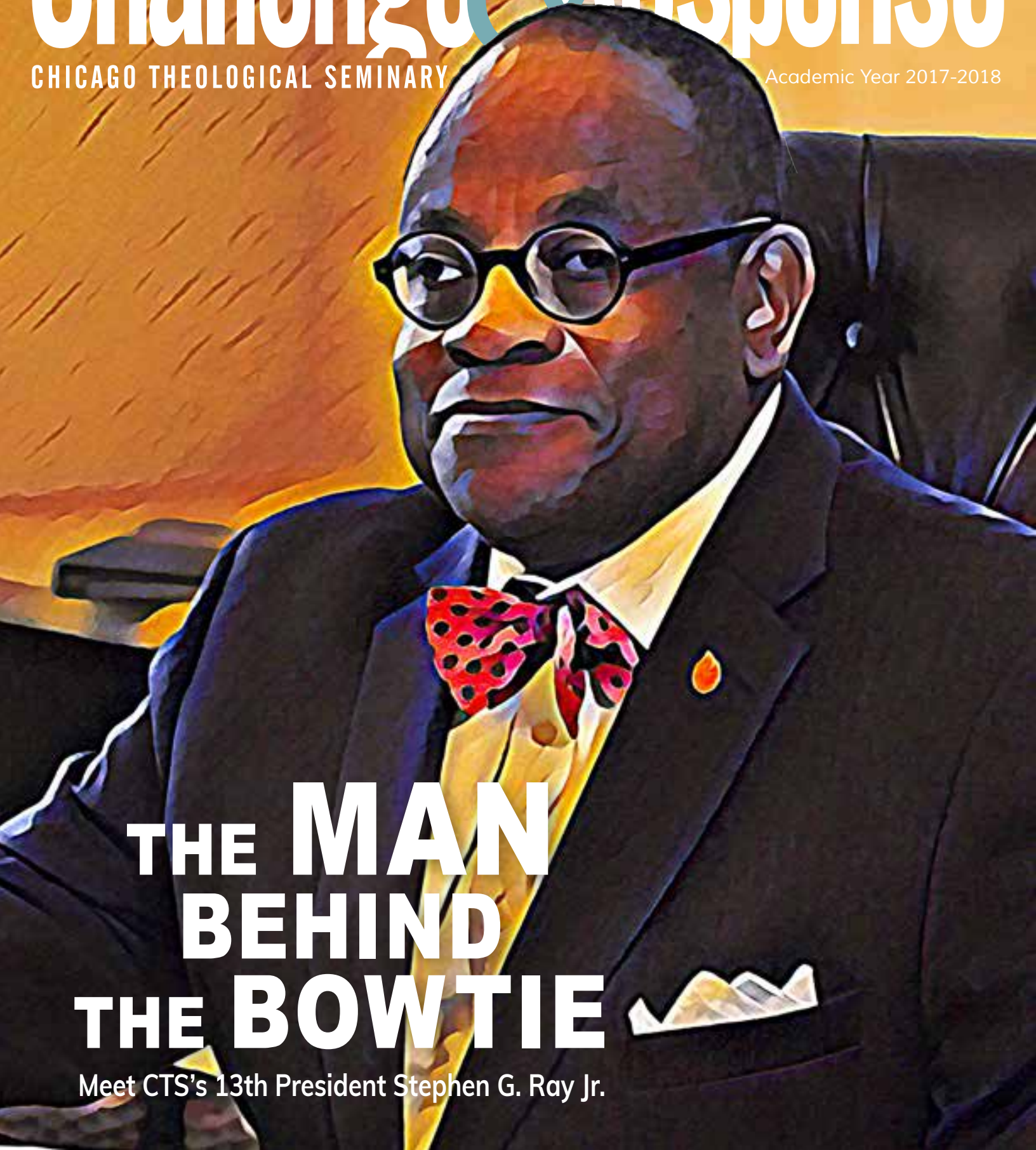


Challenge & Response

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Academic Year 2017-2018



THE MAN BEHIND THE BOWTIE

Meet CTS's 13th President Stephen G. Ray Jr.

President's Welcome

Stephen G. Ray Jr., President



Greetings from the corner of the Woodlawn and Hyde Park neighborhoods!

As I begin the reflection which opens this issue of Challenge and Response let me first thank you for your interest and support of Chicago Theological Seminary. Without your prayers, presence, and gifts, the good work we do here would be far less; as would be our witness for justice and peace in a broken world. I express the gratitude of our entire faculty and staff.

I had thought to begin this, my first piece for C&R, with some words about my excitement as the new president of CTS and some sharing of my hopes and dreams for our school. Alas, the price of living in turbulent times is that our best wishes are overtaken by events of the day. Such is the place this reflection begins. We find ourselves witness to what will be remembered by history as a dark moment in our nation's history. A hand reaching from the darkest parts of the 20th century seems to have taken hold of the hopes and dreams we had for this new century, the new millennium and dragged them into the cesspool of malice and hatred. Here, I am specifically concerned with the policies of this administration relating to migrant families at our border with Mexico. These policies have resulted in the separation of families and sent children to detention camps which provide only the most basic care and little nurture. Some of these children below the age of three; in some reported cases infants. Among their number are children made orphans by the deportation of their parents while they remain in the custody of the federal government.

It grieves me that many of you will have your first introduction to me and my administration with reflections on this human tragedy unfolding before our eyes. I can only account for this by sharing with you the simple facts that I am a minister of the Gospel, a lover of the Church, and a student of history. I bear in my heart the heavy burden

of knowing of the many times in the past when the most vulnerable in our midst, the strangers, have been persecuted and named while people of faith stood by. The Japanese internments. The Holocaust. This knowledge while it weighs heavy, exists alongside the knowledge that while many chose to be bystanders, a few in every age stood against the tide of malice on behalf of their neighbors and of their faith. These people of good-will carved, as King intoned, a passageway through the mountain of despair. Our day needs some of these people, urgently.

If I were to give another reason for bringing your gaze to this heartbreaking situation and voicing an urgent call to people of good-will to act on behalf of our beleaguered neighbors, it would be simply that this has always been the CTS way. From its founding by staunch anti-slavery advocates to its support of the Civil Rights Movement, to its unflinching support of the dignity of all God's children who rejoice in the many ways we find love, to its support of our persecuted Muslim sisters and brothers, Chicago Theological Seminary has never been a bystander when malice takes flesh in our world, our public square. Nor have we been a school for the meek and fearful who place career above calling when the call for justice is clear. In a sense, it would be a betrayal of what CTS has been and whom God is calling us to be in this time if this piece proceeded business as usual.

So, I ask that you continue to be with us in this work of making a more just world for all. I give you my promise that CTS will continue to be a place upon which future generations will gaze with thankfulness for our witness and deeds, and not regret because we chose the safety of the bystander in our time.

A handwritten signature in white ink, likely of Stephen G. Ray Jr., located in the bottom right corner of the page.

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CONTENTS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017 – 2018



2 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
Stephen G. Ray Jr.

6 RIFFING WITH STEPHEN RAY
And Improvising What's Next...

9 THE STONE AGE
President Ray Reflects on the Tenure
of Dean Ken Stone

10 FACULTY BOOKSHELF
New Books by Faculty

11 ALL GOD'S CREATURES
Ken Stone's Book Release

12 THEOLOGY AT WORK
Theological Field Education Reflections

14 BIBLICAL RESISTANCE
Combatting Homophobia Through
Ministry Workshop

16 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS
Photo Essay of CTS People & Events

18 THE INTERRELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
Inaugural Year in Review

22 DEAN'S DESK
Dean & Academic Updates

24 THE MONSTER MASH
Comparing Gory Biblical Imagery
and Horror Genres

26 IN MEMORIAM
Obituaries & Tributes

27 MISSION & COMMITMENTS
2017 Updated Version

28 GIVING BACK...
& PAYING FORWARD
Park Church Raises Student Scholarship

30 LEADERS FOR THE NEXT
Alumni Profiles

32 DONOR ROLL
2017- 2018 Contributions

38 UPCOMING EVENTS
Dates of Annual & Special Events

39 FACILITY RENTALS
CTS is an Ideal Location for Your Events

NEWS FROM

THE BOARD

TRUSTEE SERVICE

We are incredibly fortunate for the commitment of CTS trustees. We recognize and thank each trustee for their diligence, support, time, and wisdom. Over the last year, Chicago Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees said goodbye to longtime trustees and welcomed new ones to the fold.

October 2017:

- The Board welcomed new trustees, Zack Shah, Kashif M. Shaikh, and Mark Winters (MDiv '09).

May 2018:

- The Board welcomed new trustees Matt Garretson (MA '17) and Dawson B. Taylor (DMin '12).
- Donald C. Clark, Jr., having generously served as acting president January 2017 – February 2018, returned to his dual role as life trustee and general counsel.



Matt Garretson



Dawson B. Taylor



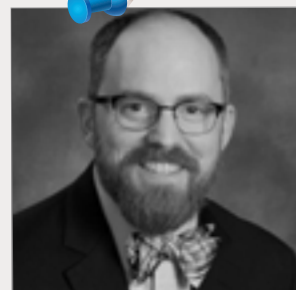
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder



Zack Shah



Kashif M. Shaikh



Mark Winters

TRUSTEE ACTIONS

October 2017

- The Board approved an updated version of the Seminary's Mission & Commitments submitted by the faculty. [page 27]
- By unanimous vote, trustees bestowed emeritus status upon Professor Theodore 'Ted' Jennings. Jennings retired in 2017, concluding over 20 years of service.

January 2018

- The Board announced the appointment of the Seminary's 13th president, Stephen G. Ray Jr., successfully concluding a one-year presidential search, led by BoardWalk Consulting.

May 2018

- By unanimous vote – followed by a standing ovation – Trustees approved the appointment of Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, as the new vice president of academic affairs & academic dean, starting July 1. She succeeds Ken Stone who will return to full-time teaching upon the conclusion of his sabbatical in September 2019. Additionally, Crowder was granted full tenure status.
- By unanimous vote, Trustees bestowed emeritus status upon Professor W. Dow Edgerton who retired after 35 years of service to CTS.
- The Board approved a new, three-year tenure-track contract renewal for Professor Christophe D. Ringer. Trustees also approved Ringer's junior sabbatical beginning with the Fall 2018 semester.



Riffing with Stephen

AND IMPROVISING WHAT'S NEXT ...

Kim Schultz

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. is a big fan of jazz. It fires his imagination and calms his heart, providing a soundtrack for his life.

Jazz, with its afro-centric roots, notes of classical, R&B, and rock is defined by improvisation, syncopation, and a strong, driving rhythm. In jazz, all the different sounds and voices come together to create something unanticipated and inspiring – a lot like Dr. Ray's work as the new president of Chicago Theological Seminary. Ray has been tasked with taking this seminary into what's next – which I've learned, like jazz, can be a bit freeform.

I recently had the privilege to sit down with Dr. Stephen Ray on a cloudy day in Chicago. He looked sharp, wearing his trademark bowtie, as he sat with me in his corner office. Ray is the 13th president of CTS, an unlucky number by some standards, although not his.

"I don't really believe in luck," he says with a laugh, "as I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Calvinist. What some people might call luck, I call God's desire for us to flourish. And in this broken world, God's desire for us to flourish occasionally breaks through. And that, I think, is what some people call luck."

Adopted and then raised in New York – in a working class, mostly blue-collar neighborhood in Queens, Ray was profoundly influenced by his mother. After his father left when he was seven, she raised him alone. Although the two men reconnected, women have always held strong sway in Ray's life – first his mom, later his wife Susan (whom he met when he was only 17), and then his daughter Kiara. In this way, Ray found a strong sense of identity and community.



Ray

"I always had a sense of family, of home, somewhere I could go. I also have a deep sense that family is whoever chooses to be family. You make your family." And now, he has chosen to make family of CTS.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of Yale Divinity School, his theological training almost didn't happen. It was a stroke of luck. (Or was it a God flourish?) In 1989, he got fired from, ironically, a job for the structurally unemployed. That was on a Monday. Not knowing quite what to do, he called his pastor for advice. "Well, Stephen, you've been talking about going to the seminary..." the pastor responded. Inspired, Ray looked into it, learning the application deadline was Friday. That Friday, Ray took a breath and managed to have his application in by Friday. When I ask him how his faith helped him make that rather quick choice to go to seminary, somewhat later in life, he claims not to be a very religious man. I laugh.

"People often scoff when I say that," he takes a breath and continues. "The way I move through the world is that I am always talking to God. I'm a man of deep faith, but not particularly religious. The way I experience living out my faith is seeing what I can bring into being that which I believe God wishes to be. I want to live my life as a tool to help those things break through. That, to me, is the content of religion. I see what your religion is and who your God is by how you live."

In his first year at seminary, his daughter was born. And so for the first four years of her life, in the mornings, Ray was the primary caregiver. He says it taught him so much, including patience.

"I was deeply shaped by combing my daughter's hair every day – oiling and combing and talking. She didn't have short hair! We'd sit there for forty minutes every morning. The patience it takes to comb a girl's hair, particularly an African-American girl's hair. I was shaped by that time with my daughter."

In our conversation, Dr. Ray is open and frank with me, seemingly not holding much back. He is generous and thoughtful. Colleague Brian Smith says, "He's a brilliant scholar, a visionary,

with a thirst for curiosity. I jokingly refer to him as Google."

Perhaps more importantly, Ray is bold. He is willing to have the difficult conversations about race that are so necessary right now but might make some people uncomfortable.

"His ability to communicate the needs of the black church to a white audience and not get side-stepped, to hold white theologians accountable for issues of race is pivotal for CTS," offers Dr. Barry Bryant, Associate Professor of United Methodist and Wesleyan Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

In this world so divided and politicized, people are too often judged by the color of their skin, how they worship, and who they love. So what can or should a seminary do in these troubling times? Dr. Ray believes that the old ecology can no longer sustain seminaries and that unless we change and open ourselves to a new way of thinking and living out our faith, welcoming everyone, seminaries may eventually serve no one.

"Within our society, faith is being racialized. When we talk about Muslims, it's being racialized, being made a 'brown religion'. At most, Jewish people have been 'honorary white people'. This is the regime of white supremacy. The interfaith work we are doing at CTS is a most significant way to counter the bondage of white supremacy."

I ask him how he thinks we break that bondage, especially at CTS.

"Our prior commitments to white supremacy are working against the survival of our seminaries. We need to change how we see people of color. We need to start seeing people of color as trustees and potential donors that shape our institution. If you have institutions not fundamentally shaped by people of color, you will keep having institutions shaped solely by white people. And the bondage continues. So part of what we have to do is imagine what it means to shape people as leaders of faith in this new paradigm on every level. In order for seminaries to survive, we need to use our imaginations."

After a short silence, he tells me he believes our most significant challenge at CTS will be finding the imagination for what could be different.

So much of this work appears to be about imagining – imagining what's next.

CTS uses a tagline: *Leaders For the Next*. This phrase is seen and heard quite frequently around the seminary. We are in fact preparing leaders for the next. I wonder how this new paradigm fits into that. And in fact, what is the next?

"I don't know what the next is," he says with a smile. "Part of our work is to find it. Our future will be determined by the kids currently in school – middle-schoolers. They are the next! And to the extent we allow ourselves to be shaped by who and what they are becoming, then we can make critical decisions as to what is vital to carry forward so that this will be an institution that they will recognize and want to come and support. Whatever next is going to be, they are it."

We continue discussing how to invite people to the table, how to share the hosting responsibilities and how to make everyone feel welcome, when he makes a baseball reference.

"I don't believe in the Field of Dreams model of 'if you build it, they will come'." Rather, he believes if you invite the audiences

(cont.)

you need to build it with you that when it is finished, you won't have to worry about finding the audience – because they are already there. Ray clearly understands one of his main responsibilities as the new president is reshaping this public square.

“With the new Obama Center one block away, building partnerships and cultivating global leadership for The Next is critical. We are committed to growing religious leaders who are committed to rebuilding the public square. Too much of our population has had a dream of a public square in which they were the only ones. And everyone else came in by permission. There's no more critical work than that to rebuild the public square, with not only room for us all, but a public square where we can't imagine *not* having us all.”

Maybe we need to improvise, creating a new soundtrack.

The change in rhythm he has felt since starting as president has been one of his biggest challenges.

“I've had to reframe habits of mind. As a scholar or teacher, I used to think about one or two things all day, thinking about those things complexly. This new job commands I think about five or six different things – all before noon! I really have to re-train my mind.”

We laugh, him probably thinking about the five or six things he has to think about after I leave his office.

“Our religion is our way of giving voice to our experience with God, but God speaks in so many languages. So we are always in search of other experiences of God that will speak and give full witness to a new experience of God. I would hope that through the success of our work here at CTS, we can become a model of what theological education can be if it is responsive and responsible to what is emerging as the reality of our society.”

With Dr. Ray leading the charge, that seems likely.

We end our conversation talking about scotch, of all things. His favorite is surprisingly Dewar's 12 – a blended scotch.

“People who know me might be surprised by this, as I enjoy...living well,” says the bowtie wearing, 4-star restaurant man. “In every circle

5 THINGS YOU MAYBE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT STEPHEN RAY

1. HE LOVES CATS
2. IS A BIG FAN OF BAKED GOODS
3. FAVORITE JAZZ ARTISTS ARE GREGORY PORTER AND NORMAN BROWN
4. LOVES TO WORK ON HIS BUTTERFLY GARDEN
5. THE MAN CAN COOK!



BENEATH THE BOWTIE

DR. RAY PUT ON HIS FIRST BOWTIE IN 1981. AFTER SEEING JOHN HOUSEMAN WEAR ONE IN THE PAPER CHASE. IN THE FILM, JOHN HOUSEMAN PLAYED A PROFESSOR. SECRETLY, DR. RAY ENTERTAINED AN ASPIRATION HE WASN'T SURE WAS POSSIBLE YET – TO BE A PROFESSOR HIMSELF. THE PRECEDENT WAS SET FOR OUR PRESIDENT. AND THE BOWTIE HAS REMAINED.

I move, I am identified as a single malt kind of guy,” he smiles. “But I find the greatest joy in common things, but what makes it common is not one thing in particular. It's many things coming together that make it uncommon. Like in jazz.”

And similar to the work ahead of him at Chicago Theological Seminary in reshaping the school and public square to something wonderfully uncommon – so reflective of who we are – that we couldn't imagine it any other way.

The public is invited to the Installation Celebration of Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. on October 10-12, 2018. For more information visit ctschicago.edu/installation or email kjohnson@ctschi.edu.

BEFORE DR. RAY CAME TO CTS...

... he served as the Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher Professor of Systematic Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Ray is also the author of *Do No Harm: Social Sin and Christian Responsibility* and co-author of *Black Church Studies: An Introduction*. He has received numerous awards, including Yale Divinity School's Hooker Fellowship for Excellence in Theological Studies; Yale University's University Fellowship; Charter Oak State College's Distinguished Alumni Award; and was named to Morehouse College's Martin Luther King, Jr. International Collegium of Scholars in 2008. Ray's past positions include associate professor of African-American studies and director of the Urban Theological Institute at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; associate professor of theology and philosophy at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and lecturer at Yale Divinity School and Hartford Seminary. He received a doctor of philosophy in theology and African-American studies from Yale University and a master of divinity (*summa cum laude*) from Yale Divinity School.



The Stone Age

PRESIDENT RAY REFLECTS ON THE TENURE OF DEAN KEN STONE

Stephen G. Ray Jr., President

It is rare that a seminary is so significantly shaped by the calm yet transformative presence of a long-serving Dean, as has been the case with Ken Stone and Chicago Theological Seminary. Since taking the responsibility for guiding the academic life of the seminary, Ken has been a presence who has called everyone to a sense of excellence, conviction of calling, and persistent resilience. His leadership has guided the seminary through the “future-altering” transitions of our place; quite literally, the new brick and mortar and the digital migration of our curriculum. His steady hand has been present in the significant generational transitions within our faculty. As important, Ken has continued to teach and guide our students in their journey. In sum, Ken Stone has been a significant force in shaping what CTS is becoming in our time.

If I might be allowed a personal note, let me say that Ken is an important part of the reason I was so excited about joining the community here at CTS. His collegiality, dedication to excellence, and exemplification of the mission and values of CTS were all things I experienced during my sabbatical here a few years back. The prospect of joining the school and working with Ken filled me with excitement and joy. I have been blessed to share in the work of administration with him, even if just for a time. I will ever be grateful for that time.

I wish him all the best as he journeys in this new phase of his life with us. *Via con dios, mi amigo.*



FACULTY BOOK SHELF

**Bo Myung
Seo**

*Eschatology
in American
Thought*

Rachel Mikva

*Honoring
Tradition,
Embracing
Modernity:
A Reader for
the Union
for Reform
Judaism's
Introduction
to Judaism
Course
(chapter
author)*

Ken Stone
*Reading the
Hebrew Bible
with Animal
Studies*

**Susan
Thistlethwaite**
*Where
Drowned
Things Live:
A Kristin
Ginelli
Mystery*

“I’ve always been interested in *animals*,” Ken Stone, immediate-past academic dean and professor of bible, culture, and hermeneutics at Chicago Theological Seminary, says, “But I never thought I’d write about them.” Animals, however, are the central topic of Dr. Stone’s new book, *Reading the Hebrew Bible with Animal Studies* which was released at the end of 2017.

“In a way, it’s a new topic for me,” Dr. Stone continues, “in another way, it’s in continuity with what I’ve done before. All of my books have tried to think about how we read biblical texts, not only in dialogue with biblical studies, which is absolutely crucial for me, but also with some body of interdisciplinary work from the humanities or social sciences.”

Previous works by Dr. Stone such as, *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible*, and *Practicing Safer Texts: Food, Sex and Bible in Queer Perspective* led directly to his current publication examining the theological role of animals. “When I was writing my book about food and sex in the Bible, which I came to through queer issues, I would be writing about food – or talking about it later – and I would find myself actually talking about the animal rather than the food. And I would wonder, why do I keep making that distinction? Which led me to wonder why there wasn’t more out there about the animals in the Bible. So, what started as a side interest eventually became kind of an obsession.”

“The book argues there are a lot more animals in the Hebrew Bible than people realize,” Dr. Stone con-

All God's Creatures

**KEN STONE RELEASES NEW BOOK,
*READING THE HEBREW BIBLE WITH ANIMAL STUDIES***

Jess Peacock, PhD Student



tinues, “and one of the ways it is useful to study the animals that are in the Bible and the roles they play is to do so in dialogue with non-biblical animal studies. Particularly the interdisciplinary forms of animal studies that have emerged in the humanities and the social sciences over the past decade.”

This interdisciplinary approach, informed by prominent and influential thinkers such as Jacques Derrida and Donna Haraway, challenges the reader to push beyond traditional understandings of non-human animals within Judeo-Christian history and theology. “I think the line between humans and animals and the relationship between animals and God is more complex than people realize. What I mean more specifically is, when you ask someone what the Bible says about animals, the response is typically, ‘Oh, we have dominion over them,’ and that’s pretty much it.”

Expanding on the complex enmeshment of God and both human and non-human animals, Dr. Stone uses the examples of early scripture being written and passed down on animal skins, as well as the birth of Israel originating, to some extent, in the story of Jacob wearing the furs of goats in order to fool Isaac into his blessing. “Israel’s identity, and hence Judaism and Christianity, are shaped through relations with animals, and the line gets blurred between human and animal because we become sheep and God is the shepherd.”

In addition, Dr. Stone draws attention to the role of animals as a tool of marginalization within scripture. “We see the negative animalization of women in the Bible in examples like the parable Nathan tells David about Bathsheba where she’s a lamb that

gets killed for a meal, or Jephthah’s daughter becoming a sacrifice literally, and the Levite’s concubine in Judges 19 being cut into pieces and sent out to the tribes of Israel just as Saul cuts bodies of cattle in the book of Samuel and sends those pieces out.”

“We need to think more seriously about the ways in which our religious traditions are constituted through relations with animals.”

Aside from the metaphorical or allegorical importance of animals within the Bible, in his book Dr. Stone delves considerably deeper into the roles of non-human animals, asking if they have religion. “How we’re defining religion is partly set up to exclude animals. But there are ways we could define it to include animal actions that, if humans were doing it, we would call religion. And we shouldn’t act like a question like this is new. These are questions that are pre-modern that we’re asking a post-modern era. It’s modernity that got it wrong.”

Ultimately, Dr. Stone is not seeking to transform the Bible into, as he puts it, “a treatise for animal welfare.” Rather, he wants the reader to apply a critical eye to the role of non-human animals both historically and contemporarily, which “includes recognizing a more positive way in which we interpret animals, and of noting negative views toward animals as well, as we do with women in feminist readings of the Bible. Like in the Noah story, God wants to save the animals, but after the flood, humans have dominion and can eat them, which has negative consequences for animals today.”



es



THEOLO

THEOLOGICAL FIELD EDU



KRYSTLE WRIGHT
ONLINE MDIV STUDENT

Field Placement: Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands, California

This past year I had the privilege of serving as the Seminarian Intern at Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands, California. This is a community where all are welcome to experience God's gifts and graces no matter where one is on their spiritual journey. As an intern I could be found serving as an acolyte or a lay Eucharistic minister, preaching an occasional sermon, writing liturgies for special days like All Saints, Christmas, and Shrove Tuesday, assisting with the Sunday morning book study group, participating in local interfaith and ecumenical councils, assisting with crafting the new 21+ Pub Theology group, and being present with parishioners who need someone to simply be with them. While my academic life at CTS has been top notch - fascinating class topics, qualified professors, classmates who challenge me as much as I challenge them - I found the experience of field education to be absolutely necessary to complement the book learning. It is one thing to read Anita Bradshaw's *Change and Conflict in Your Congregation* and quite another to experience the reactions of parishioners who do not want the Gospel book moved, do not like the new music selected, etc. Conversely, it is easy to read Henri Nouwen's *The Living Reminder*, and harder to do the tedious work of daily ministry - paperwork, making copies, folding bulletins, attending committee meetings, cleaning up the Great Hall after a large parish party - while holding to the idea that as we serve the church we are doing so in the name of the Christ we proclaim in

our liturgies. The tie between academia and daily church service as a leader is especially important as an online student living a distance from Chicago. While I know that I can pick up the phone or shoot an email if I have questions or concerns about where the academy meets the streets, it is not quite the same as being able to knock on a professor's door and have a face to face with coffee or sit with a fellow student during lunch after chapel and chat about how our field experiences are going. Because of the lack of immediate connection, I needed to find the thread that tied academia and daily service life for myself. This was not a negative but a positive; being able to make meaning and to live in the meaning I made was, for me, a way of meeting what was right in front of me at the present moment, accepting it, and deciding what to do in response.



WESLEY SNEDEKER
MDIV STUDENT

Field Placement: Alliance for Fair Food in Immokalee, Florida

As a third year MDiv student at CTS, I had the unique and wonderful opportunity of pursuing my Field Placement with the Alliance for Fair Food in Immokalee, Florida. The Alliance for Fair Food (AFF) is the ally network of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a visionary farmworkers' rights organization recognized by the White House, the UN, and various media outlets (including *The New York Times* and *Harvard Business Review*) as the pioneer of a new model of Worker-Driven Social Responsibility. In my field placement, I

STEPHANIE BUCKHANON CROWDER

Vice President for Academic Affairs & Academic Dean

It is said that the beginning of a thing is better than its ending. Well, that depends. Movies, books, and television shows must have a quick, enticing introduction while also rendering an alarming and perhaps unexpected conclusion. As CTS is an educational institution, we take great strides in ensuring students begin the academic year with a bang. At the same time, we want them to end just as strong.

Speaking of beginnings, many do not know that CTS is the birthplace of theological field education. The concept of field placement has its practical roots at this institution. As noted in its history, "In our very first curriculum in 1855, CTS required students to combine theory and practice, action and reflection by serving in churches and mission settings across the Midwest. In doing so, CTS created the first field education component ever introduced into a seminary curriculum in the US." This was just the beginning.

During the 1920s, CTS dared to take this marrying of theory with praxis one step further. With the vision of faculty member, Anton Boisen, CTS worked to equip students to minister more effectively

to the persons facing physical, mental, and emotional health challenges. These experiences would later lead to the founding of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) in 1930. This was the beginning 2.0.

Through 400 hours of clinical pastoral education (CPE) and 400 hours of field placement at a congregation, social service agency, university, college or prison, both face-to-face and online students are forced to wrestle with and respond to questions related to who they are, what they see, and how they are called to live. These experiences are designed to help students discern and grapple with their own familial, sociological, spiritual, cultural, religious, and political origins.

There is another saying: It's not how you start, but how you finish. Field education began within brick and mortar walls in the academy. Now technology moves this experience from this origin to an online iteration with a source of its own. It does not yet appear what the end of this will be; we know CTS students will forge the way.



TECHNOLOGY AT WORK

EDUCATION REFLECTIONS

worked as a faith organizer alongside their team and as a bridge between the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ and the AFF.

Any organizer will tell you that every day on the job was different. My field placement continued this trend. As someone who has the privilege to learn from significantly experienced and skilled individuals and to contribute where I can to their movement, I never quite knew what my workweek would look like. Much of what I did was content creation: writing e-blasts, prayers, or webpages that needed to be informative and engaging for farmworker allies in faith communities. Sometimes I sent emails for hours on end, but at others I might take part in a spirited afternoon demonstration. Some days I input data into spreadsheets, still others saw me driving across the state to present on farmworkers' rights to a UCC congregation. It was all done in service of something greater, a new economy in which the people upon whom we build the foundation of our agricultural industry are treated with proper respect, are entitled to basic human rights, and can operate in an environment where they might have dignity. To that end, the CIW and its AFF allies are committed to seeing the Fair Food Program, a proven and market-enforced answer to abuses in the farming industry, become the new standard in agricultural labor.



ABOVE:
The altar at Trinity
Episcopal Church

LEFT: Snedeker participates
in a Fight for 15 rally

The opportunity to work with this incredible movement would not have been possible for me unless Chicago Theological Seminary was committed to providing a sound theological and pastoral education on terms that fostered a convenient and effective learning environment. CTS allowed me to take the majority of my MDiv classes online, which enabled me to remain in Southwest Florida, a place I care about deeply. It empowered me to stand witness to the abuse of my local neighbors and to act as a servant of their liberation. It allowed me to truly connect my learning to my context, and for this I am truly thankful.

As an open and affirming minister in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser is no stranger to controversy. At one point, early on in her ministry, she found herself at a crossroads with some of her colleagues when it came to interpreting what the Bible says about homosexuality.

“My colleague and I found our well-meaning, non-biblical literalist congregants to be rather befuddled when it came to the so-called ‘clobber’ passages [in the Bible],” Robberts-Mosser said.

Clobber passages, as she puts it, are the half-dozen verses in the Bible that use the word ‘homosexual.’ “We’d hear things like ‘I have a gay brother, but the Bible says that’s wrong,’” she said.

That’s when Robberts-Mosser and the Reverend Tim Ott put together a one-hour presentation that walked congregants through some basics of biblical interpretation and what to do with those ‘clobber’ passages.

“As churches, we don’t equip people to be able to read the Bible and take it seriously and sift through that ancient document in

ily relocated to the Urbana-Champaign, IL area where she became lead pastor of Community United Church of Christ, an open and affirming church. Being in a college town gave the workshop a new life, and it began expanding beyond the walls of the church. Presentations at the local Pride Fest led to invitations from middle schools, high schools, nearby community colleges, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

All of the exposure led Robberts-Mosser to Jasper, a small, mostly white town in southern Indiana, to do a workshop at a community forum. Jasper is also Robberts-Mosser’s hometown.

“A friend of mine who attends one of the Methodist churches in Jasper got up and left after the pastor preached an anti-LGBTQ sermon,” she recalls. The two friends talked through the situation and knew they had to bring Robberts-Mosser’s biblical interpretation workshop into their hometown.

“After a couple of weeks, we had so many RSVPs that we had to move to a bigger venue,” Robberts-Mosser said.



BIBLICAL RESISTANCE

COMBATting HOMOPHOBIA THROUGH MINISTRY WORKSHOP

a way that’s both faithful and useful for our lives.”

The workshops Robberts-Mosser conducted proved successful and as she says “folks who had, at one time gotten hooked by the clobber passages were no longer bothered by them and moved to a different place in their acceptance and affirmation of LGBTQ people.”

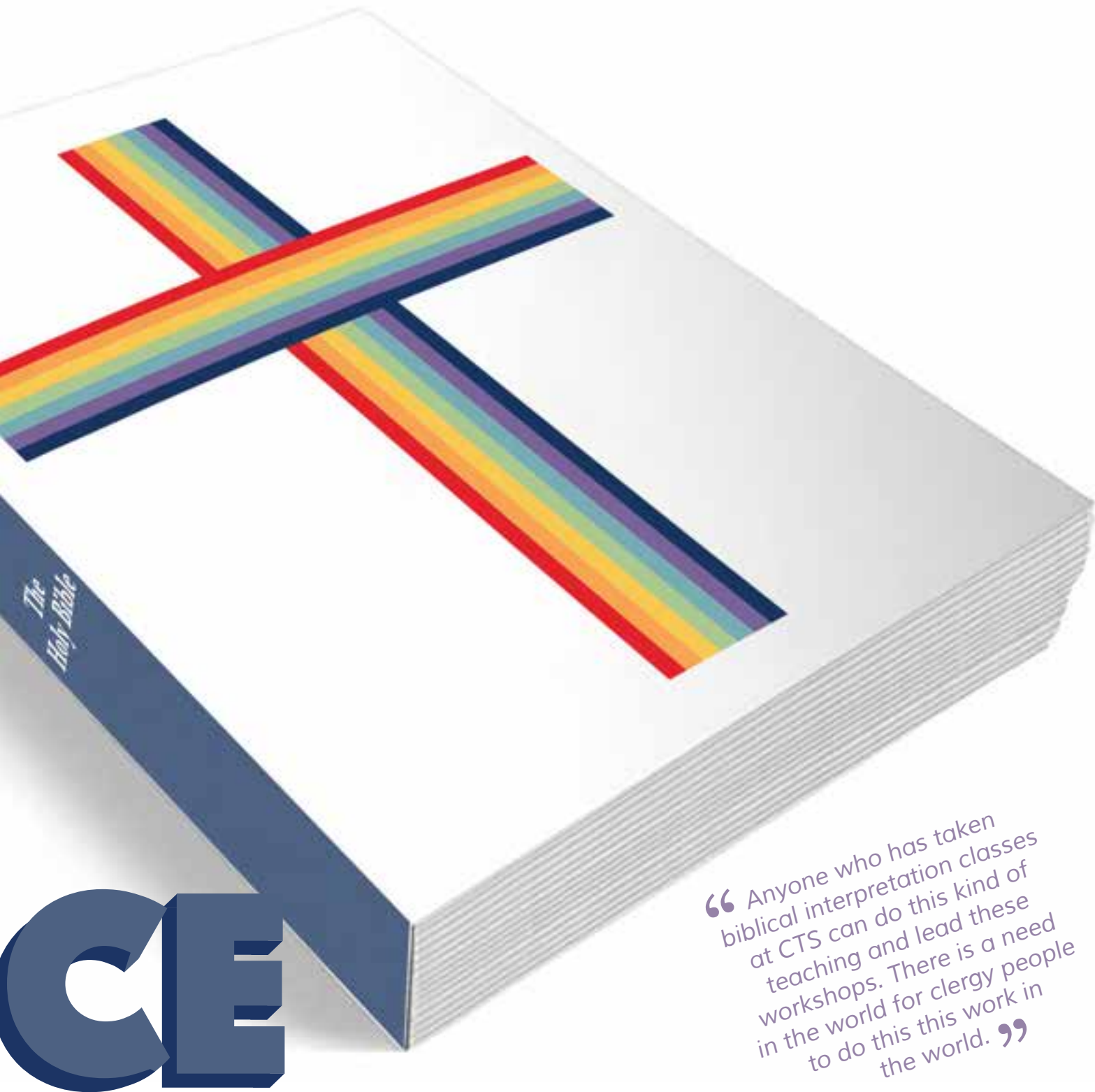
In 2009, Robberts-Mosser and her fam-

Robberts-Mosser says her well-rounded CTS education prepared her for building and conducting her workshops and leading and moderating robust discussion.

“Anyone who has taken [biblical interpretation] classes at CTS can do this kind of teaching and lead these workshops,” she said. “There is a need in the world for clergy people to do this work in the world.”

Leah’s tips? Put together a workshop and

Charles Jefferson, Staff



“ Anyone who has taken biblical interpretation classes at CTS can do this kind of teaching and lead these workshops. There is a need in the world for clergy people to do this work in the world. ”

offer it as part of your local Pride Fest, or to area scouting or youth groups. Make the space neutral by securing a local community room rather than hosting at your church. Let people know, without a doubt, that they are beloved.

If you offer this type of session, be ready for pushback. Leah reported, that, “for the first time in all the years I’ve been doing these public events, I had protesters show up this fall at our local Pride Fest with Bible-quoting signs. Protesters from an area

church threatened to come to the event I did in my own hometown.” Her advice? “Be ready. Be prepared. Above all, be faithful.”

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser (MDiv ‘04) is Pastor of Community United Church of Christ, in Champaign, IL. Being a pastor is her passion, especially in a place like CUCC where deep questions about faith are honored. She loves listening to people’s stories and connecting those stories to God’s unfolding story in us. Leah and her husband Rev. David Robberts-Mosser (MDiv ‘04) are both CTS graduates.





Annual



Children, students, and staff pose for a group photo at the Muslims Against Hunger event



PhD student Rev. Quincy Rineheart preaches at Community Chapel



MDiv student Lynn Young presents at the Interreligious Chapel



Faculty members and trustees worship together at the convocation chapel to welcome in the new school year



Rev. Dr. Zachary Moon teaching students during a J-Term Intro to Chaplaincy



Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt gives closing remarks during her retirement party at the Adler Planetarium



Photo of prize winners during the General Synod Pub Crawl in Baltimore, MD



CTS students and staff pack food for the community at a Muslims Against Hunger event sponsored by the InterReligious Institute

Highlights



CTS's graduating class of 2018 pose for one last group photo



Poet Ayah Chehade presents a piece at the Honoring Islam chapel



Rev. Raphael G. Warnock of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church at the annual Rooks Lecture



Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza presents at the 2018 Castañeda Lecture



2018 G. Campbell Morgan Preaching Award recipient PhD student, Rev. Cheryl L. Green poses with Howard Morgan after receiving the award



Dr. Reza Aslan takes a picture with some friendly faces at the book signing and presentation of his most recent work, God: A Human History



CTS president Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. delivers the keynote speech at commencement



The "African Voices" of the African Dance and Music Institute offer songs of praise at the Black History Month chapel

To learn more
about IRI, visit
iri.ctschicago.edu



LISA ZOOK
Director



Dear Friends,

The InterReligious Institute launched in the fall of 2017, growing out of CTS's longstanding commitment to interfaith engagement and the groundbreaking work of JCIS and our ECommunity. The IRI challenges us as an institution as well as our partners and external audiences to take our interreligious commitments deeper and broader. Through academic, co-curricular and public initiatives, we seek to imagine and create more fully inclusive, religiously plural, and – in fact – beloved communities.

moving us from coalitions to community.

pushing us from tolerance to beloved.

growing us from single-issue alliances to radically intersectional partners.

propelling us from rhetoric to policy.

challenging us to not only repeat past efforts but to innovate, experiment, and co-create.

grounding us with the audacity and courage to envision our world steeped in justice and mercy.

In a world rife with rhetoric and policies that exclude, divide, and villainize, this work is crucial. The IRI is committed to taking on the challenge – forging deep, interreligious cooperation and fresh, intersectional approaches that effectively move us toward that audacious vision, toward truly becoming beloved.

Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Peace,
Lisa



RACHEL S. MIKVA
Senior Faculty Fellow



JENNIFER LEIGH
Foundation Giving



KIM SCHULTZ
Coordinator, Creative Initiatives



9/11 DAY OF SERVICE

175 volunteers, from 4-year-old children to adults in their 80s, gathered at CTS on September 10, 2017, to scoop spices, lentils, and quinoa; seal and box bags; move pallets; and create meal packages for 22,000 meals for the hungry – all in a spirit of joy, love, and laughter. The IRI partnered with Muslims Against Hunger to participate in the Million Meals Movement. Previously held in New York City and the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on the 9/11 National Day of Service, the IRI brought this initiative to its third city, Chicago. Individuals of various faith groups and social justice organizations came together at CTS as a diverse group of people to work towards a tangible, common goal.

grounding
us

ASSESSING IMPACT

This year, IRI Research Interns were selected to develop a comprehensive, three-year research plan to guide evaluation of IRI efforts and map other interreligious efforts. Phase I objectives include focusing on identifying metrics and concepts, and then applying them, to map and measure effective interreligious engagement projects through analysis of current academic research, education, and theological discussions. Research includes examining the impact of current affairs and rhetoric that diminish, modify, or obstruct interreligious dialogue and engagement.



moving us

ACADEMICS

Spring Semester 2018
Course Offerings:

RH 4820: Qur'an and Bible

– This course will introduce students to the Qur'an (Koran), the holy scripture of Islam. We will examine its major doctrines, thematic development, literary style, and its relationship to pre-qur'anic, especially biblical traditions. Special attention is given to various methods Muslims have used to interpret the Qur'an. In providing students with a working knowledge of the Qur'an, we will look at the Qur'an as a historical source; the origin, compilation, and contents of the Qur'an; the forms of the Qur'an, as manifested in recitation, texts (mushafs), and calligraphy; and exegetical and theological analyses of (and debates surrounding) the content of the Qur'an.

pushing us



LM 4870: Exploring and Dismantling Islamophobia and Christian Normativity

– In this course, participants will be introduced to the study of Islamophobia, its history, the uses of the term, and the particular ways in which it manifests in the United States. We will explicitly examine the ways that Christianity has become established as normative to American identity and thus operates as a hegemonic force in the othering of Muslims and non-Christians. Working intersectionally, we will focus on the relationship between race and religious identity, seeing how Christianity has been deployed to create and sustain both white and Christian supremacy. Students will work toward development of anti-Islamophobic paradigms and attitudes capable of countering what have come to be cultural norms and, for Christian students, to reimagine Christianity freed from the sins of supremacy. By the end of the course, students will develop an effective model, training, or workshop for use in their specific context addressing Islamophobia and Christian privilege.

(cont.)

INTERRELIGIOUS INSTITUTE INITIATIVES

Year One Co-Curricular and Community Engagement Highlights

- Worship and workshop pilot designed specifically for Christian congregations who want to become more engaged and effective allies in dismantling anti-Muslim bias
- IRI Winter Lecture – Dr. Reza Aslan, CTS Trustee and author of *God: A Human History*
- Online and face-to-face interreligious chapels incorporating themes of immigration/border crossing and blending Native and Christian spiritualities
- Screening and discussion of the film *Sittwe*, a documentary about the Rohingya genocide, in partnership with the Burma Task Force
- Facilitation of CTS student feedback into shaping of a documentary film on the life of Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman
- Student opportunities for interfaith engagement – drum-birthing workshop and Hindu Festival of Colors
- Israel and Palestine Study Tour student reflection event
- Film screening and discussion in partnership with HEART Women & Girls aimed at reducing violence against females in Muslim communities
- Interfaith call for support of DREAMERS and immigration reform with Protected by Faith
- Host site of Chicago Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare

Upcoming

- **Parliament of the World's Religions:** The IRI is developing significant programming related to the upcoming Parliament, which will be held in Toronto in November 2018. This will include an immersive for-credit course for CTS and other students, a cohort track focused on dismantling anti-Muslim bias, capturing stories of people standing up to religious bigotry and engaging in interreligious and intersectional work through video and live interviews, and an interfaith workshop. To read more about our work at Parliament, visit ctschicago.edu/parliament.
- **Muslim Studies Concentration:** With generous funding from a Muslim philanthropic family, CTS is in the process of hiring an Affiliated Assistant Professor of Muslim Studies allowing CTS to offer a Muslim Studies Concentration. A full scholarship will be provided to one student in the concentration.
- **Interreligious Cohorts:** The IRI will convene a group of religiously diverse students beginning this fall for a cohort experience.
 - **Media/Messaging:** The launch of a podcast and viral video campaign will spread stories of people standing up to religious bigotry; engaging at the intersections of religious identities and race, class, gender, sexuality; and doing unique interfaith kinds of work in the world.

propelling
us



Dr. Reza Aslan



growing us



Vanessa Gomez-Brake

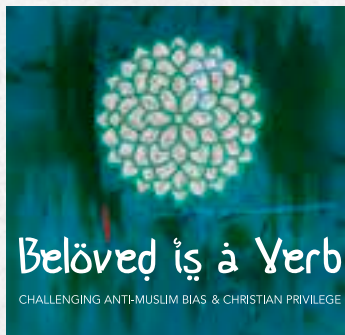
RABBI HERMAN E. SCHAALMAN INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Last November, the IRI awarded the 2018 Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Leadership Award to MDiv student Vanessa Gomez-Brake. The award honors Rabbi Schaalman's long commitment to interreligious understanding, including his 12 years of teaching at CTS. The award is intended to advance interreligious understanding, engagement, and leadership. It includes a microgrant from the IRI to incubate an interreligious event addressing a particular issue within a specific context or community. As Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California, Vanessa supports and promotes broadly-conceived religious and spiritual life at the University. Her IRI microgrant was used to host an on-campus storytelling event focused on migration and movement in response to recent changes to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Submissions were reflections on the stories we are told from our sacred texts, religious traditions, and classic literature, as well as how those stories inform our values and actions. Vanessa's vision for the evening was realized with six students sharing their stories, in a variety of forms, engaging attendees to, "learn about worldviews they had not previously known about and step away with more nuanced perspectives on why people migrate."

RIOTCON (RAGING ISSUES OF TODAY CONFERENCE) – BELOVED IS A VERB

Beloved is a Verb: Challenging Anti-Muslim Bias & Christian Privilege un-conferenced the typical conference model to provide a unique interactive learning experience through intimate facilitated cohorts. The rise in overt acts of religious and racial bigotry and hatred over the last few years demonstrate that interfaith efforts to date have not done enough to resist this rise. The IRI presented an immersive, two-day curriculum designed to inform, motivate, and equip participants with the tools and resiliency to combat the continued rise in religious intolerance and hate, to de-center Christianity, and to promote religious pluralism, justice, and peace. 90 participants journeyed through a pedagogy of engaged learning. Workshops included 12 Steps Towards Beloved Community, Media Training, The Power of Narrative, and Christian Privilege/Supremacy. Plenary sessions provided mirrors and windows into an array of Muslim perspectives and experiences, moved hearts and minds through music and art, and introduced many to Muslim prayer.

RIOTcon was attended by scholars, students, and activists. Online CTS students in particular were encouraged to attend RIOTcon through the provision of travel stipends. Online student Mark Dewey reflected that he appreciated the centering aspects included in many of the workshops, providing an opportunity to orient towards the larger picture. He found the 12 Steps Towards Beloved Community to be "provocative and calming in an unusual way." He continued, "There was a deliberate sense about changing action. We can talk and talk and talk, but at some point we need to change actions." Noting the rich contributions and commitment of presenters, Mark said, "That



kind of commitment I will carry with me moving forward." Participants were encouraged to think about how they could shape their spheres of influence after the conference with a focus on influencing public perception, changing policy, and new ways of living together as beloved community. The IRI will follow participants over the next year to evaluate the impact of RIOTcon – assessing how actions changed, how much participants were able to live into commitments made at the conference, and barriers to change. This sustained research is a foundational commitment of the IRI, which is striving to be bold, creative, and experimental – seeking new ways to truly build a religiously pluralistic society.

RIOTcon Beloved is a Verb was generously supported by Lead Sponsor Zakat Foundation of America.

Participating Presenters and Artists:

Grow • ReThink Media • Silk Road Rising • Soulforce • Alia J. Bilal, Inner-City Muslim Action Network • Melvin Bray, Collabyrinth Consulting • Jacqueline Bussie, Concordia College • Sarvin Haghighi, artist, activist • Ubaydullah Evans, American Learning Institute for Muslims • Rohina Malik, playwright, solo performing artist • Hind Makki, Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study • Ifrah Mansour, multimedia artist • Jenan Mohajir, Interfaith Youth Core • Abdul-Malik Ryan, DePaul University • Kim Schultz, writer, actor, activist

challenging us

CTS RECEIVES GIFT FROM MUSLIM PHILANTHROPISTS TO BUILD BRIDGES, COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

In February, the newly launched InterReligious Institute (IRI) at CTS announced a groundbreaking \$450,000 gift commitment from a family of Muslim philanthropists to fund interfaith initiatives to build bridges across faith communities. Funding will allow CTS to develop workshops on combatting Islamophobia and understanding Christian privilege for Christian churches and other organizations, and other educational initiatives to increase interfaith understanding, such as podcasts and videos. "This tremendous gift allows us to deepen our work here at CTS and in the world, creating fresh approaches to challenge anti-Muslim bias and all forms of religious intolerance," affirms Rev. Lisa Zook, Director of the IRI. The gift provides scholarship funding for Muslim Studies students to help increase the religious diversity of students studying at CTS.

The gift has already enabled CTS to add a concentration in Muslim Studies. This gift was possible because of the pioneering work of Dr. Rami Nashashibi as visiting professor for Sociology of Religion and Muslim Studies at CTS from 2014-2017. CTS plans to leverage the initiatives launched with this gift to highlight fundraising efforts to fund an endowed chair in Muslim Studies and to increase our interfaith work through the IRI.

supporting us



Dr. Rami Nashashibi



AFFILIATED FACULTY

I am pleased to announce the appointment of our new affiliated faculty member:

Dr. Teresa Hornsby (Affiliated Assistant Professor of Religious Studies) earned an MA and PhD from Vanderbilt University and an MTS from Harvard University. She currently holds the position of Professor of Religious Studies at Drury University. Her research focuses on issues around sexuality and gender in the Bible. She has authored and co-authored several books and articles on gender and the Bible, including *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation*, co-authored with Deryn P. Guest, *Bible Trouble: Queer Reading at the Boundaries of Biblical Scholarship*, co-edited with Ken Stone, and *Sex Texts From the Bible: Selections Annotated & Explained*.



VICTOR OBENHAUS LECTURESHIP SERIES

Two years ago, the PhD Program at CTS brought back a lecture series entitled *The Victor Obenhaus Lectureship Series*. This series, which began in the 1990s but had not been active for several years, serves as a platform for PhD students at CTS to present their work to an engaged audience of their peers and mentors.

Victor Obenhaus was a CTS professor of Christian ethics who taught from 1944 until his retirement in 1973. In addition to teaching, he worked in ecumenical affairs with the National Council of Churches, provided information for churches regarding public policy issues, and was an advocate for prison inmates in Illinois. After he retired, he served as acting president of CTS in 1973 and 1974. His scholarly works include, *Hebrew Prophets and American Conscience* (1948), *The Responsible Christian* (1957), *Church and Faith in Mid-America* (1963), and *Ethics for an Industrial Age* (1965). He died in 1994 at the age of 90.

Last year, two PhD students presented their work on the following topics:

- November: Jess Peacock, "Okja and the Blood of the Lamb: Our Narratives of Animals, Food, and Faith"
- February: Sunhee Jun, "The Silent Cry: A Feminist Reading of the Woman's Silence in the Markan Ending"

In September, 2018, Quincy Rineheart (pictured above) will present on "Addison Gayle: Toward an Aesthetic Of A New Body Politic." There will be two additional Obenhaus lectures during the 2018-19 academic year.

These events are hosted in the CTS chapel and are livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

THE DEAN'S DESK

Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, Faculty



Greetings from the Dean's Office at Chicago Theological Seminary. As the new Academic Dean, I would like to draw your attention to some of the individuals and curricular events that are shaping academic life at CTS this year. If you have any questions about the announcements found on this page, or if you have any other questions about academics at CTS, please feel free to contact me (sbcrowder@ctsichicago.edu) or the Associate Dean, Emily Vogt (evogt@ctsichicago.edu), or drop by my office, located next to the President's office on the first floor of our building.



ADJUNCT FACULTY

Jared Beverly (pictured above) will teach Professor Ken Stone's *Interpreting the Hebrew Bible* courses as a sabbatical replacement. Last year, he taught the online course, *LGBTQ Issues and Biblical Interpretation*. He is currently a PhD candidate in CTS's PhD program, and is writing his dissertation on the animal imagery in the Song of Songs.

Dr. Brandy Daniels will be teaching the online course, *Queer Theologies*, during the fall semester. Dr. Daniels is a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer with the Luce Project on "Religion and its Publics" at the University of Virginia. She has a PhD and MA in theological studies from Vanderbilt University, and an MDiv from Duke University. Her scholarly interests focus on the intersections of Christian identity and identities of gender and sexuality.

Rabbi Dr. Laurence Edwards will serve as a sabbatical replacement for Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva and will teach *Interpreting the Hebrew Bible II* online in the spring. Rabbi Dr. Edwards received his PhD in Bible, culture, and hermeneutics, with distinction, from Chicago Theological Seminary. He has taught at numerous colleges, universities, and seminaries around the country, and has worked in various places as a rabbi and a chaplain.

Sunhee Jun is teaching the online section of *Interpreting the Gospels* during the spring 2018 semester. He is a PhD candidate at CTS, and his dissertation research focus is on postcolonial biblical interpretation.

Rev. Zach Mills is teaching *Preaching the Headlines* online in the spring. Zach has a PhD in Rhetoric and Public Culture from Northwestern University and an MDiv and MA from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Rev. José Morales will teach the online course, *Latin American Liberation Theologies* in the spring of 2019. Rev. Morales is the Director of Pastoral Formation at Disciples Seminary Foundation in Claremont, CA, and is pursuing a PhD in Comparative Theology and Philosophy at Claremont School of Theology.

Dr. Cody Sanders is teaching *Pastoral Care & LGBTQ Experience* online during the fall semester. He has a PhD in pastoral theology and pastoral counseling from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, an MDiv from McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, and an MS in community counseling from Mercer. His books include, *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth* and *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight & Narrow: What All Christians Can Learn from LGBTQ Lives*.



ADJUNCT FACULTY

Dr. Robert Shore-Goss is teaching the online course, *Greening the Church: Theological and Practical Foundations*, for a second time at CTS. Dr. Shore-Goss is Pastor of MCC in the Valley, and holds a ThD in comparative religion from Harvard University.

Dr. Teresa Smallwood (pictured above) will teach the online course, *Public Theology and Racial Justice* in the spring of 2019. Dr. Smallwood holds a PhD from Chicago Theological Seminary, an MDiv from Howard University, and a JD from North Carolina Central University Law School. After graduating from CTS, she took a position as Postdoctoral Fellow and Associate Director of the Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Rev. John Thomas, formerly the Senior Advisor to the President at CTS, is once again teaching several courses throughout the year. He will teach the online course *Leading Congregations: Principles and Practices* in the fall, and *History and Polity of the United Church of Christ* as an intensive J-Term course and again online during the spring semester. Rev. Thomas is the former General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Emily Vogt, the Associate Dean and Director of the MA, STM, and PhD Program at CTS, is leading the yearlong *Professional Development Workshop Series*, and is co-teaching the Haiti Study Trip with Professor JoAnne Terrell during the J-Term. She has a PhD in anthropology from the University of Chicago.

Rev. Dr. Reginald Williams will teach the course, *Prophetic Preaching* in the spring of 2019. He received a DMin and an MDiv from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and he also attended the University of Wisconsin Law School. Rev. Dr. Williams is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of University Park, IL. He is the co-author of *To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministries in the Black Church* and a contributor to *Church on Purpose*.

Rev. Mark Winters will teach *Pastoring Your First Church* online during the summer of 2019. Rev. Winters earned his MDiv at CTS. He ministers at the First Congregational UCC of Naperville, IL, and is currently a member of the CTS Board of Trustees.

Rev. Lisa Zook will be teaching a hybrid course, *Learning Through the Parliament of the World's Religions* during the fall semester. The course will include travel to Toronto to attend the Parliament of World Religions. Rev. Zook directs CTS's Interreligious Institute.



ONLINE MDiv PROGRAM

Last fall, CTS welcomed the largest MDiv entering class in our recorded history. This distinguishes us from many member-seminaries of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), which have seen MDiv enrollment decline slowly but steadily since 2007. In contrast to ATS trends, CTS is happy to have a growing MDiv student population in these difficult times for theological education, and we can thank the success of our online program for this enrollment.

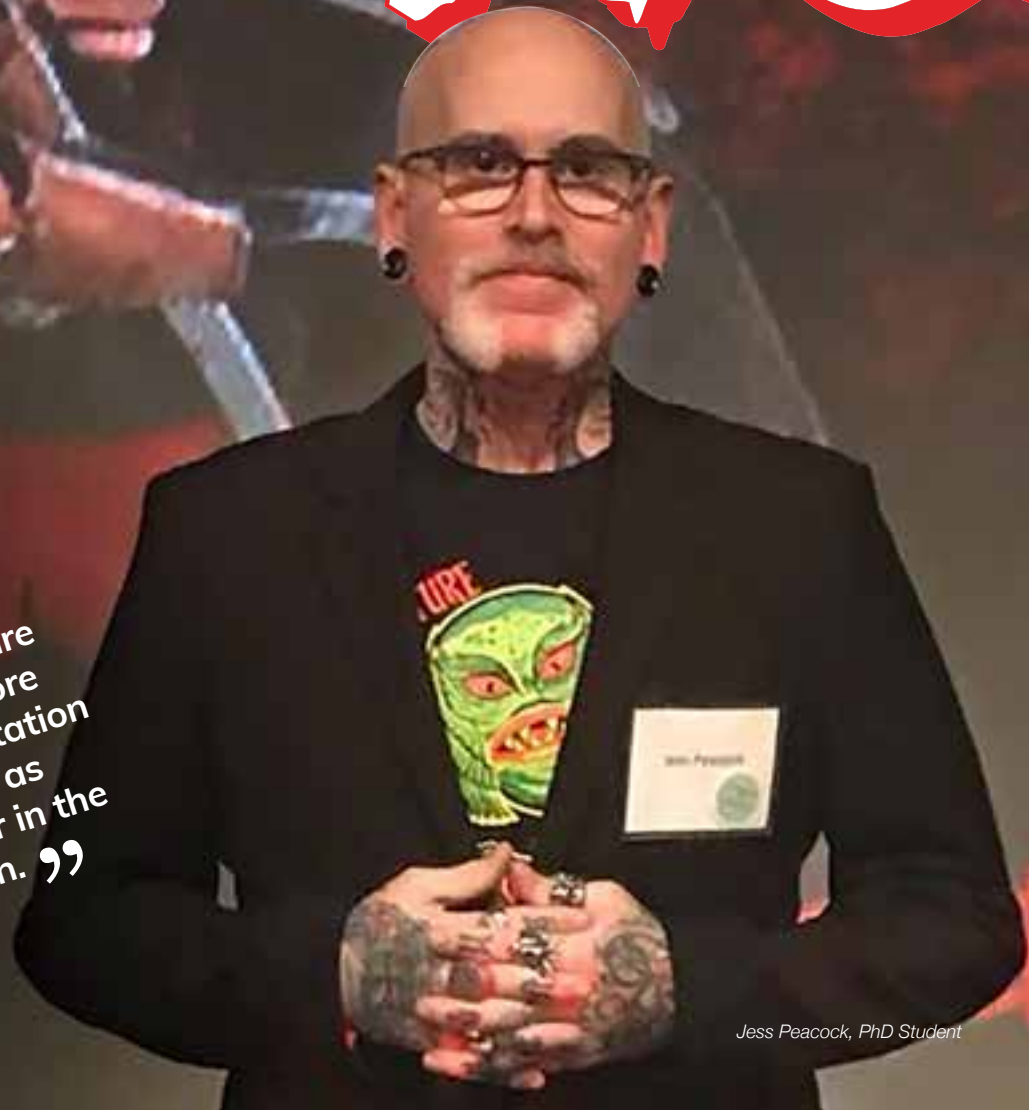
Students overall are taking more online courses and fewer face-to-face courses. Indeed, 67% of students who entered in 2017 are beginning their programs online, in contrast to just 33% face-to-face. This is the largest percentage of entering MDiv students studying online since CTS launched the online option. Although some students who study primarily online do take occasional face-to-face courses, and vice versa, the overall increase in enrollment and shifts in modality indicate a strong desire for online theological education among the school's constituencies, including those in the United Church of Christ, the denomination with which CTS is most closely affiliated, although online students come from many traditions.

CTS now educates students across the US and internationally. Numerous students pursuing the MDiv at CTS online have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to accomplish a goal they have long held but previously were unable to pursue due to their location and life circumstances. CTS is finding that the online MDiv has become a stimulus to furthering its mission in rapidly changing times.



THE MO

“Western religion and the horror genre both provide a lens through which we are able to discuss and explore issues of death, the expectation of an afterlife, as well as hopefulness and despair in the face of oppression.”



Jess Peacock, PhD Student

For many, the horror genre is often viewed as nothing more than shallow escapist fare, conjuring images of cartoonish masked killers or mindless zombie hordes. For CTS PhD student Jess Peacock, however, it is something much more.

“From a strictly narrative perspective,” Peacock says, “the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament are filled with stories of horror and gore.”

Peacock points to a laundry list of biblical stories that dwell in the horrific. From the terror of an all-powerful cosmic being wiping out humanity to the Passion narrative itself, horror and religion do seem to be inextricably linked.

In his 2015 book *Such a Dark Thing: Theology of the Vampire Narrative in Popular Culture*, Peacock wrote, “Make no mistake, western religion and [the horror genre] are closely enmeshed dueling discourses on the unknown,” arguing that both provide a lens through which we are able to discuss and explore issues of death, the expectation of an afterlife, as well as hopefulness and despair in the face of oppression.

the distress of peoples and cultures that are marginalized and oppressed. “The horror genre is centered on people who, often at great cost, choose to resist. Horror forces us to ask not only what it means to be alive in the face of death, but what it means to be alive together.”

Monster theory, as it has become known, is a growing interdisciplinary field that Peacock is at the forefront of, particularly in the arena of religious studies. “Myself and a few others have been plugging away at monster theory for quite some time, but it has only recently come into general academic acceptance.”

This acceptance is reflected in Peacock being awarded the 2017 Heldrich-Dvorak Award from the Popular/American Culture Association (PACA) for his 2017 paper *Legacy of the Marsten House: Stephen King’s Salem’s Lot as Liberative Discourse*, recently signing a contract for his second book, and his active involvement with this past February’s PACA, where he co-developed several panels revolving around monster theory and presented the lecture *Scars Can’t Come Back: Stephen King as Contemporary Lamentations*.

MONSTER MASH

Jess Peacock, PhD Student

COMPARING GORY BIBLICAL IMAGERY AND HORROR GENRES

“If we look at a movie such as *IT*,” Peacock explains, “we’re watching a story of communal oppression, of a town plagued by the monster Pennywise as well as by their own denial. In some sense we’re bearing witness to a form of social lamentation that, like its biblical namesake, becomes a literature of survival, the sharing of which becomes an act of resistance.”

“Monsters like Pennywise,” he continues, “are symbolic of hegemonic oppression that might come to stand in for something just as monstrous as, say, resurgent white nationalism. The conservative rallying cry of ‘Make America great again’ could easily be read as ‘They all float down here!’”

While delivering the Fall 2017 Obenhaus Lecture at CTS, Peacock explained that the role of the monster within society is to unmask what Foucault called pervasive power structures. “The horror genre and the monsters to be found within can speak to actions – both individual and communal – against the merciless forces that seek endless power and consumption in our troubling and frightening times.”

According to Peacock, viewing the horror genre through a liberative theological lens enables us to better understand

For Peacock, however, it’s not strictly an academic exercise. “I want my work to be understandable outside of the academy. I firmly believe that the sharing of these narratives, whether in a movie theater or at a book club, can become an act of resistance, the horror genre as praxis if you will. In other words, these horror narratives can change the world by changing us.”

Jess Peacock is the author of Such A Dark Thing: Theology of The Vampire Narrative in Popular Culture (“Smart and insightful” - Fangoria) from Wipf and Stock Publishers. He has contributed to Religion Dispatches, Rue Morgue Magazine, Famous Monsters of Filmland, and is the former editor-in-chief of Street Speech, a social justice publication produced by the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless in Ohio. Among his academic distinctions, Peacock is the recipient of Methodist Theological School in Ohio’s Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics, as well as The Matey Janata Freedwomen Award for his research and work in women’s issues, and is the recipient of the Heldrich-Dvorak Fellowship from the Popular/American Culture Association. He currently writes the Hallowed Horrors column for Rue Morgue Magazine, and his similarly titled book is scheduled for release in early 2019. Jess is currently a PhD student living in Chicago, and can regularly be heard on the Legacy of the Marsten House podcast available on iTunes.

In Memoriam

Deirdre L. Jackson Jones

(CERTIFICATE '17)

Deirdre Jackson Jones filled Chicago Theological Seminary's hallways, classrooms, and worship spaces with her curiosity, warmth, joie de vivre, and the appreciative sound of her "mmmmms." She seemed literally and figuratively to savor every interaction, every bit of instruction, and every opportunity both to lose and to find herself in relationship, in community, in study, and in worship. Along the path of her discipleship, she discovered herself a leader.

As a wife, mother, friend, and fellow traveler, she was devoted to a dynamic, inclusive, and instructive concept of family. In the classroom, she was persistent, finding and asking the hard, useful, and right questions, with huge, sparkling eyes towards greater, perhaps greatest, justice and mercy. In the pulpit, she was fearless, finding her voice, speaking her truth, and empowering others to find and speak theirs. On the dance floor, she was uninhibited, finding her rhythm and her partners. And every time, she danced as if no one was looking.

She was and will remain an exemplary Leader for the Next.

(from Citation for Deirdre L. Jackson Jones, written and read by Rev. Dr. Jo-Anne Marie Terrell at the 2017 Commencement Ceremony)

James A. Kolkmeier (MA '10, STM '12)

Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin farmer. Southwest Airlines executive, husband, father, grandfather. For most people that would represent a full life. But it was not quite enough for Jim. At an age when most are contemplating relaxing endeavors, Jim's curiosity led him to Chicago Theological Seminary where he earned an MA, an STM and, with the help of then CTS Board member and President of Elmhurst College, Alan Ray, completed the bachelor's degree he had abandoned in his early twenties when money was scarce. During those years Jim befriended and encouraged students half his age and was a prominent presence in the seminary community. He was eager in class, a member of the Academic Council, and made generous financial contributions.

Process theology fascinated Jim leading to intellectual friendships with leading process thinkers John Cobb and Marjorie Suchocki. Process thought enabled Jim to incorporate in his theology an intimate knowledge of the natural world learned growing up on a Missouri farm and ultimately led to his fascination with neurobiology and the evolution of human consciousness. Reading groups with Hyde Park theologians, psychologists, and scientists along with regular trips to Process Theology conferences at Claremont School of Theology enabled Jim to pursue these interests in the years following graduation.

Jim's restless curiosity drove his many accomplishments but also made it hard for him to savor the last, more reflective season of life, never quite convinced he had produced enough. For us at CTS, however, Jim was simply a gift, always more than enough!

(written by Rev. John H. Thomas, May 2018)

Remembering those in the CTS community who have passed away.

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Eleanor M. Butterfield (attended)
Annabel Ruth B. Clark (attended)
Edith S. Downing (MRE '46)
John E. Felible (BD '46)
Robert D. Grant (BD '45)
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David M. Held (BD '46)
Serge F. Hummon (BD '45)
Marjorie M. Hyer (MA '47)
Viola L. Moore (MA '42)
Elmo R. Paff (BD '42)
Curtis W. Smith (BD '44)
Hazel Staats-Westover (MDiv '47)

CLASSES OF 1950 - 1959

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Cornelius de Stigter (BD '54)
Priscilla K. de Stigter (MA '53)
Ruth J. Ewing (MA '55)
Robert E. Frederick (MDiv '53)
Enid L. Griffin (attended)
Mary E. Harrington (MA '56)
Helen R. Pickett (attended)
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Kenneth C. Starbuck (BD '58)

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Robert M. Hendrickson (BD '63)
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Donald S. Klinefelter (BD '63)
William C. Peden (MA '60, BD '62)
Frank W. Sanders (BD '66)

CLASSES OF 1970 - 1979

William Lewis III (BD '70)
William A. Rundle (ThM '76, DMin '77)
Ronald C. Shook (MA '73)

CLASSES OF 1980 - 1989

Virginia L. Anderson (MDiv '83)
Samuel D. Cook (LLD '88)

CLASSES OF 1990 - 1999

Christopher L. Clemmer (DMin '93)
Leona J. Cochran (MDiv '91)
David J. Padrnos (DMin '95)

CLASSES OF 2010-PRESENT

Michael J. Hoskinson (MDiv '11)
Deirdre L. Jackson Jones (certificate '17)
James A. Kolkmeier (MA '10, STM '12)
Raymond E. Lipsch (attended)



STATEMENT OF MISSION & COMMITMENTS

Approved by the CTS Board of Trustees, October, 2017.

Chicago Theological Seminary, a seminary affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serves God, Christ's Church, multiple faith communities, and the larger world by educating persons theologically and cultivating the intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual capacities of lay and ordained religious leaders, scholars, and activists who contribute to the increase of justice and mercy.

Inspired by the ministry of Jesus, guided by the Spirit of the Divine, and nurtured by faith and culture, we strive to create a sacred learning community that educates for public ministry, based upon the following interwoven commitments:

- **We are committed** to a life of mutual teaching and learning, to academic excellence, to open inquiry, and to critical engagement of texts, contexts, and practices in all of our educational programs;
- **We are committed**, in a world suffering from spiritual impoverishment, which is characterized by meaninglessness, lovelessness, and hopelessness, to proclaim a message of divine purpose, compassion, and promise;
- **We are committed**, in a society structured by white supremacy and racism, to challenge white privilege, to combat the forces of racial division and domination, and to equip leaders who embrace and celebrate racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity;
- **We are committed**, in a global context of religious conflicts and a society structured by Christian privilege, to joyous embrace of religious diversity, expanding our groundbreaking work in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies to advance understanding and collaboration among the rich multiplicity of spiritual traditions and lifestances;
- **We are committed**, in a world governed by sex and gender binaries, to advocate gender justice, to nurture movements for women's equality, and to liberate humanity from restrictive gender norms;
- **We are committed**, in world governed by the presumption of heterosexual expression, to challenge homophobia, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other individuals within the spectrum of human sex and sexuality, and to develop leadership to encourage faith communities to become more open and affirming;
- **We are committed**, in a world stratified by economic and social class, to challenge the structures that sustain poverty and economic disenfranchisement, and to join the struggle, as companions with the poor, for liberation of all from want, homelessness, hunger, and disease;
- **We are committed**, on a fragile planet threatened by pollution and exploitation, to interrogate ecological policies, theologies, and practices, and to challenge materialism and the devaluation of creation; and,
- **We are committed**, in recognition that social divisions are local, national, and global, to international collaboration among individuals and institutions with similar commitments to our own.

In all these ways, we embrace not only the rhetoric but the reality of diversity, and recognize the vital intersectionality of our commitments, working together to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We invite others to join us.



Giving back... and paying forward

PARK CHURCH RAISES STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Chad Schwickerath, Staff

“The church is not just about buildings and clergy, it is about people in service to God, the world, and community.”

Park Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has found its mission and vision rooted in progressive Christianity. And like many congregations in the United Church of Christ (UCC), Park has often existed on the margins of prevailing viewpoints and opinion. However by embracing their identity and calling as an “unapologetically Christian, unabashedly progressive, place to celebrate diversity”—even within an enclave of conservative Dutch Reformed Christianity—Park has transformed the city-center and wider community with their testimony of welcome.

“Whoever you are...Wherever you’re from...Welcome home.”

Park Church was founded in 1836 when a dozen people gathered on a Sunday night in September. The congregation began with a mix of Presbyterians and Congregationalists, but as an influx of Congregationalist moved to the region from New England, the church voted to align itself more closely with the Congregational Church. Park later joined the UCC in 1961.

Senior minister, Rev. Todd Petty, accompanied the congregation through discernment, and they voted to become Open & Affirming (publically inclusive of LGBTQ individuals) in 2010. Reflecting on their history, the congregation is quick to explicitly name the impact of leadership in shaping identity and guiding church mission. “We have grown and prospered through a continued stream of dedicated and skilled clergy.” And yet, it’s more than clergy and statements of affirmation.

In the process of becoming an inclusive congregation, Rev. Petty repeatedly reminded the church that such a statement requires tangible evidence of commitment. “It means something to be Open & Affirming,” Rev. Petty recalled. “And so what does it look like? What will this congregation actually do in response to these convictions?” As a result, the congregation formed their LGBTQ+ & Friends Group, a community of individuals who come together in-person and online to visibly support and affirm all LGBTQ people as family in Christ.

The congregation approaches each of its core commitments in this manner. As Park’s website points out, “[The church] is not just about buildings and clergy, it is about people in service to God, the world, and community.” And so, Park actively seeks out opportunities to partner with organizations and communities do-

ing this work. Volunteer and educational opportunities abound, and Park is visible in the community.

Current CTS student, Jon Propper, serves Park Church as their Minister for Communication & Spiritual Formation. Jon invites speakers of various backgrounds to lead adult education and create spaces for challenging conversations. In February 2018, Jon invited Lisa Zook – Director of the Interreligious Institute at CTS – and I to lead a conversation on practical ways to dismantle Christian privilege and undo anti-Muslim bias. Events like these attract church members and community members alike, opening the door for new relationships and new partnership opportunities.

And Park Church is not shy about its resources. Instead, the congregation understands their privilege as a responsibility to further the work of justice through philanthropy. “Our heritage,” one congregant explains, “is the foundation that allows us to build a brighter future for all God’s people no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.”

During the 2017-2018 academic year, Rev. Petty and CTS brainstormed ways that joyful giving might not only benefit a seminary student, but also be used to encourage other congregations to support student scholarship. Over several months and in collaboration, CTS reestablished a named expendable scholarship program. With a generous gift, the congregation created the Park Church Scholarship to be awarded to one student in the 2018-2019 academic year.

As part of the scholarship, the student recipient will visit Park during the academic year. The student will be encouraged to keep written communication with the congregation as well, taking the form of personal updates, newsletter articles, and devotional essays. “It is important,” Rev. Petty explained in our discussion, “that our congregation sees the impact of their giving, sees the student growing in their vocation, and can make the connection back to our congregation’s commitment to the future church.”

Today the Church needs leaders who can think critically, theologically, and respond. The Church needs people who can lead congregations with compassion, empowerment, and understanding. CTS is preparing progressive faith leaders. These leaders will be the catalysts for change, ministering at the heart of vibrant faith communities.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNER CHURCHES

NAMED EXPENDABLE SCHOLARSHIPS are used to celebrate or memorialize your congregation, pastor, professor, or friend. They provide immediate tuition support for students and can be renewed. For the 2018-2019 academic year, named scholarships can be created beginning at \$15,000, payable over up to three years. For named scholarships, CTS will:

- Name the scholarship in honor of the congregation or a specific individual as determined by you
- Announce the scholarship recipient to you at the beginning of the semester or academic year
- Assist to arrange a visit from the student at least once during the academic year; a visit might include preaching, speaking, and/or Christian education programming for your congregation
- Offer ongoing written communications throughout the academic year from the scholarship recipients; these may include personal updates, newsletter articles, or devotional pieces

NAMED ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS provide an opportunity to leave a legacy that will transform lives into perpetuity. By investing in an endowed scholarship, you will be shaping the future of progressive theological education. The name of your church, pastor, or other individual will live on as generations of students receive funding from this scholarship.

THE UCC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT CTS provides UCC students with scholarship support. When congregations or individuals contribute any amount, gift are combined to provide maximum support to seminary students who demonstrate the potential to be the next generation of leaders for the UCC.

For more information about how you or your congregation can support CTS students, please contact [Advancement at advancement@cts-chicago.edu](mailto:advancement@cts-chicago.edu)

LEADERS THE NEX

CTS Alumni Making A Difference

REV. DR. JOAN HARRELL (DMin '15)



Journalist, public relations professional, communication specialist and scholar. Those are some of the many hats that Rev. Dr. Joan Harrell wears. She currently is the Visiting Professor in the School of Communication and Journalism at Auburn University where she teaches a number of courses, including *Focusing on Advocacy Journalism vs Politics and Propaganda*. She credits her learnings at CTS for prepping her for this role.

"CTS offered the importance of combining theory with practice," Harrell said. "A theological education at CTS gives confidence, community, the meaning of humility, and service with a sound theological and practical academic experience to work towards transformation within the context of a more just society."

Before her academic career, Harrell worked for many years as a broadcast journalist. Her first job in television news was as a reporter for WJBF-TV, the ABC affiliate station in Augusta, Georgia. She covered state political issues for Georgia and South Carolina. After her tenure there, she moved on to other markets in Georgia, South Carolina, and Missouri. All of those experiences led her to network level, where she worked at the CBS News Bureau and CSPAN in Washington, D.C. and with Bill Moyers in New York City as an associate producer.

Dr. Harrell says that an education at CTS is important today because, "This is a time where the nation and the world's con-

science is being shaken from slumber." Harrell's time at CTS gave her a different view on how to better tell the stories of those oppressed by society.

"My interdisciplinary learning experience at CTS laid the foundation for me to intersect the personal life stories of people and communities within the context of social injustices. Therefore, creating media platforms and writing stories in theological, academic and secular settings for the voices of the voiceless to be heard in the public domain including interfaith communities to transform hatred and discrimination into social justice for all members of the human condition."

REV. DR. DAMON JONES (MA '02, MDiv '05)



Rev. Dr. Damon Jones currently works with medically diverse persons as a senior rehabilitation counselor with the Illinois Department of Human Services. However, his calling to ministry can only be described as a career of empathy, crossing an interdisciplinary swath of vocations. Yet despite the diversity – from church pastor and writer to educator and social worker – Jones' ministry is set on a foundation laid by his education. "The courses at CTS have

helped prepare me to deal with the whole person," he remarks. Working in health services, he challenges others to not only look at people through a strictly medical lens but to also take note of ways family systems and spirituality are affected.

Video Spotlights

Watch these alumni videos and others at ctschicago.edu/alumni-stories



FOR

T

Charles Jefferson, Staff

"I pull more from my pastoral care and counseling classes and even pastoral preaching. It pulls greater empathy and compassion out of me when dealing with persons with diverse medical histories—from cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke—and dealing with the pain and agony that exists in their life as physical ailment, but definitely attributes to mental despair and spiritual despair."

BRENDA SUMMERVILLE (MDiv '13)



When she was on the hunt looking for a seminary to attend, Brenda Summerville wanted a place that reflected her and what she stood for. Her undergrad career was predominately male-dominated and that alone made Summerville determined to choose a place that was diverse and progressive.

Summerville is a theologian, writer, activist, and philanthropist whose writing career was greatly influenced during her

time at CTS. "When I first came to CTS, I wasn't writing very well. I knew I wanted to be a writer and a published author." Summerville also spent 30 plus years working in corporate America and says the skills she acquired at CTS gave her the knowledge and power to enforce change in the workplace. "I am that person [outside of HR] who can offer the extra support and ministry and that makes a big difference."

She adds that theological education is important because progressive, forward thinking is what is needed in today's climate.

"For me, CTS strengthened my faith, transformed my thinking about myself and others around me. If you are a real game-changer, then CTS is the place for you. You will put in the work, but you will leave here differently."



ARAM MITCHELL (MA '13)

Aram enrolled at CTS to explore ministry and spirituality. He found it far outside the confines of a traditional congregation. Aram leads spiritual retreats in the peace and solitude of Maine's backwoods. He helps individual caregivers find healing strength and spiritual sustenance through his organization called Renewal in the Wilderness.



REV. JENNIFER SANDERS (MDiv '17)

After working for years as an occupational therapist in Birmingham, Alabama, Jennifer had a calling to church ministry. However, her life and family were in Birmingham. Fortunately, she was able to attend CTS through our accessible online degree program. Today, she is the pastor of the Beloved Community Church, an inclusive, justice-seeking Southern faith community that works for justice for all people and the planet.



REV. DR. DANIELLE BUHURO
(MDiv '05, DMin '08)

Danielle is a whirlwind of positive energy. A hospital chaplain in the neighborhoods of Chicago's Southside, she ministers to the sick and dying. She also teaches Clinical Pastoral Education to young seminarians aspiring to chaplaincy. And lastly, Danielle has become a community leader and voice against gang violence, recently publishing a book on the subject.

FY18 DONOR



Friends,

You may have seen our recent marketing pieces with the headline: The world needs more people like CTS people. As a newcomer to CTS last year, I had a chance to learn first-hand about CTS people as I met many of you—and you have forever transformed me. CTS people are exceptional people of faith, intelligence, kindness, and grace, who challenge the status quo and have the courage to confront injustice.

Yes. The world needs more CTS people. Today, we are challenged with anti-intellectualism, racism, bigotry, nationalism—challenges that many of us thought were dying, but seem to be increasing with new vigor as some make desperate attempts to hold on to power in our rapidly changing society, trampling on the less fortunate in their way. Our response to those challenges? The CTS community response is a bold and courageous one, rooted in faith.

You, the generous donors listed in the following pages, understand the importance of our shared response to today's challenges. You continue to respond by funding our mission to create bold *Leaders for the Next*. Thank you. As we face the challenges of 2018 and beyond, let's lead the way. Let the CTS community be transformed by the renewal of our minds and inspire others to join us.

As you think about the legacy you want to create and what you want to stand for in the world, we invite you to let us help you make that happen. Joyful philanthropy is giving that transforms both the donor and the recipient. It's a privilege to help facilitate. There is nothing better than watching as a donor meets an amazing student recipient of their generosity, and comes to the realization that their giving is transformative in the lives of others. Yet the number one reason admitted students do not enroll at CTS, is because they receive greater scholarship packages elsewhere. That is a problem we can solve together with increased scholarship giving.

On behalf of my Advancement Office colleagues featured below, we want to hear from you, to partner with you, to help you respond to a hurting world. Together, let's prepare even more CTS people to be *Leaders for the Next!*



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We know that at the heart of your support is a love for CTS and a belief in the *Leaders for the Next* CTS educates every year.

Donor Roll listed by cash and in-kind gifts received between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018

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- Elsie Stiffler
-  Barbara K. Taylor and A. Robert Taylor

(cont.)

CHARING WEI-JEN CHEN

(PhD Student, STM '16)



Second year PhD student, Charing Wei-Jen Chen, always knew he would pursue something different. Where he saw marginalized communities pushed aside and left out in the society around him, he also saw three mentors and CTS graduates in Taiwan pushing him to explore intersectionality. Encouragement from CTS peers and faculty to dive deeply into different texts leads him toward empowerment and bridge-building in his communities in Chicago and in Taiwan. Chen says,

“Your scholarship gifts made an enormous difference to those who came to CTS before me, and now to me as I pursue expansive ministry for leadership in marginalized communities.”

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- Linda L. Frische-Mouri and Dennis Frische-Mouri
- Johnny Gillespie and Marie E. Gillespie
- Glen Ridge Congregational Church, Glen Ridge, NJ
- Del J. Glick
- Ana K. Gobledale and Theodore N. Gobledale
- William G. Godwin
- Robyn Gray and Tijuana L. Gray
- David Greenhaw
- Geraldine K. Gregersen and Wayne E. Gregersen
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- Kent I. Groff and Fredrika S. Groff
- J. Bennett Guess and Jim Therrien
- Kristopher S. Hewitt and Carrie A. Hewitt
- Beverly S. Hildreth
- Gloria G. Hopewell
- Rosalie Hunt and Bob Hunt
- Sally V. Iberg and James Iberg
- Illinois Conference (UCC), Westchester, IL
- Immanuel United Church of Christ, Evergreen Park, IL

(cont.)

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Did you know you can support the mission of Chicago Theological Seminary without writing a check? By providing for CTS in your estate or listing CTS as a beneficiary, you can pass the flame to the next generation of leaders. A planned gift will help ensure that CTS continues to develop *Leaders for the Next*.



To find out more visit ctschicago.ucfmicrosites.org

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Lawson
SOCIETY

Those who make a planned gift of any amount become members of the Victor and Jessie Lawson Society.

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ERICA WEATHERS

(MDiv Student)



Erica Weathers explores faith through liturgical dance! CTS offers opportunities for her to explore and create interactive worship experiences for all people. And with a mixture of online and in-person courses, Erica is able to be a student, an ordained deacon in her home church, and most importantly a loving wife and mother of two very athletic children, Jonah and Savanah.

"I chose CTS because I wanted to get out of the box of my traditional A.M.E.C. I knew that becoming a chaplain would require interfaith engagement and CTS offers that and more!"

JOEY RODIL

(MDiv Student)



Raised in a Filipino immigrant community, Joey Rodil came to seminary seeking a deeper personal understanding of faith and theology. He chose CTS because of the rich racial and theological diversity, as well as its serious commitments to social justice. Joey is passionate about creating and sustaining new church programs which educate and provide active opportunities for justice-seeking and faith formation.

"CTS provides an opportunity to learn in a religiously diverse classroom, challenging preconceived ideas of religious identity while also providing the framework for personal faith formation."

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REV. CHERYL L. GREEN

(PhD Student, STM '16)



Cheryl L. Green is committed to accompanying global communities. Where theology directly impacts people's lives, Cheryl studies and writes truth to power. Working alongside Afro-descendent and indigenous persons in the Spanish speaking Caribbean, and Central and South America, she journeys with them on their quests for justice and human rights. Cheryl confides,

"My most memorable experience at CTS has been, and continues to be, the affirmation of my research and work as the community hears what is important to me. This often challenges me to keep going."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, events will take place at CTS.

CONVOCACTIONS

LIVE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

Wednesdays at 12:00pm, as follows:

September 12: Convocation with Rev. Dr. Scott Haldeman

November 7: Convocation II (Speaker TBD)

February 13: Convocation III with Rev. Dr. Christophe Ringer

SEMINARY LIFE DAYS

Wednesdays, October 10, 2018; March 6, 2019; & April 17, 2019

CTS opens up its campus – and classes – to prospective students. Experience a full day in the life of our seminary; participate in coursework; attend chapel; dine with students; meet with faculty members; and discuss your personal journey with our admissions team. Visit ctschicago.edu/seminary-life-day for details and registration.

MARILYNNE ROBINSON LECTURE

LIVE

Wednesday, November 7, 2018
5:00pm Reception,
6:00pm Lecture

Award-winning novelist and essayist, Marilynne Robinson will be the inaugural speaker for our new *Public Square Lecture Series*. Registration opens in September. Find all of the details on the back cover.

COMMENCEMENT

LIVE

Friday, May 17, 2019, 2:00pm

Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago. Further details TBA.

UCC GENERAL SYNOD 2019

Milwaukee is hosting and CTS will be there. Watch your email and our website for news on all the #CTS@Synod events you won't want to miss!

VICTOR OBENHAUS LECTURESHIP SERIES

LIVE

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
5:15pm

Named for Christian scholar and former interim CTS president Victor Obenhaus, this lecture series welcomes PhD student Quincy J. Rineheart as the guest presenter. Lecture title: Bayard Rustin In Exile: Black Gay Bodies as the Site of Theological Terrorism. Sponsored by the CTS PhD Program.

CTS AT THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

November 1-7, 2018
Toronto, Ontario

The IRI is developing significant programming related to the upcoming Parliament, which will be held in Toronto Ontario. This will include an immersive for-credit course for CTS and other students, a cohort track focused on dismantling anti-Muslim bias, capturing stories of people standing up to religious bigotry and engaging in interreligious and intersectional work through video and live interviews, and a proposed interfaith workshop.

KENNETH B. SMITH LECTURE

LIVE

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life at CTS, this lecture will feature Dr. Julia M. Speller, Kenneth B. Smith Professor of Public Ministry, and Associate Professor of American Religious History & Culture.

CASTAÑEDA LECTURE

LIVE

Thursday, May 2, 2019
5:15pm Reception,
6:30pm Lecture

CTS's annual lecture on LGBTQ issues was established in 1994 in memory of Gilberto Castañeda, son of Rev. Dr. Ronna Case and Dr. Theodore Jennings. Lecturer TBA.

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
INVITES YOU TO THE

Installation Celebration of our 13th President Stephen G. Ray Jr.

Events are free, but registration is required at ctschicago.edu/installation.

AN EVENING WITH ARTIST, MICO

hosted by President Ray

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

Reception 5:15 pm • Lecture 6:00 pm

LIVE

Artist: Michael Benson

An exhibition of works by Michael Benson. MiCo, as he is known, was born and raised on the West Side of Chicago. These neighborhoods provided the rich inspiration and back-drop in many of his pieces. He also draws inspiration from his Christian upbringing. His art often transfuses racial and religious symbolism with black vernacular themes as a way of celebrating and giving narrative to the African American experience. This is given voice in the simple yet complex, and sometimes cartoon-like depictions in his drawings.



C. SHELBY ROOKS LECTURE

with the 13th President of CTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

Reception 5:15 pm • Lecture 6:30 pm

LIVE

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jacqueline J. Lewis

Join us for this annual lecture named for CTS president, C. Shelby Rooks, the first African American to serve as president of a predominately white theological school.

This year's lecturer is Jaqueline Lewis, senior minister of Middle Collegiate Church in New York's East Village. Middle Church is a dynamic 1000-member multiethnic, multicultural, inclusive congregation in which everyone is welcome just as they are. Lewis is also the executive director of The Middle Project, an institute that prepares ethical leaders for a more just society.



INSTALLATION CEREMONY

of CTS's 13th President

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018

3:00 pm

Trinity United Church of Christ,
Chicago

LIVE

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

Since 1855, CTS has pushed the boundaries of seminary education and theological scholarship. Now, join us as we welcome the 13th President in our rich 164-year legacy. Please plan to be in Chicago to honor President Ray, and celebrate the vibrant legacy of CTS.



For more information on our upcoming events visit ctschicago.edu/events or follow us on



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MARILYNNE ROBINSON LECTURE

Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Reception 5:00pm • Lecture 6:00pm

Novelist and essayist, Marilynne Robinson received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2005, the 2012 National Humanities Medal, and the 2016 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. A member of the United Church of Christ, she is best known for her novels *Housekeeping* and *Gilead*. The topics of her essays include the relationship between religion and science, nuclear pollution, John Calvin, and contemporary American politics.

The CTS Public Square Lecture Series brings to life the seminary's commitments and beliefs, encouraging open discourse and engagement around emerging issues. This new lecture series offers students and the community an opportunity to hear from leading voices on a variety of critical subjects.

Please register at ctschicago.edu/robinson

**PUBLIC
SQUARE
LECTURE
SERIES**