



ANDRÉ
LACOCQUE
LECTURE & SCHAALMAN AWARD

A Master Class on Being Human

A Black Christian and a Black Secular
Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice

Dr. Brad R. Braxton and Dr. Anthony B. Pinn

Thursday, March 14, 2024
Dialogue and Interfaith Iftar
Hybrid Event

Chicago Theological Seminary, a graduate school affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serves God, diverse religious and spiritual communities, and the larger world by educating persons theologically and cultivating the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical capacities of lay and ordained religious leaders, scholars, activists, and others who contribute to the increase of justice and mercy.

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 ground-breaking work in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies to advance understanding and collaboration among the rich multiplicity of spiritual traditions and lifestances.

This program is a signature CTS event. Many thanks to our CTS Inter-religious Engagement Committee members for their work on this and so many other CTS initiatives: Yasmine Abou-El-Kheir, Debra Behrendt, Rachel Mikva (Chair), Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera, Rachel Payden, Kim Schultz (Chair), Munir Shaikh, Brian Smith, Aisha Subhan, JoAnne Marie Terrell, Emily Vogt, and Gabriel Weiss.

Thank you to our 2024 LaCocque Lecture Ambassador:



PROGRAM

Welcome.....	Emily Vogt
History of the LaCocque Lecture and the Schaalman Award.....	Rachel Mikva
Introduction of the Schaalman Awardee.....	Kim Schultz
Schaalman Awardee.....	Gabriel Weiss
Striving for Our Future.....	Haley Hudler
Introduction of Guest Performer.....	Rachel Payden
Spoken Word Performance.....	ALäZ
Introduction of Speakers.....	Tony Banout
Dialogue.....	Brad Braxton and Anthony Pinn moderated by Tony Banout
Muslim Respondent.....	Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera
Q&A with Speakers.....	Tony Banout
Ramadan Teaching.....	Jabril Latif
—Streaming Ends—	
Maghrib Prayer.....	led by Tariq El-Amin
Interfaith iftar meal to follow	

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Anthony B. Pinn received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1994. Other degrees include a BA from Columbia University and an MDiv and MA from Harvard. Pinn began his teaching career at Macalester College (St. Paul, MN). He now serves as the Agnes Cullen Arnold Distinguished Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religion at Rice University. During his time at Rice, Pinn founded and directs the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning. Pinn is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts

and Sciences and a Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa.

Read more: <https://www.anthonypinn.com/>



Brad R. Braxton is President and Professor of Public Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is also the Founding Senior Pastor of The Open Church, an inclusive congregation that gathers both online and in Baltimore, Maryland. He recently served as the Senior Program Advisor for Creative Encounters: Living Religions in the United States, the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on religious diversity that brought more than 100,000 people to the National Mall in Washington, DC. Brax-

ton holds a PhD from Emory University, an MPhil from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a BA from the University of Virginia.

Read more: <https://www.bradbraxton.com>

ABOUT THE AWARDEE



Gabriel Weiss lives in Vermont with his wife and daughter (and a second daughter due in April), working as a community support case manager in an integrative clinic in Massachusetts. He has a BA in Sustainability from Goddard College and is in his fourth year at CTS in the MDiv program, with a concentration in interreligious engagement. Gabriel identifies as an Inter-spiritual Buddhist and is passionate about dialogue between people from all backgrounds as a means for saving the world. He loves God, books, waffles,

basketball, gardening, and solitude.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER



Vinson ALäZ Muhammad is a servant. Born in a house in Macon, GA, he is an award-winning recording artist, writer, producer, composer, and edutainer who has completed 8 recording projects, 3 national tours, and performed internationally in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and The 1500 Sound Academy with credits that include collaborations with artists from Roc Nation, Dreamville, and RCA Records along with brands like the NFL, Disney, and the Harlem Globe-

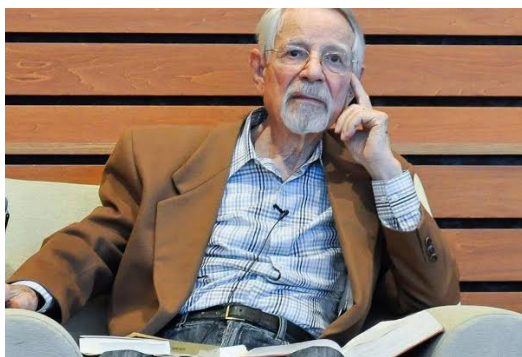
trotters. Additionally, He is the founder and executive director of the Coollab Project and an official artist on IMAN's artist roster.

Read more: <https://alaz4life.com/>

ABOUT THE LECTURE

The André LaCocque Lecture (previously the IRI Spring Lecture) showcases the diversity of religion in the human experience. It is named in honor of André LaCocque, the longtime CTS professor and stalwart supporter of interreligious work, who passed away in January 2022. Presented each spring, the LaCocque Lecture aims to provide a forum for underrepresented religious minorities to make their voices heard.

André LaCocque was born in Liège, Belgium. He earned a PhD in Jewish Literature in 1957 and a ThD in Old Testament in 1961, both from the University of Strasbourg, France. He taught at the Faculté Prot-



estante Universitaire de Bruxelles in Brussels, Belgium, from 1957 to 1968. He joined CTS in 1966 as Professor of Hebrew Bible.

Dr. LaCocque quickly formed a bond with Dr. Otto Betz, Chair of New Testament Studies, who inspired him to create a center for interreligious

studies—advancing interfaith understanding. The Center of Jewish-Christian Studies (CJCS) was intended to be a research center for doctoral candidates, as well as a hub for public conferences. Later, Dr. LaCocque expanded the CJCS to include Islamic scholars and lectures, and organized the first national conference on women and Islam headlined by Muslim scholars. This reimagined Center for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies (JCIS) was one of the first centers dedicated to interreligious understanding among the Abrahamic traditions in the country. Its work continues today in the form of the CTS InterReligious Institute (IRI), which has expanded to include interreligious work among all spiritual lifestances.

At Dr. LaCocque's recommendation, CTS hired Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman to teach Jewish Studies—a decision that ultimately facilitated our endowed chair in Jewish Studies. The two remained close friends throughout their lives, and they co-taught many courses together. Dr. LaCocque retired in 1996, but he remained active at CTS and beyond for many years afterwards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 12:00pm CST (virtual)

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

Led by Bayan Islamic Graduate School

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 12:00pm CST (virtual)

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

Distinguished Alumni Award

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 12:00pm CST (hybrid)

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

100 Years of Teaching Excellence: A Celebration of Drs.
Haldeman, Seo, Stone, and Terrell

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 4:00pm CST (in-person)

CTS OPEN HOUSE

Welcoming Those in Town for Commencement

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 10:00am CST (hybrid)

COMMENCEMENT 2024

Trinity United Church of Christ

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 12:00pm (virtual)

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

Led by the Abrahamic Transformations Cohort

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 12:00pm (hybrid)

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

Sanderson and Morgan Preaching Awards

*For a complete listing of upcoming
events, visit:*

<https://ctschicago.edu/events>

The InterReligious Institute at CTS has produced 3 seasons of the podcast **OUR 7 NEIGHBORS**. With almost 40,000 lifetime downloads, O7N has deepened interreligious understanding and engagement for its listeners. Season 1 highlights voices against Islamophobia through storytelling and activism, lifting up models of creative social transformation. Season 2 explores stories from the Black spiritual diaspora, sharing experiences of religiously and racially minoritized voices in the United States. And Season 3 includes segments of interviews from the Jesse Jackson Oral Archive Project interviews paired with contemporary leaders in faith, industry, and activism. Find O7N everywhere you find your podcasts and at our7neighbors.com



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