

Summer 2013

The Bridge Summer 2013 Vol. 54 No. 1

Harding School of Theology

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Recommended Citation

Harding School of Theology. (2013). The Bridge Summer 2013 Vol. 54 No. 1. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-bridge/55>

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THE Bridge

VOLUME 54, NO. 1, SUMMER 2013

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HST Welcomes New Administrators, Faculty

Harding University has a new president, Dr. Bruce D. McLarty, who has served on the HST advisory board since it began and deeply appreciates the mission of HST.

*From www.harding.edu/
inauguration:*

Dr. Bruce D. McLarty officially began his role as president June 1, 2013.

McLarty received a bachelor's degree in Bible from then Harding College in 1978, a Master of Theology degree from Harding School of Theology in 1982, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ashland (Ohio) Theological Seminary in 2010. He joined Harding's administrative team in 2005 serving as both vice president for spiritual life and dean of the College of Bible and Ministry. In 2008 he transitioned to serving only in his vice presidential role.



McLarty

Prior to joining the Harding faculty, McLarty served as a minister for congregations in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. He and his family had also served 15 months as missionaries in Meru, Kenya, in East Africa. For 14 years, McLarty was the pulpit minister for the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark.

HST is pleased to announce that Dr. Jim Martin has been selected to become the first full-time vice president of Harding School of Theology. Dr. Evertt W. Huffard has served as vice president and dean for 14 years and knows the need to expand the administration of the school with a full-time vice president as he devotes more time to academics and teaching.

*From a University press
release, June 3, 2013:*

Martin will assume his new position as vice president Jan. 1, 2014. He will succeed Huffard, who will remain as dean.

Martin is currently the pulpit minister at the Crest-



Charlotte and Jim Martin

view Church of Christ in Waco, Texas, a position he has held since 1993. He has also served congregations in Kansas City, Mo., and Florence, Ala. Martin will lead an administrative team including the dean, director of advancement and director of admissions. He will also oversee the business office and facilities of the campus.

As vice president for the Memphis campus, Martin will be a member of the University president's cabinet.

Martin holds baccalaureate degrees from University of North Texas and International Bible College. He received two master's degrees from Abilene Christian University. He received the D.Min. degree from HST in 1988. In 2011 and 2013 he was an adjunct professor at HST.

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THE Bridge

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

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DEAN'S NOTE

On Mission

In June I stood on the acropolis of Pergamum looking down past the slopes of the theater toward the Asclepion in the valley wondering how long Christians ministered here. Did they repent as a result of the letter from Jesus (Revelation 2)? If so, how did they deal with the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans? As I walked along the main street of Laodicea looking over the Lycus Valley toward the white cliffs of Hierapolis, I wished the large stones in the market place could tell me the story of the last Christians who worshipped here and walked these streets. Unlike the lukewarm water piped into the city, did the church reignite its spiritual fire and repent of its mediocrity? As I turned the corner at the famous Library of Celsus in Ephesus, I wished I knew

Jesus asked the sobering question if when he returns, "will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). I know it is not all up to us; the battle is the Lord's. Yet we also have a place in divine history. We can choose to stay on mission even when we face setbacks, injustices or resistance. This sobering task calls for more than natural ability. It will always take rigorous training in the word, intentional spiritual development, a passion to pass on the faith, and a constant renewal of the vision within each generation. I see HST on mission in several ways.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013

Twenty-one of the 25 graduates in May continue to serve churches: 10 are in full-time congregational ministry, six are missionaries or church planters, and five are Christian

I know it is not all up to us; the battle is the Lord's.

how the church there responded to the command to repent and return to its first love. We could learn something from the church in what Dr. Rick Oster calls "the crucible of the Roman Empire."

Now, back home in my office, I wonder what role we play at HST in "what the Spirit says to the churches." At what point in the future will someone walk the streets of Memphis, Nashville, Dallas, Oklahoma City or Los Angeles asking the same questions about the church in those cities living in "the crucible" of a secular pagan society? One of our students reminded us in chapel this summer of the time when

counselors. The three D.Min. graduates engaged in research projects related to churches becoming more missional, assimilating new members in a multi-ethnic church, and developing a collaborative prison ministry among churches in a metropolitan area.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Our professors continue to serve as resources for leadership training, counseling, preaching and teaching among churches nationally and internationally. Librarian Don Meredith and Director of Advancement Larry Arick have served as elders in a local church for many years. The addition of Carlus Gup-



Huffard

ton to the faculty will greatly enrich the resources we offer students to stay on mission.

ENDOWMENTS

Our staff recently spent hours matching students receiving tuition grants in the fall semester with our endowed scholarships. We were reminded of the blessing of our deep spiritual roots with more than 70 endowment funds for students from churches and individuals committed to equipping for ministry. More than 46 percent of these endowments specify that they will be given to pulpit or ministry students, and another 14

percent specify students committed to missions. We feel blessed to witness the linking of the purpose of these grants with qualified and deserving students.

GOVERNANCE

Where could our efforts to be on mission be more obvious than in the emerging governance of HST? When Dr. Jim Martin arrives in January as vice president, we will have both a president and a vice president with decades of effective and long-term preaching experience who share the same academic training for ministry (both have M.Div. and

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‘New Creation’ to Be the Theme of 2013-2014

There is the earnest preaching of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come; the development of the guilt of man, the grace of God, the love of Christ, the mystery of the Cross, sin pardoning mercy, adoption into the family of God, with the unction of the hope of the resurrection to everlasting life, of the new earth and the new heavens, etc. These are the soul-stirring, the soul-subduing, the soul-transforming themes of the gospel of the grace of God.¹

Alexander Campbell (1865)

Eschatology, epitomized in the idea of “new creation,” is not so much about what happens last and the order in which it happens as much as it is about the future that is already present and at work in the world.

Creation is good, but new creation is better. The creation, though it retains its inherent goodness, is presently frustrated because it is bound over to corruption. It awaits something better; it awaits a glorious liberation. The present bondage will pass away even as the creation itself is gloriously transfigured when the new heavens and new earth appear.

As the present form of the world is even now passing away, the new creation is already present. The children of God experience the first fruits of the new creation through the presence of the Spirit who transforms them from glory to glory. By this the children of God are new creatures renewed in the image of their creator. Yet the children of God, along with the creation itself, groan for full adoption through the redemption of their bodies. This new humanity, already present by the Spirit through sanctification, will fully appear in the resurrection.

New humanity is grounded in the new human, Jesus the Messiah. The glorified Lord is new creation. He reversed the curse under which creation groans as the kingdom broke into the world through his ministry in the power of the Spirit. He transformed death as the firstborn from the dead by the will of the Father. His Adamic body was transformed into a new body animated by the Spirit of God through which the ascended Messiah reigns in the heavenlies. At the right hand of the Father, ever interceding for the people of God, he has poured out the Spirit upon the church in order to transform them into new community, a new creation. Jesus, as glorified human, will return to redeem humanity and inaugurate the new heavens and new earth so that the glory of God may fill the creation.

This new humanity embodied in Jesus is the ground of new creation. That new life is our life. Jesus’ new creation kingdom ministry is our ministry. The second Adam’s life-giving body is our future body. Just as the old Adamic life passed away in the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, so our lives — inwardly renewed

and outwardly redeemed — participate in the new life revealed in the new humanity of the ascended Lord. Just as our old Adamic life is transformed into a new and glorious freedom, so the creation itself will share in the joy of the children of God.

This story — the movement from the old age to the new age — is pregnant with meaning for church, ministry and life. As new creatures, we live by the ethic of the new creation. As people translated into the kingdom of God, **we live as if the kingdom of God has already come.**

Anticipating the renewal of creation, we pursue environmental care. We embrace the vision, ethic and mission of the new creation embodied in the incarnation, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Messiah.

Harding School of Theology will explore the significant themes, implications, and applications of “new creation” through chapel and special events throughout this academic year. The richness, depth and visionary importance of this theme define Christianity.

John Mark Hicks

¹Alexander Campbell, “Orthodox Regeneration,” *Millennial Harbinger* 4th Series, 5 (September 1865): 494.

BRIEFS

W.B. West Lectures

The 2013 W.B. West Jr. Lecture will be presented Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. **Richard Oster**. He will be signing copies of his recently published book, *Seven Congregations in a Roman Crucible: A Commentary on Revelation 1-3* in the library at 8:30 p.m.

Three Attend Jail Ministry Workshop

HST employee **Vernon Perry** attended the National Prison/Jail Ministry Workshop June 12-14 held at Heritage Christian University. 2013 D.Min. graduates **Thomas Snow** and **Matthew Morine** also participated in the conference.

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Place all your Amazon orders through hst.edu/books. Every time you order anything through our link, HST receives a small percentage of the profit at no extra cost to you.

Do You Tweet?

Check out these HST-related Twitter feeds:
 President Bruce McLarty: @BruceMcLarty
 Vice President-designate of HST Jim Martin: @JimMartin
 Dr. Carlus Gupton: @LifeandLeader
 Dr. Rick Oster: @r_oster
 HST Library: @hstlib
 And, of course: @HST_edu

BRIEFS

Harding School of Theology challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.

HST Online

- Find up-to-date information about what’s happening on campus through the HST Web page and blog: hst.edu
- Locate Memphis-area churches: hst.edu/directory
- Find a ministry job: hst.edu/ministry-jobs
- Subscribe to *The Bridge* or change your print subscription to an e-subscription: hst.edu/bridge
- Research biblical, ministerial, theological topics in library resources: hst.edu/library
- Check out the current and upcoming course schedule and syllabi: hst.edu/syllabi



Mark Parker
 @themarkparker16
 Wow! @JimMartin and @LifeandLeader both at @hst_edu in January 2014. There’s a wham and a bam!

Consider an Endowment

Many of you are partners with us to train and equip leaders for ministry. You believe, as we do, that God’s call to take the gospel to all the world begins with the preparation of those who are willing to go. HST’s last capital campaign was the 1.2 million dollar expansion of the library in 2003. At present there is no capital campaign underway at the HST campus, but our goal for the annual scholarship fund has increased from \$250,000 in 1998 to \$450,000 for the 2013-14 school year.

Endowments add to the financial security of the institution. We only use the earn-

ings of the endowment; the principal is never touched. In 1998 the school’s endowment was \$700,000, yielding \$42,000 in revenue annually. The Lord has blessed the school during the past few years, and our endowment today is more than \$8 million, providing \$400,000 in annual revenue.

Generally endowments are set up to honor or in memory of someone. An endowed fund begins with a commitment to giving at least \$10,000 within five years. Existing endowments in honor of previous deans (Hazelip, Slate and Flatt), our faculty, chaplains and preachers (Bradley, Yeldell

and Moffett) need to grow to keep pace with rising costs. Endowment funds in counseling, preaching and missions need continuing support.

Endowed tuition grants for students are a way for partners in ministry to carry on the mission of HST after they are gone. We deeply appreciate those who have had a heart and passion to train and equip leaders for ministry through endowment. Please consider HST in your estate planning and annual giving. If you have any questions please call me at 901-432-7727.

Larry Arick
 (larick@hst.edu)

WATCH THIS SPACE



A heritage wall is being installed in the reference room of the HST Library, featuring a photomural of the mansion and other photographs depicting the history of HST. The mural is in place, and further improvements will be installed in coming months.

Congratulations to the 2013-14 HST Student Association Officers

President: Kevin Burr (M.Div.)

Vice President: Lonn Baker (M.A.C.)

Secretary/Treasurer: Leah White (M.A.C.)

Communications Director: Eric Suddeath (M.A.C.)

Off-Campus Representative: Tiffany France (M.A.C.)

On-Campus Representative: Jon Cooke (M.Div.)

Lance Love is an HST student with about four classes left in his M.A.C.M. Originally from Sonora, Texas, Love graduated from the Center for Christian Education in 1999 and earned a B.S. in Biblical studies from Amridge University in 2001. He lives in Milan, Ill., with his wife, Dorrie, and has served Moline Church of Christ since 1999.

Ministering Where Jesus Did

A former colleague of mine recently made the transition from youth minister to pulpit minister. He called me one day seeking advice on how to build a relationship with the congregation that would enable him to remain there for a long time. I shared with him some things I have learned from my own experience and classes I have taken at HST.

Most of us are familiar with the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42, and we see the importance of sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to his word and learning from him. I told my colleague that so often we think the only place we can sit and listen to Jesus is in our office with all our books and computers set before us, but in Matthew's Gospel, beginning in chapter 8 we see Jesus doing ministry among people. A man with leprosy comes to him and asks to be healed; Jesus reaches out and touches him. A Centurion with a sick servant approaches him, and Jesus heals the servant.

He sees demon-possessed men, the paralytic, the dead girl and the woman with the bleeding condition, the blind and the dumb. This is where Jesus did his work: among sick, hurting and lonely people. Jesus didn't sit in his office waiting for people to come to him. Instead he was out where they were, where they needed him.

In Matthew 10 Jesus sends out the 12. He doesn't prepare them to sit in an office. And he doesn't send them out to wow everyone with their great theological expertise. He sends them to drive out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness. Jesus was among the people. I think that is where we, as ministers, need to be: among the people.

I struggle with balance. If you serve in a congregation long enough, you begin to recognize people in need. Maybe it's the man who comes by once or twice a month to cry and talk. Or people who struggle with mental illness and are lonely because others don't feel

comfortable around them. Or the widow who needs a dead squirrel removed from her porch. I sometimes ask, "Lord, can you not do something about all these people? After all, I'm so busy studying for my sermon and my Bible class. I've got my PowerPoint to prepare for Sunday. I've got to type my study sheets for the Wednesday night classes!" And I wonder if he doesn't look at me and say, "Lance, Lance. Have you missed what is important? Have you not seen where I did ministry? Have you missed where I called you to minister?"

So I passed on to my colleague what I have learned. If you want to increase your chances of staying at a congregation, go among the people. Go to the widows and serve. Go to the lonely and visit. Listen to those who are hurting. When someone calls and asks to go to breakfast, go to breakfast. Leave your office once in a while, and go see Jesus in the places where he is.

Lance Love

On Mission *continued from Page 2*

D.Min. degrees) and love for the church.

The dynamics of the past six months may be unlike any in the history of HST with the loss of three professors, the transition to a new president of the University, and

the selection of a new vice president and a new ministry professor. With feelings of grief for the losses and gratitude for the additions, I find comfort from God's presence in all these transitions. One thing has become clear to

me: staying on mission keeps us moving forward together with purpose and hope for even greater service in the kingdom.

*Dr. Evertt W. Huffard
(dean@hst.edu)*

Faculty Notes

Hester Publications announces *And So We Speak: Sermons From Five Decades*, a three-volume collection of sermons by Professor Emeritus **Jack P. Lewis**. Covering a period of five decades, these sermons were originally delivered to a variety of audiences in the U.S., Canada, Ghana and Japan.

Bob Turner and Drs. **Allen Black**, **Dave Bland**, **Phil McMillion** and **Mark Powell** attended the Thomas H. Olbricht Christian Scholars Conference held at Lipscomb University in June. Bland and Turner participated in panel discussions, and Powell presented "Restore My Spirit: A Theological Vision for Churches of Christ."

HST congratulates circulation librarian **Bob Turner**, who completed his Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in August.

August 6-10, Dr. **Evertt Huffard** participated in a retreat in Swaziland with 120 church leaders from seven nations in Southern Africa, where he had an opportunity to process inner life development in seven sessions.

Join HST professors **Black**, **Bland**, **Ed Gray** and **Lewis**, as well as numerous HST graduates, at the 2013 Harding University Bible Lectureship, Sept. 29-Oct. 2.

Faculty Retreat

Dr. **John Mark Hicks**, professor at Lipscomb University and HST adjunct professor, encouraged and challenged the HST faculty May 23 during their annual retreat, held just around the corner from campus at the Dixon Gardens.

BRIEFS

Alumni Notes

HST graduates **Sean Webb** and **Chris Shrock** presented papers at the Thomas H. Olbricht Christian Scholars Conference held at Lipscomb University in June. Webb, currently in a Ph.D. program at Texas Tech University, presented a paper titled “The Kingdom of God Against the State: Conflict With the Government in the Thought of Brigham Young and David Lipscomb.”

Shrock teaches at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics and recently finished his Ph.D. from Baylor University. He convened a session called “The Value of High School Research for Universities, Students and Secondary Educators.”

Check out alumnus and incoming Vice President **Jim Martin’s** blog, *A Place for the God-Hungry*, at GodHungry.org.

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Graduation Held May 18

HST graduated 25 students with 26 degrees Saturday, May 18. Dr. David B. Burks, who retired after 26 years as president of Harding University, delivered the commencement address as his last official public function as president. Dr. Allen Black, professor of New Testament, gave the message from the faculty, and President Bruce D. McLarty offered the benediction. Dr. Leon Sanderson, president of the HST Alumni Association, served as worship leader.

There were many highlights of the day, but two stand out.

Quintin Baker, a 26-year-old HST student who passed away last summer, was

honored with a certificate of recognition. His family was present, and Patrick Baker, Quintin’s father, addressed the graduates and their families with a message of hope at the luncheon following commencement.

Kyle Hooper graduated with the Master of Divinity. Hooper’s father and grandfather are also HST alumni, which makes him the first third-generation student to graduate from HST.

Congratulations to all the graduates:

M.A.

- Glenn Hawley
- Andrew Sowers
- John Paul Suchecki

M.A.C.M.

- Alan Arneson
- Stephan Connors

- Marek Dawidow
- Jared King
- Christine Parker
- Joe Spivy

M.A.C.

- Michelle Bates
- Jessi Berger
- David Mars
- James Piiparinen
- Ana Randolph

M.Div.

- Gary Baird
- Minku Chang
- Chase Froud
- Charles Fulbright
- Kyle Hooper
- Smith Hopkins
- Craig Poole
- Lewis Short
- Andrew Sowers

D.Min.

- Matthew Morine
- Ryan Richardson
- Thomas Snow

Partners in Ministry

The HST community has more than 1,200 graduates serving as preachers, teachers, missionaries and counselors using the tools they developed at HST. Nearly all of our students receive tuition grants, and most say they could not have attended graduate school without this support. Our students are very appreciative of those of you who invest in them,

who realize the return on investment is not the diploma graduates receive but how they bless the lives of others after graduation.

Our graduates themselves are very generous. The percentage of alumni who support HST is two and a half times above the national average. They give back to the school so other students can enjoy the same blessings they received, devoting time

to help raise funds and recruit new students. Some of them have set up endowed scholarship funds that will provide tuition grants for many years.

Help us increase our percentage of alumni participation. Any amount is a blessing. May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry.

Larry Arick
(larick@hst.edu)

Did You Know?

On May 11, 2013, Harding University graduated the first students to complete their degrees in education at the Mid-South Professional Center (MSPC) located on the HST campus in Memphis. Four graduates completed programs in reading, and one completed a Master of Arts in Teaching. Susan Capodiferro, Jenny McKinney and Andrea Turner teach in Shelby County Schools. Lee Ann Stiles teaches at a private school in Bartlett, and Charlotte Lane, the M.A.T. graduate, teaches at Harding Academy in Memphis and hopes to pursue doctorate work in music.

In August 2010 the MSPC began offering classes in National Board Certification taught by Dr. Randy McPherson, a well-respected counselor and administrator. His first class had 20 students.

That same fall Harding University asked Dr. Ileene Huffard to direct the program in Memphis. A good



team of adjunct professors from the area began offering classes in technology, reading, classroom management and National Board certification, as well as instructional strategies and assessment. The number of classes offered each semester continues to rise.

Harding has succeeded in receiving approval through the state of Tennessee for programs in teacher licensure, reading, special education, advanced studies in

teaching, and a non-licensure master's degree online.

The Mid-South Professional Center also provides opportunities for undergraduate students to complete their student teaching requirement in an urban school system.

Check out the MSPC website at www.midsouthteachers.org. For more information, contact Dr. Ileene Huffard or Katherine Freese at 901-432-7726, mspc@harding.edu, or kfreese@harding.edu.

New Administrators, Faculty *continued from Page 1*

He currently serves on the board of directors of the Christian Scholarship Foundation as a mentoring partner for Hope Network Ministries and as one of six community leaders managing Michael Hyatt's leadership blog, the second-most read leadership blog in the nation.

Also beginning full time in January 2014, Dr. Carlus Gupton will be professor for Christian ministry.

Gupton is currently the professor of church leadership at Johnson University

and has taught as an adjunct at HST since 2001. Prior to



Gupton

that, he spent 10 years teaching at the University of Tennessee School of Communication Studies and 20 years in preaching ministry for congregations in Tennessee and Alabama. In addition to teaching, consulting and coaching, Gupton

is the founder and publisher of LifeandLeadership.com, a website of resources for church leaders.

A graduate of Lipscomb University (B.A.), Harding School of Theology (M.Div.), and Abilene Christian University Graduate School of Theology (D.Min.) and with additional studies along the way at Murray State University, University of Memphis, and University of Tennessee, Gupton has the necessary training and experience to guide students in church leadership.

BRIEFS

Student Notes

M.Div. student **James Becknell** presented a paper titled "Athanasian Spirituality" at the Meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, University of Notre Dame, June 29-July 2.

@hst_edu on Twitter

Kevin Burr @kbburr 5 Aug @hst_edu 284 days and 16 hours until graduation #readybutnotready

HST @hst_edu 31 Jul Higher standards of ministry and scholarship? HST student B. Chris Simpson shares what this means to him. <https://www.facebook.com/hst.edu> hint: BBQ!



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Christian Scholars Conference <http://www.lipscomb.edu/csc>. On Twitter.com: @CScholarsConfer

Hicks, John Mark. On Twitter.com: @johnmarkhicks. Blog: Johnmarkhicks.com

-----, *Come to the Table: Revisioning the Lord's Supper*. Orange, CA: New Leaf Books, 2002.

----- and Greg Taylor. *Down In the River To Pray: Revisioning Baptism as God's Transforming Work*. Siloam Springs, AR: Leafwood, 2004.

-----, Johnny Melton, and Bobby Valentine. *A Gathered People: Revisioning the Assembly as Transforming Encounter*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood, 2007.

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Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, <http://sscs.press.jhu.edu/index.html>

For help in borrowing, purchasing or using any of these resources, feel free to contact us at the HST Library.

Sheila Owen
(sowen@hst.edu)