

Upcoming events

Hein-Fry Lectures at LSTC on March 16

Dr. Donald Hagner, George Eldon Ladd Professor of New Testament at Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., will deliver the 2007 Hein-Fry Lectures, "The State of the Bible in North America," at LSTC on March 16. Hagner's lectures will be at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Dr. Ralph Klein, Christ Seminary-Seminex Professor of Old Testament will respond to the lectures at 2:30 p.m. A reception follows at 3:30 p.m..

Hagner, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., teaches courses in New Testament and New Testament theology. His published works include commentaries on the Epistle to the Hebrews and Matthew, *The Jewish Reclamation of Jesus*, and *New Testament Exegesis and Research: A Guide for Seminarians*. He is the co-editor of the *New International Greek Testament Commentary*. He received the Golden Award from the Christian Booksellers for the Best Commentary in 1995.

For more details about the 2007 Hein-Fry Lectures, visit www.lstc.edu or www.elca.org/hein-fry/2007/

Larry Long Recital and Gospel Choir Concert conclude Chapel Music Series

March 11 at 4:00 p.m., Larry Long, former LSTC staff musician, returns to LSTC to demonstrate the versatility of the Ruth and Paul Manz Organ, which he helped to design. The recital is free. An offering will be gathered.

LSTC's Gospel Choir presents its annual benefit concert on April 22 at 4:00 p.m. Led by Keith Hampton, the choir will inspire with moving interpretations of new and well-loved gospel music. Concert proceeds benefit the Grover Wright and the Rev. Carole A. Burns Scholarship Funds. A freewill offering will be gathered during the concert.

For more information about the concert schedule and to find out how to support the Chapel Music Series, visit www.lstc.edu.

Jewish, Christian, Muslim Text Study

Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scholars will examine the role our scriptures and the interpretation of them play in the experience of human suffering. "Our Sacred Texts and the Experience of Suffering" focuses on the enormity of human suffering in our world due, in part, to natural causes and calamities but also to human perversity. What light, wisdom, judgment, rebuke, incentives, guidance, comfort and hope do

our sacred texts offer in response to human suffering?

Presentations by Rabbi Yeheil Poupko, Dr. Terence Fretheim, and Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub begin at 1:30 p.m. in LSTC's Common Room. The event is free, but an RSVP is requested by April 12 via email, phone or mail to help plan for adequate seating and refreshments. Call 773-256-0755 or email ccme@lstc.edu.

World Mission Institute

April 19 – 20 the annual World Mission Institute Conference takes place at LSTC. "Religion and Media Technology: Resources and Challenges" is the topic for the day and a half gathering.

Speakers for the event are Dr. Stewart Hoover on "The Global Mediation of Religion" and Dr. Rosalind Hackett on "Religion and Mass Mediation in an Age of Conflict."

Workshops leaders include Dr. Eileen Crowley, Dr. Antonio Sison, Dr. Marla Frederick-McGlathery, and Dr. Ken Sawyer.

An evening program will be held on Friday, April 20, at Trinity United Church from 7-9 p.m. on the topic "Religion, Media and the Black Churches" led by Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright and Dr. Maria Frederick-McGlathery.

For more information or to register email ccgm@ctu.edu or register the day the institute begins.

Summer Session Classes and Wardlaw Lectures

Six courses will be offered in LSTC's Mission and Leadership Doctor of Ministry program this summer, along with ACTS D.Min. in Preaching courses. Other Hyde Park seminaries will offer summer classes, but students must register directly with them.

Each course lasts one week. The first week of classes is June 18–22. The second week runs from June 25–29. ACTS D. Min. in Preaching classes run from June 25 – July 5. For details on classes watch www.lstc.edu.

July 2–3, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program presents the Donald M. Wardlaw Lectures in the Augustana Chapel at LSTC. Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P., professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame will present the lectures. For more information, contact the ACTS D. Min. in Preaching program at 773-947-6270 or dgobel@mccormick.edu. The lectures are free and open to the public.

LSTC receives over \$1 million in grants for youth, interfaith, stewardship, and campus renewal programs

During the fall quarter, LSTC received grants from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Henry Luce Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF), the Siebert Foundation, and the Hagen Family Foundation totaling \$1,086,400. The largest grants, from Lilly, Luce, and ICECF will support exploration of vocation, interfaith dialogue, and campus renewal projects.

“LSTC is excited by the opportunities that these grants provide the seminary,” said President James Kenneth Echols. “They will help us deepen and broaden LSTC’s strengths in interfaith relations and vocational discernment for high school youth. These grants also recognize the overall excellence of LSTC’s faculty and its programs to make the seminary even more responsive to the needs of the church in the 21st century.”

A \$554,000 matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., will fund LSTC’s Youth in Mission programs, *Serving Christ in the World* and *Beyond Belief*. *Serving Christ in the World* combines on-campus study and an immersion experience to assist rising 11th and 12th graders to explore their Christian vocations. *Beyond Belief* brings youth groups to Chicago for experiences in urban ministry.

The Henry Luce Foundation awarded \$300,000 for LSTC to integrate interfaith relations into the seminary’s teaching and learning. This will include awarding small grants to faculty for projects that make connections between their own areas of scholarship and interfaith studies.

“We plan to explore, more fully, just what it means for LSTC to be committed to interfaith relations,” said Mark Swanson, Harold S. Vogelaar Chair of Christian-Muslim Studies and Interfaith Relations. “We want faculty to reflect on the questions of what religious diversity means to their work as Christian theologians and how LSTC might better prepare students for ministry in a religiously plural world.”

A \$135,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation will help LSTC reduce its

annual energy costs by 50%, as it prepares to replace its outdated heating and cooling systems with energy-efficient ones. The \$19.4 million campus renewal project aims towards Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—New Construction (LEED-NC) Gold Certification. The grant provides funding for design and building commissioning costs related to the LEED certification and the implementation of the new systems.

“Essentials like heating and cooling systems are hardly the most attractive or the easiest things to raise money to do,” said Mark Van Scharrel, vice president for advancement. “But they are a basic part of learning and working at LSTC. This project presents a wonderful opportunity for LSTC to live out its commitment to caring for the environment and being a good steward of its resources.”

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided a grant of \$42,000 for stewardship education and faculty sabbatical grants at LSTC. Graduating seniors will participate in a retreat focused on stewardship, expanding on a one-day workshop LSTC has presented for a number of years.

The Siebert Foundation provided \$50,000 to help underwrite costs of LSTC’s comprehensive campaign, including the cost of materials.

The Hagen Family Foundation awarded LSTC \$5,000 for basic marketing research to give the seminary a clearer picture of how it is perceived by its constituencies and the church it serves. The ELCA Research and Evaluation Section is a partner in this research.

Mike Klinefelter, assistant vice president for advancement, coordinated writing and submission of the grants.

LSTC Outstanding Alumni/ae for 2007

Two parish pastors, two college professors, and two leaders in Lutheran service agencies will receive the 2007 Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago alumni/ae awards for their outstanding service to the church. The Rev. Dennis A. Jacobsen (Concordia/Seminex, 1973, M.Div.); the Rev. Dr. Kathryn A. Kleinhans (1984, M.Div.); the Rev. Thomas J. Minor (1972, M.Div.); the Rev. Keith T. Nelson (1970, M.Div.); Abdul Massih Saadi (1993, M.A.; 1995, Th.M.; 1999, Ph.D.); and the Rev. Edgar L. Schambach, Jr. (Seminex, 1977, M.Div.) were honored at a dinner at the seminary on Monday, February 12.

"These six people are a snapshot of the depth and breadth of how LSTC graduates are engaged in ministry," said Mark Van Scharrel, vice president for advancement. "We honor them for the excellent ways they have used their gifts to share the gospel and inspire others."

Edgar L. Schambach, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award: Parish Ministry, is pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, Neb. His 30 years of parish ministry in North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Nebraska are characterized by outstanding work in evangelism and outreach. Schambach has been dedicated to developing strong leaders within his congregations.

Abdul Massih Saadi, recipient of the First Decade Award, teaches at Notre Dame University in the department of classics. He began his teaching career in Lebanon and Syria and served as principal and instructor at the St. Ephrem Theological Seminary in Damascus, Syria from 1984 – 1990. He began his studies at LSTC in 1993. For more than a decade he has worked on the seminary's collection of Syriac manuscripts. Saadi is a prolific writer and translator who has published articles on the history of Christianity in the Middle East. He has translated the works of Moshe Bar Kepha and biblical texts into modern Syrian.

Keith T. Nelson, recipient of the Excellence in Ministry: Institutional Advancement Award, is associate director/planned giving for the Foundation of the ELCA. In 1981, he was the founding director of Planned Giving Services for the Nebraska Synod Agencies and Institutions. Planned Giving Services now has over \$77 million in gift expectancies. Nelson's vision and abilities made Nebraska Planned Giving Services a model for other similar organizations across the church.

Thomas Minor, who received the Faithful Servant Award, has served as a parish pastor, a military chaplain, and as the disaster response executive director for Lutheran Social Services of the South, where he worked with victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During his 14 years as an Air Force chaplain, he was chief of education, training, and pastoral care at the Air National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.; senior Protestant chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas; senior Protestant chaplain at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Ga.; and provided counseling support to presidential flight crews at Andrews Air Force Base.



Thomas Minor (center) and guests with President Echols at the Alumni/ae Awards Dinner

Kathryn Kleinhans, recipient of the Christian Educator Award, is professor of religion at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, where she chairs the religion department and is coordinator of Church Vocation. Kleinhans also teaches theology and Reformation history at lay schools of theology and synod assemblies. Her writing regularly appears in scholarly journals and ELCA publications. Kleinhans has also served as a member of the Northeastern Iowa Synod candidacy committee.

Dennis Jacobsen, recipient of the Peace and Justice Award, is pastor of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wisc., and director of the Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus. Gamaliel is a network of over 1,000 clergy that develops national and regional training events which ground the work of congregation-based community organizing in theology and Scripture. He is the author of *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing*, an introduction to the theology of congregation-based community organizing.