



Harding University
Scholar Works at Harding

The Bridge

Harding School of Theology

Spring 2010

The Bridge Spring 2010 Vol. 51 No. 1

Harding School of Theology

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-bridge>



HARDING
UNIVERSITY



the Bridge

VOLUME 51 ▶ NUMBER 1 ▶ SPRING 2010

INSIDE

- 2» Dean's Note
The Learning Curve
- 3» Students
Intersecting Art, History, Faith
- 4» Faculty
Randolph New Addition
- 5» Advancement
Celebrating Clyde Lewis' Life
- 6» Campus Life
Campus Preview, Summer Courses and More
- 7» Alumni
Hogan Missionary to Singapore
- 8» Final Word
The Power of Generations

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

The Missing Ingredient

Two pieces of bread slapped together do not make a sandwich. Something is missing. In his book *Small Groups and Established Churches: Challenge and Hope for the Future*, John Ellas mentions that people are on a “quiet quest” for a missing ingredient. Many Christians across the U.S. are finding themselves starving and hungry for something more, something with substance in their Christian experience. What is this needed substance? What is this missing ingredient?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer begins his book *Life Together* with a quote from Psalm 133:1: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” A very crucial part of a Christian’s “diet” is community — the missing ingredient.

Throughout scripture, one can clearly see the

importance of community to God and his people. This can be seen in God’s oneness in community within the Trinity, his desire for creation to experience the presence of divine community personally through Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and his creation of the body of Christ — his church.



BROWN The idea of community was ushered in at the beginning of creation, desired and pursued by God throughout history, and will reach its full glory at the second coming of Christ.

Even though it is apparent that community is important to God, our culture, including the church, has shown signs of social disengagement. Several threatening factors, including the rise of individualism, have infiltrated and affected our culture in significant

ways. The church has not been immune to these effects, resulting in a loss of biblical community.

Formation of God-centered, spiritually focused small group environments is a popular trend being used today to help rebuild and reclaim biblical community among God’s people. It is in these environments where heart-to-heart encounters with God and his family take place so that lives are changed. God created us to be in close relationship with him and others. It is among God’s people, where Christians come together as one to love God and their neighbor, that we find the missing ingredient of community.

Now, that is what makes a sandwich!

▶ Bryan Brown is a husband and a father of two. He is currently in his fifth year as a youth minister at Friendly Avenue Church of Christ in Greensboro, N.C. Bryan is currently working on his Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree at the Graduate School.

„training ministers „enriching faith „transforming leaders

Harding University Graduate School of Religion

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

Web site
www.hugsr.edu

Dean's office
dean@hugsr.edu

Registrar's office
hgsregistrar@hugsr.edu

Library
hgstlib@hugsr.edu

The Bridge Volume 51,
Number 1
Spring 2010

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

Editor
Mark Parker

Contributors
Larry Arick, Bryan Brown,
Evertt W. Huffard

Photo Credits
Sheri Brown, Holland Studios,
Jeff Montgomery, Mark Parker,
Cindy Putnam

Newsletter Production
Tom Buterbaugh, Jennifer Hannigan

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

»»trainingministers

»»enrichingfaith

»»transformingleaders

Dean's Note

The Learning Curve

In 1885, Hermann Ebbinghaus published *Memory* and became a pioneer in psychology with research on the forgetting curve and the learning curve. Both exponentially impact memory. According to him, we forget much just 20 minutes after an experience, more after an hour, and then it evens out after a day. So next week you may only remember reading this article and not what I wrote.

As for our rate of learning, the sharpest increase comes after the first try and becomes less effective after each attempt. So give it all you've got the first time!

Studying at HUGSR and involvement in ministry greatly improve the effects of the learning curve. We cannot afford to ignore the learning curve; we celebrate and accelerate it. It defines kingdom business. Disciples call it a cross they accept daily.

Here are my reflections on learning curves in ministry that cry out for vision and training:

► **In biblical studies:** The excitement of discovering new insights on a biblical text or book after reading a commentary or hearing a gifted speaker is not the same as learning Hebrew and Greek and developing a reliable hermeneutic of the word.

► **In campus ministry:** Planning meaningful activities for university students and connecting to their life issues will call for skills in philosophy, wisdom, counsel-

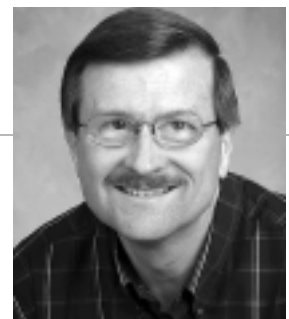
ing and conflict management if these students are ever to develop the discipline for building strong families and a healthy church life.

► **In church planting:** The thrill of starting something new quickly cools in the face of limited resources, discouraging responses, and long nights of spiritual struggles with new believers who seem so far from becoming mature church leaders.

► **In counseling:** The heart to help people get better or have a better marriage aches in the face of people who come to you with deep, complex problems. Giving hope requires professional skills to override destructive emotions.

► **In evangelism:** The noble goal we all share of bringing the lost to Christ increasingly requires more patience, openness for spiritual conversation, and hospitality than most people in the pew know how to give. Therefore, the skills needed for creating a church culture for outreach and acceptance of infant believers usually don't come naturally.

► **In missions:** Short-term missions seem so clean and neat that we may assume long-term missions are just more of the same. Even the missionary kid who returns to the field realizes that prior cultural experience will not flatten the learning curve for doing ministry among adults in a culture experienced as a kid. They still learn to cope with the challenges of culture shock, relevant teaching of the Word,



HUFFARD

and leadership development.

► **In preaching:** The most gifted speaker, with the natural ability to interest and inspire people, will still find an empty bucket. Preaching deep and wide will flow from a discipline that appreciates a weekly learning curve in the word, community and inner-life development.

► **In shepherding:** The learning curve that comes with fatherhood does not compare to the learning curve of being an elder in a culture where individualism and entertainment prevail.

► **In teaching:** It is one thing to study and understand a complex and deep topic but quite another thing to get others interested in that topic or deliver it in a way that learning actually takes place.

► **In youth ministry:** Loving our teens and keeping them out of trouble is not enough to adequately connect them to the mission of Christ in their young adult years for a lifetime within the body of Christ.

Learning curve theory tells me that left to myself, it will be difficult to succeed in any of these areas. Our alumni show me that hope abounds for effective service in any one of these areas with appropriate training, mentoring and spiritual formation.

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

At the Intersection of Art, History and Faith

Combining his passion for art and history with his commitment to ministry seems natural for the Student Association vice president.

It looked as though he was throwing away the chance of a lifetime. After completing high school at an art magnet school in Florida, Preston Cottrell's path seemed clear: professional art school — one school offered him a full scholarship — then a career in art or design.

Instead, Preston went to college to study history with an eye to be a professor.

"I went to the Honors Symposium at Harding [in Searcy, Ark.,] and enjoyed seeing how professors had both a Christian and intellectual side to them," he notes.

At first blush, the move from art to history may seem jarring, but he sees two important connections: observation and creativity.

"People miss the important subtleties in life," Cottrell says. For him, great art displays these nuances in the same way good history fleshes out the story of the past. "I want to see the subtleties of life around me."

But seeing life's details is not enough. Whether art or history, "if it doesn't connect to the culture around me, it can only go so far." The creative process of connecting what he observes with those around him informs his art and his academic pursuit.

Art and history combine observing details and communicating them creatively.

"I've always been interested in Christianity and spirituality," he says. "My second major was in vocational ministry."

After some undergraduate professors recommended he look into Harding Graduate School, Preston attended a campus preview event.

He was skeptical. "I had understood that an intellectual pursuit and ministry were mutually exclusive," he notes. "I feared coming to the Graduate School would cap off my academic side."

What he found surprised him. The first thing he noticed was that the recruiting process was about discernment. "There was a dialogue. There was a desire to know me."

In addition, the connections he saw between study and Christian life intrigued him. "I realized professors and students don't have a vision of separating their ministry from their academics."

"[The students and professors] had an authenticity to them that made their academics a part of their real lives."

The experience was enough for him to come as a student seeking the M.A. with an emphasis in historical theology.

Not surprisingly, observation and creativity have played a significant role in his studies and his growth as a student.

"Looking at scripture and exegesis — those are observations. Applying what we see, patterning our lives after the image of Christ is creativity."

"God is creative," he reminds us. "I have seen that when ministers fail to see God creating anew in their ministries, they lose energy." Since

God is creative, observation is necessary to discern where he is working and transforming.

Cottrell has found ways to weave together the three strands of his academic career in his thesis, which explores the parallels between the Fanning/Richardson controversy and the aesthetic debates in the broader culture during the same period.

Even with his studies, he has not given up on art. He continues to paint and has shared his skills with the campus community, such as using art concepts to enrich chapel experiences.

He plans to graduate this spring. He and his wife, Alana, are looking toward ministry in the Northeast.



PRESTON COTTRELL stands in front of his four seasons series of paintings.

"Harding Grad has been a maturing time," he says. "Blending my art, historical interests and ministry has helped the process of becoming what God wants me to be."

Tucker Tapped as Communications Director

Paavo Tucker has been named Student Association communications director, taking the place of Jacob Parnell. Tucker is an M.Div. student living on campus



and was previously the singles representative. He graduated from Freed-Hardeman University in 2007.

On-Site Archaeology Course in 2011

During the last two weeks of May 2011, Biblical Archaeology will be offered on-site in Greece and Israel. The course includes lectures as well as tours of key archaeological sites. For more information, please e-mail Dr. Phil McMillion at pmmcillion@hugsr.edu.

Faculty Notes

Dr. **Mark Powell** published “Canonical Theism and Theological Commitments in the Stone-Campbell Movement” in *Restoration Quarterly* (winter 2009) and reviewed Jason Vickers’s “Invocation and Assent: The Making and Remaking of Trinitarian Theology” in *Stone-Campbell Journal* (fall 2009).

Dr. **Phil McMillion** wrote the article on “Og, King of Bashan” in *New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible* published by Abingdon Press.

Faculty

Dr. Eddie Randolph Joins Faculty

Eddie Randolph (D.Min., 1993; erandolp@harding.edu) has been named assistant professor of ministry and will begin teaching fall 2010.

Since 2007, Randolph has served as an adjunct professor, teaching Small Groups Ministry and directing practicums while serving as pulpit minister of Northwest Tampa (Fla.) Church of Christ.

This summer he will move to Memphis to join the faculty full time. In addition to teaching ministry courses, he will also direct field education and develop a program for church leaders.

Randolph completed the Master of Theology in 1986 and the Doctor of Ministry in 1993 at Harding Graduate School and has been preaching for 25 years in Florida, Missouri, Louisiana and Illinois.

“We have patiently sought the right person to anchor ministry training in our M.Div. program,” comments Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, vice president and dean. “And I believe the Lord has blessed us with the right per-



EDDIE AND CINDY RANDOLPH

son. Dr. Randolph comes with a deep passion for the church, a set of spiritual gifts that will inspire and encourage mentoring in ministry, and a broad range of experiences in the local church.”

Dr. Steve McLeod, associate dean, notes Randolph’s continued research while serving as a minister.

“[Randolph] has done an excellent job in staying in touch with his scholastic roots and keeping up to date with the latest in ministry thought and trends.”

In the fall he will begin teaching Congregational Ministry and Small Groups as well as strengthening our field education to give more focus on spiritual formation.

“Students have appreciated his mentoring and faculty members are grateful to see this position filled again,” Huffard adds.

Eddie and wife, Cindy, have three children: Ana, a student at Harding Graduate School; Rob, a student at Lipscomb University; and Eli, a high school sophomore.

Celebrating the Life of Clyde Lewis

Harding University Graduate School of Religion lost a friend Dec. 28, 2009, with the death of Homer Clyde Lewis, brother to Dr. Jack Lewis. In August 1996, Lewis began his volunteer service at the Harding Graduate School library. Don Meredith, head librarian, estimates Lewis gave 9,000 hours of volunteer service: entering 63,000 data records, applying barcodes to 30,000 books, and processing and shelving 100,000 books. This work saved the school more than \$160,000.

For his commitment, immeasurable contributions, humble spirit, and unflagging devotion to students and faculty, Harding University granted Lewis an honorary doctorate May 2007. This was the first and only hon-

orary degree awarded in the history of Harding Graduate School.

Carisse Berryhill, former associate librarian at the Graduate School, said of Lewis, "Some men are measured by how much they can make. Others are measured by how much they give."

Lewis gave more than just his time. He also gave monetarily. He honored his late wife's memory by contributing more than \$50,000 to the Mary Griffie Cook Lewis Endowed Scholarship Fund at the school. He was also very generous with gifts to the annual scholarship fund, and those gifts were matched by the company from which he retired.

Clyde supported the mission of Harding Graduate School in volunteering his time. But he also supported

the school through gifts to the annual fund, matching gifts, an endowed fund and estate planning. We will obviously miss Clyde and need more partners like him.

Please consider being a partner with us in training and preparing God's workers.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gifts to the annual scholarship fund.

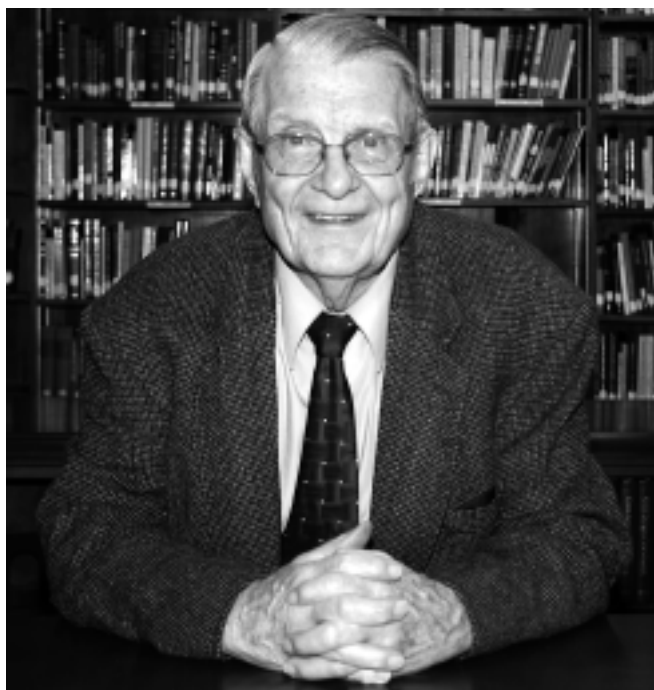
A STUDENT'S VIEW

Makoto Tateno, a graduate student who spoke in chapel Jan. 14 in honor of Dr. Clyde Lewis, noted the difference between the work students do and the behind-the-scenes work Clyde did for years:

"I'm doing my M.Div. for my own sake; I claim my credit for everything I do for the degree. When I take an exam, I put my name on it. When I submit a paper, it will have my name on it. And when I will request my transcript, it will have my name on it. Somewhere in my mind, I must admit, I am thinking that it's my accomplishment that I did for me.

"But as for Clyde, he poured himself out for something which does not bear his name. When we do an online-catalog search and find out if a certain book is available or not, the computer screen does not say 'This search result has been proudly brought to you by Clyde Lewis.'

"He quietly and humbly sacrificed his time for the benefit of others."



HOMER CLYDE LEWIS, Aug. 27, 1922 - Dec. 28, 2009

Students Challenge Faculty at Run for the Son

The 10th annual Run for the Son will be held April 24 on the Graduate School campus. The advancement office and Associated Women for Harding sponsor the 5K run to raise funds for student scholarships.

This year, the Student Association has challenged the faculty for a two-pronged competition. The first part of the competition is the timed part of the race. The second is the amount raised by each group.

Registration takes place at the door or online at www.hugsr.edu/run. Donations can be made by mail or by calling 901-761-1355.

Luncheon Slated April 1

Harding Graduate School Advancement Council luncheon will be held April 1 in the W.B. West Jr. Auditorium to honor donors who support the Graduate School.

Each year the event recognizes the current graduating class. Student Association President Caleb Borchers will address guests on behalf of the students.

In addition, the alumni council will award the Alumnus of the Year to Dr. Willie Nettle. The annual award recognizes an alumnus who has demonstrated leadership in an area related to the school's theme. This year's theme is "Christian Community."

For more information, please call Jeannie Alexander at 901-761-1355.

Dinner to Honor Chaplains

The annual Harding Graduate School Leadership Council dinner is scheduled for Sept. 11. This year's dinner will honor graduates serving as military and hospital chaplains. For more information, contact Jeannie Alexander at 901-761-1355.

BRIEFS

Applications Still Accepted

Applications for admission and scholarship are still being accepted for the 2010-11 academic year. These documents may be obtained through the admissions office (800-680-0809) or downloaded from the Admissions link at www.hugsr.edu.

Campus Life

Prospective Students Attend Campus Preview

The admissions office hosted Preview Day Feb. 23 as an opportunity for prospective students to explore Harding University Graduate School of Religion.

Preview Day, held once each fall and spring, typically includes campus tours, interaction with current students and faculty, and dinner. This time, however, two new elements were added to the pre-

view experience: a visit to a local community development ministry and an NBA basketball game.

Students visited Caritas Village, a community development ministry in Memphis, and ate dinner in the ministry's dining room. Then participants went to the FedEx Forum for a match up between the Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Lakers.

Ninety-two people pre-

registered for the event, and 35 chose to apply for admission during the event.

"Many students identify the preview day as an important part of their discernment about school and career choices," says Mark Parker (M.Div., 2005), assistant vice president. "Once students see the campus, understand their opportunities here and meet the people, it is an easy choice."

Summer Courses Provide Diverse Offerings

May 28-29	Christian Ministry Among Muslims (one-hour)	Huffard
June 3-10	1 Corinthians and Contemporary Ministry (D.Min. only)	Oster
June 7-12	Advanced Theological Research Providence and Suffering	Meredith Hicks
June 14-19	Advanced Introduction to the New Testament Wisdom Literature	Black McMillion
June 21-26	Counseling Skills Corinthian Letters Family Life Ministry	Gray Oster Hawley
July 12-17	Gospel of John Old Testament Theology Multicultural Counseling	Black McMillion Kennedy

Student Overview by the Numbers

This spring's student body represents a diverse group of backgrounds and interests.

Average age of all students: 32.8

States in which students this spring currently reside: 22

Distribution of students among degree:

Master of Arts	6%
M.A. in Christian Ministry	19%
M.A. in Counseling	17%
Master of Divinity	48%
Doctor of Ministry	7%
Other	3%

This spring 17 new students joined the Graduate School student body. They came from these undergraduate schools or previous graduate work:

- Freed-Hardeman University
- Harding University
- Hendrix College
- LeMoyné Owen College
- Lipscomb University
- Ohio Valley University
- University of Memphis
- University of Mississippi
- University of North Alabama

Hogan Leads Singapore Congregation Into Second Generation

When Dave Hogan's parents set out on a four-month drive from Germany to India, they actually ended up in Pakistan. And that is where Hogan (M.Th. 1987, dhogan@pacific.net.sg) grew up, speaking Urdu and playing cricket, until he was 14 and his parents moved the family to Singapore.

With such global experiences as a child, it is little wonder Hogan is a missionary.

After graduating in 1987, Hogan moved from Memphis back to Singapore to work with Moulmein Church of Christ, a congregation of English-speaking Chinese Singaporeans.

This was a very young church, Hogan points out, affectionately referring to the 250 members, mostly teenagers, as "an overgrown youth group." The core of that young group has stayed together through the years, sharing college, marriage, children, tragedies and other challenging stages in life.

Now leaders themselves, they are preparing to move into new roles and help the generation behind them. "We were a first-generation church," he says. "We are now part of a second generation of believers."

Hogan credits colleague Tony Gross (M.Div., 1989) with comparing the congregation to a marathon. "We are the frontrunners. No one is ahead of us, and it can be a hard trail. But we are making it easier for those coming behind us."

Part of what has held the congregation together is a robust theology of community. "God's great dream is that



HOGAN

of community, connecting people to his life. He is community in himself. Church is a vital part of

that strategy, where we begin participating in growing in God's vision for creation."

A first-generation, English-speaking, Chinese congregation in Singapore may be an ideal place to experience the power of Christian community. "In the community, people discover their gifts and through the gospel people connect to God's community."

The congregation has found unique inroads to share the gospel because they saw themselves as a community for people to use their God-given gifts.

One brother in the church discovered leadership gifts

and began what is now the Center for Fatherhood. The Center is a resource not only for Christians in Singapore but also for the greater community. The Center holds workshops and seminars for 80-100 couples a month.

A sister in the congregation worked with disabled children and started inviting the families to church. That connection has grown into regular parties for families with disabled children. This ministry that sprang organically from the gifts and opportunities in the congregation has connected people to the congregation who otherwise would have had no contact with the church.

Again, a theology of community undergirds these ministries. "The church surfaces our gifts. We learn, serve, and repent in this community," Hogan says.

A global vision seems like a natural result of Hogan's diverse experience. No wonder, then, that Hogan's community includes his graduate alma mater, located halfway around the world. "The gifts I received during my time at Harding Graduate School have kept me going and excited, connecting me to a rich, wonderful and inspiring community in God's great kingdom."

Alumni Meeting Set for April 1

Spring alumni meeting will be held in conjunction with the Advancement Council Luncheon April 1. The Ministry Forum will be replaced by a resource event for church leaders to be announced later this year. The Alumni Council will award Alumnus of the Year to Dr. Willie Nettle (D.Min., 2001; wjnettle@yahoo.com) for his work in building his church community.

All alumni are invited. Please RSVP at 901-761-1355.

Return Service Requested

Bridge

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #22
Searcy, AR 72143

Final Word

The Power of Generations

It was tucked into the corner of the beach condo during a college student retreat in Florida recently. The whole weekend had been a powerful experience of praise, preaching and friendship. Now, huddled in the apartment, the campus ministers wanted to process.

One powerful concept kept emerging: the idea that the campus group was more than just random people, but a community.

It is a campus minister's dream come true, to have students coming together openly sharing their spiritual journey.

Then one of the nonstudent leaders spoke. He had been through this university program and experienced firsthand the kind of community the students were feeling right now. What he said was from an insider further along the way, not from an outside observer.

"You are a community," he told them. "But there is more to community than this."

He told the students about their need, which they might not have even known about, for people like him — people a generation or two ahead. What he described was a place for people of various life stages joining together in authentic life. It's the proverbial village.

It's the church.

It reminded me of the sitcom "Friends." The basic premise is that a group of same-aged people share their lives together. They deal with bosses, parents and emotional baggage — as good friends should and do. What is missing is anyone to guide, coach or mentor them. The folks a generation older are comic foils, not fellow travelers.

It may be good comedy. But as a lifestyle this mono-generational life is a tragedy.

The cultural norm is to produce enclaves of same-generational individuals. But few people actually want this, least of all those who have lived in it long.

My job blesses me with the opportunity to get to know many people a generation or so younger than I. Some of them long to sever the ties of those ahead of them. Most, however, are very open to building relationships with those older than they are, even though they don't necessarily know how to make the initial connection.

The Graduate School is blessed to offer many cross-generational opportunities, such as mentoring groups. But the vision must be larger than this school.

How are you reaching out to develop authentic relationships with those a generation away?

▶ Mark Parker
mparker@hugsr.edu