

11th MINISTRY

THE MAGAZINE OF PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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SUMMER 2014

**Diane Chen, Interim
Palmer Dean, Speaks at
Dr. Duffett's Inaugural
Chapel**

Mitchell Lectures



Trafficking



Honoring Medley



PASSING OF THE BATON: REV. DR. EDWIN APONTE APPOINTED AS NEW PALMER DEAN

PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

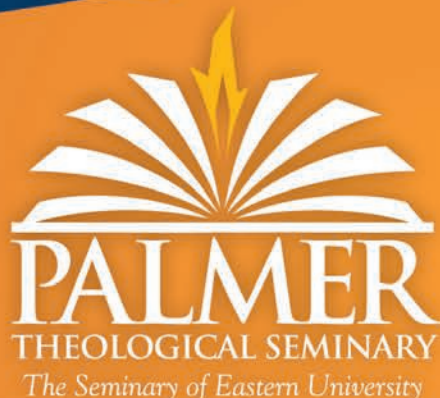
In Leadership of Missional Church Renewal

NOT JUST A DEGREE – A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

Palmer Theological Seminary's pioneering Doctor of Ministry in Leadership of Missional Church Renewal Program focuses on helping Christian leaders grow as responsive agents of God's transforming power. The program affirms a vital relationship with Jesus Christ as the source of renewal. It looks inward at the transformation of individuals and churches, and outward at the transformation of communities and the world. It captures the essence of what it means to be the Church.

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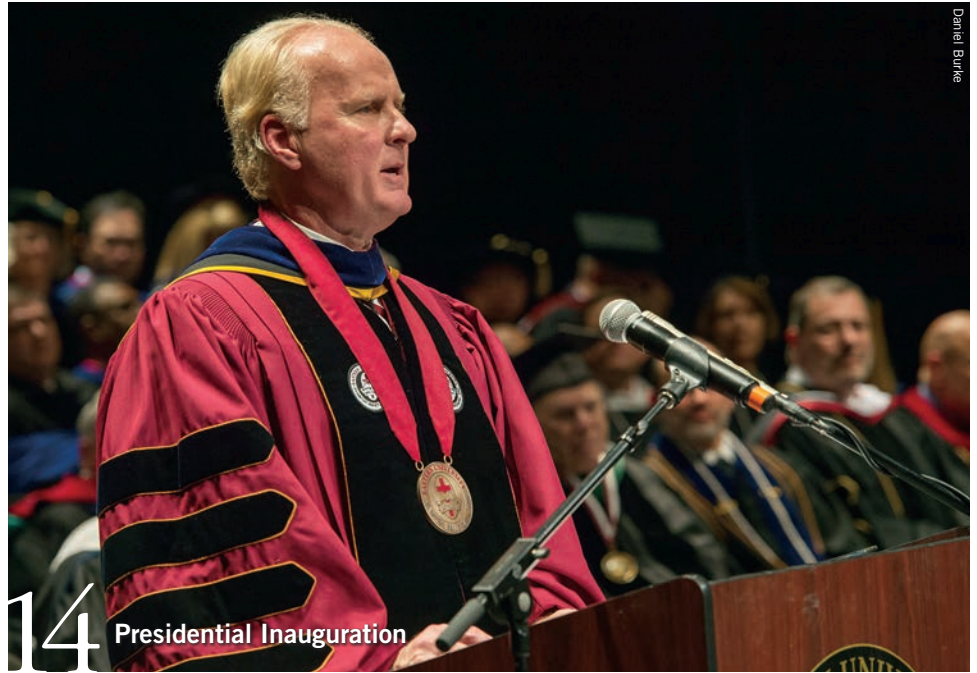


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Dr. Diane Chen speaks at Dr. Duffett's inauguration.

Illustration by Mark Lambertson based on a photo by Daniel Burke.

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Rev. Dr. Aponte Appointed as Dean of Palmer Seminary

Eastern University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Edwin David Aponte as the next Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary, effective July 1, 2014. Dr. Aponte previously served as the Vice President and Dean of the Faculty at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. He brings to the Palmer community an impressive scholarly and administrative profile and a keen sense of the Seminary's ethos and mission.

Dr. Aponte said, "With a deep sense of God's calling, I have agreed to serve as Dean of Palmer

Theological Seminary at Eastern University during this important time in its history. I embrace Palmer Seminary's clear and demonstrated commitment to integrate faith, reason, and justice as succinctly expressed in its motto, 'The Whole Gospel for the Whole World through Whole Persons.' With God's help, I will assist the community at Palmer in its mission to educate and transform students by the love of God in Christ as they concretely and lovingly care for 'the least of these' in a variety of ministries. I believe that we share this calling and that God has joined us in the dynamic ministry of theological education. I look forward to my tenure as Dean of the Seminary."

Prior to his tenure at Christian Theological Seminary, Dr. Aponte taught or served in administrative roles at numerous institutions, including Lancaster Seminary, Temple University, New York Theological Seminary, Southern Methodist University and Palmer itself, where he served as visiting professor in 2005. In addition to these institutional roles, Dr. Aponte is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church USA and has served on various professional committees for the Association of Theological Schools, Middle States Association, and American Academy of Religion.

Dr. Aponte is a visionary leader who is well suited to lead Palmer in its mission to pursue the "Whole Gospel for the Whole World Through Whole Persons." Palmer Theological Seminary gladly welcomes Dr. Aponte and eagerly anticipates the impact that his leadership will bring to our community and to those that will be reached through it. 

"With a deep sense of God's calling, I have agreed to serve as Dean ..."



inMINISTRY

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Summer 2014

inMinistry Mission Statement

inMinistry supports the mission of Palmer Seminary, the seminary of Eastern University, by improving the connection with its alumni and friends, and they with each other. Together, we will make a difference in the world through faith and service. The magazine will support this goal with up-to-date news stories and features that are designed to inform and educate its readership. The editorial content will speak to contemporary events and issues from a unique, Christian perspective.

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Praise & Promise

While many were talking about the need for a conservative seminary, two men in particular, Rev. L.W. Barnard and Rev. Charles T. Ball, were committed to taking action. Barnard organized a meeting in New York for November 18, 1924 to discuss the creation of a chain of Bible colleges.

At 2:00 p.m. on March 19, 1925, six men, all of them ministers, gathered at 1701 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, the headquarters of the American Baptist Publication Society. On that historic day, Charles T. Ball, Harry Watson Barras, Groves W. Drew, Ralph L. Mayberry, John Hainer, and Gordon H. Baker held the constituting meeting for the creation of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Given the odds against this nascent seminary, the story of its first year is almost too spectacular to believe. It is no wonder that to those familiar with its story, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary became known as the “Miracle of Faith.”

On September 22, 1925, the Seminary

opened its doors to students with four schools: the School of Theology, the School of Religious Education, the School of Missions, and the School of Sacred Music. Students were not at first charged tuition, and had to pay only \$6 a week for board and lodging. All who applied were admitted and no student was denied admission because he or she could not pay for a room or an apartment.

—Excerpt from *Praise and Promise*
by Randy Frame

Needed Then, Needed Now

Our story is set in history and it is what binds us. We have all risked something, faced some seemingly insurmountable challenge, left someone behind in order to embark on our seminary work at Palmer. The risks we took, though unlike those of our founding colleagues, were

Eastern Baptist
Theological
Seminary became
known as the
“Miracle of Faith.”

risks all the same and these are the cords that bind us. Our history is a part of who we are and our alumni are the fabric of glory we proudly wear when we tell of our accomplishments. We are Palmer and there is no Palmer without us.

If it has been awhile, we invite you to reconnect, email, visit, call and share your journey, your story with us. We will be collecting these stories, as we look ahead to 90 years of Palmer next year. You are the story, you are the reason for the sacrifices noted above and those we make every day to ensure that Palmer, and the work we do for our Lord and King, will live on. We persist, not because the world needs another seminary, but because the world still needs the Whole Gospel for the Whole World through Whole Persons. ■

—Sherry-Ann Morris



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Keeping it Real

It's not every day that a distinguished group of clergy and other church leaders are given an opportunity to explore what lessons preachers can learn from rap artists. When Dr. Frank Thomas announced his topic for the 33rd annual Mitchell Lecture and began his speech with the promise, "I'm going to offend you," the attendees gathered at Philadelphia's Monumental Baptist Church weren't quite sure what to expect.

What followed was a lively and unexpectedly thought-provoking lecture entitled "Keepin' it Real: The Validity of the Existentially Authentic Performance," in which Dr. Thomas explored the common role of authenticity in hip-hop and preaching. The point of his lecture was that, just as hip-hop artists like Jay-Z strive for the authentic in their lyrics, so must preachers strive for "the real" in their preaching.

"Preachers need to speak the 'real,' the reality of every day life."

Why Jay-Z and Hip-Hop?

Jay-Z may at first seem like a curious role model for preachers. Born Shawn Carter, he grew up in a Brooklyn housing project and earned his living selling drugs on the streets before turning to a career in music.

As an artist, Jay-Z is known for what *Rolling Stone* calls his "lyrical dexterity and multiple styles of delivery." He has become widely recognized as one of the top hip-hop artists of our day.

Hip-hop, a stylized, rhythmic music that accompanies chanted rhyme or "rap," originated in performance poetry, spoken word, and the call and response patterns of African and African-American religious ceremonies. It developed during the 1970's as an expression of urban life and culture.

Hip-hop language expresses the gritty reality of drugs, murder,

rape, broken relationships, and abuse. Thomas referred to the profane words used to portray the artist's opinion as "sacred profanity." This he calls an authentic expression.



Dr. Frank Thomas

Speak the "Real"

Preparing to preach is like writing hip-hop song lyrics, says Thomas. Preachers need to speak the "real," the reality of everyday life. Although the popular perception is that violence and crime are endemic to urban life, he noted that they are

pervasive in rural areas and suburbia too. All too often this reality is ignored in our churches and in our preaching. We often like our religion neat and non-political. We frequently avoid discussing the bigger problems or allow them to intrude on our worship; but nevertheless our congregations and their members are surrounded by big problems. They are real, and preachers—and our people—are living them.

Too much of the preaching done today is not real, Thomas asserted. Like cotton candy that stimulates the taste buds but leaves the person empty, inauthentic preaching “tastes good on Sunday, but doesn’t connect with the rest of the week.” Paraphrasing Jay-Z on the topic of faking style, Thomas called inauthentic preaching “a house of sand.” That is a familiar image to the reader and preacher of Scripture.

According to Dr. Thomas, the preacher who steers clear of “the real” is faking emotional truth or allowing the church to fake emotional truth. When the message is inauthentic, the listener searching for authenticity will move away from the church toward that which he or she perceives is real. For this reason, preachers need to speak the reality of truth.

Emotional Truth

Just as hip-hop’s emotional truth stems from the core beliefs of the artist, the preacher’s core beliefs—the bedrock attitudes upon which one bases trust or lack thereof—make his or her preaching real. It is the preacher’s task to exegete realness for the congregation.

According to Dr. Thomas, many preachers do not clearly know their core beliefs; therefore they cannot and do not communicate that they do, in fact, believe something deeply at their core. He advised, “Preach what you deeply believe because people have enough of their own doubts and don’t need yours.”

Get the Details Right

In order to communicate deep beliefs, the preacher is well advised to follow Jay-Z’s commitment to getting the smallest details right. Do your research! Too much detail bogs down the message; yet, providing too little detail causes the audience to miss the point. Dr. Thomas advised selecting vivid details because they will determine the listeners’ level of engagement. Then, like the hip-hop artist, we can connect with the real and help raise people to a new level of understanding the truth of the Gospel message. This is, after all, what God has called the preacher to do—to proclaim the Word of God authentically. ■

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Re-Routing Human Trafficking

Toward the end of the spring semester, Dr. Francesca Nuzzolese partnered with the Rev. Dr. Lauran Bethell, a consultant with International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA, to teach a course on the subject of human trafficking.

The “Re-routing Human Trafficking” course was designed with three particular objectives. Firstly, the course gives students the opportunity to understand the complex systems and variables behind the sexual exploitation of girls and women, both domestically and internationally. Students investigate the socio-economic, cultural, political, and spiritual circumstances that conspire to trap people in the trafficking networks.

Secondly, students can survey responses to human trafficking that are offered by government and non-government organizations, faith based nonprofit organizations and local churches. Students assess and evaluate the programs by comparing each approach and determining their respective effectiveness. Participants then question and explore what more can be done to address this issue both locally and internationally.

A third purpose of the course is to invite students to construct a Christian response to the trafficking of human beings and exploitation in all its forms. Students develop a specific project designed for the local community, aimed at directly impacting the lives of the girls and women who are victims of sex trafficking.

As part of the coursework, students had the opportunity to attend the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution Global Conference and to participate in as many as 50 workshops offered by leaders, advocates, and practitioners of care around the world. The conference was held in Green Lake, Wisconsin, May 18-23. Featured keynote speakers were Eastern University’s own, Dr. Tony Campolo, and trauma expert and Christian psychologist, Dan Allender. ■



Dr. Francesca Nuzzolese

Sunny Miller

JENNIFER CARPENTER

I did not want to attend seminary. Seminary was a place that was called “cemetery” for a reason, and caused many of my friends to question their calling. Not to mention, I wasn’t sure I wanted to accept God’s call in my life to teach, preach, counsel and pastor. Could I, a woman who had grown up in a conservative southern background, truly be called to all of this? How sneaky God is! Through an insistent friend, I applied to a few different seminaries hoping I would get turned down. When I visited Palmer, something became apparent right away. Palmer is truly a place that is about its mission of “Whole Gospel for the Whole World through Whole Persons.” Everyone I encountered greeted me not only with warmth and care, but also with genuine dignity and encouragement of God’s call on my life. Even though I was resistant to come to seminary at first, I now see how important it has been for me to be here. 📌

JACQUELINE BROWN

I came to Palmer Seminary knowing that I would be challenged. It has been one of the best times of growth in my Christian life. Palmer provides an incredible diverse community which allows for a broader understanding of cultures and many opportunities for lifelong friendships. The professors are intentional, knowledgeable and Spirit led. I have yet to meet a professor who wouldn’t talk with a student one on one. If you want a high quality of education while also building relationships, then Palmer Seminary is the place. It is hands down my favorite place to learn, pray and serve. 📌



Shani Johnson:
**Student &
Songwriter**

Shani Akilah Johnson is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Palmer Theological Seminary on May 17, 2014—receiving a Master of Divinity degree. (She graduated from Central High School in Philadelphia and then matriculated at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida).

Shani is a writer, singer, musician, artistic director, and minister; she is dedicated to using her creative gifts to illuminate the amazing Gospel of Jesus Christ. She is the founder of BLUEJAY Worldwide, a new and very innovative ministry that uses the arts to unveil the endless beauty of humanity through the teachings of an incredible Savior. BLUEJAY stands for Beauty, Love, Understanding, Enhancement, Joy, Acceptance, and Yes to God’s Will.

Presently, she is working on her first music album and writing her first book—*In Search of a Blue Jay*. 📌

We Shall Live On

(A song for Palmer Theological Seminary)

Written by Shani Johnson

From the blessed hallways of Wynnewood
To the growing grounds in King of Prussia
Throughout the uncertainty of transition,
May we dwell in an endless worship

Wherever God leads us, there will be victory
And this love will dance around “our
becoming” for eternity

God will shine on us as we embrace divine destiny
Amazing Grace will be the rhythm of our ministries.
God is with us ...
God is leading us ...
And we shall live on ...

*We shall live on
God’s wind is moving us
Palmer is in good hands
In God, we trust. We will—forever stand.*

We celebrate our blessed learning
Took us higher in God’s love—
our souls are always yearning

Prepared us for the whole world
We are not afraid
Now, we go forth to share the whole
Gospel for the rest of our days

*We shall live on
God’s wind is moving us
Palmer is in good hands
In God, we trust. We will—forever stand.*

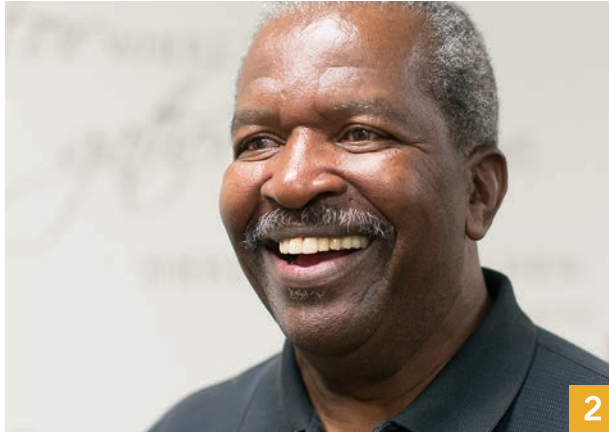
Whole Gospel
Whole World
Whole Persons
God is with us

*We shall live on
God’s wind is moving us
Palmer is in good hands
In God, we trust. We will—forever stand.*

Current Students



1



2

Photos by Daniel Burke

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.
~Margaret Meade



3



4

- 1 Joe Davis
- 2 Eugene Gilbert
- 3 Michelle Ford-Johnson and Tiffany Wilson
- 4 *The wall in the Administrative Wing.*
- 5 Randy Van Osten
- 6 Jackie Wilson-Dandrow
- 7 Eric Sporer



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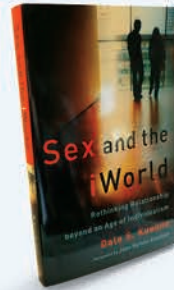
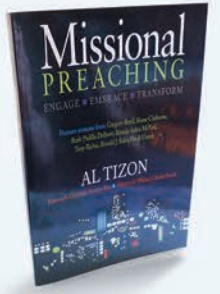
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7

AL TIZON

This January, Dr. Al Tizon's book, *Missional Preaching* was again recognized and awarded the Silver Medal in Independent Publisher's Illumination Book Awards. *Missional Preaching* combines preaching with the aims of the missional church and takes an in-depth look at the integral relationship between the two. Also a winner of the 2013 Outreach Award, this lively, holistic and compelling resource helps leaders think about how to shape people in missional thinking and practice through the work of preaching. ¹

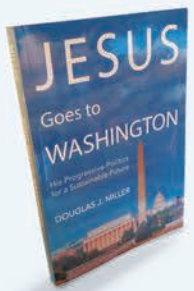


DALE KUEHNE

The Palmer community was privileged to have Dr. Dale Kuehne as our guest lecturer on March 27th. Author of the book, *Sex and the iWorld*, Kuehne, a professor at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire, spoke on the topic, "Standing on the Threshold of an Inconceivable Age: Good News for a Skeptical World." ¹

DOUGLAS MILLER

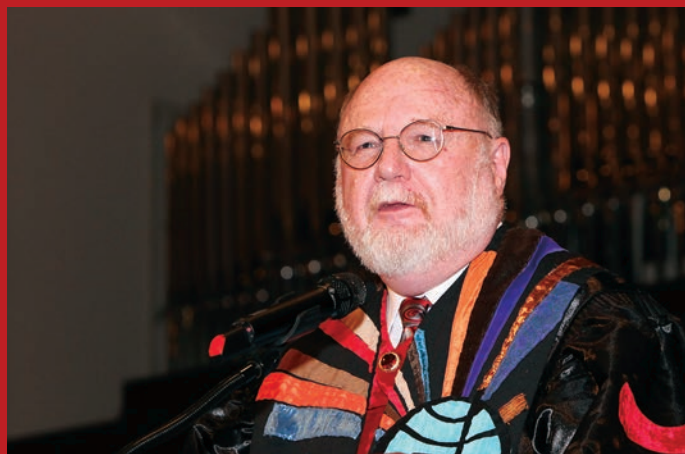
Former faculty member Dr. Douglas Miller, professor of Christian Social Ethics at Palmer from 1970 to 1990, wrote the book, *Jesus Goes to Washington: His Progressive Politics for a Sustainable Future*, recently published by Wipf and Stock. It is available from the publisher. ¹







Graduation photos by Daniel Burke



Highlights from the Palmer Graduation Address by Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley

After a warm greeting to the Palmer Seminary leadership and greater community, Rev. Dr. Medley shared a grateful tribute to his wife, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Medley, as well as an appreciation for supportive friends and family who had gathered together for the occasion. As General Secretary of American Baptist Churches (ABC), he spoke of the fond respect and the long-enjoyed partnership between the ABC and Palmer Seminary.

Dr. Medley challenged the graduates, as well as those attending, to consider a question that was once posed to him as he prepared to enter the ministry: “Why bother with the church?” The question was relevant at the time but is perhaps even more relevant today.

Continues on page 11





Interview with the Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA

By Deborah McConomy-Wallace

The Rev. Dr. Roy Medley was the guest speaker at Palmer Seminary's graduation this May. During the ceremony, the Seminary awarded Dr. Medley with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his ministry as General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA.

We met with him during Lent for a conversation about ministry and the church.

Palmer: How did parish ministry prepare you for your ministry as General Secretary?

Dr. Medley: I began my parish ministry in south Trenton, NJ, in the inner city. At that time, it was a very poor, drug-infested community.

Ministry there taught me three things. First, I learned that the call of the church to exercise life for the sake of the poor is essential. When the church forsakes her concern for the poor, she risks her faithfulness to the Gospel.

Second, a pastoral approach that places people in the forefront is important no matter where you serve.

Third, I love preaching and presiding at the ordinances. I try

to incorporate these aspects of pastoral ministry in my ministry as General Secretary. I spend a great deal of time visiting congregations and preaching across the country and all over the world. If I don't understand the things with which pastors and local congregations are grappling, I become ineffective.

I get to see the global church and learn from that. I see faithful Christians trying to live out their faith. People in some of the poorest countries on earth have some of the most vibrant expressions of faith because they cultivate relationships with people, not with material things.

Palmer: Please say some more about that.

Dr. Medley: Our culture focuses on things, not people. A Russian theologian speaking at Princeton back in the 1970s said, "In Russia, the government preaches materialism. Here in the US, you LIVE it."

Materialism is an empty way of life that doesn't speak to the deeper needs of the heart. Our society's emphasis on individuality and measuring success through materialism is in contradistinction to the call to community. It shortchanges the Gospel and the healing power of community.

Palmer: How do you address the issue of materialism to congregations who are struggling financially?

Dr. Medley: A vital ministry should not depend on money. It is dangerous to think that success in ministry equals a big bank balance. For us to assume that money is a primary function of the church's ministry is a kind of heresy. Whether or not a local congregation thrives will depend on whether

people sense within it the quality of life they yearn for. People will thrive in a community that is marked by the fruits of the Spirit. They want to know that the message of God's love is revealed in the quality of life we live outside the church.

Palmer: What changes have you seen in the church since you began your public ministry?

Dr. Medley: There has been a shift away from the perception of the church as a trusted model and pillar of life in the community to suspicion and charges that the church is hypocritical and uncaring.

Church no longer occupies the center of the community or people's lives. We've failed to make connection with a lot of the people living in our communities, and we have to address that.

Palmer: What can the church in general and congregational leaders in particular do to counteract this trend?

"We are encouraging American Baptist churches to move beyond their walls and doors. The church is not a gated community!"

Dr. Medley: Pastors have feelings of failure and guilt because the

churches are not the way they used to be. We can't look at the '50s as the church's success model. Our success model has to be the early church's life as a community of believers in a society that doesn't share our values and faith.

There is no silver bullet to congregational renewal.

We are encouraging American Baptist churches to move beyond their walls and doors. The church is not a gated community! Churches can and are repurposing their buildings. This is commensurate with our concerns for the health of the community. Our role is to serve the whole community for the whole week. By doing this, we're showing

the community we understand where they live and that we are not disconnected.

But the church is not just the landlord. The ministries must be an integral part of the church's outreach to the community. The church has to identify with the program and offer the gifts of their people to enhance them. This is holistic ministry—concern for spirituality, the dynamics of the community, employment, and family life.

Palmer: Where do you see the church going in the next ten years?

Dr. Medley: We are in a period of great experimentation. It's time for the church to innovate and it will not be easy sailing, but it will be exciting. We need to relearn what it means for us to minister from the periphery rather than the privilege of the center of society.

From the beginning, the Protestant movement was a huge experiment. Protestantism developed at a time when the church was considered irrelevant and distant from its mission. We're perceived that way now. This is an opportunity to relive our DNA and move from a more settled to a more experimental ministry model.

The church may not be popular right now, but Jesus still is. We have to address the perception that people have that thinks the church has lost the core of how Jesus teaches us to live.

Palmer: What advice would you give to seminarians preparing for public ministry?

Dr. Medley: Live and go forward with a message of God's love and grace. Allow the Spirit to do its work reshaping lives, ours included. Be a messenger of God's love. Speak to the fact that we are loved and called to live in a community that follows Jesus. 🙏



Front: Rev. Dr. Patricia Stauffer Medley and Bridget Holmstrom (ABC-USA)
Second row: Trustee Delores Brisbon



Left to right: Stephanie Wilson-Benson, Amy Wengrenovich, Max Beck, and Travis Reish



Left to right: Jacob Goertz, Dwens Chachoute, Clesha Staten, Woodrow Day, and Charmaine Ashby



Seungmin Baik and Rebecca Hall, with the Baik family.

Palmer Graduation Address continued from page 9.

According to Dr. Medley, “The skeptics about the church, like the friend who posed the question, have grown in number. You know the statistics—that those who check ‘none of the above’ on religious surveys are the fastest growing demographic in America. Church attendance is significantly down. People are ‘spiritual’ but not religious. They like Jesus but they don’t care much for the church. One does not need to be an expert in sociology to know that in America the church is experiencing a significant transition in relationship to our culture. Its uncontested role of authority, moral leadership, and centrality to life and society is quickly fading. Too often the picture that the world sees of the church is one that does not resonate with the gospel we proclaim.”

To address this increased skepticism of God and an often negative public perception of the church, Dr. Medley pointed his audience back to the Christian’s source.

“The gospel is the church’s greatest gift and her greatest judge. The power of the gospel is the power to reshape our lives and the life of our community into lives that mirror the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. The power of the gospel is the power to reshape our lives and the life of our community as a living word—not a dead rule book... The power of the gospel is the power to bring life where death reigns. In the hands of the Spirit, this living word, this narrative of God’s unquenchable love has transformative power.”

Dr. Medley went on to challenge Palmer’s graduates to live as those called to preach life and to embody the qualities of a first century church that demonstrated an impact on its culture.


“And you, you are called to proclaim life in the midst of death. The church is called to be a community that offers life, new life, on the basis of faith in Christ Jesus and His way. And to do that, the church cannot live as a gated community. We are called to an energetic and life-giving engagement with the world in testimony that the gospel offers a richer and more imaginative way to live where love, peace, and joy can be experienced.

“Like the first century church, we must cultivate church as community, centered in Christ, nurtured in prayer and study of scripture, invited to a richer imagination of life in Christ through the word preached, and empowered by our sacred feast and the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus as God’s saving act for all of creation.

“Like the first century church, we must move to the places where people gather and not remain locked inside the walls of our Christian prisons, no matter how beautiful they are.

“Like the first century church, we are called to risk. Paul commends Epaphroditus, who risked his life in ministry to Paul. The Greek word for risk is ‘to gamble.’ In the early church there were Christians who were known as ‘the gamblers’ because they risked their lives caring for those struck down by plagues and other illnesses.”

In his conclusion, Dr. Medley answered his own question. “Why do I bother with the church? Because of her story—the story by Christ Jesus. A story of love and redemption, a story of life triumphing over death, a story of old bones and old hearts being offered new life and new ways because, in Jesus, God jumped into the fire alongside of every one of us to lift us out and to give us life.” Thank you, Dr. Medley, for inspiring us to answer that same question in the same powerful Spirit of the Gospel!

The full text of Dr. Medley’s graduation address may be found at: www.palmerseminary.edu/drmedley. 



Window of Opportunity

The picture windows in my office at the American Baptist Churches Mission Center give me a view of our circular building's courtyard which features four large trees sitting on a round green carpet of beautifully manicured lawn. Since I teach New Testament, I think of the trees as representing each of the four Gospels! I am grateful for these windows even though they cannot be opened. In addition to the beautiful scenery they afford me, they remind me that my work at this desk has as much to do with what happens inside this building as it does outside. Whether I am in the classroom, at a meeting, or plugging away at my desk mired in emails and paperwork, I am not in isolation. I am part of a larger whole, be it Palmer Seminary, Eastern University, the Church, or the world. These windows keep my attitude towards my work in perspective.

Perspective is what I have needed during this past year serving as Palmer's Interim Dean. Last summer, I was aware of a steep learning curve and what could or could not realistically be accomplished in a year. My perspective then was pragmatic and cautious. I was not thinking of major curricular reforms but tinkering with and improving on existing operations. I thought of my task as preparing the way for the new Dean, though surely I am no John the Baptist and the new Dean is no Messiah of Israel! Such a perspective, even though



it has undergone changes and refinement throughout the year, has for the most part kept me focused on what can be done and spared me from the harmful guilt trips generated by unrealistic expectations from whatever direction, including those I occasionally impose on myself.

Speaking of perspectives and windows, the phrase "window of opportunity" comes to mind. Normally, we say we do not want to miss a window of opportunity, or we take advantage of a window of opportunity to do something before time runs out. We tend to use the idiom in a temporal sense, urging action to be taken within a limited time frame.

Perhaps the word "window" can mean more than a means of light and ventilation. A window allows me to see what is out there even though I am in here, to give me an opportunity to imagine, anticipate, and connect with things further afield from my location and vantage point. In the same way, a window of opportunity is perspectival before it is temporal. An opportunity has to be seen before it can be captured. An idea has to be imagined before it can be adopted. Perspective trumps timing.

Yet the world claims, "timing is everything." We live in an age obsessed with the ability to do things faster or at the most strategic time according to trends and projections. In our frenetic analysis of all that is happening around us in our world and in theological education, have we sometimes failed to consult the Creator of time whose perspective is the source of all wisdom? Timing is nothing if it is the world's timing. Timing is everything if it is God's timing. God's timing will reveal itself if we align ourselves with God's perspective. James 1:5 states, "If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you." But let us not ignore the crucial proviso in the next verse, "but ask in faith, never doubting." God's timing requires trust and relinquishing our need to control.

*"Timing is everything
if it is God's timing."*

Frequently this past year I have asked God for wisdom and God has been generous. Together as faculty and staff, we have prayed for a glimpse of God's perspective and the grace to align ourselves with it to best fulfill our mission, even though we may not always see God's big picture or understand God's timing. Before going to the cross, Jesus told His disciples that they would not understand some things at the moment, but they would become clear later. I often wished that the "later" would be "now." But God withholds as much as God reveals for our good.

Being Interim Dean has been a window of opportunity for me, though the timing was entirely God's. I have gained perspective in many ways with the help of many generous and kind folks who have shared with me their knowledge, expertise, example, and humor to make this year deeply meaningful amidst the challenges. My appointment ended on June 30, 2014, and I look forward to returning to the classroom.

Welcome, Dr. Edwin Aponte. Here is the key to the Dean's office, and a new window of opportunity – custom made for you by the God of all windows. 🗝️

—Diane G. Chen, Interim Dean & Professor of New Testament





The Eastern University community recently welcomed Dr. Robert Duffett as its 9th president. This welcome was warmly expressed through three distinct inaugural events that were held on the Main campus as well as Palmer Seminary and Esperanza College. Each celebration had a unique tone and atmosphere but all were united in their joyful commitment to embrace a new season of leadership and to prayerfully support Dr. Duffett and his family as they follow God's call to Eastern University.

DR. DUFFETT'S INAUGURATION

On April 3rd, students, faculty and community alike gathered to celebrate the inauguration of President Robert Duffett at Esperanza College. The program was kicked off by leading the audience in song, setting the tone for an engaging and lighthearted event. The combination of lyrics in English and Spanish spilling through the crowd during the opening song, "Majesty," truly captured the essence of Esperanza College, the Hispanic family member to Eastern University.

As Esperanza's Founder, CEO, and former Palmer Seminary administrator, Luis Cortés began to speak, he shared of the history and legacy of Esperanza College, all the while upholding the effervescent spirit of the day. Whether a light chuckle or a quick "Amen," audience participation was ever present as Reverend Cortés spoke of the college's global impact and influence as well as the asset the school has gained with Duffett as president.

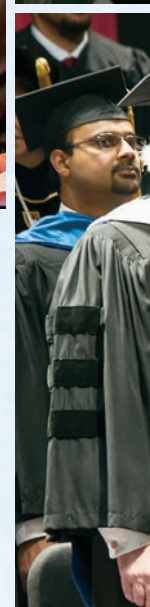
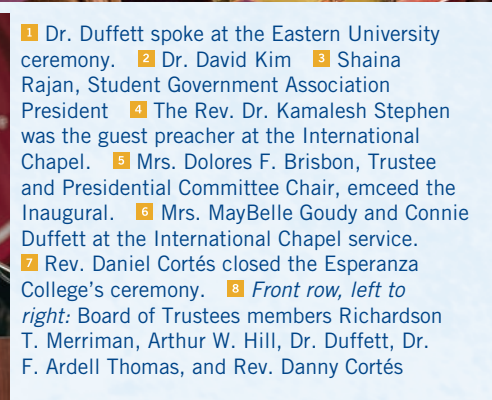
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Following Cortés's dialogue, Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Dean of Esperanza College, addressed the attendees not as superiors but rather as teammates, sharing that the vision and obligations surrounding Christian higher education is a group effort and a responsibility of the people of God. Conde-Frazier also provided necessary background information on Christian institutions as well as environmental conditions in the Philadelphia area. The reality of educational, financial and spiritual needs in the community reminded us of the importance of colleges like Esperanza and their partnership with Eastern University. Conde-Frazier touched on the transformation and wholeness that occurs in Christian higher education, which reiterated how Esperanza College offers more than just academics; it enhances and changes not only the lives of an individual, but also the communities they touch.

President Robert Duffett's educational background and accomplishments are impressive, to say the least, but none could combat his stage presence and charismatic nature as he finally took to the microphone. Duffett poured out his gratitude toward his fellow speakers and attendees while also commending Dean Conde-Frazier for her presentation on matters relating to Christian higher education. With these topics and concerns fresh in his mind, Duffett quickly began deliberating the relevant issues immediately facing Esperanza College and the local community.

Among the many points and subjects mentioned throughout President Duffett's inaugural speech, his encouragement directly towards the students in the audience summarized the basis of his character. "Whatever you do, don't quit! Don't quit! Promise me that!" he repeated over and over again. This plea to his students depicts the driving force behind President Duffett and Esperanza College—to educate students successfully and train them to truly live as a member of the body of Christ.

As the event came to a close, worship leaders led the audience in a final song. Appropriately, the ending line of the song stated, "Get to work." From the struggles, successes and visions discussed throughout the evening, it is evident that the community of Philadelphia, Esperanza College and Eastern University has to join



together and "get to work."

Reverend Danny Cortés, Palmer Alumnus and Executive Vice President of Esperanza, had the task of providing the closing remarks. He acknowledged President Duffett's role as one that was not created by man but appointed by God for this place and time. Cortés also left the congregation with some final sentiments: to honor our past and build on the strength that has come from it, and to look into the future—walking through the doors that God opens with opportunity. This inaugural event exemplifies one of those opportune moments for Esperanza College and President Robert Duffett.

International Chapel at Palmer

Through prayers, songs of praise sung in many languages, and a thought-provoking sermon by The Rev. Dr. Kamalesh Stephen ('95) on "God and the Ordinariness of Life," Palmer Seminary celebrated Dr. Duffett's inauguration

as President of Eastern University and Palmer Seminary on April 3rd, 2014.

Members of the University Board of Directors as well as guests from the University and the American Baptist Church offices attended. One very special guest at the event was Connie Duffett's mother, MaeBelle Goudy, who flew in from Minnesota to join her family for the inaugural festivities.

For Mrs. Goudy, participating in her son-in-law's inauguration as President added another chapter to her family's history with the Seminary. Her brothers, Philip and Orrin Anderson, were 1945 dual degree graduates of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following the service everyone enjoyed a reception featuring sweet treats from many of the countries represented at Palmer Seminary. The warmth of fellowship was a fitting welcome for Dr. Duffett and family from our international community of students, faculty and staff.

1 Dr. Duffett spoke at the Eastern University ceremony. 2 Dr. David Kim 3 Shaina Rajan, Student Government Association President 4 The Rev. Dr. Kamalesh Stephen was the guest preacher at the International Chapel. 5 Mrs. Dolores F. Brisbon, Trustee and Presidential Committee Chair, emceed the Inaugural. 6 Mrs. MayBelle Goudy and Connie Duffett at the International Chapel service. 7 Rev. Daniel Cortés closed the Esperanza College's ceremony. 8 Front row, left to right: Board of Trustees members Richardson T. Merriman, Arthur W. Hill, Dr. Duffett, Dr. F. Ardell Thomas, and Rev. Danny Cortés



The Kimmel Center Ceremony

Eastern University held the final ceremony on the morning of Friday, April 4th, just one of the many celebratory occasions surrounding the inauguration of Dr. Duffett. The celebration opened with an explanation of the theme of this event: blessings. Referencing the beatitudes, it was explained that these are the characteristics a follower of Christ should possess, encouraging and urging the faculty, students and community to take on the embodiment of these virtues as the University enters into this new season. Throughout the morning various groups from the University would provide representations of the blessings and qualities seen in Matthew 5.

The Eastern University chapel worship team was the first to take the stage,

Throughout the morning various groups from the University would provide representations of the blessings and qualities seen in Matthew 5.

leading the audience in a song, with the dance team immediately following. While musicians and singers continued to play, dancers ministered to the congregation through their delicate and skilled movements. Without the assistance of instruments or music, a choir then filled the chapel with radiance as their individual vocals blended into one pure voice.

Between each performance one of the eight beatitudes was read and its present day application was then directed to the lives of Robert and Connie Duffett, holding true to the theme of blessings. For all beatitudes addressed, the audience declared, in unison, a blessing over the new president, his wife, and their entire family.

The University continued to display the diversity of talent among the student

body through an interpretive dramatic performance to the well-known song, "I Can Only Imagine," though the atmosphere quickly shifted from intensity to passionate worship as a gospel choir began to sing.

After the performances came to an end, President Duffett and his family were presented with a series of meaningful gifts. The first, a silver plated chalice, was given to symbolize Christian unity with hopes that as president, Duffett will aid in continuing the sense of community and love within Eastern University.

The second gift was a figure of Jesus washing Peter's feet, a representative of ultimate servitude. This figure acts as a reminder of the servant spirit that must be fostered by Duffett and his wife and transferred to the faculty and students to be used not only within the walls of the university but throughout the world.

The final unique token presented was given the name of the "Risen Christ Crucifix." This piece was meant to depict both the humanity and divinity of Christ and will serve as an encouragement for President Duffett to embrace his humanity alongside the overcoming power, victory and strength that comes from God. The audience was then challenged to take hold of this ideology and become a united community that exemplifies Christ's suffering on the cross and the triumph of His resurrection.

Once all gifts were rendered to President Duffett and Connie, "Turning Point," a vocal ensemble, led the benediction. Their a capella musical rendition of The Lord's Prayer may have ended that day's program at the Eastern University Chapel, but this was just the beginning of the welcoming that surrounded the inauguration of President Robert Duffett.

A New Season Begins

Welcome to Eastern University, Dr. Robert Duffett. It is with great excitement that we eagerly anticipate your leadership under the guiding direction of the Holy Spirit. In the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippian church, we "thank God for your partnership" in the mission to bring the Whole Gospel to the Whole World through Whole Persons. ❏

—Melissa Falk, Deborah McConomy-Wallace, and Kyle Marie McDougall





Algernon Baker, BA '94, MTS '03

Algernon Baker believes that, when it comes to an Eastern University education, more is definitely better.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Eastern College in 1994, his MTS from Palmer Seminary in 2003, and is currently studying for a Doctor of Arts in Marriage and Family. He credits Eastern University with equipping and preparing him for the works to which God has called him.

Baker began his ministry with the music program at the Mount Airy Church of God in Christ, Philadelphia, but after a few years in the parish, felt that God was calling him to continue his education. Palmer Seminary was his first and only choice. "I knew Eastern's commitment to social justice. That is important to me. So, there was no place else to go but Palmer."

In 2006 a murder/suicide rocked his new congregation. Baker found himself in uncharted waters, unsure of the most effective way to minister to the families affected as well as his congregation and community. Intent upon improving his skills in marriage and family counseling, Baker turned to Eastern University once more.

In the Doctor of Arts in Marriage and Family program, Baker discovered the coursework was immediately applicable to working with families in his congregation. He feels able to quickly analyze a pastoral situation and address it more accurately. He appreciates learning from the racial and professional diversity of his cohort with members contributing their own unique worldviews and expertise.

On track for graduation in December 2014, Baker's long-term goal is to work with African-American pastors and spouses to overcome the stigma that mental health care still carries in some parts of the black community. He wants to help pastors become the bridge between the community of faith and mental healthcare that will enable people to deepen their relationships with God and with each other. He believes his Eastern experience has helped to equip him for this calling. 📌

—Deborah McConomy-Wallace

1952

Wilbert Gough wrote a book entitled *Life Isn't Fair - But God Is*. Gough shares how the experiences of those in the Bible can help anyone handle everyday life.

1953

Harry Moore is 89 years of age and is now living in retirement with his wife of 63 years, **Dorothy Coddington**, at the Dock Woods (Mennonite) Retirement Community in Lansdale, PA. Dorothy is a 1951 graduate of Eastern University.

1958

Ed Warner retired in 1993 after 27 years as a senior information officer with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. He has worked part time in the Alumni office at Eastern since 1994 and served as treasurer of the Alumni Council. He has received numerous awards including Eastern's Volunteer of the year (1998). He has made arrangements to establish an endowed scholarship fund at Eastern for students majoring in church music and education in the Templeton Honors College.

1959

George Daniels is married to **Elizabeth (Shiffer '59)** and they have lived in Oro Valley, AZ since 2000. They volunteer each summer at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. After serving in various churches in New England and as President of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, George retired in 2000. Elizabeth graduated with a nursing degree from Cornell University. George's favorite memory from Eastern was the walk from Hainer Hall across the old wooden bridge to Walton Hall. The campus was beautiful every season of the year. He also remembers snacks on Sunday nights at the Wayne Diner.

James Meek now spends the winters in Camarillo, California. Once they sell their property in New York, they plan to relocate to California year round.

1962

Bill Waterston married **Sue Williams** in Penney Farms, FL on January 19, 2013.

1963

Lawrence Sayre reports, "Well I just keep on keeping on. And do mention you in my daily communications with the Lord. As for me, I am so healthy it would be counted as sinful by a lot of people."

1964

Gordon Andersen has been married to **Marietta (Rowland '60)** for 50 years. They have one daughter (who passed away in 2010) and 3 grandchildren. He received a D.Min. from Andover Newton Theological School and an M.Div. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a pastor for 33 years in RI and MA. He was also the volunteer coordinator for Old Colony Hospice and did 14 mission tours to La Romana, Dominican Republic. He retired in 2000. His favorite memory from Eastern was meeting Marietta.

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

John Pipe '58 is writing a book on "The Bible and Critical Thinking."

Leslie Desmagles and his wife, **Gertrude**, currently live in Weatogue, CT. They have two daughters

and a son, **Michael**. Leslie recently contributed to the book *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. He also published *Faces of the Gods: Vodou and Roman Catholicism in Haiti* in 1992. He was awarded an endowed chair in Religion and International Studies at Trinity College. His favorite memories during his time at Eastern were being a part of the College Choir and the Tour in Music to Haiti and Puerto Rico.

Ralph Wagner and his wife, **Susan**, winter in Arizona and summer in New York State. They have 7 grandchildren spread out from VA, FL, to CA. He was an American Baptist minister for almost 40 years, and is now an interim pastor for a Federated UCC, DOC church in Wellsville, NY. Hobbies include golfing, fly fishing, hiking, cooking, gardening, biking, and writing. Favorite Eastern memories include Dr. Grigolia and Dr. Allen, who inspired him as a freshman and allowed him to fall in love with learning.

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

G. Kenneth K. Carpenter began cello lessons when he retired in 2007. He says he “enjoys this wonderful instrument, but I am not quite ready for Carnegie Hall!”

1965

John Cerrato, Jr., First Baptist Church, Manchester, NH, has published a book entitled *Third Millennium Antivirus*, a call to American churches to renounce the “new” and reclaim the eternally new.

1969

Richard Wingate retired in 2006. He is now completing his 35th year in Rotary International. Richard’s favorite memories of Eastern include traveling with the 1967 Summer Gospel Team for 8 weeks, ten thousand miles, 13 states, and about 100 services; debating Tony Campolo on “Situation Ethics” at a packed chapel service; meeting his bride-to-be on his first day (she was dating his new roommate!); and attending a Washington DC seminar that included a visit in chambers with Supreme Court Justice White.

1970

Richard Frey and his wife, Susan, live near Gettysburg, PA. Dick is Director of Music at the Unitarian/Universalist Congregation of York, PA and a member of Zwingli UCC in East Berlin, PA. Dick previously served as Minister of Music at churches in NY, NJ and PA. Susan is a print music specialist. The Freys are parents of 3 children and 4 grandchildren and enjoy their dog, 9 cats and 18 rabbits.

1973

R. Bruce Johnson (EC '70, EBTS '73) retired from a ten year pastorate with Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, Clifton Park, NY in 2013. After campus ministry, new church planting, world mission support, and several pastorates, he is looking forward to time with wife, Deb (Clemson EC '71), two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and a first grandchild. He continues to volunteer on the ABC-NYS Pastoral Care Team and facilitates a Together in Ministry group.

1976

Charles Kwok celebrated his 80th birthday on February 6, 2013 at a restaurant with family and friends. During his planting days, Charles built three churches and over 10 Bible study groups. The Church of New Haven wants to prepare a second celebration (two years later) for his 50th wedding anniversary with wife Lily.

1978

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

David Skinner '63 played baseball at Eastern and love for the game continues while helping to coach his grandson's Little League Team at age 72!

Kevin Miller married Rieda on July 27, 2013. They live in Salt Lake City where Kevin serves as Director for Student Conduct and Support services at Salt Lake Community College. Kevin also serves as co-pastor of the Orem Community Church, UCC, Orem, Utah.

1986

John Munday has published his seventh book, *Marlys in Heaven* (Gazelle Press, 2013) and has just finished his six-year term as a member of the ELCA national council.

1990

Stephen Spinella has returned to the US from Taiwan.

1992

Thomas Booker reports that he is currently working on writing a biblical commentary, hopefully for future publication.

1995

Garland Meyers has been working in a hospice for the past ten years.

1996

Mayra Giovanetti and Carlos Alberto Bonilla have been serving as missionaries with the ABFMS since 2000. They are currently stationed in Nicaragua.

1998

Wayne E. Croft celebrated his first year at St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester, PA in October 2013 and published a short chronicle called *My Journey to St. Paul's Baptist* about his journey to his new pastorate. He is the Jeremiah A. Wright, Sr. Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African-American Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Karen Flexer and Edwin (Ned) Flexer (also an alum, 1969) celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary. Karen writes, “Our first home was Apt. 440 in Palmer Hall 1966-1969.”

1999

Carol Schreck writes, “Having worked at Eastern/Palmer for 30 years, we are deeply thankful for the Seminary and its ongoing ministry. We appreciate being kept in the loop via *InMinistry*.”

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

George E. Daniels does professional picture framing and following retirement, he operated a hobby/business (The Hook Nook) of picture framing for ten years.

2000

Polly Riddle writes, “I’ve been on short term mission trips to many Latin American countries, translating for medical teams, telling Bible stories in Spanish, and hauling bricks for an elder hostel in Bolivia. I’ve been to English-speaking Liberia and taught Bible studies and a bit of Spanish. This year I translated documents for Engineers in Action who will build a water system for a small Bolivian pueblo. During this year I have led a bilingual Bible study at a home, taught English at a neighboring church and will start a class of GED in Spanish for young adults. God works in wondrous ways.”

2004

Susan Czarnecki (MDiv), an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, was appointed to New Castle UMC in July 2013. She previously served at Church of the Good Shepherd in Philadelphia for eight years. She and her husband are enjoying this historic small town.

2005

Yolanda Johnson was ordained April 14, 2013. She was the first woman to be ordained in the 99-year history of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA. She is celebrating twelve years as founder of Disgrace to Grace Ministry, an outreach ministry designed to strengthen individuals and families through annual retreats and other holistic services.

Submit your alumni news via email:
palmeralum@eastern.edu



2006

Victoria Brown is now pastor at Wesley AME Church. She is working on a Ph.D. in Human Services Counseling at Capella University. She is Marshall of the AME Preachers Meeting of Philadelphia Harrisburg Vicinity.

2008

Marcos Almonte was installed as pastor of the Brandywine Baptist Church, Chadds Ford, PA on March 23, 2014.

Arlene Paulette Birchett earned her Doctor of Ministry degree in Dec 2013 from Drew University Theological School with a concentration on "Practicing Mind-Body-Spirit-Healing for Congregations and Clergy."

2010

Jennie Lee-Coles writes, "Since graduation I have traveled around the world doing missions. My last trip was to Thailand where my hosts were the Fox family, Eastern University alumni. I would love to share some of my experiences with students and staff to promote and advance both short term and long-term mission work."

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

Richard C. Wingate and his wife Betty collect wine bottles! They bring them home from the many places they visit with their motorhome. In the summer after graduation Richard was a police officer in Ocean City, NJ.

My classmates would be surprised to know ...

Ralph O. Wagner ran 15 miles/day in his 30s and 40s. "It's no longer one of my hobbies ... hmmm" he says.

2012

Deborah Heffernan writes, "I am currently serving as the Interim Associate Pastor at Morrisville Presbyterian Church, Morrisville, PA with responsibilities in outreach, youth ministry, educational ministry, children and family, and deacons. I am excited to be serving at Morrisville."

Darrell Pearson currently attends a Chinese-speaking congregation and serves as the pastor for English-speaking congregants.

Jocelyn Tyree is a licensed preacher about to enter the candidacy for Ordained Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She works as an education specialist at a local community college in Trenton NJ that serves students in the local high school. She writes, "The four years that I spent at Palmer are dearly missed and I wouldn't have traded it for anything."

Alfred Cotto-Thorner '44 died on October 3, 2013 at the age of 95. He served as pastor in United Methodist congregations in Brooklyn, NY and was the founder of Anchor House, a facility in Brooklyn for persons suffering from substance abuse addictions.

Ella Moore Flood '44 died on May 22, 2014 at the age of 95. She worked in the mailroom at Eastern University where she was much loved. Her home in St. Davids was always open to students, travelers and guests. She was a long-time member of The Baptist Church in the Great Valley, American Baptist Women's Ministries, the Needlework Guild and Church Women United. Ella enjoyed nature, her myriad of beloved pets, gardening, music and singing.

W. Haydn Ambrose '45 died September 6, 2013 at the age of 90. Born in Wales in 1922, he moved to the U.S. with his family as a child. He received bachelor's degrees in history and theology from Eastern College and Eastern Baptist Seminary, and was ordained to the ministry in 1945. He later studied at the Lancaster Seminary, the University of Illinois and Western Michigan University, where he earned a master's degree in educational administration. In 1963, he received an honorary doctorate from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. He served as Baptist chaplain at the University of Illinois, and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Mankato, MN before becoming the national director of campus ministry for the American Baptist Churches.

Ruth Alice Charlton Uhlinger '46 died on April 20, 2012. She was 90 years old.

Paul M. Lederach '47 died January 6, 2014. Paul graduated from Goshen College, Goshen College Biblical Seminary and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received a Doctor of Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX. He was the executive editor of the Foundation Series, a children's graded educational curriculum for the Mennonite church. Paul wrote numerous books, including *The Third Way* (1980) and in 1994, *Daniel* (Believer Church Bible commentary Series). He passed away at 88 years old.

Edna Doughten Camp '48 died June 9, 2012. Edna received her master's degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary and was a teacher primarily working with missionaries.

Hans Vincent Bergman '49 died June 8, 2012. He earned a Bachelor degree from Wheaton College and an MA from Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1949. He was a missionary to Africa for many years with SIM.

Herbert Paul Clough Sr. '50 died October 29, 2011 in Fort Pierce, FL. He was a retired Baptist minister and a member of the First Baptist Church of Oviedo.

Brenton C. Dodge '51 died on September 1, 2013, at the age of 87. An ordained American Baptist pastor, he served churches in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He also worked for the American Baptist Churches USA in Massachusetts and California.

Reverend Grace Jones Moore '51 of Claremont, CA died on September 17, 2013. She was 86. After earning a Bachelor of Music degree in pipe organ from Redlands University, she also earned a Master of Religious Education degree at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Moore served as organist and choir director at each church where she and her husband served. She was ordained in 1973 by the United Church of Christ. She retired in 1991. She re-wrote the entire Pilgrim Hymnal, authored inclusive language liturgy and helped to revise UCC Church School materials. Rev. Moore authored *The Advent of Women* (25 meditations for women), the *Shalom Hymnal*, and *All May Be One* (guidelines for inclusive language).

Alfred "Fred" C. Schaeffer '51 died on October 6, 2013. A resident of Fort Myers since 1992, Fred graduated from the Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1951. He was an ordained American Baptist pastor serving churches in various states.

Pastor Cortland Rice Bryant '53 died on September 6, 2013. In 1943, he was selected for officer candidate school and served honorably in World War II in the Pacific. In 1945, he enrolled in Eastern Baptist College and upon graduating, attended the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received a master's degree in theology. Cortland served as pastor of seven American Baptist churches in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York states.

Captain Joseph Howland '54 CHC, USN, RET, M.DIV, MMFT, of San Diego, CA, passed into life eternal on April 9, 2014. He was 87. Ordained in to the American Baptist Churches upon graduation from Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1954, he served as the Eastern Baptist Seminary Secretary of Alumni Affairs from 1956 to 1959. He received his commission in the Naval reserve Chaplain Corps in 1957. His Navy career included assignments with Destroyer Division 162 in Mayport, FL, the Naval Supply Center, Bayonne NJ, USS Maury (GS-16) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, The Miramar and North Island Naval Air Stations: 4th and 12th Marine Regiments in Okinawa, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Naval Station, Guam and CRE-DO San Diego's Naval Amphibious Base. He held a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from the University of LaVerne. Chaplain Howland's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Medal with Bronze star, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

John Adkerson '56 died on November 12, 2012 in Tennessee. He was 80 years old.

The **Rev. Denison "Denny" D. Conner '43** died December 16, 2013. He graduated from Hastings College in 1940. He graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1943 and returned to earn a master's degree in theology in 1956.

Harold L. Twiss '43 died on October 31, 2013. He was an editor of religious books.

The **Rev. Dr. Merritt Hyers '58** died on March 23, 2013. He served as a pastor in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida and Pennsylvania. He earned a Ph.D. in Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1965, taught History of Religions at Beloit College and Gustavus Adolphus College and was the author of many books and journal articles on world religions.

The **Reverend James William Dugno '59** died on July 25, 2013. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959. Jim served as Secretary of Alumni Affairs at Eastern Theological Seminary until 1965, and served as a pastor of several churches in Maine, Pennsylvania, and New York for over 40 years.

Rev. Dr. William H. Moyer '60, age 80 of Marlton, NJ died on October 13, 2013. Rev. Moyer served in various United Methodist churches in New Jersey for over 40 years. He was actively involved in several fire companies in the communities in which he served.

James L. Anderson Sr. '61 died Tuesday, December 4, 2012 in Marietta, Ohio. Rev. Anderson was a Korean War Army veteran. He began teaching in a one-room school in Wadesville, OH and continued his teaching career at Washington Elementary, Edison Junior High and Washington Junior High before retiring in 1981.



Thomas F. McDaniel, Ph.D.

We received word on February 6 of the death of our beloved colleague and Emeritus Professor of Old Testament, Thomas F. McDaniel. He was 82 years old.

Born in Maryland, McDaniel earned bachelor's degrees from the University of Richmond and the Eastern Baptist Seminary, and a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He received his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University, where he later completed a post-doctoral fellowship.

Prior to joining the faculty of Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1969, Dr. McDaniel taught in Yokohama and Tokyo for 3 years. He served as the professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Studies at the Seminary from 1969 to his retirement in 2001.

Past President of Palmer Theological Seminary Rev. Dr. Manfred Brauch praised him for his "generous loyalty and...unreserved support in both good and difficult times." Dr. Scott Rodin, who was President of the Seminary when Dr. McDaniel retired, wrote that "so many of our alums credit (Dr. McDaniel) with influencing their lives, calling them into deeper relationships with God and a passion for reading and understanding scripture."

The Rev. Dr. Lois Osgood Miltimore recalled that Dr. McDaniel was "the professor who walks through the café, notices students, and sits down to join in conversation with them."

Former Eastern Baptist Seminary Vice President and Academic Dean Dr. Eric Ohlmann said that Dr. McDaniel's relationships with students "were based on a genuine respect for all persons."

Missionaries Chuck and Ruth Fox recalled Dr. McDaniel for "being there when needed," and "giving plenty of room to learn, process, grow, and ultimately make our own decisions without any sense of judgment on (his) part."

Dr. McDaniel is survived by his wife of 62 years, 2 siblings, a son, and 4 grandchildren. ❏





Janis Plostnieks, Ph.D.

Dr. Janis Plostnieks, a member of Eastern University's Board of Trustees, died on November 29, 2013. He was 80 years old.

Born in Latvia, he came to the U.S. in 1949 from a resettlement camp in Germany. He completed high school in Cleveland and earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry at Case Western Reserve University. He received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Yale University.

Dr. Plostnieks was the Corporate Director of Science and Technology at Johnson and Johnson. He retired in the 1990s.

He was an active member of Grace Baptist Church in Blue Bell, PA and the First Latvian Baptist Church of Philadelphia. In addition to serving on Eastern's Board of Trustees, he was Chairman of the Latvian Baptist Theological Seminary in Riga, Latvia.

Dr. Plostnieks is survived by Gunta, his wife of 49 years, 2 daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandsons. ■

John E. Brown '61 died on January 6, 2014. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1961. He did graduate studies at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania and was ordained as an American Baptist minister. John was a director of youth publications for the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication in Valley Forge. He spent time as an editor for McCrae Smith Publishing Company in Philadelphia, and then went on to successfully author numerous books and articles. Co-founder of Hospice of Crawford County, John served as chief executive officer, and after his retirement, was chairman of the board of directors. Brown co-founded the annual Winter Blues Bluegrass Festival in Meadville, PA and the annual Spring Fever Folk Music Festival in Cambridge Springs. In retirement, he served with the Pastoral Care Department of Meadville Medical Center as pastoral counselor and troubadour. He was trained in adjunct therapies and was a certified hypnotherapist.

Paul L. Webb '61 died January 3, 2014. Paul attended school in America and Germany as a military dependent. He earned a B.A. in Psychology at Redlands University, CA and an M.Div at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Paul achieved a Masters and Ph.D. in history. Paul also loved writing, acting, and singing in Christian dramas.

Rev. Frederick W. Lanan '62 died January 4, 2014. He attended Lafayette College, Princeton Seminary, and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. His final years of ministry were served at North Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, WI, from which he retired in 1993.

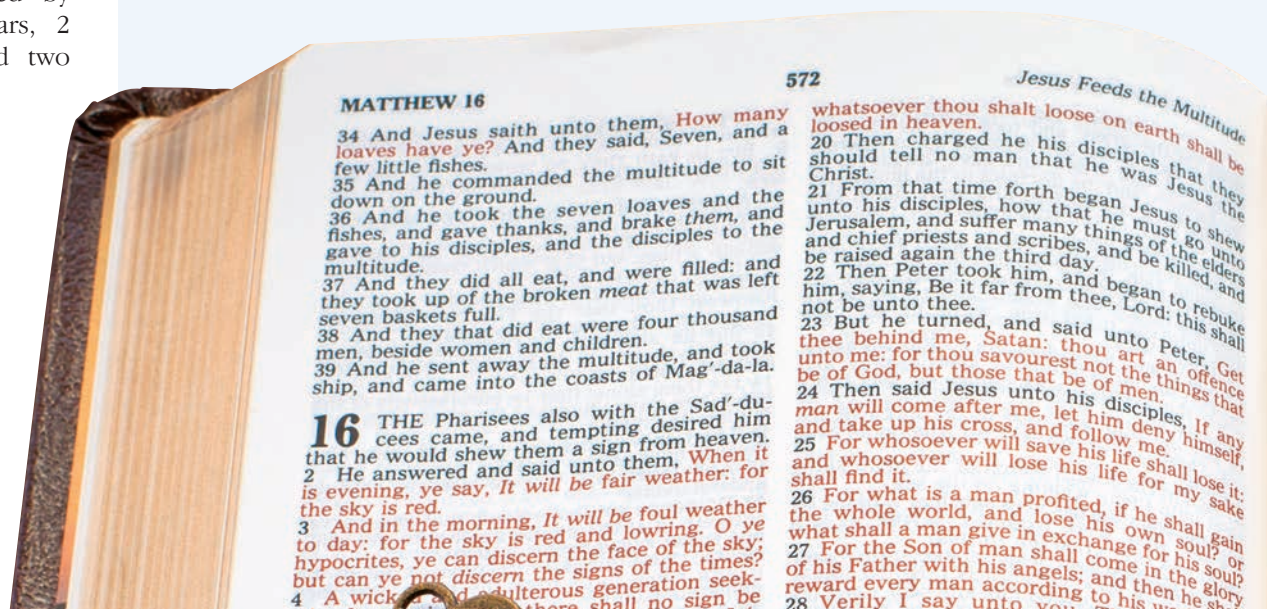
Thomas F. Kershner III '63 died on November 11, 2013. He graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1957, where he majored in Music Education. He graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963. He led and developed numerous music activities in area churches in Vineland, NJ and Reading.

Richard Rodney Parkinson '68 died on December 29, 2013. The Rev. Parkinson was a retired military chaplain in the United States Air Force.

Wesley I. Evans '76 died November 20, 2013. He received his bachelor's degree from Kings College in Briarcliff, N.Y., and his master's degree in Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also received his Doctorate in family counseling in 1976. Throughout his career, Rev. Evans was pastor to six churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan and Connecticut. While pastor at the First Baptist Church in Ellwood City, PA, he was also the town's mayor.

Robert C. Tate Jr. '76 died January 7, 2014. He graduated from the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1959 and was pastor for two Baptist churches until being commissioned as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. He served as a chaplain until 1978, during which time he served with distinction in Vietnam not only supporting soldiers in service, but as a missionary in villages around Chu Lei. During his Navy career he earned a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Martin Rolf Massaglia '80 died on February 6, 2014. He was 61. A graduate of Fort Hays State University, he earned the Master of Divinity degree at Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1980. Palmer seminary later awarded him a Doctor of Divinity degree for his commitment to ethnic diversity, community development and mission outreach. He served as pastor of the Royersford (PA) Baptist Church for 20 years before moving to the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland (OH) in 2006.



Larry L. Appenzellar '81 died on Friday, September 7, 2012. An Army veteran, Pastor Appenzellar was Associate Pastor of the Haws Avenue Methodist Church in Norristown, PA from 1978 to 1981 and then moved to Elmira Heights to become Pastor of Elmwood Avenue Baptist Church until his retirement in 2007. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid Washington Redskins, Penn State, and Philadelphia Phillies fan.

Josephine Redenius Baker '84 died on November 20, 2013. She received her MA in Journalism from American University, LHD from Temple University, MA in Religious Studies from St. Charles Seminary, and M.Div and Doctorate in Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Rev. Baker was enlisted as Private WAAC and advanced to LT COL, US Army, (Ret). She was an intelligence officer at atomic installations throughout the US and Canada and held numerous other positions, including Assistant Officer Chief of Staff Armed Forces Far East, Escort Officer NATO, and Chief Women's Army Corp Recruiting Officer. She received many awards, including the Legion of Merit PA Meritorious Service Medal and the US Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Rev. Dr. Howard "Howie" Fritz, Jr. '84 died April 19, 2014. Dr. Fritz was a graduate of Eastern Baptist College and Eastern Baptist Seminary, where he earned both his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees. He worked 25 years for the Morris County After Care Center. In addition, he had a private practice in marriage and family counseling.

Rev. Dr. Lydia Clary Moore '84 died February 5, 2014. Pastor Moore was ordained in the African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church and Connection (A.U.M.P.) with her Deacon and Elder Orders in 1977 and 1978, respectively. In 1981, she entered Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and was conferred the Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Theology degrees. In July 1984, she received full membership into the United Methodist Church Conference, retiring in June 1995. She served as pastor for several United Methodist congregations in Philadelphia.

Rev. Dr. Dwight Northington '85 died September 29, 2013. He recently retired as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church Red Bank after faithfully serving 21 years. Enlisting in the United States Navy during the Vietnam era, he attended the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School, graduating in 1971. He graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985 with the Master of Divinity. He was an Adjunct Professor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and the Psychology Department at Brookdale Community College. Dr. Northington was active in community affairs and a former member of the Borough of Red Bank Board of Education.

Margaret McGrath Zinser '96 died March 4, 2014. Margaret served as a family therapist and in an administrative capacity at Elwyn Institute, a residential facility and foundation for the mentally and physically challenged, until her retirement in 2004. She graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1996. She completed Clinical Pastoral Education study requirements at Fox Chase Cancer Center where she later served as a volunteer.



Marjean Brauch, D.O.

Dr. Marjean Brauch, 73, died February 22, 2014 in Mt. Pleasant, SC after a year-long and difficult battle against bacterial infections of her lungs. Marjean was a retired physician.

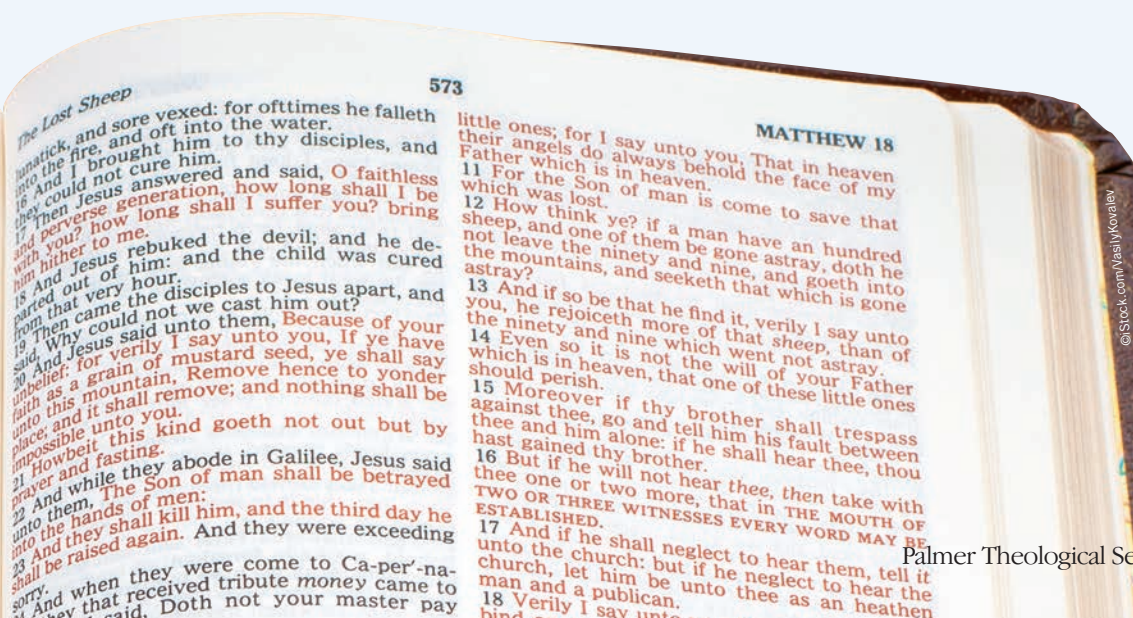
A graduate of Houghton College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Brauch practiced in Wayne, PA. She joined the Eastern University Board of Trustees in 1999 and served until her resignation in October 2013. In December 2013, the trustees voted her a trustee emerita, in which capacity she remained until her death two months later.

Her husband, the Rev. Dr. Manfred Brauch, former President of Eastern Baptist Seminary, notes that Dr. Brauch was very involved in the life of the Seminary community for many years.

In addition to her work in the community, Dr. Brauch and her husband engaged in volunteer mission work in West Africa, Russia, Chile, and Honduras.

A celebration of Dr. Brauch's life was held at Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church on February 26, 2014.

She is survived by her mother, Jeanette, husband Manfred T. Brauch, 2 sons, Chris J. Brauch (April) and Greg M. Brauch (Lauren), daughter Tonya T. Brauch, 2 granddaughters, Athena and Isla, and brothers Joe Bedsole and Don Bedsole. ❏





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The Site Search Continues

After much prayer and many hours spent considering almost fifty locations to date, the Palmer Seminary Site Selection Committee (SSC) continues to search diligently for a potential site for the Seminary’s new location. Recently, the SSC recommended a location in the city of Philadelphia; however, a comprehensive due diligence process identified challenges that far exceeded budgetary parameters, and we have decided to resume our search. We deeply appreciate the engagement of the University’s finance, facility, and legal personnel in generating evidence that enabled us to carefully steward our Seminary’s future.

Mindful of the needs that the faculty and students identified at the beginning

of the site search process, the SSC will continue to seek a property that is central to where most Palmer students reside, located in or adjacent to the city of Philadelphia, near major highways and easily accessible both by car and public transportation. Adequate onsite parking, library, worship, classroom, and office space continue to be important criteria.

We will provide updates as they become available. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers and support as we finalize all of the details necessary to bring this process to a successful conclusion.

“... the SSC will continue to seek a property that is central to where most Palmer students reside ...”

Many thanks are due to the seminary community for their input and faithfulness during this transitional process. Thanks, too, to the dedicated members of the SSC for their faithful hard work. Committee members include: Paul Alexander, Carl Altomare, Willette Burgie-Bryant, Diane Chen, Pernell Jones, Loida Martell-Otero,

Tiffany Murphy, Dick Rusbuldt, and Clesha Staten. [f](#)

— Tom Ridington, *Chair, Palmer Seminary SSC*

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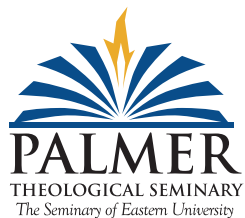
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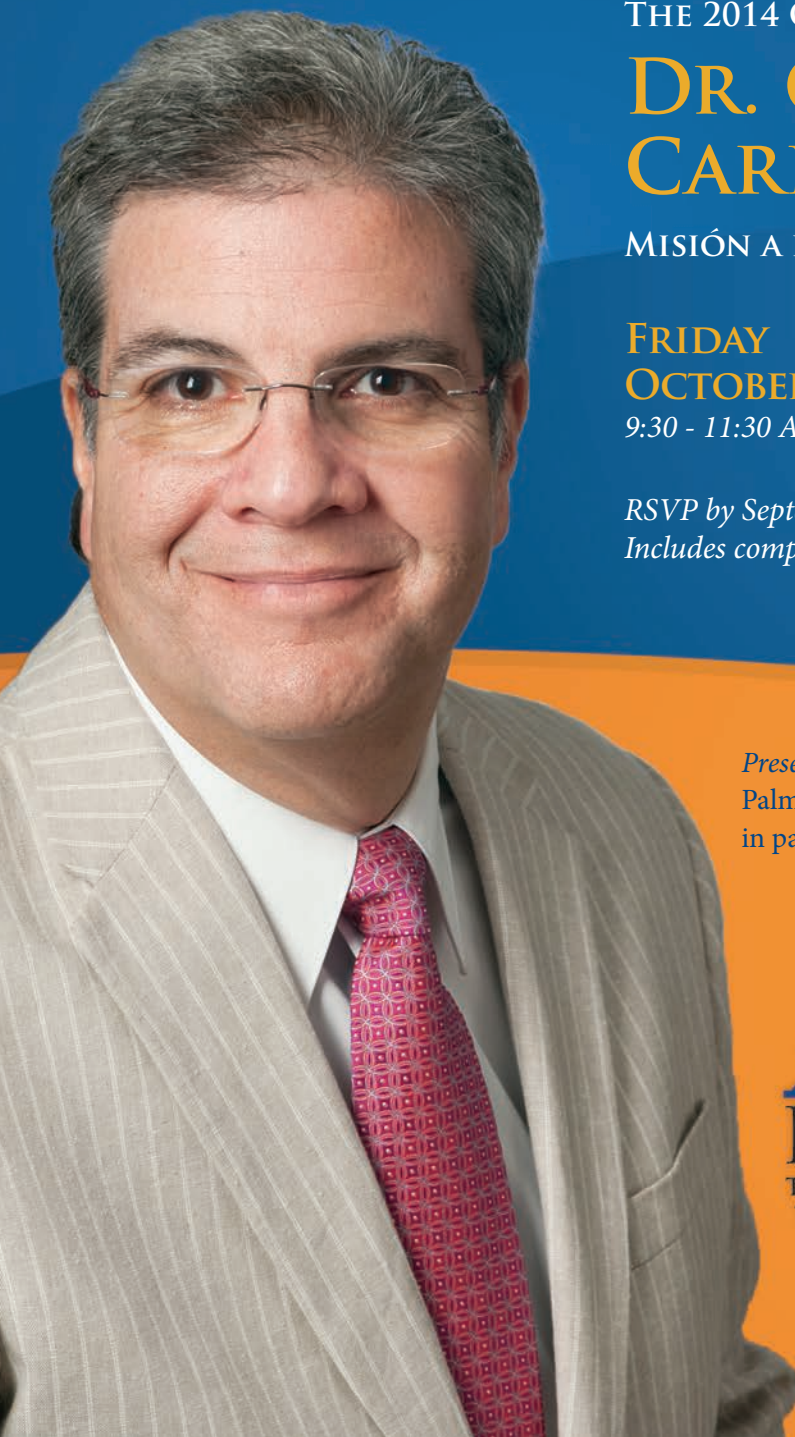
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