



ABUNDANCE & GRACE

JANUARY 29, 2023

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER

Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr., President

*“But He gives more grace. For this reason, it says:
“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” -James 4:6*

Welcome to the 2024 spring semester! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break with the opportunity to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with family and friends. For those of you who remained on campus for J-term study and contextual immersion experiences, I hope that these experiences were life-giving and productive and that you, too, found moments to relax. More importantly, I hope that you are energized for the work ahead.

With the start of instruction today, we continue our journey of challenge, discovery, and excitement as we reach new heights together. The spring semester always brings hope and, of course, with time, warmer weather. I wish our Seminary community an engaging and fun semester ahead, filled with personal and professional growth. I look forward to walking with you and hearing more about your aspirations and accomplishments this spring.

I joyfully submit this [video](#) message to our beloved Seminary community.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr.
President





Great Cloud of Witnesses

On **Thursday, February 8**, the Seminary community will organize the 2nd part of a series of activities honoring the faithful servants of faculty and administrators who laid a strong foundation for the building of our beloved institution. We will officially dedicate “The Gallery,” located on the 2nd floor of The Richards Center. The portraits formerly in the Refectory are repositioned in The Gallery with an interactive component where more information on these servants will be provided. Come and find out more about this significant moment and opportunity. Information: BaumL@CTSnet.edu and Greenamyrec@CTSnet.edu.

Student Information System Update

During January 22-24, the Student Information System (SIS) Team, over 21 staff members across five offices met for three days to start configuring the new SIS. The new SIS, currently called Campus Café, will create one portal for faculty, students, and staff to access and manage multiple processes including registering for classes, accessing your student ledger, obtaining a transcript, seeing your financial aid, and knowing about SFCC campus activities. Next week, the SIS team will spend another three days configuring the system with the first rollout of the system being spring registration for summer and fall 2024 classes. Stay tuned for updates! Information: BaumL@CTSnet.edu

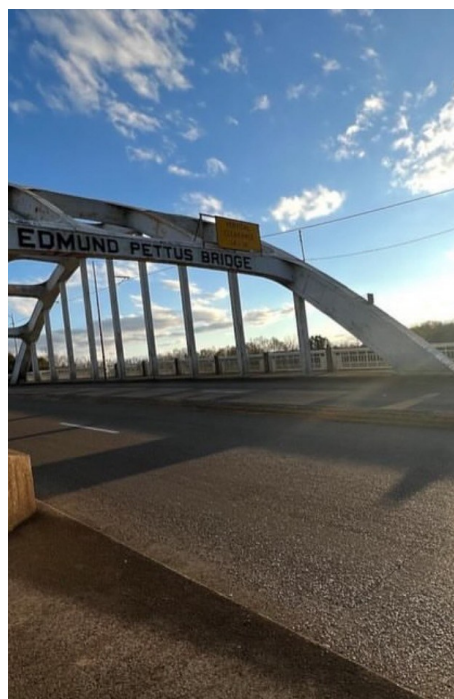
Community Forum

This **Thursday, February 1, at 10:10 a.m.**, The Revs. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis (CTS alum), Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), will provide an overview of the joys and challenges being experienced by the denomination in leadership formation and congregational ministries. This will be an enlightening conversation as we continue to discern the realities of ministry development. Information: president@CTSnet.edu

Campus Master Plan

I am grateful for the leadership of our Shepherding Committee, co-chaired by Marty Sadler and Mel Walker, who have been working arduously with the architectural group Lord Aeck Sargeant on developing a Campus Master Plan. The participation of students, faculty, staff, and trustees has been formidable! On Monday, **February 12, from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**, we will conduct a Lunch & Learn session in the Ellis Room, where the penultimate design will be shared with the community. Information: SadlerM@CTSnet.edu.





Contextual Immersion Courses

Three groups from Columbia Theological Seminary participated in three Contextual Immersion trips with the Columbia Office of Contextual Education and International Partnership. The group in Kenya was led by Dr. Tim Hartman, those who traveled to New York and then D.C., was led by Dr. Brennan Breed, and Dr. Ralph B. Watkins led a group doing a civil rights tour throughout the South. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our faculty leading these inspirational contextual immersion experiences. More information will be forthcoming. Information: ParkS@CTSnet.edu.

PCUSA Partnership Pilot - Through the visionary efforts of Dean Kathryn Threadgill, Dr. Natasha Patterson, Dr. Ria Martin, Director of Intercultural & Global Services, and with the full support of the President's Council, an intentional partnership-building initiative is currently taking place. As our Strategic Blueprint encourages the building of constructive partnerships with denominational offices and leaders, this initiative seeks to invite middle governing bodies to support our international student community with resources that would be mutually beneficial. On **February 18-20**, over twenty PCUSA middle-governing officers will be on campus as we continue to forge avenues of collaboration. Information: MartinR@CTSnet.edu. and PattersonN@CTSnet.edu.

COLLOQUIUM 2024: The ERAS Reunion

February 7-9, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJiz-LkSSSc>

Information: BaileyJ@CTSnet.edu

PCUSA Seminaries Unite: On January 11-13, 2024, Columbia Seminary spearheaded the gathering of the presidents, board chairs, and academic deans of our sister PCUSA theological institutions. Those in attendance were Pittsburgh Seminary, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville Seminary, Auburn Seminary, Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dubuque Seminary, and Columbia. The rapidly changing trends in theological education post 2020 has impressed a sense of urgency to reimagine and innovate the way seminaries enact their mission. In light of this, the PC(USA) Seminaries are agreeing to work together to embody a connectional approach to reformed theological education. The aim of which is to enact a shared vision for the education, formation, and enrichment of the church through our unique institutional distinctives. Together, we hope to lead a renewal of the importance of theological equipping and resourcing for laity and clergy alike. Information: BaumL@CTSnet.edu. A more detailed review will be forthcoming! Thanks to all for your prayers!



COLLOQUIUM 2024

THE ERAS REUNION



Feb. 7-9, 2024

Register NOW!

Alumni, welcome back to campus for Colloquium '24, our annual alumni homecoming event,

February 7-9, 2024!

Come for connection.

Come for education.

Come for inspiration.

The event will feature the endowed Presbyterian Lectures, presented by **Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams**, who is the Dodge Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA . Her fields of expertise include Hebrew Bible, dialogic interpretation, religious studies, Afro-American studies, and literary criticism.



In addition these lectures, we will enjoy workshops and conversations with Columbia faculty and guests, and will honor our 2024 Pioneer in Ministry and Distinguished Alumni Awards, as well as celebrate with colleagues marking milestone years: Classes of 2023, 2019, 2014, 2004, 1994, 1984, 1974 and 1964! I invite you to visit our [webpage](#).