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 alums serve church and society around the world.

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Academic Dean Luis R. Rivera and I have just returned from Pittsburgh where we attended the 2014 Association of Theological Schools (ATS) biennial meeting for presidents and deans. It was a time not only to do business, but also a time to re-connect with colleagues across schools in North America. The theme of the meeting, “Resourcing Theological Education,” was opportune; for we are, indeed, living in a moment of historic change in theological education. The change is evident in who shows up in our classrooms; in what, how, and where we need to be teaching; in our relationship to denominations; as well as in the goals and purposes for which theological education is being sought. The cultural and political contexts of our work are also changing, and they influence the shape of contemporary needs in the church and in the world.

I was heartened by Dan Aleshire’s (executive director of ATS) opening address and the points of convergence with our own renewed commitment to revitalize a meaningful partnership and collaboration with the church. He considered the resources congregations bring to theological education noting that the experience of congregations “is on the front lines of change in religious practices.” I was led to reflect again upon how we sometimes assume the seminary has a prophetic word to the church, rather than considering the possibility that there is wisdom in looking to the church for a prophetic word about theological education. We would do well to pay attention to this.

Based on three historic congregations in Pittsburgh, Dan went on to describe how those who read the “signs of the times” are finding new paths into their future and are claiming these futures in different ways. At critical moments, they were able to resist the assumption of one best way to do church. Informed by the needs of the community around them, these congregations took risks in new directions and each found a different way forward to renewed life. Many gifts; one spirit. They discovered that, “Conventional wisdom may not be wise.” What we think we know about how to do church in certain places and how to grow congregations does not always prove to be the case.

And finally, we heard the familiar refrain that, “The future of theological schools will be multi-cultural and multi-ethnic. We must change our culturally saturated ways, and not just by adding color.” It is essential that this reality makes its way into our seminaries—that is, if we want to have any relevance to the needs of the church and the world for which we are preparing leadership. Though the membership of the United Methodist denomination is more than 90% white in this country, our student body consists of nearly 50% persons of color and the leadership in our denomination is becoming increasingly diverse. In my visits to annual conferences this year, I witnessed the leadership of our African American, Korean, and female bishops, bilingual worship services, and cross-racial as well as cross-ethnic appointments. We have a long way to go, but the Spirit is moving among us, and I believe that Garrett-Evangelical can be a prophetic beacon of light to the denomination.

We continue to make progress as we begin the first full-blown curriculum revision in over ten years, and as we anticipate engaging a new strategic-planning process this fall. Already, priorities are emerging for integrating cultural competency goals across the curriculum and for developing better capacity to interact with religious pluralism. Our students and faculty have been explicitly studying the white normativity that imbues virtually all of our processes at the school. We will engage anti-racism and diversity sensitivity training this coming year, and we will pursue an institutional audit of these matters. We are strengthening our partnership with churches through collaborative work in urban ministry and through participating in the “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century” program of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

And so, the work of theological education goes on at Garrett-Evangelical. We have celebrated the commencement of one of our largest graduating classes in a number of years. We blessed them and sent them out to make a transformative impact in the world. I hope you will join me with the Psalmist in offering a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts and blessings bestowed upon our seminary—all for the sake of serving God’s purposes in the church and world.

What can I give back to the Lord, for all the good things he has done for me? . . .
Oh yes, Lord, I am definitely your servant! . . . So I’ll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you . . .
(Psalm 116; 12, 16-17 CBE)
Garrett-Evangelical celebrated its 157th commencement at First United Methodist Church in Evanston on Friday, May 16. The seminary awarded 85 degrees and three certificates to students who completed the deacon studies program. In addition to the presentation of degrees, members of the class of 1963 were recognized, two distinguished alum awards were presented to Rita Lester and M. Franklin Dotts (see article on page 5), and one honorary doctoral degree was conferred upon distinguished Methodist historian and theologian, Justo L. González.

González, who also delivered the commencement address, is a retired professor of historical theology. For the last 30 years, González has focused on developing programs for Hispanic theological education, resulting in the founding of the Asociación para la Educación Teológica Latina (AETH), the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), and the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI). He also helped found the first academic journal related to Latino/a theology, Apuntes. Jointly, these efforts seek to strengthen Latino/a leadership in the church and the academy.

“The seminary is absolutely delighted to have Rev. Dr. González as our commencement speaker this year,” said Lallene J. Rector, president of Garrett-Evangelical. “González has been an excellent scholar and theologian for The United Methodist Church and a pioneer for Latino/a theology within The United Methodist Church. His unwavering commitment to providing theological education is an inspiration to all of us here at Garrett-Evangelical.”

After completing his Ph.D. in historical theology at Yale University in 1961, González went to Puerto Rico, where he taught at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico for eight years. He then taught for another eight years at Candler School of Theology. An ordained United Methodist elder, González has published over one hundred books, mostly in the field of history, but also on various books of Scripture and on theology. His books have been translated into multiple languages. The best known include, The Story of Christianity (2 vols.) and A History of Christian Thought (3 vols.). In addition to his Ph.D., González has received five honorary doctorates.

The 157th Commencement of Garrett-Evangelical

The Class of 1964 Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

During commencement, the classes of 1964 from Evangelical and Garrett Theological Seminaries reunited in celebration of their golden anniversary of graduation from seminary. On Thursday, May 15, the 50-year alums joined together for a time of fellowship, worship, and dinner with President Lallene J. Rector, trustees, and faculty. They concluded the evening by anointing the class of 2014 as they prepared to graduate and embark on their vocational journey.

The next day, the class was recognized by President Rector at commencement for their decades of ministry. In addition to the formal reunion schedule, the reunion guests had ample opportunities for storytelling, discussions with current students, and candid photos on the campus and lakefront. The seminary will welcome members of the class of 1965 on May 14-15, 2015.
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is honored to recognize Rita Lester and M. Franklin Dotts as the 2014 Distinguished Alums. Each year, the seminary chooses two alums to be honored as Distinguished Alumni at our commencement exercises. One alum is chosen from the most recent 25 years of graduates and one alum is chosen from those who graduated over 25 years ago.

Our more recent Distinguished Alum, **Rita Lester**, teaches at Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) where she serves as professor of religion, the faculty president, and a member of the board of governors. In 2010, she was one of 12 professors in the nation selected to attend the “Teaching About Islam and Middle Eastern Culture” seminar in Jordan. That same year she won NWU’s 2010-2011 Margaret J. Prouty Faculty Teaching Award. In 2012, Lester was named the Nebraska Professor of the Year and was honored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She was selected from nearly 300 top professors in the country.

The second Distinguished Alum of Garrett-Evangelical is **M. Franklin Dotts**. After teaching high school English in Pittsburgh for six years, Dotts received a call from God to move from public education to Christian education. In 1969, he received a doctor of education (Ed.D.) degree in religious education with a specialty in curriculum planning from Teachers College, Columbia University, through its joint program with Union Theological Seminary in New York City. While pursuing his doctoral degree, Dotts began his long tenure at the United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) and the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) of The United Methodist Church. He started there as an editor of church school curriculum resources for young children and early elementary children in the department of children’s publications. From 1986 until his retirement in 1990, Dotts served as executive editor of children’s publications, with responsibility for all church school resources for children from birth through grade six. Throughout his time as editor on the national staff, Dotts was widely known for his encouragement and leadership.

“At Garrett-Evangelical, our focus is on educating our students to become bold, servant leaders who serve the church, academy, and the world,” said President Lallene J. Rector. “Dr. Lester and Dr. Dotts are the living embodiment of our goal for students after graduation. Not only is Dr. Lester serving her students well at Nebraska Wesleyan University, she has been recognized as one of the finest educators in the country. In a similar way, Dr. Dotts has faithfully served The United Methodist Church in arguably one of the most critical areas of our denomination. I couldn’t be more proud to recognize them as our 2014 Distinguished Alums and hold them up as examples for our current students to aspire towards.”
Congratulations to the class of 2014! This year 85 students received degrees from Garrett-Evangelical, and we commend them on their fine work and their future ministries. We are very pleased to introduce eight of these graduates who are going forth to live out God’s call to serve the church, academy, and world.
Rebecca Wilson
Master of divinity student from Michigan

I came to Garrett-Evangelical with a broad desire to serve God and the people of God. I leave with a clearer vision of full-time servant ministry; an excellent theological, biblical, and practical seminary education; and the support of an amazing community.

In January of 2012, I traveled with Dr. Barry Bryant as part of his study tour of Israel/Palestine “Outrageous Hope: A Peace and Justice Immersion in Israel/Palestine.” I am forever changed as a result of walking through a checkpoint from Bethlehem into Jerusalem with our Palestinian Christian tour guide. In that moment, at the intersection of my privilege and the marginalization of an entire population, I saw up close and very personally that silence in the face of injustice is incompatible with faithful living.

As a newly commissioned deacon in the Detroit Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, I plan to serve in the city of Detroit, and ultimately, I hope to open a resource and empowerment center for women.

Jeremiah Gibbs
Doctor of philosophy student from Indianapolis, Indiana

When I decided to earn a Ph.D. from a seminary, I thought I was preparing to teach in seminary or one of the Bible colleges of Assemblies of God. But a Ph.D. from a seminary turned out to be the perfect training for the ministry of university chaplaincy where I find myself today. Rigorous and faithful theology is central to helping university students find their way into adulthood and independence, and I have been trained to do that well at Garrett-Evangelical. In addition, I am most grateful to have met my wife at Garrett-Evangelical and to have shared in many good-spirited, theological “arguments” with seminary colleagues around the lunch table in Loder Hall. When my students are preparing for seminary now, I usually suggest that these conversations are some of the most critical for theological formation.

I currently serve as university chaplain and director of the Lantz Center for Christian Vocation at the United Methodist-related University of Indianapolis. This dual role means that I teach about 50% of my time and lead campus ministry programming for the rest. I sense a very close alignment with my calling here and hope to stay in this role for a long time. I also have plans to impact the Church more broadly through writing. Currently I am working on a book about women in ministry that will be followed by another on vocational discernment. I believe the Church is at a critical time of reshaping ministry for the future, and I plan to be part of that ongoing conversation.

Grace Oh
Master of divinity student from Seoul, Korea, and Chicago, Illinois

Starting seminary studies at Garrett-Evangelical was not easy for me because of financial issues and the language barrier, but the grace of God kept me here. At first, I believed that I could not handle the pressure, but my advisor, Mark Fowler, kept me from the quitting. He said, “Grace, the grace of God brought you to this place, the grace of God will bring you to the next level of your journey.” The word “grace” followed me, and I did not give up.

Garrett-Evangelical became a special place for me because my view of humanity changed radically during my time here. As a traditional Korean woman, my perspective was molded by my (continued on page 8)
culture and Confucianism. I believed the most important qualities of human character were to be highly teachable and disciplined. In other words, I found the meaning of life to be based on what I could do or appeared to be. At seminary, I learned that a human being is not about what he or she can do, but who she or he is. Because of this change in theology, I am embracing a new place in my journey with marvelous peace.

My first appointment has started at Evangelical United Methodist Church in Ottawa, Illinois. The church is a different setting from my background, but I am remembering the encouraging words of Dr. Fowler and seeking to fully embrace each new person.

Michael Vollmer  
*Master of divinity student from Elmhurst, Illinois*

While at Garrett-Evangelical, I found the focus of my future work in God’s ministry and clarification of my calling. During Dr. Mark Teasdale’s class, “Empowering Congregations for Evangelism,” I discovered my passion for evangelism and reclaiming it as an act of love, not hate or condemnation.

One of my most formative learning experiences came from an intensive course I took with Dr. Mark Fowler on church administration and leadership. I learned more in those two weeks about leadership and practical application for a pastor in a church than at any other time. I know those lessons and information will serve me well going forward working in local churches.

At Garrett-Evangelical, I also discovered a calling to help struggling congregations rebuild—church recovery, as I like to call it. So many churches are teetering on the edge of dying, churches that I believe can be brought back and strengthened with the right leadership approach and by leading with God’s love. It is my hope for my work in God’s ministry to help these congregations become vibrant and relevant again, both in their local communities and the world.

Heather Dorr  
*Master of divinity student from Iowa*

My experiences at Garrett-Evangelical have made me into a theologian. Before coming here, I would not have given myself such a title, but I now understand that everyone thinks theologically and is a theologian. Through all of my classes, I learned vocabulary that helped me to speak about when and how I see God at work in the world, and I have learned the importance of being able to express my theological views.

My own theological viewpoint is quite relational. Our relationship to God, God’s relationship to us, and our relationships to one another are all connected. This has clarified my calling on how to be in healthy, loving relationship with God and with others. My time at Garrett-Evangelical has given me tools for how to cultivate this work within a ministry context with both practical and liturgical leadership.

I was just commissioned by the Iowa Annual Conference and have been appointed to serve as pastor at Eagle Grove United Methodist Church. I hope to bring creative ways to express faith and new ways to see God, and I am looking forward to all that I have to learn in this new context.

Heewon Kim  
*Master of divinity student from Seoul, Korea*

Being at Garrett-Evangelical has deeply shaped my calling not only through my academic studies, but also through small group discussions and mentoring during the Vocational Formation and Church Leadership course meetings. Every semester, we were asked to observe what was going on in our ministries. My colleagues and I discussed and wrestled with all kinds of issues concerning our callings and how we understood our
ministries. We were amazed that we saw ourselves using and applying all kinds of theologies and knowledge that we were learning in the classroom. Finally, we could spell out, “Who am I before God,” together.

In addition to these classroom experiences, I am so thankful for my on-campus work opportunity as a student librarian until I graduated. Every semester, the library provided events for people, including student workers. My supervisor, Mary-Carol, made gifts for student workers, and she was a warm care-giver. I’ve learned a lot both in the classroom and the United Library about what it means to be a pastor. I am serving now at Dixon First United Methodist Church as associate pastor. My hope is to be a servant connecting people with Jesus Christ so they may live abundant lives with God and in their communities.

Garrett-Evangelical far exceeded my expectations by cultivating and nurturing my call to ministry, as well as illuminating and strengthening gifts and passions I did not realize I had.

-Jasmine Jackson

Jasmine Jackson
Master of Arts in Christian Education student from Chicago, Illinois

At the time of my enrollment at Garrett-Evangelical, it was quite intimidating to think of myself as “called to ministry.” Although I could not articulate my goals, I knew, based upon my testimony, that God would use me! Initially, I thought I came to seminary to gain a better understanding of how to read, study, and teach the Bible. However, Garrett-Evangelical far exceeded my expectations by cultivating and nurturing my call to ministry, as well as illuminating and strengthening gifts and passions I did not realize I had. My time at Garrett-Evangelical has compelled me to challenge myself in ministry and be willing to try new experiences. One of these challenging new experiences, studying early Christianity in Rome for three weeks, became my most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical.

Recently, God has blessed me with opportunities to serve in ministry through preaching, speaking, and teaching. My hope is to continue to surrender to God’s call, allowing my testimony and resources in Christian education to be used for God’s glory. I believe that I am part of an assembly of young women whom God is using to redefine and dispel traditional depictions of ministry, all while inspiring others! I am proud to be a graduate of this seminary and extremely grateful to the entire community of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary for the continued support of my call and development along this journey!
A Passion for Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy

Janet Lutz (GTS 1969) grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where the Methodist Church played an important part in her life. She attended church every Sunday with her family, was active in MYF, and attended church camp in junior and senior high. She was also active on the district and conference levels of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

When she graduated from high school in 1961, opportunities for women seemed limited to being a nurse, teacher, secretary, or maybe a missionary. No one suggested other options, so Janet went to college and got a degree in elementary education. After one year of teaching, she knew it was not for her. That summer she worked at a church camp. One night one of the other counselors asked her if she had ever considered going to seminary. It was as if a light had broken through the haze. She suddenly knew that was what she wanted to do. The other counselor gave Janet the address and phone number for Garrett Theological Seminary (GTS).

Janet went home and told her parents she wanted to go to seminary. Her mother told her she had been praying that Janet would wind up doing something in the church, but had never said anything because she felt Janet had to come to that decision on her own. Neither Janet nor her mother was aware that a woman could be ordained.

“Going to Garrett was the best decision of my life,” Janet states. She originally planned to get a degree in Christian education, but after her first semester she knew she needed more theology and Biblical studies than was offered in that program, so she transferred into what was then the B.D. (today the M.Div.) program.

“Garrett opened windows and doors in my life that I did not even know were there,” she notes. “There were only about 30 women there at the time, with around 300 men. I was challenged almost daily as all of us struggled to deal with seminary classes and with what was going on in the world around us—the civil rights struggle, the anti-war movement, the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. My experiences at Garrett were filled with good friends, long intense discussions, as well as many challenges and opportunities for growth. For the first time I encountered women who had been ordained, and I began to think about ordination as well.”

When Janet graduated from Garrett, she was not sure what she wanted to do, so she taught third grade in Winnetka, Illinois for four years. At the end of the fourth year she began to think about ministry again. During that time she had stayed active in Wheadon United Methodist Church in Evanston. In the sanctuary hung a banner that said, “The sign of God is that we will be led where we did not plan to go.”

She quit her teaching job and took Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Children’s Memorial Hospital—kids and ministry—as a way to get back into thinking about and doing ministry. “I was there less than a week when I felt truly called to hospital ministry,” Janet exclaims.

In those days, however, it was not possible to be ordained without serving a church. Janet was appointed to Worth United Methodist Church and served for three years. “I knew I wanted to be a hospital chaplain, but the church taught me about ministry and its day-to-dayness. Garrett was always in my mind because it was such an enriching experience. It helped me walk alongside the folks in the church and to learn from them.”

At the end of three years, Janet went to the University of Chicago Hospital to do a residency in CPE. Throughout that year she grew more certain that she wanted to be a CPE supervisor. She moved to St. Louis to finish her supervisory training at Barnes Hospital, and when the director of the program at Barnes retired, Janet was hired as the director and served for six years in that position.

In 1990, Janet was invited to become the Director of Staff Support and CPE Supervisor at the Emory Center for Pastoral Services in Atlanta, Georgia. For the next 16 years, she served in that capacity. Her work led to
ministry with nurses, administrators, housekeepers, and pretty much everyone else in the hospital. “It was wonderful,” Janet declares. “I found Atlanta a great place to work and live. I learned so much about diversity. I was active in a church and taught classes at several different churches in Atlanta.”

“The sign of God—who knew I would wind up in Atlanta and at Emory? For me, it is the willingness to listen and look for the signs.”

In 2006, Janet retired and moved back to Evanston. “I bought a condo that is on the 17th floor and overlooks Lake Michigan. It is the perfect retirement spot for me.”

Even in retirement Janet continues to be in ministry. In 2007, she supervised a unit of CPE at Africa University in Zimbabwe. These days she works with a group of lay visitors in the church she attends, does some work for CPE, and enjoys being closer to family and a wonderful group of women friends.

Janet continues to remember and support her beloved Garrett-Evangelical. “When I was a child, I tithed,” she states. “I have always tithed. Many years ago I decided to use that money to support only a few charities. I decided to give a major gift to Garrett-Evangelical to start a scholarship fund because I wanted to do something that would make a difference one student at a time.” In addition to her annual leadership gifts, Janet has also remembered the seminary in her estate plans with a significant gift “so that others will have the powerful experience at Garrett-Evangelical that I had, even after I am gone.”

Garrett-Evangelical is proud to claim Janet as an alum and is incredibly grateful to her for creating the Janet Lutz Endowed Scholarship at the seminary. If you share Janet’s commitment to preparing strong Christian leaders, we invite you to support the seminary’s Forging Our Future campaign. Outright gifts, multi-year pledges, and planned gift commitments are all welcome. For more information contact David Heetland, vice president for development, at david.heetland@garrett.edu or 847.866.3970.

Bernard Heerey Family Foundation Grant Renewed

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is again the recipient of a grant given by the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation. The grant provides annual full-tuition and stipend for one year to three students fulfilling their field education requirements as student chaplains in a hospital setting.

Through this commitment by the Heerey Foundation, the seminary is able to further its mission of providing unique, hands-on experience for students in its field education program. In addition, Garrett-Evangelical is proud to join with the Heerey Foundation in accomplishing its goal of lifting up and promoting the importance of hospital chaplaincy as a calling.

The seminary is pleased to announce awards for the 2014-2015 academic year to Paul Ortiz, Anitta Milloro, and Jacquelyn Webb. All three recipients are second year M.Div. students who are serving at Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Illinois. They are very thankful to the Heerey Foundation for their support. Ortiz says, “As a recipient of a Bernard Heerey Family Foundation Scholarship, I am beyond grateful for the opportunities it grants me to continue growing as a person and minister. This scholarship makes it possible for me to remain at Garrett-Evangelical. I trust that my time serving as a Heerey Chaplin will be a formative experience, and I pray that my service will be a blessing to others.”

All at Garrett-Evangelical are immensely grateful for the generosity of the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation for its support of the seminary’s field education program and the important calling of hospital chaplaincy.
The 40th Anniversary of the Union of ETS and GTS

This year, 2014, marks the 40th anniversary of the union of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois (ETS), and Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois (GTS). These two schools united in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary as we know it today.

Events were set in motion when the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) and Methodist denominations joined in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. A commission authorized to “study the ministry” made a recommendation, adopted at General Conference in April 1972, to reduce the number of United Methodist seminaries from 14 to 11 with the expectation that there would be only one United Methodist seminary in the Chicago area. Therefore, ETS (an EUB seminary) and GTS (a Methodist seminary) were encouraged to unite as one seminary on the Evanston campus of GTS.

Forty Year Old Memories: K. James Stein, president of ETS (1972-1974) and first dean of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

“There were obvious hindrances to the union of these two fine schools. Garrett, founded in 1855, was the older and larger of the two. Evangelical held its first classes in 1876. When the schools merged, Garrett’s enrollment was 300 students, some of whom were in the joint Ph.D. program with Northwestern University. Evangelical had an enrollment of 175 students. In 1974, the Garrett endowment was $11,000,000; the Evangelical endowment was $2,000,000, although the sale of the Naperville campus in 1976 brought another $900,000 into the coffers of the new seminary.

“The faculty at Garrett contained a number of well-published scholars, while their counterparts, equally educated and scholarly at Evangelical, placed higher stress on teaching and preparing students for parish ministry. The Evangelical faculty, as a whole, was younger.

“The location of the two schools affected their basic orientation. Garrett’s urban setting provided it with a much more heterogeneous student body. Evangelical, due to its smaller size, suburban location, and lingering Pietistic heritage, had a homogeneous student body that made for a strong sense of community.

“Still, under the grace of God, these two fine institutions united on the Evanston campus, creating a new school that was stronger than the sum of its original parts. In recognition of the solid heritage of both schools, the hyphen connecting the names Garrett and Evangelical symbolizes this fact.

“As the first dean of the united seminary, I made a report to the seminary’s board of trustees at their 1975 spring meeting. Citing President Merlyn Northfelt’s capable leadership and the cooperative posture evidenced by the faculty, administrators and students, I could honestly say that the new school had experienced a year unmarked by the tensions such a union might provoke. It seemed appropriate to cite the words from Nehemiah 4:6 where the prophet commented, ‘so we rebuilt the wall...for the people had a mind to work.’ It was apparent that such a positive attitude prevailed on our campus in 1974-75 and, fortunately, this persists even to this day.”
An Arranged Marriage: Thomas E. Babler, ETS 1973

Thomas Babler was a student on the task force working on the plan of union for the two seminaries. Later, when Garrett-Evangelical was constituted in 1974, he was elected as a member of the board of trustees on which he has served for forty years. The following is an excerpt from his 2004 convocation address, Garrett-Evangelical: An Arranged Marriage.

“I would suggest that Garrett-Evangelical came into being as a result of an arranged marriage. It was the idea of the parents. It was encouraged by the extended families on both sides. ETS and GTS for years had been neighbors, friendly acquaintances. Now they were to be one.

“In The Christian Century some time ago Will Willimon, of Duke Divinity School, now Bishop Willimon, wrote an article titled ‘The People We’re Stuck With,’ commending the idea of arranged marriages. In this article, he contends that love is the result of marriage rather than its cause. He wrote, ‘I think we should be more open about the arranged, unchosen aspects of our marriage because it enables us to think clearly about the peculiar ethical demands placed upon us. . .’ (The Christian Century, Oct. 17, ’90, p. 925) Translated to our history, I think we can say that one result of this arranged marriage was a discovery of identity and mission that might not have been realized by either of the institutions on its own.

“This discovery began in the process of selecting a name for the new united seminary. After the decision to unite, the question was raised, ‘What will it be called?’ It was decided that we needed to keep our names. The name of the new seminary would be hyphenated—something some newly married couples were doing in the early ’70s. There was a distinct heritage and identity carried in those old beloved names. It could not be just ‘Evangelical.’ It could not be just ‘Garrett.’ It was to be Garrett, hyphen, Evangelical Theological Seminary.”

Final Worship: J. Robert Burkhart, ETS 1974

Bob Burkhart, a member of the final graduating class of ETS, who is currently serving as a trustee at Garrett-Evangelical, shares his memories of the final worship.

“The final worship service in the Evangelical Theological Seminary Chapel in May 1974 is especially memorable, both for its significance and its emotion. President K. James Stein preached from Psalm 137 and entitled his sermon “How Can We Sing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land.” It marked the change of location and identity of ETS as it was merging with GTS.

“While capturing the emotion of leaving a location saturated with EUB heritage, President Stein offered up a strong word of hope for the future. At the close of the worship service we took leave of the chapel for the final time, recessing out of the chapel onto the front lawn where President Stein offered the final benediction from the front steps.

“We continue to celebrate the strength and enduring legacies of both Garrett Theological Seminary and Evangelical Theological Seminary as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the union that changed the course of their histories and resulted in the creation of one great seminary—Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.”

The United Methodist General Conference of 1972 received a report from its Commission to Study the Ministry that, among other things, recommended a reduction in the number of United Methodist seminaries. The report recommended that the church should maintain three instead of four seminaries on the Atlantic seaboard, one instead of two in Ohio, and one instead of two in the Chicago area. Ironically, the proposal was implemented only in the Chicago area, where Garrett Theological Seminary and Evangelical Theological Seminary, formally united on July 1, 1974. We were faithful in our response to The United Methodist Church’s recommendation.
The young Muslim scholar who had just completed his Ph.D. quietly rose and spoke to those of us—Christians, Muslims, and Jews—who had participated with him in an international conference at Cambridge University on Commitment, Character, and Citizenship: Religious Education in Liberal Democracy: “I thank you for including me. Here I have been able to share my passion both for my faith and the world we share. I have been free to talk about the communities I love and their needs.” Many of us nodded in assent. Together we were freed to share our differing religious traditions and build shared commitments. Truths were claimed, risked, and challenged in order to learn how to teach for both faith commitment and civic participation.

We all identify with the struggles facing our shared planet from environmental degradation to armed conflict. We know that many of these are rooted in deep and long-standing religious differences. We hope that our faiths can inform and mobilize our work for living in a redemptive, healing community. I am convinced that we cannot make any progress toward that hope alone—partnerships and coalitions are needed. Only together can we glimpse redemptive community.

This has been an aspect of my research and ministry. For the last ten years, I have edited RELIGIOUS EDUCATION for the Religious Education Association (REA). Last year, the journal included essays from 14 countries and three religious traditions. Learning and mutuality has occurred as scholars share their commitments to their own traditions, point to common struggles, and seek ways of making a difference. Dr. Deborah Court, who teaches at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel, and I have been working on an interfaith education project. We have discovered diverse motivations—from apologetic and information purposes to coalition building. Yet, above all, we have discovered a spiritual outcome. As Professor Court well states: human connections across traditions “move us from a lonely spiritual quest to seeking and recognizing shared connection and insights about creation and community”—embodying our mutual seeking to respond to the invitation of God.

As examples, I point you to the interfaith action on college campuses stimulated by Interfaith Youth Core (www.ifyc.org) and to efforts of the Parliament of the World’s Religions—“Interfaith Shows Philanthropists Why Religion is a Force of Good” (www.parliamentofreligions.org; July 12, 2014). Three suggestions for your ministry:

1. Teach truthfully our traditions. While deeply immersing ourselves in our commitments, also be truthful about the ways we have hurt and excluded others.
2. Teach our scriptures and traditions in partnership with members of another religious tradition. Studying our traditions in the presence of others helps us learn more about each other and ourselves.
3. Build local coalitions of religious groups working for healing. Here we discover our common concerns. Neighborhoods are increasingly diverse. A faithful question is, “How are we working to be a force of good?”

How are we learning both about our faith and the faith of others, as well as embodying our mutual seeking to respond to the love and call of God?

These questions will be the focus of a conference on Educating for Redemptive Community at Garrett-Evangelical on November 10, 2014. Dori Baker, chaplain at Sweet Briar College and scholar in residence at the Fund for Theological Education and Mai-Anh Le Tran, associate professor of Christian Education at Eden Seminary and president-elect of the REA will focus our reflections. Denise Janssen, assistant professor of Christian Education at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, will chair a panel of Garrett-Evangelical faculty on our plans to expand our work to include child advocacy and teaching religion in public schools. We will let you know what we learn.

Alum News

James Will (ETS 1952) has recently published a book, *A Contemporary Theology for Ecumenical Peace* (Palgrave Pivot, 2014). Will is professor emeritus of systematic theology at Garrett-Evangelical, having retired in 1998 after 39 years on the faculty. For 10 of those years he also served as director of the Peace and Justice Center.

Paul F. McCleary (GBI 1956) has authored the book *Reform Movements in Methodism and How They Were Treated (1784–1830)* (XLIBRIS, 2014).

Anne Broyles (G-ETS 1979) was awarded second place in the “Best Bilingual Children’s Fiction Picture Book” category at the International Latino Book Awards ceremony in Las Vegas for *Arturo and the Navidad Birds* (Pelican Publishing, 2013).


Christopher B. Barnett (G-ETS 2004) has a new book titled *From Despair to Faith: The Spirituality of Søren Kierkegaard*. Published by Fortress Press, this book will be available August 2014.

Lindsey Graham Guinn (G-ETS 2007 and 2009) married Scott Guinn on July 12 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

In Memoriam

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

1940s
- Howard Smith, GBI 1942, Collingswood, New Jersey, died on April 17, 2014.
- Howard W. Buckley, ETS 1943, Worthington, Ohio, died on April 14, 2010.
- Elvin L. Miller, GBI 1946, Fort Wayne, Indiana, died on April 26, 2014.
- Elaine Lois Fredrickson, GBI 1947, Chelsea, Michigan, died on May 1, 2014.
- Jacob Quiambao, GBI 1949, Decatur, Georgia, died on October 27, 2006.

1950s
- Lyle Christianson, GBI 1953, Arden Hills, Minnesota, died on April 16, 2014.

1960s
- Paul Donald Williamson, GTS 1962, Granger, Iowa, died on June 5, 2014.

1970s
Calendar of Events

(Academic year lectures are Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., room 205 unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, September 3
**Academic Convocation**: Stephen Lewis, president, Forum for Theological Exploration
*Start Boldly, Lead Differently*
4:00 p.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful
Contact Erin Moore at 847.866.3902 or erin.moore@garrett.edu

Wednesday, September 17
**Asian/Asian-American Ministry Lecture**: Peter T. Cha, associate professor of pastoral theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Contact W. Anne Joh at 847.866.3974 or anne.joh@garrett.edu

Thursday, September 18
**Transgressive Theology Conference**:
*Unveiling Socially Sanctioned Violence since President Obama*
Panel discussion: 7:00 p.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful
Contact W. Anne Joh at 847.866.3974 or anne.joh@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 1
**Promotion Lecture**: Gennifer Brooks, Ernest and Bernice Styberg Professor of Preaching, Garrett-Evangelical
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 8
**Admissions Open House**
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Garrett-Evangelical
Contact Becky Eberhart at 847.866.3938 or becky.eberhart@garrett.edu

Wednesday, November 5
**Sabbatical Lecture**: Reginald Blount, assistant professor of formation, youth, and culture, Garrett-Evangelical
*From Sabbath Schools to Freedom Schools: Public Theology and the Power of Voice*
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Monday, November 10
**Christian Education Conference**:
*Educating for Redemptive Community*
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful
Contact Jack Seymour at 847.866.3891 or jack.seymour@garrett.edu

For a full calendar of events, visit us at www.garrett.edu