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Summer 2019

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Harding School of Theology

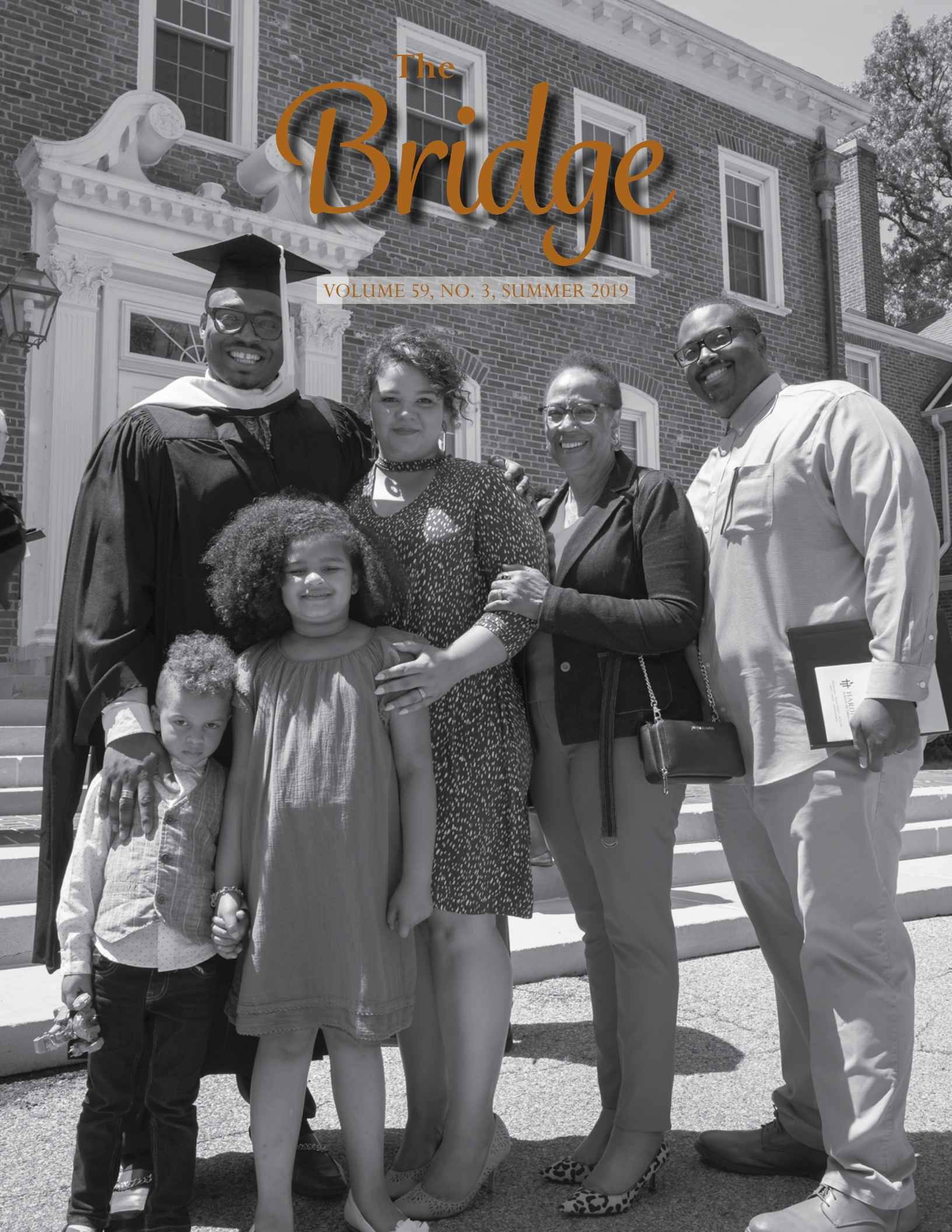
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The
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The Bridge is published quarterly by Harding School of Theology for alumni, students, prospective students, contributors, and friends.

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NEWS & EVENTS

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B. Chris Simpson (MACM, '19) and Family
Photo Credit: Jeff Montgomery

Heartfelt Gratitude & Congratulations!

By Greg Muse,
HST Advancement Director

Harding School of Theology hosted a donor appreciation luncheon on Thursday, April 25. The annual event is an opportunity to thank sustaining donors and to recognize the school's alumnus of the year. Approximately 110 guests, faculty, staff, and students enjoyed a buffet meal of pork and chicken in the W.B. West Center on campus. Arrangements of fresh cut magnolia branches and greenery complemented 14 tables set for eight.

This year's Alumnus of the Year inductee, Dr. Terrell Lee (M.Th. '82, D.Min., '96), was honored for his years of church ministry with a plaque presented by HST Dean, Dr. Allen Black. Dr. Lee accepted the award with grace and wit before expressing thanks for the education HST made possible. He has ministered for more than 30 years to the Reidland Church of Christ in the suburbs of Louisville, Kentucky.

"Discipleship" is the 2019 academic theme at Harding School of Theology. Dr. Lee, HST Vice President Dr. Jim Martin, and Harding University President Dr. Bruce McLarty all included the theme of discipleship in their prepared remarks. Dr. Lee and Dr. McLarty are both members of HST's 1982 graduating class.

The advancement director thanked donors for their support of HST before defining the concept of advancement. He favorably compared the generosity of HST donors to the benefactors of nationally recognized seminaries. With tongue firmly in cheek, he demonstrated how to write a check to HST.

Associate Dean Dr. Steve McLeod recognized 2019 graduates in attendance. John Coffey and Matthew Love, two of those graduates, offered a prayer and expressed thanks on behalf of their graduating class. Guests and students met and mingled long after the program had ended.

Photo Credit: Jeff Montgomery



Greg Muse

Reflections FROM THE Dean



Photo Credit: Jeff Montgomery

It's a Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Dr. Allen Black, HST Dean

By the time you read this Harding School of Theology's 61st annual graduation will be a thing of the past. As I write it is a little over a week away. Graduation is one of my favorite times of the year. I know that according to the song, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is in December, but May is an exciting and energizing time for me.

The beginning of "graduation season" is our Donor Appreciation Luncheon in late April. The program for that luncheon has a list of graduates on the inside, with an indication of what they are or will be doing for the kingdom. I love reading through that list. During the luncheon a graduating student speaks to the group about his/her experience at HST. This year it was Matt Love, who has done his Master of Divinity degree while preaching in Beebe, Arkansas, and who will continue preaching there while pursuing Baylor University's new Ph.D. in preaching. At the luncheon we also present the Alumnus of the Year Award. This year's recipient, Terrell Lee, has been preaching in Paducah, Kentucky, for 34 years. The list, the graduating student's speech, and the Alumnus of the Year Award are the opening of graduation season.

The season continues as several of our graduates make their last presentations in chapel — individually or in panels of graduates. It is wonderful to see how far they have come and how God has gifted them. It is exciting to think about the impact they are already having and to ponder what they can do for Christ in the future.

The season culminates in the graduation weekend with a reception on Friday evening, the graduation itself on Saturday morning, and then a luncheon for students and their families. On Friday evening we are reminded of the importance of each student's work here as students and their guests come together from all over the country. Family and friends come to celebrate their graduate's achievements. Last year and this year we have even had guests come from Africa to celebrate with graduates from there. Near the end of the evening together, we gather

in the chapel for worship, recalling the many who have worshipped there for the past 60+ years. I like to ponder the many servants of God who have worshipped in that room, as if we are surrounded by a cloud of HST witnesses.

This year we will add 25 more to our 1,703 graduates. Four have completed the Master of Arts degree, most of whom plan to pursue further graduate work. One international student from Zimbabwe will receive her Master of Arts in Counseling degree and then go on to work on a Ph.D. in counseling at Biola University. Six have completed the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree. All of them are already involved in full-time church ministry: three preaching, one in campus ministry, one in worship leading, and one as an associate minister. These three degrees represent two years of full-time work — longer for most of these students since they worked on them part time.

“ It is exciting to think about the impact they are already having and to ponder what they can do for Christ in the future. ”

The Master of Divinity degree represents more than three years of full-time work, with most students taking four or more years. Twelve students have completed M.Divs this year. Seven of them are or will soon be preaching. Two of them are youth ministers and one is a family minister. Two students, both former HST M.Div. graduates, will be receiving their Doctor of Ministry degrees. Both of them have been preaching for many years with the same congregation, one in Montana and one in California.

I am proud of every student. I believe they are better equipped for service to our great God. HST's goal is to challenge Christian leaders to deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship. At the luncheon Dr. Steve McLeod reads a summary of items from the graduating students questionnaire. Our students overwhelmingly indicate we are meeting our goal. Every year I come away from graduation season energized for another year, proud of what our graduates are contributing to the kingdom of God.

Look Where You Want to Go

By Terrell Lee

Following Jesus demands the right tools. In a recent HST chapel sermon, I shared several critical foundations (beliefs) of discipleship: (1) God loves me; (2) God is good; (3) God is present; and (4) Satan is a liar. In this brief article, I want to jump right to the point: How do disciples finish well in their walk with Jesus? And the answer is: by learning to ride a motorcycle. Maybe some explanation will help.

According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, many bikers don't understand two critical principles for safe motorcycling. Numerous accidents can be traced to rider error, often involving failure to practice these basic principles. Consider counter-steering, a reality about 80% of riders don't understand. Simply, beyond 15 mph, the rider must turn right to go left. Google counter-steering! You may be amazed at how it works.

Additionally, the biker must look where he wants to go, not where he is. Sounds easy enough. Several years ago, while riding in the Smokies, I began staring at the yellow line on the road. Try as hard as I might, I couldn't turn away. I forgot the principle — look where you want to go, not where you are. Wiping out is never on my agenda, but I did that day.

Disciples who gaze at their circumstances may find themselves questioning God's love, goodness, and presence. However, the disciple must remember these doubts come from Satan who always lies. Satan draws our attention to our wounds, which create false beliefs, which lead to emotional upheaval and dysfunctional behaviors, sometimes with devastating results.¹ A disciple who gazes in the wrong direction will often try to perform his way back to God, or overindulge in people-pleasing, or even get another seminary degree. When rooted in unhealthy motives, even noble pursuits may be as dangerous, intoxicating, and addictive as opioids used to numb pain.

Personal reflection leads me to affirm that fixing my eyes on Jesus and ignoring Satan's lies that question God's love, goodness, and presence will help me look where I want to go. And that's how I plan to finish well — by fixing my eyes on Jesus, who is truth, and remembering that Satan is a liar.

¹ See Terry Wardle, *Healing Care, Healing Prayer*.

Photo Credits: Jeff Montgomery



Terrell Lee



Terrell Lee, family, and friends

Alumnus Honored

By Matt Carter

Each year, the HST Alumni Association chooses an alumnus of the year based on the school's theme for the year. The theme for 2018-2019 is Discipleship, and Terrell Lee is an excellent example of a life of discipleship. He was honored as Alumnus of the Year at the annual Donor Appreciation Lunch April 25.

Lee preached his first sermon at age 15. By 16, he was preaching twice a month, and at 17 began preaching every week. Over 40 years later his passion for proclaiming the gospel still burns brightly. As an HST student, Lee preached for the Crockett Church of Christ in Senatobia, Mississippi, and the Arnold Church of Christ in Arnold, Missouri, graduating with his M.Th. degree in 1982. In 1984 Lee began preaching for the Reidland Church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky, where he continues to serve today.

Lee is a servant leader. In Paducah, he has served in several ministries providing support for low-income families, including tutoring in a local school and bagging groceries with Paducah Cooperative Ministries. He has also supported the West Kentucky Children's Home (now New Pathways for Children) and participated in a number of mission trips.

Lee is recognized as a disciple by his fellow ministers. HST alum Dr. Jerry Jones noted that Lee is respected by his fellow ministers for his character and preaching ability. He is admired for his knowledge of Scripture even among his fellow alumni, which is saying something! Another alum, Dr. Gene Gilliland, describes Lee as "a disciple bent on making disciples."

Discipleship has been a theme of Lee's ministry. He earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from HST in 1996. His dissertation focused on small groups ministry. He has led a men's group for many years. He studied spiritual formation at Lipscomb University and has conducted spiritual retreats. He also mentors younger preachers.

Dr. Allen Black, who taught with Lee at a retreat in Germany in the late '90s, says, "I have always been impressed with his gifts, his dedication, and his humility."

The plaque honoring Lee reads: "For 40 years of preaching ministry, including 34 years of loving service to Reidland Church of Christ. Given in deep appreciation for his humble labor as a disciple, bent on making other disciples."



Library Notes: Special Collections

By Bob Turner

Most users and guests think of our collection in terms of books and journals. We are happy for that. Our primary commitment is to supporting students and faculty with the written works they need for their research. Lately we've done a little more with our Special Collections that deserve attention.

The library staff are partnering with the Office of Advancement to bring "World of the Bible" to local churches and community groups. This traveling exhibition of antiquities includes pottery from the time of Abraham, slinging stones from the time of David, and oil lamps from the days of Jesus. "World of the Bible" engages audiences of all ages through its use of material culture, storytelling, historical insights, and hands-on interaction. In addition, this exhibition gives the library an opportunity to reach an audience well beyond Cherry Road.

Paige Brevick (Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology, University of Memphis) did an internship with the library during the spring semester. Brevick assessed the strength of our Egyptology book collection, created a photo inventory and spreadsheet database for the artifacts we received from the Jack P. Lewis Collection, and provided conceptual help with our archival program, including "World of the Bible." We're so grateful for her significant contribution.

Enoch (M.Th., 1979) and Jeannine Thweatt, who spent many years as missionaries in Taiwan, donated three porcelain figurines from Vietnam to the library. The Thweatts acquired the pieces in 1946 in Da Nang. The gift includes an 11-inch Buddha and two 9-inch female figurines, likely slip-casted into a plaster mold and then glazed in porcelain. The pieces complement our significant print holdings of mission reports from East Asia, providing researchers with non-Christian material from the region.



The library received a set of more than 100 lantern slides (made from glass) depicting life in Japan from 1910-1930. The slides are a gift from Dwight (M.Th., 1974; M.A., 1977) and Josephine Albright, who have worked with Japanese churches since 1977. They received the slides from Joe Cannon, distinguished missionary of Churches of Christ, whose missions career included time in Japan, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Full-text documents from the John Allen Chalk Collection are now available. Visit the collection of 6,000+ scanned documents at scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/.



Fun, Friends, & Funds

A happy crowd of runners, faculty, families, and pets gathered on Harding School of Theology's front lawn to participate in the 18th annual Run for the Son 5K on Saturday morning, March 30. The traditional 5K/fun walk raises money and community awareness for HST. Women for Harding partners with the school's advancement office to host the event each spring.

Grand Marshals Leon and Marilyn Sanderson led the runners through the residential running course in an open Ford Thunderbird convertible. After the race, runners and guests enjoyed refreshments provided by Women for Harding and a local food truck. Guests were invited to tour the school's Georgian-style mansion that serves as the administration building.

Every runner received a soft blue t-shirt printed with the 2019 run logo and sponsorships, as well as a gift bag of coupons, craft coffee, power bar, and water. The race is professionally timed and ranked by age and gender categories. Ninety-eight runners crossed the finish line this year. Best-time winners were Andrew Henton, age 16, and Jackie Marable, age 30, both of Memphis. The three top winners in each age category received Olympic-style medals.

"Our 5K is a fun opportunity to bring our community to the campus for a healthy activity that keeps our school healthy, too," said Advancement Director Greg Muse. "All registration fees and sponsorships go to the HST Fund to help defray student expenses."

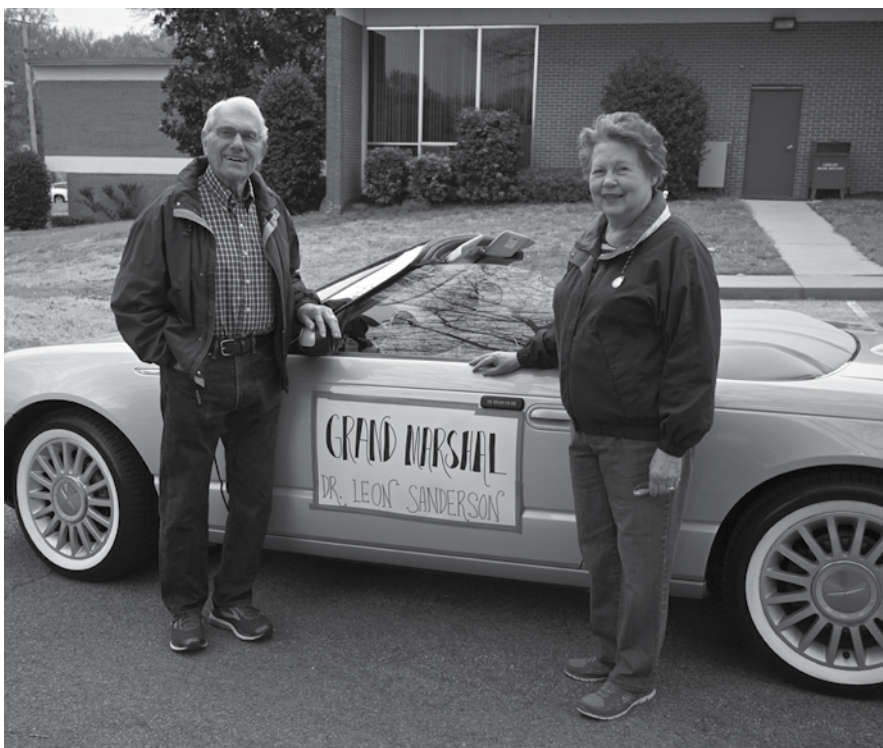


Photo Credits: Jeff Montgomery



Keep an eye out for more information on
the 19th annual Run for the Son 5K
March 28, 2020!

Notes FROM A Novice



Photo Credit: Beth Hansen

Dr. Lance Hawley with Ben Hansen

Gratitude from the graduating class of 2019

By Ben Hansen

I remember my first day at Harding School of Theology as I sat in lectures feeling underprepared for the journey ahead. I was pursuing a Master of Divinity to grow in theological, emotional, and pastoral maturity. I knew there was a gap between who I was and who God was calling me to become in ministry.

The work I needed to do was set before me. I was encouraged to dig deep and give my best day after day. Even with my insecurities, my professors never lowered their standards for me. Their belief in my ability to do this work communicated to me their belief in me. This level of faithful study and learning was a challenge I needed. Four years later, I am changed for the better because of my study at HST. Throughout this process, God has been at work steadily transforming me. He alone gives the growth!

As a class, we will miss a lot from our graduate studies (the professors, chapel, grabbing lunch with classmates). Perhaps I can speak for all of us when I say that we will especially miss the Greek paradigms (well, some of us will). Dr. Black singing those paradigms to our class is forever ingrained in my mind.

At the end of our study at HST, we are better servants for our churches and families. Our class takes a piece of each of these professors ingrained in our hearts.

From the HST graduating class of 2019, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you. We have been immersed in a community of servants dedicated to strengthening the church by supporting us. To the staff, faculty, volunteers, donors, churches, students, and families at HST, thank you for the community you have created. We needed much help on this journey and you have been there for us, often in many ways we will never know. Thank you and God bless!

DEGREE PROGRAMS

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

MINISTRY & SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Matt Carter presented his One Body Workshop (onebodyworkshop.com) at Campus Encounter in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Feb. 23 and at the San Luis Valley Church of Christ in Alamosa, Colorado, March 30. He also spoke at SOMA campus ministry at the University of Memphis in May.

During February, March, and April, Dr. Evertt W. Huffard preached in Millington (Tennessee), Tyler (Texas), Santa Paula (California), and Tegucigalpa (Honduras); taught a one-week course on spiritual leadership at Baxter Institute for the Ministry for Theological Education; and consulted with mission committees in four churches.

In June, Dr. Mark Powell attended the Christian Scholars' Conference at LCU and responded to a paper.

Bob Turner has been awarded the Bridwell Library Fellowship from Southern Methodist University. He attended the Association of College and Research Libraries Conference in April (Cleveland), and made a presentation at Christian College Librarians Annual Meeting in May. Turner recently spoke at the Church of Christ at White Station (Tennessee), SOMA-University of Memphis, Senatobia Church of Christ (Mississippi), Pleasant Valley Church of Christ (Arkansas), Sulphur Well Church of Christ (Tennessee), and Kingwood Church of Christ (Tennessee).

Dr. Allen Black spoke about Luke at the Sermon Seminar at Austin Graduate School of Theology on May 20-22.

Bob Turner, Tina Rogers, and Sheila Owen hosted the semi-annual Tennessee Theological Library Association meeting on April 5. At the meeting, Turner was elected vice-president-elect and Owen was elected treasurer.

Turner, Rogers, and Owen attended the Christian College Librarians

virtual conference on May 23.

Owen joined librarians from theological institutions worldwide at the annual Atla conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in June.

Dr. Steve McLeod spoke at the annual conference of the Southern Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His session was entitled, "Many Hats, One Head: How to Survive—and even Thrive—When Pulled in Many Directions." As president-elect of SACRAO, he also represented the organization at the Mississippi conference in Tupelo, MS, presenting his session as well as inviting them to come to next year's meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, encouraging Mississippi schools to join SACRAO, and challenging them to consider hosting SACRAO in future years.

HST alumnus Curtis McClane (M.Div. 1988) earned his D.Phil. from Omega Graduate School in 2018. His dissertation was "A Middle-Range Grounded Theory for the Crisis of Forced Termination as a Catalyst for Christian Leader Development." On May 1, 2018, McClane was installed as the executive vice-president of Omega Graduate School.

In April, Dr. Lance Hawley spoke at Cedar Lane Church of Christ in Tullahoma, Tennessee. He is writing curriculum for their spring quarter of Bible classes. Also in April, Hawley guest-taught a class at the University of Minnesota on metaphor in the Hebrew Bible.

M.A. student Eli Randolph was a finalist in the graduate division of the student paper competition at the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference in April. He presented his paper, "Classical Theism and Barton W. Stone's Rejection of the Trinity" at the conference.



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News & Events



Fall Classes Begin
August 12



JumpStart (New Student
Orientation) *August 22*



Study Week – No weekly classes
October 7 - 12

Campus for Christ (*campus ministry
conference*) on the HST campus
July 25-28

Convocation
August 19

Harding University Lectureship
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Fall break – Offices closed
Oct. 11

