“Garrett Seminary is not only at the geographical center of Northwestern University, but the spiritual center.”

- President Schapiro of Northwestern University

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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“We welcome Dr. Lallene Rector as the new president-elect of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary!” I confess to having goose bumps and choking back tears of joy when I heard these words spoken by Bishop Sally Dyck as the seminary community gathered on the morning of May 16. The board received the recommendation of the search committee and voted in favor of it. I was overjoyed. A new leader has been named for the seminary—we may say that a new day is dawning.

I started my presidency in June 2006. Much has changed in our world during this time. Our phones are smarter, and our computers are faster; however, we are learning that “big brother” is cataloguing more and more information about us. The world went through a major economic recession; however, the stock market has reached new highs. We celebrated the election of our first African American president; however, gridlock in government seems to be the new normal. We have lived through the unthinkable tragedies of Sandy Hook and the Boston Marathon; however, through these tragedies we have witnessed the kindness of strangers offering aid. It seems there is daily news of the children of Chicago being murdered in gunplay on our streets. We have seen super storm Sandy and massive tornados in Oklahoma City, Joplin, and Tuscaloosa upend the lives of millions of folks. We have watched the unfolding of the “Arab Spring” and become increasingly aware of the importance of China and other Asian societies as the mental maps of the future of our world have shifted. And, the Chicago Cubs have continued their pattern of losing seasons.

Northwestern University President, Morty Schapiro, was the commencement speaker this year. President Schapiro said, “What kind of future might we expect? Some are pessimistic… I am very optimistic about the future. What I see at places such as Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern gives me abundant hope. You don’t need me to remind you of your role after graduation. You will not simply accept the future as a given. You will work to change it. You will become leaders. You will devote yourself to selfless service. You will use your education toward Tikkum Olam, to repair the world.”

We send off our students as repairers of the world. This great legacy continues as a new dawn arises. As I pass the baton of leadership to Dr. Rector, I know that Garrett-Evangelical is indeed blessed. We are blessed that God has provided a remarkable leader for the next season in the life of our seminary.

Are these the best of times or the worst of times, as Charles Dickens wrote about in his era? I cannot help but say I have seen much to proclaim as good news. I see it as Garrett-Evangelical sent 77 graduates into fields of service in May. I see it in the energy and commitment of those who come to seminary. The young, with deep faith commitments, attend in increasing numbers. The older students come as second or third career folks with a great deal of wisdom and experience. All of these students, old and young, are excited about the future and are eager to start their future work of healing, reconciliation, and compassion. Congregations and denominations have gone through much change during these past years… and almost weekly I meet marvelous pastors and hear of new and exciting ministries that are emerging.

Philip A. Amerson
On May 16, the board of trustees unanimously elected Lallene J. Rector to be the next president of Garrett-Evangelical. Currently serving as the seminary’s vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, Rector will succeed Philip A. Amerson, who will retire on December 31 after nearly eight years as president. Rector, an extraordinary scholar and practitioner, shares a deep love for the church and possesses the perfect mix of skills, education, experience, and faith to further Garrett-Evangelical’s mission to prepare bold spiritual leaders for the church, academy, and world.

As the first woman president in Garrett-Evangelical’s 160-year history, Rector will join the seminary’s legacy of remarkable women who have served the institution, including Eliza Garrett, who founded Garrett Biblical Institute in 1853; Lucy Rider Meyer, the first principal of the Chicago Training School in 1855; Georgia Harkness, the first woman to be named professor of theology in the United States in 1939; and Rosemary Skinner Keller, the seminary’s first female academic dean appointed in 1993.

As the first layperson to be appointed president, Rector will bring a creative perspective to the seminary’s commitment to train bold leaders. She is a person of profound faith and is devoted to theological education in the ecumenical church and the building of strong interfaith alliances. Her background as a United Methodist who brings expertise in pastoral psychotherapy makes her an invaluable asset on the Ministerial Assessment Specialists Advisory Committee on Candidacy and Clergy Assessment for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In addition, she is a convener for the United Methodist Theological Schools academic deans and regularly represents the seminary at denominational conferences.

In response to the board’s decision, Jerre Stead, board of trustees chairperson, said, “I am thrilled with the work of the search committee and their recommendation. When I speak with faculty and administrators at other theological schools, Lallene’s reputation precedes her. She is considered one of the top-tier talents in theological education and we are blessed to have her as president-elect.”

Rector has been a member of the Garrett-Evangelical faculty for 27 years, with the last seven spent in her current role as academic dean. Some of her more recent achievements at the seminary include developing and implementing the seminary’s strategic plan, chairing the budget reduction task force, initiating curriculum review, and negotiating the seminary’s charter membership in the Seminary Stewardship Alliance.

Her influence at the school can be further witnessed by looking at the student body. Rector’s commitment to creating a diverse community has driven her to develop strong relationships with the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE), Advanced Latino/a Theological Education Program, and the Center for African American Studies program.

Rector’s influence expands far beyond her work at Garrett-Evangelical. Locally, she has convened the academic deans of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) and served as the secretary for the ACTS Common Council. Nationally, she is a member of the Association for Theological Schools (ATS) Advisory Committee for Chief Academic Officers. Further involvement with ATS includes serving as member or chair of several re-accreditation teams since 2005 and being a panelist or presenter at various ATS meetings and conferences.

Rector’s educational background includes a bachelor of arts in psychology and religion from Texas Christian University, a master of theological studies from Boston University’s School of Theology, and a doctor of philosophy in psychology of religion from Boston University’s Graduate School for the Arts and Sciences. She holds memberships in the American Academy of Religion; has served on the Steering Committee for the Person, Culture, and Religion Section; and has been a member of the American Psychoanalytical Association and the Chicago Society for Psychoanalysis.
On Friday, May 17, Garrett-Evangelical celebrated its 156th commencement at First United Methodist Church in Evanston. The seminary awarded 77 degrees, including eight doctor of philosophy; nine doctor of ministry; 50 master of divinity; three master of theological studies; and seven master of arts—in Christian education, music ministry, and spiritual formation and evangelism. The seminary also recognized one student who completed the advanced course of study. In addition to the presentation of degrees, members of the class of 1963 were recognized, two distinguished alum awards were presented to Jane Eesley and Earl Lindsay (see article on page six), and two honorary doctoral degrees were conferred upon Sharon Rader and Morton Shapiro.

Sharon Rader, retired bishop and previously bishop-in-residence at Garrett-Evangelical, was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree. Before her election to the episcopacy, Rader (G-ETS 1976) served as pastor in Battle Creek and East Lansing, Michigan, and in Chicago. While she was the district superintendent in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rader was elected to the episcopacy and assigned to the Wisconsin area. As bishop, she was the secretary of the Council of Bishops from 1996 to 2004. She is currently the ecumenical officer for the Council of Bishops and has been a leader in The United Methodist Church as a member of the General Council on Ministries, the General Commission on Communications, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Morton Shapiro, 16th President of Northwestern University and Professor of Economics in Northwestern’s Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. President Shapiro is among the nation’s leading authorities on the economics of higher education, with particular expertise in the areas of college financing and affordability and trends in educational costs and student aid. He has testified before the U.S. Senate and House committees on economic and educational issues and is widely quoted in the national media on those issues. In 2010, President Schapiro was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honorary societies. He has written more than 100 articles and five books and has edited two others.

In his address, Schapiro applauded the seminary’s commitment to training bold leaders for the church, academy, and the greater world. He said, “[You] graduates are not going to sit around and wait for others to lead. Instead you will spread your vision—that vision of Garrett of service and justice far and wide—while serving as role models, just as others have done for you. What sort of life will you model? You know the answer, certainly one where you exercise your faith, not just for your church, but every single day of your life. You will educate, you will inspire, and you will do so with a deep sense of humility.”

President Philip Amerson reflected as he sent this graduating class forth, “Together, I pray that we will go from this place to strengthen and establish communities of witness, redemption, and healing. May we depart to welcome the stranger, to bring renewal and reconciliation to a world filled with estrangement and despair. I urge you to spend your time imagining, creating, praying, encouraging, hoping, and welcoming the gifts in the places where you serve….

“We are still works in progress and today we send you forth to share the life-giving Word brought to us by the prophet from Nazareth—Jesus, the ever-living, community-building hope for the world.”
Eesley and Lindsay Receive Distinguished Alum Awards

Annually, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary presents distinguished alum awards to two persons who have rendered extraordinary service in their ministries. One award is given to an alum who graduated 25 years ago or less and another is presented to an alum who graduated more than 25 years ago. The 2013 distinguished alum awards were presented to Jane Eesley and Earl Lindsay.

Jane Eesley was educated at Northwestern University, where she received a bachelor’s degree (Phi Beta Kappa) in English literature in 1984 and a master’s degree in English in 1990. She graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree in 1996.

Eesley is an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference, and has served as the senior pastor at Christ United Methodist Church, Rockford, Illinois since 2011. Before her current appointment, Eesley served three churches in Illinois: Mayfair United Methodist Church in Chicago (1996); Naperville Community United Methodist Church as associate pastor (1997); and DeKalb First United Methodist Church as senior pastor (2005). While at DeKalb, she developed a strong church, based on mission, ministry, and service. Members of the congregation believed she was one of the most effective and inspirational preachers they have had.

Eesley has been active in mission work through the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and has served with the Mission Intern Program from 1990-1993. She has worked in Arab East Jerusalem with the Infant Welfare Centre and in Staten Island, New York, with the Methodist Federation for Social Action. In 2004, she participated in a two-week trip to Senegal where she provided training for leaders of new United Methodist congregations there.

Through the years, Eesley has served on many district and conference committees including the Chicago Northwestern District Strategy Committee and the Northern Illinois Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CCUIC). She has served as clergy mentor coordinator for the Board of Ordained Ministry and has also been a board member of the Oak Crest Retirement Center, founded by The United Methodist Church.

Earl Francis Lindsay received a bible diploma from the Chicago Evangelistic Institute (later renamed Vennard College) and a bachelor’s degree from Alma College in Michigan before receiving a master of divinity degree from Garrett Biblical Institute in 1958. Later education included a doctor of ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Merrill Fellowship to Harvard University.

During his early ministerial training, Lindsay served congregations in Michigan. However, on graduating from Garrett, he decided to follow a professor’s advice to consider serving in Wisconsin and accept an appointment to First Methodist Church of Madison as associate pastor. Lindsay served as senior pastor at four Wisconsin churches: First Methodist Church in Portage (1960); First Methodist Church in Whitewater (1966); First United Methodist Church in West Allis (1971); and First United Methodist Church in Kenosha (1977).

After more than nine years at First United Methodist Church in Kenosha, Lindsay was asked to lead the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, where he was instrumental in promoting stewardship education and facilitating numerous financial campaigns across the conference. His last appointment was as president and CEO of Manor Park Foundation where he was instrumental in establishing the Olsen Rehabilitation
Center in Milwaukee and the Sanford Archives Center at The United Methodist Church headquarters in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Lindsay was the Wisconsin Conference chair of stewardship for 16 years. In his more than 44 years of professional ministry, he raised over 38 million dollars for church causes, 16 people entered full-time ministry from his churches, and he received over 2,600 members into The United Methodist Church.

In retirement, Lindsay organized a foundation, the Community Investment Foundation, to support the Shalom Movement for the General Board of Global Ministries and a second private foundation, The Albert and Mary Rhoades Foundation, which continues to provide a stream of support of over $280,000 per year for charitable causes.

Now nearing his 83rd year of life, and 63rd year of marriage, Lindsay still preaches, serves as pastor emeritus at First United Methodist Church in West Allis, Wisconsin, consults for The Village at Manor Park, and raises funds as a volunteer for Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

The Class of 1963 Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

During Garrett-Evangelical’s Commencement week, the class of 1963 from Evangelical and Garrett Theological Seminaries reunited in celebration of their golden anniversary of graduation from seminary. On Thursday, May 16, the 50-year alums joined together for a time of fellowship and storytelling, held a worship service in the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful, and had dinner with President Philip Amerson, trustees, and faculty. They concluded the evening by anointing the class of 2013 as they prepared to graduate and embark on their vocational journey.

The next day, the class was recognized by President Amerson at commencement for their decades of ministry in the church and in the world. In addition to the formal reunion schedule, the reunion guests had ample opportunities for fellowship, story sharing, discussions with current students, and candid photos on the campus and lakefront. The class received copies of the 50-Year Memory Booklet, which is a collection of the life stories and accomplishments of members of the class of 1963. The seminary will welcome members of the class of 1964 on May 15-16, 2014.

1963 Memory Book
garrettseminary.blogspot.com
Congratulations to the class of 2013! This year 77 students received degrees from Garrett-Evangelical, and we commend them on their fine work and their future ministries. We are very pleased to introduce six of these graduates who are going forth to live out God’s call to serve the church.

Marlan DeWan Branch
Degree: Master of divinity
Hometown and education:
I have lived in a variety of places, from Ackerman, Mississippi, where I was born; to Detroit, Michigan; to Chicago, Glencoe, and Evanston, Illinois. I graduated from Evanston Township High School so I claim Evanston as my hometown. I received my bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas.

How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? Garrett-Evangelical has shaped my ministry and calling tremendously. It has been the primary catalyst in my spiritual and educational growth and has helped me to discern more specifically my call. I arrived at Garrett-Evangelical with a solid foundation in my faith and belief in God and with a clear understanding of my calling into pastoral ministry. Through my studies at the seminary, I learned the importance of academic interpretation of the Word of God. Thus, as I matriculated through my program, my calling grew to include a passion for Pauline scholarship.

What is your most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical? One of my most memorable moments at Garrett-Evangelical was meeting my wife, Michele. Michele was a student worker in the office of admissions, and she helped me register for my classes. We began dating two months after we met and were married a year and a half later.

A second memorable moment was when Dr. James H. Cone presented his lecture, “Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seen,” at the 2010 Convocation. It was after hearing his lecture that I realized that academia would be a central piece to my call in pastoral ministry.

What are your plans or your hopes for your future ministry? This coming October, I anticipate being ordained an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and, prayerfully, hope to be appointed to a local congregation as the senior pastor. I am currently enrolled in the master of theological studies program at Garrett-Evangelical, with a concentration in Pauline scholarship. I hope to pursue doctoral work in Pauline studies. As a future pastor in the AME church, my hope is to encourage believers to take seriously the wealth of biblical scholarship and its vitality in our work of shaping what Dr. King described as the “Beloved Community.”
HyernCherl (Paul) and YeonShin (Rosa) Lee

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown and education: Paul was born and raised in a small farming community in a southern suburb of South Korea, and Rosa was born in one of the metropolitan cities in South Korea. Paul found his calling to be an ordained pastor in his late teens and Rosa in her early 20s. Both attended HanShin University, receiving B.A. and M.Div. degrees. Rosa became a United Methodist in Wisconsin in 1998 and Paul in Hawaii in 2009.

How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? When we came to Garrett-Evangelical, we had five major goals. Two of them were (1) to receive as much theological knowledge as possible, particularly in theological history and United Methodist studies and (2) to put the spirit of The United Methodist Church into our blood, since we would be United Methodist pastors. Paul did an internship at the Chicago Temple and Rosa at Salem Korean United Methodist Church (youth ministry). We think we may proudly say that it has been successful! We love the church much more than before!

What is your most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical? We can’t even count all of our amazing experiences! We are grateful for so many moments at Garrett-Evangelical: all the lectures; relationships with professors; community meals; monitoring at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Florida; the seminary’s Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities; getting to know staff and faculty while we worked in part-time positions; and much more.

We can’t even count all of our amazing experiences! We are grateful for so many moments at Garrett-Evangelical.

Brielle Ocot

Degree: Master of arts in music ministry

Hometown and education: I am a New Jersey girl. My home is in Clifton and I received a bachelor of arts in music performance (piano) and a bachelor of arts in literature from Ramapo College of New Jersey (in Mahwah).

How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? Having graduated just days ago, I do not think I can accurately describe the extent of Garrett-Evangelical’s impact upon my ministry, my calling, and myself. In fact, I do not think I really know yet the extent of that impact. I suspect that I will be unpacking the effects of my experiences here for years to come. However, I can say that after two years at Garrett-Evangelical I am more certain than ever of the fact that I am called to ministry. Such confidence of identity and purpose is invaluable to me as I begin my work (continued on page 10).
What is your most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical? All of the sweet and impromptu moments with friends that could not have been envisioned and cannot be recreated: heartfelt theological discussions during study breaks, relaxed and laugh-filled lunches after morning classes, and precious times of corporate worship.

What are your plans or your hopes for your future ministry? I am moving (back) to New Jersey where I will be working as a music/worship leader at Bethany Church, a multi-campus Assemblies of God church based in Wyckoff. My duties there will include rotating as a music/worship leader across the various campuses of the church, cooperating with my fellow music/worship leaders to create seasonal liturgical plans, and overseeing the church choral program.

Sarah Thornhill
Degree: Master of divinity
Hometown and education: I am from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. I graduated from Bartlesville High School and earned my bachelor of arts in psychology with a minor in non-profit organizations from The University of Oklahoma.

How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? Though the list is long, the biggest way Garrett-Evangelical has shaped my ministry is the understanding that no two calls are exactly the same. Garrett-Evangelical helped me discern my call to local parish ministry. I was encouraged to embrace my gifts and graces and to use them in a ministry that will be specific to me. This gives me the freedom to be myself! It also gives fullness to my understanding of ministry when I see my peers’ unique callings. Garrett-Evangelical has equipped me with knowledge of biblical studies, theology, and practical ministry. Now I can use these tools in creative ways in my context!

What is your most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical? What comes to mind first is laughing a lot in Dr. Brooke Lester’s “Introduction to Old Testament” class. I think this represents my seminary career well. I learned a great deal and studied hard, but all of that learning took place in a community of care where people were free to have fun. I have laughed a lot with my colleagues in the past three years, and I think I will carry that with me.

What are your plans or your hopes for your future ministry? I just started serving as the director of children’s and youth education at First United Methodist Church of Oak Park, Illinois. I am very excited about my new position and contributing to this community. I am also still pursuing ordination as an elder in the Oklahoma Annual Conference. I am excited to see what the journey brings as my husband finishes his degree at Garrett-Evangelical and we both continue to live into our calls!

Steve Trefz
Degree: Doctor of ministry
Hometown and education: I grew up on a family farm outside of Onaka, South Dakota. I received a bachelor of science degree in applied psychology from South Dakota State University in 2002 and a master of divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical in 2005.

How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? My first stint at Garrett-Evangelical shaped my ministry in a number of ways. I met my wife Rebecca (a fellow graduate and minister) during my first year at seminary. I was introduced to new concepts and theological approaches and was afforded opportunities for field education in both rural and urban settings. It was a time to grow up into the calling that I had felt since high school. My degree work has not only reinforced, but also reinterpreted, my call to a new decade of ministry in which family covenants, personal integrity, and rural church realities will become the crucial focus for my ministry. The program, my advisors, and the faculty equipped me for this new path of ministry and changed my life. The program also impacted hundreds of people directly through my final project, “Picturing Lay Ministry.” I would not be where I am today without the support and challenges provided by Garrett-Evangelical.
How has your time at Garrett-Evangelical shaped your ministry and calling? My seminary experience has been exceptionally integrative. I have been blessed by the opportunity to study while actively using my gifts in ministry as a chaplain, spiritual formation leader/facilitator, and worship leader. I had no time to wonder if my academic work might be “useful” in ministry. My time at Garrett-Evangelical has given me a solid grounding in Wesleyan theology, validating my lived experience of sanctifying grace, as well as a greater appreciation for spiritual practices, allowing me to know and directly experience God’s presence.

What is your most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical? This year, I was challenged to live gracefully into the reality of being a full-time student, having transferred into the master of arts in spiritual formation program. My children, Evelyn and Samuel, joined me in Evanston for a year while my husband moved to a new appointment near Flint, Michigan. Family teamwork, my spiritual practices, and the support of the Garrett-Evangelical community kept me grounded and provided opportunities for me to rest and refuel through this challenging time.

What are your plans or your hopes for your future ministry? I am called to live and nurture others in practicing an aware and alive Christian faith, visible through our sacramental living and holiness of heart and life. I am convinced that together we must bear witness to a connection to God that guides our every thought and action and demonstrates life-long learning and loving.

My family and I are now headed to New York where I will serve in ministries of wholeness, wellness, and spiritual formation. I am considering positions in spiritual growth and formation, hospice/health care chaplaincy, and pastoral care and health ministry in the local church.

I am called to live and nurture others in practicing an aware and alive Christian faith.
Brooke Lester, director of emerging pedagogies and assistant professor of Hebrew Scripture, was awarded a Wabash Center fellowship. The $5,000 fellowship afforded Lester five weeks of research and writing during May and June 2013 to focus on a book in progress, *Inner-Biblical Allusion: A Phenomenological Approach*.

This research fellowship was related to the Wabash Center’s 2012-2013 Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty, in which Lester is one of 14 participants. Over the course of the two-year workshop, participants gathered three times to explore: “strategies for effective teaching; course design, assignments, and assessment; teaching in one’s institutional context; dealing with religious, social, ethnic, racial, and learning diversities in the classroom; balancing the competing demands of teaching, scholarship, service, and personal life; and issues of tenure preparation.”

Lester’s goal during his five-week fellowship was to draft a 100-page methodological introduction to his first post-dissertation new book. Lester explains that his goal was “to put ‘inner biblical allusion,’ that is, how biblical texts allude to other biblical texts, onto a more solid footing in metaphor theory and in pragmatic linguistics.” He reflected that, “the fellowship period is an opportunity to ‘walk our walk’ and not just talk our talk concerning scholarship. It really is important to Garrett-Evangelical that we achieve a high profile in our respective disciplines, and I am grateful for the support I receive to address that part of my service to the institution.”


Lester began teaching as an adjunct professor at Garrett-Evangelical in 2003. He was hired as director of emerging pedagogies and assistant professor of Hebrew Scripture in 2011. As director of emerging pedagogies he explains, “I research and model best practices in the adoption of emerging learning technologies in online and blended teaching. I also support my faculty colleagues in doing the same, through workshops, training, and daily troubleshooting.” As assistant professor of Hebrew Scripture, Lester teaches introductory and advanced classes in biblical studies, Hebrew, and Greek.

Academic Dean Lallene Rector said, “We are so pleased that Dr. Lester has received this Wabash Grant. Not only has he been a leader in our faculty with zeal, creativity, and expertise for digital learning, he has also become a cherished teacher of the Old Testament among our students. The focus of his research project may sound esoteric to the lay ear, but I am confident that this work of biblical allusion in Dr. Lester’s pedagogical hands will be a valuable tool for our students as they prepare for biblically informed ministries. We give thanks for his many gifts among us. Congratulations, Dr. Lester!”

To learn more about the Wabash Center’s Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty, visit the center’s website at www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/programs
Larry Murphy, professor of the history of Christianity, retired as of June 30, 2013, after 39 years of service at Garrett-Evangelical. Murphy will continue to teach part-time for an additional three years as part of the seminary’s step-down program.

Murphy joined the faculty in 1974, the year that Garrett Theological Seminary and Evangelical Theological Seminary merged. At the time of his arrival, the Center for the Church and the Black Experience was in its infancy. During his tenure, Murphy provided leadership and vision for the Center while solidifying himself as an insightful and inspiring teacher of the history of modern Christianity.

Murphy is not only a passionate teacher, but also an active scholar of Christianity in the United States. In addition to his numerous articles, his books include: *African American Faith in America* and, most recently, *Sojourner Truth: A Biography*. His works as an editor include *Down by the Riverside: Readings in African American Religion* and *The Encyclopedia of African American Religions* (with J. Gordon Melton and Gary L. Ward).

Outside of Garrett-Evangelical, Murphy has engaged in public history projects that center on African American religious life and religiosity in Chicago. These include television miniseries: “This Far By Faith” produced by Blackside, Inc. and “Where Everyday Is Sunday” produced by Inspired Partnerships. Murphy is ordained and a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was, for more than 30 years, the minister of education at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Evanston.

Murphy reflected on his time at the seminary saying, “This has been a place that has affirmed the full rich breadth and depth of that calling to be a witness to the world. It has affirmed the evangelical commitment, creative and critical reasoning, and prophetic witness to the world. What a place. Garrett-Evangelical also instituted the Center for the Church and the Black Experience. It has continued its tradition of breaking new paths and taking bold and unprecedented steps.”

Since 1989, Ruth Duck has served as Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary’s professor of worship. She is a successful hymn text writer, a distinguished scholar, and a devoted and beloved teacher. Duck officially retires as professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical on December 31, 2013, and will also continue to teach part-time for three years as part of the step-down program.

On May 31, Garrett-Evangelical sponsored a hymnody symposium in honor of Duck. The symposium featured workshops led by some of the top worship professors and hymn writers in the world, including professor of theology and liturgy at Emory University, Don E. Saliers, and internationally published hymn-poet, Brian Wren. The celebrations continued with a Hymn Festival honoring Duck held at Second Baptist Church, Evanston, Illinois, on June 1.

Duck is ordained in the United Church of Christ and has served local churches in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. She has written 160 hymns and psalm paraphrases, which have appeared in many hymnals and supplements in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Scotland, and England. She has also edited three books of worship resources, including *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, edited with Maren Tirabassi and published by The Pilgrim Press in 1990, and revised and updated in a 2012 edition. In 2013, Westminster John Knox will publish Duck’s textbook on worship, *Worship for the Whole People of God*.

In honor of Duck’s years of ministry, Garrett-Evangelical is pleased to announce the establishment of the Ruth C. Duck Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will support a student pursuing a Ph.D. in liturgical studies, with preference given to African American students, since their input is so needed in liturgical studies. Contributions to this scholarship can be sent to the development office at Garrett-Evangelical, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60201 or online at www.Garrett.edu/Giving.
Jaeyeon Lucy Chung Named Director of the United Library and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology

Garrett-Evangelical is pleased to announce the appointment of Jaeyeon Lucy Chung as director of the United Library and assistant professor of pastoral theology, effective July 1, 2013. Chung will oversee the ninth largest theological library in the United States and the largest theological library in the Chicagoland area with approximately 515,000 volumes in the collection, including a rare book collection of over 7,000. In addition, Chung will join the distinguished faculty of Garrett-Evangelical and begin teaching in the fall of 2013.

“The advancement of Dr. Lucy Chung to be the permanent director of the United Library and assistant professor of pastoral theology has been both a joy and an honor for the seminary,” said Philip Amerson, president of Garrett-Evangelical. “She is a first-rate librarian as is evidenced by the innovations she has made in the services provided and the stronger ties she is developing with our sister libraries at Northwestern University. Her graduate education has prepared her like none other in my experience to assume these duties.”

Chung began working for the United Library in 2010 and has been serving as the acting director since July 2012. She earned a Ph.D. in religion with a focus in person, community, and religious practices from Emory University in 2008. In addition, she holds a master of library and information science degree from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois; a master of sacred theology degree from Boston University; and a master of arts in religion from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea.

In regard to her dual appointment, Chung said, “I am deeply blessed by this rare opportunity to serve Garrett-Evangelical in two important roles. As the new library director, I seek to provide the Garrett-Evangelical community with easy access to scholarly resources in a variety of formats and a creative, engaging space for research and community collaboration. I also envision the United Library as a hub for digital theological scholarship, in which the content digitized and born digital on campus is collected, published, and disseminated to the wider public. With my appointment as assistant professor of pastoral theology, I am honored to be joining such a distinguished faculty. I look forward to working closely with them, and sharing my gifts as an educator with our amazing students.”

Jaeyeon Lucy Chung

Alum News

David W. Scott (GTS 1965) has been awarded professor emeritus status at Flathead Valley College, Kalispell, Montana. After earning his doctor of education degree at the University of Montana-Missoula, Scott taught religion, education, and philosophy in the school’s honors program.

Keith Augustus Burton (G-ETS 1989 and 1994) has been awarded the Rabbi Jeffrey L. Ballon Memorial Interfaith Award from the Interfaith Mission Service in Huntsville, Alabama. He currently serves as the director of the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University.

Reta Halteman Finger (G-ETS 1989 and 1998) has just published a book titled, Creating a Scene in Corinth: A Simulation (Herald Press, May 2013). The book is co-authored by George D. McClain and was inspired by a course taught by Dr. Robert Jewett at Garrett-Evangelical.

Kristin Stoneking (G-E 1995) was named executive director of Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in North America.

Elva June Buchtel McConnell, beloved former faculty member, passed away on May 13, 2013. McConnell graduated from the University of Denver with majors in psychology, English literature, and education while playing double-bass in a chamber music quartet and dance bands. It was there that she met her devoted husband, Taylor McConnell. They were married for almost 70 years.

June and Taylor team-taught courses at Garrett Theological Seminary, and she went on to be co-founder and director of Culture Bridging in Northern New Mexico. The organization drew together Pueblo, Hispanic, and Anglo families and gave training in cross-cultural relationships to seminary students from four denominations. McConnell also served in various volunteer leadership and teaching positions at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

She is survived by her husband, her children, and a granddaughter Anna. Garrett-Evangelical offers its prayers for the McConnell family and continued gratitude for the outstanding service June has given to the church, the academy, and the world.
Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, September 11
**Academic Convocation**: Tex Sample, professor emeritus of church and society, St. Paul School of Theology
11:15 a.m., Chapel
Contact Erin Moore at 847.866.3902 or erin.moore@garrett.edu

Monday, September 16
**The Joy of Leadership Lecture Series**: Gilbert Meilaender, professor of theology, Valparaiso University
“The Joy of Virtue”
4:00 p.m., Room 205
Contact Erin Moore at 847.866.3902 or erin.moore@garrett.edu

Wednesday, September 18
**Sabbatical Lecture**: Jack Seymour, professor of religious education, Garrett-Evangelical
“Following Jesus: Proclaiming our Vocation”
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Wednesday, September 25
**Asian/Asian-American Ministry Lecture**: Ilsup Ahn, associate professor of philosophy, North Park University
“Documenting Justice for Undocumented Migrants”
Contact W. Anne Joh at 847.866.3974 or anne.joh@garrett.edu

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 1-2
**Navigating The Affordable Care Act Conference**: “Implications and Opportunities for Faith Communities and Leaders”
Plenary speaker, Gary Gunderson, professor of faith and health of the public at the School of Divinity, Wake Forest University
www.garrett.edu/navigatingaca

Wednesday, October 16
**The Joy of Leadership Lecture Series**: Matt Bloom, associate management professor, Mendoza School of Business, University of Notre Dame
“Happiness and Leadership”
Contact Erin Moore at 847.866.3902 or erin.moore@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 23
**The Joy of Leadership Symposia and Worship Honoring President Philip Amerson**: “The Joy of Congregational Life” and “The Joy of Educating for the Common Good”
Contact Shay Craig at 847.866.4547 or shay.craig@garrett.edu

Thursday, October 24
**Concert Honoring Philip and Elaine Amerson**: “A Night to Remember: The Life, The Legacy, The Lyrics”
7:00 p.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful
Contact Shay Craig at 847.866.4547 or shay.craig@garrett.edu

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