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Winter 2017

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The Bridge

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Rachel Denzin

JAVEN Photography

Editor's Digest

Sometimes the best way to acknowledge and appreciate the impact an individual has had on our lives is to recognize that person in a public way. You may have (or have had) a mentor, colleague or friend who had a significant influence on your life or the lives of others. If you feel this person deserves to be honored in a public way, you may want to nominate him or her for the Alumnus of the Year Award. Dr. Leon Sanderson along with current HST Alumni Council members (Larry Arick, Dr. Allen Black, Gene Gilliland, Dr. Jim Martin, Dr. Willie Nettle and Linda Oxford) is requesting recommendations for the 2017 HST Alumnus of the Year recipient.

The specific guidelines for nominating the Alumnus of the Year are: 1) You must be a graduate of HST to nominate someone for this award. 2) You must nominate a graduate of HST to receive this award. 3) This person should reflect the 2016-2017 theme of HST, Life of Worship, and the theme verse, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). 4) You should include an explanation/justification for your specific nomination.

You may submit your nomination by mail (1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117) or email (hstadvancement@hst.edu). All nominations for this award are due by March 1, 2017. The Alumnus of the Year will be honored at our annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon in the spring.

Reflections FROM THE President



Jeff Montgomery

BY DR. BRUCE MCLARTY, PRESIDENT

Last summer, Dr. Jim Martin asked me to speak after the HST lunch at the Harding University Lectureship in the fall. It was an invitation to reflect on how my time at HST (1978-1982) earning the M.Th. degree has proven to be valuable to my life and ministry. This list of nine lessons I learned at then-Harding Graduate School of Religion is the fruit of that reflection.

Truth should be pursued fearlessly. I grew up in Memphis and graduated from Harding Academy, which is adjacent to HST. Sometimes during those growing up years, I heard people talk about how students had attended HST and changed. I wasn't sure how much I wanted to change, and I sure didn't want to lose my faith if that's what they meant. However, when I started my studies at HST in fall 1978, I quickly observed in my professors a refreshing, child-like trust in the Scriptures and a fierce determination to follow them wherever they led. They taught me Scripture itself calls us not to fear new truths we might discover but to humbly and confidently welcome and embrace them.

All Scripture is inspired and profitable. I have to admit I arrived at HST with an under-appreciation for the Old Testament Scriptures. Undergraduate Harding professors like Dr. Neale Pryor had done a great deal to impress on us the riches of the 39 books where, as he would tease us, "the pages in your Bible are still stuck together." However, I had a long way to go. Dr. Richard Oster's Religious Teachings of the New Testament class demonstrated the importance of the Old Testament Scriptures for Christians, and Dr. Phil Slate's World Evangelism class impressed on me that "the missionary must go to the field armed with a 66-book canon."

Study itself is a ministry. Many of my classmates and I arrived at HST with a lot of impatience. We had a fire in our bones and were anxious to get started in ministry. It was tough for us to take the time to stay in school for a few more years. I remember how Dr. Jack Lewis gave expression to what we needed to hear in our impatience when he spoke of "the ministry of study." Those words are anchored in my memory in a parable I heard often at HST about two farmers with wheat standing in the field when they saw a potentially disastrous hail storm on the horizon. One grabbed his sickle and immediately began to harvest his wheat. The other farmer took the time to sharpen his sickle before he entered the harvest. The message we heard: Take time to sharpen your ministry skills before launching into a lifetime of work. Study itself is a ministry.

Scripture has a center. I arrived at HST with a fairly flat view of the Bible. Up to that time, I had been taught many rich biblical truths. Yet I didn't have a very clear understanding of how these truths fit together. Sometime in my second semester, I remember hearing a sermon by Charles Coil that moved me deeply. At a time when I was feeling a bit overwhelmed by the sheer mass of what I was reading and learning, he preached a sermon at my home congregation on John 3:16. As he took me back to the core of the gospel, I felt like a huge weight had been taken off my back and that the sun began to shine in my soul again. It was teachers at HST who gave me a framework for understanding what happened that night. They showed me how Scripture itself speaks of "the greatest commandment," "a more excellent way" and "of first importance." All Scripture is inspired, authoritative and important, but the Bible is best understood when we know where to start.

There is much I can learn from people who aren't exactly like me. I remember writing on my exit interview at HST something like this: "I leave not wanting to be like any of my professors in every way but wanting to be like each of them in some important way." At HST, I cobbled together my identity and my convictions from the rich thoughts and examples of people with whom I do not agree on everything. It is possible to eat fish without swallowing the bones. Even today, as I look at the books on the shelves of my study, I think if a book contains even one or two important ideas then it has been significant in my life. And for that I am thankful.

Ministry, like study for a class, never gets finished. Someone at HST commented, "Sermons never get finished; the preacher simply runs out of time." I think they meant there are always more books you can read and additional ways you can improve the sermon. That has certainly been my experience in preaching. At HST, I never did all I could do for a class. I worked hard, took the tests, turned in the papers and received the grade. Yet I always knew I could have done more if I had more time. That was good preparation for a life of ministry. There is always more I should pray, more I should read, more I should do. Ministry never gets finished. Neither does the work of a college president. HST was good preparation for that.

Beware single factor analysis. When I came to HST, I was already committed to going as a missionary into the developing world. Because of that, I had a special interest in *(Continued on Page 8)*



Heather Gould

Jonathan Colvin (M.A.C.M.), newly hired young adult minister at Holmes Road Church of Christ in Memphis, is mentored by his friend and colleague B. Chris Simpson (M.Div.). Simpson is the former young adult minister and new co-pulpit minister at Holmes Road.

Mentored Ministry

BY DR. CARLUS GUPTON, PROFESSOR OF MINISTRY

Jim and Sue, raised in the South, intern for two years at a congregation in the upper Rocky Mountain region. Church life amid this missionally underserved population bears little resemblance to their Bible Belt upbringing. They witness commitment every day in the lives of the lead ministers and are given numerous opportunities to engage every aspect of full-time ministry with experienced mentors at their side. Their gifts and personalities are stretched through hands-on experience with continual feedback to hone their strengths. They gain confidence to move from the internship into a challenging ministry in a major Midwestern metropolis.

Bob is a critical scholar at heart. He reads voraciously, is skilled in Bible languages, and excels in substantive Bible teaching. He loves the church but, like many millennials, has been jaded by internal politics, policies that cater to entitled church members, and preoccupations with activities seemingly unrelated to mission. Out of respect for the importance God places on the local church, he decides to move incrementally into the work of ministry and apprentices at a large suburban congregation. This church provides a variety of opportunities for him to serve. Slowly, his heart softens toward congregational ministry in a way that seemed impossible a few years before.

Jon plunged into ministry right out of college. He is a gifted preacher and congregational leader with a good blend of scholarship, empathy and organizational skill. One major challenge remains for which he feels ill-prepared — church administration. He would rather not do it, but since he is the only full-time minister at a 200-member church, the bulk of administration lands in his lap. In collaboration with his professor, he researches administrative manuals and launches a full semester practicum of church “scut work,” learning the essence of administration is to guide the church toward ministry. Under the mentorship of an elder and his professor,

he develops effective templates to exercise the managerial aspects of church governance responsibly but not disproportionately.

These are just three examples of students who have been impacted by internships at HST. Students in both the M.Div. and M.A.C.M. degrees are required to fulfill at least three academic credits of supervised ministry experience and can elect as many as six hours. One approach, the apprenticeship, involves three consecutive semesters over a one-year period with the option to continue a second year. The other approach is a full-semester intensive practicum with the option to go a second semester. Students usually work with churches or organizations where they are already involved. At times, HST helps students find practicum settings, but most students are already engaged enough with their anticipated ministry contexts to make these arrangements independently. Regardless of the context, the experience begins with a collaboration between HST, the student and local ministry leaders to determine a practicum focus, conduct preliminary assessments and set growth goals. One person from the ministry context is designated as the local mentor who meets with the student several hours during the semester to monitor progress. Students also have scheduled checkpoints with HST faculty and interact online with all the other students enrolled in practicums that semester.

Ministers with considerable experience have the option to fulfill practicum hours through practice-based courses in leadership, conflict, spiritual formation, preaching or counseling.

Mentored ministry experiences are vital to one’s growth as a spiritual leader. At HST, we provide several opportunities for students to integrate this into their academic plan. It is a joy for the professors to interact with interns and apprentices as they learn valuable lessons in actual ministry practice.

A Spiritually Seasoned Man

BY ANDREW M. BRAXTER, M.DIV. STUDENT

In 1999, Dr. Harold Redd began a mentorship program with young African-American men aspiring to be Christian ministers through the M.A. Hull scholarship program. He believes he has encouraged, counseled and mentored countless men near and far for the majority of his life. However, he marks the beginning of his hands-on approach in mentoring with one of the first M.A. Hull scholarship recipients: Hamilton Archibald. In addition to Archibald, several other young men's lives have been touched through the program, including my own. Though Redd is a strong proponent of education, his desire is for his mentees to not only gain a degree but also a deeper relationship with

God through their understanding of the Scriptures. He believes preaching is one of the highest callings one can receive because it prepares hearers for life after this one. Because it is such an important calling, he constantly reminds young men of the need to take their calling seriously in and out of the pulpit.

My relationship with Redd began with admiration of his approach to handling the word of God. It has since grown to an admiration of his walk with God. He has caused me to think critically about my spirituality and scholarship. He has helped me to become more dedicated and diligent in my journey through continuing my education. He urges me to contribute to the spiritual

health of our society. When asked about advice for longevity in life and ministry, he responded, "Develop your own relationship with God. A good knowledge of his word can still be of great influence." Today, I consider Redd to be more than an intriguing speaker with a respected position among scholars; I consider him a friend, a brother and most of all a mentor.

In 2012 Patrick Morley wrote an article "Mentoring Younger Men" stating, "It takes a man to teach a man how to be a man." I wholeheartedly agree with Morley but would have to add, when speaking of Redd as one of my mentors, it takes a spiritually seasoned man to teach a young man to be a man of substance and spirituality.

Rich Mentoring Relationships

BY DR. LANCE HAWLEY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT

I currently sit in a corner office of the mansion at HST, an office left vacant by my mentor Dr. Allen Black, who has now moved into the dean's office. As a student (1999-2003), I worked as Black's graduate assistant for four years. I used to visit his office each week to talk about biblical studies, teaching Greek, family, the church and spiritual life. Unbeknownst to me, my work with him was preparation for my current position of teaching at HST. I was blessed with several tasks as Black's assistant. He was a true mentor in teaching, critical thinking and prayer. One time he gave me the assignment to research prayer in the Bible. I remember diligently searching biblical texts and secondary resources on the subject and compiling a list of biblical prayers. I suspect he intended this job as much for me as for his own research. It shaped my theology and informed my communication with the Father. Now, by the grace of God, I sit on the other side of the desk my adviser once occupied and welcome students to the office. It was a bit surreal at first and still is when I think about it. Although I have made a few adjustments to the office and I will no doubt entertain some different questions (I teach the Old Testament after all), the task of teaching and mentoring students remains the same.

Professor-student interaction revolves around the classroom and the plans laid out in the syllabuses, but mentoring happens in many venues at HST. It takes place in conversations after chapel, in the library, or at events put on by the Student Association or Missions Interest Group. I remember how meaningful it was when Black



Drs. Allen Black and Lance Hawley meet in 2001 (left) and 2017 (right).

Header Gould

visited my wife and me in the hospital following the birth of our first child. It seems to me it is this level of genuine care for students combined with

the very high level of expectation that fosters the rich mentoring relationships I have witnessed and been blessed by at HST. I am still being mentored by Black and attempting to follow his example. My office is open to students. I take their questions seriously. I care about their faith, their churches and their families. And, although I cherish the corner office of the mansion, I sometimes take my work to the library to chance upon a conversation with a student.

“HST challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.”



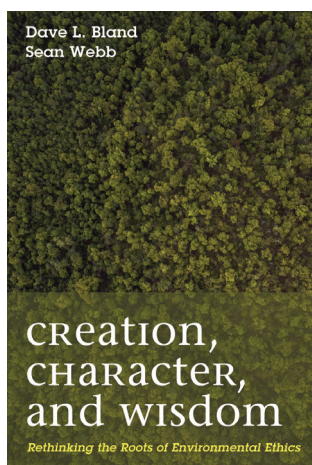
Ministry

HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty **Dr. Dave L. Bland** conducted a workshop “The Road to Christian Character” for the Slicer Street Church of Christ in Kennett, Missouri, in October 2016. **Dr. Carlus Gupton** concluded an 18-month interim ministry position at Lee Acres church in Tupelo, Mississippi, in January 2017. He also consulted with six congregations in five different states. **Dr. Evertt W. Huffard** helped equip church leaders in China and Singapore in July 2016. Additionally, he and his wife, Ileene, visited Alan Howell (M.Div., 2009) and Chad Westerholm (M.Div., 2009) in Mozambique. The Howell and Westerholm families are currently engaged in ministry together in Mozambique.

In their recently published book *Creation, Character, and Wisdom*, **Dr. Dave L. Bland**, professor of homiletics and D.Min. co-director, and Sean Webb (M.A., 2011) look at what the Bible says about environmental ethics.

“Whether on farms or in science classrooms, in neighborhood parks and bike paths or on grand excursions into national forests, keeping in regular, intimate contact with what God has made becomes a spiritual discipline, a way to cultivate in ourselves the right attitudes towards the magnificent, unmanageable, incomprehensible work of the divine Maker.”



Scholarship

HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni **Steven Gaines** (M.Div., 2015) won the Tennessee Communication Association’s top graduate student paper award Sept. 9, 2016, for “Constrained Prophetic Rhetoric: White Fragility and Radio Sermons in the Summer of 1968,” his paper about John Allen Chalk’s anti-racist sermons. He also presented his paper “No Half Savior: Spiritual Autobiography as Prophetic Rhetoric in the Testimony of Jarena Lee” at the National Communication Association convention in Philadelphia on Nov. 13, 2016.

Faculty **Dr. Dave L. Bland** spoke on “Practicing and Preaching Holiness” at the Harding University Lectureship in September 2016. He also attended the Academy of Homiletics and Society of Biblical Literature meetings in San Antonio in November 2016. **Dr. Evertt W. Huffard** spoke for the Asia Mission Forum in July 2016 in Malacca, Malaysia. He also taught in Africa along with his wife, Ileene, during the fall 2016 semester for the Harding University in Zambia program (HIZ). **Don Meredith** attended the Society of Biblical Literature meeting in San Antonio on Nov. 19-22, 2016.

Staff **Matt Carter** attended the National Conference on Youth Ministry in Daytona Beach, Florida, and the Gulf Coast Getaway conference in Panama City Beach, Florida in January. He also attended the Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship on Feb. 5-9.

Students **Caleb Dillinger** (M.Div.) published a review of *Recapturing the Voice of God* by Steven W. Smith in *Homiletic* (Vol. 41, No. 2, 2016).

Notes

FROM A

Novice

BY MACY JOHNSON, M.DIV. STUDENT

My opportunity to be a graduate assistant at HST came as quite a surprise. Dr. Carlus Gupton contacted me before I had even visited campus and offered me the opportunity to be his research assistant on a topic that has obvious implications for my own ministry — the role of women in the church.

Almost as soon as I started classes, Gupton assigned me readings on women's roles from multiple points of view. He then asked me to fairly and objectively sum up each side's argument in a document he could use as a base for discussion in his Ministry Roles and Relationships class. This project has been an incredible opportunity to look more deeply at a topic that matters to me on a personal level — and not just to look at the opinions with which I agree. I was expected to find solid evidence to support views with which I disagreed. Few things are more challenging or more humbling than research that brings you face to face with your argument's weaknesses and the other side's strengths.

When I was wrestling with some of the tough questions that this project raised, Gupton's presence beside me was invaluable. We met regularly throughout the project so he could offer critiques, give suggestions and assign more reading material. If he felt there was an area I was ignoring or handling poorly, he would assign more reading on it. Whether it was his intention or not, Gupton made this project as much about my personal growth as about the project itself. Because of his patient nudging, I gained practical knowledge, changed many of my opinions, and learned patience with others when discussing women's roles. Whether he knew it or not, Gupton was investing in me.

That investment will pay off in my ministry — in fact, it already has paid off in many ways. Thanks to the mentoring I received on this topic, I am better able to serve Christian women who are wrestling with the question of their role in the church. Although I am still learning and growing in this area, the time and effort Gupton spent mentoring me on women's roles will play a huge part in my ministry in the future.



Macy Johnson

Heather Gould

CHAPEL

Life of Worship

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
11-11:30 a.m.

BY ANANIAS MOSES, M.DIV. STUDENT

Our faith and love for God and others are shaped and deepened by the community of saints around us. God works through this community to fulfill his will and purpose in the lives of individuals. I believe God is using the HST community to help me better know him and be a competent servant.

One of the blessings HST offers me is being part of its worship assembly. We have chapel every day classes meet. Chapel provides time for renewal, healing, refocus, and most importantly experiencing the presence of God among his community. Additionally, it fosters spiritual discipline. I am challenged to grow in my ministry and life as a whole. Chapel is a great opportunity to hear how God is working in the lives of his people. My worldview is enlightened and broadened by the experience and life stories, songs, and prayers shared in chapel. By participating in chapel, I have come to realize chapel is a sacred time God uses to guide and develop a Christ-like character in me through his word and the lives of those around me.



Ananias Moses

Heather Gould

News & Events



Virtual Preview Day
February 28



Spring Break
March 13-17



Graduation
May 13

Intensive Course Week
March 6-11

Donor Appreciation Luncheon
April 20



DEGREE PROGRAMS

- M.A. Master of Arts
- M.A.C.M. Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- M.A.C. Master of Arts in Counseling
- M.Div. Master of Divinity
- D.Min. Doctor of Ministry
- C.C.C. Certificate in Church Counseling
- C.S.L. Certificate in Spiritual Leadership



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Reflections from the President (Continued from Page 3)

missions classes. “Beware single factor analysis” was almost a mantra for Slate. He encouraged us not to be duped by or to settle for easy explanations of complex matters. Then, as time went on, I realized I was hearing this same counsel from teachers in other classes, like counseling and exegesis. Now, hardly a day passes I don’t remember this HST challenge to look deeper and to ask one more question about why something is the way it is.

Value your Restoration roots. The M.Th. core required I take two classes in Restoration History. Dr. Earl West not only taught those classes but also wrote our textbooks. He spoke of our Restoration Movement ancestors as cherished family and dear friends. In his classes, I came to appreciate the spiritual heritage from which I came. Our roots are not perfect, and they are certainly not beyond critique. However, they are good and strong, and I came to embrace them as my roots.

My training at HST provided me with tools I can use for a lifetime. My wife and I were instructors at Harding University’s program in Greece during summer 2005. One of the classes Ann taught was Foundations of Education. Each night as she made her final preparations for the next day’s lecture, I got to be her first student. One of the most profound lessons I learned that semester was good teachers give their students new “folders” for our brains. That concept now helps me describe why I am thankful for the four years I spent at HST “sharpening the sickle” before launching out into the harvest. Since those days, I have had a lot more conceptual “folders” in my mind for the books I read, the lectures I hear and the experiences I have.

I treasure what I received from HST more than 35 years ago. It was marvelous preparation for ministry and now for life as a college president. And as proud as I am of the school HST was back in my time as a student, I am convinced the school is even better today.