

Volume LIV
Fall 2015

THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Six new seminarians share their stories

Bishop in Residence Judith Craig reflects on a pastoral life

Events: Alumni Day, Williams Institute Lectures and Schooler Institute

Sandy Lutz, influential lay leader, chairs MTSO's board

Meet new faculty members in New Testament, homiletics and Hebrew Bible



MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

Contents

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why MTSO doesn't *deliver* education 1

ON CAMPUS

A preview of campus events 2
Meet Admissions Director Benjamin Hall. 3
Fall Admissions Open House 3
Sandy Lutz ascends to chair of MTSO's board 4
We're now powered, in part, by the sun. 5
Bishop Judith Craig's pastoral life 6

STUDENTS

Six new arrivals introduce themselves 8

ALUMNI

A wise perspective on Christianity and war 10
Alum news 11

FACULTY

Bridgeman brings a commitment to teaching and activism 13
Schellenberg shares his curiosity about early Christians. 14
Beyond the classroom: faculty activities 16
Emeriti obituaries 17

IN REVIEW

Images of a good year. 22

REPORT TO DONORS

Financial information 23
Donor Honor Roll 24
The Sterling Society: recognizing planned giving . . . 26
MTSO Board of Trustees roster 27
Restricted student scholarship giving. 28



A window on our heritage ✱ Fifteen years ago, MTSO embarked on a new millennium by dedicating Gault Hall, a gift of the Stanley C. and Flo K. Gault family and many other donors. The hall's Sterling Roof Terrace is graced by "Portal of God's Love," the stained-glass roundel illuminated by the morning light on the cover of this issue of *The Story*. Created by Alan Spencer and inspired by *I Corinthians 13*, the window was a gift of Ron Alford and Barbara Cantlin in memory of their parents, John and Mary Alford.

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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 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 and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church. In addition, MTSO provides courses for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry certification in Engaging in Ministry with the Poor.

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.

Why MTSO doesn't *deliver* education

By Rev. Jay Rundell
President

What a joy it is to greet you as you receive this new issue of *The Story Magazine and Annual Report*. As you turn the following pages, you will see that our school is abuzz with activity as we begin another exciting school year.

Like most schools, we have our share of people coming and going, as well-prepared students graduate and members of the incoming class matriculate in their place. We believe that amidst these transitions we have a particularly creative interchange of perspectives and ideas, with students and faculty who come from rich and varied traditions and experiences. When talking with prospective students, I like to ask them, when choosing a school, to consider when not only what they think they will receive from us but what they have to bring to the equation themselves.

That we are a learning community wouldn't surprise many. What might surprise some who don't know us well is that, as a seminary, we don't understand our learning community to be a place that simply passes time-tested wisdom and truths from faculty to students.

I meet people quite frequently who assume we are concerned solely with old ideas. After all, we deal with religion, and that involves immersion in texts and movements that have been around for several millennia. I also find that perceptions persist that educational institutions can be characterized by a kind of one-directional flow of information – that we have experts who are in place to fill the minds of students like so many

waiting empty vessels. Conversations about educational technology and practice too often have used words like “delivery” and “distributed learning,” which has served to reinforce that notion.

Not only does thinking of education as something that can be “delivered” or “distributed” miss the point that education is an interactive process, but it has unhelpful theological implications for seminaries. If an educational approach assumes that the religious faith is a kind of static entity that can be passed neatly from an authority to a recipient, it will operate in

If an educational approach assumes that the religious faith is a kind of static entity that can be passed neatly from an authority to a recipient, it will operate in a very different mode than if we understand that we are dealing with something that is dynamic, changing and evolving as it is faithfully engaged by every generation.

a very different mode than if we understand that we are dealing with something that is dynamic, changing and evolving as it is faithfully engaged by every generation.

We continue to find deep value in the belief that our interaction amidst differences and our engagement of novel ideas produce a living tradition that is necessarily transformed by those who engage it. Our Connections M.Div. is a great example of how we seek to use the very best of educational technology while assuring that we are maximizing the interpersonal



interaction necessary for advancing the faith and developing competencies in those who will lead.

In the following pages, you will read about the myriad interactions among people and communities that are part and parcel to the life and mission of our seminary. Faculty, students and alumni continue to lead in the crucial conversations and dilemmas of our day. Whether in issues of race, societal change around gender and sexuality, economic justice, or ecology and climate change, we are in the midst of it in consequential ways.

In fact, our campus community is increasingly becoming a place where seemingly unrelated individuals, groups and movements find connection and synthesis. I believe one of our great opportunities going forward is to build on our ability to function as a hub for relationship and interaction.

The Methesco tradition has always engaged Christian ministry and service beyond the walls of the church while maintaining the very highest standards in preparing pastors for traditional roles as well. That hasn't changed.

In an era when focus is shifting from institutions to communities and movements, MTSO's future is bright if we can continue to develop our ability to bridge these realities and facilitate the coalescing of learning, action and community.

I am grateful to all of you who facilitate and support this important work!

SAVE THE DATES

Don't miss these big campus events

The MTSO campus will welcome alumni and other visitors to a wide variety of events throughout the school year. Information on all events will be shared through numerous means, including the website, Facebook and Twitter (@MTSOedu). Here are three significant events to add to your calendar.

Sept. 28 Alumni Day

Alumni Day 2015 begins with a continental breakfast and gathering time in the Gallery before a service of thanksgiving honoring recipients of the Mount Alumni Awards. This year's honorees are:

- Karen Cook ('03), associate pastor of Church and Community Development for All People, Columbus.
- Jeff Hodge ('08), pastor of Pennellville and Oswego Trinity United Methodist churches and principal of J. Hodge Consulting in New York.
- Virginia Lohmann Bauman ('06), senior pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, Columbus.
- Alan Morrison ('90), pastor of First United Methodist Church of Monongahela, Pa.

The day continues with a special luncheon honoring Bishop Judith Craig, MTSO's bishop in residence and visiting professor in the Dickhaut Chair of Church Leadership. Over cuisine prepared by the farm and food staff, we'll honor Bishop Craig's remarkable ministry and launch the campaign for the Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment. We'll cap off our time together with more informal fellowship over dessert.

In addition to the day's events, a Cokesbury representative will be present. You'll have the opportunity to browse the Cokesbury display and place orders.

The morning service will feature an Alumni Choir. Anyone who wishes to be a part of the choir is invited to meet in the Alford Centrum at 9:45 a.m. for a half-hour rehearsal.

Alumni Day will feature events from 10 a.m. to around 2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. Events are being presented at no cost to guests, though we ask you to help us plan by completing a short RSVP form at www.mtso.edu/alumniday. Guests also will be offered the opportunity to invest in the Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment.

Nov. 3 and 4

Williams Institute Lectures

The Williams Institute welcomes Stacey Floyd-Thomas, associate professor of ethics and society at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences, who will deliver two lectures.

Floyd-Thomas's research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of ethics, feminist and womanist studies, black church studies, critical pedagogy, critical race theory, and post-colonial studies with an overall approach to the study of Christian social ethics that engages broad questions of moral agency, cultural memory, ethical responsibility and social justice.

A sought-after speaker and prolific author, Floyd-Thomas is a recipient of the Texas Christian University Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Creative Teacher and Scholar and the American Academy of Religion Excellence in Teaching Award.



Vanderbilt ethicist
* Floyd-Thomas will deliver the Williams Institute Lectures

Feb. 8 and 9, 2016 Schooler Institute on Preaching

Mike Graves says when a new acquaintance on the golf course or aboard an airplane asks him what he does for a living, he has a stock reply: "Have you ever been to church and heard a bad sermon? My job is to fix that."

Graves, the William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship at Saint Paul School of Theology, will lead the 2016 Schooler Institute on Preaching. His passion for preaching is evident on his faculty web page, where he says, "I believe preaching does indeed transform the world, both in terms of calling people to be change agents but also by speaking truth to power. In many cases, our vision has been too small, our sermons too provincial."

"I challenge students to consider a larger worldview than the congregations where they serve," Graves says. "An emphasis on social holiness and not just personal holiness is essential to a profound ministry of preaching." *



Saint Paul homeletician *
Graves will lead the Schooler Institute on Preaching

Hall relishes aiding with discernment

The admissions director recalls being transformed by his time as an MTSO student

Benjamin Hall was transformed during his time as a student at MTSO. Now he's working with others seeking a similar experience through theological education.

"The message that I try to give to prospective students is what I allowed myself to do when I was here as a student," said Hall, who was appointed MTSO's director of admissions in March. "I challenged myself to be challenged. By the time I had completed my degree, I no longer thought about much of anything in the same way I did when I first came."

"If you truly allow yourself to be challenged, you will find yourself opening up to many different possibilities and options in ministry," he said. "Students arrive at MTSO with traditions and a

history of how they've been taught to engage with scripture. But you'll get the most out of this place if you'll allow yourself to be challenged about your preconceived notions about God and how we respond to God's call to service and ministry in whatever context that is."

"You'll learn that ministry occurs in so many other places than our traditional contexts. We need people to be in the traditional contexts as elders and pastors in our churches and parishes. But also in this changing world, we need people in ministry meeting people in other places."

Hall, a 2014 MTSO Master of Theological Studies graduate, appreciates the intersection of ministry and counseling education available to MTSO students.



"You'll get the most out of this place if you'll allow yourself to be challenged" * Benjamin Hall

"Our Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries program allows people who may not think of counseling as ministry to see that it actually is," he said. "Someone who is discerning a call to ministry but who is not interested in preaching in a pulpit on Sundays can realize that being a counselor is a form of ministry. MTSO is one of the few places that embrace the two dynamics of ministry and professional counseling."

There are many paths prospective theological students might be considering. And Hall is enthusiastic to be a part of the journey: "Engaging with people in conversations around the discernment process is something I enjoy more than anything else I've ever done. I like being with people in conversation as they flesh out what it is that God has called them to do."

Hall invites alumni and friends of the school to help initiate those conversations.

"The admissions department invites friends of MTSO to encourage people who are discerning a call to ministry or theological education to visit campus," he said. "When guests pull in off Route 23, there's something about this space that makes them recognize what we have here. All of us on the admissions staff look forward to helping them discover how the gifts nurtured on our campus can shape their lives and their ministry." *

Admissions Open House is Oct. 20

Nothing helps a prospective seminarian appreciate the benefits of an MTSO education like a visit to the campus. Current students agree that seeing the campus, meeting faculty and current students, and learning about educational and financial options was vital to their discernment process.

Those elements will come together at the Fall Admissions Open House, to be held 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Tuesdays are perfect days to visit, with many classes meeting and the campus community coming together for a delicious lunch and afternoon chapel. Visitors will have the opportunity to sit in on a class, tour student housing,



and explore scholarships and additional financial aid options. The day's events are free to anyone considering graduate-level theological education. Anyone wishing to register or learn more is invited to email admissions@mtso.edu.

‘I was called to lay work’

With a wealth of experience, Sandy Lutz ascends to chair of MTSO’s board

Sandy Lutz sums it up like this: “God works in strange and mysterious ways.” It certainly feels appropriate that a life devoted to both the church and education would bring her to the leadership of the MTSO Board of Trustees.

Lutz was elected chair of the board effective July 1, replacing David Wilcox, who remains on the board following his three-year term at its helm. In addition to her five years as an MTSO trustee, Lutz has acquired broad expertise in education and an exceptional record of lay service within the United Methodist Church. Among other leadership roles, she currently serves on the denomination’s nine-member Judicial Council – informally known as “the United Methodist Supreme Court.”

A native of Upstate New York, Lutz earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Vermont and a master’s from Southern Illinois University, where she met her late husband, Richard. She spent 14 years completing her Doctor of Education degree through Texas Tech University, balancing the writing of a dissertation on women’s vocational choices with the care of the couple’s daughter, Sara.

In 1972, the Lutzes moved to Canton and began attending a nearby United Methodist church. It wasn’t long before her pastor encouraged her to become more broadly involved with the denomination. Soon she was chairing the East Ohio Conference’s Commission on the Status and Role of Women – and considering a new vocation.

“I spent about a year deciding whether I was called to the ordained ministry,” Lutz



“Our seminaries are beacons in what can be a pretty dark world” * Lutz

said, “and decided I was not. I decided I was called to lay work.” A whole lot of lay work. In the alphabet soup of United Methodist boards, committees and councils, there aren’t many letters missing from her resume. And it quickly became clear how much her colleagues valued her dedication and insight. Lutz was elected to lead East Ohio’s delegation to the 1980 Indianapolis General Conference, despite the fact it was her first time attending a general conference.

In addition to her leadership within the church, Lutz taught in the College of Education at the University of Akron in the late 1980s and early ’90s. Her courses included Learning Strategies and Characteristics of Learners. “I enjoyed thinking about and strategizing about education,” she said.

Her thinking and strategizing served her well when she was elected to the United Methodist Church’s General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, where she served on the Division of Diaconal Ministry. It was the work of Lutz and her colleagues that made the role of deacon as it’s understood today a reality.

Prior to 1996, United Methodist ordination involved two steps, to deacon and then to elder. But there was a growing movement toward a redefinition of the deacons’ ordination. “It seemed clear that the call identified by diaconal ministers to service, compassion, word and justice was as

valid a call as, although different from, the elders’ call to sacrament, word, service and order,” Lutz said.

Lutz chaired the legislative committee that successfully shepherded the proposal for a newly defined order of deacon through the 1996 Denver General Conference, a task she found both challenging and exciting. “It was a fascinating process to see people who were so committed to their own two-step ordination, and to find them able to listen to these diaconal ministers who were really seeking a different path to ordination – and yet their path was just as genuine.”

Now Lutz influences the church in a new way, as a member of the United Methodists’ highest court, the Judicial Council. She was elected as an alternate in 2012 and moved into a spot vacated by a regular member last year.

“It has been wonderful,” she said. “There is little in the church I have enjoyed and appreciated and learned as much from as I have in that experience. The thing I appreciate so much

about our United Methodist structure is that the rulings of the Judicial Council are based upon the council’s reading of the Book of Discipline and the church’s constitution. There is that shared, solid base.”

Despite her always-full plate, Lutz accepted President Jay Rundell’s invitation to become an MTSO trustee in 2010. She knew MTSO from her time as a member of the United Methodist Commission on Theological Education and through friends who are trustees and alumni.

It was the work of Lutz and her colleagues that made the role of deacon as it’s understood today a reality.

Continues

From previous page

“That was always something I thought I would enjoy doing,” she said of seminary trusteeship, “having both the education piece and the church piece as a part of my world. This is a denomination that honors the academic as well as the spiritual.”

At MTSO, she said, “several things come together. Part is a commitment to diversity, not just in the politically correct sense, but diversity in the human sense that covers the range of differences that are part of who we are as human beings.”

“That plays out in so many different ways, and what I see at Methesco is a commitment to struggle with that. I hear faculty doing that. I hear administrators doing that. I hear that as just a part of the conversation.”

She also sees a fully engaged student body: “They own the environment. It’s not like the students at a college who go through a class and leave and don’t leave an imprint on the school.”

That level of engagement is necessary, she said, for the role she believes MTSO and its graduates should play.

“I think that our seminaries, and particularly Methesco, are beacons in what can be a pretty dark world and need to stay that way,” she said. “If I can help in that process I’m glad for the opportunity.” ✱



“This is one step of our ongoing effort” ✱ *The new hillside array*

MTSO’s solar array is harnessing the sun

In October 2014, President Jay Rundell invited donors to invest in MTSO’s latest effort to increase campus sustainability. The result is a new, 40-panel solar array, which has been installed on a hillside between Gault Hall and the Helen Werner Apartment Building.

The photovoltaic panels are expected to reduce the campus’s reliance on conventional electric service by generating 11 kilowatts of electricity for Gault and Werner halls. The system is tied into the electrical grid. Its location was chosen both for positioning relative to the sun and to stand as a symbol

MTSO’s commitment to thinking and acting ecologically.

“This is one step of our ongoing effort to make MTSO a more sustainable campus,” Rundell said. “I’m grateful to those who invested in this project.”

Other efforts include the founding of Seminary Hill Farm in late 2013. In addition to providing fresh produce at every meal in Dunn Dining Hall, the farm shares its bounty with the broader community through charitable donations, the community-supported agriculture program, restaurant supply and participation in farmers’ markets.

In the classroom, MTSO has developed five courses that address issues within ecotheology and sustainability, including Food, Land and Faith Formation, and Dialogues in Faith and Science. Students in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology programs may earn Ecology and Justice degree specializations.

New projects aimed at making campus more sustainable are being identified.

“This is a process for us,” Rundell said. “I look forward to sharing news of our next steps soon.” ✱

Seminary Hill Farm’s CSA Fall Term begins Oct. 1

MTSO’s Seminary Hill Farm offers those who love fresh, organic produce an opportunity to participate in community supported agriculture throughout the growing season.

The eight-week CSA Fall Term runs from Oct. 1 through Nov. 19 and will include such things as salad mix, radishes, asparagus, spinach and herbs. The price is \$240.

CSA distribution is 4 to 6 p.m. every Thursday at the farm. For each

distribution, an array of produce is washed, sorted into bunches and organized for easy selection. Members are provided reusable Seminary Hill Farm bags and have an opportunity to talk with the people who grew the food, including experts in farm-to-table cooking.

Memberships are transferable and sharable between households. To learn more and register, visit www.seminaryhillfarm.org.

A pastoral life

MTSO Bishop in Residence Judith Craig discusses teaching, preaching and the new scholarship endowment that bears her name

Before she served as a United Methodist bishop, before she directed the East Ohio Conference Council on Ministries, before she pastored a church, before she was a minister of religious education, the young Judy Craig had in her mind a tidy vocational plan: “I wanted to spend a few years in a local church, and then I’d teach in a seminary somewhere.”

The timeline wasn’t exactly what she envisioned, but for 15 years now, Bishop Judith Craig has indeed been teaching in a seminary somewhere – specifically at MTSO. She has served as bishop in residence and visiting professor in the Dickhaut Chair of Church Leadership since retiring from the episcopacy in 2000.

“That I ended up at the seminary was sheer wonder,” she said. “Long years ago I thought this is what I’d do, and here I was.”

Craig’s years teaching leadership and homiletics have capped a pioneering and impactful ministry. Elected to the United Methodist episcopacy in 1984, she served as bishop of the Michigan and Ohio West areas for eight years each.

She made history in 1996 as the first woman to deliver the traditional episcopal address opening the denomination’s quadrennial General Conference. Four colleges and universities have presented her with honorary doctorate degrees, and in 2000, a home for orphans in Liberia was christened the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village.

Now she has embarked on a new project: the Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment at MTSO, to which she is a significant donor. Additional donors are now being offered the opportunity to contribute to the fund. A special appeal will be made Sept. 28 at the Alumni Day luncheon in Craig’s honor.

Bishop Craig spent an afternoon in July on her Worthington front porch demonstrating once again that she’s an important and provocative voice within the United Methodist Church. She shared her recollections and wisdom on topics ranging from her seminary colleagues to the future of the United Methodist Church to the makings of an effective preacher.



**“That I ended up at the seminary was sheer wonder” *
Craig delivering MTSO’s 2008 commencement address**

“I never took a homiletics course in seminary because I never thought I’d be a preacher. But I enjoyed teaching it. Some people are just natural stage people, and there are some for whom that is very difficult. But even the latter can learn the rubrics of how to write a good sermon and, with coaching and encouragement, can learn to offer it acceptably. The chutzpah can’t be taught; that just is a natural thing. But courage and confidence in your skill, in knowing what you’re doing, can be encouraged, I think. I saw some pretty quiet people become pretty bombastic preachers. That was fun.”

“When I arrived at MTSO, I found myself amidst a group of scholars and committed souls that really impressed me. I felt so honored to sit among the faculty. I still do. I haven’t begun to do the academic work that they’ve done. They’re not to be taken lightly. I just admire them so much.”

“It had been a while since I’d been at a seminary, so I was surprised and pleased at all the age differences. But I also was a little surprised at the students’ expectations of their professors – the kind of pushback on their professors I never would have thought of exhibiting when I was in seminary. My professors were gods. I guess



“If you think you can wait until Friday to put a sermon together, you’re not a thoughtful preacher” * Teaching a fresh-air homiletics class

I want to beg students to remember that their professors are highly trained, committed professionals and Christians and believers, and that they need to respect that.”

“Balancing the pastoral and the prophetic is a tough challenge. But I believe if you get to know your people and let them get to know you – put your feet under their kitchen table a little – that over time you can suggest wild things that they would never have imagined about changing church or changing society. But you can’t do that if you’re a stranger. Those are the kinds of conversations you have with people you know.”

“About six years ago, I returned to Epworth-Euclid UMC, where I’d served earlier, to spend a year as interim pastor and led them as they decided to unite with First Church Cleveland to create University Circle United Methodist Church. I said to my students, ‘I’ve got a student charge. I drive to it every weekend. Up and down I-71.’ Oh, it was fun. I got to preach every Sunday to the same congregation for a year.”

“When I’m preparing a Sunday sermon, I read the lectionary on Monday and I start thinking. And every now and then something pops in my head, and I go back and read the lectionary again to see if that really does illuminate it. Along about midweek, I write out what I might want to do in that sermon. And it’s only then that I go to commentaries, because I’ve lived with the text a few days myself. I go to commentaries to make sure I’m not missing something obvious – and often I am. I usually wrote a final sermon on Friday. If my sermon isn’t done by 2 o’clock in the afternoon on Friday, I’m in a snit. And if you think you can wait until Friday to put it all together, you’re not a thoughtful preacher.”

“As bishop, I’d preached to congregations I didn’t know and under circumstances I wasn’t sure of all over the map for 16 years. You know how I did that, though: I decided that in every congregation there is a cluster of the same human issues. There is someone out there with a broken family, somebody facing a divorce,

somebody who’s just had a death, somebody whose kids are in trouble, somebody who’s making a big decision about employment. Every congregation has those. So I kind of tried to conjure up a congregation in my mind that would be like that.”

“I blessed a toilet once, an indoor toilet. That congregation finally got rid of the outdoor shanty and built an indoor toilet, and I went down and blessed that thing. Now, how do you bless a toilet? I don’t know. I remember thinking, ‘This is a challenge.’”

“I think that the contentious issue of homosexuality within the United Methodist Church is a U.S. issue, and we need to find a way for the U.S. to debate it and deal with it. And let each continent find its own way to do that. We’re different. We have different contexts. There is a proposal to divide the church into five central conferences, of which the United States would be one. And in those central conferences, each elects bishops. Each does work that is related to its culture. We each set social standards. We deal with economies that are appropriate to our situations. We’re riding in an old boat, and we need to get out of it before it sinks us all and create some new boats that sail under different flags, with one big flag that is the United Methodist Church. I pray for that day, and I pray for those concepts to come back onto the floor of General Conference and be discussed seriously.”

“This new scholarship is very pleasing to me. I fought putting my name on the scholarship for a little while. It seemed self-aggrandizing. But I learned with the children’s village in Liberia that my name raises money in certain sectors. I hope we can build it to where it can sustain some students full-time. I wish every seminary student could spend their first year not having to worry about money and just immerse themselves in study and the transition they’re making.”

“I think seminary education requires pondering, lots of pondering. Students need time to meditate without worrying about finances, and to ask, ‘What is this I’m seeing?’ And if this scholarship is one little contribution to that, then that’s pleasing to me. And I would thank anyone who gives a dollar or 10 for helping that come about.” *



The Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment

MTSO is honored that Bishop Judith Craig is lending her name to a new scholarship endowment that will benefit those exploring a call to ministry by minimizing their financial burdens and enabling them to better concentrate on their preparation to serve. It is her hope that the scholarship will be of particular value to women pursuing ministry.

We invite you to join Bishop Craig in this investment in the ministries of future leaders for the church and the world. To learn more about the scholarship and explore your options for giving, please visit www.mtso.edu/craig.

New student snapshots

The incoming class that arrived in August features a wealth of compelling stories

The varied stories and aspirations of the newest MTSO students reflect the evolving role of theological education in preparing Christian leaders. Some feel the pull of traditional pulpit ministry, while others seek to make a difference beyond the church walls. This group also brings an invigorating mix of backgrounds. Seminarians fresh

from college are finding themselves among classmates with careers and life experiences already under their belts.

Below are reflections of six incoming students, featuring quotes from their admissions essays. The church and the world are fortunate to have them pursuing vocations of real significance at MTSO.

Working to enhance the nonprofit she founded

Bhoke Mukami earned degrees from universities in Tanzania and the United Kingdom and embarked on a successful career in investment banking. Yet she found herself continuing to reflect on powerful experiences in Tanzania.



As a volunteer with local children, Mukami was often told difficult stories of abuse and molestation: “I came to know that some of the girls had been sexually violated. It was really hard to comprehend and digest. It was during this time that I made a commitment to empower both boys and girls.”

In December 2013, Mukami founded the nonprofit organization Shield Our Watoto, employing a Kiswahili word that means children. SOW works to make Tanzanian children safer by equipping both children and adults with the tools and information to confront the silent but pervasive issue of sexual abuse. Now, with the help of the Flo K. Gault Scholarship, Mukami is seeking a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree to enhance her work.

“My dream is to break the silence

surrounding this issue by promoting dialogues, raising awareness and encouraging communication. SOW empowers children and adults through educational programs on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to childhood sexual abuse,” she said.

“I know with a MACM degree, I will be better prepared to lead SOW and fulfill my lifelong vision to work with people facing some of the most difficult issues to solve.”

A pursuit of ministry abandoned and rekindled

Discouraged by the changes in his childhood church and a faith-challenging first year at a conservative Southern college,

Kevin Michael Rodriguez abandoned

early plans to pursue ministry. He returned to his home state to enroll in California State University Monterey Bay. After graduating magna cum laude, Rodriguez began a career as a mentor and tutor with the Community Partnership for Youth.

“This is where I had a true encounter with the living God,” he said, “through



people who rejected xenophobia, islamophobia, homophobia and misogyny in favor of justice rooted in loving kindness.”

The experience rekindled Rodriguez’s interest in ministry. A Harding Scholarship recipient, he will pursue a Master of Divinity degree at MTSO.

“I know in my heart that I want to serve the impoverished as well as unhoused communities,” he said. “I feel a strong calling toward ministering to those who so often go unnoticed. As a person of color, I have a strong desire to help bridge the chasm of racial understanding.”

“While I am not certain any person can ever be fully and truly prepared to delve into the most profound and longing questions of the human heart, mind and spirit, I do know that I have waited long enough to try.”

Called to be a deacon engaged in counseling

After graduating from Ohio Northern University with a degree in youth ministries, **Alexandra Petrey** earned a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical



Theological Seminary. While at Garrett, she immersed herself in Chicago's downtown, serving in congregational children's ministry. She also interned with a nonprofit in Detroit that provides transitional housing for homeless families.

"I felt myself torn between the needs of the local church for faith formation and the needs in the greater community for justice," she said. "I enjoyed teaching and enjoyed working in the larger community. At the same time, I felt the need for strong elder leadership and the strong encouragement of other clergy to become an elder, but I felt within my heart the call for deacon."

To merge her interests, Petrey, a commissioned provisional deacon in the West Ohio Conference, is seeking a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree, aided by a Burton D. Morgan Foundation Scholarship.

"As a licensed social worker or mental-health counselor," she said, "I am able to provide mental-health counseling and advocacy for justice issues beyond the life of the local congregation for the greater good of our communities. I hope to make poverty and mental illness both areas where our churches feel more equipped, and where disciples are able to minister to, with and for others."



Moved by how music speaks to the soul

As a youth delegate to West Ohio Annual Conference in 2010,

Andrew Burns first felt his call to ministry. He was captivated by the ordination service and still remembers how the strains of *God of Grace and God of Glory* filled Hoover Auditorium: "It was a feeling similar to how I imagine John Wesley must have felt when he wrote that his heart was 'strangely warmed' on Aldersgate Street."

A couple of years later, as an intern with the West Ohio Next Generations Leadership Summer Internship program, he worked with two United Methodist churches near Dayton. "I was able to experience the rigors

of several ministry areas, including music, event planning and creating a new outreach team," he said.

Inspired by that summer, he returned to his sophomore year at Ohio Northern University and changed his major to music, with a minor in communication studies. When he began serving as a student pastor of Alger First UMC in July 2014, he relied on his communication skills in preparing sermons each week.

Yet as he enters MTSO as an M. Div. student and a recipient of an Alford Scholarship, it is in his music degree that Burns finds the most historical and spiritual connections to ministry: "Music gives a voice to the deepest part of the human soul. As a pastor, that is the part of the soul to which I desire to speak."

Treating discernment as an adventure



"Discerning a call to ministry is a moment-by-moment adventure in connecting with God and integrating prayer with daily life. My discernment is a lifelong pursuit," said **Emily Howard**, whose

pursuit has been wide-ranging.

Raised in the Church of God, Howard attended the College of Wooster, where she participated in a Quaker leadership development program, volunteered in an urban addiction recovery program and interned with a Presbyterian congregation. After graduation, she remained at Wooster as a campus chaplain for three years.

Howard sought out one more experience before making the commitment to enroll in MTSO's Master of Divinity program: Leaving behind rural Wooster, she moved to Cleveland where she became a part of the ministry team at a new United Church of Christ church called Embody: A Community of Faith. There, she said, "I learned that ministry is not a total pouring out of self for others and God. Rather, ministry fills me up too."

Howard, who received a Methesco Scholarship, feels certain this is the right place to continue her discernment: "God's presence is alive and vibrant at MTSO. I felt it in the chapel and the classrooms, among students, faculty and staff. I want to be a part of that living spirit."

Transitioning from pulpit ministry to counseling

Despite serving as an ordained Presbyterian minister for the last 10 years and having a full family life with a wife and three young boys, **Troy Scot Braswell**



finds himself longing to shift the focus of his ministry. The recipient of an MTSO Recognition Award, he will pursue a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree.

Braswell plans to seek licensure as a professional counselor, "likely focusing on marriage and family therapy with a particular emphasis on questions of faith and LGBT issues."

His focus on LGBT issues has taken root in the last few years: "More often than not, the church has been a locus of condemnation for those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. That experience is frequently accompanied by internal family conflict."

Braswell has taken pastoral care classes in the past and employed what he learned. "But I still wonder how much more help I might provide to others once I have completed training as a counselor."

"We all have questions," he said. "The maddeningly challenging reality of God is that the more we explore the questions we have, the more new questions we are likely to discover. And that is ultimately what I hope to do with this degree: help others explore their own life questions." ✱

A wise take on Christianity and war

An MTSO alum and Vietnam vet brought his perspective to a significant class

Polite and unassuming, Jerry Seaman would take his place at the circle of desks in Professor Diane Lobody's class each Tuesday afternoon during the Spring Semester. He was there to audit – participating in the class without earning academic credit – and he didn't always jump into the middle of the lively discussions. But when he did choose to speak, he commanded the room's attention.

The course was Christianity and War, and Seaman has acquired a unique grounding in both of those topics. He received a Master of Divinity degree from MTSO in 1978 and put it to work in the field of substance abuse and prevention. The retired CEO of Quest Recovery and Prevention Services in Canton, he has returned to Central Ohio.

Before his career and before seminary, Seaman found himself in the middle of the Vietnam War, flying helicopters as a Marine pilot. He was on his way to law school when his plans were interrupted by a draft notice.

"I qualified for Officer Candidates School because I was already out of college," he said, "and I also qualified for their pilot training program." He was deployed to Vietnam in 1968 and '69.

"I loved the Marine Corps, and I loved what I did," Seaman said. "I was lucky enough to be involved with a lot of medevac flying and felt like the missions we were involved in were supportive of the Marines on the ground. I appreciated that opportunity."

During his time in the service, his plans for graduate school changed: "I had gotten connected with the Methodist Church when I was in the Marine Corps, and the experience I had and the relationships I had with a couple pastors motivated me to think about becoming a Methodist minister."



"I loved the Marine Corps, and I loved what I did" * Jerry Seaman and Christianity and War classmate Rachael Gardner

Seaman enrolled in MTSO, where his vocational plans changed once again.

"While I was here, I got connected with working as an alcoholism counselor in Delaware," he said. "I thought it was just gonna be a part-time job while I was finishing school, but I loved it. Ended up doing that for almost 40 years."

After he returned to Delaware from Canton, Seaman decided to take advantage of MTSO's auditing opportunities. The Christianity and War course caught his attention, so he signed on for the Spring Semester and quickly became immersed in the class.

"Dr. Lobody does a phenomenal job with that course," he said. "You can tell she puts a lot of passion and interest into it. The readings she had all the students do were remarkably good."

Lobody said it was enlightening to have Seaman offering a veteran's perspective during class discussions. "He was able to say, 'Let me tell you what it was like flying a helicopter,'" she said. His classmates were grateful for his insights as well.

"There is such a passion when he talks about issues from the soldiers' view, things

we as students would not understand," said Rachael Gardner, who received a Master of Divinity degree in May. "He discusses his thoughts about God and his faith during the war and from his memory of his father being in the military. Family dynamics and the changes that happened within the society are something only a person who was there would be able to share."

"Jerry and others in the class with military experience helped keep us grounded to the realities of viewpoints we might have otherwise missed," said Mark Rupp, another May M.Div. grad. "As someone who professes a commitment to nonviolent peacemaking, this was especially helpful to me as I think about the ethical complexities of war."

Seaman said joining Gardner, Rupp and his other classmates was "inspiring in a lot of ways. It's gotten me connected back with some basic spiritual issues, and I'm reading theology again in a way I haven't for a long time."

"I've really been impressed with the students in that class, with the seriousness with which they've taken the topics. It was obvious they were doing the work – and Dr. Lobody had people do a *lot* of work." *

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.

1971

Paul Van Buren led in the development of Project Tariro (Hope), an HIV and AIDS ministry of UMC Deacons and Diaconal Ministers in partnership with Africa University, Zimbabwe. paulvanburen@comcast.net

1972

James Kuse is now retired and living in Asheville, N.C. He has spent the last nine years in ministry with homeless folks, and he currently scrubs pots and pans at the Haywood Street Mission, where 400-plus are served every Wednesday. "What a joy!!" barberkuse@gmail.com

1975

Lyle Shiffert has been appointed as pastor of Zion UMC in Luckey, Ohio. lshiffert@buckeye-express.com

1976

Robert Graybill and his wife, Barbara, have been blessed with their first granddaughter, Grace Margaret Jackson. rgraybill@susumc.org

1977

IN MEMORIAM

Paul R. Parker died on Sept. 16, 2014.

1979

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Bloomquist passed away Feb. 21, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, a 1980 Methesco grad, one son, Joe, and two grandchildren. rbgb@zoominternet.net

1980

Sylvia Howe and her husband moved to Columbus to be closer to two of her sons, their wives and their youngest grandson. "We are still unpacking and getting reacquainted with life in the Midwest." In 1981, she began her first fulltime settlement as a Unitarian Universalist parish minister in Springfield and Macomb, Ill. In 2008, she retired and was awarded emerita status by the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Beverly, Mass. In between, she served congregations in Pennsylvania, Florida and Maryland. showe_42@hotmail.com

Brad Martin recently earned a Doctor of Ministry degree with a core in Missional Leadership from Asbury Theological Seminary. bmartin4477@gmail.com

1982

Bill Byrd published *Basic Budgeting: You Can Do It!* The book is a simple visual guide to creating a personal budget for graduates, newlyweds, families and retirees. He also led a two-day budgeting class for 120 Indianapolis inner-city high school freshmen. Bill@thebyrds.us

1983

Since the school shooting deaths of three students at Chardon (Ohio) High School in 2012, **Jim Adams** has been involved in the treatment and recovery of victims of trauma, family members and the community. He is a national speaker on school shootings and is currently doing research with Case Western Reserve University into how communities heal after trauma, and what trauma interventions models produce the best long-term outcomes for survivors. jadams@geauga.org

1985

Dale Lanigan is chairperson of the Department of Sociology & Justice Studies at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. dlanigan@lourdes.edu

1990

Neil Leftwich has been appointed superintendent of Central West District of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Neil and his wife, **Judy McFarland**, (also MTSO class of 1990) have relocated to the greater Phoenix area. Judy retired from correctional health nursing in the county jail system in June of 2014. Judystamps2000@yahoo.com

1992

Ashwin Welch, currently pastor of St. Paul UMC in Galion, Ohio, is a former General Board of Global Ministries missionary to India, police and fire chaplain, and Crucible Program mentor. ash1welch@juno.com

1993

Samuel White has published his first book, *It is Well with My Soul: Spiritual Care for the Dying*, a resource for clergy, professional caregivers and people who want to help their loved ones make a peaceful transition into eternal life. samuelvwhite03@gmail.com

Continues

1998

Candy Thomas successfully completed her interim pastorate at First UCC, Austinburg in September 2014. She moved to the Miami, Fla., area to help her daughter and son-in-law with the two Haitian children they recently adopted. candacedt@live.com

2000

Joseph Branch was recently promoted to major and has been appointed wing chaplain of the 178th Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard. branchj1@sbcglobal.net

Carol Layton retired July 1 and has relocated to the area of her childhood home in Colorado. "I am helping care for my mother and enjoying sleeping in on Sunday morning!" ke6zis@juno.com

2001

Nancy Millwater is currently serving Lees Creek UCC in Sabina, Ohio. nmillwater@yahoo.com

2002

David McDonald was a presenter at the 2015 United Methodist Campus Ministry Association Summer Institute, with the topic "Merge: A Model for Group Spiritual Direction for First Year Students." He also presented at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry colloquium on theological reflection on campus ministry in 2015 on the topic "Discerning Calling at the Center and the Edge: Vocational Discernment as Spiritual Direction and Discipline." d-macdonald@onu.edu

2004

Rob Giannamore is on the road to ordination in the United Church of Christ and is licensed as a professional counselor in Pennsylvania. skipwiley77@gmail.com

2005

Betsy Maurath was ordained as a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and commissioned to the specialized ministry of hospital chaplaincy in January. ebmaurath@aol.com

IN MEMORIAM

MariAnn KasmertzChell passed away Nov. 9, 2014, after a brief and sudden illness.

2006

Thomas Lawton has been called to serve a Bostwick Lake Congregational UCC in Rockford, Mich. lawtont4@yahoo.com

2007

Mark Parsons-Justice is teaching English, English as a second language and general education at West Virginia State University, outside of Charleston. Pastthewishing@gmail.com

2008

Nancy Day-Achauer has been appointed to serve as a commissioner for the city of Columbus Westland Area Commission and appointed chair of the executive board of the Westland Area Business Association. She also co-founded the Prairie Township Community Health Action Team, a partnership of community leaders working together to improve health and wellness on the far west side of Columbus. As senior pastor of St. Mark's UMC, she has led the transition to a bilingual (English and Spanish), bicultural congregation: "St. Mark's UMC - One Church, Two Languages." nancypda@gmail.com

2010

Abby Caseman is currently the pastor at Cunningham and Penalosa UMCs in Kingman County, Kan. She also teaches worship for the Certified Lay Ministers in the Great Plains Annual Conference and speaks at retreats and workshops for the United Methodist Women. acaseman@greatplainsumc.org

Matthew Landry is now the associate pastor of Meridian Street UMC in Indianapolis. He serves in the areas of mission and justice ministries, local outreach, and discipleship. pastormattlandry@gmail.com

2011

Michele Holloway has moved from the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church to the Oregon-Idaho Conference, where she is serving two small-membership churches on the Columbia River. michele.holloway@yahoo.com

Jean Schafer was ordained as deacon in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church in June. Schaferjean75@gmail.com

Leslie Taylor moved to Lafayette, Calif., in July. RevLCT@icloud.com

2013

Peggy Sham is back home in Texas, working with adolescents in the Dallas County Juvenile Residential Drug Treatment program, while pursuing commissioning in North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2016. Her call is to help the church serve people struggling with mental health and substance abuse concerns. peggysss@verizon.net

2014

Christina (Yost) Lelache was married on Oct. 18, 2014, to Ryan Lelache. christinalyost@gmail.com

2015

Whitney Bruno has been called to St. Michael's UCC in Baltimore, Ohio. whitney.bruno2@gmail.com

Sam Byrd was installed as the minister at Westfield Center First Universalist Church in Westfield Center, Ohio, in July.

Samuel Osam-Duodu is grateful for his 2015 graduation from MTSO: "To the good Lord be all the glory for granting us the needed spiritual and physical resources to see us through our stay at MTSO. Personally, I am now more enriched and better equipped for ministry."

Andrew Scott is the pastor of LaGrange UMC in LaGrange, Ohio. ascott1266@gmail.com

NEW TO THE FACULTY

‘My teaching and activism fit here’

Valerie Bridgeman shows her homiletics students what it means to pay attention

When Dr. Valerie Bridgeman’s mother watched her playing with friends in rural Alabama in the 1960s and ’70s, she observed a sign of things to come.

“My mother used to say that I was the littlest thing on the playground, and I was the first to stand up for other kids who were being picked on,” Bridgeman said. “That must have been the start of my life as an activist.”

“My mother did very little talking about her faith, but she lived it out in very specific ways,” she said. “And all of her children in some ways are activists. It’s a commitment for us that’s grounded in faith and in the notion that to be a Christian is to participate in the changing of the world for the better.”

Bridgeman’s activism takes a number of forms. She participates regularly in demonstrations, including several in Ferguson, Mo., over the past year. While participating in a recent demonstration in Ferguson, Bridgeman relied on her well-known role as a preacher to lead those gathered.

“I didn’t lead a chant on the streets because those people didn’t know me as a ‘voice.’ I led prayer inside the church before we hit the streets because I’m known as a ritualist and worship leader.”

Along with her fierce commitment to social justice, Bridgeman brings a reputation as respected and sought-after preacher to the classrooms of MTSO. A visiting faculty member since early 2014, she was appointed

associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible effective July 1 of this year.

Prior to coming to MTSO, Bridgeman was a tenured associate professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She also is the founding president and CEO of WomanPreach! Inc., a nonprofit organization that instructs preachers in speaking about issues of equity and justice both in the pulpit and in the public arena.

“Dr. Bridgeman is known broadly for her prophetic voice regarding important issues for the church and the world. I expect she will help those we’re preparing for ministry to find their voices as well,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell.

Bridgeman approached the opportunity to teach at MTSO cautiously at first.

“I was reticent, to say the least, to be in a mostly white environment and in a rural one, too,” she said. “But I can honestly say that this faculty, staff and

administration are the most collegial people I’ve ever been around. During my time here, the community opened up to me, welcomed me, and made me believe that my voice, my teaching, my passion for the church, my scholarship, and my activism fit who and how this institution is.”

Bridgeman chuckled that she finds herself in the Greater Columbus area at a seminary that includes a certified organic farm:

“Although I grew up on a farm, I’m a city person. I couldn’t wait to get off the farm, and here I am back on a farm at MTSO.”

Bridgeman’s commitment to teaching



“None of us is free until all of us are free” * Bridgeman

and living out her social justice principles are always at the forefront of her thoughts as she weaves together her background and her current thinking.

“I’m a black woman from the South,” she said. “But there are some privileges associated with my life. I’m an educated black woman with a middle-class income. Poor and often people of color – but not just people of color – who are outside of power structures move me. I really believe that none of us is free until all of us are free.”

“I truly believe that we are in a web of relationships,” she said. “If my success is based on the oppression of someone else’s life, then my success is not really success at all. And the inequities in our world, both as a Christian and as an educator, I am bound to both expose and oppose. That’s my work, and I feel very much called to it.”

After earning a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Seminary,

Continues on page 15

NEW TO THE FACULTY

‘I’m curious about the early Christians’

Ryan Schellenberg loves studying the New Testament – particularly (to his surprise) Paul

When you ask Dr. Ryan Schellenberg why he left a job he enjoyed at Fresno Pacific University and moved across the country to join the faculty of MTSO, he doesn't have an answer. He has three.

“First,” he said, “I’ll be working with seminary students rather than undergraduates – people with a little bit more academic background and, more important, people who are already focused on ministry and are thinking theologically about how reading the Bible might inform church ministry. That’s quite different from having a bunch of college freshmen in one’s classroom who are being forced to take Introduction to the Bible. The second thing is that an institution like this will give me more scope to pursue the research I love and that shapes my teaching. And then finally, like Fresno, the MTSO community shares my commitment to social justice and seeing what God’s kingdom looks like worked out in practical, concrete terms.”

Schellenberg was appointed assistant professor of New Testament, effective July 1. He arrived at MTSO after four years at Fresno Pacific, where he was assistant professor and program director of Biblical and Religious Studies. In 2013, he won the Inspirational Teacher Award from Fresno Pacific’s chapter of the Alpha Chi Honor Society.

“We’re excited to bring such an energetic and thoughtful scholar to campus,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “Dr. Schellenberg will guide our students in taking a fresh look at the texts that shape our work as religious leaders.”

Raised Mennonite in Hepburn, Saskatchewan, Schellenberg earned his Ph.D. from the University of St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto, his Master

of Arts in New Testament at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary and his B.A. at Canadian Mennonite University.

“Rather than quitting school and getting a real job like most of my peers, I just kept going back,” he said with a smile. “I just kept being curious about what the early Christians were up to.”

Schellenberg is the author of *Rethinking Paul’s Rhetorical Education: Comparative Rhetoric and 2 Corinthians 10-13*, published by the Society of Biblical Literature. The recent monograph was awarded the 2015 F.W. Beare Award, presented by the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies in recognition of an outstanding book in the areas of Christian origins, post-biblical Judaism or Greco-Roman religions. He also has had peer-reviewed articles published in such respected periodicals as the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

“It’s important that we’re not just reading *about* the Bible or *about* what Greeks and Romans and Jews thought about things, but that we’re actually encountering them in their own words.”

Much of Schellenberg’s writing involves the work of Paul, which would have surprised his younger self: “At the master’s level, I was particularly interested in the Gospel of Luke, largely because in Luke, social issues and particularly economic justice are right at the fore of the text. I thought of Paul as being too doctrinaire to be of very much practical use. But I took a seminar in my doctoral studies called Paul: Biographical Problems, and approaching Paul as a human being, as a real



“The MTSO community shares my commitment to social justice” * Schellenberg

person, and asking questions about him as an individual, opened up the study of Paul to me in a way that I had not imagined. Who is this person? Why does he think the way he does? What is going on not just in his brain but in him as a whole human person?”

In *Rethinking Paul’s Rhetorical Education*, Schellenberg swims against the tide of much scholarly speculation about Paul’s social status and education.

“A number of scholars have argued that since Paul’s letters look relatively rhetorically sophisticated, he must have had formal education, which means he must have been

relatively well-off since your average folk didn’t get rhetorical education in the ancient world,” he said. “By using cross-cultural rhetorical comparison, I try to show that all of his rhetorical strategies can also be found among speakers who we know had no training in Western rhetoric and aren’t even a part of the heritage of Greek and Roman culture. That sets me up to try to challenge

Continues

SCHELLENBERG**From previous page**

more directly the idea that Paul had a relatively wealthy background.”

Schellenberg contends that our assumptions about Paul’s wealth or lack thereof are important: “My suspicion is that most scholars studying Paul, who themselves are in positions of privilege, tend to imagine that the people who have something worthwhile to say are also in positions of privilege. I think it’s a useful corrective to consider that Paul was actually a manual laborer with informal education and is nevertheless worth attending to.”

Currently, he is writing a paper – “the shorthand I use for it is ‘Paul in Poverty’” – to be presented in November at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

“The argument that when Paul asks people to be generous he must be speaking with relatively wealthy people is one I’m not persuaded by,” he said. “I’m trying to use ethnographic and anthropological literature to defend my intuition that poor people are

generous, too, and Paul could have been inviting people to be generous who weren’t in fact well-off.”

Longer term, Schellenberg is studying how Paul’s time in prison shaped the opinion of him among those in Greco-Roman society: “We, of course, look back on Paul as a prisoner of conscience, sort of like we see Martin Luther King Jr. But it’s anachronistic to imagine the average Greek or Roman would have seen him in those terms.”

“Given the realities of life in the United States, I’m thinking about early Christian experiences of prison with an eye to how such research might inform a Christian response to mass incarceration.”

As a teacher, Schellenberg wants to help students consider the difference between ancient and modern contexts – without using that difference to marginalize early Christian writing: “We don’t want to read those texts in isolation from their contexts, but neither should we lock them in the ancient world so that they’re no good to us in the present. We and they are different in all kinds of ways. The trick is to think critically about both

similarities and differences, and then consider how we might take something from the past and translate it into our present reality.”

He’ll expect his students to do that thinking while carefully considering the primary texts, rather than relying too heavily on subsequent scholars’ abstracts: “I think it’s really important that we’re not just reading *about* the Bible or *about* what Greeks and Romans and Jews thought about things, but that we’re actually encountering them in their own words.”

Schellenberg is still encountering MTSO, getting a sense of the campus and its people. But already, he feels a kinship.

“It is really clear right from the outset that people are committed to the connection between academic work and social practice. That’s clear in conversations with faculty, where I see other faculty talking about how what they do academically and in the classroom connects with a vision for the world. But it’s also clear in things the school itself is doing, from the solar panels to the farm. I’m impressed by that and excited to be a part of it.” ✱

BRIDGEMAN**From page 13**

Bridgeman graduated from Baylor with a Ph.D. in biblical studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible and secondary studies in ethics. At Baylor, she realized she wanted to be part of an institution that truly valued teaching, not just research.

“I felt called to train the church’s leaders. And I don’t mean to train just the church’s pastors, but to train people who represent and who together can be representatives of God in the earth. For me, the training of leaders for the act of service or the work of ministry has to do with helping people see God’s ‘What if,’ to help people see beyond what they’ve always seen, to think beyond what they’ve always thought.”

“My activism is always about what are we paying attention to right now, right where we are,” she said. “I see folks traveling to help poor people in Africa when there are



“The most collegial people I’ve been around” ✱ Bridgeman with Rundell at the fall orientation dinner

poor people right around the corner from their church who they disdain.”

“And as for students, the song line that I quote to them all the time is from the movie *Sister Act*: ‘If you want to be somebody, if you want to go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention,’” she said. “But for me it’s not even the ‘be somebody or go somewhere’ part of that line. It’s the paying attention,” she said.

The need to pay attention infuses her teaching in other ways.

“When I’m teaching a biblical text, I tell students, ‘We’re going to do something radical here. We’re going to read the text,’” she said. “There’s a perception that if you’re progressive and liberal, you don’t take the Bible seriously. I’m like, ‘We take the Bible really seriously here.’ Whether you are preaching it, or you are studying it from a biblical interpretive point of view, or whether I’m teaching Hebrew Bible, or whether I’m teaching preaching, the text has in it the ability to force you to see. Then you have to make ethical decisions. You have to pay attention.”

President Rundell believes that the MTSO campus will be paying attention to Bridgeman in important ways over the coming years.

“Dr. Bridgeman brings a special blend of scholarship, creativity and energy to our campus and the world around us,” Rundell said. “She is just the disruption we need.” ✱

Beyond the classroom

Faculty activities 2014-15



**Valerie
Bridgeman**
Associate Professor
of Homiletics
and Hebrew Bible

Publications

“Walking” and “Apocalypse/When Freedom Can be Had,” *Society for Arts in Religious and Theological Studies* 26.2, April 15, 2015.

Academic lectures and presentations

“A Report from Ferguson,” presented at the Womanist Ingathering of the American Academy of Religion Conference, Nov. 21, 2014.

“Alternative Training for Practical Ministry: WomanPreach! Inc.,” presented as a case study in the Practical Theology session of the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Nov. 22, 2014.

“The Character ‘Moloch’ in the Television Series *Sleepy Hollow*,” presented at the Women in the Biblical World session of the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Nov. 23, 2014.

Keynote speaker for the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast in Springfield, Mass., 2015.

“Justice: A Hermeneutic for Homiletics,” presented at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Feb. 9, 2015.

“Beyond Band-Aids: Building the Beloved Community in the Age of Ferguson,” Schooler Institute on Preaching, MTSO, Feb. 23, 2015.

“Beauty is Deceitful: A Hermeneutic of Justice in our Imperfect Union,” for the “Thinking Lincoln: The Limits and Possibilities of our Imperfect Union” panel, Society for the Study of Black Religion, Savannah, Ga., March 19, 2015.

“Setting the Captives Free: Preaching for Freedom and Justice,” at “The Voice of the Prophet: Examining the Preaching Ministry of C. L. Franklin for a New Generation,” Detroit, April 16-18, 2015.

Black Theologians Day, East Ohio Conference, May 11, 2015.

Plenary Speaker on Conversations that Matter,

for Texas A&M Rural Leadership Conference, May 20, 2015.

Meetings

American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Nov. 20-23, 2014.

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, Nov. 20-23, 2014.

Academy of Homiletics, Nov. 20-21, 2014.

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Feb. 8-12, 2015.

Society for the Study of Black Religion, March 19-21, 2015.

Samuel DeWitt Proctor board meeting, June 15-16, 2015.

SpiritHouse Community-Building Conference for Activists, Philadelphia, June 18-20, 2015.

Arts and Spirituality Conference, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Minneapolis, June 22-26, 2015.

Church and popular lectures

Preached at the Church Anniversary for Unity Church of Baltimore, Nov. 1, 2014.

Presented on authenticity and ministry at PETRA, a ministry to ministers, Nov. 7-8, 2014.

Preached at Springfield United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 9, 2014.

WomanPreach! Inc.’s “Sophie’s Table: Conversations with our Brothers” Preaching Workshop, in collaboration with Mount Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Conn., Nov. 14-15, 2014.

Preached at Mt. Aery Baptist Church, Nov. 16, 2014.

Preached at Christ UMC, Northampton, Mass., Nov. 30, 2014.

Preached at Wesley UMC, Springfield, Mass., Nov. 30, 2014.

“Listening for God,” at A Day Apart, sponsored by Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., March 2, 2015.

“Finding Voice” and “Containers for Sermons” at “Sophie’s Table: A Conversation with our Brothers,” an offering of WomanPreach! Inc., sponsored by Vanderbilt Divinity School and Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church,

Nashville, March 13-14, 2015.

Preached at the historic Concord Baptist Church of Christ in New York City, March 15, 2015.

Preached at New Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., March 22, 2015.

Preached “I Thirst” for Good Friday: Seven Last Sayings, St. Paul’s Baptist Church, Philadelphia, April 3, 2015.

Pastoral Installation for Rev. James Thomas, First Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, April 12, 2015.

Preached for Women’s Day, Open Church, Baltimore, May 10, 2015.

Preached for Women’s Day, Emory Grove UMC, Gaithersburg, Md., May 31, 2015.

Preached at Advent UCC, Columbus, June 7, 2015.

Preached at Bethel Family Worship Center (Church of God), Kansas City, Mo., June 21, 2015.



Jeffrey Jaynes
Professor in the
Warner Chair
of Church History

Academic lectures and presentations

“The ‘Urban’ Landscape of Reform in Sixteenth Century North Germany,” the European Reformation Research Group, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, U.K., Sept. 9, 2014.

“‘Landscapes’ of the Reformation in 16th Century Northern Germany,” Reformation and Early Modern Seminar, Reformation Studies Institute, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, Oct. 16, 2014.

“Kirchenordnungen als Drucke im 16. Jahrhunderts Norddeutschland” at the Stipendiatenkolloquium, Herzog August Bibliothek, April 27, 2015.

Research Fellow, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany. Project: Luther to Lutheranism, Architects of Church Order in

16th century Northern Germany, February-May, 2015.

Meetings

Reformation Studies Colloquium, Cambridge University, Sept. 10-12, 2014.

Appointed Cameron Faculty Fellow, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, Fall Term 2014.



John Kampen
Professor in the Dunn
Chair in Biblical
Interpretation

Publications

“Wisdom in Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literatures” in *Canonicity, Setting, Wisdom in the Deuterocanonicals: Papers of the Jubilee Meeting of the International Conference on Deuterocanonical Books* (ed. Géza G. Xeravits, József Zsengellér and Xavér Szabó; Berlin: De

Gruyter, 2014), 89-119.

“Ethics, Second Temple and Hellenistic Judaism,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Berlin, De Gruyter, 2014. Vol. 8, 106-08.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Where We Came From and Why It Matters: Christianity and Judaism in Formation,” Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Jan. 15, 2015.

Taught “Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls” course, the School of Graduate Studies at Hebrew Union College, spring 2015.

Awards and appointments

Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research, 2014.

President, School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 2014.

Appointed to second term as president, Hebrew Union College School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association.

Church and popular lectures

“The Dead Sea Scrolls: Ancient History, Unexpected Wisdom,” Chautauqua Lecture Series, Lakeside, Ohio, July 9-10, 2014.

“Where We Came From and Why It Matters: Christianity and Judaism in Formation,” Westerville Community UCC, April 12, 2015.



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

Publications

“Isaiah 22: A Crux or a Clue in Isaiah 13-23?” in *Concerning the Nations: Essays on the Oracles Against the Nations in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel* (2015), 3-18.

Continues

EMERITI PASSAGES

Roy Reed, 1930-2015

Rev. Roy A. Reed Jr., Ph. D., emeritus professor of liturgy and music, died April 19. He served on the MTSO faculty for 34 years, retiring in 1997.

Born Nov. 6, 1930, Reed earned Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of Redlands in California, a Master of Theology degree from the Boston School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Boston University. He published several books, served as minister of music for Asbury United Methodist Church in Delaware for 35 years and directed the Delaware Community Chorus.

Reed is survived by his wife, Nancy Lou (Lee) Reed; children Edward (Imelda) Reed, Daniel Reed (Mariah Dyson-Smith), Karen Reed and Linda Reed; step-children Lesa (Richard) Haas and Keith (Drema) Wells; 10 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; brother, John Charles Reed; brother-in-law, Charles Simmons; and former wife and mother of his children, Beth Reed.

A memorial service was held May 19 at Asbury United Methodist Church.



Jeff Hopper, 1930-2015

Arthur Jeffery Hopper, Ph.D., emeritus professor of theology, died July 12. He served on the MTSO faculty from 1961, the year the school opened, to 1997.

Born April 4, 1930, Hopper earned his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College, his master's from Drew Divinity School and his doctorate from Yale Graduate School.

In recent years, Hopper was a member of the Methodist Church of the Messiah in Westerville, Ohio. On Easter Sunday 1964, he was one of four MTSO faculty members arrested on the steps of a Methodist church in Jackson, Miss., during an attempt to accompany African-American worshipers into an all-white congregation.

He is survived by children Kathryn H. Flynn, Ellen H. Allen and Timothy P. Brown; four grandchildren; and brothers David R. Hopper and John A. Hopper.

A memorial service was held July 22 at Church of the Messiah.



from previous page

Book Review of *Kay Weißflog, Zeichen und Sinnbilder: Die Kinder der Propheten Jesaja und Hosea* (Arbeiten zur Bibel und ihrer Geschichte 36; Leipzig, Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2011), in *Biblica* 94 (2013): 297-301.

Concerning the Nations: Essays on the Oracles against the Nations in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel (co-edited with Else Holt and Andrew Mein; LHB/OTS 612; London: T&T Clark, 2015).

"A Farewell to Trito-Isaiah?: An Inner-Biblical Exegesis of Isaiah 54-57 in Light of Isaiah 1-2 and Psalm 1," *Canon and Culture* (2015): 35-70.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Is PERMA Universal? Engaging Positive Psychology with the Korean Cultures of Jeong and the African Tradition of Ubuntu, in Dialogue with Ecclesiastes" (co-presented with Fulgence Nyengele), Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2014.

"Pursuing Happiness Across Cultures: Positive Psychology, Bible, Korean Jeong, and African Ubuntu in Creative Dialogue" co-presented with Fulgence Nyengele, faculty lecture, MTSO, April 9, 2015.

Meetings

Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom, Washington, D.C., July 14-17, 2014.

Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society, April 12-13, 2015.

Church and popular lectures

Sermon, "Forgiveness" (Genesis 45:1-15), St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Aug., 17, 2014.

Preached at Korean Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Feb. 15, 2015.

Preached at Condit Presbyterian Church, Sunbury, May 17, 2015.



Sarah Heaner Lancaster
Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology

Publications

Book review of *Wesley, Wesleyans, and Reading Bible as Scripture*, eds. J.B. Green and D. F. Watson, in *Modern Believing* 56:1.

Book review of *A Living Tradition: Critical Recovery and Reconstruction of Wesleyan Heritage*, ed. Mary Elizabeth Mulino Moore, in *Wesley and Methodist Studies* 7:1.

"Methodist Constructive Theology," in *Circuit Rider*, 39:1 (Winter 2014/15), pp. 21-22.

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God, with Cynthia Bond Hopson, United Methodist Women, February 2015.

Academic lectures and presentations

Panelist on ecumenism, Seminary Leadership Conference, Bexley Seabury, Columbus, Sept. 19, 2014.

"Deaconess: Order and Office," at the Study of Lay Order in Relationship with the Deaconess/Home Missioner Movement in the United Methodist Church, Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, Sept. 26-28, 2014.

Responded to papers in "Wesleyan Perspectives on Embodiment" session, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 22, 2014.

Meetings

Consultation on Theological Education, sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, San Diego, Nov. 19-21, 2014.

American Academy of Religion/Society Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Diego, 2014.

"The Future of Theological Education in the UMC," The Turner Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Feb. 26-28, 2015.

Responded to John Wesley in America, and moderator for panel discussion on "The Ecclesial Theologian in the Wesleyan Tradition: Retrospect and Prospect," Wesley Theological Society Annual Meeting, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, Ohio, March 6-7, 2015.

Organized and led "United Methodist Women's History: Voices Lost and Found" conference, MTSO, May 28-30, 2015.



Linda A. Mercadante
Professor of Theology in the Straker Chair of Historical Theology

Publications

Interviewed for "Examining the Growth of the 'Spiritual but Not Religious,'" *New York Times*, July 19, 2014.

"What must the church know about SBNRs?" field notes for Regent College, winter 2015.

Interviewed for "Can You Be Spiritual but not Religious?" on NBC's *Today*, April 1, 2015.

"Sin and Addiction: Conceptual Enemies or Fellow Travelers?" in *Religions* 6 (2), 614-625, May 11, 2015.

Are you getting Campus View email?

The next issue of MTSO's *Campus View* newsletter will appear in thousands of email inboxes soon, with the latest stories and information on the school's people, programs and events. If you haven't been receiving *Campus View*, we invite you to update your information online at www.mtso.edu/update. Meanwhile, if you'd like to catch up on our archives of *Campus View*, *The Story* and news releases, you'll find them at www.mtso.edu/news.



“Excerpts from Sin and Addiction,” in *Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice*, May 19, 2015.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Theological Issues in the Spiritual but not Religious Movement,” Willow Brook Christian Communities, July 25, 2014.

“Spiritual, Religious, or Restless? Reaching the Spiritual but not Religious,” Chaplains Association of Ohio, Mansfield, Oct. 2, 2014.

“Why Should We Care? SBNRs and Chaplaincy,” Chaplain Conference, OhioHealth, Oct. 27, 2014.

Leader and keynote, Juniata College “Beyond Tolerance” lecture series, Nov. 6, 2014.

“The Nones,” guest lecture, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Nov. 9, 2014.

“Method and Surprising Results in SBNR Research,” American Academy of Religion quad session with sociology, religious conversions, LGBT and gay men’s research, San Diego, Nov. 22, 2014.

“Bumper Sticker Theology,” two workshops, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Feb. 9-10, 2015.

Keynote speaker and leader of two-day seminar, “What Can We Learn from SBNR?” Capital Area Theological Center, Albany, N.Y., May 1-2, 2015.

Keynote speaker and consultant, Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, Portland, Ore., June 23-24, 2015.

Meetings

Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees, numerous meetings.

Consultant, Jewish-Presbyterian Dialogue on Middle East Conflict, Aug. 7, 2014.

Columbus Foundation, Women in Philanthropy event, Nov. 19, 2014.

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 21-25, 2014.

Scioto Valley Presbytery Clergy Women event, Dec. 10, 2014.

Awards and appointments

Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious named to “Best of the Best” spiritual books list for 2014 by the multifaith online journal *Spirituality & Practice*.

Church and popular lecture

Sermon reflection, Columbus Mennonite Church, July 20, 2014.

“How Can the Church Serve SBNRs?” series at All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, Nov. 2-9, 2014.

“Understanding the SBNRs,” Albion District United Methodist clergy event, March 14, 2015.

Adult forum speaker, First UMC, Boulder, Colo., May 17 and 24, 2015.



Paul Numrich

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

Publications

“Whose Buddhism? Whose Texts? Observations about Religious Conversations,” contributed to Public Square: 2014 Religious Trends series, “Expanding Leadership Opportunities for Buddhist Women – Which Way Forward?” at Patheos.com, August 2014.

Review of the book *Islam Plain and Simple: Women, Terrorism and Other Controversial Topics* by Tariq Jalil, *Interfaith Update* (the newsletter of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio), Sept. 5, 2014.

Review of *The Cosmic Breath: Spirit and Nature in the Christianity-Buddhism-Science Dialogue* by Amos Yong, *Buddhist-Christian Studies* 34 (2014): 230-234.

“The Problem with Sex according to Buddhism,” *Fair Observer*, March 9, 2015.

Religion and Community in the New Urban America, co-author with Elfriede Wedam (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Academic lectures and presentations

Taught Abrahamic Faiths course at Methodist Theological University, Seoul, Republic of Korea, summer 2015.

Meetings

Attended the Celebrating Day of Ahimsa event held at the Jain Center in Lewis Center, Ohio, Oct. 4, 2014.

Ongoing consultant for ELCA’s conference on immigrant congregations in US.

Ongoing consultant for SCUPE’s interfaith course offerings.

Community representative on Grady Memorial Hospital Ethics Advisory Committee.

Church and popular lectures

“Christians in a Multireligious America,” First Community Church, Columbus, Feb. 4, 2015.

“Multireligious America,” Larry Larson Middle School, Columbus, Apr. 17, 2015.



M. Fulgence Nyengele

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

Publications

Book Review of *Missing Us: Re-visioning Psychoanalysis from the Perspective of Community* by Ryan LaMothe (Lanham, M.D.: Jason Aronson, 2013), *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Volume 1, 2014.

“Cultivating Ubuntu? An African Postcolonial Pastoral Theological Engagement with Positive Psychology,” *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Volume 1, 2014.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Well-Being in Positive Psychology and Hebrew Bible,” with Prof. Paul Kim, Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov. 25, 2014.

Three keynote lectures on the themes “Gender Across Cultures,” “Gender and Transnational Identity in a Globalizing World: Challenges and Opportunities for Ministry,” and “Gender and Self-Differentiation in the Family and the Church: Family and Church as Crucibles for Grace,” Leadership Training Seminar for International and Migrant Churches in Europe, Evangelisch-Methodistische Kirche, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 25-29, 2015.

“Pursuing Happiness Across Cultures: Positive Psychology, Bible, Korean Jeong, and African Ubuntu in Creative Dialogue,” with Professor Paul Kim, Faculty Lecture, MTSO, April 9, 2015.

Continues

from previous page

Meetings

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2014.
 2015 Roundtable Seminar for Midcareer Faculty, Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Orlando, March 6-8, 2015.



Joon-Sik Park
 Professor in the
 E. Stanley Jones Chair
 of World Evangelism

Publications

“The Church as Witnessing Community: On ‘A World Transformed by Grace,’” blog post, *UM and Global*, Sept. 11, 2014.

Academic lectures and presentations

“The Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church: A Historical and Missiological Reflection,” Steering Committee of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., April 18, 2015.
 “The Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church and Its Implications for Mission,” American Society of Missiology Annual Conference, Chicago, June 20, 2015.
 “Missional Legacy of R. Archer Torrey: Mystic, Prophet, and Pioneer,” American Society of Missiology, Chicago, June 21, 2014.

Meetings

Steering Committee of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the United Methodist Church, Dallas, Oct. 23-25, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

“Pentecost and Mission,” Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio, June 8, 2014.
 “On Being Present Where We Are,” sermon for Town and Rural Resource Programming event, MTSO, Sept. 6, 2014.
 “Equipping for Ministry through Course of Study,” Maumee Watershed District Local Pastor Training, Sylvania, Ohio, March 7, 2015.



Ryan Schellenberg
 Assistant Professor
 of New Testament

Publications

“The First Pauline Chronologist? Paul’s Itinerary in the Letters and in Acts,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 134 (2015): 193–213.
 “Seed of Abraham (Friesen?): Universality and Ethnicity in Paul.” *Direction: A Mennonite Brethren Forum* 44 (2015): 16–29.



Timothy L. Van Meter
 Associate Professor
 in the Alford Chair of
 Christian Education
 and Youth Ministry

Academic lectures and presentations

“Food, Faith and a Seminary Farm,” MTSO Alumni Day, Oct. 6, 2014.

Meetings

Seminary Stewardship Alliance, Winston-Salem, N.C., Sept. 11-13, 2014.
 Ohio Interfaith Power & Light Summit, Oct. 12-13, 2014.
 Hispanic Summer Program board meeting, San Antonio, Oct. 15-17, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

“Food and Justice,” presentation for West Ohio Youth Justice Task Force, MTSO, Aug. 9, 2014.
 Consultation on seeking a youth pastor, First Congregational Church, Mount Vernon, Ohio, Aug. 17, 2014.
 Presentations on food and faith with MTSO farm tours: West Ohio Youth Justice group (Aug. 9, 2014); Worthington UMC Youth (Sept. 27, 2014); Delaware Ecumenical Youth Group (Oct. 5, 2014); Centerburg UMC (Oct. 26, 2014).



Robin Knowles Wallace
 Professor in the Taylor
 Chair of Church
 Worship and Music

Publications

Editor of Summer 2014, Fall 2014, Winter 2015 and Spring 2015 issues of *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.
 Articles published on Paul M. Abels, and Thomas O. Summers, for *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*.
 Review of *Christian Congregational Music: Performance, Identity, and Experience*, Monique Ingalls, Carolyn Landau and Thomas, Wagner (eds. and intro.) and Martyn Percy (afterword) in *The American Organist*, 48:1 (January 2014): 76-77.
 “Hymns in Periodical Literature,” *The Hymn* 66:2, 19-20.
 “Across the Pond: Charles Wesley and Holiness in Current British Hymnals,” proceedings of the Charles Wesley Society 18 (2014, published Summer 2015).

Academic lectures and presentations

“What Do They Want from Me? How to Write for Publication in *The Hymn and The Verse*,” with Tina Schneider, Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada Annual Meeting, July 16, 2014.
 “Across the Pond: Charles Wesley and Holiness in Current British Hymnals,” Charles Wesley Society, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky., Sept. 26, 2014.
 “The Impact of Congregational Singing on Everyday Life: Results of a Survey,” Liturgical Music Seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Jan. 2-3, 2015.

Meetings

Executive Committee meeting, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 12, 2014.
 Editorial Advisory Board meeting, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 13, 2014.
 Hymn Society of the United States and Canada meeting, July 13-17, 2014.
 Charles Wesley Society, Wilmore, Ky., Sept. 25-26, 2014.

Executive Committee of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada meeting, Richmond, Va., Oct. 27-30, 2014.



Lisa Withrow

Dean and
Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Publications

“Creating Knowledge in Hybrid Format,” *Teaching Theology and Religion*, July 2014.

Co-editor, *The Journal of Religious Leadership*.

“Creating Knowledge in Hybrid Format,” *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Vol. 17, No. 3, July 2014.

Book review of *Religious Leadership: A Reference Handbook*, Sharon Henderson Callahan, ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, Inc., 2013, *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Fall 2014.

Book review: *Choosing Change: How to Motivate Churches to Face the Future*. Peter Coutts, Herndon, Va.: Alban Institute, 2013. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Fall 2014.

“Transformative Potentials of Liminal Leadership” (co-authored with Dr. Andrew J. Orton), *Journal of Religious Leadership* (Vol 14, No. 1), Spring 2015. Peer reviewed.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Choices,” installation speech as dean, MTSO, Oct. 6, 2014.

“Leadership in the Non-Profit Organization – Challenges for the Future,” Durham University, England, Dec. 2, 2014.

“Bordering on C(h)aos,” ATS Women in Leadership Deans’ meeting, Association of Theological Schools Chief Academic Officers Society conference, March 2015.

Meetings

Academy of Religious Leadership, April 2014.

Chair, Pastoral Advisory Committee for OhioHealth.

Visiting faculty research fellow, Durham University, November-December 2014.

Association of United Methodist Theological Schools Presidents and Deans, March 2015.

Association of Theological Schools Women in Leadership Deans’ Consultation, March 2015.

Association of Theological Schools Chief Academic Officers Society Conference, March 2015.

Academy of Religious Leadership, April 2015.

Wabash Deans’ Colloquy, June 29-July 3, 2015.

Advisory Group to the Association of Theological Schools Deans, Chief Academic Officers Society.

Church and popular lectures

“Conflict Management and Grief – Moving Into the Future by Dealing with the Past,” Brimfield UMC, May 16, 2015.



C. Jeff Woods

Fully Affiliated
Faculty
in Congregational
Studies

Publications

“What Type of Follower Attends our Church?” *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7, July 2014.

Meetings

World Futures Conference, Orlando, July 2014.



Yvonne Zimmerman

Associate Professor of
Christian Ethics

Publications

“Christian Ethics and Human Trafficking Activism: Progressive Christianity and Social Critique,” co-authored with Letitia M. Campbell, *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 34 (1), 2014, p.145-172.

“Christian Engagement in U.S. Anti-Trafficking Activism: Precedents and Contexts” (Part 1: Oct. 17, 2014; Part 2: Oct. 31, 2014), co-authored with Letitia M. Campbell, the Trafficking Research Project.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Practicing Values: Progressive Christianity and the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” 2014 Sister Ruth Agnes Ahlers lecture, Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 22, 2014.

“Losing Voice: Progressive Christianity and the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” keynote at Perspectives on Human Trafficking Conference, University of Denver, Jan. 7-8, 2015.

“Naming Values and Finding Voice: Toward Progressive Christian Anti-Trafficking Activism and Advocacy,” workshop at Perspectives on Human Trafficking Conference.

“Missing in Action: The Disappearance of Progressive Christianity in the Movement to End Human Trafficking” and “Using Progressive Christian Values in Anti-Trafficking Advocacy,” Keep Making Peace Conference, East Lansing, Mich., April 11, 2015.

Panelist for “Defrocked: Still Faithful” with Rev. Frank Schaeffer, Oberlin College, Ohio, May 1, 2015.

Meetings

American Academy of Religion, November 2014.

Perspectives on Human Trafficking, Jan. 7-8, 2015.

Association of Theological Schools Mid-Career Faculty Roundtable, Orlando, March 6-8, 2015.

Church and popular lectures

“Uncomfortable Ethics,” workshop for “Living into the Vision: Beyond Our Comfort Zones,” North Central Jurisdiction Conference for the Commission on Religion and Race, Independence, Ohio, Oct. 18, 2014.

“Progressive Christianity and the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” East Ohio Methodists for Social Action Fall Meeting, Akron First UMC, Nov. 1, 2014.

“How Do We Live Lives that Aren’t Arranged Around the Economy?” Ministerium of Ideas, Columbus, Feb. 19, 2015. ✱

Images of a good year

From big events to quiet moments to the rituals that bookend an academic year, here are a few photos of life at MTSO



Oct. 6, 2014

The Alumni Day installation of Dean Lisa Withrow was followed by a festival tent celebration



Jan. 6, 2015

There's nothing like a frigid winter day to demonstrate the value of a warm, well-tended hoop house at Seminary Hill Farm



Jan. 24, 2015

Morning Prayers

Schooler Institute on Preaching
February 24, 2015
Methodist Theological School in Ohio

A hands-on Schooler Institute on Preaching was led by MTSO's Valerie Bridgeman and United Methodist Church Director of Global Praise Jorge Lockward, shown above



April 22, 2015

Melanie Harris, associate professor of religion and ethics at Texas Christian University, delivered the Williams Institute lectures shown above



Aug. 21, 2015

After an orientation dinner in their honor, the newest seminarians returned to the classroom for an evening session



May 23, 2015

MTSO's 53rd commencement offered a stirring address by United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer, perfect weather and, of course, lots of selfie opportunities

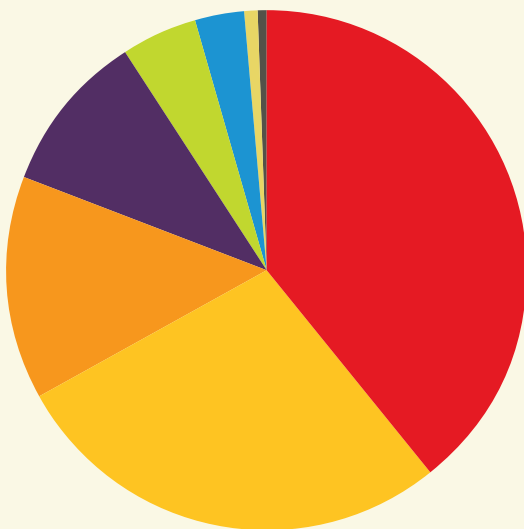
Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$6,208,281 and expenditures of \$6,206,755. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 (unaudited)

Revenues

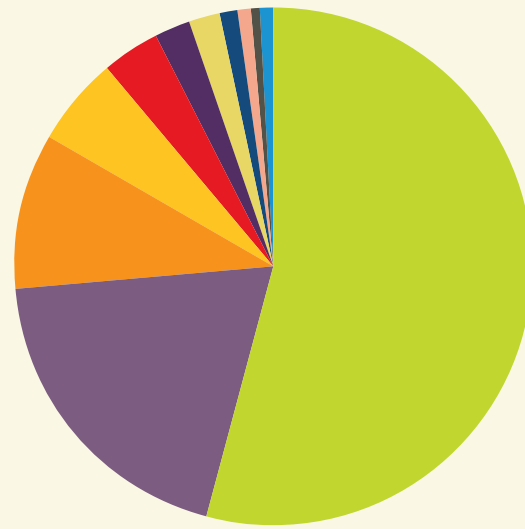
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: tuition and fees (39.3 percent of total revenues), endowment earnings (27.9 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (13.7 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 8.4 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Tuition and fees	\$2,440,155	39.3%
Endowment	\$1,731,000	27.9%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$849,730	13.7%
Other programs and services	\$622,442	10.0%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$300,828	4.8%
Release of restricted gifts	\$194,534	3.1%
Federal work study	\$40,494	0.7%
Student aid gifts	\$29,098	0.5%
Total revenues	\$6,208,281	100%

Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 54.3 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by student financial aid (19.4 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio (9.9 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,371,743	54.3%
Financial aid	\$1,204,210	19.4%
Other programs and services	\$617,558	9.9%
Plant maintenance	\$329,937	5.3%
General administration	\$233,321	3.8%
Information systems	\$130,357	2.1%
Academic support	\$123,905	2.0%
Business administration	\$60,920	1.0%
Instruction	\$54,525	0.9%
Enrollment	\$45,983	0.7%
Institutional advancement	\$34,296	0.6%
Total expenditures	\$6,206,755	100%

Donor Honor Roll

In grateful recognition of all those whose gifts between
July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, contributed to the success of MTSO

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\$25,000 and above

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Charles and Marilyn Barker
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Jennifer E. Kimball Casto
Carla F. Chiles
Richard A. Donnenwirth and
Rosalie Laurenti

C. Suzanne and Bill Ellis
Norman and Trudy Flowers
Julia A. Foster
Olivia E. Graham
William and Kathleen Grové
Robert and Elaine Hibbard
Robert and Sharon Hickson
Maggie Jackson
Veronica Jefferson
Rollin T. Kearns
Alex and Joan Keller
Susan A. Kyser
Claudine and Allan Leary
Leipsic UMC
Joan Leitzel
John P. Loeser
Wendy and Thomas Lybarger
William and Martha McFadden
Mentor UMC
Elaine and Alan Mikesell
Isabel Miller
Mary Ann Moman
Alan and Lois Morrison
Karen and Brook Muntzing
Beverly and Terry Myers
Linda and Dick Ogden
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