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The Bridge

Harding School of Theology

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Summer 2011

**The Bridge Summer 2011 Vol. 52 No. 1**

Harding School of Theology

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# THE Bridge

VOLUME 52, NO. 1, SUMMER 2011

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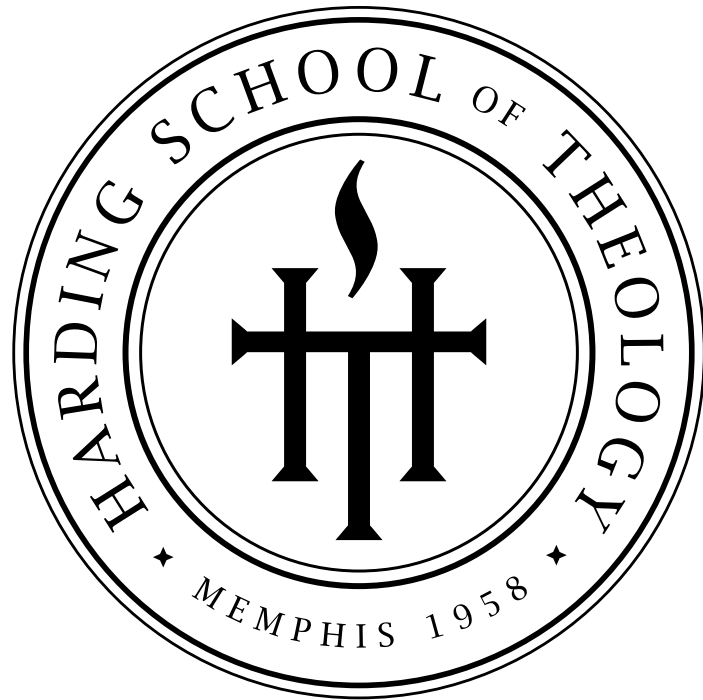
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## Harding School of Theology

One of the most noticeable features of the name change at Harding School of Theology is the logo, which incorporates the school name and a mark. The rebranding team explored the question, "Who are we?" and made three critical discoveries: We are solidly academic; we are deeply relational; and we are unapologetically Christian.

None of those three would surprise anyone who has spent much time at 1000

Cherry Road, but the team wanted us to include all three of those concepts into the school logo. Not an easy task!

With the help of the consulting firm Tactical Magic based here in Memphis, we developed the current logo with an overall academic look. The T in theology becomes a cross in the mark, obviously a reference to the Christian faith we espouse. And the S in school was stylized to provide a dynamic element, showing motion as

well as an oblique reference to the Spirit that binds us together. The H is our connection to James A. Harding, Harding University and our rich academic tradition.

This mark, and the included name of the school, become a logo that builds on our strong foundation, but moves us forward into the next stage of training ministry leaders.

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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

More About God

For the second time in 23 years, I was blessed with a sabbatical during the spring semester. Dr. David B. Burks, president of Harding University, graciously gave me time to continue research for a manuscript on the honor of God and spiritual leadership. I also participated in "track two diplomacy" in Amman, Jordan; taught at the South Pacific Bible College in Tauranga, New Zealand; served church leaders in Oxford, Miss., and Great Falls, Mont.; visited a mission team in Australia; and led a study/tour to Greece and Israel. My top take-away is more about God. Any hope for peace in the Middle East will require submission by all sides to the sovereignty of God. God works in the lives of people all over the world in amazing ways. God works through the lives of church leaders to provide direction, shepherding and hope. Missionaries engage in the lives of people to expose them to the God they never knew. Meeting with Christians in Athens and Nazareth confirms God's desire for all nations to participate in the joys of the Gospel.

Frequently I was asked why HUGSR changed its name. Short answer: the name is too long. We have always been known as "the grad school" in Memphis, but the University also now offers graduate degrees in

Bible, business, education and speech-language pathology — so we are not alone. This made sense to everyone, especially our alumni; some just wanted to find a way to hold on to the affectionate "hugs-r."

For me, a greater issue is that "religion" inadequately describes what we do. "Theology" more effectively connects our mission to God. We are more about God — his nature, word, mission and kingdom. When Everett Ferguson introduced the theological foundations of worship in his book *The Church of Christ*, he wisely observed: "The nature of God determines how he is served" (1996, p. 213). How true. The more our life, study and ministry focus on God, the better our service will be.

Although Moses personally experienced the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai, the exposure to the honorable character of the law-giver touched his heart and immediately moved him to humbly worship God. The more we grow in the knowledge of God and reflect his honor in our world, the more the world will be drawn to him. Harding School of Theology (HST) continues to serve as one of the tools of the church to equip leaders, teachers, scholars, preachers, missionaries and counselors in the knowledge of God. This comes from a relentless

passion to understand and live the word and will of God.



Huffard

Our founding dean, W. B. West Jr., shared a deep passion to overcome anything that would limit God. He wrote in the *HUGSR Bulletin* in 1969:

The man of God who teaches or preaches the gospel should be as well, if not better prepared, than anyone whom he teaches or to whom he preaches because of the incomparable importance of the work of the minister with human souls. Teachers and preachers of the gospel have limited, and are limiting, God by inadequate preparation for their work. A thousand places at home and abroad testify to this fact.

Theology — the study of God — sets our minds and hearts on a God who created us to honor him in all that we do, who called us to serve his purposes, and who sought to teach us his ways. If HST is more about God, then it will always be known as caring, engaged and academic — all to the honor of God.

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

STUDENTS

On Tour

From May 19-June 1, a group of 44 were led by Dr. Evertt Huffard on a study tour to Greece and Israel. He and Dr. Phil McMillion gave lectures on archaeology. The tour explored more than 40 biblical and archaeological sites and visited four museums (Athens, Corinth, Jerusalem and Hazor). The most memorable experiences included worshipping with Christians in Athens and Nazareth,



Students and alumni are on the Mount of Olives with the old city of Jerusalem in the background.

walking through the streets of Jerusalem, and going through Hezekiah's Tunnel.

Huffard will be leading another group to Israel the end of May 2012.

HST in the Summertime

There is no slowing down for many HST students — even during the summertime. Nearly two-thirds of the student body — ranging from Memphis to Montana — descend upon campus to participate in one or more of the 12 week-long intensive courses offered during the summer semester. Students spend at least 40 hours each week plugging through lectures, tests and presentations, followed by overtime put into studying and researching in the library. So much work in a short amount of time can leave the mind and body famished.

The HST Student Association aims to combat such weariness by providing

some of the best food this side of heaven. The traditional Wednesday barbecue luncheons — a favorite for distance students — see not only the usual fare from Three Little Pigs but also local favorites like Corky's, Central and Neely's. New students are treated to Uncle Lou's Fried Chicken — a Memphis soul-food joint featured on the Food Network and much-beloved by many at HST. Each Friday night, the premiere cooks on campus fill the courtyard between Harding and Brewer apartments to serve a potluck that rivals the best dishes from ladies at your home church. In between are multiple opportunities to fel-

lowship over food with like-minded people in a city with a unique and scrumptious cuisine.

Even though one should not leave Memphis without a trip to Ching's Wings or Jerry's Sno Cones, the ultimate goal is for each person to leave with a stronger connection to the whole community. We hope that students will take the time and effort to connect with classmates, professors and the city of Memphis in order that they may have an unforgettable experience at HST.

Andrew Taylor  
Student Association  
Vice President

BRIEFS

Burnett, Sandlin Published

*Restoration Quarterly* recently published articles by student **Clint Burnett** and alumnus **Mac Sandlin**. Both articles were based on research done while at Harding School of Theology.

Burnett's article, in the vol. 53 no. 1, 2011 issue, is titled "The Fight for Future: The Decline of Eschatological Liberty in Churches of Christ."

Sandlin's article, "Innocence and Redemption in American Myths: A Christian Response," appeared in vol. 52 no. 3, 2010.

Online Missions Journal Edited by Alumni

The third issue of *Missio Dei: A Journal of Missional Theology and Praxis* is expected in August 2011. Its theme is "Mission in the Global Village," and it is headlined by leading writer and scholar, Scot McKnight. Overall, the journal's stated purpose is to "provide a medium for exploring the rich tradition and ongoing practice of participation in the mission of God among the churches of the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement."

Editors include Greg McKinzie (Arequipa, Peru), Danny Reese (Huambo, Angola), Jason Whaley (Wollongong, Australia), Bob Turner (Memphis, Tenn.), and Mark Clancy (Lima, Peru), most of whom earned their M.Div. at Harding School of Theology. They, along with their contributors, are practitioners and scholars of mission, diverse in vocation as well as geography.

*Missio Dei* is available at [missiodeijournal.com](http://missiodeijournal.com).

# Annual Commencement Ceremonies Held in May

## MASTER OF ARTS

**Corey Alan Mullins:** Missionary, Wollongong, Australia  
**Sean Patrick Webb:** Further education, Knoxville, Tenn.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

**Dwight D. Samuel:** Associate minister, Sunset Church of Christ, Springfield, Mo.  
**Mitchell Dean Stevens:** Minister, Rocky Point Church of Christ, Cordova, Tenn.  
**Jeffrey Wayne Tacker:** Campus minister, Christian Academy, San Antonio, Texas  
**Nathanael A. Wheeler:** Youth minister, Central Church of Christ, Winter Haven, Florida

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

**Jennifer Lynn Farmer:** Christian counseling, Memphis, Tenn.  
**Scherri Nicole Culp-Henderson:** M.F.T. in clinical and church setting, Memphis, Tenn.  
**Alan De Wane Moreland:** Counseling for addiction treatment, Peoria, Ill.  
**Marisol Rosas Castañeda:** Counseling, Memphis, Tenn.  
**Matthew Simmons:** Counseling, Cordova, Tenn.  
**Kacey Lynn Young:** Counseling, Memphis, Tenn.



Front row: Steve McLeod, John O. Simmons, David Burks, Evertt Huffard, C. Philip Slate, Eddie Randolph, Ed Gray  
 Second row: Richard Oster, Bob Turner, Mark Powell, Sheila Owen, Don Meredith, Phil McMillion, Dave Bland, Allen Black

Third row: Young, Henderson, Simmons, Rosas, Farmer, Moreland, Tacker, Stevens, Samuel  
 Fourth row: Pennington, Johnson, Burse, Lefler, Westbrook, Tateno, Guy, Keeton, Davidson, Adams, Coss

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

**Mark S. Adams:** Associate minister, Old Hickory Church of Christ, Old Hickory, Tenn.  
**Jordan Randall Coss:** Minister, Rose Hill Church of Christ, Columbus, Ga.  
**Eric E. Davenport:** Minister, Northwest Church of Christ, San Antonio, Texas  
**Timothy Jay Davidson Jr.:** Minister, Cabot Church of Christ, Cabot, Ark.  
**Jordan Patrick Guy:** Ph.D. study, Asbury Theological Seminary; preaching ministry, Nicholasville Church of Christ, Nicholasville, Ky.  
**Christopher Matthew Keeton:** Pulpit ministry, Memphis, Tenn.  
**Jeremy James Lefler:** Minister, Chicago Church of Christ, Chicago, Ill.  
**Makoto Tateno:** Associate director of admissions for international enrollment, Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.  
**Paavo Nataniel Tucker:** Ph.D. study, Nashville, Tenn.  
**Anessa D. Westbrook:** D.Min. study, Fuller Theological Seminary; teaching at Harding University, Searcy, Ark.

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

**Ricky Glen Burse:** Minister, West Dyersburg Church of Christ, Dyersburg, Tenn.  
**Mark Randall Johnson:** Minister, Olympia Church of Christ, Olympia, Wash.  
**Glenn Kirkpatrick Pennington Jr.:** Director of lectureship, assistant professor of Bible and communications, Ohio Valley University, Vienna, W.Va.

## BRIEFS

### Faculty Notes

Dr. Ed Gray will be conducting a Pre-prepare/Enrich certification workshop at HST Sept. 16, 2011, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$180 with lunch included.



Dr. Mark Powell presented the paper "Theology as Play: A Review of a Pentecostal Proposal" at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference in Atlanta, October 2010. Powell was also an invited participant for the Wabash Center Graduate Program Teaching Initiative at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, February 2011.



### Lectures to be Held in November

The W.B. West Jr. Lectures for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship will be presented at HST by Dr. George Guthrie on Nov. 3-4, 2011.

Dr. Guthrie is the Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and works closely with the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, which is committed to promoting sound Bible reading, study, and interpretation at the grassroots level of the church.

## ADVANCEMENT

# Leadership Council Dinner to Honor Leon Sanderson

Plan to join us at the Memphis Botanic Garden Oct. 8, 2011, at 6 p.m., for the Leadership Council Dinner. This annual gathering recognizes those whose gifts support the mission of Harding School of Theology and provides an occasion to celebrate individuals or groups whose lives especially honor God. Past honorees include Jane Tomlinson, C.W. Bradley, John Simpson, Nokomis Yeldell, Jimmy Moffett, and military and hospital chaplains.

Leon Sanderson will be



honored this year, according to Larry Arick (larick@hst.edu), director of advancement. The Sanderson family connection to Harding began with Leon's parents, who both attended and taught at Harding University in the early 20s. The connection grew as Sanderson earned undergraduate and M.A. degrees at Harding University,

later adding an M.R.E., an M.Div. and a D.Min. — all from HST. A long-time minister, Sanderson has served congregations in Tennessee and Alabama and has been the associate minister at the Church of Christ at White Station for nearly 31 years.

Join us as we celebrate Sanderson as a mentor, encourager and servant of God. There is no charge to attend this event. RSVPs can be made through the Advancement Office by email, [hstadvancement@hst.edu](mailto:hstadvancement@hst.edu), or by phone, 901-761-1355.

## EVENTS

# Shepherds Network Weekend Announced

The Shepherds Network is sponsored by the Church Leaders Resource Network at the Harding School of Theology. Our goal is to encourage church shepherds and their wives, while providing resources to enhance their service to the local church and the kingdom of God.

There will be tracks offered for experienced elders, elders' wives, and new and potential elders. At least 50 percent of the speakers/presenters will be shepherds or wives of shepherds, offering

a unique perspective from those who have been there. The Shepherds Network is designed to help congrega-

**OCT. 28-30, 2011,  
Memphis, Tenn.**

**JAN. 20-22, 2012,  
Belgrade, Mont.**

tional leaders connect with one another, share insights and build relationships.

Congregations will benefit if they send not only their current shepherds but also those whom they see as po-

tential church leaders. Cost is \$100 for couples and \$75 for individuals. For more information, contact Dr. Eddie Randolph at [erandolph@hst.edu](mailto:erandolph@hst.edu) or 901-432-7724.

A Shepherds Network weekend will also be held in Belgrade, Mont., on Jan. 20-22, 2012, to serve churches in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Western Canada. For more information on this workshop, contact Scott Laird at the Great Falls Church of Christ by email, [slaird@imt.net](mailto:slaird@imt.net), or by phone 406-453-3379.

## ALUMNI

# Owolabi Develops Leaders

During the years 2002-03, Biodun Owolabi (M.A., 2006; [abiiodunowolabi@yahoo.com](mailto:abiiodunowolabi@yahoo.com)) was in Memphis — halfway around the world from his family, his job and his native Nigeria.

This is an extreme sacrifice for anyone, but it was an important sacrifice, he says. He needed the training so he could train others back in Africa. As president of West Nigeria Christian College, he had come to study the Bible so he could lead and teach better.

The College opened its doors just a few years before Biodun came to Memphis. In his region of the world, there are 15 million people and 120 churches of Christ. But, he notes, there was only one preacher with a Bible degree.

The College works both as an undergraduate school and a ministry training center. They offer two years of college which can be transferred to a university and serve as a foundation for ministry as well.

Owolabi says that Africa now has many second-generation Christians, and others have even deeper roots. The churches there are stable and church members tend to have more education than they did before.

And so well-trained ministers become vital for vibrant churches. "Our students have planted eight church-

es," Biodun adds.

Developing national leaders is a key for Owolabi. He not only seeks to have Christians convert people in their own languages, but he also has a national vision for unifying the church. "We want to bring Christians together," he says, even though there are many cultural forces driving people apart.

He came to Harding School of Theology to develop his own academic and ministry skills. He needed to be equipped for the demands of this job and needed exposure to fresh tools for scholarship and ministry. "I was exposed to ministry principles on a daily basis."

And those principles have affected his ministry at the College and at his own congregation. He relates the story of speaking with one woman who recognized his congregation as "the church

that gives us water."

Teaching true Christianity and reaching out to those in need combine into what Owolabi calls the holistic gospel. "Several have been converted because people know the church is here to help," he says.

In regard to his training at HST, he notes, "My training has been a blessing. It has made a difference in my personal walk with God, my ministry and my family life."

And he likes the library. "I want to die there!" he jokes.

Looking back on his two years in Memphis away from family and home, Owolabi realizes "God was faithful. A community of believers and family came to my aid."

<http://africanchristianschools.org/schools/west-nigeria-christian-college>

For further information contact [wncs\\_abeokuta@hotmail.com](mailto:wncs_abeokuta@hotmail.com).



## BRIEFS

### Albright Named Alumnus of Year

Dwight Albright, longtime Memphis minister and mis-



sionary to Japan, was named Alumnus of the Year by Dr. Everett W. Huffard, vice president and dean. The award was presented by Dr. Leon Sanderson, alumni council president, as part of the annual Advancement Council Luncheon April 7, 2011.

Keeping with the school's theme of the year, "Faithfulness," Albright was selected for his continuous ministry work at the Park Avenue Church of Christ and in Japan.

In his acceptance speech, Albright mentioned being inspired and encouraged by many former recipients of the award, who "influenced my life and expanded the kingdom." He also gave credit to his wife, Josephine. "I am indebted to her for my education and for so much more. Our ministry together is a blessing from the Lord."

The day after learning of the award, Albright's "joy at this honor was tempered by the pain and suffering the people of Japan were enduring." Since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that struck Japan, Albright has facilitated U.S. and Japanese relief efforts and assisted in the distribution of funds donated by churches and individuals.

Read more about this relief work on the Facebook page "Working and praying for Japan earthquake victims" or on the Park Avenue Church of Christ website, [www.parkave.org](http://www.parkave.org).

## FINAL WORD

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# Fresh Start

**S**eventeen issues, 140 pages, and 271 photos. Fall 2005 to Spring 2011. These words and numbers may express the extent of Mark Parker's work with *The Bridge*, but they don't capture the thought, prayer, energy and heart that went into it.

For six years, Mark has brainstormed the topics, repaired split infinitives, tweaked the pictures and harried the contributors (albeit with humor). All with the mission of representing Harding School of Theology to its constituency of alumni,

friends, and donors — and with the underlying, overarching and ever-present goal



*Parker*

of bringing glory to God. *The Bridge* has been part of Mark's ministry. Mark's ministry as director of admissions continues, but, with the name change, he is passing on editorship of *The Bridge*. As part of the new editorial board, along with Evertt Huffard, Brenda Curtis and myself,

Mark will continue to be involved but will no longer carry primary responsibility for its publication.

My goal is to carry forward what Mark and others before him have built in *The Bridge*. Thank you, Mark, for your service, your creativity, your diligence, and your help in the future (fair warning).

New name, new logo, new editor — same God, yesterday, today and forever.

*Sheila Owen*  
([sowen@hst.edu](mailto:sowen@hst.edu))