

PERSPECTIVE

SUMMER 2012 • PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Higher Learning relevance
providing and preserving resources
engaging diverse
constituencies
faithful proclamation
inspiring innovation
continuing education
preparing leaders
excellence
cultivating community
spiritual formation
assessing effectiveness
investing
faithful leaders
christian ministry
mentoring
effectiveness

BEST PRACTICES

Vital Ministry

Real Experience



PERSPECTIVE

SUMMER 2012



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Erratum: In the Summer 2011 issue of *Perspective*, the 2010 Harry Denman Evangelism Award received by John McKellar and Leah Suzanne Hidde-Gregory was erroneously associated with the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. McKellar and Hidde-Gregory are clergy members of the Central Texas Conference.

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Ministerial Education Fund
*Preparing men and women
for effective ministry*

Perkins School of Theology benefits from the generous support of the Ministerial Education Fund apportionment contributed by nearly 35,000 United Methodist congregations across the United States. In partnership, we prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.



ON BEST PRACTICES

When the phrase “**best practices**” found its way into our vocabulary regarding institutional systems and professional leadership, I found it odd that somebody had to create a culture for affirming “**best practices**” in an organization. After all, who would want to be involved with a business, a church, a health care agency, or a theological school that aspired to adopt “mediocre practices” let alone “bad practices” or worse!

But I understand the need for such a prescription. Any organization, institution, church, or business could rely upon its own standard practices for conducting its affairs. Such routines and habits could simply be followed day after day, year after year, without conducting any critique about the group’s activities. Habits that had merit at some point in the past may no longer be useful. Why do we worship in this way, at this time, with this set of objectives? Why do we conduct classes with these readings, using these teaching methods? What are we trying to accomplish? Is there a more effective way to do it?

And, while we are at it, how do we measure effectiveness? To borrow an image from a colleague of mine at another school, when a seminary graduate receives her/his diploma, what have we assessed about her/his education to be a leader in the Christian ministry?

In the realms of higher education generally and theological education specifically, there is a huge emphasis being placed on “assessment.” What goals are we pursuing? How can we measure whether we are achieving them? Are there better ways – or **best practices** – that can enable us to assess our work more effectively?

I am convinced that to fulfill our mission at Perkins School of Theology, namely to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry, we have to know *how* to assess our preparations of these men and women. Essential to that task is knowing *what* to assess.

My recent conversations with church leaders have revealed that there is a focus, if not an obsession, on assessments of ministerial effectiveness based on three quantitative categories – church membership, worship attendance, and money. The obvious advantage is that these are relatively easy things to measure. One can assert that a minister is leading effectively if membership and worship attendance are growing, and if finances are strong.

But it is not easy to conclude that these quantities actually are reliable indicators of effectiveness. After all, ministry is service to a community, and it occurs in a particular context. It may streamline an assessment of effectiveness if we count only membership, worship attendance, and money. But if the community where one is engaged in ministry happens to be in a location where population is rapidly growing, then modest growth in worship attendance is not evidence of effective ministry. If the community is dealing with declining population, then unchanging numbers for worship attendance and membership might be evidence of effective ministry. And if the quality of health care is improving, if the numbers of homeless persons on the streets are declining, if the rate of high school graduation is rising, and if the members of a church are disciples of Jesus Christ who are engaged in the transformation of the world by addressing the community’s health care, homelessness, and high school graduation, then that ministry may need to be assessed as qualitatively effective regardless of what the membership or attendance or financial data show.

That we measure effectiveness in ministry is important to assess leadership.

What we measure in assessing effectiveness in ministry is a moral decision about the relevance of leadership.

Our **best practices** in assessing theological education and the conduct of ministry must give attention to the moral dimensions of assessment. We have to decide what really counts in ministry, before we start counting.



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William B. Lawrence

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BEST PRACTICES

Real Experience

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preparation for faithful leadership in Christian ministry
cultivating community
inspiring innovation
spiritual formation

Vital Ministry

IN PERSPECTIVE

BEST PRACTICES

“IN PERSPECTIVE...”

Tim McLemore, Associate Editor

What comes to mind when you think of “best practices” in the context of theological education, the practice of ministry, and the Christian vocation? Excellence or effectiveness, perhaps. Efficiency and good stewardship. Personal and professional growth. Lifelong learning. Faithful discipleship.



Best practices incorporate all of these and more. Far more than rote methodologies or static procedures, **best practices** foster creativity along with effectiveness, spiritual growth in tandem with the pursuit of excellence.

In this sense, the cultivation of **best practices** in ministry is central to the task of theological education, whether the learners are diligent laypersons participating in a Perkins Lay School of Theology, full-time students in a Master’s degree program, local pastors in the Course of Study School, or other ministry professionals pursuing continuing education, advanced certification, or the Doctor of Ministry degree.

This issue of *Perspective* considers **best practices** from a variety of viewpoints. Some voices challenge while others affirm; some teach and others testify; some strive to inform while others inspire. None of these articles attempt to provide easy or uniform answers to the complexities surrounding the concept of **best practices**. Rather, they reflect a shared commitment to responsibly articulate and express different dimensions of our mission “as a community devoted to theological study and teaching in the service of the church ... to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.”

We encourage you to share your perspectives with us, at perspective@smu.edu. 

PERSONAL FAITH AND BEST PRACTICES IN PUBLIC LIFE AND BUSINESS

Todd Rasberry, Director of Development

Best practices are extracted from the trial and error of living and doing, then looking back to consider what worked, what did not work, and why. Our faith shapes how we think, act, and respond to what happens in the world around us and in our own lives. Over time, our responses form the foundation upon which we base **best practices**.

Perkins provides unique opportunities for persons in and beyond the business community to consider the ways personal faith shapes public life and daily decisions. **Faith and Business Luncheons** pair a Dallas business leader with a Perkins faculty member to provide a forum for thinking about how personal theology informs business practices and for reflecting critically on how theology influences a person's life and work. The business leaders discuss, through examples and stories, how their working theology guides the way they live, their business practices, and their values. The faculty members, by connecting with the business leader's story or examples, then engage the group in reflecting critically to deepen their understanding of how theology and faith influence practice. A recent luncheon paired Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, who talked about how his faith shapes his vision for Dallas, and William J. Abraham, Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies, who explored how personal faith and American civil religion work in the public arena.



January 9, 2012 Faith and Business Luncheon
(l) William J. Abraham and Dallas Mayor
Mike Rawlings

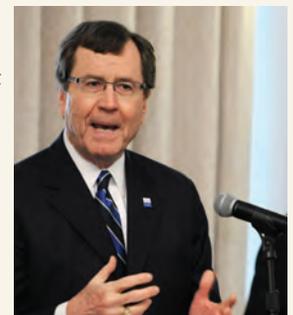
In 2010, Perkins inaugurated the **Public Life/Personal Faith Lecture and Symposium**. Christians believe that God calls us individually and in community to know, love, and serve God in our daily lives through sharing the Gospel of truth, mercy, justice, and love. The lecture and symposium provide an opportunity for participants to hear well-known scholars discuss topics related to why and how personal faith shapes public life. In 2010, Dr. Ron White, author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography* (2009), traced the religious odyssey



2012 Public Life / Personal Faith (PLPF)
(from left) PLPF speaker Dr. Diane Winston, USC Knight Chair in Media and Religion; PLPF Honorees, Major Ward Matthews and Captain Michelle Matthews, Salvation Army

of Abraham Lincoln to show how his second inaugural address reads much like the Sermon on the Mount. In 2011, Dr. Stephen Carter, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale University, spoke about religion and civility in public discourse. And in 2012, Dr. Diane Winston, Knight Chair in Media and Religion at the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism at USC, explored how William Booth's faith and Methodist roots influenced his founding The Salvation Army. The PLPF luncheon is a fund raising event as well as a means of outreach and service to the larger community.

Since 1943, the School of Theology at SMU has systematically engaged in formal and informal theological reflection with lay persons whose personal faith impacts the public good of both the church and the world. The Public Life/Personal Faith Lectures and the Faith and Business Luncheons are rooted in this tradition, as an expression of our commitment to promote theological reflection with the academic community, with students preparing for many different kinds of ministry, and with a wide range of lay persons. Building on our mission to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry, Perkins takes seriously the need to provide creative opportunities for reflecting critically on the intersection of our public life and personal faith. 



SMU President R. Gerald Turner at the 2012 PLPF

BEST PRACTICES: LEADERSHIP

Patricia H. Davis



Being a leader means taking responsibility for the protection, nurture, growth, movement, and survival of one's community. Leadership is often a great personal burden. But if it is accepted in the Spirit with which God offers it – as a high calling and opportunity to positively change the world – it can and should also be inspiring, challenging, exciting, and truly gratifying.

In that spirit, I offer reflections on **Five Practices of Great Leaders:**

1) **Great leaders are called by their communities, and stay close to their roots – as members among members.** Maintaining relationships with all people – those in the pews, as well as staff, volunteers, donors, children and youth, and especially the neighbors outside the door – is crucial. Personal ties not only help to establish authority, but also give opportunities to develop the discipline of being taught and shaped by the people you serve.

2) **Great leaders are willing to stand on the balcony.** Leaders are responsible for standing above the heads of others – always looking further and wider into the world, and deeper into their own social and historical contexts. It is from the balcony that a leader can discern both threats and opportunities for the people. Leaders may be the only ones in a community with the training, skills, spiritual practices, and stamina to stand on balconies – places of vulnerability (remember the Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr.) but also of power. Standing on the balcony with courage earns the trust and respect of the community.

3) **Great leaders make spaces for those whose voices would not otherwise be heard.** They protect the prophets in their own communities, and speak for those who can't speak for themselves. Communities often organize themselves to avoid necessary change, struggle, and adaptation. Great leaders tell the truth, and hold people's feet to the fire – close enough so that they feel pain – but never so close that they are disabled.

4) **Great leaders find ways to be serene in the midst of chaos.** This serenity arises from a deep sense of calling and knowledge of the community and God, and from lives lived with integrity. Great leaders are ruthlessly honest with themselves and seek justice in all their dealings. They have been tested, and have also learned deeply the truth that God will not leave them nor forsake them or God's people.

5) **Great leaders know that leadership may result in crucifixion, but they resist wholeheartedly the role of "savior."** They understand the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero: "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.... We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." 📖

Editor's note: Patricia H. Davis, adjunct professor of pastoral care and leadership at Perkins School of Theology, was inaugural director of the new Center for Religious Leadership at Perkins during the 2011-2012 academic year. The Center for Religious Leadership provides training in the theology of leadership and practical skills for leadership. This training is based in an understanding of leadership as a spiritual vocation cultivated, strengthened, and lived out within communities of faith and the other contexts in which the church exists – including legal, business, political, social and cultural contexts. The CRL draws on the skills of the SMU faculty from Perkins School of Theology, Cox School of Business, and Dedman School of Law, along with church leaders (both lay and clergy), and business and non-profit leaders.



ROBERTA COX HAS A NEW PERSPECTIVE

I began work at Perkins' Bridwell Library in 1989 for the express purpose of arranging the festivities surrounding the rededication of the renovated Bridwell Library. It was on the basis of a full-time, part-time position. You do the math.

I will always be grateful to Dean James E. Kirby for consenting to making it a full-time position. I moved to a different Perkins department in January 1985, then known as the Office of Alumni Relations, Public Affairs, and Development while the school was under the leadership of Dean Robin W. Lovin. One of the

highlights of that era for me was the rededication of the beautifully renovated Perkins Chapel.

During the last 10 years, it has been my pleasure to work with Dean William B. Lawrence. It was during this time that the school broke ground for Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall, renovated Selecman Hall and Kirby Hall, and dedicated the completed Prothro Hall.

These are milestones in the life of the School – but they are even greater markers in my professional life. Along the way I have had the opportunity to manage communications media, publicity and

FROM BEST PRACTICE TO CHANGING PRACTICE: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Frederick W. Schmidt



Almost twelve years ago Perkins required spiritual formation, but did not give credit for it. We insisted on it as a part of the curriculum, but faculty rarely provided instructional support. Once students completed their initial instruction, there were no further opportunities available. The formation process itself was, according to one student, like the Book of Judges.

“Everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes.”

Things have changed dramatically in the years since. The program is still required, but students are given credit for their work. Regular and adjunct faculty members facilitate the groups. Perhaps more importantly, the faculty who facilitate the program rely on a common syllabus, the same textbook, and shared goals. Starting with an orientation to a theology of discernment, students are organized in formation groups of no more than twelve. Each session is devoted to a structured introduction to spiritual disciplines emphasizing both experience with those disciplines and a theological understanding of what those disciplines say about God, prayer, and the shape of the Christian life.

Once students have completed the program there are a variety of other opportunities available for spiritual enrichment. There are classes devoted to prayer, mysticism, the spiritual vision of Jesus, and an introduction to monastic spirituality. There is a certification program in spiritual direction that is offered on a non-traditional basis to existing students, clergy, and lay people. There is a track in spiritual formation for those who seek the Doctor of Ministry degree.

A study of **best practices** was at the heart of the planning for each phase of the spiritual formation program at Perkins. But that

can mean two very different things. One approach to best practice can yield a program that cautiously imitates established patterns. The other approach can use a study of best practice to ask, “How can we move ahead and change the practice itself?”

The latter approach has been our emphasis. The net result is a spiritual formation program that leaders in Methodism’s Nashville offices have cited as a change agent in the values of Perkins graduates. The program itself has become “a draw” for students applying to Perkins. And it is changing the way the church lives.

In the space of just three years, the program in spiritual direction has begun preparing and supporting more than one hundred spiritual directors – many of them in denominations that historically knew little or nothing about the art and practice of spiritual direction. The program draws students from as far afield as New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida; and the Arkansas Annual Conference underwrites the expense of training 18 spiritual directors at the Mount Eagle Camp and Conference Center near Clinton.

Why is this work so important?

One estimate suggests that 72% of all millenials (defined by the Pew Research Center as “the American teens and twenty-somethings currently making the passage into adulthood”) characterize themselves as “spiritual, but not religious.” If you factor in those in the same generation who say that they are Christians, but whose commitment to the church is a fragile thing, the figures are higher still.

In a world where many people “do God, but don’t do church,” the program in spiritual formation at Perkins not only prompts students to explore and deepen their own spiritual lives, it promises to assist students in learning how to connect the dots between life in the church and life in Christ. 🙏

Editor’s note: Frederick W. Schmidt is Director of Spiritual Formation and Anglican Studies and associate professor of Christian Spirituality. Under his leadership, Perkins has added a program of Certification in Spiritual Direction (www.smu.edu/Perkins/SpiritualDirection).

advertising, special events, alumni relations, Perkins’ Executive Board, marketing and branding strategies, video development, Perkins’ presence in Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church, and more.

However, there is one responsibility that rises to the top – and that is editor of *Perspective*. I was surprised when I went back into the “ancient history” files and saw that I first assumed that responsibility in 1996. It has been a challenge, but it has also been great fun and very rewarding. The changes have been significant, as

illustrated in the “run” shown on page 6. Moving to 4-color production was a giant step forward, and one that elevated the publication to an award winning level. It also provided an opportunity for me to know the faculty better than I might have otherwise, and to better understand the workings and responsibilities of the various departments and centers. Above all, it has given me a greater appreciation for the value of formal theological education.

It’s time for a change. A change for me – and a change for the school. For that reason I



opted to retire at the end of May 2012. There are many reasons for it, but the first four are in this photo. Need I say more?

**In gratitude for the privilege,
Roberta S. Cox, Editor**

“WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.”

attributed to Environmentalist David Brower



BEST PRACTICES FOR THE PLANET

More than a year before Microsoft's May 8 announcement of its intention to become “carbon neutral” beginning July 1, 2012, Kevin Timmons, General Manager of the corporation's Datacenter Services commented, “We hope that by sharing our key learnings and **best practices** that we can help the industry, as a whole, work together to drive greater efficiencies and collectively reduce our carbon wastes” (TechNet Blog, March 23, 2010).

For many persons of faith, such environmental **best practices** are expressions of spiritual **best practices** as well.

Southern Methodist University, and Perkins School of Theology in particular, have an extensive and longstanding commitment to environmentally sustainable practices. Perkins recently won the SMU RecycleMania competition for 2012 with the highest percentage of recycled material collected.

SMU has begun the process of becoming carbon neutral, implementing programs and objectives such as green purchasing, recycling, energy conservation, water conservation, and air quality improvement. The University actively participates in an annual sustainability report card that rates SMU and peer Universities, and an entire section on the University web site is dedicated to this issue (smu.edu/sustainability). Additionally, a committee consisting of students, faculty, and staff members works with student groups to cultivate sustainability as a way of life.

Future initiatives seek to ensure that all new buildings are designed and built in compliance with LEED certification; to purchase electric vehicles for SMU's maintenance fleet; to establish a recycle champion program which will seek out members of the community to lead efforts to increase recycling or improve sustainability initiatives at every level; and to create and implement a food recycling program. 🌱



Janelle Hampton, registrar, displays a plaque awarded to Perkins for being named SMU's 2012 RecycleMania Grand Champion in the 'Schools or Administration' category.

Highlights of Perkins' commitment to sustainability:

- The new Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council LEED program.
- The Community Garden, a joint project of Perkins' Center for Missional Wisdom and SMU's Office of Facilities Management and Sustainability, teaches SMU students to garden organically using sustainable irrigation methods in order to build community and provide locally grown food. Produce from the garden is shared by students, staff, faculty, and a local food bank (smu.edu/Perkins/ PublicPrograms/MissionalCtr/EcoEvangelism).
- Perkins buildings have benefited from campus-wide sustainability initiatives such as waterless urinals and high-efficiency toilets that reuse grey water instead of using fresh water, occupancy sensors in many rooms to automatically turn off lights, and more efficient heating and air-conditioning control systems throughout. Elaine A. Heath, McCreless Associate Professor of Evangelism and director of the Center for Missional Wisdom, uses the garden in several of her classes to teach sustainability as an evangelistic, spiritual practice.

POSITIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEWS OF PERKINS

Perkins School of Theology, along with all of Southern Methodist University, was reviewed by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church during the 2011-2012 academic year. The review included the preparation of documents for consideration by the Senate, by the Commission on Theological Education, and by a site visiting team who came to Dallas in March. The visitors had conversations with students, staff, and faculty.

The review concluded with a positive statement from the University Senate indicating that no further action is required on the part of Perkins or SMU.

The University Senate review followed positive accreditation reviews in the past three years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

In a statement to Perkins faculty and staff, Dean William B. Lawrence expressed appreciation for “everyone who assisted in the preparation for the review, the hospitality extended to the site visitors, and the cooperative spirit that we exhibited.”

UNITED METHODIST BISHOPS: PERKINS ALUMNI/AE SERVE AS EPISCOPAL LEADERS

Four Perkins School of Theology alumni/ae were elected as bishops in The United Methodist Church during 2012 Jurisdictional Conferences. Our congratulations to newly elected leaders, listed with their episcopal assignments effective September 1, 2012:

Cynthia Fierro Harvey (M.Div.'99), South Central Jurisdiction

Michael McKee (M.Th.'78), South Central Jurisdiction

Martin McLee (M.Div.'98), Northeastern Jurisdiction

Gary Mueller (M.Div.'79), South Central Jurisdiction

Other Perkins alumni/ae currently assigned as bishops are:

W. Earl Bledsoe (M.Div.'85), elected 2008, South Central Jurisdiction

James Dorff (M.Th.'72), elected 2008, South Central Jurisdiction

J. Michael (Mike) Lowry (M.Th./M.Div.'76), elected 2008, South Central Jurisdiction

Minerva Garza Carcaño (M.Th.'79), elected 2004, Western Jurisdiction

Sudarshana Devadhar (M.Th.'80), elected 2004, Northeastern Jurisdiction

Robert E. Hayes, Jr. (M.Th.'72), elected 2004, South Central Jurisdiction

Scott Jones (Ph.D.'92, M.Th.'81), elected 2004, South Central Jurisdiction

Robert Schnase (M.Th.'84), elected 2004, South Central Jurisdiction

D. Max Whitfield (M.Th./M.Div.'69), elected 2000, South Central Jurisdiction

Janice Riggle Huie (M.Th.'73), elected 1996, South Central Jurisdiction



Bishop Hardt and Martha Hardt

Bishop John Wesley Hardt (SMU B.A.'42; B.D./M.Th.'46), Perkins Distinguished Alumnus (2008) and former Bishop-in-Residence *Emeritus* at Perkins (1988-2000), has attended at least one day of Ministers Week at Perkins School of Theology every year since he was an undergraduate at SMU in 1941, establishing an attendance record in 2012 of 72 consecutive years.

FOUR CENTURIES OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

AN EXHIBITION IN THE ELIZABETH PERKINS PROTHRO GALLERIES AT BRIDWELL LIBRARY

Daniel J. Slive, Head of Special Collections

From January 20 through May 12, 2012, “Four Centuries of Religious Books for Children,” a Bridwell Library exhibition, featured religious books specifically written for children and printed in Europe and America between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The exhibition in The Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries at Bridwell Library included Bibles, catechisms, instructional works, moral stories, devotional literature, hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. Authors, editors, and publishers in each of these genres employed numerous strategies involving the choice of text, image, and physical format to engage young readers. Intended both to instruct and delight, these publications provided a foundation for students’ future religious education and faith.

An online version of the exhibition can be viewed at smu.edu/bridwell/exhibitions. For more information about the exhibition or about Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology, contact Bridwell at 214-768-3483, bridadmin@smu.edu, or visit smu.edu/bridwell.

BIBLES

Printers, compilers, and writers employed various methods to introduce the Bible to children in an accessible form. Both images and text served equally important functions in hieroglyphic Bibles in which select passages

of scripture were conveyed in a curious combination of words and symbols, a puzzle to be solved and holy text to be read, understood, and memorized.



The first hieroglyphic Bible for children



The Old Testament, abridged and illustrated for children

CATECHISMS

“What book has God given to teach us?”

“The Holy Scriptures, full of truth,

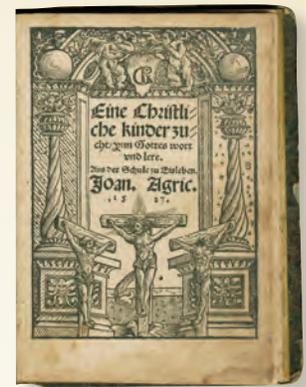
Can guide, and cleanse, and teach our youth.”

— From “A Catechism, &c. The Answers of which consist of two lines in Rhyme,” in *Little Child’s Scriptural Lessons, in Rhyme, with Prayers and Graces*

Manuals of Christian doctrine for Catholics and Protestants, catechisms often are organized in the form of questions with accompanying answers to be memorized.



Canisius’s catechism for experienced students, in German



An early Lutheran catechism



Darton’s Scripture ABC for English youngsters, hand-colored

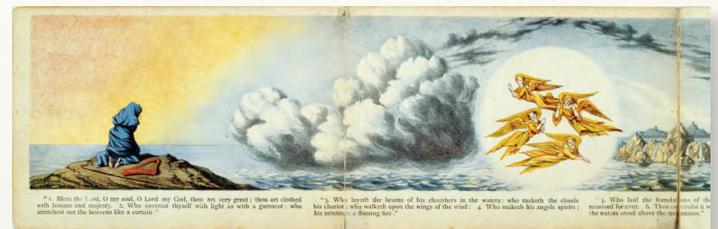
INSTRUCTIONAL WORKS

Instructional works for use in the home, public school, or Sunday school included alphabet books and primers for young children, simplified stories adapted from scripture, works that encouraged a deep knowledge of the Bible, and readings for more advanced students.

DEVOTIONAL LITERATURE

Devotional works in a variety of genres were considered an integral element in the religious education of children. Prayers, hymns, psalms, and devotional texts in prose and verse promoted personal daily prayer and piety and provided a foundation for spiritual contemplation.

Chromolithographed illuminated plates and prayers



The 104th Psalm illustrated in a single panorama

PUBLISHING STRATEGIES IN A VARIETY OF FORMATS

“The method of instruction proposed in this series, is, first to present to the pupil the pictorial illustration, and after having excited attention by delighting the eye, and given a general outline of the subject, next to consult the narrative.”

— Elizabeth Maria Lloyd in

Exercises in the Gospel Narrative of the Life of Our Lord

In addition to the creative use of textual adaptations and illustrations in standard printed volumes, publishers of religious material for children also experimented with a remarkable variety of physical formats. Examples include miniature books no larger than three inches in any dimension, panoramas extending to a dozen feet, illustrations to be displayed on nursery walls as well as in bound books, attractive and colorful card sets, and multi-volume collections.

“ADAPTED TO THE UNDERSTANDINGS, FEELINGS, AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE YOUNG...TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE RECEPTION OF THOSE GREAT AND ALL IMPORTANT TRUTHS.”

W. Fletcher in *Hymns for Children*

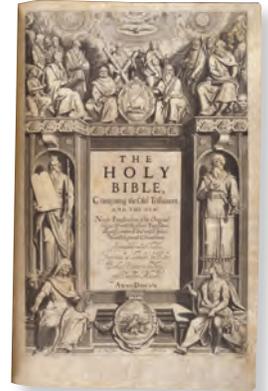
BRIDWELL LIBRARY EXHIBITION: THE KING JAMES BIBLE OF 1611

The King James Bible of 1611 was the dominant English translation of the scriptures from the time of its publication through the late nineteenth century, and it is one of the few seventeenth-century texts widely owned and read today. A Fall 2011 Bridwell Library exhibition marked the four-hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible, focusing on the earliest King James Bibles as evidence of the zeal with which the new translation was produced, printed, marketed, read, and cherished.

THE KING JAMES BIBLE OF 1611

The Holy Bible, Conteyning the Old Testament, and the New: Newly Translated out of the originall tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and revised by his Majesties speciall comandement. Appointed to be read in Churches. London: Robert Barker, 1611

This first edition of the King James Bible, a book of 1,464 pages printed in folio format, was intended for use on the lectern in a church. The title page was engraved by Cornelius Boel, a well-known artist from Antwerp who had been engraving portraits at the English royal court for many years. The architectural frame surrounding the title contains symbols of the Trinity at the top, and images of the four evangelists, the apostles of Christ, the Old Testament figures Moses and Aaron, and an emblem below showing a pelican feeding her young from the flesh of her own breast – an ancient symbol of Christ’s self-sacrifice. (*Presented to Bridwell Library by Lucia and Carr P. Collins, Jr.*)



AN EMBROIDERED BINDING

The Holy Bible, Containing the Old Testament, and the New: Newly Translated out of the originall tongue: and with the former Translations diligently [c]ompared and revised, by his Majesties speciall commandement. London: Bonham Norton and John Bill, 1619.

Bridwell Library’s earliest embroidered binding encloses this quarto King James Bible of 1619. Silver and gold threads stitched into the purple velvet create a rich floral design that echoes the gilt centerpiece and corner pieces commonly used on seventeenth-century leather bindings. The gilt metal catches for the fore-edge clasps feature pairs of joined hands – evidence that the binding likely was commissioned for presentation as a wedding gift.

BRIDWELL ACQUIRES AUTOGRAPH JOHN WESLEY LETTERS ONE PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED



Bridwell Library has added two autograph John Wesley letters to its special collections. The first, acquired by Bridwell June 2011 and dated 27 July 1789, is addressed to Ann Bolton of Witney (“My Dear Nancy”), responding to her suggestion regarding the ministry: “Altho what you propose is quite a new thing such as we have yet no precedent of, yet I do not know but it may be a means of much Good. It may be worth while to make a trial for a year. Especially as Brother Pescod is willing, himself to make the first Experiment. But it would be well, to do so on a regular Plan, a kind of Circuit; & not to ramble without any Rule”; and wishing her “a continual power to do & suffer all the will of God”; subscribing himself hers “most Affectionately”; with integral address leaf (“Miss Bolton,/ In Witney/

Oxfordshire”), postmarked, original docket, Leeds, 27 July 1789.

The second, acquired July / August 2011 and dated 10 September 1782, is to the Rev. Creighton, encouraging him in his curacy in Ireland and expounding at length on the nature of Methodism, explaining its methods, celebrating the divine providence that has allowed the movement so much success, and enjoying the continuance of the itinerant mission (“... If any are weary of their labouring in our Lord’s Vineyard, & seek to settle in the world, it is certain their Love is grown cold ...”).



High-resolution images of the “Letters of John Wesley at Bridwell Library” can be viewed at <http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/bridwell/jwl/index.asp>.



Elizabeth Hirsch, daughter of Rabbi Levi A. Olan, and Bridwell archivist Tim Binkley, meet at Bridwell June 1, 2012, to deliver archival audiotapes to SMU's Norwick Center for Digital Services.

RABBI LEVI A. OLAN AUDIO RECORDINGS TO BE DIGITIZED

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, Bridwell Library's substantial collection of audio recordings featuring Rabbi Levi A. Olan will be preserved for future generations. Bridwell's archival collection on Rabbi Olan includes audio recordings of *The Temple Emanu-El Program*, a radio show broadcast for many years by WFAA-AM in Dallas. The recordings at Bridwell Library date between 1961 and 1970 and are on reel-to-reel tape.

In 2011, while processing the Olan collection in order to make it available for public use, Bridwell archivist Tim Binkley initiated contact with his counterpart at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, and with Rabbi Olan's daughter, Elizabeth Hirsch.

Concern about the 40-50 year shelf life of reel-to-reel tape, along with a desire to make the recordings more easily accessible to the public, led Hirsch to form a committee that ultimately secured an anonymous donation to fund migration of the recordings into digital format by SMU's Norwick Center for Digital services. The collaboration also resulted in an invitation from Binkley for members and staff of Temple Emanu-El to tour the Olan Collection in 2011. "My goal," Binkley says, "is to post the digital data to Bridwell Library's Digital Collections website, so that this material will be readily available on the Internet."

Texas Archival Resources Online describes Levi A. Olan (1903-1984) as "a respected rabbi, author, educator, and community leader known as 'the conscience of Dallas.'" Olan taught a course in contemporary Judaism as a visiting professor at Perkins from 1952 until 1978, while serving Temple Emanu-El from 1949 until his retirement in 1970. In addition to teaching at Perkins, he was a lecturer in Judaism at the University of Texas at Arlington and at Texas Christian University, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas from 1963-1969. He was president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis for two years. Olan's publications include *The Philosophy of Liberal Judaism* (1942); *Rethinking the Liberal Religion* (1948); *On the Nature of Man* (1949); *Judaism and Modern Theology* (1955); *Reinhold Niebuhr and the Hebraic Spirit* (1956); *Judaism and Immortality* (1971); and *Prophetic Faith and the Secular Age* (1982).

The Levi A. Olan Collection of Fine Books at Bridwell Library was established in 1963. A full description of the archival collection is available at www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00172/smu-00172.html.

FAITH AND DEVOTION IN MEXICO

"Faith and Devotion in Mexico," an exhibition in Bridwell Library from December 7, 2011-May 7, 2012, surveyed devotional beliefs and practices in Mexico in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Documented in images, novenas, sacred poetry, historical accounts, and a variety of other sources, the 16 items on display explored various aspects of personal and community devotion as an active element of spiritual life which served to complement and supplement Church rituals and liturgy.

An online version of the exhibition is available at www.smu.edu/Bridwell/Collections/SpecialCollections/andArchives/Exhibitions/FaithDevotionMexico.



The appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the Mexican Indian Juan Diego in early December of 1531: Francisco de Florencia. *La estrella del norte de México*. Madrid: en la imprenta de Lorenzo de San Martín, 1785.

John C. Holbert's Career at Perkins:

1979

Assistant Professor of Old Testament – two years sabbatical replacement

1981-1984

Assistant Professor of Old Testament, plus Director of Continuing Education and Doctor of Ministry

1984-1988

Assistant Professor of Homiletics

1988-1994

Associate Professor of Homiletics

1994-1997

Professor of Homiletics

1997-2012

Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics, and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor (2007-2009)



Service of Sending Forth, Perkins Chapel, April 26, 2012 (from left)

Alyce M. McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship; Christopher S. Anderson, associate professor of Sacred Music; Lynda Mayberry, M.Div.'12; Diana Holbert, guest preacher; John C. Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics; Mark Stamm, associate professor of Christian Worship

JOHN C. HOLBERT: MY MENTOR AND FRIEND, WITH THANKS

Alyce M. McKenzie

I first met John in 2000, when I came to Perkins to teach preaching. It was August, and as a northeasterner from Pennsylvania I was not only unprepared for the summer heat, but also a bit overwhelmed both by the opportunities and the obligations. I needed a mentor to help me navigate the twists and turns of academic life in a new place. I found that person in John Holbert. Though he has such a magnificent voice himself, he encouraged me to find my own voice! I always knew when I knocked on John's office door, I would hear his rich operatic voice call out, "Come in!" The person within the office was just as hospitable as the greeting. Depending on the occasion, he offered the encouragement or wise advice I needed.

John and I repeatedly tell our preaching students that their sermon needs one unifying theme. In John's case, a unifying theme is his talent and his generosity in sharing his gifts with others.

From 1984 to 2012 John has taught 60 sections of Introduction to Preaching at Perkins. That comprises some 800 students and some

3,500 sermons. Those teaching talents have been recognized at Perkins and SMU by an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007 and the Margareta Deschner teaching award in 1989 for "outstanding teaching that reflects a special awareness and appreciation for the presence of women in academic endeavors."

John has been generous with his teaching gifts beyond the Perkins classrooms, leading preaching workshops for pastors and preaching at Annual Conferences around the country. He is a master teacher of Bible for laypeople. He has taught 28 times in Perkins annual Lay School of Theology. Every year, he draws a large crowd of people who don't so much care what the topic is as long as he is the teacher. John has taught and preached in more than 1,000 churches in 40 states and 15 countries.

John has been generous with his pastoral gifts through serving local churches when called to step into challenging interim ministries. An ordained elder in the Central Texas Annual Conference since 1976, he served two interim pastorates, First UMC

Fort Worth in 1994 and First UMC Dallas in 1997. This makes him the only clergyperson to have served both of those churches in one career.

The theme of generosity continues when we note that John has chaired every committee at Perkins, some more than once. He has chaired eight faculty search committees. John has been the faculty advisor for Allies in Religious Community – a student organization dedicated to the rights and dignity of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons.

John has shared his insights on preaching the Old Testament, Job, and environmental concerns in eight books and numerous articles in both scholarly and professional journals. His new book about storytelling in preaching comes out this summer. He has completed a novel on King Saul and is working on a sequel about King David. John is author of a weekly column, titled “Opening the Old Testament,” that draws more than 12,000 readers each month.

After hearing John speak, people have sometimes said, “Your voice is so beautiful, I could listen to you read the phone book.” For years, John has generously shared that voice with others, recording audio books for the blind (most recently the 720 page biography of Mark Twain) and singing at churches and concert venues around the Metroplex.

John is still my mentor, and over the years I have come to regard him not only as a congenial and supportive colleague but also as a friend. We’ve collaborated by team teaching in Perkins classrooms as well as in clergy workshops around the country. For several years we were the co-editors of the journal *Homiletic*. We have done comedy skits at Perkins’ April follies and have written a homiletical textbook together, *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon*.

My husband Murry and I count it a privilege to know both John and Diana Holbert, though I for one confess to being just a little envious of the exciting travel schedule they have planned for the next few years. But no one deserves an exciting, rewarding retirement more. 🙏

Editor’s Note: John C. Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics, retired effective May 31, 2012, following 33 years of distinguished service. In his honor, friend and colleague Alyce M. McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship and Altschuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, penned this tribute touching not only on the breadth of John’s outstanding career but also on his character and delightful personality.



John Holbert, 2011 President of the Academy of Homiletics, passes the gavel to Alyce McKenzie, 2012 President of the Academy of Homiletics

ALYCE MCKENZIE ELECTED 2012 PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF HOMILETICS, SUCCEEDING JOHN HOLBERT

Alyce M. McKenzie, George W. and Nell Ayers LeVan Professor of Preaching and Worship, has been elected 47th President of the Academy of Homiletics. She succeeds another distinguished professor of preaching at Perkins, her friend, coauthor, and recently retired colleague John Holbert.

The role of the President is to oversee the business of the Academy for the year of their term, to choose the topic for the meeting over which they preside, to secure speakers, and guide the overall organization and implementation of the annual gathering, and to lead the Executive Committee in fulfilling and enhancing the vision and work of the Academy.

For the Academy’s 2012 meeting in Chicago, November 15 - 17, Professor McKenzie has chosen the topic, “Preaching and Creativity.” The Academy of Homiletics, founded in 1965, is a professional guild for teachers of preaching, with a worldwide membership of almost 400. The Academy’s mission is to further the academic discipline of homiletics and to promote scholarship and pedagogy in the field. Membership is open to teachers and doctoral graduate students of homiletics. The Academy also sponsors the juried, peer-reviewed academic journal, *Homiletic*. More information about the Academy of Homiletics is available at www.homiletics.org. 🙏

Professors Holbert and McKenzie recently published together *What Not to Say* (Westminster John Knox, 2011), a unique introductory preaching text that includes a website with humorous examples of what not to say in a sermon.

FACULTY NEWS

William J. Abraham, Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies, was elected to the UMC's University Senate by the 2012 General Conference. Additionally, Abraham received a \$200,000 grant from Templeton via the Center for Philosophy of Religion to conduct a week-long summer seminar at Perkins over the next three years on Analytic Theology, with students and scholars from Perkins, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Notre Dame.

Christopher S. Anderson, associate professor of Sacred Music, was awarded a Sam Taylor Fellowship from the Division of Higher Education, United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, for archival research in Germany associated with his biography of Karl Straube, organist and successor to J.S. Bach in Bach's Cantorate chair. Anderson has published *Twentieth-Century Organ Music* (Routledge Studies in Musical Genres series), a collection of essays under his editorship (and the first such collection to treat the twentieth-century organ and its music comprehensively). The volume is dedicated to the memory of Robert T. Anderson, University Distinguished Professor of Organ and Sacred Music. Additionally, Christopher Anderson presented a faculty recital, featuring a single work, "Job," by Eastern European composer Petr Eben, at Meadows School of the Arts' Caruth Auditorium; and presented a series of pre-performance lectures on Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* for the Dallas Opera (February 2012).



Baker-Fletcher (l) with fellow "Womanist Legend" EveyIn Parker at a Perkins reception in their honor

Karen Baker-Fletcher, professor of Systematic Theology, was honored by the Black Religious Scholars Group at Vanderbilt University Divinity School as a "Womanist Legend," at the Womanist Legends Gala at Gotham Hall, New York, March 2012.

Ted A. Campbell, associate professor of Church History, has published a second edition of *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, with the previous edition selling more than 19,500 copies. Special editions of the book also have been released for the Project "Sol África" and in Portuguese.

Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, professor of Global Christianities and Mission Studies, received the 2010-2011 Outreach Academic Award for a project, "Religión, religiones y teologías cristianas de las religiones," to be published in the *Introducciones* Series by AETH and Abingdon Press.

Jaime Clark-Soles, associate professor of New Testament, has recently published *Reading for Dear Life: The Gospel of John* (Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming), and *Women in the Bible. Interpretation: Resources for the Use of*

Scripture in the Church, eds. Patrick Miller, Ellen Davis, and Richard Hays (Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming). Additionally, Clark-Soles is a member of an editorial team that has launched "ON Scripture," an initiative of the interfaith media organization Odyssey Networks. The online resource is a weekly blog appearing on www.huffingtonpost.com/religion, odysseynetworks.org/on-scripture and <http://day1.org>, featuring reflections on biblical passages with an eye on current events, for the purpose of promoting wider dialogue about the Bible and its relevance for a lived, engaged faith.

Ruben L.F. Habito, professor of World Religions and Spirituality, has been appointed to the Fetzer Advisory Council on the Humanities by the Board of Trustees of Fetzer Institute, a philanthropic foundation that offers financial support for projects relating to the cultivation of Love and Forgiveness in different areas of the world.

Robert A. Hunt, director of Global Theological Education and professor of Christian Mission and Interreligious Relations, has been named Faculty Associate at SMU's Tower Center. Additionally, Hunt's book, *The Gospel Among the Nations*, won a 2011 Catholic Book Award, placing second in the Education category.

Rebekah Miles, associate professor of Ethics and Practical Theology, has been promoted to the rank of professor, effective September 2012. She also was elected by the Arkansas Annual Conference as a clergy delegate to the 2012 General Conference and South Central Jurisdictional Conference. Miles recently has published *When the One You Love is Gone: Field Notes on a Pilgrimage of Grief* (Abingdon Press, 2012). Additionally, she has accepted an invitation to serve as

coeditor of the journal of her primary guild, the Society of Christian Ethics.

Heidi A. Miller, assistant professor of Worship, received the Summer 2012 Perkins Scholarly Outreach Award for work on her upcoming book, *Becoming God's Gesture* (working title).

Richard D. Nelson, associate dean for Academic Affairs and W.J.A. Power Professor of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation, received the Trinity Lutheran Seminary Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011. The award cited Professor Nelson's "faithful witness to the church and community through... continued and dedicated service."



Evelyn L. Parker

Evelyn L. Parker, associate professor of Practical Theology, was honored by the Black Religious Scholars Group at Vanderbilt University Divinity School as a "Womanist Legend," at the Womanist Legends Gala at Gotham Hall, New York, March 2012. Additionally, Parker has been awarded a grant of \$20,000 by the United Methodist Women's Division of The United Methodist Church, to support African Women in Ghana and bordering countries and to attend a conference Parker is co-convening, "The African and African Diasporic Women in Religion and Theology Conference," in Legon Ghana (July 8-14).

BRAD R. BRAXTON APPOINTED LOIS CRADDOCK PERKINS PROFESSOR OF HOMILETICS

Rev. Dr. Brad R. Braxton joined the Perkins faculty as Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics, June 1, 2012.

Braxton earned the Ph.D. in 1999 from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, where he was a George W. Woodruff Fellow concentrating on New Testament Studies and Homiletics. He earned the Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford in 1991, as a Rhodes Scholar. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, where he majored in Religious Studies as a Jefferson Scholar. He is author of three books, *Preaching Paul* (2004); *No Longer Slaves: Galatians and African American Experience* (2002); and *The Tyranny of Resolution: I Corinthians 7:17-24* (2000); as well as numerous articles, published sermons, and lectures.

Braxton's previous service includes: Distinguished Visiting Scholar at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois; Senior Minister at The Riverside Church in New York; associate professor of Homiletics and New Testament, with tenure, at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee; Jessie Ball duPont Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Biblical Studies at Wake Forest University Divinity School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Senior Pastor at Douglas Memorial Community Church, Baltimore Maryland. Braxton was ordained in 1991 at First Baptist Church, Salem, Virginia.

Braxton is the first African American to come to SMU with an appointment to an endowed chair. The Lois Craddock Perkins Chair of Homiletics was established in 1985 through the generosity of The Joe and Lois Perkins Foundation, Perkins-Prothro Foundation, and Charles N. and Elizabeth Prothro. Braxton becomes the third appointee to the Lois Craddock Perkins Professorship of Homiletics, following James Wharton (1985-1997) and John C. Holbert (1997-2012). 🏛️



Brad Braxton preaching in Perkins Chapel, September 22, 2011

HUGO MAGALLANES NAMED DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LATINO/A CHRISTIANITY AND RELIGIONS

Rev. Dr. Hugo Magallanes,

associate professor of Christianity and Cultures, has been named director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions. He succeeds Dr. David Maldonado, who retired as founding director of the Center in 2011. An ordained elder in the South Georgia Annual Conference UMC, Magallanes is a native of Cd. Juárez, México. He earned Ph.D. and M.Phil. degrees from Drew University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a B.A. in Theology from Seminario Juan Wesley in Monterrey.



Magallanes finds inspiration for his service from his first ministerial experiences in the United States, following his appointment as pastor of a Georgia church whose membership consisted primarily of migrant workers. “Working there with the poorest of the poor changed my theological orientation forever,” Magallanes said in an interview with *Perspective*. “They helped me more in my faith, as God allowed me to see the face of Jesus in the members of my congregation.”

The central mission of the Center is to promote a deeper understanding of the varieties of religious life and expression within the Latino/a communities in the United States and in Latin America through educational programs, the generation and conduct of research, and the dissemination of knowledge. Magallanes’ vision for the center is that it can promote better understandings of ministry, life, Christianity and other religions by cultivating reciprocal friendships. “I am most excited about addressing ideas of importance to the Hispanic-Latino/a community from a theological perspective. However, we cannot divorce the importance of the community of faith from theological explorations or ideas about the community of faith,” Magallanes insists. “In all my teaching and other ministries, I want to help students, congregations, and communities in general keep in mind the faces of the people they have encountered, especially those suffering and in need.”

Magallanes is the author of *Acción Social: El Pueblo Cristiano Testifica del Amor de Dios* [Social Action: The Community of Believers Offers a Witness of God’s Love] (Nashville: Abingdon, 2012); coeditor with Harold Recinos of *Jesus in the Hispanic Community: Images of Christ from Theology to Popular Religion* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009); and author of *Introducción a la Teología y Vida de Juan Wesley* [Introduction to the Theology and Life of John Wesley] (Nashville: Abingdon, 2005). ☩



Harold Recinos (second from left) with instructor and other Kung Fu Champion Finalists

Harold J. Recinos, professor of Church and Society, received Palmer Theological Seminary’s 2011 Orlando Costas Award in Preaching Ministry. The award, which had not been announced in advance, was presented following Recinos’ delivery of The Orlando Costas Lecture on the topic “Christ Among Strangers,” a theological and evidence-based critique of the immigration restrictionist/nativist movement, and its consequences regarding intercultural/multiracial relationships. Recinos also has continued to excel in his avocation as a martial arts enthusiast, placing second overall (10 gold, one silver, and two bronze medals) in the 13th Annual 2011 Legends of Kung Fu/Taiji Legacy World Martial Arts Championship in Plano, Texas; and winning seven medals in seven events (four gold, three silver) in the BIG-D Kung Fu-Wushu International Chinese Martial Arts Championship (April 2012). Recinos was previously interviewed about his interest in martial arts for a Summer 2011 *Perspective* feature article.

Joerg Rieger, Wendland-Cook

Endowed Professor of Constructive Theology, has published *Traveling: Christian Explorations of Daily Living* (Fortress Press, 2011) with historical and theological reflections offering concrete ways in which travel can open up fresh encounters with meaning and, ultimately,



Joerg Rieger

the divine. Forthcoming books from Rieger include: *Occupy Religion: Theology of the Multitude* (co-authored with Kwok Pui Lan), Rowman and Littlefield Publishers; *Across Borders: Latin Perspectives in the Americas Reshaping Religion, Theology, and Life* (editor), Lexington Books; *Class, Religion, and Theology* (editor), Palgrave Macmillan Publishers.



Abraham Smith

Abraham Smith, professor of New Testament, was B. Julian Smith Lecturer for the Sixteenth Pastors' Conference of Phillips School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2012. Smith presented two lectures: "The Black Church: Not Dead but Disconnected"; and "The Black Church Reclaiming the Radical Edge of the Early Gospel."



Mark W. Stamm

Mark W. Stamm, associate professor of Christian Worship, has been promoted to the rank of professor, effective Sept. 1, 2012. Stamm was keynote speaker for the 2011 national retreat of The Order of Saint Luke at the Montserrat Retreat Center, Lake Dallas, Texas. Additionally, Stamm authored two of the 40 articles showcasing great moments in the history of the Texas Rangers baseball team for the club's 40th anniversary Yearbook.

DEAN WILLIAM B. LAWRENCE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UM JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

William B. Lawrence, Dean and professor of American Church History, has been elected by the United Methodist Church's 2012-2016 Judicial Council to serve as their President. The election was held May 3, during the UMC's 2012 General Conference.

Lawrence was first elected by the 2008 General Conference to serve as one of nine members of the Judicial Council. Sometimes referred to as the denomination's "Supreme Court," the Council is the highest judicial body within The United Methodist Church. Its responsibilities include determining whether acts or proposed acts of the General Conference, as well as Jurisdictional, Central, and Annual Conferences, conform to the Constitution and current *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church. The Judicial Council's tasks include acting on requests for declaratory decisions during General Conference sessions and reviewing decisions of law by the denomination's bishops.

Judicial Council members are elected to eight-year terms by the General Conference and are restricted to serving no more than two consecutive terms. Members of the Judicial Council elect their own president for a four-year term. Lawrence will serve as President of the Judicial Council through the 2012-2016 quadrennium.

In addition to his service with the Judicial Council, Lawrence also has been elected by members of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) for a two-year term as AUMTS President. The election was held April 24, 2012, at the spring meeting of the AUMTS. Created in 1933, AUMTS includes the deans and presidents of all 13 theological schools in the United States directly related to and supported by The United Methodist Church through the leadership of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. 🏛️

DR. HEIDI MILLER JOINS PERKINS FACULTY



Dr. Heidi Miller joined the Perkins faculty as assistant professor of Christian Worship, July 1, 2011.

Miller comes to Perkins from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she was assistant professor and director of the Ministry Inquiry

Program. Her teaching has focused in areas of Worship, Spiritual Formation and Direction, Integrative Courses (theology, history, worship, ethics), Leadership Development and Supervision. Miller describes her philosophy of teaching as a commitment to “foster biblically rooted, theologically

grounded, historically attentive, and contextually relevant ways to teach Worship.”

She earned her B.A. from Goshen College, the Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and was awarded the Ph.D. from Catholic University of America after successfully defending her dissertation, *The Spiritual Practice of Ritually Enacted Narrative: Expanding Pilgrim Marpeck’s Understanding of the Lord’s Supper*. She is a licensed Virginia Mennonite Conference minister.

Miller brings a breadth of professional experience to her role, having served as a counselor, medical social worker, and pastor, in addition to speaking and consulting in the areas of congregational discernment, congregational crisis, leadership, worship, spiritual direction and spiritual formation for congregations, conferences, and conventions.

Heidi enjoys jogging, reading, hiking, horseback riding, flower gardening, friends, church architecture, National Public Radio, and theological conversations with her eleven-year-old son. 🏠

Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner,

professor of Pastoral Care, was a Spring 2012 Research Member at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey. She also accepted an invitation from the Swiss government (Schweizer Nationalfond) to be guest professor at the University of Luzerne, Switzerland, for the month of June 2012. She lectured to the faculty, led a seminar, and conducted a workshop with Dr. Stephanie Klein of Luzerne. Stevenson-Moessner and Klein expect to coauthor research on abandoned and orphaned children. Additionally, she was awarded a Southern Methodist University Research Council grant in the amount of \$5,000. Her project was one of 18 proposals selected from a total of 28 submissions.

Charles M. Wood, Lehman Professor of Christian Doctrine *Emeritus*, has been honored with establishment of the Charles M. Wood Fellowship at the Foundation for the SMU Graduate Program in Religious Studies. The Wood Fellowship is open to

students who show exceptional promise in teaching and research. Wood also has been appointed to the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches for the 2012-2015 quadrennium, and was installed in 2012 as president of the American Theological Society.



Sze-Kar Wan

Dr. Sze-Kar Wan, Professor of New Testament, is one of four SMU researchers named as the University’s 2011 Ford Research Fellows. Other recipients are Johan

Elverskog, Religious Studies, Dedman College; Thomas Hagstrom, Mathematics, Dedman College; and Neil Tabor, Earth Sciences, Dedman College. Additionally, Wan was named to the first class of Texas Program for Human Rights Education Fellows (2011-2012) by the Embrey Human Rights Program. Dr. Wan is one of only six faculty members from across Texas to hold this honor highlighting his commitment to human rights education and his on-going work for justice and community development.

D. MAX WHITFIELD NAMED NEW BISHOP-IN-RESIDENCE

D. Max Whitfield, Bishop of the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Conferences of The United Methodist Church, has accepted an invitation to serve as Bishop-in-Residence at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, effective September 1, 2012.

In announcing the appointment, William B. Lawrence, Dean of Perkins School of Theology, lauded Bishop Whitfield's passion for helping develop future leaders and his legacy of pastoral concern. "Bishop Whitfield's considerable experience and longstanding interest in leadership will enhance the work of the recently established Center for Religious Leadership here at Perkins," Lawrence said. "We also look forward to Bishop Whitfield's prominent role with students, faculty, and staff in the area of pastoral care."

Expressing enthusiasm about his upcoming responsibilities as Bishop-in-Residence, praising the leadership program at Perkins as making "a significant contribution to the church," Whitfield observed, "This will allow me to be a small influence in the shaping of future leaders of the church."

Whitfield has served as bishop of the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Conferences for 12 years. Prior to being elected to the episcopacy, Bishop Whitfield served as Superintendent of

the Batesville and Fayetteville Districts in the Arkansas Conference UMC, after serving as senior pastor in various United Methodist congregations in Arkansas for more than 30 years. Whitfield's distinguished ministry with the church and the larger community also includes serving on the Board of Trustees, Hendrix College; Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; Board of Directors, General Board of Global Ministries; Board of Directors, General Commission on Religion and Race; and numerous other positions. He served as a General Conference delegate for three quadrennia and a South Central Jurisdictional delegate for four quadrennia.

Whitfield was ordained deacon (1967) and elder (1970) in the North Arkansas Conference. An alumnus of Perkins, he earned the B.S.A. from Arkansas State University (1966), M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology (1969), and D. Min. from Princeton Theological Seminary (1983). 

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Each spring and fall, faculty receptions honor Perkins faculty members for recently published books. The events include a response to the author's work from another Perkins faculty member.

SPRING RECEPTION, MARCH 5, 2012:



Heidi Miller reviews a new work by Roy Heller

Roy L. Heller, associate professor of Old Testament, *Conversation with Scripture: The Book of Judges* (Church Publishing, 2010). Reviewer was **Heidi A. Miller**, assistant professor of Christian Worship.

John C. Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics *Emeritus*, and **Alyce M. McKenzie**, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, *What Not to Say:*

Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon (Westminster John Knox, 2011). Reviewer was **Mark W. Stamm**, associate professor of Christian Worship.

William B. Lawrence, Dean and professor of American Church History, *Ordained Ministry in The United Methodist Church* (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2011). Reviewer was **Pablo Andiañach**, visiting professor of Old Testament.



Mark Stamm reviews a recent book by John Holbert and Alyce McKenzie



Visiting Professor Pablo Andiañach reviews Dean Lawrence's latest book

WILLIAM E. TURNER RECEIVES 2012 WOODROW B. SEALS LAITY AWARD



Gary Macdonald (r) presents the 2012 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award to William E. Turner

William E. “Bill” Turner was named recipient of the 2012 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award. The award was presented at a March 3, 2012, luncheon during the Perkins Theological School for the Laity.

A longtime United Methodist, Turner has been an active layperson in United Methodist congregations ranging from St. John’s UMC in Richmond, Texas, to his present home church, Faith UMC in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. His comprehensive service to the church and community has included in-depth administrative work in the areas of finance and accounting as well as extensive leadership in such mission projects as forming and coordinating disaster response teams, leading teams of volunteers to repair or rebuild homes for the poor as well as damaged church buildings, and organizing fundraisers to support youth mission projects.

Heather Scherer, who has worked with Turner in her role as Minister of Youth at Faith UMC, praised Turner for his work raising funds in support of scholarships benefitting hundreds of youth who seek opportunities to participate in missions trips and projects. She also cited his work coordinating volunteers to provide resources and labor for repairing the homes of low income families in the community. “I am continually amazed at the heart and energy that Bill Turner has for being the hands and feet of Christ for the world,” Scherer said. “He shows his faith by the way he cares for his extended family, the church and the stranger. He has changed lives in this community, this state, in our country and across the world through his involvement in service and missions.”

Turner’s current pastor at Faith UMC, Rev. Brad Humphrey, echoed Scherer’s praise. “Because of his leadership, our church will have a team and/or project somewhere in the world every other week, from the inner city of Tulsa to Nicaragua,” Humphrey noted.

Rev. Linda Harker, Superintendent of the Muskogee District UMC and Turner’s former pastor, lauded Turner as one who “authentically lives the Christian faith in all aspects of his life, 365 days of the year. If there is a need to help someone, Bill is the person to inform; if there is a job to be done, Bill is the person to ask; if there is a mission to be accomplished, Bill is the ‘go to’ person,” said Harker.

A native of Sikeston, Missouri, Turner graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Business Administration. He retired in 1999 after a 33-year career with Shell Oil. He and his wife Judy currently reside in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, with two daughters, two sons-in-law, and five grandchildren living nearby in Collinsville, Catoosa, and Pryor. 🇺🇸

The Seals Award is presented annually to a layperson in the United States who embodies the Christian faith and commitment of service to Christ in the church, community, and world as exemplified by Judge Woodrow B. Seals, a distinguished layperson whose interest and energy were instrumental in establishing the Perkins Theological School for the Laity.

STAFF NEWS

Lucy Cobbe retired June 1, 2012, after 20 years as assistant to the director of the Graduate Program in Religious Studies. Commenting on Lucy's impact, GPRS director Bruce Marshall said, "Lucy's role in the success of the Program over these 20 years – almost half the time the GPRS has been in existence – is beyond calculation."

Lucy's legacy extends beyond GPRS, as she is responsible for initiating and creating the first website for Perkins School of Theology, in 1995 – an accomplishment that not only required garnering support from the Dean but also teaching herself to use HTML.

One of her most recent honors was receiving a Faculty Senate Outstanding Staff award in May 2012, after being selected by the Faculty Senate from a group of 39 nominees who were recommended throughout the University.

"I've enjoyed working at Perkins," Lucy says of her two decades here. "I have liked working with students, faculty, and everybody in the Perkins community. It's a great place to work."

Following her retirement, Lucy plans to enjoy knitting and looks forward to the possibility of reading for the blind or other volunteer service opportunities.

The Graduate Program in Religious Studies offers the Ph.D. degree as a cooperative program of Perkins and SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.



Lucy Cobbe, on her last day in the GPRS office

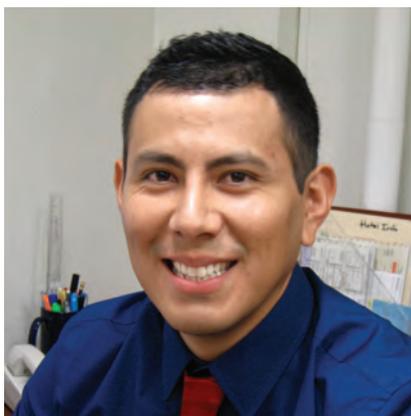
Lucy was honored along with fellow retirees Roberta Cox and John Holbert at a May 7 reception in the Great Hall of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall, and at a private May 18 celebration hosted by GPRS.



Lynda Casey

Lynda Casey joined the Perkins staff December 2011, as coordinator of Admissions, Financial Aid and Community Life. Lynda earned her B.S. from New Mexico State University in Secondary Education, and comes to Perkins from Las Cruces, New Mexico, where she was a high school advisor and teacher with experience in computer education, career resourcing and scholarship counseling.

José De Haro joined the Perkins staff July 2011, as assistant director of the Mexican American Program. José earned a B.A.



José de Haro

from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008 with a major in Spanish Language Teaching and a minor in Sociology. He came to Perkins from UT Austin, where he served as a senior office assistant in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and most recently as administrative associate in the Office of The Dean of Students, Student Activities and Leadership Development. He enjoys continuing his work in a university setting and making frequent use of his native Spanish language skills.



Vanessa Duran

Vanessa Duran joined the Graduate Program in Religious Studies as Assistant to the Director, May 2012. She came to Perkins and the GPRS from the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center at SMU, where she was administrative coordinator of the DASS program, which handles disability accommodations for SMU students. Before coming to SMU, Duran was administrative assistant for the music department at St. Rita Catholic Church, and managed a Dallas law office for ten years prior to that. She earned her B.S.S. degree in Sociology from SMU, with a minor in

Psychology. She is fluent in Spanish, and trained both as a Stephen Minister and a Bereavement Counselor.

Jane Lenz Elder received the SMU Libraries Outstanding Achievement Award. This award, which is based on faculty, student, and staff nominations, is presented annually to a librarian or professional library staff member who has contributed significantly to the SMU community or to the information professions through personal service, leadership, scholarship, or involvement in professional associations.



Rebecca Howdeshell

Rebecca Howdeshell became full-time Digital Projects Librarian at Bridwell Library, July 2012. She served during the previous 18 months on a part-time basis, digitizing collections in Bridwell Library Digital Collections. Rebecca has Master's degrees in Library Science and Studio Art from the University of North Texas and experience in computer software design and support.

Jesse Hunt joined the Acquisitions Department of Bridwell Library as Conservation Technician, March 2012. He is responsible for all aspects related to commercial bindery shipments as well as the repair and conservation of the library's paper-based general collections and selected special collections. Hunt



Jesse Hunt

moved to Dallas from St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked for two years as Assistant Conservator at the Richard Baker Book and Paper Conservation Studio. He also performed volunteer work at the Missouri Botanical Garden Research Library Archives and Collections.

Teresa Rosado, assistant for the Master of Sacred Music Program and Chapel Coordinator, was honored at the American Association of Certified Wedding Planners Fifth Annual "My Favorite Vendors Award," February 2012. Rosado received the "Best Ceremony Site" Award on behalf of Perkins Chapel for the second consecutive year.



Alicia Skinner

Alicia Skinner joined the office of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations February 2012, as Assistant to the Director. She previously worked at SMU in the Cox School of Business

where she held a position in marketing. Skinner also served as an assistant editor for CoxToday magazine, with responsibilities that included writing, assembling, coordinating and editing content. She has experience in event planning as well. Prior to coming to SMU, Skinner was Communications Manager for SPCA of Texas and was an account executive for TracyLocke. She earned a B.A. in Journalism from SMU, with minors in Photography and Spanish.

Daniel J. Slive, Head of Special Collections at Bridwell Library, has contributed a chapter to *Guide to Security Considerations and Practices for Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Libraries*, published by the American Library Association. It is the first such book intended specifically to address security in special collection libraries. Slive is a member of the Association of College and Resource Libraries Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

Christine Willard, Reference and Digital Services Librarian at Bridwell Library, was named SMU Library Employee of the Year for 2011. Christine's exemplary leadership in helping to redesign the Bridwell Library website as well as her exceptional spirit of service to students and the public were noted by those in the Bridwell community who nominated her for the award. Additionally, Willard was chosen by the Perkins Community Life Committee to receive the Warren P. Nettles Award. It is awarded annually to a staff member whose contributions to the Perkins community best exemplify the dedication of Ms. Nettles, a former Perkins staff member.

STUDENT NEWS



Brian Hehn (with drum) beside Professor Hawn and other M.S.M. students in Perkins Chapel

MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC STUDENTS/ALUMS FOLLOW PROFESSOR'S EXAMPLE

Students in the Master of Sacred Music program have been following the example of a Perkins professor in an exemplary fashion.

C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and director of the Master of Sacred Music Program, is a regular "History of Hymns" columnist for the United Methodist Reporter.

In that spirit, a number of recent alumni/ae published articles on the history of hymns in the United Methodist Reporter while completing their final year in the Master of Sacred Music program.

Kristen Hanna (SMU B.M.'09, M.S.M.'12) wrote about Ruth Duck's "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" (October 19, 2011), and explored the background of the Christmas hymn, "Once in Royal David's City," by Cecil Frances Alexander and Henry John Gauntlett (December 22, 2011). **Brian Hehn** (M.S.M.'12) wrote articles about Sir Robert Grant's hymn, "O Worship the King" (July 12, 2011), and "Heal me, Hands of Jesus," by English church musician Michael Perry (June 16, 2011). **Irene Ting-Ting Lai** (M.S.M.'12) wrote a column revealing the motive for the composition of Fred Kaan's hymn, "We Utter Our Cry" (October 11, 2011), and a column about the struggle with a confining illness that contributed to Charlotte Elliott's composition of "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" (July 27, 2011). Budi Taniwan (M.S.M.'12) wrote an essay on the background of the Charles Wesley hymn, "Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose" (November 15, 2011). Renée N. Boone (SMU B.M.'04, M.S.M.'08), another Perkins alumna, also contributed a recent column about Shirley Erena Murray's hymn, "Come and Find the Quiet Center." 🏛️



C. Michael Hawn

The Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) degree program is jointly sponsored by Perkins School of Theology and the Division of Music of Meadows School of the Arts for the preparation of professional music leadership in the church and, if one chooses, ordination as deacon. Recognizing the existence of several models of professional church music leadership, this program provides a wide range of graduate-level training in performance, professional and academic skills.

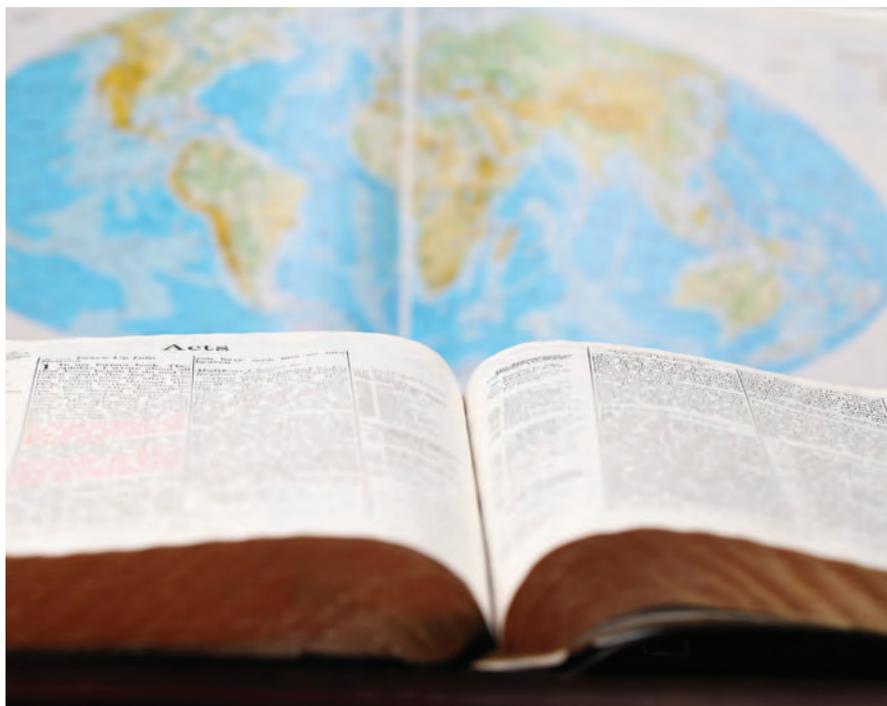
PERKINS STUDENTS RECEIVE 2012-2013 FTE MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Lacie Lincoln (second year M.Div., and the first Perkins Youth School of Theology student



to matriculate into Perkins as a Master's student) and **Jessica Williams** (second year M.Div. student) have each received a 2012-2013 Fund for Theological Education (FTE) Ministry Fellowship. FTE Ministry Fellowships are awarded to select seminary students in the second year of a Master of Divinity program or eligible Masters student in a program oriented toward ministerial leadership. Each award includes a \$10,000 stipend for educational and living expenses and for a self-designed ministry project. Ministry Fellows also participate in the annual FTE Leaders in Ministry Conference.

"It is a very competitive process," according to Tracy Anne Allred, director of Student Services, "so we are delighted that they have been chosen. It is rare for a single institution to have two recipients." The FTE website indicates that the Fellowships are intended "to bring together a community of emerging, young pastoral leaders from an array of communities and backgrounds across the Christian spectrum. These remarkable young leaders form a leadership cohort dedicated to a life of service to the church and the world." 



Evan Jones (second year C.M.M.) has won the Walter N. Vernon Student Essay Contest sponsored by the Texas United Methodist Historical Society. In a congratulatory letter, TUMHS President William C. Hardt expressed appreciation to Jones for his work. "Your paper on Madam Volino is an important contribution to our understanding of the origins of the Methodist Mission Home," Jones added.

Samuel J. Martinez (M.T.S.'12) was named recipient of a 2011 Chalice Press Book Award during his senior year in the M.T.S. program at Perkins. The awards recognize outstanding seminarians – as determined by their respective schools – and come with a voucher allowing each recipient to select Chalice Press books for her or his personal library.

Geoffrey C. Moore (SMU B.M.'93, M.M.'03, M.Div.'10, current Ph.D. student) is the new editor of *Doxology*, a scholarly, refereed journal of the Order of St. Luke. In its 28th year, *Doxology* promotes the corporate worship of the church through scholarly research, conversation and critique. Moore is the journal's third editor, succeeding Dr. Ron Anderson (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary), who retired after a 14-year tenure.

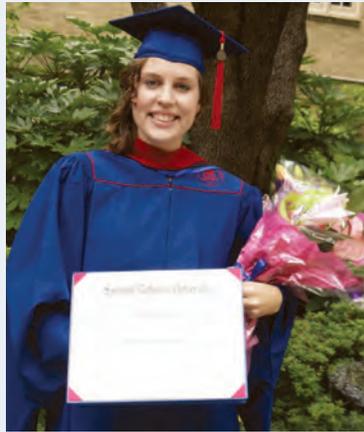
Michelle Morris (M.Div. '09, current Ph.D. student) has been named a Dempster scholar for 2012-2013. Morris also authored a February 3, 2012, article in the Arkansas edition of the *United Methodist Reporter*, about her experiences at Foundry United Methodist Church, Lowell, Arkansas.

UNFINISHED EFFECT

I first heard about Perkins School of Theology as a soon-to-be-sophomore from Oklahoma City University. I was an intern with Project Transformation, which connects urban churches in decline with their surrounding communities through children's literacy programs. Project Transformation also aims to provide opportunities for ministry exploration to the interns, and to foster a transformative experience not only for churches and communities but for the interns serving, as well.

My transformative experience with Project Transformation introduced me to Perkins School of Theology. In an article by Charles M. Wood that is required reading for all prospective Perkins students, George Burman Foster proposes that an institution which provides theological education produces an "unfinishing effect" in the students. Students of theology depart from school unfinished, growing, and aware that our personalities, including religion and theology, are continually in the process of being made.

My time at Perkins, therefore, is one adventure on my journey of becoming, albeit a truly influential adventure. Perkins has exposed me to many questions. I find myself asking: "Is the Church essential for us?" "If it's not, then what moves must we take in order to make it essential?" "Or if it is essential, how is it that the Church has become so insignificant to many within our society?" "Is there a central gospel message and is it relevant? Is it significant?" My study of theology is raising unsettling questions about the Trinity, Christology, and the doctrine of God for myself. It's also bringing to light uncertainties I have about my future and my purpose. A most frustrating and fantastic quality of theological education is that nowhere are these questions answered for you simply. If I sparked your interest with any of the questions I stated above, I'm sorry to disappoint by



Esther Grabow

not providing any answers. But consider this a taste of theological education at Perkins! Not that we don't discover answers at Perkins, but they're never simply put. They're discovered through wrestling doubt, drowning in reading assignments, and being conflicted with new concepts and reinterpretations of old understandings. Sometimes the answers seem fleeting and almost always a trail of more complex questions drag at the heels of any answer. The unfinishing effect.

I've certainly received a dose of unfinishing effect during my time at Perkins, because I'm not certain of my next step beyond graduation now. I do know I want to put my hands to good work in the world, I just don't know how, exactly, this will manifest itself. I know I will leave Perkins unfinished and, regardless of my next step beyond graduation, continue on this Journey of Becoming. I may exit Perkins with more burning questions than I had upon entering. But this unfinishing has made me accepting of the unexpected and quizzical of the unknown. Most importantly, through disciplined reflection on the Church's life and witness (and my own), which is the purpose of Perkins School of Theology, I'm ready to serve and lead the church in ministry beyond the pulpit.

In that spirit, hear this reading from the gospel and consider the unfinishing effect it may have on your own journey of becoming:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

— Luke 4:18-19

Editor's Note: Esther Grabow (M.T.S. '12.) shared these thoughts at a Fall 2011 gathering of Perkins School of Theology Executive Board members. In addition to continuing her work in Children's Ministries at Walnut Hill UMC in Dallas, Esther is now a candidate for ordination as Deacon.

CELEBRATION OF THE DEGREES AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

MAY 12, 2012 • HIGHLAND PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





MOUZON BIGGS, JR. RECEIVES 2012 PERKINS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Mouzon Biggs, Jr. has been named recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Alumni/ae Council of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. The award was presented February 6, 2012, during a dinner in Biggs' honor as part of Perkins School of Theology's Ministers Week.

The Rev. Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. has been Senior Minister at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, since September 1980. A graduate of Centenary College in Louisiana, he earned the Master of Theology degree from Perkins School of Theology in 1965. Biggs subsequently was awarded two honorary degrees: a Doctor of Divinity from Texas Wesleyan University, and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Oklahoma City University. The Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund was established at SMU in 1975 by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cloninger of Beaumont, Texas. In 2008, the Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Chair of United Methodist Studies was established at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa.

In Biggs' 32 years at Boston Avenue UMC, the church has received more than 8,300 new members, with endowments growing from \$200,000 to more than \$26 million. The 11:00 a.m. worship service, broadcast live on Tulsa's Channel 8, is the most highly-watched program in its time slot.

Biggs has addressed churches, colleges, conventions, and Chambers of Commerce across a 30-state area and has traveled in 41 countries. He is author of "Moments to Hold Close," and coauthor of the best-selling book "When you Graduate" with Dr. Charles Allen of Houston.

In addition to his responsibilities at the Boston Avenue Church, Biggs' interfaith and interracial work



Gayle and Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

have resulted in numerous awards and honors, including the Tulsa Interfaith Award; National Conference of Community and Justice Award; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Keeping the Dream Alive Award"; the Tulsa Jewish Community's "Righteous Gentile" Award; and Tulsa Rotary's "Spirit of Will Rogers Award." He is past president of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice and past president of Tulsa's Downtown Rotary Club.

His service to Perkins School of Theology and SMU includes mentoring 20 Perkins students in one-year internships and representing Perkins School of Theology and the Oklahoma Annual Conference on SMU's "Time to Lead" Capital Campaign Executive Steering Committee for five years. Additionally, Biggs has been elected by the Oklahoma Annual Conference to serve The United Methodist Church as a delegate to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference every four years for 28 years.

He and his wife, Gayle, have two sons, Trey and Jason, and six young grandchildren. 🏡



(from left) John C. Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Preaching; William B. Lawrence, Dean; Mouzon Biggs, Jr., 2012 Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, and wife Gayle; Robert E. Hayes, Jr., Bishop, Oklahoma Area UMC; Bob Long, Senior Pastor, St. Luke's UMC, Oklahoma City

The annual Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a Award recognizes one graduate of Perkins who has demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church, continuing support and involvement in the goals of Perkins School of Theology and SMU, distinguished service in the wider community, and exemplary character.

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

'50s

Rev. Dr. Ken McIntosh (SMU B.A.'50, M.Th.'52, D.Min.'78) and 1998 recipient of the Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award **Iweeta McIntosh** (SMU B.S.'51, M.L.A.'77), returned to Hong Kong in October to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Methodism in the region. The McIntoshes first went as Methodist missionaries to Hong Kong more than 50 years ago, where their ministry included providing food aid for refugees and organizing churches and schools.

Rev. Dr. David Severe (M.Th.'59), South Central Jurisdiction Director of Mission and Administration, has coauthored with Dr. Ted Agnew, *A History of the South Central Jurisdiction from 1968 - 2008* (UMR, 2012).

'60s

Dr. James G. Williams (M.Div.'62) has translated and written a new foreword for *Resurrection from the Underground: Feodor Dostoevsky* by Rene Girard. Williams is Professor *Emeritus* of Religion, Syracuse University.

'70s

Bishop James Dorff (M.Th.'72) has been named to the Southern Methodist University Board of Trustees, following Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson upon her retirement. Dorff is bishop of the San Antonio Episcopal Area.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño (M.Th.'79) Bishop of the Phoenix Episcopal Area, received the 2011 "Lives of Commitment" award from Auburn Seminary, New York City. Carcaño's work with issues surrounding discrimination, poverty and immigration reform both nationally and in Arizona were cited as examples of compassion, courage and inclusivity.

'80s

Dr. Vaughn W. Baker (M.Th.'80, D.Min.'82) received the Doctor of Theology degree at the University of South Africa, Pretoria, September 21, 2011. Vaughn later delivered a lecture, "The Relationship Between Open Theism and Missions: Divine Temporality and *Missio Dei*," to faculty and students at the UNISA School of Missions and Spirituality, and also preached at a United Reformed Church in the Township of Nazareth, in the eastern Gauteng province.

Rev. John Thornburg (M.Th.'81), director of A Ministry of Congregational Singing, served as coordinator for Liturgical Leaders and Morning Prayer at General Conference 2012.

Rev. Dr. Sheron Patterson (M.T.S.'83, M.Div.'89, D.Min.'96), has released her eighth book, *The Blessings and Bling: How Faith and Fashion Helped Me Survive Breast Cancer*. The book offers Patterson's personal insights into the power of fashion and "bling" to help others fighting cancer re-frame their situation and find courage.

Dr. R. Jeremiah Booker (M.Div.'86) is recipient of the 2011 "Sermon of the Year" award by Epitome Magazine. Booker is Senior Pastor of Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, Dallas.

Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan (M.T.S.'86) has been installed as dean of the Drew University Theological School. In his installation address, Kuan, the first Asian American to lead a United Methodist theological seminary, shares his hopes that "Drew will increasingly become more global in its orientation ... to explore together what progressive Christianity and progressive religion can look like in a global context."

Rev. Dr. Beth Cooper (M.S.M.'89, M.Div.'92) has published *Under the Stained Glass Ceiling: Sexual Harassment of United Methodist Clergywomen*. The book, which entailed more than 10 years of research by Cooper, looks at sexual harassment from various disciplines including women's studies, law, history, and United Methodist polity and doctrine.

'90s

Rev. Alex Joyner (M.Div.'91), a member of the Virginia Annual Conference and pastor of Franktown (Virginia) UMC, has authored two books for Abingdon Press – *Hard Times Come Again No More: Suffering and Hope*, a six-week study on how to maintain hope during times of suffering; and *Call Him God's Son: An Advent Study*.

Rev. J. Kabamba Kiboko (M.T.S.'91), the first woman ordained in the Southern Congo Annual Conference in Africa, was elected from the floor of 2012 General Conference to fill one of two open clergy positions on the Judicial Council. Kiboko also was recently elected president of African Clergywomen.

Rev. Timothy Smith (M.Div.'91), pastor of Gretna (Louisiana) UMC, has helped provide scholarships for students of a village school in La Tremblay, Haiti, where Smith had worked on an eight-day mission with other United Methodist volunteers to help rebuild a church devastated by the January 2010 earthquake. After sharing the need with members of his congregation, "Committed," the worship band from Gretna UMC, held a concert to raise money for scholarships.

Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (SMU M.M.'71, M.Div.'93, D.Min.'05), was featured in a November 4, 2011, article in the United Methodist Reporter about the challenges facing recently retired pastors. Rev. Holbert

reflected about working through a deliberate process of discernment before making the decision to retire.



(from right) Chaplain (Maj.) Jeff S. Matsler, wife Michelle, daughter Mary Elizabeth and son Charles Taylor

Chaplain Jeff S. Matsler (M.Div.'93), an elder in the Northwest Texas Conference, was promoted February 5, 2012, to the rank of Major, at Womack Army Medical Facility (WAMC), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Concurrent with his assignment as Clinician Chaplain at Womack, Matsler is a graduate student at Duke University, studying war's effect on society in general, the effects of PTSD on soldiers, and the church's role in restoration. Matsler entered the active duty Army Chaplaincy in 1996 and, after being medically retired in 2000, rehabilitated his injury and reentered ministry to soldiers in 2007.

Dr. Ellen Blue (M.Div.'95) has published *St. Mark's and the Social Gospel: Methodist Women and Civil Rights in New Orleans, 1895-1965* (University of Tennessee Press, 2011). The book looks at St. Mark's UMC, and particularly the role played by women

(especially deaconesses), as the New Orleans church confronted social issues through the rise of the social gospel movement and into the modern civil rights era. Blue, an elder in the Louisiana Annual Conference, is Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies, at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Swee Hong Lim (M.S.M.'95), assistant professor of Church Music at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, was chairperson of the worship and liturgy committee of the 2011 World Methodist Council and Conference in Durban, South Africa. Lim enlisted the help of his teacher **C. Michael Hawn**, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at Perkins, who also attended the Conference. Lim also served on the worship committee for the 2011 International Ecumenical

Peace Convocation of the World Council of Churches and is co-moderator for the worship committee of the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2013.

Rev. Dr. David F. Watson, III (M.Div.'97, Ph.D.'05) has been installed as Academic Dean of United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. An ordained elder in the West Ohio Conference UMC, Watson also serves as associate professor of New Testament.

'00s

Matthew Crownover (M.Div.'01) was featured in a June 25, 2012, Dallas Morning News article, "Hospital chaplain discovers 'spiritual awakening' as a long-distance trail runner." Crownover is a chaplain at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital.

FROM THE MAILBAG...

I write today to express how proud I am to be an alumnus of Perkins School of Theology. What goes along with my just concluded statement is that after reading the Summer 2011 issue of *Perspective* many thoughts came to my mind. Things that I had taken for granted while attending Perkins and for years afterward came to life for me as I read about two of my former professors (Marjorie Procter-Smith and Charles M. Wood) retiring and then reading about former professors who were remembered in their passing. This edition of *Perspective* (Summer 2011) was one of the best ones you have ever produced and I want to commend all that were part of this issue.

Reading about what is occurring today and in the past made me realize that the decision I made to attend Perkins was the right one. Along with that I am even more dedicated to seeing that others who might be looking for a theological education consider Perkins School of Theology. Please keep up the good work in future editions of your publication.

Your brother in Christ,
Louie Lyon (M.Div.'86)

Louie Lyon is Senior Pastor of Lakeview UMC in Sun City, Arizona.

Your comments, compliments, or concerns are welcome. Send them to perspective@smu.edu, or mail to *Perspective*, Perkins School of Theology, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133.

Rev. Jay Cole (M.Div.'02), executive director of Crossroads Community Services, a ministry of First United Methodist Church, Dallas, was featured in the North Texas Conference Reporter in a January 2012 article about CCS. In partnership with the North Texas Food Bank, CCS has begun a new program to provide a substantial and dependable supply of food for food-insecure areas of Dallas County.

Rev. Owen Ross (M.Div.'02) was featured in the December 23, 2011, edition of the United Methodist Reporter, in a story celebrating the construction of a new building for Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission congregation in Dallas. Ross and Christ's Foundry also shared an inspiring video for the June 2012 gathering of the North Texas Annual Conference.

Rev. Joseph P. Stobaugh (M.S.M.'03) has been elected by the national membership of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts as President-Elect. He will serve a two-year term as President beginning July 2013. Additionally, Stobaugh was a staff musician at the 2012 UMC General Conference. An ordained Deacon in the North Texas Conference, Stobaugh is currently Cantor/Curator of Worship and associate pastor at Argyle (Texas) UMC.

Rev. Paula J. Behrens (M.Div.'04) has published *Thinking of Him* (2011). Designed for small groups or individuals desiring to deepen their understanding about God, it includes review questions at the end of each chapter as a guide for leaders and facilitators.

Rev. Dorothy Budd (M.Div.'06) has written a book with her daughter Peyton Budd. *Tested* explores the wrongful imprisonments of 12 men, their journey

through the criminal justice system and their eventual exoneration.

Rev. Molly Simpson (M.Div.'06) was featured in numerous newspapers and publications, including The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah) and The Portland Press Herald, as well as ChristianPost.com, following a March 2012 article in The Kansas City Star about a Barna Group survey relating to pastors' priorities.

Rev. Mary Balagia (M.Div.'09) was elected a trustee of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, in 2011. Balagia is an associate pastor at Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas.

Rev. Heather Spencer Clawitter (M.Div.'09) and **Rev. Ben Crismon** (M.Div.'11) are featured on The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas website as recipients of the United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholarship. Now the pastor of Bismarck United Methodist Church (Bismarck, Arkansas), Clawitter credits the ministry of the Foundation with providing her a financial base while studying at Perkins. Speaking of his appreciation for his education at Perkins, Crismon says, "I didn't have to wait until I was done with seminary to begin to apply the principles I was learning. Now in full-time ministry I constantly use the lessons cemented in real life experiences."

'10s

Rev. Sharon Alexander (SMU J.D.'90, M.Div.'10) was featured in a Nola.com article announcing her selection as full-time rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Mandeville, Louisiana. She was ordained as a priest August 6, 2011, and is the first woman to serve as rector at St. Michael's.

Christina Cavener (M.T.S.'11) authored an essay in the November 4, 2011, United Methodist Reporter, sharing her experiences with the United Methodist-sponsored orphanage Jamaa Letu in Congo. Cavener, along with **Brittany Burrows** (M.Div.'12), was instrumental in helping a Congolese orphan receive prosthetic legs through the work of the International Foundation for the Physically Disabled and Wote Pamoja Hospital, as well as the Congolese orphanage.



Rev. Ella Luna with sons Diego (l) and A.J. at 2012 Commencement

Rev. Ella Luna (M.Div.'12) was featured in a May 25, 2012, United Methodist Reporter article, "Faith Kept Seminary Grad Going." Published on the occasion of Luna's graduation, the article reported some of the challenges she had faced, including the birth of a son with a brain malformation that causes seizures, her own diagnosis with rheumatoid arthritis, and the death of her husband from colon cancer. Luna cited a passage from Lamentations, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness," as a promise that sustained her.



December 2011 Advent/Christmas Worship in Perkins Chapel

SEMINARY SINGERS REUNITE FOR 2012 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Dr. C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and director of the Sacred Music Program at Perkins, invites all Seminary Singers alumni/ae to a **Seminary Singers Reunion** in conjunction with 2012 annual Christmas services.

For more than 50 years, Perkins School of Theology has collaborated with SMU's Meadows School of the Arts to present a popular Advent/Christmas worship service. The theme for the 2012 service, "The Light Shines in the Darkness," focuses on the contrasting qualities of light and darkness in the Advent and Christmas seasons in song, scripture and prayer, highlighting places in the world where Christ's redeeming light is needed.

Alums will gather for lunch at noon, December 6, followed by a rehearsal at 1:00 p.m. Current members of Seminary Singers will join alums at 2:00 p.m. for a joint rehearsal. All Seminary Singers will share dinner, along with a "White Elephant" gift exchange, between the 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. services.

Cost for the Seminary Singers reunion is \$25, which includes two meals as well as music (music will be sent in advance). For more information or to make reservations, contact Teresa Rosado at: teresar@smu.edu or 214-768-2502. 📍

BEST PRACTICES IN MINISTRY: LIFELONG LEARNING

Gary B. MacDonald, Director of Advanced Ministerial Studies

Walk into Dallas' Joy Tabernacle and you are as likely to hear the rhythm of hip-hop reverberating from the sound system as you are the melody of spirituals and gospel hymns. Fueled by faith and a decades-long love of hip-hop, founding pastor Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters' work on the contextualization of hip-hop spirituality, or what he has come to call "hood theology," within the Perkins Doctor of Ministry program has helped make Joy the fastest-growing African Methodist Episcopal congregation in Texas and the first successful church plant in the denomination's North Texas Conference in nearly half a century.

A three-time SMU alum, Dr. Waters (B.A.'02, M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12) worked with a number of Perkins faculty members – including Dr. Harold Recinos, professor of Church and Society; Dr. Evelyn Parker, associate professor of Practical Theology; and the Rev. Zan W. Holmes, pastor *emeritus* of Dallas's St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church – to study how hood theology might revitalize worship and increase professions of faith in his ministry context.

"The work of Michael and other D.Min. students demonstrates how transformation can happen in our ministries when we faithfully integrate theology, leadership, and the practice of ministry," says Rev. Gary B. MacDonald, who directs the Doctor of Ministry program within the school's Advanced Ministerial Studies office. "We work to equip ministers, both ordained and lay, to do this kind of reflective work."

In addition to the Doctor of Ministry program, the Advanced Ministerial Studies office directs the Perkins School of Youth Ministry, Ministers Week, Perkins Theological School for the Laity and associated Lay Schools around the region, and certificate and United Methodist Certification programs in Children's

Ministry, Christian Education, Church Music, Older Adult Ministry and Youth Ministry.

Perkins' D.Min. program has experienced significant growth in the last few years, expanding its offerings to include new tracks in Preaching and Worship and in Missional Church Studies, as well as Evangelism, Parish Leadership, Spiritual Formation and Urban Ministry, and an international program in cooperation with Singapore's Trinity Theological College.

"We live in a time of dramatic transition," MacDonald says. "Given the post-Christian and global context in which the church now must operate, not to mention the fast pace of changes in technology, we work in our programs to remain focused on the core of our faith while helping pastors and laity translate that in relevant ways into their lives and ministry."

This transition is keenly felt in the design and delivery of continuing theological education for clergy. For generations, the core of that work has centered around Ministers Week each February. "The ever-expanding demands on clergy time and expertise require that we think differently about how we meet the demand for effective continuing education," says Pamela Goolsby, associate director of Continuing Education. "Ministers Week is not going to look like it used to," MacDonald adds. "Possibilities such as offering clergy continuing education



Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters

at different times, expanding to multiple offerings throughout the year, and adding online opportunities, are all on the table right now."

Current changes planned for February 2013 Ministers Week include a more compact schedule – with events hosted over the course of a day-and-a-half on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5-6, and moving lectures from the Hughes-Trigg Student Center to the Perkins campus. Additionally, Ministers Week will feature new faculty members offering theological reflection related to the nature of the church, pastoral ministry, and preaching and worship. For more information about Ministers Week, contact the office of Advanced Ministerial Studies, 214.768.2124, AdvanceMinistry@smu.edu.

MEMORIAMs

Rev. Roy D. Barton

Founding Director, Mexican American Program
Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumnus '91



Rev. Roy D. Barton (B.D.'57)

Rev. Dr. Roy D. Barton died October 18, 2011, at the age of 84. In addition to serving as associate professor of Practical Theology, Barton led the Perkins School of Theology Mexican American Program as founding director from 1974 to 1995. He received the Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991. Since 1996, Ministers Week at Perkins

has included the Roy D. Barton Lectureship on Hispanic Ministry in honor of his leadership.

Dean William B. Lawrence praised Barton's "deeply effective and widely respected witness for Methodism within and on behalf of Spanish language congregations, including most especially those in the Rio Grande Annual Conference." Writing about Barton's leadership at Perkins for the March 9, 2012, edition of *The Rio Grande Record*, Bishop Joel N. Martinez (retired) described Barton as one of the "pivotal figures" in Rio Grande Conference leadership from the 1960s through the 1990s. "He worked tirelessly and collaboratively with administration and faculty to offer study and ministry opportunity, especially to Hispanic students," Martinez wrote, noting that Barton

"was effective in attracting a large number of Hispanic scholars and leaders to Perkins."

Prior to serving at Perkins, Barton served for many years in the Rio Grande Conference UMC, where his appointments included Mesquite, New Mexico, Kenedy, Harlingen, Rio Grande City, and Edinburg. He also served in the Rio Grande Conference office, first as Secretary of Education and later as the first Conference Director of the Council on Ministries.

In addition to representing the Rio Grande Conference as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, Barton's service to the UMC included membership on the General Board of Global Ministries, the Junta Consultiva de Comunicaciones of the Commission on Communications, the Editorial Board of "Lecciones Cristianas," the Methodist Urban service Training Board, Secretary of the National Board of MARCHA, the editorial committee of "Himnario Metodista," and the Hispanic Study Committee for the 1988-1992 quadrennium.

Barton was born April 10, 1927 in Marfa, Texas. He married Rosa Marina Bolado in 1952. After serving in the Marine Corps, he received a B.A. from Trinity University in 1954, followed by a B.D. from Perkins in 1957. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Huston-Tillotson University in 1972.

'30s

Rev. Bruno Schmidt (M.Th.'35) died April 14, 2011, three months after his 100th birthday. He was the oldest clergy member of the Southwest Texas Conference at the time of his death. Schmidt served as chaplain at Southwestern University from 1944 to 1946. After graduate study at Drew University, he returned to Texas in 1951, where he served numerous congregations. He became associate pastor at First UMC, Austin, in 1964, retiring from the Conference in 1979 and continuing his duties as pastor *emeritus*. In 2008, an endowment to help

start new congregations in the Southwest Texas Conference was funded from the sale of land given by Rev. Schmidt to the Texas Methodist Foundation.

'40s

Rev. Roy C. Rowlan (M.Div.'40), age 96, died November 27, 2011. Rowlan was licensed to preach in Clinton, Oklahoma, in 1938, the same year he graduated as valedictorian from Canute Schools. After earning the M.Div. at Perkins he went on to earn an M.A. from SMU in 1941. He and his family served 15 different church communities during his 48 year career. He

was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Oklahoma City University and was inducted into the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Rev. Vernon Charles Stutzman (M.Th.'43), died August 10, 2011. After completing his education at Perkins, he continued his studies at Columbia University, School of Hospital Administration, New York. He was ordained in the North Texas Conference, later transferring to the New York Conference. Following his work at Columbia, he became assistant director of the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn,

New York; administrator of Staten Island Hospital, New York; and CEO of the New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, for 22 years. Rev. Stutzman served as the Protestant Chaplain at D.C. General Hospital in Washington, D.C. Following his retirement to Rutherfordton, he co-founded the Rutherfordton Habitat for Humanity and was instrumental in development of the city's Recreation Trust Fund.

'50s

Rev. Lee Alvin Bedford, Jr. (M. Th.'52), age 83, died September 30, 2011. An ordained elder in the North Texas Conference, Bedford earned a B.A. ('50) from SMU as well as his M.Th. ('52) from Perkins. While attending seminary, he was a professional square dance caller and had a #1 bestselling record in Texas on RCA. During his 60 years of ministry, Bedford pastored numerous churches and was founding pastor of Casa Linda UMC, which grew to 1,800 members under his leadership. He served as Chaplain for the Texas Air National Guard and the Dallas Police Department as well as Director of Evangelism for the North Texas Conference. A mentor for many young ministers, he made evangelistic trips to Pakistan and Korea and worked with World Vision International in India.

Rev. Dr. John Leslie Davis (M. Th.'59), died November 5, 2011, in Minnesota. Davis pastored congregations in Montana and Colorado and counseled seminary students at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. He was director of the North Central Career Development Center in New Brighton, Minnesota, from 1976 until his retirement in 1996.

Rev. Charles E. Dennis (M. Div.'55), 80, died July 15, 2011, at his home in Fullerton, California. A United Methodist minister for 44 years, he served numerous congregations in the California-Pacific Conference and spent

Alonzo Monk Bryan

United Methodist Bishop (retired)
Perkins Alumnus (M. Th.'38)

Bishop Alonzo Monk Bryan died August 20, 2011 in Dallas, Texas, at age 97. Bryan was elected to the episcopacy from the South Central Jurisdiction in 1976, and served the Nebraska Area UMC until his retirement in 1984.

A UMTV Father's Day feature for June 2003 noted that at least one member of the Bryan family has served as a pastor for seven generations.

A graduate of Weatherford College, Baylor University and Perkins School of Theology (M. Th.'38), he pursued additional studies at Drew University and Iliff School of Theology. After being ordained in the St. Louis (now Missouri East) Annual Conference in 1939, Bryan served the Boyce Circuit in the Central Texas Conference; St. Luke's in St. Louis (as organizing pastor); Centenary in Bonne Terre; Maryville (Missouri West Conference); and Missouri United Methodist Church, Columbia, Missouri. Prior to his election as Bishop, Bryan served as a delegate to the General Conference (1956-1976) and to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference (1952-1976). Beginning in 1951, he was an active member of the World Methodist Council. He also served on the General Conference Structure Study Commission 1968-72, and took a special interest in education, social concerns, and Wesley studies.

Bryan was a faithful supporter of Perkins School of Theology and Southern Methodist University. A memorial service honoring Bishop Bryan was held August 24, 2011, at First United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Bryan was born in Blooming Grove, Texas, July 25, 1914, to United Methodist minister Gideon and Era Monk Bryan. In 1941, he married Corneille Downer of Waco, Texas. A son, the Rev. Jim Bryan, and grandson, the Rev. Andy Bryan, also became United Methodist ministers. In 1992, after Corneille Bryan's death in 1989, Bryan married Twila Stowe, widow of Bishop William McFerrin Stowe. Also a faithful supporter of Perkins School of Theology, Twila was honored guest at the Master of Sacred Music Program's 50th anniversary celebration in 2010 (see Summer 2011 issue of *Perspective*).



Twila Farrell Stowe Bryan and
Bishop Monk Bryan
(photo courtesy of Council of Bishops,
via United Methodist News Service)

three years as a U.S. Air Force Chaplain with assignments in Texas, Ohio, Japan, and Georgia.

Rev. Withers McAlister Moore (B. Div.'51), 84, died March 23, 2011. A fifth generation Methodist minister, he was an elder in the Little Rock Conference. During his 27 year career in the U.S. Navy Chaplain corps, Moore served aboard the USS Little Rock, as staff chaplain for the Commander-In-Chief of U.S. Naval European Forces and as the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Chaplain. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1975 and oversaw the worldwide ministry of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps. His final military assignment was as Deputy Chief of Chaplains in Washington, D.C. After retirement, Rev. Moore was appointed pastor of First UMC, Des Arc, Arkansas, from 1982 until 1988.

W. Sidney Roberts (M.Th.'53), 87, died October 15, 2011. Roberts was honored by Texas Wesleyan with an honorary D.D. in 1968 and with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1977. A Methodist minister for more than 60 years, he pastored numerous churches and also served as administrative assistant to the bishop for seven years, district superintendent for the Fort Worth East and Fort Worth West districts for five years each, and as conference director of finance and administration for six years.

Dr. Jack Wright Shoultz (M.Th.'52), 85, died November 6, 2011, in Tyler, Texas. An elder in the Texas Conference, he served churches in East Texas and Gulf Coast regions. He was also a rancher and a member of the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

'60s

Rev. Dois M. Kennedy (M.Th.'62), 77, died May 28, 2011, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Kennedy graduated from Hendricks College and was a retired elder in the Arkansas Conference. After pastoring several churches in the conference, he served as pastor of Goddard UMC for 21 years. During this time, Goddard received the Large Church of the Year award in 1975 and 1976. He was recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism and chaplain for the Area Agency on Aging Hospice Program, as well as working with the AIDS Support group, Community Rescue Mission, Board of Advisory Trustees at Sparks Hospital in Ft. Smith and Ft. Smith Police Department Care Team.

Rev. Lawrence D. "Larry" Ravert (M.R.E.'63), 79, died June 15, 2012, at his home in Dallas. Ravert served under appointment for more than 50 years. He was a 33rd Degree Mason, active in Scottish Rite, York Rite, Hella Temple, and Edwin J. Kiest Lodge. Larry and his wife Carol Ann were especially proud to see their granddaughter, Brittany Burrows (C.M.M.'12), graduate from Perkins.

'70s

Rev. John Newman Williams (M.Th.'75), 62, died at home September 18, 2011. He pastored numerous congregations after being ordained elder in the Louisiana Conference in 1976. Williams served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and on the Committee for Christian Unity and Interreligious Unity.

'80s



Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Sinnah-Yovonie

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Sinnah-Yovonie (M.Th.'80) died June 30, 2012, in a car accident in Sierra Leone. He was elected paramount chief of Kamajei Chiefdom in the Moyamba District of Sierra Leone in 2005, and subsequently represented all the paramount chiefs of Moyamba District in the Sierra Leone parliament. He also served as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee to counsel war victims and was a lecturer at Njala University, Bo Campus, in the Department of Teacher Education.

'90s

Rev. Pamela Stevenson Besser (M.R.E.'91), 50, died December 25, 2011. Ordained deacon in full connection with the Texas Conference in 1998, she served numerous congregations, most recently as associate pastor and director of Children's Ministries at Wesley UMC in Beaumont, Texas. She is survived by her husband, **Rev. Robert Besser** (M. Div.'92), senior pastor of Wesley UMC, and son Barrett.

Rev. Barbara K. Wordinger (M. Div.'92), age 69, died July 6, 2011, following complications after surgery. Rev. Wordinger began her ministry on the staff of First UMC, Fort Worth. She pastored several churches in the Central Texas Conference, including service as senior pastor at First UMC in Palo Pinto/Graford and Bethel UMC in Fort Worth. Wordinger retired from Westcliff UMC, Fort Worth.

'00s

Jason Blakey (B.B.A.'96, Perkins student '06-'07) died May 21, 2011, in North Richland Hills, Texas. A memorial service was held on May 26 at Highland Park UMC, Dallas.



Diane Elizabeth Guckert Connolly

Diane Elizabeth Guckert Connolly (M.Th.'06), 49, died March 21, 2011. In 2006, Connolly shared these reflections with readers of The Dallas Morning News following her diagnosis with breast cancer the previous year:

“Breast cancer has taught me a new kind of power play, where weakness is transformed into strength and despair into hope. Cancer journeys are short on certainties and happy endings. But they also teem with moments when the interplay of power and powerlessness reveals the depth of kindness and caring in a world that too often seems cruel or unjust.” Her career at The Dallas Morning News culminated in her service as editor of the Religion Section from 1998-2001. Each year during her tenure, the Religion Newswriters Association named the Religion section best in the country. After leaving The Dallas Morning News in 2001 to spend more time with her daughters, she became founding editor of ReligionLink.org. The Texas flag in front of The Dallas Morning News flew half-staff March 23 in her memory.

Rev. Marisa McNeil Rozdilsky

(M.Div.'04), 49, of Macomb, Illinois, died April 6, 2011. She and her family, including

husband Jack, expressed gratitude for the numerous prayers, cards and expressions of concern they received from the Perkins community during her final weeks.

'10s

D'Anna Chance (M.Div.'11) died October 14, 2011, in an automobile accident. A memorial service was held October 29 at Cathedral of Hope, Dallas.

Faculty/Staff



Dr. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz (center) at Perkins in 2009, with David Maldonado (l) and Dean William B. Lawrence

Dr. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, visiting scholar in 2009 under the auspices of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins, died May 13, 2012. She was professor *emerita* at Drew University at the time of her death. David Maldonado, former director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, praised Isasi-Diaz' impact. “Ada Maria was a true scholar as well as a humble person who always took time to connect at our human level. Her passion for justice is unsurpassed and her love for her community is an inspiration for all of us.”

Gladys Mollet, retired Perkins staff member, died January 17, 2012. From 1967 to 1986, she served as secretary to the pastoral care and community life offices as well as secretary to the faculty, with additional responsibilities relating to the chapel.



Jan Sobota

Jan Sobota, on staff at Bridwell Library from 1989-1997, and Bridwell's first Conservator, died May 2, 2012, at his home in the Czech Republic. The Bridwell staff honored Sobota's memory during the Helen Warren DeGolyer Triennial Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding, a competition and conference that Sobota helped originate. Two memorial cases honoring his work were displayed in Bridwell Library's Blue Room through July 14.



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