

Spring/Summer 2011

faith reason justice

# SPIRIT



EASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Scholarship is a crucial component of Eastern's academic integration of faith, reason and justice. We strive as a Christian community to achieve excellence in all of our teaching and learning endeavors, viewing them as a form of worship.

In the Academic Excellence section (pages 2-11), you will meet just a few of the scholars from the five Schools that comprise our University. Although from different backgrounds and disciplines, these professors share a passionate

commitment to students and to the transformational education that takes place here. Their intellectual curiosity and Christian activism inspire students in significant ways.

To emphasize this fact, most of the inspiring stories in the Faith & Practice section were written by our students. They didn't have to look very far to find Eastern faculty, students, administrators and alumni who are quietly making a big impact by putting their faith into action in so many ways. One of our graduates who is living out the Gospel and taking its redemptive message around the world is Shane Claiborne '97, selected as our Alumnus of the Year (page 22).

As you read through this issue, I hope that you will be as encouraged as I am by the faithfulness of those who come together in this vibrant learning community. Thank you for your prayers and support of the sacred mission we embrace at Eastern University to be Christ-like servant leaders in an increasingly complex and troubled world.

Respectfully,

David Black

# SPIRIT

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Spring/Summer 2011

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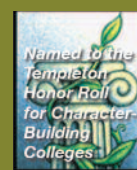
**SPIRIT** supports the mission of Eastern University to provide a Christian higher education for those who will make a difference in the world through careers and personal service rooted in faith applied to academic disciplines. The magazine serves as a connection between the Eastern University campus community of students, faculty, staff and administration and its alumni, trustees, friends, donors, parents and neighbors.

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# CONTENTS

2	Academic Excellence
12	Faith & Practice
19	Athletics
20	Achievements
22	Alumni

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*On the cover: Social work grads Mea Meeks (left) and Rayna Gray at the May 2010 Commencement. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Richman.*





college

## dr. tara stoppa

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

**TEACHES** child psychology, adolescent psychology, lifespan development, psychology of personality, psychology of religion. “I always try to help students to take what they learn in the classroom and to identify ways to apply their knowledge to the real world. So whether that is in terms of thinking about their own development or the development of others, I believe that making such connections is integral. I try to do this in a variety of ways. For example, in both my Child Psychology and Adolescent Psychology courses, students participate in an online experience in which they are asked to raise a Virtual Child throughout the semester. They see development at various stages (and have to make important parenting decisions) that will ultimately affect their child’s development in significant ways. This has really been a lot of fun and I’ve enjoyed working with students through this process.”

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Eastern’s chapter of Psi Chi, the International Psychology Honors Society. “We have an active chapter including graduate school workshops, service activities, and an annual induction ceremony dinner.”

**WHY I CHOSE EASTERN:** Came in fall 2009.

“Eastern is a unique place. I knew about it because the son of a family friend went here and I knew about Tony Campolo. I was drawn to its emphasis on faith, reason and justice. I’m also very attracted to that mission.”

I instantly felt a sense of community that was moving in pursuit of faith, reason and justice. I couldn’t help but come here! It’s a great place for religious and spiritual identity to develop.”

**WHAT I’M PASSIONATE ABOUT:** “I’m most passionate about helping people to discover their identity and how that interfaces with the world around them. I’m very passionate about helping them to discover who they are and then helping them fulfill the potential of what God has planned for them. I’m passionate about research, teaching and building relationships.”

**OUTSIDE INTERESTS:** “I recently taught a series of educational workshops for a local transitional housing program for women. For several years I have been involved with a youth civic educational program, assisting with their leadership workshops throughout the year. Each summer I participate in a week-long program that engages high school students from across the country in service-learning activities such as health care, law and the environment.”

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Moravian College, M.S. Millersville University, M.S. and Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University

**INSPIRATION:** Micah 6:8 “...O people, the Lord has already told you what is good, and this is what He requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

arts and sciences



## dr. jonathan yonan

*ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
NAMED DEAN OF THE TEMPLETON HONORS COLLEGE*

**TEACHES** the seminar on the Good Life and the year-long Western Civilization seminar, both taken by all first-year students in the Templeton Honors College (THC). “My academic curiosity mainly focuses on modern Christian history, especially eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European intellectual history.” He has presented research in Ireland, England, Germany, and the U.S. and is currently writing a book on religious toleration in enlightened Europe.

**WHY I CHOSE EASTERN:** “I had finished my doctorate degree at Oxford and was teaching at Temple University when this opportunity came up in 2007. I thought my gifts were most suited to teaching in a Christian context. The Honors College with its classical liberal arts education was a thrilling possibility as well; and so was the opportunity to teach alongside **Phil Cary**, whose work on Augustine I greatly admire. I’m committed to academic excellence, Christian faith and its relationship to all truth.”

**WHAT I’M PASSIONATE ABOUT:** “I’m most passionate about the students! I love working with students in the THC because it operates on what I call a humane scale in which you can get to know everybody. I can really mentor and shepherd them as young Christians and young scholars. My goal is to see my students become excellent Christians, excellent citizens and excellent friends. I love the size of THC where students have the close support of our faculty. Teaching is not just classroom initiatives, but modeling life.”

**OUTSIDE INTERESTS:** Member of 10th Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA. “I grew up in the Philadelphia area and attended Phil-Mont Christian Academy. I’m an avid reader, I love classical music, and I’m a great baseball fan. In fact, I read about baseball statistics even in the winter.”

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Gordon College; M.St. and D.Phil. in Ecclesiastical History, Oxford University. “I went to Oxford because I wanted to study with Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Oxford’s Professor of the History of the Church, who is a leading historian of Christianity. He is a mentor and model scholar.”

**GOALS FOR TEMPLETON HONORS COLLEGE:** “My goals for the THC are to be a steward of the good work of previous people (**Dr. Jack** and **Dr. Josephine Templeton**, founder **Dr. Allen Guelzo**, and **Chancellor Christopher Hall**). I want to stabilize and extend their work, and make sure the THC remains an asset to the University as a whole.”

**INSPIRATION:** “I take my inspiration from students of all ages. In the classroom my students demonstrate a level of eagerness, enthusiasm, and conversation which energizes my own work as a life-long learner. Outside the classroom I’m frequently meeting people who understand that all of life is an occasion for learning.”

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# campolo college of graduate and profes



# dr. sharon gramby-sobukwe

*DIRECTOR OF THE M.A. IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM*

**TEACHES** leadership theory, development, advocacy and public policy. Director of the M.A. in Organizational Leadership. Served as chair of the School of Leadership and Development from 2007-2010.

**WHY I CHOSE EASTERN:** “I was teaching at Rutgers University in Camden, NJ, and had a group of students who took my classes and were amazed that I taught post-modern political theory along with Christian theology. They suggested I look into Eastern because it would be a good fit. They were right! I came here in 2005 and started teaching overseas right away in Asia, South Africa and Eastern Europe in our Pathways to Leadership program.”

**WHAT I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT:** “Social justice issues! My research and writing are focused on the black church and its politics, leadership and issues confronting communities of color. I'm committed to helping to restore church, family and community.”

**OUTSIDE INTERESTS:** Associate Minister of First Corinthian Baptist Church, West Philadelphia, the first woman licensed to preach there. Active in the church's educational programs for adults and children. Serves on the board of Bright Lights Initiative, a program with two schools in North Philadelphia. “Bright Lights provides academic and cultural support that teaches good citizenship, helps boost self-esteem, and promotes service among at-risk children. Over 400 children have come through our program since the mid-1990's.” Serves as a board member for Evangelicals for Social Action. Also an avid reader, especially novels about women in the Caribbean and Africa.

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Duke University, M.A. University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. Temple University

**FAMILY:** Married to Djibo; one grown son, Nkululeko.

**INSPIRATION:** 2nd Chronicles 16:9 - “The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

# sional studies



# dr. paul alexander

*PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY*

**TEACHES** Global South Theologies and Politics, and Theologies of Nonviolence and Social Change. Dr. Alexander also oversees the public policy initiatives of Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA), which is part of Palmer Seminary's Sider Center on Ministry and Public Policy. "Working on peace and justice issues—and encouraging and inspiring students to do the same—is my calling and my passion. It's when I feel most alive. I'm just trying to follow Jesus' teaching that we are to be peacemakers and to work for justice."

**WHY I CHOSE PALMER:** "Prior to Palmer, I taught in the Graduate School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University. I came here so I would be able to work on peacemaking and justice all the time, and the joint appointment (Palmer and ESA) fit me perfectly. Working with **Ron Sider** in my role as director of public policy for ESA allows me the freedom to address issues about which I care deeply, issues such as Israel/Palestine, immigration, and global economic inequalities. I get to teach, write, agitate nonviolently, and be who I really am."

**WHAT I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT:** "Over the last few years I have given much of my energy and life to Pentecostals and Charismatics for Peace and Justice (PCPJ), an organization I helped start in July, 2001. PCPJ has been taking American Pentecostals to the

West Bank and Israel to learn about the situation from the people who live there. We are making a documentary about evangelical and Pentecostal Palestinian Christians ([www.youtube.com/pcpjvideos](http://www.youtube.com/pcpjvideos)). I think evangelicals in the U.S. have not been careful enough to support Palestinians as well as Israelis."

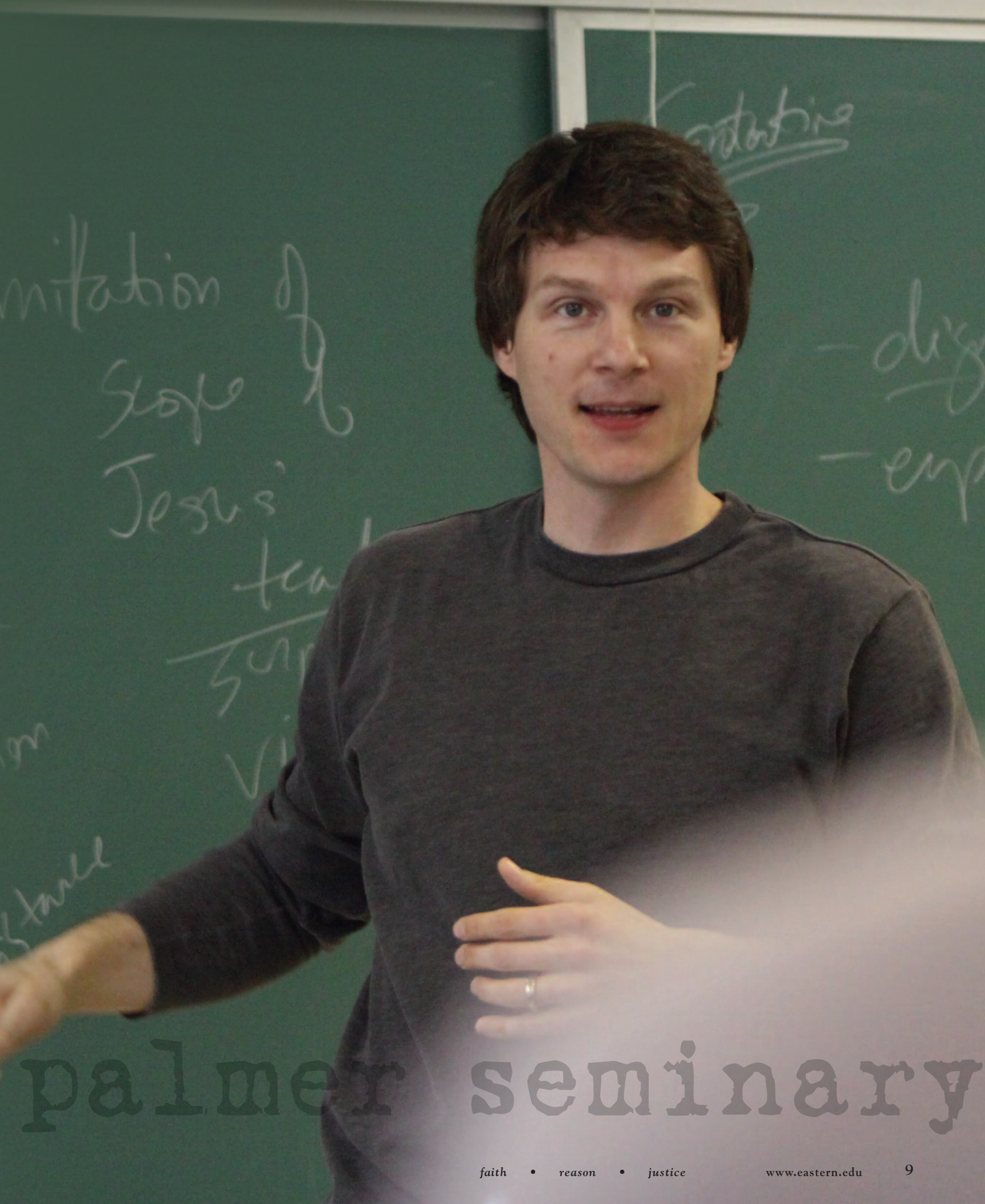
**FAMILY AND HOBBIES:** "Deborah and I are occupied with the joy of our children's lives and activities – Nathan Bird (11), Kharese Shalom (8), and Abigail Francis Hope (1). I enjoy softball and basketball when I get a chance to play, and I also like to paint in the evenings while we listen to audio books. We worship at Frazer Mennonite Church."

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Church Ministries, Southwestern Assemblies of God University; M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; Ph.D. Religion and Theological Ethics, Baylor University

**INSPIRATION:** "Thomas Merton said, 'To hope is to risk frustration, therefore make up your mind to risk frustration.' The more we see the injustices in the world, the more we can be led to despair, but humility and the grace to do just one thing (or just a few things) can help. I am also inspired by Jesus' admonition: 'Love your enemies.' For real."

*Written by Randall L. Frame, executive director of marketing and communications at Palmer Seminary.*





palmer seminary



# From the Mouths of Babes



**Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier**, dean of Esperanza College of Eastern University, has written a book that discusses the human realities of the immigration issue. This new bilingual resource is titled *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families/Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes*. Dr. Conde-Frazier addresses this challenging topic from the perspective of the roughly 16.5 million children in the United States with at least one immigrant parent. Dr. Conde-Frazier invites the reader to eavesdrop on fictionalized conversations between immigrant parents, their children, and their caregivers to learn: how and why adults make the decision to emigrate from their

esperanza college



homeland; how the separation affects children; and what challenges eventual reunification of the family brings.

Chapters on the effect of legal status, children and raids, and the role of religion and faith communities make *Listen to the Children* both a warm and practical resource for caregivers, educators, pastors, social workers, community leaders, legislators, and anyone concerned about the future of America.

Before coming to Eastern University, Dr. Conde-Frazier served as associate professor in religious education for the Claremont School of Theology, taught at Latin American Bible Institute, and served as director of the Orlando E. Costas Hispanic and Latin American Ministries Program. An ordained American Baptist minister with more than 10 years experience in the local church, Dr. Conde-Frazier is the author of *Hispanic Bible Institutes* and co-author of *A Many Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation*.

Hispanic leaders are praising this new book. Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Hispanic National Association of Evangelicals, said, "Elizabeth exposes the narrative of the community most impacted by the current polarized reality while simultaneously offering hope."

Rev. Stan Perea, executive director, Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (Hispanic Theological Education Association), said, "The immigrant children that Elizabeth writes about will determine our future as a nation. *Listen to the Children* should be required reading."

This new book is published by Judson Press, a publishing ministry of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist Churches USA. It is available at Christian bookstores, Barnes & Noble, Borders, and online retailers including Amazon.com. It is also available from Judson Press by calling 800.458.3766 or visiting [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com)

# IMMIGRATION

"Immigration: Third Wave, The Dream Act, and Crossing Borders."

## Symposium 2010



The M.S. in Nonprofit Management Program at Eastern University School of Leadership and Development presented a Symposium on Immigration: Third Wave, The Dream Act, and Crossing Borders in November. Held at Faith Tabernacle in Lancaster, PA, the Symposium addressed several issues that cut across race, class and religious lines.

With perspectives from academia, business and the church, three themes guided the discussion: the Third Wave of immigration, The Dream Act that would provide resident status to the children of immigrants, and Crossing Borders.

Speakers included **Dr. Sharon Gramby-Sobukwe**, director of M.A. in Organizational Leadership Program at Eastern University; **Obed Arango** who earned his M.Div. from Palmer Seminary; Rev. Gerald C. Simmons, pastor of Faith Tabernacle Church; **Rev. Hans Tokke**, program director and professor of the Nonprofit Management program in the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies; **Dr. David Bronkema**, director and associate professor of International Development, and Templeton Chair of the School of Leadership and Development; **Rev. Kathy Kautz de Arango**, director of International Student and Scholar Services at Eastern University; Anna Faramelli, Crisis and Advocacy Services director of the Women's Resource Center; Bishop Dennis Joell, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Norristown, PA; Stephanie Summers, chief operating officer of the Center for Public Justice; Ashley Walliser, coordinator for The Homeless Prevention Center of Montgomery County, PA; and a 12th grade student from New York City.

## Advocating For SOCIAL CHANGE

By Emily Cody '11



**Dr. Darrell** (better known as Drick) **Boyd**, professor in the Urban Studies department at the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies, is on sabbatical this spring. Although he's taking a break from teaching, Dr. Boyd's activities are still motivated by an acute sense of social justice.

Dr. Boyd, along with **Dr. Heewon Chang**, professor of education at Eastern, recently finished editing and contributing to a book, *Spirituality in Higher Education: Autoethnographies*. This book includes chapters written by professors across the country, including Eastern, who share their experiences of integrating their spirituality with their work, students and life. He says, "The spiritual component – that's referred to so much in the book – is not just a nice thing we all hold in common. It's something that will sustain us over the long haul."

The chapter Dr. Boyd wrote elegantly weaves together activism and academic scholarship in the context of his faith. The activism Dr. Boyd refers to is his involvement with issues such as gun control and his advocacy for education improvement in urban schools.

Heeding God's Call (HeedingGodsCall.org), an organization dedicated to ending gun violence, grew out of a protest held by Dr. Boyd along with several others in January, 2009. The protest took place in front of a Philadelphia gun shop that was involved in straw purchasing. Straw purchasing is essentially the sale of guns to a street dealer who then sells them illegally. Boyd and his friends sat in front of the

gun store in shifts, blocking the entrance and protesting the activities that took place inside. Although the group was arrested, they were acquitted in May, 2009, and the gun shop eventually lost its license after the excessive media attention received as a result of the protest.

Dr. Boyd is also traveling around the U.S. this spring visiting popular education centers and making presentations on faith-based approaches to gun violence prevention. Popular education is an approach to community-based adult education that aims to empower people who feel marginalized socially and politically to take control of their own learning and to effect social change. Popular education centers traditionally work with groups of people who are seeking to address community problems. Dr. Boyd says, "In my community work I try to function as a popular educator and I hope to learn from other educators about how they approach their work."

He attributes much of his current passion for social justice to his time at Eastern. "I don't think I could be doing what I'm doing if I wasn't at a place like Eastern. When I was arrested, I got so much support from my closest colleagues, my students, and the faculty because of our commitment to faith, reason and justice. If I had done what I did when I was a pastor, I probably would have lost my job."

When asked about taking his time off to pursue his other passions on a more serious level, Dr. Boyd laughed. "I love teaching. One of my biggest fears when I started my sabbatical was that I would go crazy not teaching. I'll be back in the fall."





*The Maness family (left to right) Greg, Kevin, David (seated), Krissy and Sandy.*

## Serving at Work and Home

*By Chris Nelson '11*

**Dr. Kevin Maness**, assistant professor of communication studies, attempts to live out his faith in many ways, but none more obvious than his work with students. He believes he is called to be at Eastern where he exercises his faith on a daily basis. "I try to communicate to students that they are what I care about," he says. To communicate, he uses blogging, Facebook, instant messaging, and can often be seen with his iPad. "Kevin makes sure the technology fits the purpose of that assignment," says **Dr. Julie Morgan**, associate professor of communication studies.

Kevin Maness received the Professor of the Year Award for 2007-2008. It is important to him, he says, "to be a Christian adult in a contemporary world." His openness and honesty encourage others to be the same way and this helps build meaningful discussions inside and outside of his classroom.

Kevin actively practices his faith in a place where many Christians struggle. It is not an exotic island, but his own home. In 2009, Kevin opted to move back home and help take care of his family. Kevin's younger brother, Greg, is mentally challenged and requires assistance in many daily activities.

Kevin also lives with his parents, Sandy and David. Kevin's father, **David Maness**, is an associate professor of music who has been an integral part of Eastern's Music Department since 1970. In 1988, David was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an inflammatory disease which progresses over time. So Kevin is balancing his role as a son and helper.

Practicing his faith both at work and at home reminds him regularly what is true for all of us: no one ever goes anywhere to practice their faith. Practicing one's faith is not so much an action, but a state of being.



## Helping Make Sense of Suffering

By Chris Nelson '11

**Jo Saba '97** came to the United States in 1993 at the age of 18. He came from Cairo, Egypt, to be able to study at a Christian university. He graduated from Eastern University in 1997 and then went on to earn his M.A. in counseling psychology in 2001 from Eastern's Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Saba, who is a psychology lecturer and internship coordinator for the Psychology Department, now balances his work as a psychotherapist with teaching. With a practice in Center City Philadelphia, he works as a therapist and helps people in very real ways. "I think of the image of being the wounded healer. The image Christ has set for us," Saba said. "Helping those in need on a practical level is a calling. I am helping people make sense of their suffering."

One of Saba's keys to being a successful therapist is obeying the Bible's second greatest commandment, by treating his clients with respect. He also tries to maintain an attitude of grace, which allows his clients to open up without a sense of judgment.

As a professor, Saba sees his material as directly faith-related. "I teach a better understanding of human nature and that we are made in the image of God." He returned to Eastern as a professor because of the strong sense of community he experienced as a student. He also feels that the University challenges students to live missional lives, something he wants to take part in.



## SPRING BREAK MISSIONS TRIPS

Many of Eastern's students and faculty chose to lend a helping hand during their spring break, March 5-13. This is a sampler of their missions trips for the 2011 break:



Photo courtesy Arielle Lopez

### Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic

Fifteen students in the International Social Work class (above) worked with Orphanage Outreach.

### Dominican Republic

A group of 16 students went to work there with Food for the Hungry.

### Greensboro, North Carolina

Ten students rolled up their sleeves to tackle low-cost home construction with Habitat for Humanity.

### Almost Heaven, West Virginia

Another group of 18 students helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity.

### Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Jersey

Transformed! Drama Ministry of 9 students spread the good news of the Gospel in churches.

### Richmond, Virginia

Watchmen Prayer Ministry of 9 students put their faith in action.

For information about student missions trips, contact Andrew Horvath, D.Min., director of Christian Formation at [ahorvath@eastern.edu](mailto:ahorvath@eastern.edu)



## LESSONS FROM



## GOOD SAMARITAN SHELTER

*Opening the door to hope & dignity*

*By Stephen Reitnour (first-year student)*

All first-year students must complete 20 hours of community service, and I decided to do my service at the Good Samaritan Shelter in Phoenixville, PA ([www.goodsamshelter.org](http://www.goodsamshelter.org)). My first thought was that it was going to be this big shelter, with lots of people, and probably very dirty. I thought I was going to be serving food all the time, and cleaning and other “fun” stuff. Was I wrong! On my first day, the staff took me under their wing. I found out that the executive director, **Nate Hoffer**, is an Eastern alum who graduated in 2009 from our Management Studies program. It felt like I was part of the Good Samaritan family. That first day would change my life forever.

I have done everything from take out the trash, to cleaning, to helping with the intake process of a new client, doing room inspections, organizing food and clothing, and just sitting down and talking with the men about what got them to where they are today. The thing that has blown me away the most is the love I have seen from all the staff at Good Samaritan Shelter towards the men who come into the program. Every man is treated with the utmost respect and dignity. It is amazing to see the smiles on the men, knowing that people do love and care about them and want them to become a success, and having someone in their life who will never give up on them.

The thing that has made the greatest impact on me are the men themselves who reside at Good Samaritan Shelter. Before, I thought that homeless people were dangerous, dirty, no-good people who really just use the money to buy drugs or alcohol. Coming to Good Samaritan Shelter has forever altered my view of homeless people. They are people just like you and me who have stories that will blow you away if you just sit down and talk to them. I will forever be grateful for all that I have learned, and will continue to learn in the year ahead.

*From an article written for the  
Phoenixville News Web site.*

## Still Fighting For Women's Rights

By Emily Cody '11

A feminist and advocate for women, **Danielle Marse-Kapr '09**, graduated with a degree in psychology and a double minor in political science and gender studies. All it takes is a conversation with her to feel as though you've been friends for ages and to know that she's serious about real change. "I have always wanted to do women's advocacy work," she says. "Sexism is a pervasive problem in every culture around the globe. I want to be part of the effort that eradicates that problem."

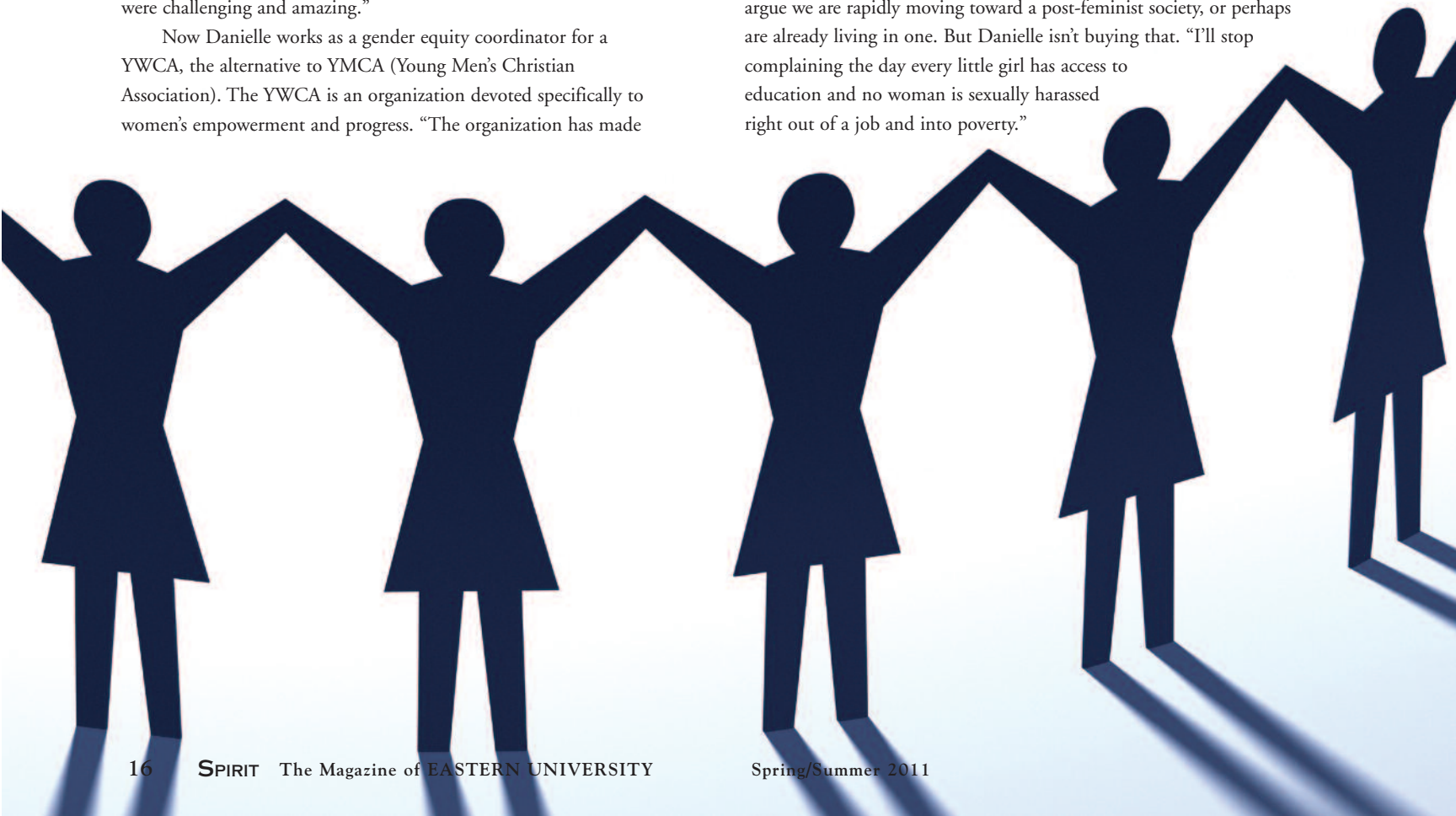
Danielle is one of the founding members of S.A.G.E. (Students Advocating Gender Equality), an on-campus club that started at Eastern in 2007. S.A.G.E. talks to students on a wide variety of gender issues ranging from biblical patriarchy to domestic violence to breaking down culturally constructed gender roles within the church. S.A.G.E. began when fellow feminist **Bethany Boland '08** approached Danielle in the library and asked her to talk over coffee. "From there we started having weekly meetings with about 10 women where we'd talk about articles, feminism and Christianity, our experiences in class, our families, and in the church. The discussions were challenging and amazing."

Now Danielle works as a gender equity coordinator for a YWCA, the alternative to YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). The YWCA is an organization devoted specifically to women's empowerment and progress. "The organization has made

a major shift to becoming a social justice organization committed to 'empowering women and eliminating racism,' a motto I could really work for," she says. Her job involves coordinating supervised visitation programs, overseeing the logistics of visits for parents who are unable to be alone with their children. She also coordinates and oversees two economic empowerment programs aimed at helping women get ahead in their careers; one is specifically for women under thirty. The other is for female heads of households and consists of a series of workshops and speaking events.

Danielle and her husband Dan live in the beautiful Hudson Valley in southern New York and absolutely love it. Dan is a student at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and works part-time as a church youth director. Danielle enjoys kickboxing and a feminist book club in her spare time. Through investing in their community, buying locally grown foods and committing themselves to relationships with others, Danielle feels that some of the values instilled in her while at Eastern are truly being put into practice in her life now.

Although equality is ever-progressing, there are some who would argue we are rapidly moving toward a post-feminist society, or perhaps are already living in one. But Danielle isn't buying that. "I'll stop complaining the day every little girl has access to education and no woman is sexually harassed right out of a job and into poverty."







## We are not alone, we are AllOne

*By Chelsea Post '11*

While working on his doctorate in Organizational Leadership at Eastern University, **David Brewer '02 (MBA)** rekindled a dream that began 15 years ago in Vancouver, WA. He started a nonprofit organization, the AllOne Community Services, to coordinate the community service programs of approximately 20 churches in Portland, OR. "If we pool these resources into one program, then that should free up time and energy for churches to focus on other ministries," Brewer said.

AllOne's first project mushroomed into a service directory for all of North Portland. They partnered with the St. John's Neighborhood Association and created a 50-page directory of nonprofit and faith-based service providers. The University of Portland, the State Senator, and the State Representative contacted Brewer about inclusion in the directory and to affirm the usefulness of this work.

They also launched a Web site ([www.allonecommunity.org](http://www.allonecommunity.org)) for the use of all the churches. This won't replace their current sites, but will serve as a showcase location to highlight the work they're all doing together, and give visitors and new residents a place where they can find churches they want to visit or attend. AllOne has been asked to facilitate ongoing pastors' and church gatherings to build relationships. Brewer said, "We use these times not only to have coffee and fellowship, but also to discuss ways to collaborate on smaller projects to meet community needs as well as determine our larger projects."

Connecting with these churches was not too hard for Brewer, thanks to his wife, **Rose Brewer '02 (M.Div. Palmer Seminary)** who is an associate pastor at Grace Christian Fellowship, a Free Methodist Church in Portland. She preaches, teaches, leads small groups, mentors ministry leaders in her church, and has helped her husband in the thinking and planning of AllOne.

David Brewer is a senior project manager with Kaiser Permanente, an integrated healthcare system that President Obama often cites as an example of evidence-based care. It is in this environment that he is learning the essential skills he needs to direct AllOne. Brewer serves on two nonprofit boards, a Christian camp and a family service nonprofit. He also chairs one of Oregon's denominational boards, creating a new process for the nomination and selection of people to serve on the other boards in the state.

The Brewers live in Portland with their young sons, Zephaniah and Jakobi. The whole family comes to Philadelphia three times a year, staying at friends' homes while Brewer attends Eastern's Ph.D. program. Brewer finds that earning his degree at Eastern has helped him greatly with his ultimate goals and beliefs. "I'm not a Christian getting a doctorate; my faith is involved," he said. "You can't go through Eastern and just be an ivory tower. You have to live it out through justice."



## HELPING TO REBUILD

## HAITI

**Doug Horton '99**, clinical coordinator in Eastern's Athletic Training Education Program, went on a missions trip just before Thanksgiving. He joined a team from Fellowship Bible Church in Sewell, NJ, to serve at the Baptist Haiti Mission. They built two houses and finished a third. He said, "It was an amazing trip that opened my eyes to another world. Even more amazing is that God is there and is glorified even with all the disasters and sickness that are occurring. While I was working there, two Haitians made commitments to Christ. I also had the opportunity to sponsor a child who now can attend a Christian school, get a hot meal during the day, vaccines and medical care."

Horton is grateful for the support from his department. He said, "Their sacrifice to cover my classes and any other business that needed to be attended to made the trip possible. I never truly realized how vital the people are who support you financially and in prayer. They share the blessing of the lives that were saved in Haiti through those actions. That is just one way that demonstrates how God works."

His church is planning another trip in the fall. His advice for anyone considering an overseas mission trip is, "Study the culture to gain an understanding of the people so you can be sensitive to meet them where they are. Prepare your heart for the blessings and the trials you will face. It is vital that one looks to serve God every day and not just when we are on a trip. God wants our whole life, not just a week here and there. If we can't serve God in our daily routine, why do we think it would be different in another country?"







Women's Basketball Coach Nate Davis (left to right); women from the basketball team – Damacia Gilbert, Lori Wileczek, Abby Bandi, Katie Lincoln, Erika Kinney; and Athletic Director Brad Fields

## STUDENT-ATHLETES CONCLUDE *Season of Impact*

Eastern University concluded its Season of Impact in February during the basketball finals against Delaware Valley College. This final event was a wrap-up of a season that raised money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA (CHOP). Throughout the year, guests

"It was a privilege to partner with such an outstanding, world-class institution as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia," said Brad Fields. "CHOP is a top-rated children's hospital in the country, and we are so fortunate to have them in our community. Many of

us have been touched by, or known someone who has been affected by pediatric cancer."

This event rounded out months of charitable work by Eastern's student-athletes. In December, more than 90 toys were collected for Toys for Tots. In January, fans donated 80 coats and over 900 cans of food for families in need. In early February, the Eastern

community recognized members of the armed forces during halftime of both games and raised almost \$400 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I could not be happier with the outcome of our inaugural Season of Impact," said Fields. "In just four short months, to have been able to impact the lives of so many people in our community was a true blessing to everyone associated with our athletic department." Athletics hopes to continue using each winter season as a time for giving, reminding the staff and students of how important it is to look outward.

This was also a season of honors for many of our outstanding student-athletes.

For complete information on Athletics, visit: [www.goearnerneagles.com](http://www.goearnerneagles.com)

**“to have been able to impact the lives of so many people in our community was a true blessing to everyone”**

had the opportunity to drop “Change for CHOP” into containers at the gate and concessions stand. At halftime of the men's game, **Eastern Athletic Director Brad Fields** presented a check for nearly \$1200 to assist the hospital in research for pediatric cancer.

## John Nordlof Attends Writing Centers Conference



**John Nordlof** (second from left), director of the Writing Center at Eastern, participated in the conference which took place over three days at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center. The 931 attendees came from around the country and overseas, and included writing center directors, professional tutors, and high school teachers. It was organized by the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association; Nordlof has served as president of this organization for the past three years.

## Charter School Students Visit Campus



Last fall, 10th grade students from Eastern University Academy Charter School (EUACS) visited the St. Davids campus to meet with professors, administrators and students, and learn more about the college experience. Then they returned in a partnership arranged by **Jéneen Barlow** and **Yvonne Turner** (on behalf of EUACS) and by psychology professors **Dr. Tara Stoppa** and **Dr. Yolanda Turner**.

Small groups of Charter School students were paired with small groups of Eastern students to interview one another. Both groups reported that they learned a great deal! The Eastern University Charter School (grades 7-12) seeks to provide a holistic, college-integrated learning community dedicated to the education of each student in the context of his/her unique interests.

## Eastern Brings It Home Again



For two consecutive years our Ph.D. students have been winners in the Student Case Competition at the International Leadership Association Conference held in Boston, MA. This year's winners included (left to right) **Mike Dominik**, **David Ober**, **Julie Rood-Breithaupt** and **David Wolf**.

Student Case Competitors receive the case study a month before the conference and are required to submit an analysis in a 2-4 page brief. Scores from this are calculated with a poster presentation given on opening night of the conference. Successful teams advance to the second round where additional questions are given, requiring students to incorporate what they learn in conference sessions in their

final presentation. Each team is given 15 minutes for their case analysis and recommendations to the panel of judges. The winning team receives both a monetary award and a complimentary year membership in ILA.





## Another Grant for SIFE Regional Champs



Eastern's **Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)** team was named a 2011 Regional Champion at the SIFE USA Regional Competition in Phila., PA. They also received their second grant. The first, True Hero Grant, was awarded in September when SIFE received \$3,000 for Blankenburg Elementary

School in West Philadelphia for a library system and books. The second grant is from Lowe's for \$1200 to be used to paint a temporary building used by the same elementary school. **Dr. Albert Socci**, associate professor of business, is the faculty advisor for SIFE, an international nonprofit organization that works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders.

## Another Poster Award for Senior Tara Schisler

Senior **Tara Schisler '11** (chemistry) won a poster presentation award at the 11th Annual Student Poster Sessions of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemistry Society (ACS). The poster session was held at Temple University and 52 posters were presented. Joining Schisler were **Lyudmila Kravets '12** (biochemistry), and **Dr. Joon-Seo Park** in presenting the poster, "Preparation and Characterization of Covalently Conjugated Polymer-Gold Nanocomposites Useful for Biomedical Diagnostics." As the primary presenter, Tara Schisler went through three rounds of judging by six judges over two hours, and was selected as one of the top three undergraduate poster presenters out of 18 undergraduate posters.

## Counseling Psychology Research

**Drs. Walter Chung, Mike McFee, Randolph Walters** and student **Sherri Webb-Humphries** presented their research "Interdependence of Anger, Spiritual Maturity, Assertiveness, and God Attachment among African American Christian Women" at the Christian Association Psychological Studies East Coast Conference held in Pennsylvania. **Drs. Walter Chung, Susan Edgar-Smith, and Ruth Palmer** presented their research "Teacher Attitudes Towards Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder" at the 2011 Autism Conference in Washington, D.C.

## Book Translated into Korean



**Dr. Phil Cary**, professor of philosophy, reports that excerpts from his new book, *Good News for*

*Anxious Christians*, have been published in Relevant online magazine and as a cover article in *Christian Century*. He has been interviewed about the book by several radio stations around the country, and has learned that it's going to be translated into Korean.

## Book Published in Romania



**Dr. J. Nathan Corbitt**, professor of cross-cultural studies and coordinator of the Arts in Transformation

Concentration, M.A. in Urban Studies, reports that Societatea Biblica din Romania, will publish a Romanian language edition of his book, *The Sound of the Harvest: Music Mission in Church and Culture* (Baker, 1998). His essay, "Molding Clay and Shaping Lives: Reflections on Basic Arts Therapy" was written to honor the clay therapy work of Slava Sickova. It now appears in *Terra Therapeutica: Medzi nebom a zemou 2000-2010* by Jan Sicko and Jaroslava Sickova (Slovakian Ministry of Culture, 2010).



# Shane Claiborne '97

## Alumnus of the Year

**Shane Claiborne '97** is a gifted teacher and inspiring activist who speaks with a prophetic voice for faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ, service to the poor, and nonviolence.

Originally from Tennessee, Shane began his activism as a student at Eastern where he often returns to speak. He studied youth ministry and sociology and went on to complete graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary. He says "Eastern University is a very special place. Year after year, I realize how special it is. Eastern is committed to bringing together things that should have never been separated – like Jesus and justice, loving God and loving people, the great commandment and the great commission, a Gospel that is personal and a Gospel that is social. I am proud to be a part of the DNA of Eastern, and to have its DNA a part of me. Jesus says that we'll know a tree by its fruit and I see the graduates of Eastern University producing all sorts of beautiful fruit for Jesus and justice all over the world. It is a delight to be named Alumnus of the Year, especially from a University with so many stellar alumni who have every right to wear this badge of honor."

As a founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner-city Philadelphia, PA, Shane moved to Kensington with fellow Eastern students about 12 years ago. The Simple Way distributes school supplies to children each fall and works to improve the lives of their neighbors.

Shane's varied ministry experience includes a student internship with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India. He spent a year

serving a wealthy, mega-congregation at Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, and later, a three-week stint in Baghdad with an Iraq peace team.

He reaches out to young people at speaking engagements around the world. Shane is the author of several books including *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Jesus for President*, and *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*, and is featured in the DVD series "Another World is Possible." His work has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Christianity Today*, *Esquire*, and on *Fox News*, *CNN*, and *National Public Radio*. He has often been described as one of "the new monastics" who have chosen a life of simplicity and service.

Learn more about The Simple Way at [www.thesimpleway.org](http://www.thesimpleway.org)



Photo courtesy Dave Christenson



# Class Notes

1960

**Dr. Dave Horton** and his wife, Doris, celebrated their 50th anniversary by taking a train trip through the Canadian Rockies. They both continue to serve in the church by teaching. They volunteer for two to three months at the Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. They also participate in a volunteer organization known as Friends of Burma. They traveled to Burma earlier this year.

1961

**Harold Johnson** was named Boonton, NJ's Citizen of the Year.

1968

**Richard "Dick" Haviland, (MAR '70)** spent many years doing employee and executive counseling. In 2005, he published a book called *Did You Ever Get to Edinburgh?* about his search for and reconciliation with his father. He also has another book, *Musings of an Aging Parent*, in the pipeline.

1974

**Gretchen (Sayles) Dunneman** and her husband, Reginald, report that they traveled throughout Florida and Texas in the beginning of 2011. They returned to their hometown of Binghamton, NY in March.

1980

**Deborah (Atkinson) Burris** has been married for almost 29 years and has three daughters and two sons. Debbie received her Master's in education in August of 2008. After being home with five children for

20 years, she now teaches 7th and 8th grade math at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati, OH. She currently attends Mt. Carmel Baptist Church where she is very involved. Debbie's favorite memory from Eastern was meeting **Janet (Greenwood) Jeffery '81**.

**Tim Smith** and **Laurel Du Laney-Smith '81** have been married since 1986. Following graduate studies at Temple University, Tim joined the Department of State as a foreign service officer in 1984. Following a number of overseas and domestic assignments, he retired as an FSO

in 2009. Currently, he serves in a civil service capacity as senior coordinator for interagency affairs for the State Department's visa office. Laurel and Tim are members of the Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington, VA. His most memorable event from his time at Eastern was meeting the love of his life (and playing in the kazoo band!).

1982

**Brenda (Evelyn) Kane** celebrated 26 years of marriage to her husband, Scott, this past fall. They often think of the wonderful time they spent on Eastern's campus.

## Jeremy Gudgeon Named to Angel Flight East Board



**Jeremy Gudgeon '03** was elected to the board of directors of Angel Flight East in January, 2011 after volunteering on the Fund Development Committee of this nonprofit. Gudgeon works as an information security analyst for the Vanguard Group in Valley Forge, PA. He also has been serving as a loaned executive to the United Way of Southeastern PA where he partners with the resource development team to raise money with local corporations in their

workplace campaigns.

Gudgeon serves as chairman of Eastern's Alumni Council and on several community volunteer committees at Vanguard. His fundraising expertise will be an asset to the Angel Flight East board of directors.

Angel Flight East is an organization of volunteer pilots that provides free air transportation on private aircraft to medically and financially needy children and adults throughout the Northeast region. Last year, they coordinated over 820 missions. When a patient is faced with a life crisis, the last thing they need is the burden of worrying about how they will reach the treatment they so desperately need. He says, "Healing should be about getting better, not getting there."

Angel Flight is based at the historic Wings Field in Blue Bell, PA. Visit [www.angelflighteast.org](http://www.angelflighteast.org).

# Class Notes

1983

**Darla Spence Coffey** recently received the Annual Civility Award from West Chester University where she serves as the associate provost. The purpose of the award is to honor an individual who has made an especially outstanding contribution.

**Michael Krigline**, along with his wife Vivian and son Andrew, recently returned to the U.S. They have been living in China, where Michael teaches English, and works with the Jian-Hua Foundation. While they are in the States, Michael and Vivian are busy preparing Andrew for college, reconnecting with their supporters, and bringing the needs of the Chinese closer to American Christians. Michael was recently featured in the *Waltonian*.

**Betsy Wambach** is currently a missionary, working with SEND International in Farmington, MI. Recently, she began working with a local church to develop a children's program for their mission's conference and she has been helping fellow SEND employees' day school programs.

1990

**Andrea (Sullivan) Burbage** has been married to husband Randy for three years. She is currently in her 17th year as a truancy prevention caseworker for Child Guidance Resource Centers based in Havertown, PA. She and Randy just bought their first house in Brookhaven, PA.

## STAY CONNECTED with Eastern University and your Alumni Office!

- Visit the Eagle's Nest – Eastern University's Online Alumni Community at [www.alumni.eastern.edu](http://www.alumni.eastern.edu) to get information from the Alumni Office and update your contact information and class notes.
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- Send a letter to Eastern University Alumni Office  
1300 Eagle Road, St. Davids, PA 19087.

*\* We love staying connected with you on our Social Networking sites, but want to respect your privacy. We will not put any information that we find on these sites in Spirit. Please contact us to share your news.*

1993

**Camrin (McDonough) Azzarano** was named Division III South Atlantic Region Coach of the Year by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. Camrin is the head coach of the women's field hockey and lacrosse teams at Eastern University.

**Jodina Hicks** was recently named executive director of Urban Promise in Camden, NJ.

1999

**Amy Schwartz** is working as a family preservation counselor at Cape Counseling Services in NJ.

2000

**Janna Schmidt** was promoted to regional director at a social service agency that provides therapeutic foster care and home-based counseling. She attends Redeemer Presbyterian Church and has become a deacon assistant. Her memories from Eastern include hanging out with friends and playing sports for a couple of years.

2005

**Tina (Dischinger) Rothfuss** joined Philabundance as annual fund manager in August, 2010. She currently resides in Phoenixville, PA with her husband, Matthew.





## SAVE THE DATE Homecoming and Family Weekend 2011 October 7-9

Tina is the chair of the development committee and executive board member at the alumnae association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She is also enrolled in a Master's of Public Administration program at West Chester University with an expected graduation in December 2011.

**Jess Lamson** is currently doing a year of missions work and education (teaching English) in Ostrava, Czech Republic with the Teaching Overseas program.

### 2006

**Joshua Cardic (MA '07)** recently began working at the Ron Sider Center as the executive assistant to Ron Sider.

### 2008

**Amanda Elliott** was recently engaged to Jonathan Yoder, a 2005 alumnus of Ursinus College. An August, 2011 wedding is planned. Amanda is a special education teacher with the Chester County Intermediate Unit.

**Kristin (Greene) Lacaria** was recently hired by the Nursery School Ministry Team at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, CO. She also teaches at an area pre-school.

**Ben O'Donnell** was featured in an episode of the Discovery Channel

series *Surviving the Cut*. The show tracked Ben's rigorous training to become an Air Force Pararescuer.

### 2010

**Justin Best** and **Maggie (Stewart) Best** were married in January, 2011.

## Birth Announcements

**Angela Scott-Alvardo '06** had her first baby on July 27, 2010. His name is Luis Raul Alvardo III.

**K. Eric '04** and **Alexis (Odabashian) Thompson '06** welcomed their second child, Farrah Faith, on September 9, 2010. Farrah joins older brother Kenneth "Jack," who was born on July 4, 2009. The Thompson family currently lives in Manheim Township, PA. Alexis was a teacher for 3 years before resigning to remain at home with their children. Eric is an assistant principal at Warwick High School in Lititz, PA.

**Kyle Shedaker '04** and **Danielle (Prescott) Shedaker '05** welcomed their daughter, Belle, on February 7, 2011.

## In Memory

**Danilo E. Pronchick MBA '83**  
**Diane McCormick BSN '99**  
**Samuel Bordner '03**

# Alumni News

## Suzanne FitzGerald '81 Honored for PR Work

Suzanne FitzGerald, chair of Rowan University's Public Relations and Advertising Department, has been honored by the Philadelphia Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for her dedication to the field of public relations.

A Rowan professor since 1994, FitzGerald has served as chair of Rowan's Public Relations and Advertising Department for 11 years. In 2005, she was inducted into PRSA's College of Fellows. She earned PRSA accreditation in 1997.

FitzGerald earned her doctorate in mass communications from Temple University in 1993. She holds a master's degree in technical and science communication from Drexel University (1984) and a bachelor's degree in English writing and literature from Eastern University (1981).

## Rev. Ashmall '65 New Council Minister of the International Council of Community Churches

The Rev. Donald H. Ashmall, who graduated from Eastern University in 1965, has been appointed council minister of the International Council of Community Churches, an interdenominational fellowship of Christian churches and centers. Rev. Ashmall most recently served as pastor of the Asheville Community Church. He previously served churches in Massachusetts and Michigan, was a financial consultant for Merrill Lynch, and was a licensed realtor.

Ashmall also earned a degree at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, MA, where he has served on the adjunct faculty. Several of his essays, sermons and prayers have been published in religious journals. Ashmall and his wife, Peggy, have four children and six grandchildren. They make their home in Gouldsboro, NC.



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*“Your gifts have given me and my fellow students the opportunity to learn and thrive within this wonderful place called Eastern University. On behalf of the international students and the rest of the student body, thank you to the alumni, parents and friends who have generously contributed to the Eastern Fund, which assists in making this opportunity possible. Asante (Thank you)! ”*

Mwangangi “Jay” Muindi, Class of 2011  
Political Science  
Nairobi, Kenya