casual encounter leaves one with two immediate impressions of Ian Markham, Hartford Seminary's new dean: his youthful exuberance and his wry sense of humor. Wait just a bit longer, however, and what soon emerges is a fuller sense of all Markham brings to the Seminary: a mind that is rigorous, scholarly and inquisitive, and a heart that seems to have the right combination of compassion, faith, skepticism and hope. Markham is known for his ability to synthesize seemingly disparate qualities: his numerous publications range from the heady Plurality and Christian Ethics to the breezy Church Wedding Handbook.
Institutional Affairs, Hartford Seminary

Mary Miller died on April 27, 2001. We apologize for any confusion.

Correction

The grant also helped finance a re-issue of the book God is One. The Way of Islam with a new introduction. In 2002 and 2003, the grant will provide scholarship money to attract two Indonesian Christian leaders skilled in interfaith relations with Muslims who, while students at Hartford Seminary, will help Christian communities understand the dynamics of these relationships here in the United States. The leaders will be resources for American churches, as well as taking courses at the Seminary.

In addition, the Seminary will support the National Council of Churches as it develops a national program of enabling Christian churches across the United States to start interfaith dialogue groups among their members. The NCC plans to train facilitator leaders for these local congregational discussion groups through regional training events. God is One, written by R. Manton Speight, a Hartford Seminary alumna and winner of this year's Distinguished Alumni award, will be the major discussion group text.

In October, national experts in teaching dialogue will gather with Seminary faculty to reflect on the best ways to include dialogue as a core value in theological education.

The Seminary’s support will include offering its facilities as a resource to churches and mosques in New England that are involved in the NCC discussion groups. Leaders who have participated in the June “Essentials of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations” course would be available to visit the discussion groups.

The Wabach Center For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, a program at Wabash College funded by the Lilly Endowment, is awarding the Seminary $38,962 to organize a conference on best practices in teaching interfaith dialogue.

The title of the project is “Embedding Dialogue as a Learning Outcome in Theological Education.” A two-conference event, which is likely to take place in October, national experts in teaching dialogue will gather with Seminary faculty to reflect on the best ways to include dialogue as a core value in theological education.

Ian Markham, dean of the Seminary, thanked Wabash for the grant and said, “This is an important project. Our age desperately needs leaders of our churches and religious institutions who are committed to dialogue. This has always been at the heart of Hartford Seminary and this will help make us even stronger in this area.”

The J. Walton Bissell Foundation has given $9,000 in support of the Seminary’s three Certificate Programs: El Programa de Ministerios Hispanos (PMH), and the Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI). The funds, which will be divided among the three programs, will be used for scholarships during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 academic years.

This generous grant from the Bissell Foundation will help ensure educational opportunities for those seeking an introduction to theological education who wish to enhance their leadership skills in service to religious congregations,” said Institutional Advancement Executive Director Tom Missett.

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Muslim leader transformed at Hartford Seminary

By W. Evan Golder

Under the leadership of its imam, or spiritual leader, Fawaz Damra, the Islamic Center of Cleveland hosts a fair share of interfaith dinners, prayer services and open houses each year. And at least once a week, an outside group will take a tour of the six-year-old facility located in the suburb of Parma just southwest of Cleveland.

But interfaith relations have not always been Damra’s stock in trade. Last September, following the September 11 tragedy, Cleveland’s Fox TV outlet showed a decade-old videotape, released by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, of the imam raising money for a radical Palestinian group and making racial slurs against Jews.

What turned Damra around?

As he sees it, it was time spent at Hartford Seminary, where he earned a Master’s degree in 1998.

“I am someone who came from a background of complete ignorance of how to get along with people who are different,” he explained to a gathering of people just because they belonged to a certain race or to a certain faith. “I was living in a cultural ghetto, an intellectual ghetto. Ignorance breeds bigotry. I am a good example.”

Then in 1993 a friend of his, Ibrahim A bu Rabi, co-director of the Seminary’s M acdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, urged him to take summer courses there.

In 1991 Damra moved to Cleveland to become the imam of a mosque there. “At that time I still had no contact basically with people of different faiths nor people of different ethnicity,” he explains. “I was living in a cultural ghetto, an intellectual ghetto. Ignorance breeds bigotry. I am a good example.”

In November, The Medina Sun quoted Damra as saying, “I began to appreciate what other faiths and what America provides to me. There were a lot of things I could learn from other faiths. Then I realized that is what I am teaching.”

A bu Rabi remembers Damra as keeping an open mind and applying himself as hard as possible to study the interaction amongst Judaism, Christianity and Islam. “I think he left the seminary believing in larger communities, especially after I had been to Hartford Seminary, I came to realize that I could not make a judgment on people just because they belonged to a certain race or to a certain faith.”

“Actually I was ashamed and for which I have apologized repeatedly for who I was in the past and what I said. ‘Not only do such sentiments not represent my attitudes today, they are antithetical to my values and faith, my commitment to tolerance and peace,’” he wrote in a column in The Plain Dealer, Cleveland’s daily newspaper.

When his congregation built the new mosque in 1995, many of his people opposed his initiative to invite people of different faiths to the mosque. But after they saw Christians and Jews participating in interfaith prayer services, he says, “the resistance started fading away. Nowadays our interfaith dinners will include even Buddhists and Hindus.”

“Quite honestly,” he says, “those who have known me since that time would say to you that this has come as a result of the initiative that I took since I went to Hartford Seminary.”

The Rev. W. Evan Golder is Editor of United Church News, the national newspaper of the United Church of Christ, where this article first appeared. It is reprinted here with permission.

Faculty Book

Continued from page one

worse. Given that religious misunderstanding is at the heart of it, a critique by historically sensitive specialists in the field is urgently needed. The book aims to provide that critique.

The book will include chapters on the event itself, the cultural and social context, theological reflections and the broader issues of recording the moment and internal security versus civil liberties. A sampling of the chapter titles indicates the breadth of the book:

• Grieving Together: September 11 as a Measure of Social Capital in the United States, by Nancy Tatman, professor of sociology of religion

• Writing to the Spirit: Reflections on an Emerging American Spirituality, by Miriam Tesh Winters, professor of liturgy, worship and spirituality

• Religious Leadership in the Aftermath of September 11: Some Lessons from Jesus and Paul, by Erhan Agosto, professor of New Testament

• Contrasting Reactions and the Challenge of Dialogue, by M arkham

• Internal Security and Civil Liberties: Moral Dilemmas and Debates, by Heidi Haderli, professor of social ethics and Seminary president

In the introduction, M arkham and A bu Rabi say, “September 11, 2001 illustrates the complexity of coping that confronts us. We must come to terms with the ‘skill’ required to embark on the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, the thousands of devastated lives, and the gargantuan task of responding appropriately. The temptation when confronted with such complexity is to resort to silence. Silence, at least, ensures that we avoid the platitudinous or fatalistic.”

Yet silence also ensures that we do not start to grapple with the complexity. It makes it less likely that our subsequent actions will be considered and reflective. So it is, with some nervousness and trepidation, that the faculty of Hartford Seminary invites you to join a conversation about who we are and what is happening in our society after September 11.

“When approaching complexity, we do so with humility and with a strong commitment to pluralism. This book promises no answers. Instead as you turn the pages, you are joining us on a journey to understand the events of September 11 and the aftermath.”

They add, “We do not promise to reflect on all your questions, but we do promise to make a start.”

Finally, they say, “It is perhaps necessary to stress that no one of us represents Hartford Seminary. Each contributor is simply expressing his or her own views. We are all very aware of the differences among ourselves, but these are differences that we believe are important to articulate and explore together. We are inviting you to get annoyed with some contributions, agree, perhaps, with others, but most important of all, participate in taking seriously the issues that are so important as we learn to live in a world changed by September 11.”

The book is scheduled to be available in July, with an official launch at the time of the anniversary of September 11.
In Memoriam

Winifred J. Urte Bartunek, ’48, died at her home in Sebring, Ohio, on November 4, 2001. Family friend Thomas Niccolls writes, “She and her husband Edward Bartunek, ’49, ’55, and ’63, met at the Seminary and became engaged. Their long marriage and life of service in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were an inspiration to many. Win was known as an innovative and skilled Christian educator, a loving mother and grandmother, an avid reader, and lover of games.”

Wayne Poe Daugherty, ’63, recently died in Altoona, Pennsylvania, of Alzheimer’s Disease. Following completion of his studies at HTS, Mr. Daugherty worked in ecumenical inner city ministries in Buffalo and Ithaca, New York, before accepting a position as a staff pastoral counselor at the Binghamton, New York, Mental Health Center, where he worked for nearly 20 years before his retirement. He held his ministerial standing in the Western New York Association of the United Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Connie, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, three daughters, and four step-sons.

Hiram Horace Hilty, ’40, husband of Janet Brown Hilty, ’42, died on October 24, 2001. He was Bill Hilty graduated from Bluffton College, Ohio, received a Bachelor of Divinity from Hartford Theological Seminary and a doctorate in history from Duke University. He served as pastor of Clinton Corners Meeting, New York, and then went with his family to serve in Cuba under the American Friends Mission Board. Later he taught Spanish at Guilford College and later became head of the Department of Foreign Languages, retiring in 1978. He remained active in missionary work to Cuba, making eight trips altogether, and also worked with Mexican Friends. The author of five books and many journal articles, he also belonged to the Greensboro Historical Society. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Janet Hilty, their three daughters and several relatives.

Napper became the first black toll collector on the Merritt Parkway, leaving as Supervisor in 1934 to become Executive Director of Crisis Attacks Center in Greenwich until 1957. After four years as a building maintenance contractor, he joined the Connecticut Department of Adult Probation in 1961, retiring as Chief Probation Officer in 1976. He married Berence Norwood, of Norwich, in 1940. Napper was a charter member of the Greenwich branch of the NAACP, a board member of the Stamford Child Guidance Center, a member of the Connecticut Probation and Parole Association, and one of the seven founding members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity’s Fairfield, Connecticut chapter. After retirement, he served as Deputy Sheriff/Bailiff for the Superior Court in Stamford, CT.

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Andrew R. Shelly, ’42, died peacefully in his sleep with family at his side on Sunday, November 18, 2001, after a long illness.

Bradley F. Skinner, ’37, died at home in Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 30, 2002 at the age of 89. His daughter Joan Scott writes, “Dad engaged life with enthusiasm and energy until the moment of death. He was mentally strong and a non-stop reader of the latest writing in theological and social issues as well as history and biography. In the two days prior to his death he got out to his beloved clergy and lay professional’s reading discussion group and to the Holladay UCC annual meeting at which he spoke forcefully about the need for the church to take a stand against recent legislation permitting weapons in Utah churches. He died as he had lived — ready to meet the day.” In a 1999 visit that Joan took with Dr. Skinner to Hartford Seminary she writes “I was struck by how much respect he had for the new symbolized by the stark, multi-faith chapel, as well as the old, as he led me down the portrait wall, telling me once again of Hartford’s great professors.”

Betty J. Wolf, the wife of C. Umhau Wolf, ’42, died on April 8, 2001. On May 11, 2002, there was a memorial dedication of the entrance to the Magee Marsh Wilderness Refuge near Lake Erie.

Jeffrey R. Partridge

Jeffrey R. Partridge, a valued former trustee and good friend of Hartford Seminary, died on Feb. 21 of this year. Partridge, who was 51, was on vacation with his wife in London at the time of his death.

Jeff’s commitment to the Seminary was felt keenly by everyone who had the privilege of working with him on the numerous committees and projects to which he devoted his considerable talent and energy. That he was a person of deep faith was always evident, and his spiritual side shone through his pragmatic, business-like approach. His warmth and humor were also evident in all he did; Jeff managed to exude seriousness of purpose, even while wearing his signature John Lennon “Imagine” tie.

Tureckova was one of many people who came to know Jeff in the course of working at the Seminary. “I was fortunate enough to know Jeff Partridge as a friend and mentor, as well as a champion of Hartford Seminary.” Tureckova remembers, “Jeff chaired the Hartford Seminary Annual Fund for the first two years I worked on that campaign. At his memorial service earlier this month I learned just how extensive Jeff’s work was with the community of Hartford. Uilti then, I’d never realized much he did outside of his Hartford Seminary volunteering because he always made whatever he was working with feel that the work they did together was the most important thing to him.”

At the time of his death, Jeff was Senior Vice President, Manager of the Life/Employee Benefits Insurance Division and a member of the Board of Directors of R.C. Knox in Hartford. He served a term as Commissioner on the State Ethics Commission. A native of Sweden, he graduated from Platts High School in 1968 and earned his B.A. in English from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1973. Jeff was an avid fitness enthusiast and helped to found the Hartford Marathon, on whose foundation board he served. He was also a director of the Hartford YMCA and was a founding member of the Adivery Board of the Connecticut Forum.

The Seminary community’s heartfelt prayers go out to his wife Jacqueline M. Murray Partridge, their five children, and Jeff’s many siblings, especially Pamela Partridge West, who is also an ardent supporter of the Seminary.

October 6, 1998
Hartford, Connecticut
Ian Markham
Continued from page one

“I believe that helping to shape an institution is a privilege - in much the same way scholarly research and writing are - and that it is absolutely essential in deepening people’s values.”

Markham, who took over from Dean Worth Loomis on August 1, 2001, is unabashedly enthusiastic about his new position.

“Hartford Seminary is, without a doubt, the most important institution for inter-religious relations for the 21st century.” Markham says without qualification. "I made a decision a long time ago that I was both a scholar and someone who believes in shaping institutions. A lot of people see these (activities) as mutually exclusive, but I believe that helping to shape an institution is a privilege - in much the same way scholarly research and writing are - and that it is absolutely essential in deepening people’s values.”

Markham is devoutly committed to furthering interfaith understanding, and finds this aspect of life at Hartford Seminary especially exciting.

“I don’t think you can do Christian theology without regard for ‘the other,’” he says, “because if I believe that God is the creator of the whole world, I have an obligation to learn of the diversity of that world.”

Markham taught for a time at Liverpool Hope University College, a school which, given its close proximity to the drama of the religious strife in Northern Ireland, deepened his concern for the need for dialogue and tolerance.

“His school in Liverpool, which had both Roman Catholic and Protestant students, reflected much of the tension felt in Belfast,” Markham recalls. “It trained me to see how important it is for people of different traditions to find ways of co-existing and it brought home the importance of the process of open conversation. But it also taught me the importance of a larger interfaith conversation, out of the context of Great Britain. Here, at the Seminary, I want to insist that a commitment to that conversation is a commitment to finding the truth – that it is, in fact, an act of Christian fidelity. You don’t just do it for pragmatic reasons, you do it because God requires us to be humble in what we hold to be true. God needs to be discerned wherever God is found. This individual discovery, often found in other traditions, is not something Christians always learn; for example, the centrality of compassion for the non-human world.”

As a well-respected scholar, Markham speaks confidently about his beliefs: at the same time, he speaks convincingly about the importance of remaining open to new theological ideas.

“All the whole, I tend to feel that the ecumenical movement was going to flow into the interfaith movement. There is – or should be – a realization among Christians that just as Jesus is supposed to be a unifier among Christian sects, so God should be a unifier among Christians, Jews and Muslims. I am quite comfortable with Hartford Seminary’s being increasingly theistic and less Christocentric; the focus is on God.”

What does Markham predict for the future of the Seminary?

“My hope is that Hartford Seminary will continue to flourish as a strong regional school which strengthens ministry. Simultaneously, it will be a cutting edge leader in theological discourse and a high-profile engine for innovative sociological research. We want to attract, cultivate and retain scholars of international excellence.” Markham is candid in his insistence on this quality. (He points out proudly that of the 20 or so books reviewed by the New York Times on the Sept. 11 attack, few had footnotes, as Hartford Seminary’s contribution will.)

Markham, who was assigned to work as a full-time volunteer for Catholic Charities in Liverpool, where he taught before coming to Hartford Seminary, says emphatically that “all animals are redeemed,” and predicts that if he gets to heaven, “I expect everybody to be there, yes, including Jack the Ripper, and lots of dinosaurs, too.”

Markham, who is 39, lives in West Hartford with his five-year-old son Luke and his wife Ledley, who has expertise in both environmental science and tax accounting. Markham’s avocations range from improving his golf game to watching obscure foreign films. He also describes himself as “a bit of a gadget person,” and is contemplating coaching in his son’s youth soccer league. In an uncharacteristic bout of caution, he adds, “I may be too much of a leap for me.”

Karen Rollins

Karen Rollins has returned as registrar at Hartford Seminary, after a three-year absence.

Karen served as registrar and assistant director of Religious Education at St. Augustine’s Church in Hartford, a position she has held for four years. Before coming to Hartford Seminary, Garcia served as secretary for the CHOICE program of the Capital Region Education Council’s (CREC). CHOICE facilitates the exchange of urban and suburban students. In her new position, Garcia hopes to take advantage of the many study opportunities the Seminary offers.

Karen Rollins

Karen finished her Master of Arts degree at Hartford Seminary, writing her final project on her year as a volunteer. She then began working at the Capital Region Education Council’s (CREC) CHOICE program. This program enables city youth to attend suburban schools (and vice versa).

Karen, who lives across the street from the Seminary, became the Seminary’s registrar for a second time last July. When asked if she has detected any changes since her first term, Karen said that there is a significant growth in students, especially in the Master of Arts program.
In January, Carl Dudley served on the sincity for the Congregational Studies Institute for Perkins School of Theology and in February addressed the Connecticut Ecumenical Small Church Conference and a New England Ecumenical Leadership gathering at Stony Point. In March, Dudley delivered the keynote to the Association of Narrative in Social Research in Kansas City. Over the late winter and early spring months he also addressed or consulted with Holy Cross Catholic Church, Dallas Seminary, United Methodist Church, Simsbury, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford; First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich; Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis; and The Prebendry of Southern New England. Dudley also met with the Congregational Studies Project Team in Miami Beach and with a national gathering of the Faith Communities Today FACT project in Atlanta. He co-authored, with Nancy A. Zimmerman, Congregations in Transition.

Judy Fentress-Williams, after returning from sabbatical, gave the B. Julian Smith Lecture at the annual CME Pastors’ Conference in Atlanta, Georgia and was one of the Earliest Lectures at Pacific School of Religion. This year’s theme was “Image to Insight” and focused on theology and film. Her lecture was entitled, “Moses at the Midianite: A Dialogue between Scripture and Film.” In addition, she was awarded a research grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning for her project, “The Bible in Dialogue.”

Hatid ni Adsell wrote several papers this winter, including, “For the Sake of the Neighbor; For the Sake of the World,” published in December in the Presbyterian Church, USA’s Biblical and Theological Perspectives, and “International Security and Civil Liberties: Moral Dilemmas and Debates,” for publication in the forthcoming Hartford Seminary faculty book, September 11, 2001: Historical, Theological and Social Perspectives.

Kelton Cobb is on sabbatical during the spring, writing a book on how to do theological analysis of popular culture. In February he gave a series of talks at Westminder Presbyterian Church in West Hartford on the church and popular culture. He has also contributed a chapter, “Violent Faith,” to the September 11th book that is being jointly written by Hartford Seminary faculty.

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Editor’s Note: Several alumni/aes are members of the Seminary community in some capacity. They are listed here.

They are excused here.

Elizabeth Wirth Avery, ‘47, writes, “What exciting classes you have this Spring, but so much I am proud of my school to see it growing...”

Kathleen S. Johnston, ‘86, is into his second year as interim senior minister of the United Methodist Church. She has taught several times at Hartford Seminary in recent years. For many years she has been a member of the editorial board for Muslim World, a Hartford Seminary publication that is a world-renowned scholarly journal, which reaches subscribers in more than 60 countries.

She has written and translated many books, including God Is One: The Way of Islam – Second Edition (2002) which has recently been republished by Friendship Press with a new afterword prepared by the faculty of Hartford Seminary and its MacDonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. This section adds information on Muslims in North America and on present-day issues and developments in Islam worldwide.

God Is One. The Way of Islam is a book that is vital in this time of misinformation about people of Islamic faith. The book presents the lives of Muslims and by so doing helps the reader understand fundamental points such as:

- Who was Muhammad and what inspired him?
- What is the Qur’an and what does it say?
- What do Muslims believe about Christ?
- How can Christians and Muslims meet and talk today?

The United Methodist News Service highlights the excellence of this work succinctly: “This book clearly explains the Islamic faith and highlights significant points of agreement for Christians and Muslims as the devotion to one God. It presents who Muslims are, what they believe and how their faith not only unites them but also shapes every aspect of their lives.”

In February 2002, the National Council of Churches Commission on Interfaith Relations honored Dr. Speight for his work in Muslim-Christian Relations.

He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. He currently lives with his family in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Marston Speight is Distinguished Alumnus

The Rev. Dr. R. Marston Speight has been chosen as Hartford Seminary’s Distinguished Alumnus for 2002. Dr. Speight will receive this award at the Seminary’s Reunion 2002 Distinguished Alumnus/Dinner May 3, 2002. The dinner is being held at Capital Community College from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

Dr. Speight was unanimously chosen by the Alumni/Ae Council to be this year’s recipient due to his lifetime of work in Muslim-Christian relations.

He is a native of Texas, graduated from Baylor University and completed his formal studies at Hartford Seminary with an M.A. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in the history of religions in 1970.

He lived in northern Africa from 1951 to 1979, serving churches in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and later co-directed the Christian Center for North African Studies in Algiers and directing a United Methodist research program on Christian-Muslim relations in Tunisia. He was a participant in the Muslim-Christian Research Group (Groupe de Recherche Islamo-Chretien), an outstanding model of serious interfaith encounter that resulted in the publication of numerous interfaith resources.

From 1972 to 1978 Dr. Speight was research associate with the Institute for the Study of Religions at the Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He has participated in many international conferences for dialogue between Muslims and Christians and has lectured in France, England, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Nigeria, Benin and the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Speight was a director for Christian-Muslim Concerns of the Working Group on Interfaith Relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. from 1979 to 1992, serving as co-director until 1988 and thereafter working as the director. In this role, he facilitated many encounters of Christians with persons and groups in the Muslim community in the United States, including facilitation of conversations in this country under the auspices of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Speight continues to be actively involved in Muslim-Christian dialogue

2001-2002 Annual Fund

We would like to thank those individuals, businesses, organizations, and places of worship that contributed to the Seminary’s 2001-2002 Annual Fund. Thanks, too, to our dedicated volunteers who have helped in so many ways. Prior to our April phonathon, we had reached 75% of our $177,590 goal with gifts and pledges.

We offer this gentle reminder that the current Annual Fund ends at the close of the fiscal year, which is June 30. Your gifts are needed and appreciated! So, if you have not already done so, please consider sending your gift or pledge payment today.

If you have any questions about the Annual Fund, please call us at (860) 509-9520 or send e-mail to giving@hartsem.edu.
Summer Studies
From Ritual to Reconciliation
Biennial Congregational Studies Institute in June

Hartford Seminary’s 2002 summer session begins on Monday, June 10 and ends Friday, June 28, with the exception of an evening course that begins on Tuesday, May 28 and the United Church of Christ polity course that begins on Monday, June 3. These courses are open to qualified members of the public on a space-available basis. Most courses carry three graduate credits. Due to the intensive weeklong format of summer courses, most courses have required reading lists, which are mailed to students in advance. In addition, many classes fill up quickly. Students are urged to register early to ensure a place in their courses.

To what extent can contemporary Western society be regarded as ‘secular’? How should theology try and engage with contemporary culture? Should churches try and resist cultural pluralism, in an attempt to remain distinctive? Or should churches attempt to accommodate contemporary culture in an effort to remain relevant? This course will examine some of the recent Christian theological responses to contemporary culture, as well as examining the character and resilience of religion within secular society. Insights will be developed to reflect upon ministry and the shaping of Christian communities for the twenty-first century.

Matthew Percy, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Director of the Academic Affairs Office at the University of Sheffield, England, and Emma Percy, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity in Hillsborough, Sheffield, England

Area I: Texts and Traditions
Religion in African-American History
Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This course surveys religious developments among people of African descent, from slavery to the present. Religious practices among slaves, the formation of autonomous religious institutions, religion in popular culture and political activities among religious groups will be explored. Joan Bryant, Adjunct Professor of History, will teach this course.

Matthew, Mark and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels
Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This course is an in-depth study of the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith in light of current biblical scholarship with special attention to the theological perspectives of Matthew, Mark and Luke as reflected in their varying presentations of the Good News in the synoptic Gospels. Wylene Follms, Adjunct Professor of Scripture and History and Emma Roosevelt Professor of Biblical Studies, will teach this course.

Area II: Faith and Reflection
Readings in Hispanic Theology
Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This course explores the various themes, methodologies and major theologians in Hispanic/Latino theology in the United States. The focus of the course will be on such topics and figures as biblical hermeneutics (Fernando Segovia), missiology (Orlando Coste), mujertista theology (Aida Maria Iriarte-Diaz) and Pentecostalism (Eldon Villalobos). In addition, the major contours of a Hispanic Latino theology as laid out by such theologians as Justo Gonzalez (“manana theology”) and Virgilio Elizondo (“medio theology”) will be discussed. Efren A. Gasto, Professor of New Testament and Director, Programa de Ministros Hispanos, Hartford Seminary

Area III: Practices and Institutions
Theology and the Practice of Ministry in a Secular and Pluralistic Culture
Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
To what extent can contemporary Western society be regarded as ‘secular’? How should theology try and engage with contemporary culture? Should churches try and resist cultural pluralism, in an attempt to remain distinctive? Or should churches attempt to accommodate contemporary culture in an effort to remain relevant? This course will examine some of the recent Christian theological responses to contemporary culture, as well as examining the character and resilience of religion within secular society. Insights will be developed to reflect upon ministry and the shaping of Christian communities for the twenty-first century.

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Reconciliation for Congregations and Communities in a Global Context
Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This course will use a case method approach to help religious leaders develop skills to be agents of reconciliation within their congregations, communities, and nations. “Empowering for reconciliation with justice” will be the biblical and theological mandate explored in the course. Case studies will be drawn from around the world with a special emphasis on ecological justice as an essential component in building a network of collaborative peace builders across the dividing lines of race, ethnicity, gender, and geography. Robert A. Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of POWSHARES Institute and Alice Nazer Evans, Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ethics and Director of Wabing and Research, POWSHARES Institute

Area IV: Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations
Rituals and Responsibilities of Muslim Leaders in America
Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This course is designed for Muslim leaders, including imams and chaplains, who are serving American Muslim communities. The course examines Muslim leaders’ role and responsibilities as well as the proper application and performance of some important areas of Islamic law. Emphasis is on practical application of the law and much of the course is taught in workshop format. Sheik Muhajam N A Abdulah, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Religious Affairs and Imam of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis

Area V: Christian Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations
A Course for Christian Leaders
Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hartford Seminary, in conjunction with the National Council of Churches of Christ, would like to announce a new one-week intensive course designed for Christian clergy and lay leaders to meet the growing need for information about Islam following the tragic events of September 11. Class presentations will be designed for denominational officials, pastors and laypersons wanting to know more about Islam and interfaith relations, persons preparing for service in Muslim countries, and other interested Christians. Jane I. Smith, Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations and Co-Director of the Duncan Black M Acolnadian Center for The Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary

Continued from previous page

logical foundations, and the variety of expressions of spiritual direction within personal, interpersonal, and social contexts.

Catherine Mutha, D. W., Adjunct Professor in Arts of Ministry and Director, Spiritual Life Center

Area III: Practices and Institutions
The Ministry of Women: Emerging Models of Leadership for Ministerial Practice
Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
More and more women are serving as pastors, bishops, presiding elders, conference ministers, chaplains, seminary professors and lay leaders. This course will examine how the increased presence of women in non-traditional church and denominational leadership positions has transformed the church’s understanding of leadership and its images of leaders. Emphasis will be given to how feminist and Womanist theologians have helped shape women’s understandings and practices of leadership within the church.

Barbara E. Hedges, Adjunct Professor of Arts of Ministry and Senior Pastor, Faith Congregational Church, Hartford

A Course for Christian Leaders
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The Tenth Annual 2002 Summer Institute: United Church of Christ History, Theology and Polity
Week 1: June 3-7 Week 2: June 10-14
The Summer Institute is designed as a two-week experience primarily for those needing basic work in United Church of Christ history, theology and polity. The Institute is also designed for those students who are graduating from seminaries where a UCC polity course is not offered, or who are pursuing an alternative route to ordination. Sponsored by the Newton Theological School, Bangor Theological Seminary and Hartford Seminary, Summer Institute 2002 is being coordinated by Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105. For further information and to register, please contact Karen Rollins, Registrar, at (860) 509-9511, E-mail: krollins@hartsem.edu

Biennial Congregational Studies Institute
Thursday, June 20 – Tuesday, June 25
With Nancy T. Aumen, Carl S. Dudley, David A. Roozen and Scott L. Thumma of Hartford Seminary’s Hartford Institute for Religion Research and James R. Nieman of Wartburg Theological Seminary

More than ever before, expertise in congregational studies is vital to scholars, clergy, consultants and religious leaders. Join the faculty of Hartford Seminary’s Hartford Institute for Religion Research for a week of lectures, workshops and field experience. This disciplined immersion experience will use the basic tools for congregational analysis and renewal from the book, Studying Congregations (edited by Nancy T. Aumen, Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley and William McKinney, Abingdon Press, 1998). Beginning with readings, plenary sessions, an introduction to web resources and interviews in local communities, small group field studies will be used to examine several significantly different congregations, compare their approaches, and develop options with their leaders.

• Tuition cost for this six-day institute (including classes, field trips, materials and some meals) is $750. Three graduate level credits are available at an additional cost of $490.

• For more information and an application, please call Yvonne Brown-Mack at (860) 509-9553, E-mail: yvonne@hartsem.edu

Special Study Opportunities

OPPORTUNITIES

Tenth Annual 2002 Summer Institute: United Church of Christ History, Theology and Polity
Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer delivered a highly entertaining and informative talk in January on the development of African-American spiritual music. The talk, titled "The Old 'Meter Hymn' and Other Types of Gospel Songs," drew a full house of more than 100 people to the Seminary. Boyer explained the origins of gospels songs, dating back to the turn of the 20th century in small rural congregations of Christian denominations in the deep South, and guided his audience to an understanding of the more structured music that is sung today. Part of his presentation was musical, as he provided his own piano accompaniment to his singing. Dr. Boyer is professor emeritus of music theory and African American music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the author of How Sweet the Sound - the Golden Age of Gospel. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford co-sponsored the event, providing a generous donation to underwrite it.

Hartford Seminary has created a Center for Faith in Practice that will emphasize understanding the dynamics of the Christian faith in an applied context.

This theme of "faith in practice" is central to the teaching at Hartford Seminary, particularly in the fields of biblical studies, theology and ethics and liturgy, worship and spirituality.

Ian Markham, dean of the seminary, said that the center will be especially sensitive to the needs of those communities that are easily marginalized by the dominant discourse and will work to cultivate leadership capacity.

Participating as faculty in the center will be Efrain A. gosto, professor of New Testament and director of El Programa de Ministrios Hispanos; Kelton Cobb, professor of theology and ethics; Judy Fentress-Williams, professor of Hebrew scriptures and director of the Black Ministries Program; and M. Irlam Therese W. Inter, professor of liturgy, worship, spirituality and feminist studies and director of the Women's Leadership Institute. Heidi Hadsell, president of the Seminary and professor of social ethics, and Markham, who is professor of theology and ethics, are ex officio members of the center.

As the new center starts to get off the ground, it is envisaged that it would operate differently than the two established centers at Hartford Seminary, the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. These centers have an intensity of activity centered around well-defined missions specific to the centers. The Center for Faith in Practice, because all faculty teach courses that reflect its educational mission, would seek to have all faculty participate in its discussions of educational initiatives.