From Illinois to Korea, Our Korean Alums and Students are Making a Global Impact

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Our Korean students are committed to serving God, the church, and their communities, while having fun along the way.

Professor K.K. Yeo (far left) and students travelled on a study trip to the Holy Land.

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Aware is published quarterly by the development office for alums and friends of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology related to The United Methodist Church.

Founded in 1853, the seminary serves more than 500 students from many denominations and various cultural backgrounds, fostering an atmosphere of ecumenical interaction. Garrett-Evangelical creates bold leaders through master of divinity, master of arts, master of theological studies, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of ministry degrees. Its 4,500 living alumni serve church and society around the world.

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I am so pleased this issue of Aware features our Korean alums! Garrett-Evangelical is having an impact around the world and we know that you will be inspired by the work our graduates are doing in South Korea.

I was privileged to visit there in early Fall 2013 and to learn directly about the variety of ministries they are leading. I was received with incredibly gracious hospitality, only one of the tremendous gifts of Korean culture. I lectured at Yonsei University, Ewha University, and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary where our alums are administrators and faculty. I also visited Bupyeong Methodist Church where Rev. Eun-Pa Hong invited our faculty to hold one of its annual retreats. I preached at the main and international campuses of Yonsei and at the Daewon Methodist Church Sunday evening service where our alum, Rev. Haksoon Im, serves as senior pastor. We are proud of our Korean graduates and the dynamic ministries to which they are committed!

If you’ve been following our activities on campus, you will also know we recently hosted the 30th anniversary event of Pacific Asian and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM), a great conference attended by over 100 persons, welcomed by Dr. W. Anne Joh and our Asian and Asian American Ministry Center. All this is to say that while theological education has been a global enterprise for many years, at this moment in history it is imperative that awareness and understanding of the global nature of Christianity once again become an intentional and required part of our curriculum. Our graduates, wherever they serve, must be able to effectively respond to the impact of global Christianity.

Closer to home in the United States, we continue to struggle with how best to respond to the upsurge of violence against our brothers and sisters of color, especially against our Black neighbors, including how to respond to the complexity of relations between the police and the community. The Garrett-Evangelical community has participated in protest marches, letters of concern calling for various actions, constructive conversations with local police in Evanston, and our observance of Black History Month devoted to the topic of “interrupting violence.” Dr. Osvaldo Vena’s “Cutting Edges” article is yet another perspective reminding us that the Roman Empire’s crucifixion of Jesus was an instance of “police brutality” and literally an “I can’t breathe” experience.

At a recent meeting of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools, the presidents of our 13 schools wrote a letter to the Black presidents of seminaries in the Association of Theological Schools indicating our support and commitment to continue addressing these issues in our own schools. Toward that end, Garrett-Evangelical welcomed Mr. Alex Kotlowitz as our commencement speaker this year. His journalism career is a powerful example of attention that can be brought to the co-existing interactions of poverty, incarceration, and violence. Next year we are offering two courses in public theology in which our students will partner with community and church leaders to take action against violence in Evanston and on the South Side of Chicago.

It is difficult not to lose hope in the face of these never-ending challenges. We can identify well with the feelings of the disciples during those intervening days between the death of Jesus and the resurrection that brings promise for new life. Garrett-Evangelical remains deeply embedded in this hope and promise for new life. We are dedicated to preparing leaders who will not only proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, but who will also work broadly with others for justice and well-being in the world, all around the world—leaders who will embody both personal and social holiness.

Thank you for your partnership in this mission and for the support that makes it possible!
Although attending seminary in the United States was challenging at times, alums Byoung Sam Kim, Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng, and Suk-Hwan Jueng all agreed that it was worth it. In fact, they said their experiences at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary helped shape who they are today.

Byoung Sam Kim is currently the senior pastor of Manna Korean Methodist Church, a church in Seongnam, South Korea, with more than 9,000 members. He decided to attend Garrett-Evangelical because he was impressed with how many of the renowned scholars and leaders of the early Korean Church had graduated from the seminary.

Initially, he struggled. “Even though I studied for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), I could not really understand what was going on in class,” he said. “My professor graded my first paper as unacceptable. Fortunately, I met a friend who majored in English, and that friend helped me throughout my years at Garrett-Evangelical.”

Despite his initial struggle, Kim said he flourished and his confidence grew. By the time he finished his master of divinity degree in 1995, he was able to enroll at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, to earn his doctor of philosophy degree.

In addition to serving Manna Korean Methodist Church, Kim is an adjunct professor at Korean Methodist Theological Seminary, a trustee at Garrett-Evangelical, and the president of the newly formed Garrett-Evangelical Korean Alumni Association.

The association was formed a year and a half ago when then President-Elect Lallene J. Rector visited Seoul, South Korea. To celebrate her visit, Garrett-Evangelical alums met for dinner. By the time the evening was over, an alum association had formed. Kim was named president of the group, which included many alums in leadership positions in both parish/church ministry and academia.

“What struck me was the magnitude of the impact our graduates are having on congregational leadership and education,” Rector said as she described that evening. Suk-Hwan Jueng, a professor of theology and pastoral counseling at Yonsei University’s School of Theology, was also at the event.

Suk-Hwan was an ordained Presbyterian minister in Korea when he decided he wanted to pursue his doctor of philosophy degree in the United States. He chose Garrett-Evangelical because there were several influential professors in his chosen field of pastoral care and counseling. Because of the language barrier, he had to pursue an additional master’s degree at the seminary before he could enter Garrett-Evangelical’s joint doctor of philosophy program with Northwestern University in pastoral psychology.
Suk-Hwan enjoyed the program’s well-balanced approach emphasizing both academics and practical experience. What influenced him most was that Garrett-Evangelical emphasized diversity and a cross-cultural approach.

“I really appreciated the open-minded atmosphere at Garrett-Evangelical,” he said. “I think that is why so many Korean students continue to go to seminary there.”

Currently, 40 Korean students are enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical, and there are more than 200 Korean alums now living in Korea and the United States.

When he returned to Korea in 1997, Suk-Hwan started teaching courses in pastoral care and counseling at Yonsei University, a prestigious university in Seoul, South Korea. While studying in the United States, he observed that Korean society had experienced rapid change and had become a more industrial and culturally diverse society, which created challenges.

“People who could provide counseling were badly needed when I came back,” he said. In response to this need, Suk-Hwan created a counseling center and pastoral counseling programs at Yonsei University where he still teaches.

Suk-Hwan also served as dean of the School of Theology four times. As dean, he always thought of Garrett-Evangelical’s emphasis on diversity and made sure the enrollment was balanced between men and women as well as young and old. He also had a heart for the foreign students.

“As the dean, I made sure they felt welcome,” he said. “That is what I learned from Garrett-Evangelical.”

Recently, Suk-Hwan created the Global Institute of Theology at Yonsei University. This is a graduate program for 20 foreign students from east Asia and Africa. Students receive a full scholarship and stipend and take classes in English. Last month, Mark Fowler, Murray H. Leiffer associate professor of congregational leadership at Garrett-Evangelical, taught a three-week intensive course to the students at the Institute.

Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng came to the United States in 1989 to support her husband, Suk-Hwan Jueng, who was already studying at Garrett-Evangelical. She had an undergraduate degree in theology from Yonsei University’s School of Theology and thought about graduate studies. That plan was put on hold after her two children were born.

While at Garrett-Evangelical, Suk-Hwan saw that there were female students and female pastors and encouraged his wife to pursue her original plan. After taking classes to improve her English, Ouk-Yean enrolled in the master of divinity program. It wasn’t until her field education course when she was working at Wheadon United Methodist Church in Evanston that she felt her calling.

“I hadn’t planned on becoming a local church pastor until that experience,” said Ouk-Yean, who graduated in 1993. Since then, Ouk-Yean has served four churches, including her current church, First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, where she is lead pastor. Before moving to Arlington Heights, Ouk-Yean was district superintendent of the Rockford District for seven years, overseeing about 60 churches. Ouk-Yean is also a member of the board of trustees at Garrett-Evangelical.

At first, Ouk-Yean did not realize how her Korean nationality helped her ministry. A parishioner in her second church urged her to talk about her faith background. “That helped me look at my ministry from a different perspective,” she said. “As I prayed about it, I realized that God sent me here as a missionary, and I am called to contribute and make a difference as a person from Korea.”

Since then, she has encouraged others from foreign countries to talk about their faith backgrounds. “I always say to them: ‘Remember, you are not here by accident; God brought you here for a purpose, and you need to try to discern what that purpose is.’”

Currently, 40 Korean students are enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical, and there are more than 200 Korean alums now living in Korea and the United States.
Our Korean Students: Committed to their Calling

Though they demonstrate a wide range of past experiences and future plans, each one of the 40 Korean students currently studying at Garrett-Evangelical is committed to serving God, the church, and their communities. Here are stories of three promising students who traveled from Korea to Evanston, Illinois to fulfill their call.

Jong-Deok Park is passionate about helping multicultural families. Some years ago while in Korea, he watched a movie about how some multicultural families were facing discrimination. He vowed to do something about it.

Park graduated in 2012 from the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea, with a degree in Christian education. He said he decided to come to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to continue his studies because of Garrett-Evangelical’s reputation of being open-minded and because of the seminary’s proximity to Chicago. “I was interested in meeting a lot of people from different cultures, and I knew that I would find that at Garrett-Evangelical and in Chicago,” he said.

After finishing his degree in 2017, Park plans to live in Chicago for a while before returning to Korea to share what he learned here to help multicultural families. “My calling is to have a multicultural church in Korea that is open and inclusive to all,” he said.

Whanhee Oh knew a lot about Garrett-Evangelical before she enrolled in the fall of 2013. That’s because her father, Sungjoo Oh, graduated from the seminary in 1995 with a master of arts degree in Christian education.

“He talked about Garrett-Evangelical all the time,” she said. In addition, Oh has her own memories of Garrett-Evangelical since she and her family lived in Evanston during his time here.

After graduating from the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea, Oh worked and traveled abroad. She then decided she wanted to pursue her own degree at Garrett-Evangelical—a master of theological studies degree with an emphasis on liturgy. Although the transition has been challenging, Oh says she is glad she is studying abroad. “At Garrett-Evangelical, I’ve been exposed to a lot of different cultures, but I am finding that in some ways, we are all the same.”

After graduation, Oh plans to travel to South America and Southeast Asia to study art and the way people worship there. Then, she plans to return to South Korea where she hopes to contribute to the community and culture in Korean churches by bringing together people who love to share art and their spiritual lives.

By eighth grade, Woong Kee Kim knew he wanted to be a minister, but instead of studying theology in college, Kim chose to study business. He graduated in August 2014 with a bachelor of business administration from Emory University’s Goizueta Business School.

He said he loved his classes in marketing, consulting, and finance. “Having this background will be helpful in ministry and in church administration,” he said, explaining his choice.

A month after leaving Emory, Kim came to Garrett-Evangelical where he is working on a master of divinity degree. Kim’s father, Byoung Sam Kim, also earned a master of divinity degree at Garrett-Evangelical and has been the pastor of the Manna Methodist Church in Seongnam, South Korea, for 11 years.

After Kim returns to Korea, he said he hopes to fulfill his military service by serving as an interpreter and then to begin full-time ministry. One of his passions is to provide college students and young adults with a strong church community that will help them in their walk with Christ.
On March 12-14, 2015, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary hosted the 30th anniversary celebration of Pacific Asian and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM). Held in the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful at Garrett-Evangelical, over 100 people were in attendance.

The opening program included welcoming comments from President Lallene J. Rector. Reflecting on the atmosphere of the event, President Rector stated, “There was excitement and gladness in the air, a happiness that flowed all through our campus. The delight was audible in persons who felt a sense of ‘at home-ness and belonging’—their reports, not mine—and who were inspired by the activities of mentoring, learning, and sharing knowledge and wisdom.”

PANAAWTM began over thirty years ago as a small group of women from Asia or of Asian descent who were enrolled in theological programs or working in ministry in the United States. At the 2015 conference, participants from 13 states and six countries, comprised of faculty, staff, and students participated in a remarkable weekend of celebration for the transformative journey that the organization, its members, and the theological community-at-large has experienced due to the courageous actions of these women throughout the last thirty years.

Five notable women theologians shared stories from their own journeys in the study and practice of theology. Rita Nakashima Brock (Brite Divinity School), Elizabeth Tapia (General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church), Jung Ha Kim (Georgia State University), Haruko Nawata Ward (Columbia Theological Seminary), and Jin Young Choi (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School) shared reflections on their unique and shared experiences as women of diverse Asian heritage, theologians, ministers, and members of PANAAWTM. Brock and Kim were also recognized and honored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church as retiring mentors of the Women of Color scholarship program.

PANAAWTM gathers every year to reflect, educate, and nurture its members. The 2016 conference is scheduled to be held at Garrett-Evangelical on March 10-12, 2016. This will be the fourth year in a row that Garrett-Evangelical has been selected to host the PANAAWTM conference.

W. Anne Joh is a faculty board member of PANAAWTM and its national Steering Committee and also serves as liaison to Garrett-Evangelical. Joh is associate professor of systematic theology at Garrett-Evangelical and affiliate faculty in Asian American studies at Northwestern University. President Rector expressed her gratitude for Joh and PANAAWTM’s leadership, saying, “Our students joined the dedicated leadership of Dr. Joh, along with other members of the seminary, to provide outstanding hospitality and care. PANAAWTM continues to embody a vision for collaboration and welcome even as it pursues critical, scholarly productivity and reflective practices. I give thanks for these Asian sisters who are God’s gift to our Garrett-Evangelical community and who encourage in us willing spirits for the work ahead.”

This conference, sponsored by the Asian and Asian American Center for Ministry at Garrett-Evangelical, is also supported in part by the Gladys Crane Women’s Center Lecture Fund.

If you have an interest in learning more about this organization, go to www.panaawtm.org. Registration information for the 2016 event will be posted on that site as it becomes available.
Police brutality and use of excessive force is a by-product of a long process of domination started in our modern period by discovery, conquest, colonialism, neocolonialism, and out-of-control capitalism as represented in our present global market economy. Racism, white supremacy, hetero-normativity, and Christianity as the dominant religion have characterized each one of these periods. It is this history that provides the context for interpreting the latest cases of violence around the world as well as the instances of police abuse here in our country: an extreme zeal to protect the rights of a minority, which subscribes to the ideology above, against the vast majority of people who do not.

As Christians, we should denounce this kind of excess, not only because it is in our best interest, but also because we are compelled to do so by the example of Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his solidarity with the marginalized, Jesus resisted the oppressive institutions of his time and was himself the victim of police brutality and excessive force.

Jesus’ cleansing of the temple is an example of how he resisted oppressive institutions. He came into the temple and disrupted the daily functioning of the sanctuary as a reminder that God was not pleased with the way it was being administered. His action was an act of public protest, a riot if you please, since historically speaking he could not have done this alone unless he was helped by a number of others.

Jesus’ arrest at Gethsemane (Mk 14:43-50 and parallels) is an instance of police brutality exercised against a not-yet-proven-guilty individual. The mocking by the soldiers at the crucifixion site (Mk 15:16-20 and parallels) is another example of police abuse of power, as was his execution by the Roman government. Death by crucifixion was death by suffocation. As the body hung on the cross, the lung cavity would distend beyond the point at which one could breathe. In the end, Jesus couldn’t breathe anymore and died. Soldiers watched, unmoved by his suffering, waiting to see if someone else would come to rescue him; in this case, the prophet Elijah.

A picture appearing in a newspaper during the outbreak of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 disturbed me deeply. It was the body of a dead black man floating on the ominous floodwaters of New Orleans. There it was, uncared for, as a painful reminder of how our society views certain bodies. This was not the corpse of a white person from one of the affluent neighborhoods of the city, which, by and large, were spared the devastating consequences of the hurricane. It was the body of a marginalized black inhabitant of one of the poorest areas of New Orleans.

Eric Garner, the African American peddler who was left to die unattended in Staten Island, NY, and Michael Brown, the teenager whose body was also uncared for as it lay on the street for more than three hours, are examples of how society treats certain bodies. To many, only white bodies, especially male bodies, are considered human. Everybody else falls short of this categorization. These two tragic examples serve also as a parable for what happens to blacks and other minorities in our society today. Constrained under the weight of exploitative and unfair laws, they “can’t breathe.” They are deprived of breathing space and of the basic human freedom to live life at its fullness.

Jesus of Nazareth’s body, uncared for by the empire, found its vindication in the action of the community which came to take care of it through the decisive action of one of its members, Joseph of Arimathea. According to Mark 15:43, Joseph “was also waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God” and “went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.” We saw this boldness reflected in the public demonstrations that followed the tragic incidents referred to above. Even members of the Garrett-Evangelical community joined in this public testimony, showing our prophetic side to a world that may have been surprised to realize that “prophetic participation in society” is one of our stated core values.

I believe that academic prestige often outweighs the prophetic vocation that has always characterized us. May these tragic and unfortunate events awaken that vocation in us.
The ministry of First United Methodist Church (First UMC) in Madison, Wisconsin spans 177 years and from its very inception focused upon the city of Madison and its people. While it is a relatively recent statement of mission, “Downtown for Good” accurately reflects the witness of the congregation and its pastoral leadership through the years.

While providing programs and Christian education, worship, and cultural experiences since the early days of Madison, the congregation has also continued to be instrumental in the development of community services such as the Methodist Hospital, several retirement facilities, and has assisted in establishing ten congregations in the Madison area. The church’s outreach activities currently include serving as the location of an overflow shelter for homeless men, a food pantry, a free Thanksgiving meal, volunteering at the area homeless shelter, Habitat for Humanity, multiple food ministries, and mission work in El Salvador. First UMC is also a reconciling congregation.

The sanctuary is often used to provide a setting for various events intended to nurture faith as well as garner support for area ministries. The Lyon Lecture Series has brought noted scholars such as John Dominic Crosson, John Spong, Emilie M. Townes, Jennifer Knust, and, on April 18, 2015, Hal Taussig as lecturer. Taussig is the author of *A New, New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century*.

Numerous concerts utilizing the musical gifts of the congregation and the community are enjoyed regularly at First UMC. The Blessed Brass, and the Chancel, Chamber, Chapel and Handbell Choirs enrich the worship experience regularly. Visit the church’s website at www.firstunitedmethodistmadison.org to experience the full range of worship, educational, outreach and service opportunities that are part of the ministry.

First United Methodist Church has been a leadership donor to Garrett-Evangelical each year since 2003, establishing an annual scholarship for a deserving student studying at the seminary. First UMC’s leadership gifts have also made it a member of Garrett-Evangelical’s Leadership Circle of Congregations.

Leadership Circle of Congregations

A number of congregations across the United States give generously to help Garrett-Evangelical educate leaders for the church and the world. Last year 65 churches and church organizations from 15 states supported the seminary. We hope to increase the number of partner congregations, especially those who give at the leadership level ($1,000 and above), even more this year. Thus, we have established the Leadership Circle of Congregations to recognize and thank those churches that are playing a critically important role in helping to train their future church leaders.

To learn how your congregation can join the Leadership Circle of Congregations, contact David Heetland, vice president for development, at 847.866.3970 or David.Heetland@garrett.edu.
Garrett-Evangelical has been awarded a grant of $500,000 by the Lilly Endowment as a part of its Initiative to Strengthen the Quality of Preaching. This initiative seeks to improve the quality of preaching for working pastors, as well as preaching instruction for seminary students. Garrett-Evangelical will build on the ongoing work of the Styberg Preaching Institute to improve pedagogy at the seminary, enhance the work of the Institute for practicing preachers, and develop teachers of preaching.

“Since its inception, Garrett-Evangelical has been committed to preparing religious leaders who are compelling preachers. Through our curriculum, renowned faculty and practitioners, and the founding of the Styberg Preaching Institute, preaching ministry has remained at the heart of our mission,” said President Lallene J. Rector. “We are excited to receive this grant and grateful to the Lilly Endowment for this opportunity to enhance and expand the excellent work in preaching already happening at the seminary.”

Called “A Partnership in Effective Proclamation,” this project will consist of three main elements: peer learning groups for active pastors under the direction of trained facilitators, preaching support for groups of students who are stepping into new roles as pastoral leaders, and the development of teachers of homiletics through a pre- or post-doctoral fellowship in teaching preaching. These three components have one distinct purpose, namely to improve the church’s ministry of proclamation by offering transformative Good News to hearers and thereby helping to fulfill its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Gennifer Brooks, Ernest and Bernice Styberg professor of preaching and director of the Styberg Preaching Institute at Garrett-Evangelical, will direct this project in collaboration with Mark Fowler, Murray H. Leiffer associate professor of congregational leadership, and Reginald Blount, assistant professor of formation, youth, and culture. Brooks is also dean of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) doctor of ministry in preaching program.

Founded in 2005, the Styberg Preaching Institute has established an intentional and persistent agenda of addressing the need for relevant, effective preaching in the church. Its motto, “The Seminary and the Church: Partners in Proclamation,” speaks to the seminary’s mandate to equip pastors for transformative ministry and recognizes preaching as a critical aspect of that mission. Through programs and activities, the Institute engages persons of diverse preaching traditions and cultures, with the aim of improving the preaching skills of established preachers as well as preachers in training at the seminary.

“Now more than ever, our churches and communities need effective preaching that delivers transformative good news,” said Brooks. “Through the Styberg Preaching Institute and now the Lilly Endowment, we are uniquely positioned to help pastors in the field and seminary students to hone their preaching skills and make their sermons more effective in offering the gospel to a needy world.”

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons, J.K. Jr. and Eli. The Endowment exists to support the causes of religion, education, and community development. Lilly Endowment’s religion grant-making is designed to deepen and enrich the religious lives of American Christians. It does this largely through initiatives to enhance and sustain the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes. More information can be found at www.lillyendowment.org.

Now Accepting Applications

Peer learning groups in a number of areas are forming now. Pastoral leaders interested in joining a group should apply online. To learn more or to submit your application, go to:

www.Garrett.edu/StybergPreaching
Garrett-Evangelical students are fortunate to have many cross-cultural travel opportunities available to them each year. This year, K.K. Yeo, Harry R. Kendall professor of New Testament, led 14 students on a study trip to the Holy Land. In the last ten years, almost 100 students have participated in trips led by Yeo. He comments, “This pilgrimage for me is life-changing every year without fail. The land teaches me anew of the Book, and the living rocks (Mitri Raheb, Abuna Chacour, Mark Brown, and others) guide me to interpret the Bible and to struggle with the peoples there for peace and justice, dignity, and reconciliation for all.”

的生活-changing” is a phrase that appears often when students write about their travels to the Holy Land. There are few opportunities more thrilling and inspiring to seminarians.

This trip has influenced the way that I will approach Scripture in the future. I hope to reflect on what it means to say, “I have seen the Valley of the Shadow of Death.” This reflection is what I will be taking with me from my time in the Holy Land. As I bring the Word to future congregations, I have an opportunity to reflect on what it means to have walked in the spaces that Jesus walked.

— Anitta Milloro
Master of Divinity student from Illinois

Our group waited in line to see the inside of the tomb of Jesus. I was skeptical about another ornate place that might not be real. When I went inside, the Spirit warmed my heart. There was an engraving in Greek that said, “He is not here. He has risen.” It gave me goose bumps. Jesus is not in that tomb, he is risen indeed.

— Brittany Sky Stanley
Master of Arts student in Christian Education from Tennessee

One of the highlights of this trip was spending time exploring the historical sites in the Galilee region, including crossing the Sea of Galilee itself. All the stories we’ve heard throughout our lives about Jesus and the disciples came to life, and I will never teach these stories to my congregation in the same way.

— Jennifer Shult Huffman
Doctor of Ministry student from Wisconsin

This class sparked in me a call for social justice. Being able to be there and see with my own eyes the plight of the Palestinian people opened me to understanding what is happening there. We were able to talk to both sides and listen to some truly amazing people talk about their daily lives. This trip allowed my classmates and me to connect with the people of Israel and it has forever changed how we view that country. Our previously closed minds were opened to the wonders of God’s work there, and the need for our support of peace.

— Khrisitan “Ed” McCutchan
Master of Divinity student from Illinois

May 2015
Aware Magazine 11
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is pleased to announce the appointments of Débora and Tércio Junker. Débora will serve as assistant dean of student life, director of the office of international students, and director of the Hispanic Center. Tércio will be appointed as dean of the chapel and director of the Course of Study and Escuela del Curso de Estudio programs. They will officially begin their appointments July 1, 2015.

“I am thrilled to welcome Drs. Débora and Tércio Junker back to the Garrett-Evangelical community,” said President Lallene J. Rector. “Their presence will not only strengthen our ability to respond more effectively to the theological educational needs of the Hispanic and Latino/a community, but their many gifts in administration, teaching, worship and music, and leadership will richly enhance our life together.”

Débora Junker is currently a visiting scholar at Garrett-Evangelical and assistant professor of Christian education at Christian Theological Seminary. As assistant dean of student life and director of the office of international students, Débora will provide valuable assistance to our growing number of international students as they navigate not only life at Garrett-Evangelical, but also life in the United States. Her work with the Hispanic Center will bring renewed attention and a new level of support for our Hispanic and Latino/a students.

Débora Junker received her doctor of philosophy degree in 2003 from Garrett-Evangelical in education and congregational studies; she also holds a master of arts in Christian education degree from Christian Theological Seminary and a master in religious science (practical theology) degree from the Methodist University of São Paulo - Brazil. Débora also received post-graduate specialization in the psychopedagogy of early childhood and adolescence from the Methodist Institute of Higher Education of São Paulo – Brazil and a licentiate in letters from the Methodist Institute of Higher Education of São Paulo – Brazil.

Débora Junker has published numerous articles, chapters, and books in the field of Christian education. She is currently working on a new book, Religious Education for Global Citizenship: Embracing Compassion and Solidarity. The book will explore the concept of global citizenship within a religious context while recognizing the urgent need to engage more concretely in issues of citizenship both theologically and pragmatically. Moreover, the book will seek to develop and cultivate what Débora calls a “citizenship literacy praxis,” a term she defines as a critical, engaged, and more compassionate way of reading the world locally as well as globally.

Tércio Junker is currently assistant professor of worship and director of Sweeney Chapel at Christian Theological Seminary. He brings a wealth of experience to both worship life and the Course of Study program at Garrett-Evangelical. Tércio has previously taught classes in the Spanish Course of Study school at Garrett-Evangelical and at Christian Theological Seminary’s Lifelong Theological Education program. Among his numerous musical contributions, compositions, and international leadership, Tércio was also the music director for the 10th World Council of Churches Assembly.

Tércio Junker is an ordained elder in the Brazilian Methodist Church. An international lecturer and published author, Tércio is the author of Prophetic Liturgy: Toward a Transforming Christian Praxis (Pickwick, 2014) and has recently been published in the journals Mosaico Apoio Pastoral and Caminhando and has contributed to Primary Sources of Liturgical Theology: A Reader (The Liturgical Press, 2000), and The Book of Daily Prayer: Morning and Evening (The Pilgrim Press, 2001). Tércio earned his doctor of philosophy degree in liturgical studies from Garrett-Evangelical in 2003. He holds a master of arts degree in sacred theology from Christian Theological Seminary and a master of arts degree in theology and ecclesiastical music from the Protestant Institute for Higher Theological Studies in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
As soon as she graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2005, Audrey Krumbach started making monthly gifts to her alma mater. “It never occurred to me not to give,” she said.

Garrett-Evangelical is at the top of her philanthropy list for several reasons. First, she appreciates the strong scholarship support she received while at Garrett-Evangelical and wants others to have the same support. Second, she understands that the seminary could not exist without gifts from the community and from its alums.

But the main reason she gives, she said, is she feels blessed by the education she received. “I want more spiritual leaders in the world to have that same experience and education,” said Krumbach.

Dan Henry agrees with Krumbach. He said he gives regularly to Garrett-Evangelical because he thinks it is important to educate and support the clergy. Henry, who owned an engineering firm, had been giving annually and had helped fund the Royal and Rita Speidel Scholarship in honor of his former pastor. At the request of former Garrett-Evangelical president, Ted Campbell, he started giving $150 monthly in 2005 in celebration of Garrett-Evangelical’s 150th anniversary and has continued the practice, upping his monthly gift to $160. At the same time, he funded the Dan Henry Scholarship.

As a United Methodist all her life, Juanita Dean said she feels it is important to support a United Methodist seminary. She started giving to the seminary in 2000 with a gift in honor of Bishop Edsel Ammons and her pastor, Myron McCoy. A few years later, she began to give monthly to the annual fund and the Center for the Church and the Black Experience.

While their reasons vary, what Krumbach, Henry, and Dean have in common is they all give monthly.

“My life is better when I routinely give,” explained Dean, whose granddaughter, Megan Dean graduated in 2012 with a master of divinity degree.

“Monthly just works better for my bookkeeping,” said Krumbach. “It actually allows me to give more than I would if I only gave an annual gift.”

“Many people don’t realize how much we value every gift to Garrett-Evangelical,” said David Heetland, vice president for development. “People read about the million dollar gifts and think that their gifts won’t make much of a difference, but we wouldn’t be where we are today without all the gifts we’ve received.”

To date, Garrett-Evangelical has received over $89 million dollars in gifts and commitments toward its Forging Our Future campaign. “Of the 16,286 gifts received, 14,164 of them were for less than $1,000,” he said. So far, the average gift is about $150.

“Every single gift absolutely makes a difference,” Heetland said. “And many people have discovered that by giving regularly on a monthly basis, they can do more than they could if they made a one-time annual gift.”

Alan DeGraw, who graduated in 1966, served for 37 years in full-time ministry in different churches in Michigan. Over the years, he has given regularly to several different funds at Garrett-Evangelical, including the Rueben P. Job Chair in Spiritual Formation. He said he feels The United Methodist Church has supported him, so he wants to support the church and the seminary.

In 2013, he started giving monthly because he found it was easier. “It also has a greater impact in the long run,” he said. In 2014, he increased his giving significantly. DeGraw and his wife, Judy, established the Alan W. and Judith L. DeGraw Scholarship.

Ruth Hawhee and her husband, Gale Hawhee, a 1958 graduate of Garrett Biblical Institute, had been giving monthly to Garrett-Evangelical’s annual fund for many years. After her husband died, Hawhee continued the practice. “I always felt that Garrett-Evangelical made it possible for us to have a family and a good life, and I wanted to try to help other people have that,” she said.

She, too, found it easier to give monthly. “I just made it a habit and put it on my budget sheet,” she said. “Not everyone can give $10,000 at a time, but if you just start the habit of giving, it adds up.”

Interested in contributing monthly? Learn more and download the monthly giving form at www.Garrett.edu/HowToGive.
Ewald Lieske (ETS 1954) will be celebrating his 80th year of preaching in the Evangelical Church on November 11, 2014.


Adolf Hansen (GTS 1968), vice president emeritus at Garrett-Evangelical, is pleased to announce the publication of *Becoming a Disciple: A Lifelong Venture*, a book authored by Hansen and eight other United Methodist clergy. Each writer looks at one aspect of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The second part of the book, written by Hansen, describes various processes we may go through as we pursue the venture of a lifetime. The book is available through Abingdon Press.

Thomas Small (ETS 1972) co-authored the children’s book, *Boots Flies to Boston*, with his wife, Shirley, and they are currently preparing it for publication. Thomas and Shirley celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year.


Paul Newman-Jacobs (G-ETS 1986) began serving as a chaplain for Serenity Hospice in Lafayette, Indiana, in September. Paul previously served as a staff chaplain at St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart, Indiana, from 2008-2014. He received the United Methodist Endorsement as a chaplain in 2012.

Carla Grosch-Miller (G-ETS 1992) recently published, *Psalms Redux: Poems and Prayers* (Canterbury Press, 2014). In her book, Carla takes the voices and themes from selected Psalms and transposes them from a distant and ancient culture on to a contemporary one with recognizable images and metaphors.

Amenti Sujai (G-ETS 1992) was recently featured on a television segment titled, “Finding Your Purpose and Place in History,” during Black History Month on WLTX, Channel 19 in Columbia, South Carolina.

Cathleen Falsani (G-ETS 1997), an award-winning religion journalist, has been named senior editor for *Religion Dispatches*, an online magazine about religion, politics and culture. In addition, she will lead the three-year “Remapping American Christianities” project at the University of Southern California and work with students at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism who are interested in covering religion and spirituality.

Ventra Asana (G-ETS 1999 and 2000) was successful in her doctoral defense and has been conferred the doctorate of ministry from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.


Robert Barasa (G-ETS 2006) was consecrated as the Anglican Bishop of Nambale, Kenya.

Denise Janssen (G-ETS 2012), was awarded the American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ *Luther Wesley Smith Education Award* for faithful, effective leadership in strengthening Christian education at an American Baptist-related college or seminary. Janssen is currently assistant professor of Christian education at Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Gina Harris Zinda (G-ETS 2014) was named an Ambassador of the Parliament of the World’s Religions from the USA in January 2015.
In Memoriam

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following alums who have died in Christ.

1930s


1940s


**Draper H. Bishop**, GBI 1943, Lincoln, Nebraska, died December 27, 2014.


**Donald Floyd McMahan**, GBI 1948, Bloomington, Indiana, died March 4, 2015.

**Clarence R. Nicholas**, GBI 1944, Roseville, Minnesota, died January 12, 2015.


**Meritt Max Wright**, ETS 1944, Topeka, Kansas, died January 25, 2015.

1950s


**Lyle Edwin Schaller**, GBI 1957, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died March 18, 2015.


1960s


1970s

**Martha Coursey**, GTS 1971, Chesterfield, Missouri, died March 4, 2008.


1980s


2000s


Other Deaths

**Christine Bohnsack**, CSS, Baraga, Michigan, died March 11, 2015.


**Clayton Eugene Koth**, ETS 1964, West Des Moines, Iowa, died January 8, 2015.


**Fred C. Whitley**, GTS 1962, Tempe, Arizona, date unknown.
Forging Our Future: The Final Lap

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary has been at the forefront of Christian theological thought, evangelical outreach, and social action for more than 160 years. Still, our work is only beginning. In order to remain strong, and attract and educate the very best leaders for tomorrow’s church, your help is needed. We encourage you to consider a pacesetting gift for the final stage of our $100 million campaign, Forging Our Future, The Final Lap.

To explore the number of ways you can support theological education at Garrett-Evangelical, go to: www.Garrett.edu/ForgingOurFuture