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The Bridge

Harding School of Theology

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Fall 2011

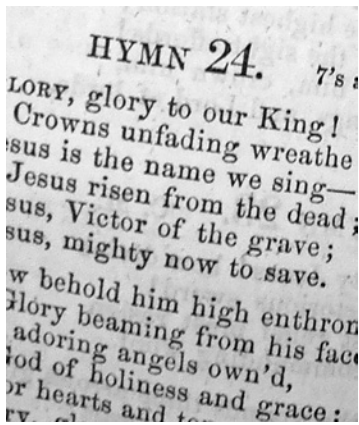
**The Bridge Fall 2011 Vol. 52 No. 2**

Harding School of Theology

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**HARDING**  
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# THE Bridge

VOLUME 52, NO. 2, FALL 2011

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## The Incarnation: *In Jesus, Deity Assumed Human Form*

John 1:1 makes it clear that from the beginning: "The word was with God, and the word was God." The idea is that "the word was fully deity in essence." Yet he did not just associate himself with a human being nor did he take on the appearance of a human being; he became flesh.

Paul agrees with John's statement of Jesus' deity in Phil. 2:5-11 (Col. 1:15-17). However, Paul goes on in verses 7-8 to say, "He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!" Here is a description of one who had the nature of God and willingly took on the nature of humanity even to the extent of dying on a cross.

It is this self-emptying act in the person of Jesus Christ that gives both anchor and motivation to the people of God. It is our anchor because in the sacrificial work of Jesus we find the gap between the Holy God and the sin of



*Black*

humanity bridged — the only son of God came to bring eternal life (John 3:16-17). It is also our motivation because the church in the world is, in a powerful sense, the continuing incarnational presence of Jesus.

The mission of Jesus as



*Randolph*

savior is unique and unrepeatable, but it is continued in the church, which Paul frequently refers to as the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 4:12). As the body of Christ, the church becomes a physical presence of God in the world. The church's identity hasn't changed through the centuries. The church, like Jesus, is to respond to the world and each other in love. Following the lead of Jesus, the church humbly serves the world. His mission becomes our mission.

Being the body of Christ, continuing the mission of Jesus Christ, results in tangible ministry in our world.

From the foundation of the "enfleshment" of God's son, the church preaches reconciliation and salvation. The incarnation allows the desperately needed fruits of hope and justice to ripen in broken lives. The mission of Christ in the world empowers us to love the world, leading the church into gracious service.

*Drs. Allen Black and  
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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

# Asian Connection

The incarnation of Jesus Christ inspires us to bridge the gaps, possibly even chasms, between the ancient word and contemporary life, values of emerging young adults and our church heritage, rural churches in an urban world, and massive populations of the East and resourceful churches of the West.

### FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IN ASIA

The size and cultural distance of Asia can overwhelm us. I have read that only one-half of one percent of all funds given for Christian missions of any kind goes to where 65 percent of the world's population live — the "10/40 window." Half of that "window" is in Asia. Yet we know that no vision is too big for God. We have students with such a vision, and HST is blessed with their connection to Asia. Our alumni and students have served in Asia on Let's Start Talking teams, with China Now and China Calls, and teaching English in Japan. Others have served in Cambodia, Philippines and Singapore. Three graduates and their families have been working in Papua New Guinea. One student spent the past two summers in India.

As a school, we have connections to Asia, past and present. Dr. George Benson, the second president of Harding University and founder of our graduate program, was in China as a missionary when the trustees of the college appointed him as president in 1936. I

have had opportunities to serve in Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia. In February I was honored to teach at the South Pacific Bible College in Tauranga, New Zealand, with students from Japan, South Korea, Philippines and Fiji. When I participated in the Asian Mission Forum several years ago, I came away with a deep appreciation for our brothers and sisters who would not allow the enormity of the task to overwhelm them but faithfully serve wherever the Lord sends them with whatever resources the Lord provides.

### ASIAN MISSIONS ENDOWMENT

This September, God blessed us with a very special connection to Asia that will inspire a greater vision for what God can do. In 1972, Steve Cate, a missionary in Indonesia, baptized Tine



Tine and Carlo Tabalujan

Tabalujan. Fifteen years later, Gordon Hogan, a missionary in Singapore, baptized Carlo, Tine's husband. In honor of the missionary efforts of Gordon and Jane Hogan and Steve and Jeanie Cate and to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Carlo and Tine, the Tabalujan family recently established the Hogan-Cate Endowed Asian



Huffard

Missions Fund at HST. This fund will provide travel expenses, tuition and housing for a missionary on furlough or a church leader on sabbatical from Asia to come to HST and Harding University during the fall semester each year for spiritual renewal, study, and an opportunity to invite us all to participate in the growth of the church in Asia. It will also support an Asian Missions Day at Harding University and an annual missions award to honor a faithful servant in Asia.

I get excited dreaming of the good that will come from this connection to Asia. Now I am praying for a similar endowment for Africa, South America and Europe. Imagine the rich fellowship these brothers and sisters will experience here on our campus, encouraging us and each other, and sharing stories of what God is doing all over the world. It makes you want to sing praises to a living God and declare his honor among the nations and his marvelous deeds among all people (Psalm 96:1-2)!

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

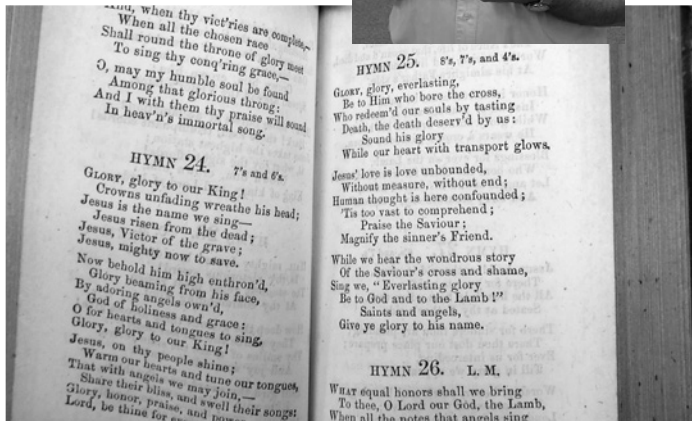
[As this issue went to press, we learned that Carlo Tabalujan passed away Thursday, Nov. 10, in Jakarta. Our sympathy and prayers are offered on behalf of the Tabalujan family.]

# HST Receives McInteer Library

Jim Bill McInteer (1921-2010) served on Harding University's board of trustees for nearly 60 years. For many years he was chairman of the board's committee for the Harding School of Theology.

In May 2011 at the invitation of his daughter, MariLynn Canterbury, Evelyn and I went to Nashville and selected about 150 books and several tracts and curriculum books from his library for the HST library. A large percentage of these are items published by members of the church of Christ and are nice additions to the heritage section of the HST collection.

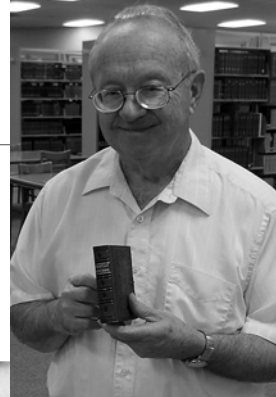
Among the significant items are three printings (1875; 1859; Toronto, 3rd



Don Meredith holds Alexander Campbell's 1859 hymnal.

ed., 1868) of Alexander Campbell's hymnal. The 1859 (5th ed.) is a beautifully bound pocket-size (3 1/2 x 4 1/2) printing with gold lettering and metal clasp.

The McInteer family is also donating Jim Bill's papers to the HST library. Eight



## BRIEFS

### Massie Library Volunteer

The library welcomes Dan Massie, who started volunteering in January. Massie, a retired radiologist, is a member of the Highland Church of Christ. He verifies records in the online library catalog with the goal of getting rid of the old card catalogs.

### New Website Launched

To go along with its new name, Harding School of Theology has a brand-new website, launched Aug. 19. Built from the ground up by T&S Web Design, the new site incorporates a structure similar to the older hugsr.edu but is built on newer technology and a fresh design. Visit HST.edu for up-to-date information about campus news, degree programs, resources and more.



boxes have already arrived. Thanks to MariLynn Canterbury and Mark McInteer for their hospitality and assistance in providing access to the library and the opportunity to preserve Jim Bill's papers.

Don L. Meredith  
dmeredith@hst.edu

# Two Powerful Resources For Church Leaders

The Certificate in Spiritual Leadership is a 21-hour certificate program with five core classes and two electives. The courses are available in distance education format, which includes online, one-week intensives, and one-

weekend-a-month sessions. The M.A. in ministerial counseling opens for admission beginning fall 2012 (pending HLC and ATS approval). This 48-hour degree emphasizes the integration of counseling and spirituality through interpersonal

skills within the context of ministry. It will equip ministers for counseling situations likely to arise in a congregational context.

More information will be available at HST.edu when the approval process is completed.

# Convocation Opens Year

Aug. 22 saw HST supporters, students, faculty and staff gather for the 10th annual Convocation, held in the W.B. West Jr. Center Auditorium.

Convocation opens each new academic year with a time of worship and contemplation of the year's theme. This year's event also inaugurated the school's new name:

Harding School of Theology. Dr. Daniel J. Earheart-Brown, president of Memphis Theological Seminary, addressed the topic of incarnation to launch the theme of the year.



## BRIEFS

## Faculty Notes

Jack Lewis published a collection of his writings from the past 15 years. *The Encouragement of the Scriptures* may be purchased from Hester Publications or directly from Lewis (jackplewis@juno.com). The cost is \$25 per book plus \$3 shipping.



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John Kennedy successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in counseling education and supervision through Regent University.



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Phil McMillion, Allen Black, and Dave Bland spoke at the 2011 Christian Scholars Conference, held June 16-18, 2011, at Pepperdine University.



Bob Turner presented "Tweet Where the Bible Speaks: Reviewing Twitter Habits of Ten Dead Restorationists" at the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference, held April 8-9, 2011, and hosted by Cincinnati Christian University.



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Ed Gray, Jack Lewis and Mark Powell spoke at the Harding University Bible Lectureship in September.

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## Cooper, Berryhill Honored

Dan Cooper and his wife, Katherine, were selected as the 2011 recipients of the Christian Service Award, presented at the Christian Chronicle luncheon during Pepperdine University's Bible Lectures.

"Whatever good has been done in our work has been impacted to a large degree by the excellent education we received at Harding College, both of us graduating in 1973, and more recently

by my graduate studies at HST, for the 10 years beginning in 1998, and ending in 2008," says Cooper.

Dr. Carisse Berryhill was presented the Distinguished Christian Service Award on May 4 at Pepperdine University's 68th annual Bible Lectures. Currently ACU's special services librarian, Berryhill was on hand in Malibu, Calif., to speak at Pepperdine's lectures on "Here Is Water: Baptistry Paintings and Spir-

ity in Churches of Christ."

In addition to her work at ACU, Berryhill serves on the board of the American Theological Library Association. Pepperdine's award acknowledged her as a "respected historian of the Stone-Campbell Movement, whose dedicated work with librarians, archivists and historians, has helped to identify, collect, preserve and digitize many historically valuable documents and publications."

## Carter Joins HST Team

Matt Carter has been named director of admissions at HST effective Nov. 1. "His love for the school and passion for the growth of the kingdom will fit well with our mission," noted Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, vice president and dean.

Carter returns to his alma mater after 16 years in ministry. His most recent ministry was as lead church planter in Chapel Hill, N.C. He has an extensive campus ministry background, including nine

years as campus minister for Cats for Christ at Kansas State University and campus ministry intern at University of Memphis.

In addition to his Master of Divinity degree from HST, Carter earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from University of Georgia.

Carter is married to Felicia, and they have three children.

Carter replaces Mark Parker, who is moving to a new ministry at the Grand



Carter

Central Church of Christ in Vienna, W.Va.

## Oster Begins Blog on Revelation

*Sub•verto* — to overturn, cause to topple over, by pressure from below or at the base (s.v. *Oxford Latin Dictionary*).

Dr. Richard Oster, HST professor of New Testament, recently unveiled a blog he calls "Seven Subversive Letters." Based upon research

and ideas for a manuscript he has sent off to a publisher, the blog looks at Revelation 1-3.

In addition to regular blog posts on the letters to the seven churches, Oster writes a weekly post called GRANT: Graeco-Roman Antiquity and the New Testament, in which he presents "a small sample

of information that mirrors some aspect of the ancient world surrounding nascent Christianity." Recent entries have addressed beastly numbers, pagans persecuting pagans and learning to curse from Moses.

To read Oster's blog, go to <http://www.richardoster.com/>.

# HST Leadership Council Honors Sanderson

Each year the Harding School of Theology Leadership Council honors an alumnus or group of individuals for their faithfulness in ministry. In past years we have honored Jane Tomlinson, C.W. Bradley, Jimmy Moffett, Nokomis Yeldell, John Simpson, the HST faculty, and military and hospital chaplains. On Oct. 8, 2011, we honored Dr. Leon B. Sanderson for his 60-plus years in ministry.

For the last 32 years, Sanderson has been the worship leader and senior adult minister for the Church of Christ at White Station. A special video illustrating his gift of encouragement was shown at the dinner. "One of the goals my wife and I had was to be a 'Leon' at a congregation," commented



*Leon Sanderson and his wife, Marilyn, receive a scrapbook from Evertt Huffard.*

David Rubio, one of the participants in the video.

A capacity crowd gave Sanderson three standing ovations as he and his wife, Marilyn, accepted a plaque from Dr. Evertt W. Huffard and received a scrapbook of personal notes from family

and friends. We reached our goal of raising \$20,000 in honor of Leon for the Sanderson Endowed Scholarship fund and the Annual Scholarship Fund.

Oh, that we all could be a "Leon."

## Investing in Ministry

Not much has been heard recently about "return on investment," or ROI, due to weak economic conditions. During this same bleak economic downturn, however, a special group of investors has been blessed with a high ROI with very little risk. They are donors to the Harding School of Theology. They invest in students enrolled at HST to be better equipped for ministry.

The return on investment is not the diploma the student receives, although that might be the goal of the student. The ROI comes

from years of ministry these students are able to provide following their graduation. Dr. W. B. West used to say that investing in students at the graduate school would spread the gospel for 30 years. The picture in the hallway of our Administration Building of the class of 1959 tells a different, even better story. Some in that class, like Finis Caldwell, Jimmy Allen and Mac Lynn, are still in ministry after more than 50 years. Now we can truthfully say that investing in the HST could spread the gospel for half a century.

Additional ROI comes

from faith-based ministries or organizations like Hope-Works, Agape, Harding Academy and all of our Christian universities. If you are looking for an investment with a high ROI consider Harding School of Theology. We also have resources for long term financial planning. Having Harding as part of your estate plan will insure that your resources will continue to serve God. Call me at 901-432-7727 with any questions you might have about investing in the Lord's work.

*Larry Arick  
larick@hst.edu*

## BRIEFS

### Upcoming Events

**AWH Fundraiser**  
*January 28, 2012*

The Associated Women for Harding will host their annual Soup and Chili Supper and Pie Auction on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the fellowship hall of the Church of Christ at White Station. Join us at 6 p.m. for good food, fun and fellowship.

**Urban Ministry Conference**  
*February 23-25, 2012*

Students and ministers to urban populations will meet at HST for the 2012 Urban Ministry Conference. The National Urban Ministry Association identifies itself as "incarnational urban ministries and individuals networked together to fulfill the great commission through the church." The association and its annual conference aim to be a voice for the poor by providing resources and support and encouraging collaboration between urban ministries and churches.

For more information or to register go to [www.NationalUrbanMinistryAssociation.org/](http://www.NationalUrbanMinistryAssociation.org/) or contact Jim Harbin at [jim.harbin@nationalurbanministryassociation.org](mailto:jim.harbin@nationalurbanministryassociation.org).

## BRIEFS



## Upcoming Events

## Shepherding Seminar

March 20-25, 2012

The Seminar in Congregational Shepherding and Leadership at Harding School of Theology is a unique opportunity for church leaders to gain in-depth training in congregational dynamics and the challenges facing churches and church leaders in the 21st century. Current and potential church shepherds and their wives will gain direction in pastoral care for families, accepting and exercising spiritual authority, managing conflict and crisis, empowering leadership styles, mentoring for spiritual growth, and related topics.

Cost is \$300 plus \$50 for resources; wives pay only for resources. For more information, contact Dr. Eddie Randolph at erandolph@hst.edu or 901-432-7724. Check the HST.edu blog for more information.

January 20-22, 2012

A Shepherds Network weekend will also be held in Belgrade, Mont., 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 at slaird@imt.net or 406-453-3379.

## Intense — but Worth It

What do two engineers, a chiropractor and a businessman have in common? Along with several ministers and full-time students, these men took Advanced Theological Research as an intensive course in October.

ATR is required by all HST programs except the counseling degree and is challenging enough when spread over a semester. Compressed into six days of class meetings it requires focus and persistence — and a sense of humor doesn't hurt. The October ATR group represents the diversity of our students and the range of goals toward which they are working.

Robby Hare recently graduated from Harding University and wants to go where God leads him, perhaps into church planting. He is especially impressed by the way Dr. Steve McLeod and Don Meredith worked with him to overcome scheduling difficulties. Grant Johnson was urged to come to HST by graduates Paul Birston, David Ford and Scott Laird after having worked as a chiropractor for 12 years. Johnson plans to go back to his native Canada after completing the ministry internship in Great Falls, Mont. When asked about ministry goals, he jokes he was "hoping someone would tell me that when I got here."

Ethan Bilbrey, a Freed-Hardeman graduate, is working toward full-time missions, possibly in Latin or Central America. ATR helped him grow up a lot in his level of discipline. Russ Biser also

intends to do mission work, a change from his previous career as an electrical engineer. He was brought to HST by his wife, 2011 counseling graduate Marisol Rosas Biser, whom he met in China while both were teaching English. Russ recommends students avoid accidentally registering for two intensive courses held the same week.

Robert Warner, a biotech industrial engineer, works with the Hispanic ministry and youth in his local congregation. Warner plans to teach biblical languages when he's "ready to retire from engineering" and remarks that on the first Sunday night, he looked through the library windows and saw a room filled with books. By Friday, he "was walking through the stacks and it felt familiar — what a change in a week!" Like Warner, Elijah Pleasant plans an eventual career change. Twenty years from now he'd like to be a professor, teaching congregational leadership skills and ministry. Pleasant graduated from Harding University with a degree in business management and works for Allstate Insurance in Lynnwood, Wash.

Stephen Rollins notes that learning about specialized databases was especially eye opening. "I never knew what they were or what was in them and was too afraid to

click and find out. Now I'm finding lots of good things." Rollins preaches for the church of Christ in Leesburg, Va., and has two educational goals: stimulating his own growth and development and preparing himself to teach on the college level at some point.

Erik Granberg has spent eight years in Keizer, Ore., as a youth/associate minister and plans to continue his ministry, probably in the Northwest. ATR is a crash course in research, according to Granberg, but he reassures other students that it is "more crash — no burn!" Frank Powell, another youth and family minister, serves the Lake Harbour Church of Christ in Jackson, Miss. He wants to preach someday if God wills it and wishes he had taken ATR as his first class at HST.

Tom Pittmon, a preacher in Colorado, feels like he "sweated blood" over ATR but that it opened up a whole world of research for him, and he compliments Meredith's patience with his students. Dean Hammack agrees, asserting, "Anyone in ministry would benefit from this class." Hammack moved straight from his undergraduate degree at Harding University to graduate studies at HST and is open to God's guidance in his future ministry.





# Meet the Student Association

## PRESIDENT

JR Sheets

*Hometown:* Stafford, Va.

*Undergraduate school:*

Plymouth State University

*Degree sought:* M.Div.

*Ministry goal:* To declare the



sovereignty of God, the supreme worth and centrality of Jesus Christ, and the incomparable Gospel of grace, in whatever roles that have been prepared.

*Advice for students:* Spend regular time with God; don't just study about him. Love and spend time with God.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

Andrew Taylor

*Hometown:* Old Antioch, Tenn.

*Undergraduate school:*

Freed-Hardeman University

*Degree sought:* M.Div.



*Ministry goal:* Long-term mission work

*Advice for students:*

Don't look

back. As Jesus said in Luke 9:62, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jessi Berger

*Hometown:* Cleveland, Ohio

*Undergraduate school:*

Harding University

*Degree sought:* M.A.C.

*Ministry goal:* To provide

services to battered women

and to improve marriage relationships.

*Advice for students:* Focus



on learning well — not necessarily on making an "A."

Also, taking notes in

flashcard form makes studying for finals and midterms significantly easier!

## COMMUNICATIONS

Ana Randolph

*Hometown:* Tampa, Fla.

*Undergraduate school:*

Lipscomb University

*Degree sought:* M.A.C.

*Ministry goal:* To help fami-



lies by helping parents have better relationships.

*Advice for students:*

Research your options about licensure. I recommend starting your research early so you can have all your options in order to find which one is the best fit for your gifts and talents.

## ON-CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

Kevin Burr

*Hometown:* Nashville, Tenn.

*Undergraduate school:*

Harding University

*Degree sought:* M.Div.

*Ministry goal:* To equip our

Christian young men and

women to live their faith

genuinely and discuss their

faith intelligently.

*Advice for students:* You will get the most out of your ex-



periences at HST if you invest time and energy not just into your studies but also

into your classmates, the faculty and staff. HST is a place where all the faculty and staff want students to succeed in the class and in their ministries, preaching, teaching, counseling, etc. You only have to ask and someone will help out or point you in the right direction!

## OFF-CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Sowers

*Hometown:* Altamonte Springs, Fla.

*Undergraduate school:*

Harding University

*Degree sought:* M.Div./M.A.

*Ministry goal:* I model the words of Dr. Lewis and Paavo



Tucker when I sum it up in the phrase: "The ministry of study." *Advice for students:*

The fear of failure discourages the creation of success. The one who risks failure will learn how to be great. Take the risk and keep learning.

# BRIEFS

## Upcoming Events

Ephesus Conference In Honor of Dr. Richard Oster  
May 18-19, 2012

Dr. **Richard Oster**, professor of New Testament at HST since 1977, began his academic career with his Princeton Ph.D.



dissertation on "A Historical Commentary on the Missionary Success Stories in Acts

19:11-40." Since then he has continued a focus on Ephesus throughout his studies.

On the occasion of his 65th birthday, HST will be the site of a conference on "Ephesus as a Religious Center Under the Principate." Former students and colleagues will offer papers on Ephesian material culture and on early Christian texts connected to Ephesus. The participants will include scholars with expertise on Ephesus from throughout the United States and from Austria and New Zealand.

The conference is being organized by Allen Black, Trevor Thompson and James Walters. The conference will be free of charge and open to all. For further details contact Dr. Allen Black at [ablack@hst.edu](mailto:ablack@hst.edu).

## New HST logo shirts, cups and other items available

The Student Association is selling HST gear to raise money for the student activity fund. More information, photos, and an order form are available online at [HST.edu](http://HST.edu).





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## FINAL WORD

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# In the Cloud

“**T**herefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV)

We take renewed courage and inspiration from the vast number of faithful who have gone before us. The writer of Hebrews describes this group as a great “cloud of witnesses,” encircling us in

shared experience and cheering us on in our earthly marathon.

While the Bible will always be our primary source of testimony from these fellow witnesses of faith, the cloud continues to grow. Anyone who has wandered the stacks of the HST library knows the sense of being enveloped by the massive amount of thought, prayer and writing evidenced by thousands of books and journals.

More recently the billow of witnesses has expanded further, into what the world calls “the cloud.” Resources, tools and information are made available over the Internet. Physical location is irrelevant. Cho-

sen carefully, witnesses in this electronic cloud can build us up, provoke thought and instruct us in unique ways.

I will be using this column to introduce and spotlight witnesses of our faith in all their many forms. Look for excerpts from the old faithful, notice of new publications, introductions to social media resources and databases — anything that can help to lift our drooping hands and strengthen our weak knees (v.12) — to continually redirect our focus toward Jesus, our incarnate God.

*Sheila Owen*  
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