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the Bridge

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Campus Mourns Loss of Earl West

► **Editor's note:** Dr. Earl West, professor emeritus, passed away Feb. 4 in Memphis, Tenn. School Librarian Don Meredith (M.Th. 1967, dmeredith@hugsr.edu) delivered this eulogy at the Feb. 5 memorial service.

I guess it's appropriate that a librarian speak about the books West wrote. I was fortunate to have a long association with West as librarian at the Harding Graduate School and witnessed the production of several of his works.

Earl left a great legacy through the books, articles and published lectures that he left behind. Although West wrote many articles, I am going to mention briefly only the books he authored; they will continue to be of inestimable value for anyone who is interested in or who studies about the American Restoration Movement in years to come.

West was a very humble man and never considered himself as an important person in the Restoration Movement or in churches of Christ. But West was the first

and for many years the only historian of the Restoration Movement within the churches of Christ. If a person wants to know what transpired



from the beginning of the American Restoration Movement in the early 1800s and in the churches of Christ up to 1950, his works are the ones to consult.

His interest in the Restoration Movement began when he was a student at Butler School of Religion in Indianapolis. The only comprehensive history of the Restoration Movement at that time was written in 1909 from the perspective of the Disciples of Christ. In his autobiography, *Searcher for the Ancient Order* (2004), he says, "I was frustrated by my

course work in the Restoration Movement; I had to do my own research and bury myself in the movement to learn about it ... Now the Restoration Movement took hold of me." West's research for his Bachelor of Divinity became in large part the first of five volumes on the history of the Restoration Movement.

This first volume of *Search for the Ancient Order*, which dealt with the Restoration Movement from its early beginnings in the 1800s to 1849, was published in 1949; Earl was only 29 years old. The title of the work was influenced by a series of 32 articles Alexander Campbell had published in his periodical *The Christian Baptist*, 1825-1829. Campbell titled his articles "Restoration of the Ancient Order of Things." In his autobiography, West states

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Harding University
Graduate School of Religion
1000 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117
www.hugsr.edu

„training ministers „enriching faith „transforming leaders

Admissions
800-680-0809
hgsadmissions@hugsr.edu

Advancement
901-761-1355
hgsadvancement@hugsr.edu

The Bridge editor
901-761-1356

HUGSR fax
901-761-1358

Website
www.hugsr.edu

Dean's office
dean@hugsr.edu

Associate Dean's office
smcleod@hugsr.edu

Library
hgslib@hugsr.edu

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Editor
Mark Parker

Contributors
Larry Arick, Evertt W. Huffard

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Tom Buterbaugh, Jennifer Hannigan

Harding University
Graduate School of Religion
1000 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117

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Dean's Note

Small, Strong and Faithful

The strength of a church may not be determined by its size. Flavil Yeakley estimates that 70 percent of the 13,000 congregations of the churches of Christ in the U.S. have fewer than 100 members. Although no correlation exists between numerical and spiritual growth, the size will determine leadership styles, the role of the preacher, how decisions are made, and structure. We do not know the size of the churches in Corinth, Ephesus, Colossae or Antioch, but we know about their spiritual status and their leaders. Small is OK; weak is not! The difference between the two usually points to the leaders.

According to George Barna, the main reason churches in America are dying is due to the lack of strong spiritual leadership — not size. Pray for stronger leaders.

PRAY FOR LEADERS TO ACCEPT GOD'S MISSION

Most small churches have three things in common: a shortage of personnel and money, inadequate supplies, and hardly enough of anything. The difference between the strong and weak congregations can be found in what they do with the resources they have. Callahan concludes that "with the grace of God, and with the resources with which God is blessing them, small, strong congregations share competent, compassionate mission in the community" [Kennon L. Callahan, *Small, Strong Congregations*

(2000, p. 129)].

The seven churches of Asia were not judged by their size but by their faithfulness to their mission. We are a church because we have a mission — not because we have a building. A building needs managers; a mission needs leaders who can give priority to the spiritual life of the church. More specifically, in a study of 324 "comeback churches," the top ten areas of greatest change were prayer, children's ministry, evangelism, youth ministry, leadership, missions, assimilation, worship, Sunday school/small groups, and organizational structure [Stetzer and Dodson, *Comeback Churches*, (2007, p. 193)]. The first conclusion of this research was that "leadership is the most important factor in making a comeback" (p. 203, 210).

PRAY FOR LEADERS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Spiritual leaders patiently wait on God's providence to bless a church with growth. James A. Harding comes to my mind as an example of the kind of leader who started a lot of congregations. He preached 500 sermons in 300 days in 1883. For 17 years he averaged 10 sermons a week. It was during his era that the number of churches in Nashville increased from 10 to 50. His mission did not depend on the size of the audience or the quality of the singing. On Feb. 27, 1902, at the age of 54, he wrote in *The Way*:



HUFFARD

We should pray to God to give us whatever is best for us, wealth or poverty, honor or humiliation, health or sickness, life or death; being sure that whatever he gives to his dutiful child will be a blessing; resting in the faith that for all that we sacrifice or suffer for him we may expect a hundred-fold reward, even in this present time.

Leaders in small, strong churches live with an unwavering confidence in the faithfulness of God as they use their limited resources to the glory of God.

PRAY FOR PATIENCE TO DEVELOP LEADERS

It may take a generation to develop spiritual leaders. That is hard to take in a culture expecting immediate results. The second Sunday in October, Ileene and I were blessed to be in Nazareth, Israel, for the appointment of two elders. We served this church for five years and in the past 30 years we have been back many times. Like most churches in the world, it is a small church with a story of the best and the worst of times. However, they have been faithful for decades. The closest church of Christ to the west is in Athens, Greece.

Pray for the strength of spiritual leaders who are few and carry the weight of the church on their shoulders.

► Dr. Evertt W. Huffard
(dean@hugsr.edu)

Faithful in Every Way

Each year we have a theme at the Graduate School. This year our theme is “Faithfulness.” Chapel talks and articles usually center on our theme. There are several ways people can be faithful. They can be faithful to their spouse, children, brothers, sisters, coworkers, parents, faith-based organizations, school, university, neighbors, friends, a sports team, the church and God.

One of the blessings I enjoy with my work at the Graduate School is being around so many faithful servants of God. I constantly see and visit with individuals who display faithfulness to one or more of

the items listed above. It is not a coincidence that one might be faithful to more than one of those. In reality, a person who is faithful to one will be faithful to more than one and even all of them. Scriptures tell us that we cannot be faithful to God whom we have not seen and not be faithful to someone we have seen. In other words, if someone is faithful to God, they will be faithful to their spouse. They will be faithful attending church.

It is also true that those who are faithful to God are faithful in their giving. We are blessed at the School to have many donors who have given faithfully for more than 50

years! Two couples I know very well come to mind. They are true examples of faithfulness to each other, the church, the Graduate School, their children, their friends, neighbors and God. None of the four attended Harding Graduate School of Religion. They give because they believe in our mission to better equip leaders for ministry.

If you would like information about how you can invest and partner with us to better equip leaders for a lifetime of ministry, give me a call at 901-432-7727 or email at larick@harding.edu.



ARICK

West *continued from Page 1*

that he devoured Campbell’s articles in *The Christian Baptist*.

The research for the first two volumes of Earl’s work was done before the old periodicals had been microfilmed, and he had to make trips to libraries that had these volumes and slowly flip through them page by page and take handwritten notes of their contents. Very fortunately, the library at the Butler School of Religion had an excellent collection of these materials. He was also able to spend many hours at the library of the old College of the Bible in Lexington, Ky., where J.W. McGarvey had taught. Scanning through West’s volumes and looking at footnotes reveals the immense amount of time and effort spent writing these books. After several of the important periodicals were microfilmed and were more readily accessible, West spent many hours slowly scrolling page by page through each volume and taking handwritten notes on hundreds of 4 x 6 cards.

West told the story of the Restoration Movement through the lives of its characters. In “Personal Note” in his 1993 volume, West stated:

It should be emphasized that the Restoration Movement is the story of people — their thoughts, their personalities, their actions and their interplay with forces that surrounded them. To a serious

student of this movement, all that these people did and thought is of interest.

The author has tried to throw as much light on them and their deeds as seemed feasible to make the times and personalities come alive for those who read restoration history for the pure joy of it.

Through his anecdotes, he brought their stories to life. One such example comes from volume one of West’s history about Jacob Creath Jr., an early preacher in the movement:

In Creath’s many trips over Missouri in preaching, he rode an old horse he called Jack. He was very much attached to this horse. On one occasion he stopped with a brother in a village, and the man sent the horse to the tavern stable. The tavern was owned by a member of the church that knew Creath well. Frequently, Creath would send someone over to see if Jack had been fed, then watered, and bedded. The lady became annoyed finally and sent word back to Creath: “Go tell Brother Creath that I have done everything for his horse I can think of, except to give him a cup of coffee, and I am getting that ready.”

In 1950 West published the second volume of his *Search for the Ancient Order* that covered the years 1866 to 1900. The third volume published in 1979 covered to 1918, and the fourth volume in 1987 continued the story to 1950. In 1993 he published *The Trials of the Ancient Order, 1844-1865*. In this work he presented supplementary

material for his first volume published 45 years earlier. In 45 years and five volumes, West had written 2,027 pages on the history of the Restoration Movement.

His interest in the restoration characters is reflected in the major biographies he produced. In 1954 he wrote a biography of David Lipscomb, long-time editor of the *Gospel Advocate* and leader among the churches of Christ based on his Master of Theology thesis completed at Butler in 1953. In 1983 he published a biography of Benjamin Franklin, restoration leader and editor of a major periodical in the Restoration Movement. He published Hugo McCord’s biography in 1999. McCord had baptized West when he was 15 years old. They remained very close friends until McCord’s death.

West created his own publishing company, Religious Book Service, to publish his works and reprint valuable 19th century works to make them available to those who did not have access to them. In keeping with his conviction of the importance of the people in the movement, he reprinted *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, the life of Jacob Creath, and the life of John “Raccoon” Smith and kept them in print so others could be introduced to these significant men and their thoughts.

Thank you, Dr. West, the Restoration historian among the churches of Christ, for the incredible amount of work you did and the resources you left behind for us and generations to come.



MEREDITH

Training the Next Generation

One of the biggest blessings of a school having an established history is seeing second-generation students come through the halls where their parents once walked. Harding Graduate School is no different, and so we wish to note some of the second — and third — generation families associated with the Graduate School.

Do you know of others not included here? Share their next generation stories on the Graduate School Facebook page: www.hugsr.edu/facebook.

TOM BLAKE (M.Th., 1976; M.A., 1978)

BRAD BLAKE (M.Div., 1995 & D.Min., 2001)

Tom was a student of Restoration Movement history, served in two churches in Ontario, Canada, and planted another. He considered his years in Memphis as formative in developing the mind of Christ. He served the church in Lebanon, Tenn., until his death in 1993.

Brad says he came to Harding Graduate School to study under professors well researched in missiology. "HUGSR taught me to think critically, which has helped me in every aspect of life," he says. When considering his goals in missions, Brad says his father encouraged his plans for graduate education to "be the best servant possible." Brad adds that he has had other experiences at graduate schools but found that his education at the Graduate School was "second to none."

SHAWN DAGGETT (M.Div., 1986)

JEREMY DAGGETT (M.Div. student)

Shawn happily reports that he completed the M.Div. in two years and five months. He came to the Graduate School to prepare more adequately for his mission work in Italy, form a team, and raise money for that work.



He says his time at the Graduate School taught him "disciplined study and learning to understand Scripture for myself." Shawn teaches at Harding University.

Jeremy, who is preparing for more mission work, describes his reasons for coming to the Graduate

School: "Dad told me that the single greatest tool on the mission field was having attended HUGSR. The education, ministry and community he experienced there, in the hands of God, produced fruit on the mission field . . . I'm following in my father's footsteps and hope to garner the same benefits he did." Jeremy lives in Searcy, Ark.

GEORGE HANKINS (M.Div., 1988)

JESSI R. BERGER (M.A. in Counseling student)

George came to Harding Graduate School to learn how to better live life pleasing to God. He notes that the connections with other people were key in his experience here as he got to know and learn

from people dedicated to Christian education and Christian living. George serves as chaplain at Wade Park Veterans Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio.



Jessi, a student in the counseling program, specifically came to the Graduate School to be trained in a Christian environment as a counselor. Coming to her father's alma mater was not a factor in deciding to come here, but she says now that it is a special experience to fol-

low in his footsteps. An added bonus for Jessi is that at the Graduate School she met her husband, John, also a counseling student.

RAY HOOPER (M.A.R., 1973)

MARK HOOPER (M.Th., 1984)

KYLE HOOPER (M. Div. student)

Ray, Mark and Kyle Hooper boast three generations attending Harding Graduate School. All three are in ministry and have extensive missions experience in Southeast Asia.

Ray came to the Graduate School while preaching for the Collierville, Tenn., congregation just east of Memphis. But his was a non-traditional road. Converted at the age of 28, he was a field



engineer in Texas. After becoming a Christian he wanted to become a preacher and so began his training in Searcy and continued it in Memphis.

His son, Mark, was a boy at the time and saw his father both as a preacher and a student. "He saw the spiritual development I experienced," Ray says. "He grew up with that positive environment."

Mark grew up around the Graduate School and knew from his father about the quality of the faculty. He notes how men like Harold Hazelip, Phil Slate, Earl West and Jack Lewis helped him grow and mature. "While at HUGSR, I gained valuable life and

ministry experience. Life on campus and the lifelong friendships we developed with other student couples shaped our lives." Mark is the facilitator for Asia at Missions Resource Network in Dallas.

Kyle was impressed by the level of academic rigor he saw and the good reports he heard from his father and grandfather. He has connected even more with others while here. "The network of ministry relationships I've developed at the Graduate School will benefit me long after my class work is over," he says. He is an M.Div. student, and his wife, Rebecca, is a counseling student. They plan to serve as long-term missionaries in Southeast Asia.

JOHN F. KENNEDY (M.A. in Counseling, 2006)

JOHN MICHAEL KENNEDY (M.Div. student)

John came to the Graduate School to pursue a life of ministry after a successful career as a CPA. "After 9/11, I wanted to make a difference — a real difference through full-time ministry." Bringing his passion for ministry together with counseling skills, John says he feels integration between work, home, recreation and spiritual life. "The entire HUGSR faculty and staff enabled me to live out my dream of deeper service in the kingdom," he says. John is currently a counseling instructor at the Graduate School.

John Michael came to HUGSR because he "saw the people that surrounded and loved my parents," he says. His dad started studies here as John Michael was about to enter college. "I sat in chapel as a soon-to-be college student during the summer courses and got to know some of the students in the apartments. I discovered that I needed further education and training, and I trusted the people here at HUGSR because of their lives and examples revealed to me over my college years." Study at the Graduate School has not only helped him think more completely about Scripture but also bolstered his faith in God, he says. John Michael is youth minister at the Millington (Tenn.) Church of Christ.

MICHAEL A. MCGRAW (M.Th., 1981)

DANIEL MCGRAW (M.Div., 2008)

Mike became a Christian while attending Memphis State University, wanted to increase his Bible knowledge, and was looking at a career in archaeology. The challenge of graduate work was made even more formidable by his hearing impairment. The challenges paid off, he says. "The years I spent at HUGSR were formative for me in getting a biblical perspective on life, relationships, and the issues we encounter." Mike works for the Department of Justice in Memphis.

Daniel came to the Graduate School to prepare himself for "the academic and personal challenges of ministry." His dad challenged him to not just attend the Graduate School just because he did, but to discern on his own what he was called to do with his life. "My time at HUGSR prepared me to listen to others' positions and understand where they are coming from (an important part of campus ministry), and effectively communicate my own position and

faith," Daniel says. "The challenges and rigors of academics, as well as deep discussions with my professors, prepared me for these challenges." Daniel is currently doing mission work in Argentina.

EDDIE RANDOLPH (M.Th., 1986; D.Min., 1993)

ANA RANDOLPH (M.A. in Counseling student)

Eddie is the newest member of the Graduate School faculty, beginning as associate professor of ministry in fall 2010. "I originally came to HUGSR to 'learn to preach,'" he says. "I didn't even know



what a master's degree was before applying at the Graduate School." His decision was influenced by a friend encouraging him to "get a degree," he remembers. "It was sound reasoning and by far the best decision I could have made." Now that he is a faculty member and his daughter is a student, he has a unique perspective. "There is a quality to the community at HUGSR that is far richer than what I experienced 25 years ago. It is delightful

to see my daughter being blessed and mentored by professors who care about all aspects of her life — not just her academic success."

Ana is a student in the counseling program and director of communications for the student association. The dual licensure option of marriage and family therapist and/or licensed professional counselor attracted her to the program here. The fact that she knew many of the faculty and staff was also helpful. "I am glad I got here six months before my dad started as a professor, so I am not known only as Dr. Randolph's daughter," she adds.

EDWARD SHORT (M.A., 1976)

LEWIS SHORT (M.Div. student)

Edward, now senior producer for World Christian Broadcasting in Nashville, Tenn., came to the Graduate School to study under Jack Lewis. What he experienced here, in addition to receiving Bible knowledge and skills, "strengthened my faith in Scripture and boosted my self-confidence," he says. His commitment to the Graduate School remains strong and he believes that "the preparation that HUGSR gives students is second to none!"



Lewis now serves as a missionary in Milan, Italy, and works on his M.Div. through distance-friendly classes. He says he came to the Graduate School because "I needed better training to face ministry challenges and to face myself." The experience even blessed his marriage, he says.

What is it like to attend the same school where his father went? Lewis says, "In earlier years, I would have been irritated at being under my father's shadow in this way. Now I just enjoy the shade."

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Training *continued from Page 5*

FRED STRASSER (M.Th., 1987; D.Min., 2006)

JONATHAN STRASSER (M.Div. student)

Fred came to the Graduate School to, simply put, “be a better minister.” In addition to that, he developed relationships with faculty members that have lasted for more than 25 years. The Graduate School, he explains, has been “like family. I have stayed in contact via phone and have relied on past professors for counsel long after I left.”



Fred has ministered to the Wynne (Ark.) Church of Christ since 1987.

Jonathan knew the Graduate School early. “Dad was always coming here to borrow a book from the library, to pick up supplies for a Bible class, or to take another course in continuing education.” Jonathan is a missions-focused student in the M.Div. program. The Graduate School

attracted him because he wants “to be more effective in cross-cultural missions and to be more equipped in teaching the word in any context.”

His ultimate goal is African missions, and while in Memphis he is developing his ministry skills by serving in an inner-city church.

STEVE TEEL (M.A.R., 1976; M.Th., 1980; D. Min., 2010)

JONATHAN TEEL (M.A. in Counseling and M.Div., 2009)

Steve came to the Graduate School in 1975 knowing much, as he puts it, about doctrine and the church. It was at the Graduate School that he “came to know who Jesus is.” As a missionary to Argentina for 15 years, this knowledge of Jesus was vital.

At the same time his son came to do master’s work, Steve began his doctoral studies. “The D.Min. environment of active interchange between students and teacher is truly dynamic. I felt a sense of shared ministry and thus a unique spiritual kinship.”

Steve credits his ability to study at the Graduate School in the 1970s to the “positive encouragement of my parents.” And he passed on the favor to Jonathan.

“Since Jonathan and I were attending classes at the same time,” he says, “there was the blessing of getting his perspective on the things that he was discovering. Often he would challenge me with his insights. This affirmed the tremendous value that HUGSR still has for the training of ministers.”

EUGENE UNDERWOOD (M.A., 1972)

SHEILA VAMPLIN (M.A. in Counseling, 1998)

ALAN UNDERWOOD (M.Div., 2005)

Eugene challenges Christians to study the Bible at the same level they would their professional training. “Otherwise their biblical understanding may easily begin to seem simplistic,” he says. A

retired English professor from Harding University, Eugene took his advice to heart and passed on that value to his children. His time at



the Graduate School gave him knowledge, he notes, and “strengthened my biblical understanding and helped round out information gained in secular graduate schools.”

Sheila credits her father’s life as one reason for attending the Graduate School. “Because my dad had studied here and because of having seen my dad’s faith throughout my life, I knew that it had been a good experience in his life.” She now works as a counselor in Memphis, having earned her license as a marriage and family therapist after graduation. “I’m thankful to my family for the values they have passed on to me, and I’m similarly thankful to the Graduate School for the way it has blessed my life and shaped who I am.”

Alan was challenged by the thought of completing a master’s degree but felt “if my dad could do it, I could do it too.” He notes that his time at the Graduate School was marked with excellent Christ-centered theological training and the relationships formed with professors. Alan lives in Hernando, Miss.

FLOYD WILLIAMSON (M.A.R., 1990; M.Div., 2004)

CARL WILLIAMSON (M.Div., 2010)

Floyd came to the Graduate School because of the professors’ expertise, faith, and “love for our Lord and his people.” At the same time, he appreciates that the faculty “encourage active and open dialogue with all good scholarly research.” When reflecting on his studies here, Floyd notes, “I learned that service in the Lord’s kingdom is not just about knowledge but people, wisdom, abilities, remaining faithful to our God — things that



are critically important in authentic Christian ministry.” He ministers at the Oxon Hills congregation in Temple Hills, Md.

Carl is a church planter in East Brunswick, N.J. As a child, Carl lived on campus while his father was a student. “My favorite memory of Memphis as a child was going to the Kendall Hall dorm for a Cherry Coke,” he says. “After having stayed in the dorms as a child, I always dreamed of coming back myself.” Another fond memory is the smell of books in the library. Carl’s, wife, brother and mother have also taken classes here.



Students join in during the weeklong celebration of Theological Libraries Month.

Library Becomes Celebration Central

» THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES MONTH

The staff of the Graves Memorial Library celebrated Theological Libraries Month in October with daily celebrations during the last week of the month. The American Theological Library



OWEN

Association designates October for increasing awareness of theological library services. Each weekday, the library staff

treated the campus community to refreshments and fellowship in the Rogers Research Center. Sheila Owen, associate librarian, estimates that 175 individuals were served during the celebrations. "Or maybe just 15 that kept coming for snacks," she jokes.

» KING JAMES BIBLE'S 400TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Jan. 27, the library hosted a celebration of the 400th birthday of the King James Bible. The library staff decided that it was an ideal place to host such an event since the library's collection is so indebted to the literary heritage of the 1611 translation and its role in both church and society during the subsequent four centuries.

"The event provided the library an opportunity to display significant older English

Bibles from the collection, while showcasing some rare Bibles on loan from individuals," reports Bob Turner, circulation librarian.



TURNER

These pieces were exhibited alongside recently published literature that honors the legacy of the iconic Bible translation.

Brief lectures about the importance of the translation

were given by Irvin "Tank" Tankersley of the University of Memphis and resident expert, Dr. Jack P. Lewis. A chapel service was followed by a reception where guests were treated to a red velvet cake in the image of a King James Bible. Students, staff, and alumni were joined by guests from area churches as well as local institutions such as Rhodes College, Christian Brothers University, University of Memphis, and the Museum of Biblical History.

Oster Publishes *Quest for the Gospel*

Dr. Richard Oster, professor of New Testament (roster@hugsr.edu), has published *Quest for the Gospel: Contemporary Proposals from Churches of Christ*. This work may be previewed and purchased through the link at www.hugsr.edu/oster.

Dr. Rodney Plunket (M.Div., 1990, rplunket@cocws.org) writes this in his review of the book: "Oster's *Quest* engages in the unity discussion currently taking place in churches of Christ by offering a critique of the influential book *The Jesus Proposal* by Rubel Shelly and John York ... He notes that Shelly and York suggest that the core is the 'death, burial and resurrection' of Jesus. He contends, 'There are at least three more major theological points that are at the core of early Christian preaching and theology: Centrality of God the Father [theocentrism], the enthronement and rule of Christ, and the eschatological judgment of God.'"

McMillion Presents

Dr. Phil McMillion (pmcmillion@hugsr.edu) presented "Gideon the Judge as portrayed in the Pitts Theology Library Digital Image Archive" at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta. The paper was in the section "The Bible and the Visual Arts." He also presented a weekend seminar on "The Bible and Archaeology" at the Willisville (Ark.) Church of Christ.

Former Professor Dies in December

Dr. Donald Sime, professor in the early years of the Graduate School in Searcy and Memphis, died Dec. 8, 2010, in North Carolina. The campus extends sympathy to his wife, Pat, and family.

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Final Word

Name Change: Harding School of Theology

It is with great excitement that Harding University Graduate School of Religion announces that, effective July 1, 2011, the school will become Harding School of Theology.

The change comes at the end of a two-year process involving the dean, faculty, staff, alumni, advisory board, University president and board of trustees.

The process culminates in a rebranding strategy that seeks to reflect better the School's goal of equipping and inspiring servants of Christ with deeper faith and higher standards of scholarship. "Graduate School of Religion" as a designation no longer communicates who we are," explains Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, vice president and dean of the school. "We are much more

interested in students knowing God than knowing religion."

And while the name changes, the core values of the school remain the same. "The Graduate School is not changing its commitment to the word of God or to serving churches of Christ," Huffard says. "Rather, this change helps us communicate those commitments."

Huffard explains that Harding Graduate School has always focused on helping ministers to be better equipped for the challenges of ministry. "That commitment is in no way changing," he adds.

The name change has no associated administrative or academic changes. The school remains under the leadership of the Harding University president and board

of trustees.

The rebranding will help communicate that the school is a caring, engaged academic community. "We have a relentless passion to understand and live the word of God," says Mark Parker, assistant vice president. "We pray this entire process will allow us to communicate our passions and commitment better."

The campus will celebrate the name change July 8 at an inaugural event in the W.B. West Jr. Auditorium. Officials from Harding University and Memphis area dignitaries will mark the occasion at the 10 a.m. gathering. The celebration is open to all faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the School.