

Vantage

SPRING 2004

Colloquium 2004 draws record attendance, keynote offers insight into worship

BEFORE A CROWD that included a record 148 registered participants at Colloquium 2004, keynote speaker Tim Carson asked whether the center of worship experience as we know it would hold together, asserting that words, rather than the music to which they are sung, are one of the biggest keys to transforming worship. Carson imagined aloud what might be the look, sound, and feel of an indigenous, relevant worship tradition that could translate throughout today's church as well as the one we're still dreaming about for tomorrow.

"Worship and the Contemporary Church," the theme for Columbia Seminary's Colloquium 2004, drew alumni/ae, pastors, students, teachers, and others from as far away as Oklahoma to Columbia's campus for three days of worship, learning, and

reunion—and to offer a voice in the conversation about how the church encounters God. Three worship services—diverse in style while following consecutive passages in scripture—workshops facilitated by Columbia faculty and area church leaders, and a resource fair that included art, media, and literature for worship formed the Colloquium experience framed by Tim Carson's keynote address.

Carson, director of the Center for Transforming Worship and pastor of Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in St. Louis, MO, is not one to confuse the word "contemporary" with other terms he uses to describe a worship experience. "We all live in the contemporary church," he said, "but that does not connote a particular style."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Video and audiotapes of Tim Carson's keynote and closing remarks, and videotapes of the three worship services and workshops, are available through Columbia's media services department. See page 6.



Marilyn Washburn '81 and Lamar Potts '74 received the 2004 Distinguished Service Awards in April at the Alumni/ae Association's annual meeting.

Lamar Potts and Marilyn Washburn receive Distinguished Service Awards

On APRIL 13, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Albert Lamar Potts '74 and Marilyn Roberts Washburn '81. The awards are presented annually to two graduates who have shown outstanding Christian service in ministry.

Lamar Potts served as pastor of the Donaldsonville church in Donaldsonville, GA, and then became the founding pastor of Spring Valley church in Columbia, SC. During his ministry, Spring Valley church grew to a membership of more than 900 members. Potts has become known as one of the senior "statesmen" of Trinity Presbytery, having served as Commissioner to the General Assembly, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, and Moderator of Presbytery and the Presbytery Council, along with serving

on a myriad of presbytery committees.

Potts is active in community affairs, and has served on the Columbia Seminary Alumni/ae Council for a number of years. In retirement, he is serving as pastor of a new church development.

Marilyn Washburn, a physician, uses her medical skills in a unique ministry of healing to body, mind, and spirit. In Atlanta, she is volunteer parish associate at Druid Hills church and provides medical care for patients at DeKalb Grady Clinic. She also travels extensively to share her expertise.

Washburn has been a strong influence in health ministries policy of the PC (USA), and the denomination has presented her the Woman of Faith award for leadership and service. ■

Making connections—hearts, minds, and souls

WHEN THE MODERATOR of the General Assembly, Susan Andrews, was on campus this spring, she asked a group of our students during lunch what they appreciated most about Columbia Theological Seminary. She reported to me that they said, "The community. We appreciate the ways professors connect with us beyond the classroom. We think they are magnificent teachers and know that being in class with them is a privilege. But we also learn from them in conversations over coffee, walking across campus, in a hallway after class, in one another's homes. And we appreciate that most of us live here on campus and that we stay in conversation with one another as we work through complex issues." Even those who lived off campus spoke of the importance of learning in a community.

When I am traveling to churches far from the campus, people often ask if there is some way for us to set up a satellite program where they live or to

provide distance education so they might have greater access to the resources of Columbia Theological Seminary. As a matter of fact, as you read this issue of *Vantage*, we are seeking ways to share the seminary's resources with the church in a variety of new ways—beyond this campus. We are committed to staying connected to the Presbyterian Church (USA), and to the wider ministry of Jesus Christ. Indeed, that is the primary mission of Columbia Theological Seminary, to serve the church by preparing and nurturing pastors and leaders for Christ's ministry today and tomorrow.

At Columbia, we believe that one of the ways of preparing pastors and leaders—and one of the ways of nurturing their continued service to Christ's ministry—is to keep them connected to the resources of the seminary, to our faculty, and to one another. Our recent reorganization of Lifelong Learning is intended to facilitate our efforts at being connected to



Laura S. Mendenhall

those who seek continuing theological education, those who seek spiritual development, those who want to begin to think about theological issues, those called to develop new churches. We are finding ways to go to those in the church where they are.

We are also committed to finding ways to bring to the campus those who are seeking the resources of this seminary. We believe that our ability to be useful to these leaders and pastors is best served when we are in communication with one another,

when we can create a community of learning, when the give and take of questioning and thinking together can take us to new insights that are not available to us as we study alone.

We take seriously Jesus' commandment to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. We are, not surprisingly, focused here on loving God with our minds. However, we know this is not all there is to loving God. And we remember the second greatest commandment. "Love your neighbor as yourself." Surely these commandments work together. Sometimes it is in the act of learning to love one another that we learn to love God. At Columbia Theological Seminary we provide a community where we learn to love God with our mind and heart and soul and learn to love one another at the same time. It's an exciting way to learn! ■

LAURA S. MENDENHALL



Marcia Riggs (left), Charles Campbell, and Kathleen O'Connor have been named to distinguished professorships, which honor their scholarship, teaching, and service to the seminary and the church.

Three professors named to faculty chairs

MARCIA Y. RIGGS, CHARLES L. CAMPBELL, AND KATHLEEN M. O'CONNOR have been named to faculty chairs recognizing their distinguished scholarship and service to Columbia and to the wider church. President Laura Mendenhall announced the appointments in mid-March after approval by the Board of Trustees.

Riggs has been named the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics (she is the first person to hold this chair) and promoted to the rank of professor. One of the faculty's master teachers, she is in great demand as a speaker in this country and abroad—as well as in local congregations and in the classrooms of her Columbia faculty colleagues. In particular, Riggs has gained recognition for her work in religious ethical mediation. Recently she received a grant from The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Her book *Plenty Good Room: Women Versus Male Power in the Black Church* was published in 2003. Riggs joined the faculty in 1991 and holds the A.B. from Randolph-Macon Women's College, the M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and the Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.

Campbell has been named the Peter Marshall Professor of Homiletics and promoted to the rank of professor. He is the senior member of the preaching faculty and came to Columbia in 1991. Campbell's recently published *The Word before the*

Powers: An Ethic of Preaching has been recognized by his peers in North America as an important contribution to the development of preaching in the twenty-first century. Campbell is deeply committed to developing effective preachers, and he devotes hours of personal attention to students as they develop their homiletical skills. He holds the B.A. from Hendrix College, the D.Min. from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union-PSCE), the S.T.M. from Yale Divinity School, and the Ph.D. from Duke University.

O'Connor, professor of Old Testament language, literature, and exegesis, has been named the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament. Her recently published book, *Lamentations and the Tears of the World*, received a national award from the Catholic Book Association. She has also been named a Henry Luce Fellow for 2004–2005 by the Association of Theological Schools, receiving a grant to support her study of the Book of Jeremiah. A wise and imaginative teacher, O'Connor is committed to helping students interpret biblical texts in the work of ministry. She came to Columbia in 1995 and holds the B.A. from College of New Rochelle, the M.A. from Providence College, and the Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. ■

New theology and Christian education faculty members announced

AT ITS MARCH MEETING, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of two new faculty members: Kathy L. Dawson '94, assistant professor of Christian education, and Martha Moore-Keish, assistant professor of theology. Both are ordained ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

They will begin teaching at Columbia in fall 2004. Dawson is currently assistant professor of Christian education for children and youth at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE), in Richmond, VA. Moore-Keish comes to Columbia from Yale University, where she is assistant professor of liturgical studies in the Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

KATHY DAWSON

Dawson holds the B.A. in liberal studies and music from California State University, Long Beach. In addition to the M.Div. from Columbia, she earned the M.A. in Christian Education in 1992 from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union-PSCE), and she is a certified Christian educator. In 2002 she was awarded the Ph.D. in practical theology, with an emphasis on Christian education, from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dawson, who has been an elementary school teacher, has a special interest in children's ministry. She is especially concerned with issues of learning difference and the partnership between the seminary and local congregations in Christian education. Her publications include scholarly articles on Christian education as well as books for children on grief and loss. A frequent consultant and workshop leader for churches, Dawson has served in the education ministry for congregations in Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

Louis Weeks, president of Union-PSCE, says "Kathy Dawson has made significant contributions to the field of Christian education, and we know that her work will continue to benefit the Presbyterian church." Agreeing with Weeks, President Laura Mendenhall said, "I look forward to the ways Kathy will strengthen the ability of this seminary to prepare pastors, educators, and leaders for ministry."

MARTHA MOORE-KEISH

Moore-Keish, who served as associate for worship in the Congregational Ministries division of the Presbyterian Church (USA), holds the A.B. in

comparative study of religion from Harvard College and the M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union-PSCE). Prior to her M.Div. studies, she spent a year studying ancient Indian history and culture at Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal, India. In 2000 she received the Ph.D. in theological studies from Emory University.

Throughout Moore-Keish's professional life, she has studied ritual and religion. Her doctoral dissertation drew from the Eucharistic theologies of John Calvin and John Williamson Nevin, and she has published numerous articles, essays, and reviews. She is also the co-author of *John Calvin and Reformed Protestantism: A Catalogue of Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth-Century Imprints in the Library of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia* (Richmond, 1994). This was published while she was completing M.Div. studies at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

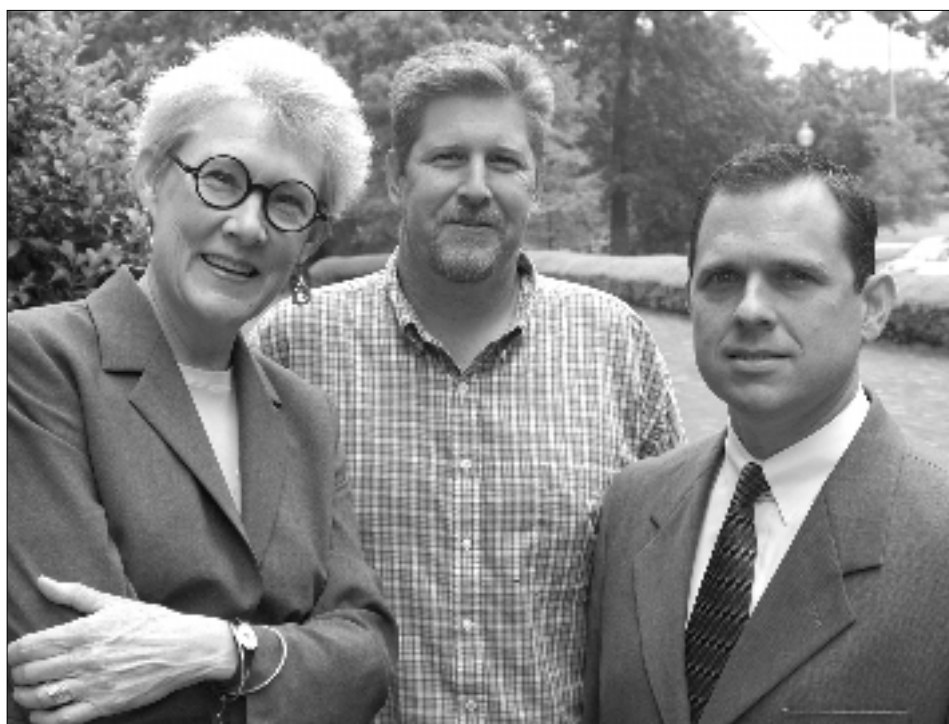
Speaking of her appointment to the Columbia faculty, President Laura Mendenhall said, "Martha's ability to frame her theological understanding in the context of our worship of God will bring particularly instructive gifts to those students, pastors, and leaders she will be teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary. I believe Martha will lead us in offering our hearts, minds, and souls to Christ's ministry."



Kathy L. Dawson



Martha Moore-Keish



Since the last issue of *Vantage*, three new full-time employees have joined the seminary. Genie Addleton has been named director of communications, effective February 1. She has more than 17 years experience in higher education communications, including five as director of communications for Union-PSCE, in Richmond, VA. Chip Carter (center) came to the seminary in September as support technician for information technology. Carter had been a systems administrator with a large insurance company. Kenyon Thweatt has been named associate director of development. Thweatt left a career in business to join the seminary staff in February. He is an elder at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church.

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JOHN 20:10-31

A gathering time followed by opportunities for personal worship exploration

ENTERING HARRINGTON CHAPEL, worshipers were invited to take a seat in one of the chairs that lined the walls and looped informally throughout the space. Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education and one of this service's planners and leaders, welcomed the group and explained that following the call to worship, participants could move to any of three stations around the chapel and a fourth in the foyer. There was no prescribed order—worship would flow, self-directed, with instructions posted at each station.

1



To Taizé-style music, the **call to worship** began: a collection of modern and ancient images projected on a screen. As the final slide dimmed, worshipers drifted to their first stations.

Some gathered at the **prayers of the people** table, writing prayers on multicolored post-it notes, lighting votive candles, praying silently, or lifting up world concerns as depicted in troubling photographic images placed around the table on the floor.

Others moved into **prayers of confession**, where with marking pens they jotted words of confession onto dark stones. As each person dropped a stone into a glass baptismal font filled with cool water, Rodger Nishioka grasped their hands, gave each one **assurance of pardon**, and replaced the dark stone with one of smooth, clear glass brought from the water.

3 WAYS TO WORSHIP

Colloquium 2004 participants had the opportunity to attend, in succession, three distinctly different worship services. Though varied in form and style, all three included readings from John 20-21, keeping close to the Common Lectionary (Year C) readings for Easter and following Sundays.

Gathering around the **Word**, worshipers in another station explored the text of John 20:10-31. Sitting on the floor, along with many participants, Charles Campbell, who is the Peter Marshall Professor of Homiletics at Columbia, led them in an informal Bible study.

Worshipers drifted between the three stations within the chapel and flowed out into the hall to sing contemporary songs, including some in Spanish, to the guitar accompaniment of Jeff Reynolds '93, chaplain at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, and Ozu Mejia, who is completing a chaplaincy internship there under Jeff's supervision.

After the service, Columbia student Ashley Lamar '05 said that he most enjoyed the informal gathering

around the Word, as it reminded him of accounts of the style of worship in the early church. Bill Gause, associate pastor for university ministry at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC, noted that this service would "probably not work for 11 a.m. but would work for monthly student fellowship or as part of a fellowship dinner. Mary Cunningham Gause '02, who also serves at Fort Hill church as associate pastor for Christian education, concurred, saying, "Experiences like this challenge people's understanding of worship." She also noted the service provided for a variety of learning styles and was highly engaging.

SHELLI LATHAM '05

JOHN 21:1-25

Based on Easter season outreach worship for college students, at North Avenue church, Atlanta

2

A SLIDE SHOW of stained glass images intermingled with blocks of scripture set on a stark black background is the greeting for worshipers as they enter Harrington Center Auditorium. Candles line the front of the stage, and a three-person band, acoustic guitars and percussion, plays at stage right. Welcoming participants, Thomas Daniel '03, associate pastor for neighborhood outreach at Atlanta's North Avenue Presbyterian Church, encourages them to embrace their inner twenty-year-old selves. "Prepare to experience worship as if you are one of the college students who attend our weekly Monday night service," he says.

The band (Cameron Lawrence, Chris Case, and Noah Alexander) resumes playing, and Lawrence invites worshipers to stand and sing a praise chorus. The words are projected on the screen. Daniel's opening prayer follows, as guitar music wafts in the background.

Daniel's lesson is based on John 21:1-25. The text is projected on the screen, but he encourages worshipers, "Look at it in your own Bible, if you have it." He uses no notes and engages participants as if they were members of the college community to whom he ministers. His tone is inviting, nurturing, and "seeker-friendly." Citing the famous "you complete me" line from the movie *Jerry Maguire*, he suggests that the problem with human love is that two people fall in love with the hopes of being completed by one another. Through an explication of the Greek words for love, and sharing some of his personal faith journey, Daniel says that in contrast to human love, the New Testament offers the greatest love story ever told: Jesus' *agape* love for humanity is a story of love that seeks to complete *us*.

From his lesson, Daniel moves into a prayer of thanksgiving and for life transformation. Following the prayer, as lyrics flash on the screen, the band plays [the Christian rock band] Third Day's *Love Song*, reiterating the story of Jesus as the greatest love story of all time. Music continues as background as Daniel offers the dismissal, reminding participants, still in the role of college students, that leaders are available after the service and during the week "if anyone wants to talk."

Asked what he liked about the service, Columbia student Ben Acton '05 said that he appreciated the guitar music combined with the classical images displayed on the screen during the gathering. Acton noted that the visual and acoustic mix offered an overlap of the classic, contemporary, and scripture. He said he also appreciated that, as the leaders reached out to the audience of "college students," they were intentional in not assuming that the students came from a church background.

SHELLI LATHAM '05



JOHN 20:1-18

Based on Easter Sunday service at Church of the New Covenant, PC (USA), Doraville, Georgia

3

A PROCESSIONAL PRECEDED the Call to Worship: Lay leaders dressed in white linen robes entered the chapel, ringing handbells; the clergy followed in black robes. White banners, one decorated with three brightly colored flowers, the other with three equally bright butterflies, hung on either side of the front, framing the stained glass window in the middle. Easter lilies surrounded the pulpit, and an intricately decorated white and gold cloth covered the Lord's Table.

It was clear that much work went into the music for this service. In addition to singing two hymns and a Response to God's Word, the congregation heard a joyful canticle of J.S. Bach, *Be Not Afraid, Christ Rose from the Dead*, performed by Ruth Marley, soprano, and Yvonne Toll, trumpet. Further, every member of the congregation received a full vocal score of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* to sing together for the dismissal.

Four liturgists delivered the gospel reading from positions on different levels in the front of the chapel. With the multi-voice reading, various parts of the narrative stood out and gained new weight. This creative reading of the Word helped us remember again the story behind the joyful music and fragrant flowers, and it set the tone for the sermon.

Catherine Taylor began her sermon by reminding us of Maundy Thursday, then recounted the resurrection story as related by John. She invited us to remember our own darkneses, when we feel, like Mary at the tomb, as if God is dead. Taylor gave voice to the dread that most of us face at some points in life, asking, "What other explanation can there be [other than that God is dead]?" She invited us to recall those times when we feel as if God has utterly deserted us, when all indicators—the presence of war, disease, suffering—point to the prospect that God is no longer with us. "Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Dr. Taylor echoed the questions of Jesus in the garden with Mary. She turned these same questions toward us, reassuring us that, with Easter, God asks us these questions anew.

Commenting on the service, Columbia student Karen Miller '05 said, "I really liked all of us singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* together. I've heard it often, but I've never sung it and I've never seen the whole congregation invited to sing the piece together. It was a great way to finish the service." Reggie Miller, a first-year student said, "I liked the *Hallelujah Chorus*, but I think that might not work in a church without choral leadership. I think it worked here because a lot of us like to sing, but I myself had a hard time following a four-part vocal score. I don't usually see music that way. Overall, though, it was a great service."

LEAH HRACHOVEC '05

Catherine Taylor's sermon will be published in the Easter 2005 issue of Journal for Preachers. To subscribe to the journal, please visit the Web site at http://www.ctsnet.edu/glance/special_partnerships/JournalforPreachers/MainPage.htm



The aim was to offer not reproducible worship packages, but authentic services that relate to particular contexts in today's church. It was experience intended to be personally meaningful—and one that stimulated new ideas for planning and developing worship services for congregations.

Colloquium 2004

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Instead, Carson affirmed throughout his keynote presentation, titled "Can the Center Hold? Emerging Worship and Multi-Everything," that worship style is just one of several "fault lines" we point to as the source of conflict surrounding worship and the cause of quakes that threaten the church.

"What is passing for contemporary worship in many places is not making contact with those 30 years old and younger," he said. "It looks like a lot of baby boomer stuff warmed over."

That's not to say that different forms of music, worship settings, and the degree to which a congregation incorporates multi-media tools into a worship service aren't relevant to how people hear the Word proclaimed, pray, sing praise, and partake in communion. It is rather that the fault lines closest to the church, Carson maintained, have less to do with our personal preferences and more to do with how our society relates to God and to one another—including our concept of God, our worldview, and our take on what it means to be a church.

"How do we travel in the post-everything, multi-everything milieu?" Carson asked, inquiring how the church might remain faithful to the gospel while relating effectively to people in a contemporary faith environment.

Carson stressed that this certainly doesn't mean putting a rock beat or a different meter to every hymn that the church has ever sung to the accompaniment of a pipe organ, though in his experience as a musician, he has done so with the hymn "Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past."

"Half the congregation loved it, and half of them felt certain something was wrong," Carson recalled.

In other words, music style is not what demonstrates how the church engages the world. "There is no correlation," Carson argued, "between theological language...and a musical style or era that carries it. Some plainsong chant carries a dynamic, process view of God, while some hard-edged rock songs carry a static, almost medieval image of God. The fact that a song has a popular musical style in no way defines it as post-modern. The fact that a song has a classical form in no way classifies it as a product of modernity."

Carson concluded with the vision of a worship tradition that would speak to a variety of contexts in which Christians live. "What if we developed a kind of meta-worship language—a liturgical vernacular that might act like JAVA, the computer language that talks to other computer languages? What [kind of worship tradition] could speak to...multiple learning styles, generational differences, cultural differences, [and] divergent worldviews?"

Such a worship tradition, Carson envisioned, could be recognized by any combination of worship styles



Tim Carson challenged participants at Colloquium 2004's keynote session, suggesting that worship style is just one of several "fault lines" we may point to as the source of conflict surrounding worship and the cause of quakes that threaten the church. "What is passing for contemporary worship in many places is not making contact with those 30 years old and younger," he said. "It looks like a lot of baby boomer stuff warmed over."

through its use of music, technology, worship space, and other features of the worship experience. It would be identified in the end, however, by how it holds to the center of the gospel message and the way it engages the people in the contemporary church.

How could we identify such worship? Among the several "sign-markers" of a relevant meta-worship Carson outlined, one might be finding ways to allow worshipers to participate as actors rather than observers in the worship ritual. Another would be ensuring that worshipers have sensory experiences in church that point toward the reality they are a part of during the rest of the week. Finally, asked Carson, could such a worship experience be full of both silence and sound, making use of the sounds we need to conduct a service while "allowing a moment for the Holy to enter in silence"?

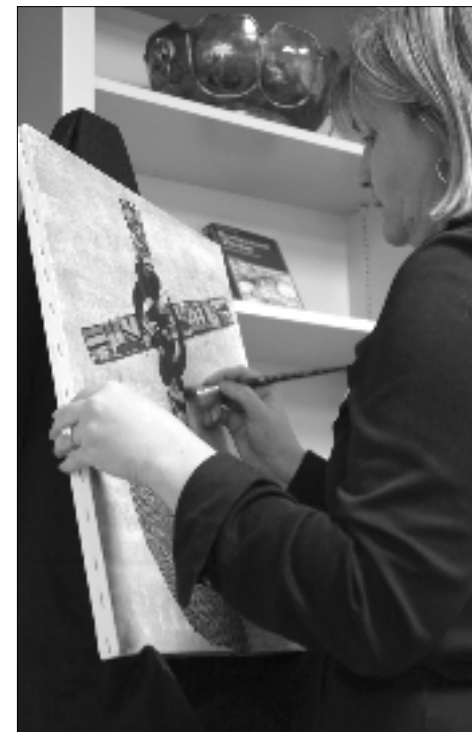
We'll know we're getting close to engaging in a meta-worship, Carson assured, when we are arranging variations on the center of worship—when we "become something like jazz musicians: improvising over the melody and the chordal progressions, creating new strains over the top of that to which we keep coming back, then improvising with others who are also improvising, so that we never play the same song; and yet, we are playing the same song." ■

MATTHEW HOSTETLER



Colloquium participants had the opportunity to explore a rich variety of worship resources shared by nearly three dozen people who came to share information, samples, and ideas.

Clockwise from upper left:
 Fred Wise '05: visual interpretation of scripture
 Hiram Perez '06: mime, movement, and scripture
 Suzy Edwards '05: art, worship, and education
 Jo Nygard '06: liturgical movement and scripture
 Paula Buford: liturgical pottery



Sharing the Colloquium 2004 experience

WE ARE GRATEFUL to Colloquium 2004 presenters who graciously gave permission for photographers, videographers, and student participants to record the events of three days. To those who were unable to attend (and to those who may enjoy reprising the experience), we are pleased to offer a taste of Colloquium 2004. Video and audiotapes of Tim Carson's keynote and closing remarks, and videotapes of the three worship services and workshops, are available through Columbia's media services department. Please use the order form below.

COLLOQUIUM 2004 VIDEO/AUDIO ORDER FORM

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery (shipping is included in the item cost)

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Lifelong learning events

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For more information, call 404 687-4562 or e-mail ConEd@CTSnet.edu.

S³ Project Orientation. August 23–27. Columbia campus. The eight peer learning groups that began in 2003 will return to campus for a mid-project retreat. They will be joined by peer learning groups selected to participate in the second year of this Lilly Endowment-funded project in support of sustaining pastoral excellence. Leaders: Dent Davis and Sarah Erickson.

Christian Educator Certification Class: Biblical Interpretation. September 27–October 1. Columbia campus. Leader: Susan Hylen. Cost: \$250.

Thy Kingdom Come: Possibilities and Promises of Church in a Multiethnic World. October 19–20. Columbia campus. Leaders: Nibs Stroupe and Caroline Leach. Cost: \$150 (includes two lunches).

Lay Institute of Faith and Life

For more information, call 404 687-4577, fax 404 687-4591, or email LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu.

What She Said! Say What? Say More!—Quotable Women in Scripture (2004–05 Horizons Bible study). Four sessions: June 21–25, taught by Rebecca Parker; June 25 (Fri. evening) and June 26 (Sat. morning), taught by Linda Morningstar; August 2–6, taught by Dale Lindsay Morgan; August 6 (Fri. evening) and August 7 (Sat. morning), taught by Linda Morningstar. Cost: weekday course \$60; weekend course \$45, plus optional meals and lodging.

Digging the Enigma: A Study of Biblical Parables (Summer Lay Scholars). August 2–6. Leaders: Steve Kraftchick and Stan Saunders. Cost: \$225, plus optional meals and lodging.

Fall Lay School. Session One. Mondays, September 13–October 4, 7:30–9:30 P.M. Courses in Bible and Theology. Topics to be announced. Cost: \$55.

It's Not Greek To Me. Tuesdays, October 5–December 7, 7:30–9:00 P.M. New Testament Greek for beginners. Leader: Susan Hylen. Cost: \$90.

Fall Lay School. Session Two. Mondays, October 18–November 8, 7:30–9:30 P.M. Courses in Bible and Theology. Topics to be announced. Cost: \$55.

Morning Lay School. Thursdays, October 21–November 18, 10:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Biblical Visions and Dreams. Leader: Linda Morningstar. Cost: \$50.

Theology & Literature. First Tuesdays. 7:30–9:00 P.M. Discussions of contemporary novels from a theological perspective. Leader: Rick Dietrich. FREE.

Faith & Film. Third Tuesdays. 7:30–9:00 P.M. Discussions of contemporary films from a theological perspective. Leader: Fritz Bogar. FREE.

Spirituality

For more information, call 404 687-4559 or e-mail SptyProg@CTSnet.edu.

Reconciling Peoples and Communities: Mission Impossible? July 11–16. Calvin Center, Hampton, GA. Leader: Emmanuel Lartey. Cost: \$300. See the article on this page.

Scripture as the Heart of Christian Spirituality. September 19–24. Columbia campus. The Bible is the centerpiece of the Reformed tradition's understanding of spiritual formation. Participants will learn several methods for allowing scripture to shape and form their lives. Leader: John Kloepfer. Cost: \$300.

Christians in Conversation with Other Faiths. October 6–11. Columbia campus. In this short course, participants will engage in conversations with representatives from other major faith traditions, becoming acquainted with the basic beliefs and practices of those traditions as well as with resources for setting up dialogue groups at home. Leaders: Barbara Brown Taylor and Julie Johnson. Cost: \$300.

Rediscovering John Calvin, A Study Tour of Geneva, Switzerland. October 14–21. Explore John Calvin's spirituality in one of the communities he called home: Geneva, Switzerland. Participants will also study Reformed spirituality and hear lectures from leaders at the World Council of Churches. Leaders: Tom Schwanda and Julie Johnson. Cost: \$600 (+ travel).

Contemplative Spirituality. October 24–29. Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA. Joining a contemplative community, participants seek understanding of the monastic life, with attention to silence, centering prayer, *lectio divina*, work, and rest. Leader: Bill Clemmons. Cost: \$300.

Companions in Christ. October 28–31. Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC. All Christians need others with whom they can speak and listen together for God. Historically in the Reformed tradition this was called the discipline of consultation; today we call it spiritual direction. In this introductory course on spiritual direction, participants will explore ways in which we can offer and receive spiritual guidance as “companions in Christ.” Leader: Marjorie Thompson. Cost: \$225.

Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life. November 7–12. Columbia campus. The starting place for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation. Participants will explore the spirituality of the Old and New Testament, Monastic Spirituality, and learn about Reformed spirituality. Opportunities for personal reflection, journaling, and small group work are also part of this experience. Leaders: Julie Johnson and Liz Forney. Cost: \$400.

New Church Development (NCD)

For more information, call 404 687-4585 or e-mail NCD@CTSnet.edu.

Frontiers in Mission Strategy. July 6–16. D.Min. course open to NCD specialization students and M.Div. students with approval. Leader: Stan Wood. Potential NCD Pastor Conference. October 16–22. Columbia campus. Lay Leader Training Program (Portuguese and Hispanic track). Ongoing. 10–course program. Call or e-mail for more information.

Lifelong learning seminar explores personal and community reconciliation



Emmanuel Lartey

PAUL WRITES IN his second letter to the church at Corinth, “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Cor. 5:17–18).

In an era of divisions within the church and within global communities it is difficult to think of a course more timely than “Reconciling Persons and Community: Mission Impossible?” led by Emmanuel Lartey at the Calvin Center in Hampton, GA, July 11–16. Dr. Lartey is professor of pastoral theology and care at Columbia and is

also president of the International Council on Pastoral Care and Counseling. His work examines the issue of reconciliation from many perspectives: he is interested in pastoral care, counseling, and theology in different cultural contexts, with particular reference to African, British, and American expressions.

Participants in this course will consider what is required both personally and communally to fulfill the gospel imperative of reconciliation. Issues of history, justice, peace, and forgiveness will be addressed. The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa and the motivating visions of the Civil Rights movement will offer material for study together. In preparation for the course, participants will read *No Future Without Forgiveness*, by Desmond Tutu, and *Disciplines of the Spirit*, by Howard Thurman.

For more information, please call 404 687-4559, or e-mail SptyProg@CTSnet.edu.

And away they go: S³ groups on the road to discovery

ONE YEAR AGO, Columbia launched the S³ Project with eight peer groups, each with a unique plan for focusing on the “three S’s”: Sabbath, Spirituality, and Service. S³ project requirements allow considerable latitude, encouraging project plans in which participants explore and examine issues and interests that are related to the practice of ministry—and that will help sustain their effectiveness as pastors. Departure from the commonplace is an element common to all the projects. Several groups, such as “Interfaith Pilgrimage,” “A6,” and “Feast of Faith,” will travel internationally in pursuit of their project goals.

In preparation for their S³ journey, the eight members of the Atlanta-based Interfaith Pilgrimage group observed Ramadan in the fall of 2003, met with a Hindu leader in March 2004, and held an orientation with Atlanta-area natives of Morocco, their project’s destination this summer. In Morocco, they will be based at Al Akhawayn University. This American-style, English-language university was established in 1995, with a commitment, according to its mission statement, to being a place of encounter and dialogue between Muslims, Christians, and Jews. The group will stay part of the time in private homes, allowing them to experience Muslim family life in a way not possible for typical tourists. They will also attend the World Sacred Music Festival in the ancient imperial city of Fez. This event features internationally acclaimed musicians who express their faith tradition through music.



“To Love as God Loves: Animals and the Imago Dei” was the title of the lecture William Greenway presented at Columbia Seminary in April to open the symposium in honor of Earth Day, sponsored by Columbia and Trinity Presbyterian Church. Greenway is associate professor of philosophical theology at Austin Theological Seminary.



Eleven graduates from the Class of 2002 came to campus March 12–14 for “Bodybuilding for Ministry.” Participants’ program costs, as well as on-campus room and board, were underwritten by the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation and the Office of Alumni/ae Affairs and Church Relations. Event leaders included faculty members Bill Harkins and Julie Johnson, President Laura Mendenhall, and Dent Davis (second from right), Vice President and Dean of Lifelong Learning.

Iona, Scotland, is the destination for “A6,” a six-member group also from the Atlanta area, whose project focuses on intentional—particularly Celtic—spiritual communities. In April, to prepare for the experience, group members attended Columbia’s

Columbia’s S³ Project is supported by a grant from The Lilly Endowment. The original cohort of eight peer groups is nearing the mid-way point in their two-year projects, working toward an August retreat on the seminary campus. As this issue of *Vantage* goes to press, 2004 peer groups are being notified about acceptance into the program. For more information about application for 2005 projects, please contact Sarah Erickson, associate director of continuing education, at 404 687-4526 or EricksonS@crsnet.edu.

Lifelong Learning course “Celtic Spirituality: Listening for the Heartbeat of God.” J. Philip Newell, former Warden of Iona Abbey and Scholar in Spirituality at St. Giles Cathedral, leads the event. Newell, a Church of Scotland minister with wide ecumenical experience, is currently Writer Theologian for The Cathedral of The Isles on Cumbrae. His doctoral research at the University of Edinburgh was in Scottish spirituality. Since then he has played a leading role on both sides of the Atlantic in the recovery of the Celtic tradition for today.

Study for the eight members of “Feast of Faith” has been a thorough reading of *You Are My Witness*, Giorgio Tourn’s book on the Waldensians. In October, the group will spend ten days with a Waldensian community at Casa Cares, a retreat center on the outskirts of Florence, Italy. They will help with general maintenance of the farmhouse and with care of the olive trees and vineyards that surround the center. They will also spend time with the youth of the Centro Gould within the city of Florence. By helping young people there with after-school activities, they will also be introducing them to Protestants from a different culture. They will also journey to Rome to meet with Waldensian Seminary professors and Waldensian pastors and members of that church.

Five other S³ groups are actively engaged in their projects, all of which combine elements of travel

and alternate context. Future editions of *Vantage* will chronicle their journeys—through cyberspace and to Central America—as they negotiate their way through the complexities of community ministry or contemporary ecclesiology.

S³: Who they are

Feast of Faith: Bob Bronkema, pastor of First church, Palatka, Florida (Bob is a former Waldensian pastor in Italy, speaks fluent Italian, and has spent nearly half of his life in Italy within the context of the church!); Amy Richert, Episcopal priest currently serving in Milwaukee, WI; Graham Robinson, serving Westminster church in West Hartford, CT; Mark Barger Elliott, of Riverside church, Riverside, IL, and spouse Lynn Barger Elliott, interim director of youth ministries at the same church and as youth consultant to the Presbytery of Chicago; John Weatherhodd and spouse Tracy, who both serve Doylestown church, Doylestown, PA; Doug Learned, serving Southminster church, Glen Ellyn IL. All were classmates at Princeton Theological Seminary and have remained a study group for 8–9 years.

A6 (all from Atlanta metro area): Lindsay Armstrong, Rockspring church; Amy Arnold-Hoffman, stated supply, Greenville church; Carla Pratt Keyes, interim associate, First church, Covington (Carla completed post-graduate studies at Cambridge, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland); and spouse Brint Pratt Keyes, associate pastor, Clairmont church (Brint served as an intern associate pastor at a church in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and worked as an English teacher in Thailand for three years prior to seminary); Caroline Kelly, associate pastor, Central church and former attorney, who traveled to Turkey with the large delegation of Atlanta-area religious leaders from whom the Interfaith Pilgrimage S³ group is a spin-off; John Morgan, associate pastor, Druid Hills church, and Emory University’s PC(USA) campus pastor.

Interfaith Pilgrimage (all from Atlanta metro area): Lanny Peters, pastor, Oakhurst Baptist (American Baptist/Alliance of Baptists) and D.Min. candidate at Columbia; Gerald Durley, Providence Baptist, a long-time civil rights activist; E. Claiborne Jones, rector, Church of the Epiphany, and active in Atlanta area ministerial groups; Elizabeth Rechter, associate rector, St. Philips Cathedral; Bradley Schmeling, Ph.D. candidate, Emory University, and pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church; James Lamkin, pastor of Northside Baptist; Jan Swanson, elder in the PC(USA) and serving on staff at Faith and the City; Winston Lawson, Hillside Presbyterian Church, originally from Jamaica. ■

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 PoeB@CTSnet.edu.

1930s

Bonneau Dickson '33 moved to Presbyterian Village in Austell, GA. His new address is Presbyterian Village, 2000 East West Connector #311, Austell, GA 30106.

1940s

Tom Dews '49 is parish associate with **Mark George '90** at Grace Covenant church, Conyers, GA.

1950s

Bill Lee '55 is interim pastor of First church, Thomasville, GA.....**Dana Waters '58** is pastor emeritus of First church, Selma, AL.....**Joe Greer '59** is retired from Christ Community church(PCA), Clearwater, FL, and is stated clerk for North Florida Presbytery (PCA).

1960s

Harold Prince '60 ranks sixth in the Southern region's 85-and-older tennis singles division. He lives at Presbyterian Home, Clinton, SC.....**Donald Fowler '64** is honorably retired from Salem presbytery.....**Bob Wilson '64** is retired from Westminster church, Lynchburg, VA**Bill Phillips '68** is retired from Highland church, Clearwater, FL**Donald W. Smith '66** is retired from First church, Peachtree City, GA**Richard Stone '67** is retired from Jewell Ridge, VA, church..... **Robert Horne '65** is retired from Mission Presbytery.

1970s

Cecil Murphey '70 won the Silver Angel trophy from California-based Excellence in Media for his book, *I Choose To Stay: A Black Teacher Refuses to Desert the Inner City*.....**Richard Stanford '74** is interim pastor at Westminster church, Snellville, GA**Prakobb Deetanna '73** is retired from North Avenue church, Atlanta, GA.....**Fred Keith '71** is retired from First church, Lynn Haven, FL.

1980s

Richard Gillespie '80 is pastor of Ebenezer church, Hogansville, GA**Rebecca Taylor Setzer '81** is youth minister at Robinson church, Charlotte, NC.....**Chris Zorn '87** is pastor of West Emory church, Knoxville, TN.....**Crawford King '80** is pastor of First church, Rockwood, TN.....**Clifford Lyda '84** is pastor of the Elmhurst, IL, church.

1990s

Karen Rogers '92 is pastor of First United church, Guthrie, OK.....**Steve Robertson '95** is associate pastor of Chevy Chase church, Washington, DC**Beverly Brigman '96** married Dr. George Thompson, Jr., Feb. 29 at Emory church, Decatur, GA.....**Timothy Read '98** is executive associate pastor for evangelism and congregational development at First church, Charlottesville, VA.....**Laurie Valentine '96** is interim associate pastor at Highland church, Winston-Salem, NC.....**Robert Sherman '90**



Class of '59 Reunion (L to R) Bob Horn, Bob Boston, John Broddus, Bill Courine, and Marshall Neill

is pastor of Federated church, Paxton, IL.....**Laura Aull Johnston '90** is pastor of Westminster church, Champaign, IL.

2000s

David Parker '02 is pastor of First church, Blackwell, OK.....**Sarah Parker '00** is pastor of First church, Newkirk, OK.

FACULTY AND STAFF

BIBLICAL AREA

Kathleen O'Connor, professor of Old Testament, was named to the William Marcellus McPheeters Chair of Old Testament. She participated in a panel discussion on the film *The Passion of the Christ* sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance and the American Jewish Committee, Atlanta, and on the Faith in the City television program. She spoke at the winter conference of Presbyterian College on the call to Christians to be a "blessing to the nations" and taught a Lenten course for Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Atlanta. She won a Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology for 2004-05 for a study, "The Moral Formation of the Community After Disaster" in the Book of Jeremiah.....**Barbara Poe**, staff associate for alumni/ae and church relations, was honored by the Columbia Friendship Circle with honorary life membership in Presbyterian Women. She has been a member of the seminary's staff since 1984 and was recognized for her selfless service, extraordinary grace, and unfailing patience.....**Christine Yoder** was promoted to associate professor of Old Testament language, literature, and exegesis. She led a retreat at First church, Vero Beach, FL; preached and lectured at Lewinsville church, McLean, VA; and published a book review in *Review of Biblical Literature***Bill Campbell**, adjunct professor of New Testament, presented "From Tarsus and Damascus: New Perspective(s) on Paul" and "The Passion of the Christ" for the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Holy

Spirit Church, Atlanta, GA. He published "Engagement, Disengagement and Obstruction: Jesus' Defense Strategies in Mark's Trial and Execution Scenes" in the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*.....**Barbara Brown Taylor**, adjunct professor of Christian spirituality, spoke at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA; Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Dalton, GA; Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL; and Duke University, Durham, NC. She also addressed the annual meeting of the National Association of College and University Chaplains, Atlanta, GA.

HISTORICAL DOCTRINAL AREA

Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, associate professor of world Christianity, was keynote speaker for the Hispanic-Latino Council of Pastors for Mid-Atlantic Presbytery and for the honors ceremony at Emory University's Department of Religion. He lectured, with Justo González, at Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, and preached at the NCD Pastors and Mentors of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ Retreat, Norcross, GA; Oakhurst church, Decatur, GA; and Saint Thomas Orthodox Church, Clarkston, GA. He also received a Lilly Theological Scholars Grant for 2004-05 for "The Global Christianity Project: Movement, Growth, and Vitality of the Christian Religion"..... **Steve Hayner**, associate professor of evangelism, preached at North Avenue church, Atlanta, GA; Peachtree church, Atlanta, GA; and led the Lenten vespers service at First church, Dalton, GA. He spoke at the leadership conference for Peachtree church, Atlanta, and at the Madison, WI, church's "Celebration of Diversity." He participated in board meetings of the Nehemiah Community Development Corporation, Madison, WI, and World Vision US, Federal Way, WA; he also participated in the Urbana Student Missions conference, Urbana, IL. He gave the introductory lectures for the "Perspectives on World Missions" course at the U.S. Center for World

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Class of '64 Reunion (seated, L to R) Peggy Roark, Joy Coker, Becky Franklin, Nina Hill, Margaret Fowler, and Margaret Frisbee. (standing, L to R) Glen Williamson, John Roark, Jim Bowden, Jere Bowden, Jeff Coker, Coy Franklin, George Kaulbach, John Eddie Hill, Don Fowler, Bill Sistar, and Bill Frisbee. Not pictured: Richard Paddon and Jim Richardson (who completed studies in '65).

For the record

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Mission, in Georgia. His recent articles were published in *Leadership Academy 2003* by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Student Leadership Journal.....**Marcia Riggs** was promoted to professor of Christian ethics and named to the J. Erskine Love Chair of Christian Ethics. She preached at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta, GA, and received a grant from The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to complete a project titled "Teaching as a Practice of Cross-Cultural Encounter."

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY AREA

Ron Cram, associate professor of Christian education, has resigned, effective in June**Chuck Campbell** was promoted to professor of homiletics and named to the Peter Marshall Chair of Homiletics. He preached at the Good Shepherd church, Chicago, IL, and Central church, Atlanta.....**Michael Morgan** led a Psalm festival with the combined choirs of First, Second, and Maxwell Street churches in Lexington, KY, with a lecture on metrical Psalms that morning, and, in the afternoon, a display of rare Psalters and a concert featuring settings from the "Psalter for Christian Worship." He played Lenten organ recitals at First church, Marietta, GA, and Central church, Atlanta. He also published reviews of congregational worship resources in *The Hymn and Journal for Preachers*.....**Sharon Mook**, assistant professor of pastoral theology and care, led "Life in the Fishbowl (or Pressure Cooker): What's a Clergy Family to Do?" for the daylong *Time Together for Clergy Families*, and two training workshops, "Welcome to Church Personnel Matters," for Elizabeth Presbytery.....**Anna Carter Florence**, assistant professor of preaching and worship, led the first

BIRTHS

To Nath Briley '95 and Amy, a son, Robert Caleb, Feb. 5, 2004.
To Mark Adams '98 and Miriam, a daughter, Anna Flor, Dec. 18, 2003.
To Brandi '00 and Andy '01 Casto-Waters, a daughter, Lucy, Feb. 2, 2004.

DEATHS

Correction: Ray Stover '62, Sept. 29, 2003.

Donald Williams '45, Sept. 26, 2003.
Henry S. Schum '52, Mar. 18, 2004.
Fred McAlister '53, Feb. 15, 2004.
Robert Rayburn '53, Feb. 5, 2004.
Philo McKinnon '56, Feb. 17, 2004.
Marcus Prince III '57, Aug. 22, 2003.
Larry Crocker '62, Jan. 7, 2004.
William Blair '67, Sept. 15, 2003.
Anne Sawyers '84, Jan. 18, 2004.



Christine Roy Yoder has been promoted to the rank of associate professor of Old Testament language, literature, and exegesis. Her book Wisdom as a Woman of Substance: A Socioeconomic Reading of Proverbs 1-9 and 31:10-31 was published in 2001. She received a Lilly Theological Research Grant in 2002 for her work in Proverbs. Yoder is senior editor of book reviews for the Journal of Biblical Literature. She came to the seminary in 1998 and holds the B.A. degree from Swarthmore College, and the M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

all-women's retreat for the Mount Pleasant, SC, church and preached at Central church, Atlanta. She also was the Hudnut and Diversity preacher at Third church, Rochester, NY, and delivered lectures at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Sarah Erickson, associate director of continuing education, presented information about Lifelong Learning programs at a meeting of South Alabama Presbytery.....**David Forney**, associate dean of the faculty, received a grant from the Academy of Religious Leadership for his work in conflict management and religious leadership and presented a paper at their annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA.....**Laura Mendenhall**, president, preached at Second church, Spartanburg, SC; Shandon church, Columbia, SC; the Presbyterian Home of South Carolina, Lexington; First church, Tuscaloosa, AL; Tampa Bay Presbyterian Women; South Highland church, Birmingham, AL; Central church, Atlanta; Synod of Rocky Mountains at the installation of the Synod executive; Buford, GA, church; North Decatur church, Decatur, GA; and attended a meeting of the PC (USA) seminary presidents.....**Cam Murchison**, dean of faculty and executive vice-president, led an officers' retreat for First church, Spartanburg, SC; served as minister resource person for the session of Central church, Atlanta, GA; and preached at a meeting of Holston Presbytery and First church, Elizabethton, TN.....**Stan Wood**, director of the

Center for New Church Development (NCD), was keynote speaker for the west coast potential NCD pastor conference, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; the annual NCD coaches' meeting, St. Petersburg, FL; and the Foothills Presbytery's NCD leadership. He preached at Eastminster church, Greenville, SC; led evangelism seminars for the southern California evangelism conference for Riverside Presbytery; conducted an NCD seminar for Santa Barbara Presbytery; and hosted the national board meeting of the Pastor/Spouse Board Association, Decatur, GA.....**Dent Davis (D. Min. '89)**, dean and vice president for life-long learning, led an officers' retreat at the Newnan, GA, church; taught in the Greater Atlanta Presbytery winter Leadership Training event; spoke at the Christian Educators fellowship meeting of Greater Atlanta Presbytery and at the clergy fellowship meeting for the Presbytery of East Tennessee; led a pastor's retreat for St. Andrew Presbytery and for Providence Presbytery; taught church school for the Sequoyah Hills church; and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education in Ministry.

FACULTY EMERITI

Walter Brueggemann led the officers' retreat at First church, Knoxville, TN; lectured at the Stetson University clergy conference; presented the Parchman Lectures at Baylor University; and participated in the symposium on religion and law at the Law School of Emory University, Atlanta, GA. He has published his new book, *Inscribing the Text*.....**J. Davison Philips '43** published a biography of J. McDowell Richards, seminary president from 1932-1971.....**Shirley Guthrie** was theologian-in-residence at Myers Park church, Charlotte, NC; he preached and taught in Presbyterian churches in Hot Springs Village, AR; Lake Worth, FL; Wilmington, NC;

and Kinston, NC; and taught at a retreat for ministers and spouses for the Coastal Carolina presbytery.....

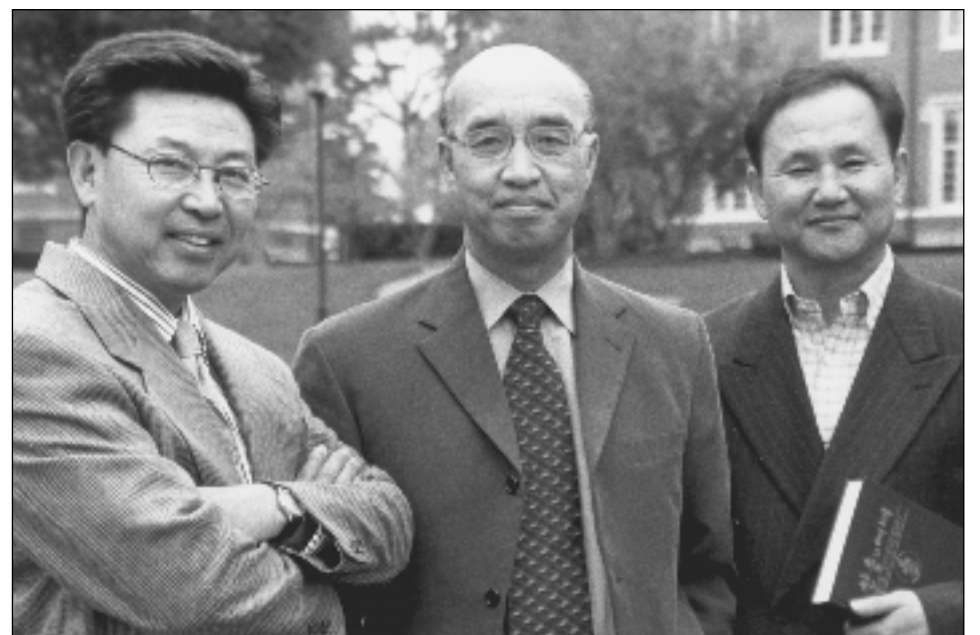
Ben Johnson has published *Confessing a Life and The God Who Speaks: Learning the Language of God*. He hosted a mentor retreat for ministers and laity at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA.....**Robert Ramey** is serving as parish associate of visitation at Brownson Memorial church, Southern Pines, NC, and temporary supply at Community church, Pinehurst, NC. He taught a preaching and worship course for commissioned lay pastors and a course on "The Purpose Driven Life" for the "Equipping the Saints" event for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina; he also preached the renewal services at Summerville church, Lillington, NC; at Jackson Springs, NC, church; and spoke at Cypress church, Cameron, NC.

CORRECTIONS FROM THE LAST ISSUE

Tom Are '59 was reported to be pastor of Village church, Prairie Village, KS. It is his son, also named Tom Are, who has this position, and who is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

Robert "Gene" Horne '65 (not Thorne) is retired from Leon Springs church, San Antonio, TX.

Ray Stover '62 died on September 29, 2003, not December 30, 2003. The editorial staff of *Vantage* sincerely appreciates the grace and good humor of Ray's wife, Lydia, who reported the mistake and reminded us of another erroneous and then premature report of Ray's death a few years ago. She said that Ray himself enjoyed that mistake, returning calls to surprised friends who had left messages of condolence on the Stovers' home phone.



Jae H. Chung (left), David Hoonjin, and Insick Jang (holding hymnal) of Columbia's Korean-American Alumni/ae Association Council took part in a chapel service last October that dedicated Korean-English hymnals donated by the council for the seminary's chapel. In the winter issue of Vantage, the names of Chung and Jang were reversed in the caption for this photograph.



The Columbia Friendship Circle (CFC) held its annual meeting during Come See Columbia day in April. Pictured are several past CFC officers who attended the meeting. Former presidents include Nan Jones, far right, Mary Evans, second from right, and second from left, Betty Simmons. Jean Starnes, far left, is the new vice president, and pictured center is Columbia President Laura Mendenhall. Also attending the meeting, but not pictured, were Joyce Gibbens, immediate past president; Rita Lang, new president, and Mary Bell Streetman, secretary/historian.

The Columbia Friendship Circle provides financial assistance for seminary students. The group's membership is drawn primarily from Presbyterian women in congregations located in Columbia's parent Synods of South Atlantic (South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) and Living Waters (Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky). For more information about joining Columbia Friendship Circle, please contact Barbara Poe at 404 687-4566 or PoeB@CTSnet.edu.



During the annual meeting of the Columbia Friendship Circle on April 22, Barbara Poe (right) of the Office of Alumni/ae Affairs and Seminary Relations, was made an honorary lifelong member of Presbyterian Women. Poe is pictured with outgoing CFC president Joyce Gibbens.

Columbia launches new Web site

YOU CAN STILL FIND Columbia on the World Wide Web at www.ctsnet.edu, but only the address remains unchanged. The seminary's Web site has been completely transformed through a campus-wide "construction project" that began under the leadership of Jet Harper, the seminary's legendary director of publications and publicity who retired in September. The new site includes extensive information for alumni/ae (including

an online e-mail directory), as well as an events calendar that includes Lifelong Learning programs. Prospective students can find complete information about basic and advanced degree programs and all the forms required to complete the application process. Work continues on interactive features such as online registration for Lifelong Learning courses and online giving, both scheduled for release during the summer.

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CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, Catherine González, lead teacher; Barbara Brown Taylor

GOSPEL AND CULTURE, Stephen Hayner, Cameron Murchison, and George Stroup, lead teachers

CHARLES RAYNAL
Director of Advanced Studies
P. O. Box 520
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Alumni/ae giving is more than a participation rate!

"SEMINARY GRADUATES really don't have the resources to make significant financial contributions to an institution." At least, that's what some folks believe about the amount of support that alumni/ae provide for today's seminary students. If alumni/ae can make gifts, the thinking goes, those gifts will help primarily by increasing participation rates. And those make for good "PR," but do little in terms of actual dollars to help support theological education for tomorrow's pastors.

But the reality at Columbia Seminary is quite different. Projections for the 2004 fiscal year ending June 30 indicate that gifts from Columbia

graduates will make up at least 20% of all the dollars contributed to the Annual Fund. As of this writing, Columbia alumni/ae have contributed roughly \$100,000 to the Annual Fund—enough to pay the full cost of preparing four students for ministry over the course of a year.

And these gifts come from a relatively small portion of our graduates—this year, just under 20%. In comparison, some seminaries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) report alumni/ae participation rates as high as 40%.

"Think of how many more students our alumni/ae could support if they

were to achieve participation rates of 40%," says Jami Moss, director of annual giving. "If our alumni/ae reached that level of participation and the average gift remained the same, they could cover the cost of educating four more students every year."

Adding four more students annually would represent a significant increase at Columbia, where the faculty and staff are working to identify more prospective students who feel the call to ministry and who are prepared to serve the church. To meet the enrollment goals established by the Board of Trustees, Columbia plans over time to increase the size

of incoming Master of Divinity classes by 11 students—from the current 64 to 75. Four more students, in other words, would represent just under 40% of the number of students needed to meet that goal.

"The point here," says Moss, "is that at Columbia, alumni/ae gifts matter in terms of real dollars. Individually, our graduates may not give in large amounts. Collectively, they play a significant role in supporting students who will become their colleagues in ministry."

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