

# Vantage

SUMMER 2003

## Columbia confers degrees on 117 students

ON THE EVE of Columbia's 2003 commencement ceremony, Cleophus LaRue told graduates that the only thing certain in ministry is that whatever comes, they will be able to say, "The Lord stood by me and gave me strength." LaRue, professor of homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary, preached on 2 Timothy 4:1-18, encouraging students to follow Paul's example in staying the course of a life in service of the Gospel.

On Saturday, May 17, at Atlanta's Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Columbia recognized the completion of an important step along that course for its graduates: 49 Master of Divinity,

five Master of Arts (Theological Studies), nine Master of Theology, 53 Doctor of Ministry, and one Doctor of Theology.

As part of the ceremony, a number of awards were presented. MaryAnn McKibben Dana received the Wilds Book Prize, given to the M.Div. student graduating with highest academic distinction. She was also awarded the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of St. Andrew Preaching Award, given to the student who preaches the most outstanding sermon at Columbia during the academic year.

David Knauert was awarded the Harvard A. Anderson Fellowship, which recognizes the student demon-



*M.Div. graduates Mary Ann McKibben Dana, David Knauert, and Shelia Council were among those receiving special recognition at Columbia's 2003 commencement.*



*The first graduating class of the D.Min. program in new church development celebrated at commencement. The graduates represented the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, and the Church of Scotland. They are: front row (l-r) Martin Nabor and Fred Drummond. Second row: Fyfe Blair, director Stan Wood, Doug Cushing, Craig Williams. Third row: David Boumgarden, Andrew Ritchie, David Ezekiel.*

strating the most potential for future academic study, as well as the Dewitz Old Testament Award for the best Old Testament exegesis paper.

Shelia Council received the Columbia Leadership Award, given to a senior demonstrating uncommon potential for outstanding leadership in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Jeff Ross received the George and Sally Telford Award, given to a D.Min. student demonstrating exceptional ability for congregational leadership in the area of social justice.

The Toms-McGarrahan Award in Theology was given to Michael Kirby. The new award honors the Rev. Russell Toms '51 and his daughter, the Rev. Eunice McGarrahan, and recognizes outstanding achievement in theological studies. The Florrie Wilkes Sanders Prize in Theology, for

the paper best demonstrating sound theological scholarship relevant to the needs of Christians in the contemporary world, went to Jim Wells.

The William Dudley Award in evangelism and church growth was presented to Thomas Daniel and Barnabas Sprinkle. The Fuhrmann Prize, recognizing outstanding achievement in church history, went to Rebekah Close LeMon.

The Riddle Book Fund Award, given to a student demonstrating outstanding skills in pastoral care, particularly with the terminally ill, was awarded to Sarah Erickson. The Boyd Book Fund Awards, for students thought to be good stewards of personal theological libraries, were given to Ken Sikes, Elizabeth Goodrich, and Scott White.

The Columbia Friendship Circle  
*Continued on page 5*

## Columbia launches Partners in Ministry

ON MAY 21 more than 400 friends of Columbia Seminary gathered for breakfast at the Atlanta History Center to help launch Partners in Ministry, a new initiative to raise awareness of the seminary and to encourage multi-year gifts for its students and programs. Shelia Council and Thomas Daniel, both 2003 graduates, were featured speakers at the event.

Council, the recipient of the 2003 Columbia Leadership Award, told those gathered, "It takes a whole com-

munity to prepare God's servants for ministry." At Columbia her own faith had "expanded to help proclaim the mission—the message—of the Good News to the rest of the world."

Daniel, who was presented with the William Dudley Award in evangelism and church growth, described the revolutionary role young pastors can play within the overall mission of the church. He believes the seminary plays an important role in encouraging new ministers to know the transforma-

tional power of the Gospel firsthand. According to Daniel, such transformation is one way the church can continue to find "new and creative ways to proclaim the Gospel for each new generation." He says, "I am excited by the possibilities for tomorrow's church."

President Laura Mendenhall reminded listeners that Columbia and the church share in the task of preparing pastors for ministry. She called on those present to speak personally with individuals who may be gifted for

ministry, encouraging them to explore the possibility of God's call to seminary. She also spoke of the importance of supporting those students financially and encouraged those gathered to pray for the the seminary and the church.

Fifty-eight individuals and couples attending the event pledged to become Partners in Ministry by making multi-year pledges to Columbia's Annual Fund. Their gifts will provide the Fund with more than \$135,000 per year through 2008. □

# Brueggemann: scholar and poet

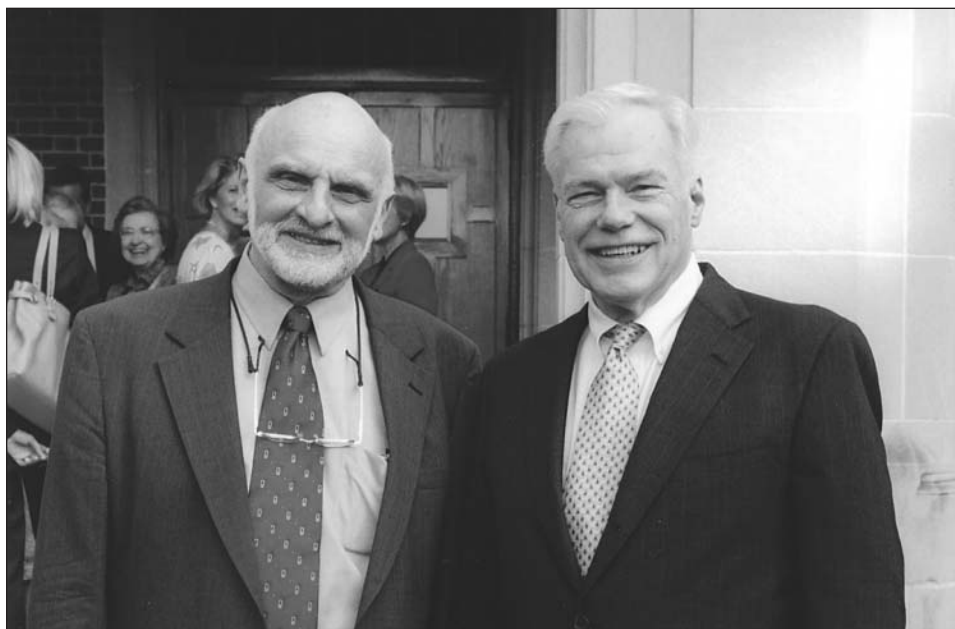
WHEN JOHN CLAYPOOL introduced Prof. Walter Brueggemann at a public lecture on preaching at the McAfee School of Theology this spring, he said, “Walter Brueggemann can tame the untamable. He can explain the inexplicable, and he can unscrew the inscrutable.”

Claypool’s language is quintessentially Brueggemannesque—three parallel clauses, strong verbs, wordplay, echoing, and a surprise twist at the end. But as lovely as the language is, and as appropriate as it is for this poet-preacher scholar-teacher, it is not fully accurate. Rather than taming and explaining, Prof. Brueggemann relishes wildness. His work points to and insists upon the untamable, inscrutable Otherness that infuses the Bible and characterizes its God.

Walter Brueggemann is a poet of the wild freedom of God. His words push away from a domesticated deity—the one who preserves things as they are and defends our way of life—toward the transcendent Other—the one who frees slaves from bondage and calls them to a life of justice, mutual reverence, and worship.

Prof. Brueggemann reflects profoundly upon the untamability of God in his *magnum opus*, entitled *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. This richly poetic, personal book is a *tour de force*. It has unseated dominant Old Testament theologies of the last century. It is a many-voiced conversation with the Old Testament, with plural methods of interpretation, and most remarkably, also with a variety of other disciplines, including linguistics, literary criticism, postmodern philosophy, Holocaust testimonies, Marxist and Freudian analyses, to name only some. He first writes about God, constant and sustaining, knowable and available, faithful and present. But despite the comforting predominance of biblical testimony to God’s fidelity, Prof. Brueggemann demands we take with equal seriousness testimony to God’s ambiguity, hiddenness, silence, frightening anger, and abusive attacks on God’s own people. He requires us to see how the text itself disputes God’s character and refuses closure. He demands that we keep this inner biblical turmoil alive rather than silence it, so the entire canon can be available to the churches in times of need.

If Prof. Brueggemann does not flatten biblical speech about God, neither does he shrink from the inscrutability of the human spirit in all its sin, hurt, and loss. He is a poet of the wounded world. He dives into the thick, earthy mess of our humanity, and invites us to follow, to face the dread and vulnerability of our lives, individually and collectively, to express them through biblical texts and turn them into prayer. His courage and honesty about brokenness give his work a daring intimacy, a fierce tenderness, with the power to show us



Professors Brueggemann and Cousar have taught at Columbia for a combined 60 years.

## Funds established to honor Brueggemann and Cousar

COLUMBIA SEMINARY HAS announced the establishment of two funds in honor of retiring faculty members Walter Brueggemann and Charles Cousar '58. Brueggemann joined the faculty as professor of Old Testament in 1986 and was named William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament in 1993. Cousar joined the New Testament faculty in 1960 and was named Samuel A. Cartledge Professor of New Testament in 1970. Both professors have served the seminary with excellence and dedication and have been instrumental in preparing generations of pastors for service to the church.

The Walter Brueggemann Fund for Faculty Development was established in Professor Brueggemann’s honor by his sons, Jim and John, and their families in recognition of his commitment to his faculty colleagues and his support of quality scholarship. The fund will provide resources for the continued professional development of the current faculty, as well as enhancing Columbia’s ability to attract the most highly qualified candidates for future positions. The fund will provide research assistance to support the faculty in producing cutting-edge scholarship for the church while maintaining its commitment to the students in the classroom. In the mold

of Brueggemann, the fund will also support the faculty’s commitment to ministry and teaching in local churches. The Charles Blanton Cousar Scholarship Fund has been established by Deedy and Burt Cousar, Charles’s sister-in-law and oldest brother, along with friends of the seminary. In recognition of Cousar’s longtime commitment to preparing Columbia students for ministry, the Cousar Scholarship Fund will provide support for students in the seminary’s Master of Divinity Program. It represents the seminary’s commitment to providing a quality, affordable education to future pastors, so they may be unencumbered by debt in responding to God’s call to serve the church. By supporting students as they pursue academic excellence in preparation for ministry, the fund will continue Cousar’s 43-year commitment to teaching for the church well into the future.

The seminary is grateful to the many alumni/ae and friends who have contributed to these funds. All who wish to honor these two cherished members of Columbia’s faculty by supporting the seminary’s mission to the church are invited to contribute to one or both of these funds. For more information or to donate to either fund, contact Neely Young at 404 687-4671 or [youngn@CTSnet.edu](mailto:youngn@CTSnet.edu). □

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ourselves. This is why he is a pastor’s pastor. He writes and speaks for the church, for those who doubt, those who rage, and those who yearn for healing. Like the psalmist, his work passes through sorrow, lingers there, and begs us to linger with him, eyes and hearts open to our pain and to the pain of the world, and there in the wounds to find humility, to be made ready for new life, to join with the afflicted, and ultimately to be claimed by Christ crucified.

Prof. Brueggemann’s work—his writing, his teaching, his preaching—uncovers in these essentially Jewish texts a flow of life familiar to Christians, from seasons when life is stable and questions few, to times of loss, anger, and confusion, to the surprising days when healing, thanksgiving, and life break in afresh and tears are turned into laughter.

Prof. Brueggemann’s poetry of human hurt and of God’s wild freedom converge and propel him toward doxology. Walter Brueggemann is a poet of praise, a singer of God’s glory. Praise, he says, “is the duty and

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## Cousar '58: a Columbia saint

WE PROTESTANTS DO not have a formal process for identifying our saints. Our informal process may be that point in time when people cannot talk about a community—be it church or seminary—without also telling stories about particular people whose lives reflect the grace of God. I am not certain when it happened, but at some point during the last 43 years Charlie Cousar became one of the “saints,” one of that great cloud of witnesses people think of when they say “Columbia Theological Seminary.” Like God’s grace, Cousar stories abound here. Stories like the one about when Charlie was spending too much time—in Betty’s judgment—in the library, and she rearranged his books by color and size. Or the one about when his son Bill drove a golf ball through the Tiffany window in Campbell Library.

Since he joined the faculty in 1960, Charlie has served the seminary in many roles, including academic dean and interim president. But throughout his 43 years Charlie has always been a professor—a teacher—and he has taught the rest of us many things.

First, Charlie has taught us that the New Testament is not simply a description of the historical context and social world of churches in the first century. For Charlie, the New Testament is first and foremost a theological book, a book about God and God’s grace in Jesus Christ. When we read Charlie’s books, we learn a great deal about the Apostle Paul and the circumstances in which he wrote his letters. For Charlie, however, the central issue in Paul’s letters is God. “The point is that Paul interprets the event of the cross *theo*-logically. His Christology makes it possible to see Jesus’ action” (*A Theology of the Cross*, 27). The lesson Charlie has taught us is that in the midst of all the things that concern us at Columbia, the most important, the pearl of great price, is the good news in the Bible about God.

Second, Charlie has taught us that the Bible is the church’s book. We cannot properly read and understand the Bible apart from the life of the church. Both in what he writes and in what he does as a teacher, Charlie makes it clear that the New Testament is written by the church, for the church, and is to be lived by the church in its mission in the world. That the Bible is the church’s book does not mean that the New Testament is captive to either the church or the culture that surrounds it. In the Bible’s stories about Israel and Jesus, the church is given a memory and, as Charlie puts it, “In the face of domestication by its surrounding culture, the church will never discover who it is until it recovers and reappropriates that memory in its urgency and energy” (*A Theology of the Cross*, 178).

Third, Charlie has taught us that just as the Bible must not be separated from the life of the church, so too the

*Continued on page 3*

Brueggemann  
continued from page 2

delight, the ultimate vocation of the human community; indeed of all creation. Praise is human delight because we have a resilient hunger to move beyond self."

It appears to me that Walter's work is an act of worship, a steady, continual prayer, a beautiful doxology, grounded in his humanity. It is worship marked by fidelity to his own brilliant, blazing gifts—despite resistance, despite opposition, despite fatigue, and always driven by radical openness to grace. Amazingly, one can barely find anything written today in biblical studies in which Walter Brueggemann is not cited, referenced, quoted, challenged, or applauded. He has not merely contributed to biblical studies, he has fundamentally shaped the field. Nor can one escape his influence in other disciplines even beyond the theological. One can be reading along, perfectly innocently, perusing something on poetry or politics, and there he is lurking in the paragraphs.

Walter has no successor—no one person can wear his mantle—but he does have a whole new generation of colleagues and students who will study, embrace, and extend his work. I dare to speak on behalf of biblical scholars, churches, pastors, our colleagues, and our students, to say, "Thank you, Walter. Your texts will long linger, and your words—your hauntingly beautiful words—will continue to explode in ways perhaps even you cannot yet imagine! Thanks be to God." □

Kathleen M. O'Connor  
Professor of Old Testament

Cousar  
continued from page 2

church is the very lifeblood of what happens at Columbia. As I think about his ministry here, I cannot help but wonder: how many sermons in how many churches, how many Sunday School classes, how many church night suppers, how many lectures for presbyteries? What Charlie has done and continues to do in the life of the church has never been separate from what he does in the classroom. The one deeply informs the other, and neither has been merely a job. Both are a single calling.

Finally, Charlie has taught us what it means to love an institution. To know Charlie and all that he has done for this seminary is to understand, at least in part, how much he loves this place. But Charlie has also taught us that to love this institution is not to preserve it as we have known it, to try to keep it from changing. Rather, to love it is to want it to change, to grow, to become something better, to be reformed and transformed by God's Word. For Charlie that has meant welcoming new faculty, administrators, and staff, valuing their new voices, placing them on important committees, allowing the seminary to be changed by their presence, and embracing those changes.

Forty-three years is a long time to do anything. For 43 years Charlie Cousar has been a teacher, not only of students in classrooms, but of the rest of us as well. A teacher in perhaps more ways than he understands, and certainly in more ways than I have indicated here. Along with many students, colleagues past and present, and the rest of the church, I give thanks to God for Charlie's long and fruitful ministry at Columbia Seminary. □

George W. Stroup  
J.B. Green Professor of Theology



At the faculty-staff lunch in May, Columbia recognized five individuals for milestones in years of service. Marilyn Ault of the business office and Alexander Oliver of buildings and grounds have each served 20 years. Oliver retired in June. Back row: Erskine Clarke '66, professor of American religious history, joined the faculty in 1973. Bonneau Dickson '33, of the development office, is celebrating 70 years of ordination in the PC(USA). Lee Carroll '68, associate professor of supervised ministry, joined the faculty in 1983.



William P. Brown

## William P. Brown named professor of Old Testament

IN APRIL COLUMBIA'S Board of Trustees announced the appointment of William P. (Bill) Brown as professor of Old Testament. An ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Brown holds the Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Emory University and the Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Since 1991 he has taught at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, where he is the Aubrey Lee Brooks Professor of Biblical Theology. Brown begins his teaching duties at Columbia in the fall of 2004.

Throughout his career, Brown's scholarship has focused on the life of the church and the needs of pastors and lay people for sound, relevant biblical interpretation. A member of the Presbytery de Cristo, Brown has served the church as a lay leader, teacher, and minister and understands the needs of the local congregation. While at Union-PSCE, Brown has prepared many seminarians for the

pastoral life of preaching and teaching as well as educating scholars in the Ph.D. program. Of his move to Columbia, Brown says, "Columbia's focus on pastoral ministry and lifelong education for pastors and church members makes it an invigorating environment for scholars who are committed to the life of the church. I am looking forward to focused work with pastors, both current and future."

Brown's academic interests include Old and New Testament theology, particularly creation theology, wisdom literature, and prophecy. His most recent book is *Seeing the Psalms: A Theology of Metaphor*. He has written the commentaries *Obadiah-Malachi* in the Westminster Bible Companion series and *Ecclesiastes* in the Interpretation Commentary series. His other books include *Character in Crisis: A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*; *The Ethos of Cosmos*; and *God and the Imagination: A Primer to Reading the Psalms in an Age of Pluralism*. He is currently working on the Psalms commentary for the Old Testament Library series. Brown is editor of the highly regarded *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, a member of the editorial board of the Old Testament Library, and former co-chair of the Character Ethics and Biblical Interpretation Working Group of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Speaking of his appointment, President Laura Mendenhall says, "We are eager to welcome Bill Brown and his family to our campus. Not only is Bill a highly respected Old Testament scholar, he is also a teacher committed to the church. As a long-time church school teacher himself, Bill understands the needs of lay people as well as of pastors and scholars, and he looks forward to writing for all those who study God's Word. Bill will contribute significantly to Columbia's mission of preparing pastors and leaders for the church. We are grateful that we will receive the gift of Bill's teaching on our campus, and we are committed to extending that gift to the church." □

Robert Williamson, Jr. '01



Emmanuel Lartey was inaugurated as professor of pastoral theology and care in April. His inaugural address was "Sacred Communal Healing: Intercultural Reflections on Pastoral Care and Counseling." His wife, Griselda, also serves Columbia as serials and inter-library loan assistant.

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# Events Calendar

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For further information or to register for courses, call 404/378-8821, or email: [ConEd@CTSnet.edu](mailto:ConEd@CTSnet.edu), [LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu](mailto:LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu), or [sptyprog@CTSnet.edu](mailto:sptyprog@CTSnet.edu).

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**August 4-8** PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY INTRODUCTION: "The Face Is Familiar: Unnamed Women in Scripture" Come learn from the stories of women in the Bible who are not named. Leader: Rebecca Parker. Mornings. Cost: \$50.

**August 8-9 and August 22-23** PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY INTRODUCTION: "The Face Is Familiar: Unnamed Women in Scripture" Come learn from the stories of women in the Bible who are not named. Leader: Linda Morningstar. Friday evening and Saturday morning. Cost: \$35.

**August 11-15** S<sup>3</sup> ORIENTATION WORKSHOP Leader: Dent Davis. Cost: transportation to campus.

**September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8** MIDDAY REFLECTIONS COURSE: "Reading Letters" Luncheon discussion at Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Leader: Linda Morningstar. 12:15-1:15p.m. Cost: \$50 (includes lunch).

**September 21-24 and 21-26** EMBODIED HOLINESS This event examines both the reasons for the historical disembodiment of Christian faith and ways that contemporary Christians are bringing spirituality down to earth. Leader: Barbara Brown Taylor. Cost: \$195 for three-day event, Continuing Education; \$300 for five-day event, Spirituality Program.

**October 8-10** CONVERSATIONS ON REFORMED THEOLOGY Specific topics to be addressed include: Reformed theology and worship, stewardship, conflict, evangelism, and administration. Leaders include: Shirley Guthrie, Cynthia Rigby, George Stroup, Laura Mendenhall, and Cam Murchison. Cost: \$140.

**October 10-17** IMMERSION WEEK Introductory course for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation and an in depth exploration of the many dimensions of Christian Spirituality. Leaders: Columbia faculty members and Julie Johnson. Cost: \$400.

**October 30-November 2** FAITH AND FILM: "Seeking Light while Sitting in the Dark" Discover how to view films as a medium that can connect the great themes of the Bible and theology to the stories on the screen. Montreat Conference Center. Leader: Ed McNulty. Cost: \$225.

**November 4-6** UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF MONEY IN THE CHURCH Topics include budgeting, stewardship, capital campaigns, and financial planning for churches. Leadership includes: Ann Buchholtz, Robert Townes, Paul Copley, and Cam Murchison. Cost: \$175.

**November 6-9** IMMERSION WEEKEND Santa Barbara, California. Leader: Julie Johnson. Cost \$300.

**November 10-14** GUTHRIE SCHOLARS Cost: transportation to campus.

**November 10-14** PRAYER IN MANY FORMS This course offers an experimental approach to various forms of prayer. Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Georgia. Leader: Greta Reed. Cost: \$300.

**November 11-12** OLDER ADULT MINISTRY A look at ways older adults can be involved in ministry, health concerns, educational opportunities, planning, caring needs, the changing face of the church, and implications for future ministry. Leader: Miriam Dunson. Cost: \$130.

**January 25-30** LISTENING FOR THE GOD WHO SPEAKS Daytona Beach, Florida. Leader: Ben Johnson. Cost: \$300.

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## Summer Lay Scholars discuss 'Faith and Beauty' in August

YOU ARE INVITED to join the Lay Institute's Summer Lay Scholars, August 4-8 to consider "Faith and Beauty."

This year's scholars will be led by a musician, an art historian, and an architect. David Vandermeer is director of music at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Fred Whitehurst teaches art history at Georgia State University; he is also a hospice chaplain.

David Hale is an architect in Decatur and active in Habitat for Humanity. Institute Director Rick Dietrich will also assist in the discussion.

Cost is \$350 (includes room and board); \$200, tuition only. For more information or to register: 404 687-4577; fax 404 687-4591; or [LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu](mailto:LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu). □

## Fall lay offerings range from Proverbs to Karl Barth

THE LAY INSTITUTE of Faith and Life invites all to attend Fall Lay School 2003. The first session of Fall Evening Lay School meets September 15, 22, 29, and October 6. Christine Yoder, assistant professor of Old Testament, will draw on the book of Proverbs to explore how we are to reflect on everyday matters.

In his Psalms course, Seminary Musician Michael Morgan will use "both wonderful and abominable versions" of psalms set to music. Course participants will explore and sing together (ordinary singing voices are welcome) psalms written in prose, metrical, responsorial, and antiphonal forms.

Shirley Guthrie, emeritus professor of theology, will lead participants in looking at challenging questions of theology. Guthrie's ability to express complex theological ideas in accessible language will make this a fruitful conversation for novice and expert alike.

The second session of Fall Evening Lay School meets October 20, 27, November 3 and 10. A team of teachers

will examine biblical approaches to love and judgment, drawing on the books of Jeremiah, Proverbs, First Thessalonians, and Jude. Course leaders will be Old Testament professors Kathleen O'Connor and Christine Yoder, New Testament professor Beth Johnson, and Rick Dietrich, director of the Lay Institute.

Charlie Raynal, associate professor of theology, will introduce participants to Karl Barth's approach to Christian spirituality by examining Barth's *Introduction to Evangelical Theology*.

Liz Forney, associate director of the Spirituality Program, will teach in the area of creative Christian spirituality.

During Fall Morning Lay School, which meets October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, Linda Morningstar (MATS '98), associate director of the Lay Institute, will lead a study of the anointings in the Gospel of John.

Cost for each evening course is \$50. Cost for the morning course is \$45. For a brochure or to register, call 404 687-4577 or e-mail [LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu](mailto:LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu). □

## January Seminars focus on communicating faith

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the 2004 January Seminars, "Faith Conversations: Learning and Communicating in a Culture of Change," to be held January 26-29.

Communication is both an art and a skill foundational in pastoral ministry and at the heart of education, worship, and mission. Whether in preaching, conversation, writing, or teaching, our changing world influences both the content and method of communication.

Leaders include Tom Long, the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University; John Westerhoff, theologian in residence at Atlanta's St. Luke's

Episcopal Church and former professor of theology at Duke Divinity School; Barbara Brown Taylor, adjunct professor of Christian spirituality; Anna Carter Florence, assistant professor of preaching and worship; and Dent Davis, director of continuing education.

As always, the January Seminars will be a time for inspiring worship, stimulating conversation, good ideas for ministry, and an opportunity to enjoy Atlanta. Cost is \$240. Because of the nature of this event, single-day registration will not be possible. For more information, call 404 687-4562, email [ConEd@CTSnet.edu](mailto:ConEd@CTSnet.edu), and visit [www.CTSnet.edu](http://www.CTSnet.edu). □

## Bodybuilding for ministry

MUCH HAS BEEN written about the challenges that face seminary graduates as they enter parish ministry, including the high dropout rates of clergy in the early years of ministry. "Bodybuilding for Ministry" is a new Continuing Education program scheduled March 15-19. The event provides a week of intentional reflection, inspiration, and learning for Columbia graduates who are making the transition into their first parish.

Modeled on the proven structure of the Guthrie Scholars program, the event provides an opportunity for Columbia graduates to return to campus during their second year after graduation. Participation is by application, and materials are being sent to

members of the Columbia Class of 2002 in July.

The "Bodybuilding" program includes a high-quality structured learning experience addressing important issues in pastoral ministry, as well as opportunities for rest, reflection, worship, and recreation. Leadership includes both Columbia faculty members and experienced pastors in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Participant costs, including program, room, and board, are underwritten through the generous support of the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation. The only cost for participants is transportation.

For more information: [ConEd@CTSnet.edu](mailto:ConEd@CTSnet.edu); 404 687-4562, and visit [www.CTSnet.edu](http://www.CTSnet.edu). □



Joslyn Ogden '05 and Vernon Jones

## From intern to community liaison

COLUMBIA'S FAITH AND the City Project seeks to increase the capacity for public as well as ministerial leadership among clergy and clergy-in-training. As part of the project, interns have been placed in a variety of community settings, such as the Georgia Legislature and the United Methodist Children's Home. One placement has borne unanticipated fruit.

Joslyn Ogden, a second year M.Div. student, started her first fall semester as an intern in the office of the Honorable Vernon Jones, chief executive officer of DeKalb County. The second largest county in Georgia, DeKalb has almost half a million residents and is one of the most diverse counties in the state. The county seat is Decatur, home to Columbia.

Jones, a person of faith, wanted to strengthen the partnership between the faith community and the government in efforts to meet human need in the county. He called upon Ogden to develop that process. While still an

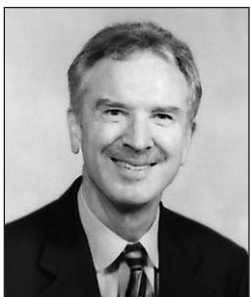
intern, Ogden staffed a clergy breakfast that brought together, for the first time, clergy from across the county to focus on potential partnerships. In the process of organizing the breakfast, Ogden built a database and developed interfaith relationships.

This spring, the networking and relationship building paid off as she staffed a DeKalb County colloquium on faith-based and community initiatives. More than 200 people—representatives from many faith groups, from the county, state, and federal human services infrastructures, and from private non-profits—met for the day at Agnes Scott College. The gathering was a bipartisan, multiracial, interfaith collaboration on how best to meet human needs in the county. Presenters included Jeremy White, the associate outreach director for the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. Topics included "Demystifying Charitable Choice and Faith-based Initiatives," "Local Models of Successful Collaboration," and "Business, Community, and Faith." Small groups discussed approaches to meeting specific needs.

In the course of planning and developing the event, it became apparent that Ogden was more than an intern. She has been hired as the faith/community liaison for DeKalb County, a position she holds while continuing her studies at Columbia. Having a foot in two institutional worlds has proven helpful to her. She has drawn on the wisdom of Stephen Carter, author of *The Culture of Disbelief*, and the Niebuhr brothers as she relates church and state to one another. She says, "Attending seminary classes feeds my hunger for knowledge and guidance as I try to bring together two worlds, church and government, which are often unnecessarily wary of one another." □

Jim Watkins '71 (D.Min. '77)

## Gehman '68, dean of students, leaves Columbia after 18 years



Phil Gehman '68

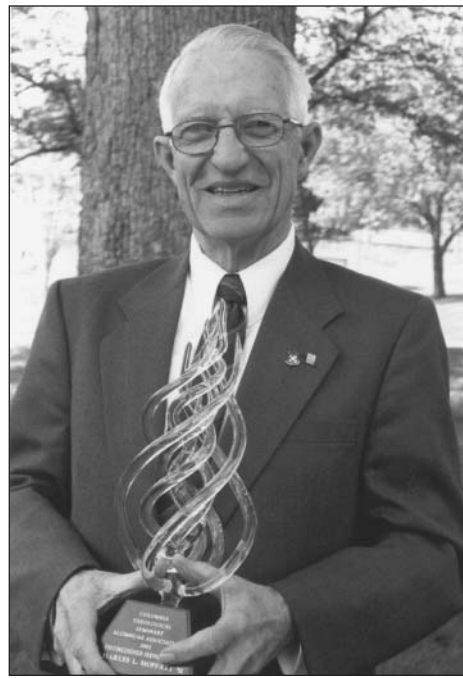
IN MARCH, PHIL GEHMAN '68, Columbia's longtime dean of students and vice president of student life, resigned from the seminary to accept a position with the Board of Pensions of

the Presbyterian Church (USA). In his new position, Gehman will serve as regional representative for the Board of Pensions in the Synods of the Trinity and the Northeast as well as the assistant corporate executive for the board office in Philadelphia.

Gehman joined the seminary administration in 1985 as director of admissions and was promoted to dean of students by former seminary

president Douglas Oldenburg in 1987. An able administrator who took great joy in guiding students along the path to ordination, Gehman saw many graduates through the candidacy process and the anxieties of accepting a first call. Gehman served as an administrator with three seminary presidents and became increasingly known as a reservoir of institutional history and wisdom.

Of his tenure at Columbia, President Laura Mendenhall says, "Phil contributed not only much energy and wisdom to Columbia, but also much love and affection. He and Kay take with them the deep gratitude of all who care about Columbia and its mission. They leave a remarkable record of service and dedication. We will miss them greatly. We wish them God's blessings as they embark on this new period in their lives." □



Charles Moffatt '51. Not pictured: Murphy Davis '74 and Ed Loring '66

## Alums receive distinguished service awards

COLUMBIA'S ALUMNI/AE COUNCIL has presented Distinguished Service Awards to three alums: Charles Moffatt '51, Murphy Davis '74, and Eduard Loring '66. The award is given in recognition of alumni/ae who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the church and who represent the seminary's commitment to sharing the light of Jesus Christ with the world.

Upon graduating from Columbia, Moffatt was pastor of several rural North Carolina churches while also serving as professor of Bible and church history at King College. Upon earning his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Moffatt returned to parish ministry, serving for six years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church

in Cedartown, Georgia. For 28 years, he was pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin, Tennessee, where he was elected pastor emeritus in 1990. Committed to local church ministry throughout his life, Moffatt also served the larger church as a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, the moderator of two presbyteries, and a four-time delegate to the General Assembly, among many other contributions.

Murphy Davis and Ed Loring, founding partners of Atlanta's Open Door Community, have dedicated their lives to ministry among the poor, imprisoned, and homeless of Atlanta. Through the ministry of the Open Door, Loring and Davis have not only served meals, offered showers, and given clothing to thousands of Atlanta's most neglected citizens, they have also been vocal advocates for the rights of the poor. Davis has served as director of Southern Prison Ministry in Georgia, ministering to Georgia's death row inmates and lobbying for their rights to fair treatment and able representation. Loring has advocated for the rights of the homeless to medical care and protested unfair treatment of the poor, becoming something of a fixture in front of City Hall. Davis and Loring have welcomed church groups and seminary students to take part in their ministry and to reflect on the Gospel through the eyes of the poor.

These three alums serve as witnesses to the cross of Jesus Christ and to his resurrection, their long struggles on behalf of the Gospel having borne the fruits of the inbreaking Kingdom. They represent Columbia alums around the world who are laboring for the Gospel and serving the mission of Christ. The Alumni/ae Council invites all alums to make nominations for the 2004 Distinguished Service Awards, presented at Colloquium next April. For more information, contact the Alumni/ae Office at 404 687-4566, email [alums@CTSnet.edu](mailto:alums@CTSnet.edu), or visit [www.CTSnet.edu](http://www.CTSnet.edu). □

## Erickson '03 joins staff



Sarah Erickson '03

SARAH ERICKSON '03 has been named associate director of continuing education, a newly created position. Erickson, who began her duties in June, is responsible for the coordination

of Columbia's new Lilly-funded S<sup>3</sup> Project, as well as other continuing education events and programs.

Prior to entering Columbia's Master of Divinity program, Erickson served for 20 years with the American Red Cross Blood Service, most recently as the education manager for their office in Mobile, Alabama. Erickson brings a strong background in non-

profit organizations and significant experience in professional education. She also brings an understanding of the seminary and its programs.

Speaking of her placement, Continuing Education Director Dent Davis (D.Min. '89) says, "Sarah is a uniquely gifted individual with a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to the work of ministry. Her gifts will significantly enhance our work." □

Commencement '03  
continued from page 1

Graduate Fellowship and the Columbia Graduate Fellowship, which support students with demonstrated potential for further graduate study, were awarded to Laurel Nelson and Jay Thomas.

A listing of dissertation topics and placements for the class of 2003 will appear in the next issue of *Vantage*. □

Robert Williamson, Jr. '01

# For the Record

If you have recent news to contribute to this section, please mail it to the editor, or you may e-mail it to harperj@CTSnet.edu.

## 1950s

**Roland Perdue '59** is interim associate pastor of Westminster church, Spartanburg, SC.....**George Telford '58** is director of The Institute of Reformed Theology at Union-PSCE.

## 1970s

**Caroline Leach '72** and **Nibs '75 Stroupe** have written *Oh Lord, Hold Our Hands: How a Church Thrives in a Multicultural World*.....**Lamar Potts '74** (DMin '88) is honorably retired from Trinity Presbytery.

## 1980s

**John White '86** is pastor of First church, Jackson, TN.....**Paul Henschen '86** is pastor of the Corbin, KY, church.....**Martin Song** (DMin '88) is pastor of Ding Chin church in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and assistant professor of preaching and pastoral theology at Tainan Theological Seminary.....**Carl Crawford** (DMin '83) is pastor of Good Shepard church, Lincoln, NE..... **Robert Lee '80** is interim pastor of First church, Staunton, VA.....**Thomas Cheatham** (DMin '87) is associate for campus ministry, St. Andrews Presbytery.....**Dean Chapman** (DMin '82) resigned as pastor of Westminster church, Casselberry, FL, to enter medical school at University of Florida.

## 1990s

**Keith Riddle '91** (DMin '95) is interim pastor of Community church, Lauderdale by the Sea, FL.....**Wendy Neff '99** married Brian Shelby on Feb. 15.....**Mary Margaret Yearwood '97** has published *In Their Heart: Inspirational Alzheimer's Stories*.....**Steve Lindsley '97** is pastor of First church, Mount Airy, NC.....**Julie Walkup Bird '99** is a mission partner in residence in India in a partnership between Grace Presbytery and the Church of South India. Her primary focus is with women's advocacy and ministry.....**Karla Fleshman '99** published a chapter in *Understanding and Dealing with Violence: A Multicultural Approach*.....**Benjamin Booth** (DMin '95) retired as president/CEO of the Presbyterian Home for Children in Alabama.....**Juliann Pugh Whipple '99** is associate pastor of Second church, Carlisle, PA, chaplain at the House of Representatives for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and chaplain reservist in the Air Force.....**Sidney Burgess '90** and **Kelly Allen '92** are recipients of the 2002 Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders from the Louisville Institute. ....**Noelle Henry Read '99** is co-associate pastor of South Highland church, Birmingham, AL.....**Lynn Gifford '98** is pastor of the Donalsonville, GA, church.

## 2000s

**Mary Ann McKibben Dana '03** was one of four finalists for the David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award, given annually by the Madison Avenue

church, New York. The award recognizes M.Div. students who demonstrate special distinction in both preaching and biblical scholarship and who are committed to the parish pulpit.....**Sung '01** and **Hope '03 Lee** were keynote speakers at Trinity Presbytery's senior high youth conference.....**David Roquemore** (DMin '01) is senior pastor of Camp Hill, PA, church.....**Guy**

## BIRTHS

To Vickie Thomas Bossuot '87 and William, a daughter, Katherine Marie, Feb. 26, 2003.  
To Jeff '94 and Cyndy Beebe, a daughter, Erynn Joy, April 15, 2003.  
To Joon Won '94 and Hyo Eun Lee, a son, Samuel Eunwoo, Jan. 25, 2003.  
To David '96 and Roberta Shelor, a daughter, Lille Parke, Feb. 6, 2003.  
To Mary Katherine Gregory '97 and Billy '97 Robinson, a son, James Munroe, Mar. 26, 2003.  
To Mary Kay Scott Collins '97 and Rob, a daughter, Maya Farmer, Nov. 30, 2002.  
To Laurie Furr '99 and Jeff Vancini, a daughter, Abigail Jian, adopted April 2, 2003.  
To Mark '02 and Karen Bradshaw-Miller, a daughter, Emma, Mar. 24, 2003.  
To Scott '03 and Heather Calkins, a daughter, Prisca Grace, Mar. 22, 2003.  
To Eric '03 and Amy Dillenbeck, a daughter, Anna Seibel, Feb. 17, 2003.  
To Jeff '03 and Mimi Kackley, a daughter, Locke Elizabeth, Feb. 10, 2003.  
To Mary Ann McKibben Dana '03 and Robert, a daughter, Caroline Susan, Feb. 12, 2003.  
To Martin (DMin '03) and Margaret Nabor, a son, Jordan Banda, Mar. 19, 2003.  
To Troy '04 and Kelley Bronsink, a daughter, Catherine Eve, Mar. 7, 2003.  
To Louis '04 and Debbie Imsande, a son, Luke Ambers, Mar. 11, 2003.  
To Annie Misner (MATS '04) and James Way, a son, Lion James, Mar. 1, 2003.  
To Liz Peterson '04 and Greg, a daughter, Leah Taylor, Feb. 19, 2003.

## DEATHS

Everett H. Phillips '41, May 7, 2003.  
Robert Trett '52, Oct. 18, 2002.  
Thomas Morris '54, Feb. 17, 2003.  
Thomas W. Barker '59, Nov. 9, 2002.  
J. Wesley Brock '84, Jan. 3, 2003.  
Anne J. Sawyers '84, Jan. 17, 2003.  
Henrietta Wilkinson '85, Mar. 30, 2003.  
Thomas E. Rast, former Board member, Mar. 6, 2003.

*Vantage* sincerely apologizes for incorrectly reporting the death of Ray Stover '62 in the winter 2003 issue. He is honorably retired from First church, Tallassee, AL.

**Griffith** (DMin '00) is senior pastor of First church, Dalton, GA.....**Stephanie Boardman '02** is pastor of First church, Lincoln, NE. ....**Betsy Flory '01** is minister at Open Community United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Southeast Conference of UCC, Atlanta. ....**Wain Wesberry '00** is associate pastor of Fourth church, Greenville, SC. ....**Denny Read '02** is co-associate pastor of South Highland church, Birmingham, AL.....**Paige McRight** (DMin '02) is executive presbyter for Central Florida.

## Faculty and Staff

### Biblical area

**Elizabeth Johnson**, professor of New Testament, taught church school classes and an adult education series at Central church, Atlanta. She taught a commissioned lay pastor training class for Mississippi Presbytery; preached and lectured on Faith and Family at Lewinsville church, Falls Church, VA; participated in a panel discussion on the Middle East; and preached at Queens University.....**Kathleen O'Connor**, professor of Old Testament, taught a Lenten series on Isaiah at the Decatur, GA, church.

### Historical Doctrinal area

**Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi**, associate professor of world Christianity, lectured at the Iowa United Methodist School of Ministry. He presented at the Hispanic Lecture in Religion and Theology at Drew University and at the Lilly Conference on Theological Research, Pittsburgh. He taught at the Evangelical Seminary, Matanzas, Cuba; the Association of Professors in Mission, Techny, IL; and the Hispanic Summer Program, Mundelein, IL. He has published *Introducción a la Misión*. ....**Mark Douglas**, assistant professor of Christian ethics, taught at First, Oglethorpe, Covenant, and Rock Spring churches, Atlanta, and Pleasant Hill church, Duluth, GA. He facilitated a discussion on church mission for the Outreach Committee of Greater Atlanta Presbytery and published an article in *Journal for Preachers*.....

**Marcia Riggs**, associate professor of Christian ethics, delivered the Walter and Mary Brueggemann lectures at Eden Theological Seminary and led worship at the Luce Consultation on Theological Scholarship for the Association of Theological Schools.

### Practical Theology area

**Ron Cram**, associate professor of Christian education, published *Bullying: A Spiritual Crisis* and led a seminar on childhood violence with Susan Hecker Cram at Immaculate Heart of Mary church, Atlanta.....**Bill Harkins**, assistant professor of pastoral theology and care, attended the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Conference, St. Simon's Island, GA, and spoke at Northwest church, Atlanta, GA. ....**Emmanuel Lartey**, professor of pastoral theology and care, spoke at the American Association of Pastoral Counselors conference, Newport, RI. ....**Laura Mendenhall**, president,

attended a Committee on Theological Education meeting in Louisville, KY; spoke and preached at the General Assembly Theology Convocation, Pittsburgh, PA, and at First church, Tyler, TX; preached at First church, Charlotte, NC, Central church, Anderson, SC, and was guest speaker at First church, Thomasville, GA, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, and the 215th General Assembly.....**Rodger Nishioka**, associate professor of Christian education, led workshops and preached at the Shelby, NC, church; Guilford Park church, Greensboro, NC; and New Providence church, Maryville, TN. He led a retreat and preached at the Roswell, GA, church and preached at Trinity church, Atlanta. He spoke at Tampa Bay Presbytery, the racial-ethnic and immigrant church development consultation for Synod of Mid-Atlantic, and at First church, Charlotte. Nishioka spoke at the Reclaiming the Text Conference, Montreal, and lectured at the Princeton Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry Forum.....**Brian Wren**, professor of worship, lectured and preached at Greenfield Hill, CT, Congregational church and at First church, Charleston, WV, and preached at Asbury Methodist church, Uniontown, PA. He led two workshops at West Virginia Presbytery Festival of Faith. Wren published articles in the *ACPE Advocate*, *Journal for Preachers*, and *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2004*.

### Directors and Staff

**Ernestine Cole** is acting vice president of student life/dean of students. She was co-celebrant of the Eucharist with Moderator **Fahed Abu-Akel '74** at the opening worship service of the 215th General Assembly and served as representative for the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns. She preached at Pilgrimage church, Lilburn, GA. ....**Dent Davis** (DMin '89), director of continuing education, led a retreat for the council of Flint River Presbytery, preached at the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education

*Continued on page 7*

# Vantage

Volume 95, No. 1, Summer 2003  
Published quarterly by  
Columbia Theological Seminary  
Circulation: 27,000

The Office of Development and  
Seminary Relations

Editor: Juliette Harper  
Director of Publications  
and Publicity

Postmaster: Send address  
changes to Vantage  
Columbia Theological Seminary  
P.O. Box 520  
Decatur, GA 30031-0520

in Ministry meeting, lectured and preached at the retreat of the Sequoyah Hills church, Knoxville, TN. He lectured at the universities of Georgia and Tennessee and presented at the Adult Education Research Conference in San Francisco. He is serving on the Educator Certification Council of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators....**John Knapp** (MATS '95), president of the Southern Institute for Business and Ethics, was commencement speaker for Kennesaw State University's spring 2003 graduation. He spoke at the annual meeting of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Conference on Corporate Governance, the Independent Counselor's Forum, and the Carrolton, GA, Rotary Club and facilitated ethics training for the Georgia Board of Education. He was a panel moderator for Harvard Business School Club, Atlanta, DeKalb County Colloquium on Faith and Community Initiatives, and panelist for the annual conference of National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program....**Bonnie Shoemaker**, administrative assistant for the international programs office, was named volunteer of the year by the Atlanta Convention and Visitor's Bureau....**Stan Wood**, director of the Center for New Church Development (NCD), taught an NCD seminar for the Presbytery of Mid-

Kentucky, an evangelism seminar for the Presbytery of North Alabama, and trained mentors for the Lay Leader Training Program for Latinos for Santa Barbara Presbytery. He conducted an NCD consultation for the Church of Scotland and preached at Covenant church, Huntsville, AL.

**Emeritus faculty**

**Oscar Hussel** was presented a Red Giraffe window at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL. Many of his sermons there have included conversations with the red giraffe, an inspiration from a stained glass window in Columbia's chapel. ....**Shirley Guthrie** lectured and preached at First churches, Dallas, TX, and Shreveport, LA; Shandon church, Columbia, SC; and Forest Lake church, Columbia, SC....**Walter Brueggemann** spoke at the UCC Clergy Conference, Miami, FL; All Saints Episcopal church, Atlanta; and for the Peace Consultation for Greater Atlanta Presbytery. He led a retreat for Trinity church, Atlanta, preached at Plymouth UCC, Coconut Grove, FL, and Westminster church, Snellville, GA; and lectured at Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Mercer School of Theology, and at Episcopal Cathedral, Kansas City. His *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* was published by Fortress Press and he published articles in *A God So Near, Biblical Theology Bulletin*, and *Journal for Preachers*....**Charlie Cousar '58** is honorably retired from Trinity Presbytery. □

## PLSE initiative addresses PC(USA) pastor shortage

A NEW EFFORT is underway to address the growing crisis of leadership within the Presbyterian Church (USA). A joint endeavor with the Fund for Theological Education, Pastoral Leadership Search Effort (PLSE) works closely with the Office of the General Assembly but functions as an independent, lay-led initiative. The program is funded by the Lilly Endowment and individuals' contributions.

"We are in a moment of crisis, I believe, in pastoral leadership in the church, and that causes concern," says Joanna Adams '79, co-pastor of Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church and former chair of Columbia's Board of Trustees. "This is also a moment that can be incredibly creative."

Beginning this fall, the PLSE initiative will work closely with congregations throughout the country to identify talented young people who may want to consider whether God is calling them to ministry. Congregations will be asked to talk to those young people, encouraging them to explore ministry as a vocation. "I hear ministers and seminarians tell me that if someone hadn't specifically challenged them to consider a career in the Gospel ministry, they might well not be ministers today," says Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the PC(USA). Victor Pentz, pastor of Atlanta's Peachtree Presbyterian Church, notes, "If every congregation in the Presbyterian Church encouraged at least one young person into ministry, that would mean 11,000 new prospective Presbyterian pastors."

Once identified, those young people who are interested will be entered

into PLSE's Presbyterian Leadership Database, which will provide a centralized means of communicating with prospective seminarians. This will enable PC(USA) ministers in their area to offer support and to serve as mentors. The database will also provide educational resources pertaining to pastoral ministry, an online forum for conversation among potential seminarians, and a means for seminaries to contact prospective students to discuss seminary education.

PLSE's particular focus will be on identifying high school and college students who may be interested in entering seminary within the first few years after college graduation. "The PLSE initiative is important because we need the energy of younger adults," says Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education at Columbia. "We need their freshness and the way they view the world and their ability to connect to other young people in their congregations."

The program's founder, John Aldridge, an elder at Peachtree Presbyterian Church and a trustee of Columbia, notes that PLSE addresses one aspect of what is a large and multi-faceted challenge that faces the church. "No one initiative and no one program alone will provide an adequate solution," says Aldridge. "The good news is that the depth and breadth of this crisis are beginning to be recognized and discussed, especially at the upper levels of the organized church." Aldridge hopes the PLSE initiative will be one factor in transforming that crisis into a creative opportunity. □

Robert Williamson, Jr. '01

## From the Bookstore

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**New titles by Columbia faculty members:**

<i>Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann</i> (hardback)	_____	19.00	<b>16.15</b>
by <b>Walter Brueggemann</b> (paperback)	_____	13.00	<b>11.05</b>
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"At the Hilltop" from "Holy Week in Michoacán, Mexico"

## Entries sought for 'On the Edge'

THE LAY INSTITUTE'S interest in the arts continues with "On the Edge," a juried exhibition scheduled for October 1–November 15. Artists interested in submitting work may contact Institute director, Rick Dietrich at 404 687-4578; e-mail: dietrichRi@CTSnet.edu. Submission deadline is August 1. Judges' decisions will be made by September 1.

In February and March, in conjunction with the Black Seminarians Association, the Lay Institute presented the works of local artist, Raymond Cody.

In April and May, Wendy Phillips' photographs of Holy Week observances in the Mexican village of Michoacán were on display. □



The Acropolis, a site on the tour.

## Columbia travels to Greece, Turkey

COLUMBIA SEMINARY IS planning a trip to Greece and Turkey October 14-26 called "Cities of the New Testament." The group will visit Istanbul, cities of the Anatolian coast including Ephesus, Athens, Corinth, and other sites in Greece. The U.S. State Department has cancelled the travel warning to Turkey, and travel to the area is considered quite safe. Charles Cousar '58, professor emeritus, will lead the tour. Final payments are due July 31. We hope you can be a part of this travel and learning experience for friends of Columbia.

For more information, contact Dent Davis, director of Continuing Education, [david@CTSnet.edu](mailto:david@CTSnet.edu), or Neely Young, Development Office, [youngn@CTSnet.edu](mailto:youngn@CTSnet.edu); 404 378-8821. □

## Jones to deliver Smyth Lectures

SERENE JONES, ASSOCIATE professor of theology at Yale Divinity School, will present the 2003 Smyth Lectures at Columbia, October 14-16. The title of her lecture series will be "Jesus and the Jones Girls."

Jones, a clergywoman in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), holds the M.Div. from Yale Divinity School and the Ph.D. in theology from Yale University. In the course of her graduate work, she also studied at Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary in India. Jones has an uncommon breadth of experience and interest, which is reflected both in her publications and in her teaching responsibilities at Yale. In addition to her appointment to the divinity school faculty, Jones serves on the faculty of the African-American studies department and has been a frequent lecturer in the school of law.

She is interested both in the classical study of the Reformed tradition and in the theological opportunities and challenges presented by contemporary life. She has published a

number of works on the theologies of both Calvin and Barth, as well as theologies emerging in places such as India and South Africa. She has a particular interest in feminist theology and the rethinking of traditional theological discourse necessary to engage the experiences and concerns of women. She has written on topics ranging from the theological crises of infertility and miscarriage to the rhetorical eloquence of John Calvin and theological responses to the AIDS/HIV crisis in Africa.

The Smyth Lectures were begun at Columbia in 1911 by the bequest of the Rev. Thomas Smyth, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The aim of the bequest was to establish "a course of lectures on the fundamental principles of the Christian faith."

The public is invited to attend this event. For more information, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 404 687-4521, or visit Columbia's web site at [www.CTSnet.edu](http://www.CTSnet.edu). □

## Conferences on Ministry for prospective students November 7-9, 2003, and February 27-29, 2004

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# COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Periodicals  
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Decatur, GA  
Publication No. 124160