

HORIZONS

SPRING 2003

VOLUME VI
NUMBER 2



James H. Costen
1931-2003

Costen served church, FTE

Dr. James Hutton Costen Sr., chair of the Board of Trustees of the Fund for Theological Education, died April 11 of complications after surgery. He was 71.

For nearly 50 years Dr. Costen was a pastor and leader in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He served as president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta from 1983 to 1997.

Since his retirement he had worked to develop a pastoral institute near Nairobi, Kenya. Chair of the FTE Board of Trustees for 15 years, he assisted in guiding and envisioning redevelopment of the organization in recent years.

Funeral services were held at Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

FTE President James L. Waits reflects on Dr. Costen's contributions to the church and FTE in a column on page 2.

Dissertation Fellows hone writing, publishing skills

By ELLEN PURDUM
Assistant to the president

With the twin goals of giving students a broad look at the demands of writing and publication, FTE's Expanding Horizons Partnership in February hosted its first Dissertation Scholars' Workshop on Writing and Publishing.

Nine Dissertation Fellows and experts from several academic publishers met in Atlanta for two days of sessions focused on finding the right publisher, understanding the stylistic differences between a dissertation and a book, writing a book proposal, and negotiating the contract and publishing process.

Students were enthusiastic about the usefulness of the hands-on approach to the workshop, as well as about the accessibility of the presenters, whose one-on-one sessions with them were cited as being especially valuable.

Joseph Scrivner, a student in Hebrew Bible at Princeton Theological Seminary, said through exercises such as having to state one's thesis clearly for several hypothetical audiences, the workshop "encouraged academic clarity and healthy self-evaluation."

Workshop leaders noted the rewards of working with such dedicated and determined scholars, counting it a privilege to become "part of the investment that these scholars were willing to make to their futures."

Patrick Alexander, publishing director at Brill Academic Books, and John Kutsko, director of academic and professional resources for the United Methodist Publishing House, met with Fellows individually and in small groups about developing the writing craft, using as a common text Anne Lamott's honest and provocative *Bird by Bird*. Chris Madell, publications manager at The American Schools of Oriental Research, and Rex Matthews, editorial director for the Society of Biblical Literature, provided practical details and tips about academic publishing. And Carol

Newsom, associate dean of faculty development and Old Testament professor at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, addressed matters of scholarly development from the institutional side.

"Ironically," Kutsko said, "the two things that are most central to a scholar's life — teaching and writing — are the areas in which students often have had the least amount of training, which is why we felt it was so important to meet with each Fellow about her or his particular strengths and challenges. Students have a moral obligation to write well, to rewrite, to communicate, and to keep their passion alive — to realize why they are doing what they do."

"We encouraged these future scholars not to accept the often dry, lifeless, and passive style of academic writing because good style gives you a big classroom, makes you more effective, sets you apart, and helps you make a difference."

Fellows' responses confirmed the experience of connecting vocational passion with scholarly craft. Scrivner said, "The person who read and edited my work helped me focus on claiming the work as my own and expressing my arguments in a more active, engaging style."

Ray Owens, whose work at Princeton Theological Seminary focuses on Christian social ethics, said, "I was reminded of the

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Jamillah Karim (left) and Joseph Scrivner discuss their writing projects.



The loss of a friend

James L. Waits
FTE PRESIDENT

In the death of Jim Costen, FTE has lost one of its most stalwart advocates and friends. He served for 15 years as chair of the FTE Board of Trustees, and faithfully guided and supported us in the vigorous new initiatives of the past five years. He was, to staff and board alike, a wonderful example of the excellence in ministry we seek to promote.

Tireless in his own ministry, after his retirement from his active career he directed his considerable energy and wisdom to the creation and support of a new Pastoral Institute in Kenya. He became, in fulfillment of a lifelong dream, a “missionary presence” to east Africa. His heart and his last years were invested in this remarkable new work of ministry.

He also loved the FTE — its concen-

tration on gifted and creative young people, its encouragement of bright African-American doctoral students, its inclusiveness and responsiveness. He delighted in being in the students’ presence — and was confident of their capacity to bring new vitality to the church, the academy, and the world.

Above all, Jim was a pastor and friend to us. All who knew him felt the intimacy of his love and care for us. His humility, his deep devotion to the church and to Christian faith, his passion for justice and good were unmistakable traits of his life. We shall remember him with enduring affection and esteem — and with profound gratitude for his witness to us and among us.

Summer conferences promise enrichment, fellowship

The Fund for Theological Education will present three events this summer that focus on both enrichment and fellowship.

“The Global Context of Theological Scholarship” is the theme for the June-6-8 gathering for FTE Doctoral and Dissertation Fellows, meeting at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

Conference faculty and presenters include a variety of persons engaged in theological education: Cheryl Anderson, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Victor Anderson, Vanderbilt University Divinity School; Marsha Foster

Boyd, Association of Theological Schools; Dwight Hopkins, University of Chicago Divinity School; Larry Murphy, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; and Anthony Pinn, Macalester College.

Others are Evelyn Parker, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; Julia Speller, Chicago Theological Seminary; Arthur Sutherland, Loyola College of Maryland; and Jeffrey Tribble, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Jeremiah Wright, pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, also will serve on the conference faculty. Robert Ratcliff of the United Methodist Publishing House will present a workshop on the publishing of dissertations.

see the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr., Old Ebenezer Baptist Church, and a civil rights museum. Joseph Roberts, pastor, will welcome them to the new Ebenezer Baptist Church. Roy Bourgeois of the School of the Americas Watch will address participants during a plenary session.

The third FTE summer event is a retreat for the 12 new Congregational Fellows (see story page 5.) They will gather July 31-Aug. 3 at the Episcopal House of Prayer at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minn.

President’s assistant leaves for ordination preparation

Ellen Purdum, assistant to the president of the Fund for Theological Education since 1999, is leaving the FTE at the end of May.

Purdum, a postulant for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church, will begin her final year of theological studies this fall at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. She already holds a master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology. Her year in New York will focus on Anglican studies.

In June she begins 10 weeks of clinical pastoral education at an Atlanta hospital.

The Art of Ministry

The Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry for FTE Undergraduate and Ministry Fellows will explore “The Art of Ministry.” The event is June 19-22 at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

In addition to roundtable discussions and workshops, participants will attend worship services with guest preachers Fred Craddock, Renita Weems and Ellen Purdum. They also will attend Jazz Vespers, led by Dwight Andrews of First Congregational Church, Atlanta.

Fellows will visit Atlanta’s historic Sweet Auburn District, where they will



Vol. VI • No. 2
Published by

The Fund for Theological Education, Inc.
825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 250
Atlanta, GA 30329-4211
(404) 727-1450
Fax (404) 727-1490
e-mail: fte@thefund.org

James L. Waits
President & Publisher

Nanette Sexton Ross
Editor

Upper Midwesterners speak up on what makes good ministry

Twenty-three clergy and lay leaders from congregations and educational institutions in the Upper Midwest gathered last February in Minnesota to take part in FTE's second of five Consultations on Excellence in Ministry to be held around the United States.

Seeking to glean wisdom and advice for shaping its work of engaging gifted young women and men in the exploration of pastoral ministry as their life's work, the Fund is listening to the responses of experienced church leaders to the following questions: What constitutes good ministry? What is the role of the minister in good ministry? What enables good ministry? What impedes it? What is good public ministry for our time? These findings will assist FTE in conversations with leaders of denominations and theological institutions as they attend to the formation of the next generation of pastoral leaders for the church.

Participants in consultation, which was facilitated by Kathleen Cahalan, assistant professor of pastoral ministry at St. John's University School of Theology-Seminary, clearly articulated two themes.

The first is a deep commitment on the part of clergy and lay people to enable the ministry of laypeople and extend the outreach of the church through their various spheres of influence and service. The best pastoral ministers affirm and further this kind of ministry by the whole church, while attending to the specific roles they have as priests, prophets, teachers, encouragers, counselors, and leaders in mission.

Second, the pastor's role is to bring the perspective and authority of the Gospel into any context, to offer truth that is sometimes judgment, sometimes grace, often both, but that comes from a vantage that the world does not have and cannot give.

More specifically, participants named the following experiences

and practices that foster good ministry:

What fosters good ministry

- Spiritual discernment that enables persons to trust God and the community of God;
- Ongoing education that makes persons well-equipped to lead, aware of what they do and do not know;
- Integrity and honesty that are transparent, enabling persons to confront human needs and sinfulness and to live with ambiguity;

“Good ministry comes with the assistance of a congregation that takes time to nurture and support each member, including the pastors.”

- Engagement in authentic relationships that validate and ignite others' experiences of and gifts for ministry;
- Passion for and grounding in a tradition that is cared for and offered to the world as a treasure; and
- A sense of hospitality and inclusiveness that extends the church's mission to places where persons live and work.

This kind of ministry among all believers comes with the assistance of a congregation that takes time to nurture and support each member, including the pastors. Such a congregation is itself nurtured, taught, and encouraged by good ministers.

Impediments to good ministry

Several particular impediments to good ministry were discussed:

- Understanding the church's ministries through a contractual or competitive market model rather than through a mission-focused model;
- Unrealistic expectations of omnicompetence in the clergy that are exacerbated by poor clergy self-care and self-management;
- Lack of understanding about ministerial calling that may lead to a

sense of heroism rather than to servanthood;

- Regarding women in ministry, an internalized sexism, enormous loneliness among women in smaller churches, and the loss of a voice of moral authority for the female clergy;
- Denominational myopia;
- A candidacy process that often is discouraging to younger clergy;
- Little or poorly-done evaluation of ministerial leaders by congregations or denominations; and
- The low value placed on the profession of ministry in our society.

Considerable discussion ensued around the ways churches might be engaged in public ministry. Participants cited concern that differences in conscience and points of view in the public arena make it difficult to create conversation.

One response to the public role of ministry is to draw back into privatization, becoming too focused on ourselves. Resisting this tendency requires intentional choice and commitment to places of engagement with the community. It is also necessary to foster a public ministry that is open to conversation, regardless of the content of various viewpoints.

One clear opportunity for churches to engage in public ministry is to provide a safe place for the community to gather to deal with hard issues. Churches can become communities of moral discourse inviting others to join in. Good public ministry promotes and pursues justice, as well as demonstrates the transforming power of compassion and kindness in a community, from a theological position not offered by other institutions in the society.

Jack Gilbert, FTE vice president for advancement, said, “Lay and clergy leaders expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage candidly and at depth questions about good ministry. There was great appreciation for good ministry and a hopefulness about the expansion of the witness and work of all believers in a church that is becoming much more inclusive.”

Dissertation Fellows

- Margaret P. Aymer**, Union Theological Seminary, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
New Testament and Early Christianity • DISSERTATION TITLE: *“True Religion”:
Frederick Douglass’ Use of the New Testament and His Abolitionist Speeches*
- Monica A. Coleman**, Claremont Graduate University, African Methodist Episcopal
Philosophy of Religion and Theology • DISSERTATION TITLE: *Walking in the
Whirlwind: A Whiteheadian-Womanist Soteriology*
- Jason R. Curry**, Vanderbilt University, African Methodist Episcopal
Religion and Personality (Pastoral Care) • DISSERTATION TITLE: *Exploring the
Correspondence Between the Preferences of African-American Congregants and the
Tenets of Prevalent Pastoral Theologians: A Metropolitan Study in Louisville, Ky.*
- Darnise C. Martin**, Graduate Theological Union, African Methodist Episcopal
Historical and Cultural Studies • DISSERTATION TITLE: *The View from
Oakland: A Study of an African-American Religious Community*
- Marvin Williams**, Vanderbilt University, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Biblical Studies • DISSERTATION TITLE: *Toward a Cultural Studies Approach to
Biblical Interpretation: An Ideological Analysis of Identity Construction in
Revelation 21:1-22:5*
- Jessica M. Wormley**, Fordham University, Roman Catholic
Theology • DISSERTATION TITLE: *Foundations of Christian Faith? Karl Rahner’s
“Transcendental Hermeneutic” and the Postmodern Critique*

North American Doctoral Fellows

- Paulette M. Brown** (Presbyterian Church in Canada) Toronto School of Theology,
New Testament
- Joseph De Leon** (Roman Catholic) Graduate Theological Union, *Systematic/
Philosophical Theology*
- Bernard C. Dorsey** (Christian Church-DoC) University of Chicago, *Theology*
- BaSean A. Jackson** (Progressive National Baptist) Emory University, *Theological
Studies*
- Jamillah A. Karim** Duke University, *Religious Studies, Islamic Studies*
- Nami Kim** (United Methodist) Harvard Divinity School, *Religion, Gender, Culture*
- Uriah Yong-Hwan Kim** (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) Graduate Theological Union,
Biblical Studies, Old Testament
- Felicia H. LaBoy** (United Methodist) Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary,
Theology, Ethics, Economics
- Cheryl Stewart Pero** (Evangelical Lutheran) Lutheran School of Theology,
Biblical Studies, New Testament
- Christopher Tirres** (Roman Catholic) Harvard University, *Modern West, Religion
and Society*
- Mai-Anh L. Tran** (United Methodist) Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary,
Congregational Studies/ Christian Education

Doctoral Fellows

- **Torin D. Alexander** - Rice University,
Liturgical Studies (American Baptist)
- **Eric C. Clark** - Emory University,
Black Womanist Theology (African
Orthodox)
- **Patrick D. Clayborn** - Drew Univer-
sity, *Homiletics* (African Method-
ist Episcopal)
- **Jerome N. Douglas** - Marquette
University, *Hebrew Bible/Inter-
testamental Literature* (Assemblies of
God)
- **Gregory C. Ellison** - Princeton
Theological Seminary, *Pastoral
Theology* (United Methodist)
- **Monique N. Moultrie** - Vanderbilt
University, *Sexual Ethics in Chris-
tianity/Islam* (African Methodist
Episcopal)
- **Debra J. Mumford** - Graduate Theo-
logical Union, *Homiletics and
Biblical Studies* (American Baptist)
- **Luke Powery** - Emmanuel College,
Homiletics (Progressive National
Baptist)
- **Fontella White** - Claremont Gradu-
ate School, *New Testament, Culture*
(American Baptist)
- **Richelle B. White**, Union Theological
Seminary-PSCE, *Christian Education*
(National Baptist)

Doctoral Renewals

- **Warren O. Chain** (American Baptist)
University of Chicago Divinity School
- **Wayne E. Croft** (Progressive Baptist)
Drew University
- **Adrienne R. Lotson** (Christian Church -
DoC) City University of New York
- **LeRhonda S. Manigault** (United
Methodist) Emory University
- **Heather Nicholson** (Nondenomina-
tional) Florida State University
- **Kimberly R. Peeler** (Baptist)
Vanderbilt University
- **Jonathan L. Walton** (National Baptist)
Princeton Theological Seminary
- **Joseph R. Winters** (African Method-
ist Episcopal) Duke University

Named fellowships provide a way to support theological education of gifted young people

The Fund for Theological Education invites individuals and churches to provide financial support for gifted young people through its named fellowship program.

"We are grateful for the commitment of those who believe with us in the importance of assisting gifted young people preparing for pastoral ministry and religious scholarship," said Jack Gilbert, FTE's vice president for advancement. Here are four of the individuals and churches currently providing named fellowships:

Concord Baptist Church

Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y., contributes funds for a doctoral fellowship each year. Gary V. Simpson is senior pastor at Concord, one of the leading Progressive National Baptist churches in the nation. He and his wife, Emma Jordan Simpson, are FTE Fellows, and he serves on the FTE board.

Concord's remarkable history of offering both a prophetic voice and Christian service began with its assistance to fugitive slaves in the 1840s and continues through its advocacy of human rights and contributions to community development. "This church strives to be a leader among the followers of Christ, anchored in service and committed to a brighter future." Among its many ministries, Concord supports an elementary school, a nursing home and home health care, a seniors' residence, and a credit union.

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Another source of support for an FTE fellowship is Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, which provides a Ministry Fellowship. Fourth Presbyterian has been a beacon in Chicago since 1871, using its location, strength, and privilege to "share God's grace through worship, preaching, education, and ministries of healing, reconciliation and justice."

Led by pastors Joanna Adams and John M. Buchanan, this church supports mission in Africa, Central America, and Indian nations in the U.S., and has created a network of clinics, shelters, and tutoring and child-care programs

in the Chicago area. Fourth Church also provides the inspiration and spiritual nurture that comes from worship, music, and preaching, and intellectual stimulation through its weekday adult education program, the Academy of Faith and Life.

The Kelsey Fellowships

Several fellowships are awarded each year to Episcopalians in honor of the Rev. Preston T. Kelsey II, an FTE trustee from 1988 to 2000. He served as Episcopal chaplain at Dartmouth College and in parishes in California, New Hampshire and Yorkshire, England. He was executive director of the Episcopal Board of Theological Education and later served as assistant to the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Kelsey remains devoted to the work of ministry at Dartmouth and at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, where he serves as a trustee. "Pete Kelsey has offered his steadfast leadership in remarkable ways to the cause of education and good ministry," said Gilbert. "We are grateful for his support each year of the Kelsey Fellowships for Episcopal students."

Trinity United Church of Christ

Each year Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago provides the Trinity Fellowship to an African-American student preparing for a life of service in ministry. Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., Trinity has become one of the leading centers in the nation for the affirmation of the Gospel as a source of liberation, "not only for the oppressed, but for all of God's family." Its educational mission is both Christ-centric and Africentric, using an African focus to understand history, culture and spirituality. This ministry encourages members to experience cultural and spiritual life in Africa and of African people in the Diaspora, particularly in the Caribbean, through special sojourns there.

Spiritual nurture, education, and social outreach also characterize the ministry of this congregation through outreach in prisons, housing, employment, and the performing arts.

Congregational Fellows for 2003-04

Fellowships awarded through FTE's Congregation-based Recruitment program will go to 12 young people headed for seminary this fall.

They were selected from a pool of applicants nominated by congregations participating in this matching funds program, which provides a first year in seminary through the support of the congregation, the school and the FTE.

The Congregational Fellows are:

- **Ann Bonner**, *St. Mary's Episcopal Church Dorchester, MA, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale*
- **Jason Craig**, *First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC, The Divinity School at Wake Forest*
- **Stephen Davis**, *Wilshire Baptist Church, Waco, TX, Truett Theological Seminary*
- **Regan Doyle**, *Plymouth Congregational Church Lawrence, KS, Eden Theological Seminary*
- **Tyler Gillespie**, *Wilshire Baptist Church, Waco, TX, Duke Divinity School*
- **Ronald Handlon**, *Wilshire Baptist Church, Waco, TX, McAfee School of Theology*
- **Thomas Harmon**, *New Hanover Presbyterian Church Mechanicsville, VA, Princeton Theological Seminary*
- **Marc Loustau**, *All Souls Church, New York, NY, Harvard Divinity School*
- **Bailey Norman**, *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN, Virginia Theological Seminary*
- **Alan Thrush**, *The Grantham Church, Grantham, PA, Fuller Theological Seminary*
- **Lauren Tice**, *First Congregational Church, Western Springs, IL, Clifft School of Theology*
- **Michael York**, *First Presbyterian Church Hartsville, SC, Columbia Theological Seminary*

Undergraduate Fellows

Elizabeth Anderson - Lutheran
Swarthmore College

Darius Benton - African Methodist Episcopal
Norfolk State University

Nathan Best - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Ithaca University

Adam Brown - Baptist
University of Michigan

Malcolm Byrd - African Methodist Episcopal
Livingstone College

John Carroll - Baptist
Mercer University

Megan Castellan - Episcopal
College of William and Mary

Jessica Crowe - United Methodist
LaGrange College

Sonya Curtis - Nondenominational
Emory University

Nicholas Danford - Episcopal
Rice University

Joseph Dean - United Methodist
Emory University

Harold Eichelberger - Baptist
Howard University

Julia Feder - Roman Catholic
Ohio Dominican University

Deanna Ferree - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Macalester College

Sara Ferry - Episcopal
Stanford University

Jody Foster - Seventh Day Adventist
Walla Walla College

Kirsten Fryer - Evangelical Lutheran
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jessica Gazzola - Roman Catholic
Marquette University

Tricia Gonwa - Roman Catholic
Macalester College

Diana Grimes - Episcopal
Grinnell College

Lauren Guerra - Roman Catholic
Loyola Marymount University

Ryan Gunderson - Evangelical Free Church
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stephanie Haskins - Lutheran
Cornell College

Sara Hayden - Presbyterian
Truman State University

Kira Houston - Baptist
Howard University

Mark Huber - Lutheran
Wittenburg University

Edward Hunter - United Methodist
Lycoming College

Philip Huston - United Methodist
McMurry University

Mary Hwang - Episcopal
University of Chicago

Amy Jahn - Evangelical Lutheran
Valparaiso University

Craig Janney - Baptist
Chowan College

Matthew Johnson - United Methodist
Messiah College

Spencer Johnston - Roman Catholic
Loyola Marymount University

Courtney Jones - United Methodist
Southeastern College at Wake Forest

Elaine Kelly - United Methodist
Furman University

Nathan LeMahieu - Christian Reformed
Northwestern University

Virginia Lynch - United Methodist
Emory University

Alexander Maistros - Greek Orthodox
Hellenic College

Anna Marsh - Evangelical Lutheran
Gustavus Adolphus College

Matthew Marston - Baptist
Millsaps College

Wendy Matheny - Church of the Brethren
Manchester College

Andrew May - Nondenominational
Middlebury College

Erin Musolf - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Monmouth College

Kirby Newport - Episcopal
University of the South

Kee-Min Ngiam - United Methodist
Drew University

Eric Osborne - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Amherst College

Katelyn Parks - Roman Catholic
The College of Notre Dame

Stephanie Powell - Disciples of Christ
Culver-Stockton College

Timothy Rainey - Baptist
Morehouse College

Jessica Riviere - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
College of Wooster

Ann Rosendale - Evangelical Lutheran
Augustana College

Jason Schmidt - Mennonite
Bethel College

Rebecca Schwandt - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Drury University

Ann Sherlock - United Church of Christ
Smith College

Jeremiah Sierra - Episcopal
Rice University

Lydia Sohn - United Methodist
Scripps College

Nathan Soule - Presbyterian
University of Kansas

Emily Stallcup - United Methodist
Hendrix College

Jennifer Stallings - United Methodist
Messiah College

Anne Stewart - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Smith College

Nathan Sytsma - Nondenominational
Calvin College

Alan Taylor - Church of Christ
Cascade College

Jeremy Van Deman - Nondenominational
Manchester College

Crystal Waggy - Church of the Brethren
Manchester College

Rebekah Walter - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Loyola Marymount University

Aaron Werner - Evangelical Lutheran
Michigan State University

Fallon Wilson - Disciples of Christ
Spelman College

Tyler Wilterding - Assemblies of God
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Allison Zbicz - Evangelical Lutheran
Duke University

Sherah-Leigh Zehr - Mennonite
Eastern Mennonite University

Ministry Fellows

Neil Arner - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Princeton Theological Seminary

Todd Bryant - Episcopal
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the
Southwest

Klem-Mari Cajigas - Southern Baptist
Vanderbilt Divinity School

Raquel Cajiri - United Methodist
Perkins School of Theology

Lee Sun Choi - Presbyterian
Perkins School of Theology

Damaris Christensen - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Union Theological Seminary-PSCE

Terri Cisse - Assemblies of God
Harvard Divinity School

Amanda Cormack - Evangelical Lutheran
Pacific Lutheran Theological

Lindsay Cox - United Church of Canada
United Theological College

Laura Davis - United Methodist
Perkins School of Theology

Michal Dinkler - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Michael Flack - United Methodist
Duke University Divinity School

Elizabeth Ford - Roman Catholic
Weston Jesuit School of Theology

Tahir Golden - Baptist
McCormick Theological Seminary

Heidi Haverkamp - Episcopal
University of Chicago Divinity School

Katherine Hinman - United Methodist
Candler School of Theology

Christopher Homiak - Cooperative Baptist
Truett Seminary

Mary Huston - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Boston University School of Theology

Shively Jackson - Church of God in Christ
Candler School of Theology

Sarah Jobe - Baptist
Duke University Divinity School

Tiffany Knowlin - United Methodist
Candler School of Theology

Melissa Kreider - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Andover Newton Theological School

Elizabeth Lerohl - Evangelical Lutheran
Yale Divinity School

Steven Meier - Evangelical Lutheran
Luther Seminary

Joel Miller - Mennonite
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Eustacia Moffett - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Princeton Theological Seminary

Kate Murphey - United Methodist
Wesley Theological Seminary

Andrew Nelson - Evangelical Lutheran
Luther Seminary

Kirkland Reynolds - United Methodist
Candler School of Theology

Joshua Rinas - Evangelical Lutheran
Yale Divinity School

Cara Spaccarelli - Episcopal
Seabury-Western Theological Seminary

Nancy Speas - United Methodist
Candler School of Theology

Laura Sponseller - United Church of Christ
Eden Theological Seminary

David Sturtz - United Methodist
Methodist Theological School of Ohio

Jessica Tate - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Union Theological Seminary - PSCE

Anne Theriault - Roman Catholic
Weston Jesuit School of Theology

Samson Tso - Presbyterian (U.S.A.)
Princeton Theological Seminary

Frances Waters - United Methodist
Perkins School of Theology

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove - Southern Baptist
Duke University Divinity School

Naomi Wittstruck - United Methodist
Candler School of Theology

Sara Wolbrecht - Evangelical Lutheran
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Denominational Partners celebrate recruitment successes

By MELISSA WIGINTON
Director of Ministry Programs and the
Partnership for Excellence

An FTE-sponsored group of Denominational Partners, leaders of ministerial recruitment and theological education, marked its fifth year of meetings in March by highlighting successes in advancing the work of encouraging young people to pursue congregational ministry.

- The Progressive National Baptists host “Seminarists Day” at their annual meeting to provide information, panel discussions and individual consultation among young people and leaders.

- Epiphany Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Houston, Texas, has surpassed its goal of having five members preparing for full-time church work by its 25th anniversary – six people have begun or completed their studies and three more have dedicated themselves to moving in that direction. The LCMS is also planning a two-day event to gather 20 congregations who are sending a significant number of young people into ministry to honor them, learn from their experience and challenge them to each mentor four other congregations.

- In Charlotte, N.C., American

Baptist Friendship Baptist Church, the congregational climate and the healthy leadership of Clifford Jones have attracted more than a dozen people into ministry.

- The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) committed general higher education scholarship funds to awards for young people preparing for church leadership, and added a component of covenants with congregations, summer internships and annual leadership conferences. The number of preministerial students has doubled since the program’s inception.

- The Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church has generated more than 100 candidates for ministry in a single year by intentionally moving into the local church as the locus of enlistment. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, while continuing the national biannual *Explo* event, also is creating five jurisdictional programs to push the effort closer to the local church.

- The Presbyterian Church (USA) has convened a Leadership Pool Task Force to explore, among other issues, ways to make and maintain earlier connections with potential candidates among high school and college students.

- The Wisconsin Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from a local foundation to address vocational discernment; planned activities include hosting periodic one-day events to which pastors will bring gifted youth from their congregations, electronic follow-up with web cards and information, and subsequent gatherings to build and sustain interest in ministry. The Nebraska Synod has embarked on a program to identify young people and match them with an adult for a long-term mentoring relationship.

Gerry Mathisen, manager of partner relations and academic partnerships with the Willow Creek Association, joined the Denominational Partners to present a set of alternative paradigms and practices for preparing young people for congregational ministry.

As more young people are drawn to the vocation of ministry, these leaders increasingly face questions about how best to prepare congregational pastors: the gap between seminaries and churches, the need for visionary leadership, the rising costs of theological education, the need to shape pedagogy with attention to technology, and the evolving spiritual, ecclesiological, and liturgical interests of young Christians.

For Undergraduate Fellow, mentoring proves helpful

By NANETTE SEXTON ROSS

When defining the word “mentor,” the dictionary offers these synonyms: “a trusted counselor or guide, a tutor or coach.”

Nearly half of FTE’s Undergraduate Fellows discovered its real meaning during the past year as they put to use FTE’s first \$500 mentoring stipends.

For John Mills, having a mentor for his junior year at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., was an especially helpful experience, thanks to Donald Musser, professor of religious studies.

Midway through the year, Musser wrote to FTE: “John Mills and I are team-teaching a course called Introduction to Biblical Literature for 28 students. John is doing a good job. He also led a major antiwar rally on our campus that was attended by a couple hundred people, including ‘townies.’ We are also having regular conversations about vocation. I am really enjoying being a mentor to him. This is a great program.”

Musser says he’s always been a mentor during his 25 years of college teaching. “John and I talked, did some reading on ministry and call, and explored particular vocations. He



John Mills (left) with mentor Don Musser wasn’t aware of all the vocational opportunities in church and faith-related enterprises. Now he has many goals to look into.”

From Mills’ perspective, “It’s been great. I’ve really enjoyed the relationship that’s developed with Dr. Musser. It’s nice to have someone to talk to who has been through the same thing I have. It’s been an enriching experience.”

Mills had spent the previous year studying at one of the colleges in Oxford, England. “(There) I got pumped about liberation and green theology,” he said. “When I returned to Stetson I organized a letter-writing campaign to our senators and several campus antiwar rallies before and during the war with Iraq.”

This summer he’ll be working at a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C., for the Community for Creative Nonviolence. In the fall, with a grant from Stetson, he will be developing “a theology of homeless people, finding out what their religious views are, and how they see God at work in their lives.” Musser will serve as his project adviser.

For Mills, “This is about being responsive as a Christian to oppressed people in society and to point out what I believe to be unjust.

“I feel like my future is wide open. I think you could say I’ve certainly expanded my view.”

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HORIZONS

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825 Houston Mill Rd, Suite 250
Atlanta, GA 30329-4211

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E-mail: fte@thefund.org
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Focus on Fellows

■ **Wilda C. Gafney**, FTE North American Doctoral Fellow (2001-2002) and Dissertation Fellow (2002-2003), has accepted a position at Lutheran Theological Seminaries at Philadelphia and Gettysburg as assistant professor of Old Testament and homiletics beginning this fall.

■ **Jalane D. Schmidt**, FTE North American Doctoral Fellow (1999-2000) and Dissertation Fellow (2002-2003), has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Oberlin

College beginning in September. She will be visiting instructor in religion and scholar-in-residence.

■ **Eric G. Pearman**, Ph.D., FTE Dissertation Fellow (2000-2001), will leave his position at Fuller Seminary to become assistant professor of church history at the Interdenominational Theological Center. He also was inducted April 3 into the Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College.

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calling that led me to a career in religious scholarship, which helped to renew my passion for and commitment to the dissertation project as well as future scholarly endeavors."

The Fellows also expressed appreciation for the mutual encouragement and support of peers who are at a critical juncture in their professional development. Sheila Winborne, a Harvard University student exploring Christian theology and the visual arts, said, "I'm particularly grateful for the conversations about the added pressures of being an underrepresented minority person within academics. It was

helpful to have conversations with other scholars who are going through similar experiences."

The FTE plans to make the writing and publishing workshop a regular feature of the Fellows' dissertation year, with the hope of affording students opportunities for even more intensive, one-on-one collaboration with seasoned editors about their particular projects. "For FTE scholars," Patrick Alexander concluded, "becoming better at the craft of writing might be what allows their unique perspectives, insights, and ideas to be heard above the din of other voices."