

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY Tower NEWS

Ministerial Institute 2004 – What's New in... Transformative Leadership

CTS will honor the rich history and promising future of religious leadership during its annual continuing education event, Ministerial Institute, on April 20 and 21, and will celebrate the 5th-year anniversary of its Center for Community Transformation.

The theme, "What's New in... Transformative Leadership," will give clergy and interested lay people new resources for ministry.

"Ministerial Institute is our effort to provide continuing education for professionals in the field, alums and friends," said David Pattee, CTS vice president for development and external affairs. "It gives the seminary the opportunity to invite fresh-thinking and new ideas, and to make new friends."

The event will feature a variety of workshop topics relevant to the process of community transformation.

Ministerial Institute welcomes Gary Gunderson as its keynote lecturer. Gunderson, author of *Deeply Woven Roots* (Fortress, 1997), is director of the



Gary Gunderson

Interfaith Health Program, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University and consultant to CTS' Center for Community Transformation. Look to hear from Gunderson on his view that "The church and the academy are in a profound crisis of identity," and that "Transformation is not waiting for us to figure it out; it is happening to us."



Ministerial Institute will celebrate CTS' distinctive role in nurturing transformative leadership by honoring the 5th anniversary of the seminary's Center for Community Transformation, as well as other leadership initiatives which began at CTS, including the Chicago Industrial League, Operation Breadbasket, the Suburban Training Project and the Center for Church Life.

Again this year, alumni/ae are invited to enjoy Homecoming in conjunction with Ministerial Institute. The Rev. Clyde J. Steckel will be the alumni/ae preacher at the convocation held on Wednesday, April 21.

Alumni/ae who are celebrating their 50th reunion, and other members of the Half Century Club, will be welcomed with special events including a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Frederick C. Robie House.

"We're really going to roll out the red carpet for them," said Genet Soule, associate vice president for development and external affairs.

During the event, CTS will announce recipients of the Alumni/ae Award in Ministry and the G. Campbell Morgan Preaching Award.

For more information or to register for the event, please contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at 1.800.422.2871 ext. 276, 773.322.0276, or acarter@ctschicago.edu. Look for the brochure in the mail soon.

QUESTION, TEACH, TRANSFORM



Living Waters

Academic Dean – Dow Edgerton

The Rev. W. Dow Edgerton, Ph.D.

Dow Edgerton is academic dean & associate professor of ministry at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is author of *The Passion of Interpretation* (Westminster/John

Knox Press, 1992) and is a founding faculty member of the renowned Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree, which CTS offers in cooperation with the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS). Edgerton is also a husband, the father of two sons and an active member of his local church.

It was through the outreach of a former CTS Dean of Students that Edgerton came to learn about CTS. It was during a tumultuous time in our country's history when there was war abroad and racism and poverty at home; a time when communities and churches were confused and divided. At that time, an encounter took place and two souls met.

The year was 1969 and Edgerton was an undergraduate student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Various representatives came to the campus to talk about their graduate programs. One stood out from the rest. His name was Robert S. Moore (now deceased).

Edgerton listened as Moore told him about the community of struggle, faith, reflection and action called Chicago Theological Seminary. He listened after first being listened to, sharing his own concerns and ideas about the issues facing the people of his generation. And as he says, "without even knowing it" he was initiated into theological education.

Today, some 35 years later, Edgerton is in some ways walking in the footsteps of his mentor, Robert S. Moore. Edgerton participates on a number of community, business, educational and church boards in his personal and

professional work towards greater justice and mercy. In his role as academic dean and professor, Edgerton is genuinely responsive to seminary students as he seeks to encourage and cultivate students in the art of transformative leadership.

There are many aspects of Edgerton's ministry that can be celebrated—one is his perspective on Biblical interpretation. His book, *The Passion of Interpretation* focuses on the way that we "live and move and have our being." The dean states, "Interpretation is not something cobbled together as a secondary activity, but it is what we perceive and experience. And if that's the case, then our understandings of what we do and interpret must have some kind of measure at their roots or at their flowers."

Edgerton says, "Interpretation is process, a transformative process...and the work of interpretation both requires transformation, and is transformative. The work of interpretation is potentially the center of our spiritual lives."

Edgerton encourages those working in parish ministry to incorporate the interpretative processes out of the Bible into what they are doing everyday in pastoral care. "One of the ways to do that is by walking it down the street on whatever day it is—walk it into the hospital room or the coffee shop and say 'what does this say to you?' If there is a real dialogue between our lives and the text...then what happens in the hospital room is changing how I understand and engage in scripture, and what happens in scripture is changing how I understand the hospital room."

For Dow Edgerton, this point of view leads to the conviction that "the task is not to interpret text, but through text to interpret life." And this belief is evident in how he teaches, preaches and lives.

Let your CTS light shine!

Wearing CTS logo merchandise can show the world what you stand for. CTS heavyweight hooded sweatshirts, sports shirts, and even stainless steel travel mugs can now be purchased. Contact **mikal laninga** at 773.322.0249; fax 773.752.2477; mlaninga@ctschicago.edu or visit the CTS web site: www.ctschicago.edu.



The Rev. Dr. Lorolie Brown
M.Div., 1989, D.Min., 2003



Adam Carter Nafziger
Administrative Assistant
Office of Development & External Affairs

DEPTH: Connecting Faith to Everyday Life

For many people, church is something that happens only on Sunday morning. Chicago Theological Seminary's DEPTH Youth Program is changing that perception for young people.

By focusing on particular issues—hunger, homelessness, racism and affordable housing—DEPTH shows youth and local congregations how to engage these issues in their own communities.

"DEPTH increases mindfulness about the connection between faith and praxis," said Cindy Davenport, DEPTH program director. "It helps connect faith to everyday life."

DEPTH (Discover, Explore, Partner where Transformation Happens) offers two types of weekend programs—Discovery and Partners-in-Service weekends. In both weekend programs, church youth groups pick the issue that is most relevant to their home context. Then they explore the issue in a Chicago context through service, engaged learning and worship. "The topic is one that the group already has an interest and an engagement in their home communities," Davenport said.

Discovery weekends are designed for a single youth group to experience the issues surrounding their chosen topic in a Chicago neighborhood so that they have a broader understanding of ministry inside and outside the church setting.

Partners-in-Service weekends bring together two different youth groups to engage a topic through a significant service project and worship in the host church.

During the summer, youth and adults who participated in one of these weekend programs are invited back for Exploration 2004. At this event, young people and adults will delve into further theological reflection about these topics with CTS and Elmhurst College professors, and the DEPTH staff.

Local churches use these programs to develop leadership teams

CTS Goes to Mexico!

by Gregory Potts, M.Div. Student

In January 2004, three CTS students accompanied CTS president Susan Thistlethwaite to several cities in Mexico, for a two-week experience in cross-cultural exchange and immersion during CTS' "J" Term, a set of intensive classes held in the month of January.

The trip helped students improve their Spanish language skills, deepen their understanding of Mexican perspectives, and learn about trends in Protestantism in Mexico.

The language and culture intensive began with five days in Mexico City where a local historian guided the group to many of the area's great cultural landmarks. Students visited the Jerusalén Baptist church in Mexico City where the Rev. Sergio Ulloa C. Jerusalén, is pastor.

The remainder of the trip was spent in Puerto Vallarta, where the group established friendships with the people of Nuevo



Young people from Trinity UCC, Chicago, Illinois and Portage UCC, Portage, Michigan, create strategies for packing Thanksgiving bags at Firman Community Services in Chicago as part of a DEPTH Partners-in-Service weekend. From left: Stephanie Lorenz, Brianna Schmall, Markita Oliver, Crystal West and Charlene Jones.

for senior high school students as a contextual learning component of confirmation or baptism preparation.

DEPTH intentionally involves adult mentors in every aspect of the program to help young people spur transformation in their home congregations. Pre-event and post-event curriculum also facilitates a conversation between young people, their congregations and their wider communities.

"Contextual education helps strengthen congregations," Davenport said. "It gives tools for understanding neighborhoods."

DEPTH will offer Exploration 2004 from Saturday, June 19 to Tuesday, June 22 at Elmhurst College. Weekend programs are available beginning in October 2004. Register now! Please call the DEPTH Registration hotline at 773.322.0279.

DEPTH Youth Program is sponsored by Chicago Theological Seminary in partnership with Elmhurst College and is funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.



M.Div. students Gregory Potts and Lauren Cannon and S.T.M. student Marilyn Pagán.

Amanecer, a growing non-denominational Protestant church. This experience was enhanced by CTS Board

member Tom Fulton and new Visiting Committee member David Bender, who are both involved in various capacities with that community of faith. In Puerto Vallarta, Rev. Susan Thistlethwaite and M.Div. student Gregory Potts stayed with families, while M.Div. student Lauren Cannon and S.T.M. student Marilyn Pagán stayed at the Agape house, a long-term residential home recently established by Nuevo Amanecer to serve street children.



Mary Helen Robertson

Are You Ready to Celebrate with CTS?

Chicago Theological Seminary is preparing to celebrate its 150th Anniversary! Founded in 1855, CTS is the oldest institution of higher education in Chicago. Calendar year 2005 has been designated as the “Anniversary Year.”

Mary Helen Robertson, a member of the Board of Trustees, has been appointed chairperson of the 150th Anniversary celebration. She heads the committee of trustees, faculty, students, alums, staff and pastors of local UCC churches in planning a unique series of events highlighting the seminary’s accomplishments.

Looking ahead to the celebration, Mary Helen comments, “The 150th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for CTS to tell the story of how it began as a seminary to train ministers to serve on the frontier, which then extended from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains. It’s a great opportunity to lift up CTS’ innovative programs in theological education that combine academic study with experience in the diverse communities that make up our society. Finally, it’s a significant occasion to show our commitment to advance the cause of justice and mercy, and that CTS has never wavered from this cause.”

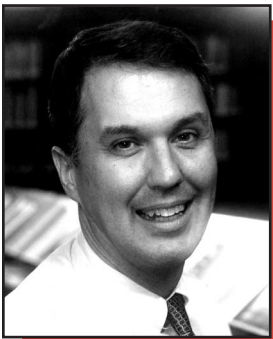
Mary Helen is a member of the First Congregational Church of Western Springs (UCC) and is a retired attorney. She has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2000 and has served on the Development Committee and the Board Affairs Committee where she initiated an ongoing program to enrich the trustee experience.

Through the celebration CTS hopes to make new friends and strengthen established relationships as it continues to move toward the future.

The 150th Anniversary theme is “Making New History,” and details of the four major programs planned will be announced in the next issue of *Tower News*, and through other communication channels. Keep your eyes and ears open—you won’t want to miss any part of this exciting occasion.



Does CTS have a brand?



Vice President for Development
The Rev. David Pattee

A new friend of the seminary put a question to me several weeks ago that I’ve been turning over in my mind ever since. *Does CTS have a brand?* she asked. *How would I recognize the influence of your seminary? Is there a CTS type?*

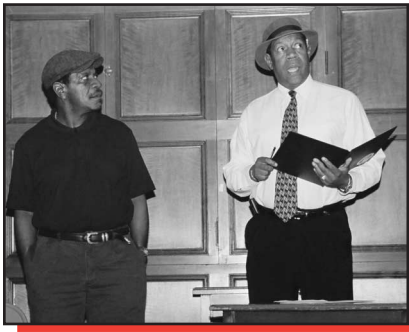
Quickly sorting through my mental index of faculty and graduates, a “CTS type” was elusive, to say the least. Art Cribbs (M.Div. 1989) is pastor of a congregation in San Diego, and Karen Ludwig (M.Div. 1984) directs a mental health program in Maine. Lilton Marks (M.Div. 1984) is a lieutenant colonel in charge of training chaplains for the U.S. Army, and Kathy Kelly (M.A. 1979) founder of Voices in the Wilderness, regularly risks life and limb to oppose military deployments. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (M.A. 1990) serves in the U.S. House of Representatives, and David Wywalowski (M.Div. 1999) works with The Night Ministry, ministering to people on the street. The dozens of scholarly contributions by CTS alumni/ae and faculty currently in print stretch from *The Prayers of Kierkegaard* by Emeritus Professor Perry LeFevre (B.D. 1946), first published in 1956, to Professor Ted

Jennings’s *The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic Narratives from the New Testament* (Pilgrim Press, 2003), just nominated for a Lambda Literary Award.

Is it possible to identify a common CTS influence working through so many differences? Is there a recognizable CTS type?

For nearly 150 years, Chicago Theological Seminary has focused its ministry at the intersection of church and society, educating religious leaders to *question, teach and transform*. From the pulpit, on the street, or in the halls of Congress, “a CTS type” will be committed to faith in action: probing the depths and critical edges of truth, making witness in conversation with diverse perspectives and interests, working in response to God’s call to build communities of justice, reconciliation, and peace. The CTS “brand” of religious leader is fiercely committed to social and personal transformation.

If you believe that church and society need more such leaders, we ask for your continuing investment in CTS. Encourage students to take a look at our programs. Make a financial gift by mail or online. Share the story of CTS in your community. Call us at 773.322.0220 or visit www.ctschicago.edu to learn more about the variety of ways you can help.



A scene from the dramatic staging of the play "Jitney" at the 2003 Nelson Lecture.

Nelson Lecture in Business Ethics is Occasion for Community Transformation

On November 1, 2003 members of the academic community, churches, businesses, governmental agencies and neighborhoods came together to examine a case study and engage in dialogue about ethical

decision-making and community transformation. Barbara Ley Toffler, author of *Final Accounting: Ambition, Greed, and the Fall of Arthur Andersen*, led the two-part presentation on the campus of CTS.

In the morning, groups consisting of various stakeholders in the community—from community organizers to clergy to business leaders—met to examine the Boston-based housing case study *Value Systems in Conflict: Transforming Columbia Point into a Privately-Owned Mixed-Income Development*. Later that afternoon Toffler helped frame the findings so that participants could gain a broader perspective of the ethical decision-making process.

Over lunch, participants broke bread and got to hear one another's position and perspective on gentrification and the changing housing environment in Chicago. The events of the day proved to be far-reaching as one participant commented, "I learned that the gentrification process is not just affecting

the low-income families here [in Chicago], but low-income families across America." Another participant concluded that they had gained insight into "The concept that one's approach to problems is so influenced by the stake held."

Taking a creative approach to the issues, CTS had actors to stage scenes from African-American playwright August Wilson's play, "Jitney"—which was set in 1977 in a grubby gypsy cab company office. The scenes helped participants gain a bird's eye view into the apprehension that occurs when long-time residents are threatened with displacement, and the eventual call to action that transpires in the community.

Lydia York (M.Div. 2003) of CTS and coordinator of the event stated, "I felt really rewarded by the community partners coming together and actually talking. There was significant energy for continued dialogue...The reality is that many who were here don't have decision-making power, and hopefully the dialogue was able to bring together people who have influence in government and business and those who don't, and help them to hear and know one another."

The event was made possible by a gift from the estate of Frances S. and Louis J. Nelson, a Chicago advertising executive and trustee of Chicago Theological Seminary. Members of their family, who now live in different cities in the U.S., were present to participate.

Calendar of Events

Sharathon

February 23, 2004 (and continuing through Lent)

During the season of Lent, students will contact alumni/ae and friends of CTS to ask for your financial support of the CTS educational mission. For more information contact The Rev. Genet Soule at 773.322.0273 or email gsoule@ctschicago.edu.

Vacation Bible School Resource Fair!

March 30, 2004

McGiffert Hall: 5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
Parking available in the McGiffert Lot

Drop in anytime from 7-9 PM • Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call the CTS events line: 773.322.0275 or e-mail professor Thom Bower: tbower@ctschicago.edu.

Ministerial Institute & Homecoming

What's New in... Transformative Leadership

April 20-21, 2004

CTS Campus: 5757 S. University, Chicago, Illinois

Keynote Speaker: Gary Gunderson, D.Min.

Director, Interfaith Health Program, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University; Consultant, Center for Community Transformation.

Workshops to focus on the various aspects of community transformation.

Homecoming to feature students who participated in CTS' transformative leadership programs over the past 50 years.

For more information contact: CTS Office of Development & External Affairs at 773.322.0220 or email msmucker@ctschicago.edu or gsoule@ctschicago.edu.

Castañeda Lecture

May 13, 2004

Graham Taylor Hall: 5757 S. University, Chicago, Illinois

Speaker: The Rev. Elder D. Troy Perry

Lecture Title: God, Gays and the Gospel: This is Our Story

Rev. Perry is a CTS Trustee and the Founder and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

For more information contact: The Rev. Matthew J. Smucker at 773.322.0260 or email msmucker@ctschicago.edu.

Chicago Theological Seminary Commencement Exercises 2004

May 15, 2004 — 10:30 AM

Hyde Park Union Church: 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL

UBC/COREM United Black Christians/Council on Racial Ethnic Minorities of the UCC

July 13-17, 2004

Hyatt McCormick Place: Chicago, Illinois

There will be an alumni/ae gathering and tours of the CTS campus.

For more information contact The Rev. Genet Soule at 773.322.0273 or email gsoule@ctschicago.edu.

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

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M.P. Joseph

Sharathon 2004: M.P. Joseph – The Friendly Face Behind the Voice on the Phone

Ph.D. student Melemadathil P. Joseph—known as M.P.—may be finishing his dissertation on nonviolent colonial resistance, but he will still find time during Lent to talk to alumni/ae and friends during CTS' annual Lenten Sharathon campaign.

Joseph often talks to people who ask him about his Ph.D. program or about his home country of India, where he is an ordained presbyter in the Church of South India. Joseph shares how he plans to return to India this summer where he will resume a faculty position at Kerala United Theological Seminary.

Joseph and other students who call during the Sharathon are not merely asking for financial support. Their conversations help reconnect friends and alumni/ae to the day-to-day happenings at CTS.

“The Sharathon is directed toward friends and alumni/ae who might consider taking on CTS as a mission project—to pray for us, to make a special gift,” said Genet Soule, associate vice president for development and external affairs.

Although we expect that those being called will enjoy their conversation with M.P. Joseph, CTS knows that some friends prefer not to be phoned, even possibly having signed the U.S. National Do Not Call Registry.

Knowing that private giving is essential for campuses to cover unmet tuition costs, the federal government has exempted schools from that registry. However, the seminary is particularly mindful of donor preferences. If you would like to be taken off CTS' call list, or plan to make a donation without the telephone prompt, please contact the development office at 773.322.0276 or email acarterm@ctsichicago.edu.

FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCHES

SPRING 2004

Chicago Theological Seminary



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