuitous timing, the church’s foundation has made an expanded commitment to theological education. It began last fall, when a letter arrived from MTSO’s advancement office updating the status of an existing Trinity UMC Scholarship Fund.

“That letter came to us in the middle of a variety of discussions we have had on this very topic,” said Charlie Stearns, chair of the foundation. “It was an answer to prayer. We’re very conscious of the need for ministers and churches today, and we want to do what we can to help address that need in some way.” Trinity contacted the school about adding significantly to the scholarship fund. Ultimately, the foundation committed to \$100,000 in new donations over 10 years. Beginning this fall, an MTSO student will benefit every year from a Trinity scholarship that pays 50 percent tuition.

“In addition to that, we said if we’re going to put that money into the scholarship at Methesco, then we should make that same commitment to Trinity members,” Stearns said. “If there are Trinity members at Methesco in the divinity track, we would favorably respond to the request for support up to 50 percent.”

“The point of the whole thing is our belief in Methesco and our belief in the importance of supporting theological education,” Stearns said. “That’s what it really boils down to.”

Donor Honor Roll

In grateful recognition of all those whose gifts between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012, contributed to the success of MTSO

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\$25,000 and above

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Mentor UMC
David Schooler

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Continues**PROFILES IN GIVING****Putting honoraria to work**

It's not uncommon for friends of MTSO to honor friends or loved ones with memorial gifts. It is, however, rare for one donor to honor a long list of names, as **David Mansperger** has done over the course of almost a decade.

Mansperger wasn't yet out of college when he began graduate studies at MTSO in the late 1960s. Thanks to a head start, he finished his M.Div. with time to spare and went on to complete a Master of Religious Education degree as well.

"That education degree and those studies served me well," said Mansperger, who ultimately was certified as an MRDD superintendent by what is now known as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. He spent 26 years working in service to people with disabilities and their families, "which I thought was an extension of my ministry."

After retiring from MRDD in 2004, Mansperger returned to parish ministry and now serves Center UMC

in Cambridge. Within that role, he identified a novel opportunity to support MTSO. Each time he has received an honorarium for a funeral, wedding or baptism, he and his wife, Beth Ann, have forwarded it to MTSO.



"I didn't originate the idea," Mansperger said, "but I thought it made good sense. I've got a little bit of discomfort accepting the honoraria when my salary is paid. This is a good way to honor someone else while continuing to build scholarship funds."

Many of his gifts have gone to the Dale and Bernice Mansperger Scholarship Fund, honoring his late parents, who established the fund with an estate gift.

"I'd been wanting to do something for MTSO, and I thought this might be an appropriate way," he said, adding with a chuckle, "The only thing I wish is that I served a much larger congregation and I had more weddings and funerals."

from previous page

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 contact Stan Ling at 740-362-
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Continues

PROFILES IN GIVING

Putting a required IRA distribution to good use

Sandy Lutz has served on so many church boards and committees that her reputation sometimes precedes her. At one organization's meeting, she recalled, "A woman came up to me and said, 'Are you *the* Sandy Lutz?' I said, 'It depends. Are you United Methodist?' She said yes, and I said, 'Well, I guess I am.'"



Lutz's responsibilities increased yet again two years ago, when she became an MTSO trustee.

"I am not one of the people who came on the board as a big giver," she said, "but I support the universities that my husband and I had our degrees from and also my local church." Recently, she identified a smart way to donate generously to MTSO. Lutz's

husband, Richard, died in 2010, leaving her an IRA from which she was recently required by law to take a distribution.

"When I needed to do that, I knew that there were some tax advantages to donating directly that way," Lutz said. After consulting with MTSO President Jay Rundell, she utilized the IRA distribution to donate \$6,000 to Methesco's Greatest Needs in each of two fiscal years.

She made a conscious decision to give the entire amount to the annual fund: "At that moment in time, I decided I would not do designated giving. The people who are running an institution know better than a donor what's needed. I know there's an element of faith and trust in doing that, but for me, that makes the most sense."

Lutz, who holds a doctorate from Texas Tech University and is a retired University of Akron instructor, has a deep appreciation for the work of MTSO.

"Any time I have one foot in education and one foot in the church, I'm a happy camper," she said. "And I have been impressed with how the school's academic standards and lots of things have grown over the years. People look with great respect to our graduates."

from previous page

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Every effort has been made to accurately honor MTSO's donors. If you believe an error has been made, please contact Stan Ling at 740-362-3130 or sling@mtso.edu.

Restricted student scholarship giving

These churches and other organizations have assisted in the sponsorship of individual MTSO students' educations

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Florida Conference, TUMC

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Christian Theological
Seminary
Indiana Annual Conference
of the UMC
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Conference, TUMC
Liberty Grove UMC,
Burtonsville

MICHIGAN

Clare UMC
Detroit Annual Conference,
TUMC
First UMC, Holland
First United Methodist
Church, Farmington

Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church, Livonia
King of Kings Lutheran
Church, Shelby Township
North Congregational
Church, Farmington Hills
St. Paul's UMC, Monroe

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International Order of the
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Mississippi Conference,
TUMC

NORTH CAROLINA

Western North Carolina
Conference, TUMC
White Plains UMC

NEW YORK

First United Church of East
Syracuse

OHIO

Brownhelm Congregational
UCC, Vermilion
Central Christian Church,
Newark
Christ Lutheran Church,
Athens
Church of the Good
Shepherd, Columbus
The Downtown Sertoma
Club of Columbus
Dublin Community UCC

East Ohio Conference, TUMC
Fairfield County Foundation
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Chagrin Falls
First Christian Church,
Zanesville
First Community Foundation
First UMC East Liverpool
First UMC East Liverpool,
Hope for the Hurting Fund
First UMC Lancaster
First UMC Newark
Fresno UMC
Grand Chapter of Ohio, OES
Greensburg UMC
Harlem Road UMC
Howard United Methodist
Church
Jerome UMC
Korean UMC Columbus
Marion Baptist Association
Milford Center UMC
Northwest Christian Church,
Columbus
Ohio Baptist Education
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Ohio Church of God Men
Riverside UMC Columbus
Tiffin Masonic Temple
Trinity UMC Columbus
Trinity UMC Mt. Gilead
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Delaware

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Brooklyn
West Berlin Presbyterian
Church, Delaware
West Ohio Conference,
TUMC
Worthington Presbyterian
Church

PENNSYLVANIA

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United Methodist Higher
Education Foundation

TEXAS

North Texas Conference,
TUMC

WEST VIRGINIA

United Methodist
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Virginia
West Virginia Conference,
TUMC

Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$6,178,648 and expenditures of \$6,177,437. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Revenues

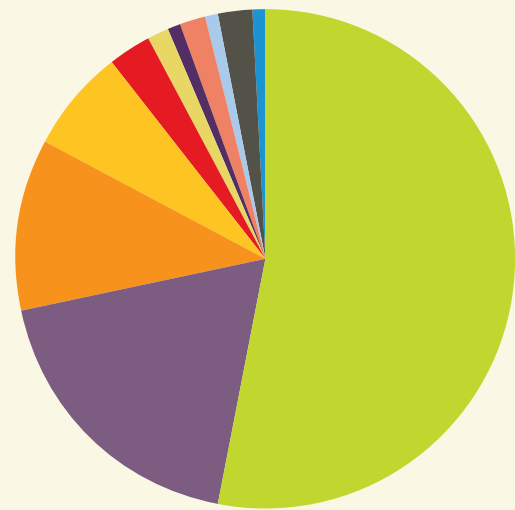
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: tuition and fees (40 percent of total revenues), endowment earnings (24.2 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (15.3 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 7.6 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Tuition and fees	\$2,471,223	40.0%
Federal work study	\$39,602	0.6%
Other programs and services	\$757,092	12.3%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$946,365	15.3%
Endowment	\$1,493,490	24.2%
Release of restricted gifts	\$162,252	2.6%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$252,457	4.1%
Student aid gifts	\$56,167	0.9%
Total revenues	\$6,178,648	100.0%

Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 53.4 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by financial aid (18.6 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio and Dunn Dining Hall (11.2 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,296,759	53.4%
Financial aid	\$1,146,673	18.6%
Other programs and services	\$688,903	11.2%
Plant maintenance	\$408,092	6.6%
General administration	\$170,261	2.8%
Business administration	\$90,400	1.5%
Institutional advancement	\$41,622	0.7%
Information systems	\$108,837	1.8%
Instruction	\$47,951	0.8%
Academic support	\$139,946	2.3%
Enrollment	\$37,993	0.6%
Total expenditures	\$6,177,437	100%

The difference you make

In these pages, you've seen evidence of a community deeply engaged with a world in need of passionate yet reasoned Christian leadership. Our students arrive on this campus eager to make a difference, and in their few years here, the subjects they study, the places they visit and the communities they serve shape them into well-prepared leaders.

For many of them, this journey wouldn't be possible without your support. Your gifts fund the appointment of faculty, the

investment in ever-changing educational technology and the scholarships that attract the most promising students to our campus.

But it's beyond the campus walls where your generosity can best be appreciated – in the communities where the graduates of MTSO are leading lives of significance every day. So, more than anything, it's on behalf of those our students are preparing to serve that we say a sincere thank you.

If you'd like to give to MTSO today, there are several ways to go about it. You can donate electronically or register for check-free automatic monthly donations at www.mtso.edu/giving. Or, if you wish to give by mail, you may return this form with your check or credit card information to:

Methodist Theological School in Ohio
3081 Columbus Pike
Delaware, OH 43015

My gift to MTSO is: \$1,000 \$500 \$250
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 Seminary Scholarship
 Other (please specify) _____

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