SCHOLARSHIPS

Goal: Create New Full and Partially Endowed Scholarships and Increase the Principal of Current Endowed Scholarships

In previous generations, congregations substantially funded seminaries. Today, the cost of educating students for ministry at PTS is supported primarily through the annual fund and by students themselves.

By increasing our scholarship endowment, PTS seeks to make seminary affordable to every student who has the intellectual skill and evidences the call to prepare for ministry. Some students who sense a call to ministry cannot afford a seminary education. In addition, it is important for all students to graduate from seminary with a manageable debt-load in order to be able to stay in ministry.

New named scholarships can be created for a gift of $12,500 plus the Cadieux match. A gift of any amount can be added to an existing scholarship.

BRIDGES OF FAITH AT A GLANCE

• Goal #1: $2 million in new scholarship gifts, plus the match.
• Goal #2: $1 million for the Fred B. Craddock Chair in Preaching, plus the match.

We have already received $7 million in gifts and pledges during the quiet phase of the Campaign.

FRED B. CRADDOCK CHAIR IN PREACHING

Goal: The Fred B. Craddock Chair in Preaching

Preaching is a hallmark practice for Protestant churches. It has always been important to form preachers who can, with faith and imagination, serve as a bridge between the world of the text and the world of the congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Fred B. Craddock, a Phillips University Graduate Seminary alumnus (1953) and former faculty member, has become one of the best-known preachers and teachers of preachers of his generation. Few people have shaped the field of preaching theory and practice more than Fred.

When Fred was in Tulsa in September 2007 to present the Stacey Pastors’ Workshop at PTS, he made the following comments about the prospect of a chair in his name.

Well, it’s rather awesome … I’m very much honored by it. I can’t think of any other school that would make this available to me, and I would have as much gratitude and strong emotion as I do. I say this because I’ve had a long association with Phillips, in the shaping of my life in seminary and in my efforts to teach.

It is a tremendous honor for Phillips Theological Seminary for Fred to say “yes” to a preaching chair in his name. Furthermore, it will be a great day when PTS can say to the church and the academy that generations of preachers will be educated by a professor whose position is funded in perpetuity by an endowed chair in Fred’s name.

(continued on page 3)

We look forward to your participation in the campaign in the coming weeks and months.
In March I ran my very first 5K race, something which I had never thought I could or would do! It took three months of training at the gym to reach this goal: a little further and then a little faster on the treadmill each day.

Twenty million dollars in additional permanently restricted endowment funds for the seminary also seemed at first like an unattainable goal, but step-by-step, we are heading toward the finish line. Chester and Debbie Cadieux have provided a huge incentive by giving $10 million in matching funds–half the total campaign goal. The seminary’s trustees, faculty, and staff were among the first to take up the challenge. Not counting the Cadieux gift, the trustees have already pledged nearly $2 million and the faculty and staff have pledged $98,000. What is equally impressive is that one hundred percent of the trustees, faculty, and staff have made a commitment to the campaign.

Thus far, in the “quiet phase” of the campaign, a total of almost $7,000,000 has been pledged or given. Just as I could see the finish line during the last phase of my 5K run, I can see the finish line of our centennial campaign in the not-too-distant future. We have $3 million to go–$1 million for the Fred B. Craddock Chair in Preaching and $2 million for student scholarships. The church needs effective and educated preachers and pastors for the twenty-first century. The funds raised in the “public phase” of our “Bridges of Faith” campaign ensure that we can “have faith in the future.”

William Tabbernee, President

Fred Craddock to Speak

One of the best-known and beloved Phillips professors of the seminary’s first century will speak to the graduates and their guests at the outset of the seminary’s second century.

The Rev. Dr. Fred B. Craddock, director of the Craddock Center, Cherry Log, Georgia; Bandy Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament, Emeritus, Candler School of Theology; and formerly Darbeth Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament at Phillips Theological Seminary, will deliver the 2008 PTS commencement address. Dr. Craddock is one of North America’s most respected preachers. His lectures and books on preaching have shaped generations of preachers and professors of preaching.

Commencement will be held at First Christian Church, 913 S. Boulder, Tulsa, at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2008. “Commencement 2008 is the seminary’s final in the series of centennial events, launching a new group of graduates to serve church and society during the seminary’s second century,” said Dr. William Tabbernee, PTS president.

Special Awards and Degrees

During the past century, thousands of talented and dedicated people have given generously of their time and money to make Phillips Theological Seminary an exceptional institution for educating women and men for ministry. Six such people will be honored during Commencement weekend as part of the culmination of the seminary’s year-long centennial celebrations. The Rev. Dr. Stephen V. Cranford, retired executive director of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, former Regional Minister of the Disciples of Christ of Mid-America, and past chairman of the PTS board of trustees, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Cranford chaired the search committee that called Dr. Tabbernee to become president at the seminary.

Dr. LaDonna Meinders (PTS trustee) and her husband Dr. Herman Meinders (Oklahoma City businessman), both civic leaders and philanthropists, will each receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to Ms. Ellen Chitwood, former PTS trustee and chair of the seminary’s investment committee; Mr. Bernie McNickle, also a former PTS trustee; and Mr. Daryl Southard, current trustee and chair of the property committee.

Karla Jodoin, editor
Email: karla.jodoin@ptstulsa.edu

Phillips Theological Seminary accords equal rights and privileges to all members of the seminary community. In the administration of its policies and procedures related to admissions, financial aid, and academic programs, the seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or theological perspective.

Seminary News is published two times annually by Phillips Theological Seminary 901 North Mingo Road Tulsa, Oklahoma 74116-5612 (ISSN 1534-9330) Phone: 918.610.8303, Fax: 918.610.8404 www.ptstulsa.edu
Growing up 50 years ago, I assumed everyone around me was a Christian. Roads dividing black and white communities were seldom crossed. In overt and subtle ways, we were taught to maintain walls rather than to build bridges, to stay with “our own.”

In subtle and not-so-subtle ways, we were taught to build and maintain walls. Today’s world is very different. We have enough walls.

Today, we increasingly need to know how to build bridges. At PTS, we believe Christians need a bridge-building faith, a faith connecting:
• Communities;
• Spiritual practices and works of justice and mercy;
• Christian traditions;
• Christians and people of other faiths for the sake of the common good;
• The faith and hopes of the present generation with those of future generations.

Do you want preachers, educators, and other Christian leaders who know how to build bridges and to help congregations do the same? If your answer is “yes,” then please consider how you might support the Bridges of Faith Campaign. Christians need all the bridge-building leaders we can find and educate.

Gary Peluso-Verdend

The Frank H. Marshall Award recognizes graduates of Phillips Theological Seminary, Phillips Graduate Seminary, the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University, or the College of the Bible whose service to God, the church, and the human community has been faithful and exemplary. A nominee might be someone who has rendered outstanding service in congregational ministries, or in a ministry beyond the local congregation, such as a missionary, chaplain, campus minister, or directing unique ministries. It is the highest honor given by the PTS Alumni Association and is presented to one or two individuals each year. The selection is made by the Awards Committee of the Alumni Association.

If you would like to nominate an alumnus or an alumna for this award, the nomination form is located at www.ptstulsa.edu or contact Connie Inglish at 918.270.6409 to have a form mailed to you.

The Rev. Dr. Orval Holt, a 1950 graduate of Phillips University College of the Bible, has the distinction of being the last alumnus to receive the PTS Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus award. The next distinguished alum award recipient will have the honor of being the first to receive a newly-named award.

**Updated and with a New Name**

Since 2001 the PTS Alumni Association has honored one or two distinguished alumni/ae each year. Normally, the award is presented at Ministers’ Week, but occasionally it happens at other venues. This past year, the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors reviewed the award process and made a few revisions. The biggest change was the award received a new name: The Frank H. Marshall Award for Ministerial Excellence. Dr. Marshall was the first dean of the seminary, serving from 1907 until 1942.

Why “Bridges of Faith”?

Communities of faith that hunger for deeper and broader connections to God need pastoral leaders who can model and foster these connections through employing the rich resources of Christian spiritual traditions. For these reasons, PTS is now offering a unique new specialization in the D.Min. program: Pastoral Leadership in Spiritual Formation.

According to the Rev. Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman, assistant professor of the Practice of Ministry and director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, in this specialization students will learn spiritual formation as the intentional activity of attending, discerning, and responding to the initiative of God in ways accountable to Christian communities, scriptures, and traditions.

“The curriculum is designed for pastoral leaders who want to integrate critical reflection with spiritual practice through a holistic lens, honoring the rich complexity of human ways of knowing and relating to the divine,” said Pittman. “We will design learning experiences in cooperation with students so that they can meet their professional goals.”

Financial aid is available for this three-phase, thirty-two semester-hour program. The program begins June 2009. Application deadline is March 15 2009. For more information or an application please visit the PTS web site at www.ptstulsa.edu or contact Dr. Pittman at 918.270.6440.
Help PTS to Go Green: Email

Does PTS have your email address? If you are unsure, would you please send a note to melanie.krase@ptstulsa.edu. We are trying to communicate more frequently with alums and friends. Help us to use our resources well!

Looking for Timothys and Priscillas

As alumni/ae and friends of PTS, you provide an important link to prospective students. You help us extend our reach into churches and ministry contexts where we may not be able to send a seminary representative.

One of the most important ways you can support PTS and its mission is to watch for those whom God is calling to serve and encourage them to respond to that call. The regular contact you have with those sensing God’s call to ministry puts you in the unique position to offer initial information about PTS.

The admissions and recruiting staff want to serve as a resource to you as you identify candidates for Christian ministry. There are three things you can do to help provide a bridge between prospective students and the seminary.

• Encourage prospective students to visit the Phillips campus. One means of support is offering to go with them to visit the campus.
• Point them to information about our programs on the PTS website: www.ptstulsa.edu. Most people returning to school use the Internet for their initial research on program options.
• Email or call me, the director of student recruitment, and provide me with contact information for any prospective students, such as names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers so that I can maintain contact during the individual’s discernment process.

We are grateful to you for the enthusiastic support you provide by letting others know of the opportunities to study at PTS! Please contact me, Linda Ford, at 918.270.6463 or linda.ford@ptstulsa.edu to let me know how I can assist you in supporting those whom God is calling.

Bell Candidates for UM Bishop

The Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell (M.Div. ’93) has been endorsed as a candidate for the episcopacy by Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the South Central Jurisdiction Women’s Leadership Team, and the jurisdictional conference delegations of the Kansas East and West Conferences.

After graduating from PTS, Cheryl has served local churches, an urban ministry in Wichita, and is completing seven years as a district superintendent in the Kansas West Conference. She has recently completed a rigorous schedule of interviews around the jurisdiction.

United Methodists elect bishops in an open campaign process every four years in the summer following a General Conference. The episcopal election for the South Central Jurisdiction will be July 15-19, 2008 in Dallas. Please keep Cheryl in your prayers!

In a recent interview with PTS, Cheryl said:

When I started at Phillips, I believed I knew all that I needed to know to be a pastor and I was just going to ‘get my paper’ to become official in The United Methodist Church! But God had more in store for me than I could ever imagine. My New Testament class with Dr. Dennis Smith was an eye opening, faith-challenging, and self-examining experience. There were a variety of persons with a wide range of beliefs. Through the teaching, the sharing, the discussions, and the soul searching, I grew in understanding who I am and whose I am. I learned the reality that WE CAN’T BOX GOD! This insight has shaped my ministry.
Faculty Activities

Duane Bidwell, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care, and Counseling and Director of Presbyterian Ministerial Formation

Bidwell was elected in January 2008 to a three-year term on the national board of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He was received as an at-large member of the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and received the “Distinguished Minister's Award for General Institutional Ministry” from Brite Divinity School and the Brite Alumni/ae Council.


Ellen Blue, Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies

Blue’s book, Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry, co-authored with Charles M. Wood, has been published by Abingdon Press.

Anne Joh, Assistant Professor of Theology

Joh spoke at the Peace Academy in Tulsa in March 2008. Her presentation focused on the racialization of religion, particularly the conflation of race and religion after 9/11 in regards to Islam.

Kay Lynn Northcutt, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship

Northcutt has been approved for promotion to the rank of associate professor of preaching and worship with tenure effective July 1, 2008. "Dr. Northcutt is widely recognized as an outstanding preacher and teacher of preachers. I am confident that she will continue to serve the church she loves and bring honor to PTS by illuminating the intrinsic interconnections between prayer, study, and public practice," said Don A. Pittman, vice president for academic affairs, dean, and the William Tabbernee Professor of the History of Religions.

Northcutt’s preaching engagements in the coming months include: the Alabama/Northwest Florida Disciples Regional Assembly in April 2008; Virginia Disciples Regional Assembly in June 2008; keynoting along with Joey Jeter at Ghost Ranch in July 2008; and keynoting along with Stephanie Paulsell at Christmount in August, 2008. She will be attending the International DoC/RC Dialogue in Vienna in June 2008.

Nancy Claire Pittman, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

A former missionary with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Pittman traveled to Boston in November 2007 to attend the Taiwanese Christian Church Council of North America. Recently, Pittman preached at the assemblies of the Central Area and the Northeast Area of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. In April 2008 Pittman will be preaching at the regional assembly of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. She will also be keynoting the assembly of the Southeast Area of the Christian Church in Kansas and will be preaching at the Kansas Regional Assembly in October 2008.

Dennis Smith, LaDonna Kramer Meinders Professor of New Testament

Smith has been accepted as a participant in the New Testament Faculty Seminar in Archeology which will take place June 19-28 in Ephesus, Turkey. This seminar will allow Smith to update his archeological work relative to several projects; namely the Acts Seminar and Jesus Seminar on Christian Origins (cities of Paul); the SBL Seminar on Meals in the Greco-Roman World (dining rooms and domestic space); and a proposed online course on the Social World of Early Christianity.

United Methodist Studies Chair Established

A couple from Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, Tulsa, has agreed to establish a chair at Phillips Theological Seminary honoring Boston Avenue’s senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

Richard and Norma Small are providing half the funds for a chair in United Methodist Studies. Chester and Debbie Cadieux, who are matching all new gifts to the seminary’s permanent endowment, are contributing the other half of the gift necessary to endow the academic chair.

“We are delighted that the Smalls, who have been generous to us for a number of years, have seen fit to enhance the already rich ties between Boston Avenue and Phillips,” said seminary president William Tabbernee. “Dr. Biggs has taught here. Our professors regularly teach classes at Boston Avenue. The Smalls have provided a wonderful gift and we are honored to have the Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Chair of United Methodist Studies here.”

Dr. Biggs has served as senior pastor of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa for more than twenty-six years.

Dr. Ellen Blue, associate professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies, is the first occupant of the Biggs Chair.

PTS and UMC Native American Clergy Leaders

In a recent article on Native American ministry in the United Methodist Reporter (March 7, 2008), five Native American clergy were mentioned by name. Three of the five—Chebon Kernell, David Wilson, and Anita Phillips—are PTS graduates.
Linda Harker
Named Outstanding United Methodist Alumna

The PTS UMC Oklahoma Alumni Council has tapped the Rev. Linda M. Harker (M.Div. 1997), Muskogee District superintendent, to receive the Outstanding Oklahoma Conference United Methodist Alumna Award. Linda will receive the award at the PTS alumni/ae luncheon during Annual Conference on Wednesday May 28 at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

Linda served at New Haven United Methodist Church and Faith United Methodist Church in Tulsa before being named district superintendent in 2006. Linda was elected as a delegate to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and serves on the boards of Circle of Care Ministries, Volunteers in Mission, Cookson Hills Mission, and is a dean of New Day Camp I. Mission work has taken her to Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, as well as around Oklahoma.

In a recent interview with PTS, Linda said:

My baptismal call compels me to walk in the ways of Christ: to offer love and grace, to seek and to give forgiveness, to serve my brothers and sisters both near and far away, to serve those I have met, and those I will never meet. The baptismal call compels me to be an advocate for those without voice, to seek justice, to love mercy, to walk in kindness. Living the simple (but difficult) rules of John Wesley sum it up: “Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God.”

Ministers’ Week 2008 Explored Racism and Religious Issues

In 1921 Tulsa endured one of the worst race riots in our nation. Today the Greenwood Cultural Center preserves the historic memorabilia and photos from before, during, and after the riot. This historically significant building was the setting for the lectures and discussion presented by the Rev. Dr. Robert Hope Franklin, president of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Franklin challenged participants at Ministers’ Week 2008 to become involved in eliminating racism in our communities, churches, schools, and political institutions.

We also enjoyed the hospitality of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, as its members prepared and served dinner as well as hosted worship. Mt. Zion was destroyed during the Tulsa riot only two months after completing construction of its new building. Even without insurance it was able to rebuild. Today it is a thriving church in the Greenwood district. Dr. Paul Finkelman, President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy and Senior Fellow in the Government Law Center at Albany Law School in Albany, New York, spoke at the dinner, providing a deeper understanding of the history and institutions of racism in the United States. Finkelman’s presentations were sponsored, in part by the YWCA of Greater Tulsa, for which we are very grateful.

Other highlights of Ministers’ Week included enlightening sermons by the Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers, (M.Div. ’79) senior minister of Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ, Oklahoma City; the Rev. Dr. Ray Owens, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Tulsa; and the Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, PTS Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services.

We also heard about churches which are reaching out to the communities around them. The Rev. Mike Hayes of Britton Christian Church in Oklahoma City spoke about the food bank, clinic and many other ministries the congregation has developed. The Rev. Cindy Mayes (M.Div. ’02) of Asbury United Methodist Church shared stories and a video about Project Transformation, a summer reading program for students. The YWCA of Tulsa provided a stimulating workshop focusing on “Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible” with Felicia Collins Correia and Kim Nave, both YWCA executives, facilitating the workshop.

Overall, the conference was a tremendous success. We hope you plan to join us at Ministers’ Week 2009 (January 20-22) when Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock will be one of the featured speakers.
Hurricane Katrina broke the levees in New Orleans and flooded the city for weeks. Most United Methodist church and agency buildings were destroyed, nearly 100 pastors were displaced, congregants were scattered, and many have not returned. Deciding what to rebuild is difficult, and since post-storm demographics are still unclear, there is not an obvious way to make decisions regarding the rebuilding process.

Members’ unprecedented need for comfort and “unchanging” sanctuary vies with the community’s overwhelming need for the church to respond to the prophetic demands of the gospel and reach out in service.

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Blue thought this situation provided an extraordinary occasion for an historian and practical theologian. The Association of Theological Schools agreed. Dr. Blue is one of five scholars nationwide who has been awarded a $30,000 Lilly Faculty Fellowship for a sabbatical project during academic year 2008-09 for a project entitled, “In Case of Katrina: Reinventing the United Methodist Church in Post-Katrina Louisiana.”

Her proposal noted that the UMC’s connectionalism, racial diversity, and relatively large number of adherents among mainline Protestant groups make it especially fruitful for study.

“Katrina has created an amazing teaching moment,” said Blue. “As a teacher, I am drawn to areas where academy, church, and world intersect. My work for my book, Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry, was intended to help students see connections between the parish and seminary studies. Writing about how United Methodist doctrine and polity lived in New Orleans should enrich my own understanding of how doctrine and practice interact, and thus my capacity to teach about this interaction.”

Dr. Blue is the Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies. She has twice taken seminarians from PTS to study “The Church’s Response to Katrina” and to observe how churches are choosing to re-make themselves and re-define their mission in the face of this extraordinary situation.

Tulsa Christians were affirmed, inspired, and challenged last month when the Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt, assistant professor of preaching and worship at Phillips Theological Seminary, presented the 2008 Barton-Clinton-Gordey Series at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa. The morning presentation on February 17 was televised to viewers in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri; and about 600 people came to hear each of the three evening presentations.

“In the past we have had some presenters who were excellent preachers, and others who were outstanding teachers, but Dr. Northcutt was both of those,” said senior minister Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. “She has an unusually wonderful stage presence and her intellect goes well with her arresting presentations.”

Dr. Northcutt, who is also a popular occasional Sunday School teacher at Boston Avenue, is the second PTS professor to be featured in the series. Dr. Brandon Scott, Darbeth Distinguished Professor of the New Testament, was the 2004 presenter.

The series is available for purchase on DVD by calling the church office, 918.583.5181, or can be streamed by accessing the church’s website at www.bostonavenue.org/sermons.shtml.

Shari Goodwin

Blue Wins Prestigious Sabbatical Research Grant
Down the hall from the stewardship department and the president’s office is a special file room. Few people have the keys. In it, we keep our endowment records. Each named endowed fund—for scholarships, for academic chairs, and for operations—has its own file. In those files are the stories of alumni/ae and friends, many of whom made bequests that resulted in named endowed scholarships after their deaths. I am currently working through the files, reading every one.

The reason? We are preparing a catalog of the more than 160 named partial and full scholarships in which we will lift up the donors and honorees and tell their stories. I am reading communications between former deans and family members of the deceased. I hear the voices of my predecessors in stewardship from their thank you letters to an alumnus/a or church member who let us know they had made a provision for the seminary in their estate plans. I hear the hopes and aspirations of our current and past students in their annual letters to the families or congregations—about their challenges in attending seminary. How they were transformed here. How they would not have been able to become a minister without this scholarship help.

For more information about establishing a named endowed scholarship now or through your will, contact Ginny Walker 918.270.6417 or virginia.walker@ptstulsa.edu.

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**A Room Full of Stories**

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**Faculty, Staff, and Alum Passings**

The seminary has been notified of the deaths of the following alumni/ae after the fall 2007 Seminary News was published in October:

- Leslie Andrews
- Scott Baird
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald
- Earl Gibbs
- Orvan Gilstrap
- Ruthie Jacobs (student)
- Fred Jordan
- Sheldon Shirts
- Norval Smith
- Bert Sutton
- Jerry Thompson
- Opio Toure (alum and trustee)
- Harold Van Cleave
- Margaret Wickstrom
- Frank Wilfinger
- William Wiseman, Jr.

In addition, two former members of the faculty also passed away. Dick Bush taught many courses at PTS in both world religions and United Methodist studies as an adjunct instructor. Dan Joyce served as a member of the faculty and as the dean of the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University in Enid.