

# TOWER NEWS

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The Rev. Susan B. Thistlethwaite, Ph.D.

entitled “God, Adam, and Eve: Theological Anthropology in the Genome Age” that she taught during the fall of 2001 with Associate Professor Laurel Schneider. “There is a long history of dialogue between religion and science,” says Thistlethwaite, “but the usual participants in such discussions have no contact with feminist or liberation theologies. Theologies from the underside need to be represented in the discourse.” She points to the book under preparation as an important contribution to broadening discussion regarding matters such as genetic engineering. “The technologies are so powerful that they stand to reinvent life in many ways. Genetic engineering is likely to have particularly significant impact upon marginalized groups. Participation in the discussion by feminist and liberation theologians is, so far, somewhat scarce.”

Upon returning to her presidential duties in the winter, Thistlethwaite will continue to implement the strategic plan for CTS. “Holding together the diversities that enliven CTS is increasingly important,” she says. “We need to secure the institution’s future, sharpen our sense of mission, and find ways to be more deliberate about expanding and exporting our mission.” The work she sees at hand has two broad aspects: working toward a comprehensive financial campaign currently in its “leadership development” phase,

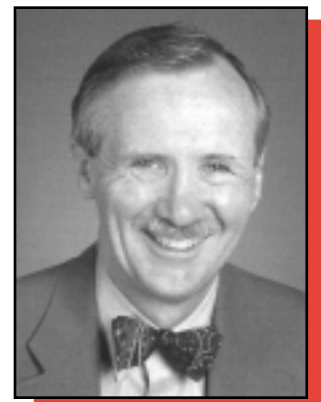
## President Thistlethwaite to Take Fall Sabbatical

CTS President and Professor of Theology Susan Thistlethwaite will take a four-month sabbatical from September 1 to December 31, 2002. During the sabbatical, Thistlethwaite plans to edit a volume of lectures and discussions from a course

and enlarging the vision of how the CTS curriculum can grow in its active and creative engagement of the world. She cites CTS programs, such as the Center for Community Transformation (partially funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.), as vital attempts to clarify how best to nurture transformational leadership. In addition, she notes that, “Securing more funding is necessary to make it possible for students to graduate without debt, and to support an outstanding faculty and staff. As we grow our endowment, we will be able to devote much more energy and talent to the work of justice and mercy in the world.”

Richard M. Harter will serve as interim president during Thistlethwaite’s sabbatical. Harter served nine years as a member of the CTS Board of Trustees and was most recently Chair of the Board’s Academic and Student Affairs Committee. He currently sits on the Board as an advisory trustee. In addition to his long-term involvement with CTS, Harter is actively involved in church life and served as vice-moderator at the last General Synod of the UCC. Harter will reside in Chicago during his tenure as interim president. He and his wife Angelica make their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts and are long-standing members of First Church in Cambridge, UCC. Harter is a partner in the Boston law firm of Bingham Dana LLP.

He asserts, “The Mission and Vision Statements of CTS are compelling. Under the leadership of Sue Thistlethwaite and with the active participation of the trustees, CTS now has the faculty, staff, students and trustees to live into those statements. During my semester as interim president, I plan to help keep the vision clear, energy high and conflict creative.”



Richard M. Harter

# Ministerial Institute a Success

Seventy-five alumni/ae and friends of CTS attended the two-day Ministerial Institute and Homecoming, April 9-10. This year's theme was "What's New in Evangelism: Growing Inclusive Churches Committed to Justice and Peace." The Rev. Steve Camp, a 1982 graduate currently serving as Associate Executive Minister with Local Church Ministries, UCC, delivered the alumni/ae convocation address. Camp previously served as pastor of Faith United Church of Christ in Dayton, Ohio, a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming and accessible congregation that tripled in size after committing to reach out to the entire community. The two-part keynote lecture entitled "Good News for Whom? Christ's Inclusive Call to Justice and Peace" was delivered by the Rev. Janet Wolf, former pastor of Hobson United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. This congregation is also multicultural and intentionally inclusive. Wolf's presentations explored models of evangelism and focused on effective strategies for church growth through gospel-focused transformation of systems, structures and souls. Workshops addressed the topics of evangelism in the UCC, understanding aspects of communication in the midst of a diverse society; effective models for church growth and youth evangelism. Next year's Ministerial Institute and Homecoming will be held on April 29-30, 2003.

## What's New at CTS?

### Association of Theological Schools Workshop on Diversity

CTS staff participated in a "Workshop on Diversity" conducted by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), in Pittsburgh in March. CTS was invited to participate because of its highly intentional and successful efforts to build a diverse racial/ethnic presence among its faculty. Among ATS member schools in North America, CTS ranks among the top five in racial/ethnic diversity among faculty. Workshop goals focused upon ways in which institutions with diverse faculty can help identify principles and communicate successful practices to other institutions attempting to address issues related to racial/ethnic diversity. Associate Professor Lee Butler and Assistant Professor Julia Speller were presenters for the workshop. Other CTS participants included Academic Dean Dow Edgerton, Assistant Professor Tat-siong Benny Liew, and Associate Professor JoAnne Terrell.

### New Student Organization

The Latino/a Student Organization was officially recognized by the CTS administration during winter quarter 2002. CTS now has a total of nine student organizations.

### New Grant

CTS recently received a grant from the Carpenter Foundation to help establish the Gay and Lesbian Religious Archives. Now in its planning stages, the archives will coordinate and support the preservation of the history and records of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered religious movement in the United States.

### Academic Calendar Changing to Semester

CTS will shift from a ten-week quarter system to a semester system beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year. The fall semester will begin on September 3, intensive courses will be offered during January and the spring semester will begin in February.

### Cairns Retirement

Assistant Professor and Director of the D.Min. program George Cairns, has retired as a full-time faculty member at CTS, effective June 30, 2002. His Spring Convocation address, "Without a Fourfold Vision, the People Perish," reflected upon his faculty experience, and upon the importance of integrating the Center for Community Transformation into the CTS curriculum. After retiring from CTS, Cairns hopes to help establish the Institute for Soul Friends, a group spiritual direction program intended to help support and nurture the lives of ministers in inner city churches in northern Indiana. His plans also include ongoing participation in the Iona and Shalom religious communities, and volunteering for Hoosier River Watch.

### Publications

Exploration Press has reissued *Research in Ministry*, by William Myers. Recent issues of the *Register*, the CTS professional journal for ministers, include "9/11: The CTS Faculty Responds," and "The Gilberto Castañeda Lectures 1998-2001: Countering Homophobia in Bible and Theology."

### Gill Foundation Event

President Susan Thistlethwaite and Thomas Minar, Vice-President for Development and External Affairs, participated in the inaugural event of the Gill Foundation's National Faith Leadership Council. The Faith Leadership Council brings together

25 nationally recognized leaders from varying faith communities to participate in leadership training and create constructive dialogue about gay and lesbian issues in the context of their faith communities.

### Building Renovations

Several improvements to CTS buildings have been completed this year. An elevator and a ramp have been installed to significantly increase handicap accessibility to Davis Hall. Davis Hall has also been renovated into offices and meeting rooms currently leased to the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Improvements to McGiffert House, the student residential hall, include new kitchen units in apartments, new carpeting and paint in common residential areas, upgrades to electrical and plumbing systems, and installing T1 lines for Internet accessibility.

### Staff Departures

Director of Facilities Joe Quarterman will retire this summer after 43 years of working for CTS. He began his tenure as a janitor and has supervised the entire maintenance staff for many years. Unofficially, Quarterman has served as the seminary caterer for staff Christmas parties, Spring Fest and Fall Fest.

Stanley (Shorty) White, is leaving CTS to take a position as a woodworker. White has been employed by CTS for 30 years. He is known for his carpentry talent and precise attention to the restoration of woodwork at the seminary.

### Annual Fund Phonathon

Alumni/ae, students, faculty and staff participated in two Phonathons this spring. We are pleased to report that over \$17,000 in gifts and pledges was received and that alumni/ae giving has increased from 18% to 25%! The CTS fiscal year closes June 30, 2002. If you would like to fulfill your pledge or make a gift to the Annual Fund contact Genet Soule at 800-422-2871, ext. 273, or 773-322-0273.

### Commencement 2002

A total of 48 students were honored at the June 1 commencement. The class included 7 M.A. graduates, 18 M.Div. graduates, 3 S.T.M. students, 18 D.Min. students and 2 Ph.D. students. An Honorary Doctor of Letters degree was given to John W. de Gruchy, Robert Selby Taylor Professor of Christian Studies and Director of the Graduate School in Humanities, University of Cape Town, South Africa. De Gruchy presented a talk entitled "The Public Role of Art" on May 29, and delivered the graduation address.

### Book Edited by Professor Stone Wins Award

The book *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible*, edited by Associate Professor Ken Stone and published by Sheffield Press, won a Lambda Literary Award this spring. Other CTS faculty who contributed to the volume include: Professor Ted Jennings, Associate Professor Laurel Schneider, and Assistant Professor Tat-siong Benny Liew. The book tied for first place in the award category for religion/spirituality. The Lambda Literary Awards are made annually by the Lambda Literary Foundation, a national organization whose mission is supporting and furthering the "creation and dissemination of writings by, for, and about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people."

# CTS Honors Gifts, Accomplishments

## Donald Wenstrom honored with the CTS Alumni/ae Award in Ministry



Paul Wenstrom, The Rev. Donald A. Wenstrom and Mrs. Wenstrom

The Rev. Donald A. Wenstrom was awarded the CTS Alumni/ae Award in Ministry at the Ministerial Institute homecoming dinner on April 9. Wenstrom grew up in Chicago, attended the University of Iowa and graduated with a B.D. from CTS in 1945. He served in various pastoral positions in the Michigan Conference, UCC for 40 years, most recently as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational, UCC in Lansing, Michigan from 1971 to 1985. Following his retirement from pastoral positions he served as secretary of the Michigan Conference Board from 1985 to 2001 and wrote *The History of the Michigan Conference UCC 1842-1992*, published in 2001. Wenstrom's acceptance remarks included reflections upon working in London after WW II helping to resettle evacuated children, and his efforts in support of civil rights in the 60's. Drawing upon such experiences, he stated that, today "with the world becoming more and more a neighborhood, we must learn to live with one another with understanding and acceptance of other cultures, races, and religions." Wenstrom clearly stands as an example of CTS'

long-standing commitment to developing pastoral leadership concerned with moving the world toward greater justice and mercy.

## Jeremiah Wright to Receive Graham Taylor Award

The 2002 Graham Taylor Award recipient will be the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., senior minister of Trinity United Church of Christ, in Chicago Illinois. Wright is a renowned preacher and lecturer and has been the senior minister of Trinity since 1972. The congregation was founded on Chicago's south side in 1961, and under Wright's leadership it has grown into one of the largest congregations in the UCC. Declaring itself to be "unashamedly black and unapologetically Christian," the church professes the gospel of Jesus Christ and celebrates the African roots of its community. Trinity is committed to social justice locally, nationally, and internationally.



The Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr.

The Graham Taylor Award is based on the practices and teachings of Graham Taylor, an innovative teacher and reformer who taught religion and sociology at CTS from 1892 to 1938. He founded the Chicago Commons Settlement House, and his life exemplified the philosophy of the "social gospel" movement in Christian theology.

Board of Trustees members Dr. Iva Carruthers and Mrs. Mary Helen Robertson, both of the Chicago area, are co-chairs in planning for this event. For more information, or to purchase tickets to the October 11 award dinner, to be held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, please contact the Rev. Genet Soule at 773.322.0273.

## What's My Name?

It's time to give **TowerNEWS** a new name and look. The editor and staff would like input from the CTS Community. What do you think it should be? What do you think this publication should represent or symbolize? Please share your thoughts and name suggestions with us by July 31, 2002.

This is what I think the publication should represent or symbolize:

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Here are my new name suggestions for the publication:

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Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Charity & Trust begin with You

by **The Rev. David Pattee,**  
**Associate Vice President for Development**



**The Rev. David Pattee**

The name is intimidating. "Charitable Remainder Trust" sounds like something very complicated, organized by very sophisticated lawyers for very rich people. Sometimes it is, but it doesn't have to be. In recent years, the CRT has become one of the more popular and accessible tools of charitable giving.

Here's how it works. You create a charitable trust with your attorney and a qualified financial institution. (We encourage you to consider using the Seminary's bank, The Northern Trust Company, as your trustee.) You transfer assets (cash, property or securities) to the trust and specify the rate of income you wish to receive from the trust. When the trust comes to maturity, or the last income beneficiary dies, or at the expiration of the trust term, the remainder of the trust assets is distributed to CTS and any other charitable interest(s) you have designated.

At the time the trust is created, in addition to your income provision, you receive a charitable income tax deduction with a carry forward for five years of any unused portion of the deduction. There is no estate tax or gift tax on assets transferred to a charitable trust and, if the trust is funded with appreciated assets, capital gains taxes are avoided.

A CRT is commonly funded with assets that have significantly increased in value but yield relatively little income. Upon transfer to the trust, such assets can be sold and reinvested for higher earnings without paying tax on the capital gain. It is a smart way to enhance your retirement income and increase your capacity for making a charitable gift.

There are any number of good purposes and strategies for setting up a charitable trust with Chicago Theological Seminary as the remainder beneficiary. If you would like more information, please contact Dave Pattee at CTS, tel. 773-322-0261, e-mail: dpattee@ctschicago.edu.

Tower News is published for alumni/ae, students and friends of CTS. News items are encouraged and should be directed to the editor.

FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCHES

SPRING 2002

# Chicago Theological Seminary



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