



•

•

Message from the Dean



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15

Dear HUSD Community,

I am pleased to welcome you to the newest issue of *The Divinity Magazine*. This issue is published in honor of our historic *Vision 100 Centennial Convocation*, where we share in the joyous experience of alumni, students, faculty and friends returning to *alma mater* for a fruitful engagement between faith and scholarship in the public square. We also celebrate *Forward Stronger HUSD*, our new grant-supported initiative to strengthen, sustain and advance our beloved institution through fundraising, enhanced alumni relations, program innovation and curriculum design.

Exploring the vibrant relationship between the life of the mind and the life of the spirit within the academy, church and society has been a hallmark of HUSD since our inception nearly 150 years ago. More than ever, our faculty are lauded as experts within their fields and sought after in the media for their distinctive insights. They have produced modern theological classics, leading textbooks, works of ministry and publications for prophetic leadership that inspire, challenge, encourage and engage.

The book of 1 Peter 3:15 tells us, "Always be ready to give an account...of the hope that lies within you." In this spirit, I invite you to read about recent publications by HUSD faculty in the section of this magazine entitled "Bridging the Gap Between the Church and the Classroom" on page 14. They represent some of the leading voices on many pressing theological issues of our time.

Also, as part of Vision 100 Centennial Convocation, we are also launching a new Community Conversations series which will feature many of the writings of our esteemed faculty. This exciting series will be launched at the Festival of Arts, Music and Books on the opening night of the Convocation.

The entire HUSD community is committed to both academic and spiritual betterment as they pursue excellence in truth and service. This magazine, like this year's Convocation, celebrates the profound interdisciplinary dedication of our students, alumni, faculty and staff and the ongoing influence they have on classrooms, libraries, pulpits and communities around the world.

We are HUSD—leading with head and heart!

Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D. Dean

You may have recently read the announcement that, effective June 30, 2017, Dean Pollard will step down as dean of the School of Divinity. He has been an invaluable member of the Howard University family and an ardent leader of the School of Divinity for nearly a decade. He plans to take a sabbatical year thereafter, and looks forward to continuing his research and the work of leading students in the path of spiritual and academic learning and discovery.







VISION 100 CENTENNIAL CONVOCATION Special Edition

The Divinity Magazine is a publication of the Howard University School of Divinity. It is distributed to the internal and external communities of the school.

Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.

Howard University School of Divinity Dean Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D.

Contributors Yasmine Arrington (M.Div. '18) HUSD Student

Torren L. Cooper (M.Div.'17) HUSD Student

Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie, M.Div. MBPA Major Gift Officer, HUSD

Rev. Paula E. Hall Manager, HUSD Media & Communications

Nyasha Junior, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Temple University

Claretta McDaniel, M.A. Assistant Dean, HUSD Student Affairs

Rev. Sylvia M. McDonald-Kaufman, J.D., M.Div. Director of Institutional Research and Assessment

Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D. Dean, HUSD

Cynthia Robbins, Esq. Director, Forward Stronger HUSD

Lawrence Rodgers (M.Div.'17)

Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders Professor of Christian Ethics Chair, Vision 100 planning committee

Frederick L. Ware, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Theology, HUSD

Photography Edward Jones Torren L. Cooper (M.Div.'17) Samuel M. Holloway (M.Div.'17) Lawrence W. Rodgers (M.Div.'17)

Editor Na'Tasha Jones

Co-Editor Cynthia Robbins, Esq.

For additional information, questions, or submissions email: DivinityMagazine@howard.edu

The Divinity Magazine Holy Cross Hall 414-416 2900 Van Ness Street NW Washington, DC 20008 http://divinity.howard.edu

About this Issue

This special Vision 100 Centennial Convocation issue of *The Divinity Magazine* celebrates the remarkable achievements of the faculty, students, alumni and staff that comprise the shining community of academic and spiritual leaders at the School of Divinity. This issue also provides updates on the recent news, updates and exciting achievements from the HUSD community.

Read about the fascinating journey of our delegation of faculty, alumni and students who traveled to Ethiopia to return a sacred manuscript to its rightful owner, and learn of the life-long dedication of one of our most beloved faculty members, Dr. Cain Hope Felder, who recently retired.

Our Advancement Developments section reports on the progressive new initiatives, grants and academic programing taking place—including the establishment of two new graduate programs—as well as several new scholarships established to directly benefit our students at the School of Divinity.

The focus on research and scholarship is stronger than ever, as evidenced by a new religion and science conference, "Science for Seminaries," convened in April 2016, and by the many of new, highly-researched publications from our talented and widely experi-

As you read through the highlights, you will no doubt see the abundant evidence of the growth, progression, and spiritual commitment of every member of the HUSD community. By giving to and learning from one another, we continue the nearly 150-year journey of past, current and future generations moving ever forward toward a stronger HUSD.

Contents

- Advancement Developments
- Giving Opportunities
- Inaugural Religion and Science Conference
- 10 Howard University School of Divinity's Centennial Convocation
- **14** Bridging the Gap Between Church and Classroom
- On the Right Side of History: Returning the Sacred Ethiopian Text Tweed MS150
- **22** What's Happening at HUSD
- 24 A Legacy of Scholarship and Teaching: Dr. Cain Hope Felder
- **26** Leading with Head and Heart: News and Updates



© 2016 Howard University School of Divinity

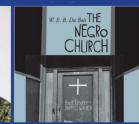








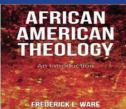






CHRISTIAN ALTRUISM AND PEOPLE OF COLOR



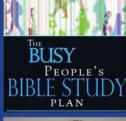




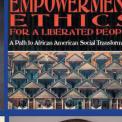


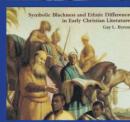




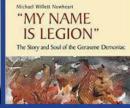










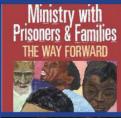


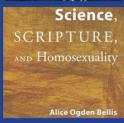




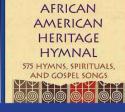






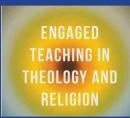


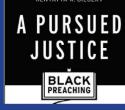






















Advancement Developments



In February 2016, the School of Divinity formally launched Forward Stronger HUSD, a new initiative to strengthen, sustain and advance the Howard University School of Divinity. The initiative is part of HUSD's strategy to implement a competitive, three-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., awarded to help to develop the strategies for resource development and donor management.

The Lilly Endowment supports initiatives aimed at enhancing and sustaining the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes. In line with the School of Divinity's goals, the comprehensive Forward Stronger HUSD program will:

- Update the HUSD brand and clarify its purpose and goals within the university and the broader community;
- Upgrade HUSD's donor relationship management software and processes in order to more effectively manage relationships with key donor and constituency groups;
- Enhance communications and outreach through a redesigned website and corresponding print, email and social media communications; and
- Strengthen ties and promote engagement with alumni, donors and friends of the School of Divinity

In the intervening months since the launch, we have been building a Clergy Braintrust, gathering small groups of alumni, prominent community clergy members, pastors and other leaders who can provide candid insights and strategies to continue to strengthen, sustain and advance HUSD. For Dean Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D., working with an engaged Clergy Braintrust provides "a wonderful opportunity to strengthen bonds with alumni and long-term supporters while

meeting new friends who can be part of the Forward Stronger HUSD Movement."

The director of Forward Stronger HUSD is Cynthia Robbins, Esq., an independent consultant with an extensive background in helping to build, lead and grow successful, enduring organizations. "By the end of the grant period in the 2017-18 school year, we will have implemented a comprehensive program to enhance the fundraising capacity of the School of Divinity so that it can be assured of the requisite resources to strengthen existing programs, sustain new programs and achieve its advancement goals," she said.

Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie, major gift officer, is excited for the momentum that we have seen since the initiative's start and formal launch in February 2016. The powerful program included a conversation about the future of theological education between Dean Pollard and Dr. Bernard Richardson, dean of the chapel, and a presentation on the spirituality of philanthropy by board of visitors member, Aimée A. Laramore, director of Seminary Advancement at Christian Theological Seminary, presented insights about the power of philanthropy to lead to spiritual fulfillment and ministry growth.

"We were uplifted to have had broad participation in our launch events with university-wide leadership and support from Delores Brisbon and Amy Kardash of In Trust Center for Theological Schools," said Gravely-Currie. "There is a role for everyone in the university community and beyond to help move HUSD Forward Stronger."

For more information, please contact Cynthia Robbins at (202) 806-0757 or email ForwardStrongerHUSD@gmail.com.

DIVINITY | page 5



Giving Opportunities at the School of Divinity



Restructuring of the Office of Development

During the past school year, there have been many changes in the Howard University Office of Development and Alumni Relations. As part of this restructuring, there will no longer be a dedicated development director for the School of Divinity. Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie's now serves as major gift officer, with prospects from the School of Divinity, Education, Arts & Sciences, Liberal Arts, Medicine and Communications.

As the University prepares for its sesquicentennial celebration in 2017, Rev. Gravely-Currie will continue to identify giving opportunities for those who are interested in providing major gifts to both the School of Divinity specifically, and to Howard University in general.

During the coming months, Rev. Gravely-Currie will be reaching out to alumni, congregations, groups and other friends of the University who are contemplating major gifts, particularly those in excess of \$10,000.

Giving Opportunities at HUSD

Howard University School of Divinity students become leaders who have a transformative impact on every part of the world. Whether in their ministries, in their communities, at spiritual and educational institutions, or throughout society as a whole, the comprehensive theological education students receive at the School of Divinity both enables and empowers them to enact social change and promote discourse around the many connections between faith and academic interests.

The rising cost of education is a phenomenon affecting students and universities nationwide. As with many institutions across the country, the need for financial support for student scholarships and educational programs here at HUSD is more apparent than ever.

Opportunities to support HUSD include funding for scholarship endowments, fellowships, lectureships, visiting or distinguished professorships; and endowed chairs. Each of these endowed funds requires a gift agreement that must be reviewed and approved by the President, the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, the school dean, the University legal counsel and often the director of the school or college where the chair will be established. This way, our University and Alumni Relations staff ensures that each gift will be used specifically as the donor has designated, and where support is needed

New Scholarships Endowed

During fiscal year 2016, a combined total of \$466,198.92 was raised for student scholarships and new degree programs in the School of Divinity. The impact of these contributions will be felt across both the School of Divinity and the community. Gifts supporting students, program advancement, facility renewal and community engagement each contribute to furthering the HUSD mission to create leaders that are dedicated to living in the service of others and to an unrelenting search for truth.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni, family and friends of the School of Divinity, the following scholarships have been recently established:

- Zainab Alwani Islamic Studies Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Cain Hope Felder Scholarship Fund
- John and Anna Haley Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Marie & Wendell Johns Scholarship
- Lillian E. Roane Scholarship
- Frank Tucker Endowed Scholarship
- Nellie E. Wilson Scholarship Endowment

Your support helps HUSD open the door to deserving students who may not otherwise be able to attend. Gifts of every size help make an entering student's dream a reality.



What Happens to Your Gift

HUSD is committed to transparency in advancing the University. Every gift is recorded in the Office of Development by the School of Divinity's major gift officer, Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie, on the Howard University Interdepartmental Transmittal Record of Gifts, Pledges and Pledge Payments form. If a donor has not stipulated where the gift is to be applied, the major gift officer then contacts the donor to obtain that information. The contributions and documented form are then turned over to the Department of Alumni Relations for additional processing and deposit into the appropriate financial accounts and institutions.

University and Alumni Relations staff members are committed to providing effective, efficient and quality service to all donors. As an institution, Howard University understands the vital role that gifts of time, talent and treasure have played in making the entire School of Divinity community succeed for more than 150 years. We are profoundly grateful to alumni, students, family members, staff and friends of the

University whose generosity impacts every part of our mission to help educate, form and empower leaders who serve the church and the world and ceaselessly pursue the values of truth and service in their daily lives.

For additional information, contact:

Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie, major gift officer

Tel.: (202) 806-0758

Email: sgravely-currie@howard.edu

Cynthia Robbins, Esq., director, Forward Stronger HUSD

Tel.:(202) 806-0757

Email: ForwardStrongerHUSD@gmail.com

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to make a gift to the School of Divinity including cash, check, credit card and online gifts, wire transfers and stock gifts. Another important area of support is planned giving. Planned giving indicates gifts that are provided as part of an estate plan or will, including but not limited to bequests, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, life income agreements and real estate.

If you are unsure of the best method to make your gift, advancement staff can help you decide among the various gift options.

The easiest way to give is by visiting our website at divinity.howard.edu.

Donations via check should be made payable to: Howard University School of Divinity

Mailing Address: Howard University School of Divinity Office of Development-Holy Cross Hall 414-416 2900 Van Ness Street NW Washington, DC 20008

HUSD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, 2015- 2017 Robert G. Childs, President Joseph A. Fobbs, 1st Vice President Carl Bently, 2nd Vice President Joyce E. McPhail, Recording Secretary Joi Orr and Darryl Owens, Corresponding Secretaries Oran Young, Treasurer Audrey Daniel, Chaplain Aubrey Winbish, Parliamentarian



Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 5:30 p.m. **Opening Convocation**, Dunbarton Chapel Speaker: Dr. Gay L. Byron, associate dean for Academic Affairs

Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 5:30 p.m. **Pinning Ceremony**, Dunbarton Chapel Speaker: Dr. Renee K. Harrison, HUSD associate professor of African-American and U.S. religious history

Divinity_11_2_16_Final_Final_final_3.indd 7

Monday, February 27, 2017, 5 p.m. **Faculty-Student Colloquium**, Moot Court Room

Monday, March 6, 2017 **HUSD Recruitment Open House**

Monday, March 6, 2017
Nannie Helen Burroughs Lecture

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 12, 2017 **Closing Convocation** Speaker: Dr. Delores Carpenter, HUSD professor of religious education

All of these events will transpire on the West Campus, Howard University. Dunbarton Chapel and the Moot Court Room are in Houston Hall.

Stoff Flair.

DIVINITY | page 7

11/2/16 11:58 AM





Howard University School of Divinity's Inaugural Religion and Science Conference

Howard University School of Divinity hosted its first religion and science conference entitled "Science for Seminaries" on April 6-7, 2016. The conference came about as part of an exciting new project funded by a grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS' Science for Seminaries grant supports seminaries as they endeavor to integrate science into their core curricula through strategic engagement with theological education leaders and future clergy.

Dr. Frederick L. Ware, associate professor of theology, convened the conference and serves as principal investigator for the grant. HUSD is among only 10 theological schools selected for participation in this pilot program. Since the start of the project, participating faculty have implemented updates to several core courses in theology, biblical studies, and the capstone course in social justice ministry to support and promote this important dialogue and expanded learning.

A highlight of the Science for Seminaries conference was the electrifying sermon by Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Holmes, president of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Her message on "Dark

Hope and Cosmic Power" was the centerpiece of the chapel service. Speaking from Psalm 18, she explored the wonder of biogenetic and cosmological power in the life of the individual and in the community and the hope that it engenders.

The conference was designed to provoke the participating scientists, theological educators, divinity students, community leaders and clergy to reflect on how science, as well as religion, offers insights on larger questions about the meaning and purpose of human life. Participants explored how collaboration among scientists and religious scholars contributes to Howard University's mission to advance knowledge and serve the common good.

The event also showcased outreach programs in science education sponsored by religious communities, nonprofit organizations and public schools. Through course offerings and campus events like this conference, the entire HUSD community is made more aware of the relevance of the natural sciences to theology, ministry and spirituality.





On behalf of the Office of Student Affairs, we welcome you to apply!

The School of Divinity is a graduate and professional school of Howard University, one of the leading comprehensive, research-oriented, private universities in the nation. The School of Divinity degree programs include Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religious Studies, and Doctor of Ministry, and offer unparalleled educational experiences that not only reflect the African-American cultural and religious tradition, but also the foundations of excellence promoted throughout Howard's history.

Located in the nation's capital, HUSD students are afforded the unique opportunity to be active participants in the work of local churches of all denominations, as well as with nonprofit organizations and other community-building programs. Through the Washington Theological Consortium, School of Divinity students are able to explore the interconnections among the many faith communities in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Upon graduation, HUSD students are well prepared for pastoral ministry, university, hospital and military chaplaincies, teaching, social justice and public policy advocacy, lay ministry and leadership, and research vocations in their fields of specialty.

New programs are also on the horizon, including a dual degree Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work program, slated to begin fall 2017 and a newly-approved Master of Arts in Interreligious Chaplaincy.

The School of Divinity actively seeks and recruits highly talented and motivated students from all backgrounds. Our distinguished community of scholars, theologians and researchers from around the world invites you learn more about the opportunities that await you here at the School of Divinity. Explore your questions and pursue your calling with us as we fulfill our mission to educate and equip academic and religious leaders to serve the Church and society, and celebrate the religious and cultural heritage of African-Americans, the African Diaspora, and Africa.

HOW TO APPLY

To learn more about enrolling in the School of Divinity, please visit Divinity.Howard.edu or call Assistant Dean for Student Affairs 202-806-0718, or contact:

Claretta McDaniel, M.A. c_mcdaniel@howard.edu Serena K. Parks, M.Div., M.A. Admissions and Retention Coordinator skparks@howard.edu





HOWARD UNIVE CCCINTANA Novem



Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter Opening Convocation Speaker



Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock Symposium Lecturer

Rea Ga



Dr. Michael Newheart Professor of New Testament Community Arts Festival Facilitator



Dr. Gay L. Byron
Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs
Seminar on Biblical Trends



Dr. Frederick L. Ware
Professor of Theology
Seminar on Theological Trends



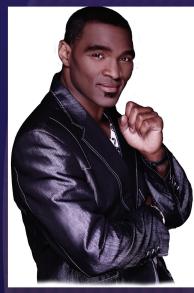
Mr. Ted Daniels Seminar on Financial Management

ERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

mber 9 - 10, 2016



Rear Admiral (Ret) Barry Black Gala Awards Banquet Speaker



Rev. Earnest Pugh Convocation Psalmist



Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders Professor of Christian Ethics Convocation Chairperson



November 11th **Excursion to NMAAHC**



Ms. Aimee Laramore Seminar on Philathropy



Dr. Harold D. Trulear Professor of Applied Theology Faculty Respondent



Luncheon Panelist



Honorable Alexander Williams Jr. Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner **Luncheon Panelist**



CENTENNIAL CONVOCATION VISION 100

1916-2016

Vision 100: Celebrating a Century of Achievement, Capturing the Present Opportunities and Charting the Course of Our Future

Howard University School of Divinity Centennial Convocation – November 9-11, 2016

The Howard University School of Divinity has been a leader in theological education and a center for religious leadership in the African-American community for 150 years. In 1866, during a prayer meeting of the First Congregational Church of Washington, D.C., church members discussed the training of religious leaders to meet the spiritual needs of recently-freed slaves. While the initial plan was to teach religion, the scope was broadened to include education and liberal arts. This led to the founding of Howard University in 1867. The founding of the School of Religion, now known as the School of Divinity, followed in 1870.

Dr. John B. Reeve was the first African-American dean of the School of Religion at Howard University (1871-1875). Under the guidance of Dr. Benjamin Mays (dean from 1934-1940), the School received its initial accreditation in 1938 by the Association of Theological Schools. The first School of Divinity Convocation was held under the leadership of Dean Butler Pratt.

Generations of HUSD deans have upheld Convocation over the subsequent decades and our current dean, Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D., has the honor of hosting this year's one hundredth gathering.

A Celebration Of Achievement And Opportunities Each session and each speaker has been selected by the Convocation committee with the intention of stimulating the quality of thought, conversation and action in our community that is characteristic of the sustainable excellence we have set at the center of our strategic plan for the future of the Howard University School of Divinity.

With pride and gratitude we will celebrate the service, accomplishments and influence of our faculty, students and alumni in the areas of religious leadership and theological studies. We will also discuss the many global opportunities available for those in the School of Divinity community, as well as the current triumphs and challenges

for African-Americans and people of African descent, for communities of faith and practice.

Wednesday, November 9

Our opening service of worship will be held in Dunbarton Chapel on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. Our Convocation preacher will be Dr. Delores Carpenter (M.Div.'69), professor of religious education, and author of "African American Heritage Hymnal" who will be retiring this year. Our Convocation psalmist will be Rev. Earnest Pugh (M.Div.'04). Immediately following the worship service, there will be a welcome reception and community arts festival facilitated by Dr. Michael Newheart, who is also retiring at the end of this school year. The festival will showcase books, music and visual art created by HUSD students, faculty, alumni and guests.

Thursday, November 10

Day two of the Convocation celebration begins with continental breakfast and a morning devotional. The first set of concurrent Convocation seminars feature two topics: "What's Trending in Biblical Studies?" led by Dr. Gay Byron, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of New Testament and Early Christianity and "Financial Well-being for Pastors and Congregations" led by Theodore Daniels, president and founder of the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development.

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has partnered with the School of Divinity to present a symposium lecture by Dr. Raphael Warnock, Pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. During the symposium luncheon, Dr. Warnock will engage Howard University Law School and School of Divinity students and Convocation attendees in a conversation on law and public policy. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, associate professor of practical theology, will offer a response to the lecture.



Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays was an American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Under his guidance (1934-1940), the School of Divinity received its initial accreditation in 1938 by the Association of Theological Schools.

The afternoon will conclude with a second set of Convocation seminars on the following topics: "What's Trending in Theological Studies?" by Dr. Frederick Ware, associate professor of theology, and "Creating Cultures of Generosity" by Aimèe Laramore, member of the HUSD Board of Visitors and director of seminary advancement at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This full day of celebration and engagement will culminate at the Vision 100 Gala Awards Banquet on Thursday evening. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the School of Divinity will come together for an exciting evening of fellowship, music and awards at the Armour J. Blackburn Center. Master of ceremonies Rev. Tony Lee, pastor of Community of Hope A.M.E. Church and member of our Board of Visitors will lead the program, which features an address by Rear Admiral Barry Black, Chaplain of the U. S. Senate, and special music by our Convocation psalmist, Rev. Earnest Pugh.

After dinner, the HUSD Alumni Association will toast the best and brightest leaders of our community presenting them with honors for their dedication to the School of Divinity and their commitment to living the values of excellence in truth and service. Proceeds from the evening's fundraising event will go to the <code>Vision 100 Centennial Convocation Fund</code>, designated to support three HUSD initiatives—programming for recruitment, leadership development events for divinity students, and fellowships for emerging scholars in residence.

Friday, November 11

The recent dedication and opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture (NMAAHC) here in Washington, D.C. represents an important milestone for African-Americans and the entire African Diaspora. This highly-anticipated new construction, set prominently in "America's front yard," was over 100 years in the making. It is fitting, then, that the members of the Convocation committee were moved to create an opportunity for our Centennial Convocation participants to experience this new array of significant and compelling representations of the impact of religion and faith in African-American life as part of our celebration of the School of Divinity's 100th Convocation.

On Friday, November 11, a VIP tour of the NMAAHC will be hosted by Dr. Yolanda Pierce, chief curator of the museum's Center for the Study of African American Religion. Dr. Pierce is also associate professor of African-American religion and literature and director of Black church studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Vision 100 Centennial Convocation is an invitation to vision and inspiration. We have designed this event to welcome, excite and engage the entire School of Divinity community with a rich experience of preaching, lectures, learning, worship and fellowship. We know that you will all leave the Vision 100 Centennial Convocation even more committed to strengthening, sustaining and advancing the Howard University School of Divinity.

Dr. Cheryl J. Sanders is professor of Christian ethics at Howard University School of Divinity and chair of Vision 100 Centennial Convocation planning committee.

Successors to Dr. Mays in the Office of the Dean Include:

William Stuart Nelson (1940-1949) Clarence G. Newsome (1992-2003)

Frank T. Wilson (1950-1957) Evans E. Crawford (interim, 2003-2004)

Daniel G. Hill (1957-1964)

Bertram L. Melbourne (interim,

Samuel L. Gandy (1965-1974) 2004-2007) and

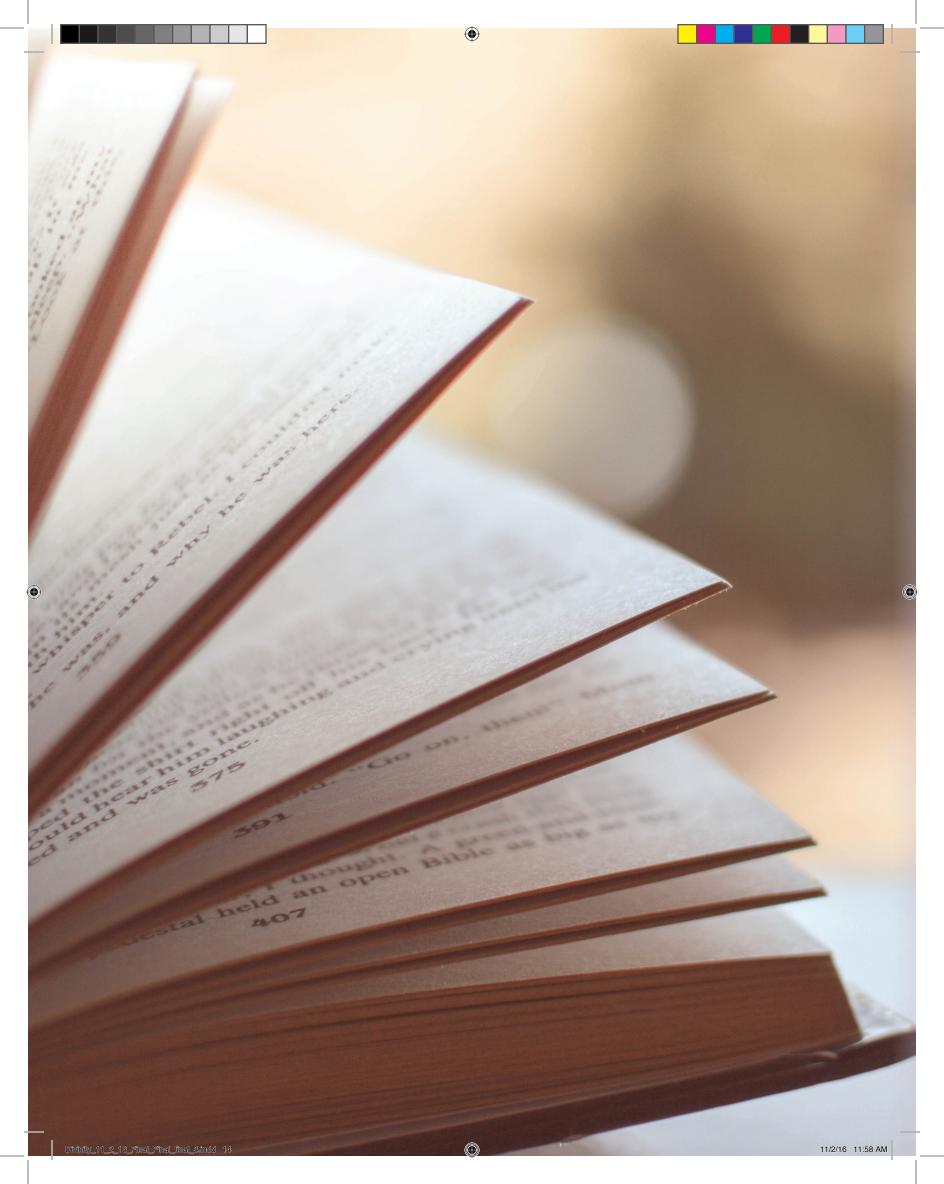
Talbert O. Shaw (acting, 1975) Alton B. Pollard III, who has served

as dean since 2007.

Lawrence N. Jones (1975-1991)

Divinity_11_2_16_Final_Final_Final_3.indd 13 11/2/16 11:58 AM





BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CHURCH

Howard University School of Divinity educates and prepares academic and religious leaders to serve the Church and society, and to celebrate the religious and cultural heritage of African-Americans, and the entire African Diaspora. With this mission, HUSD has defined a unique niche, using scholarly research and publishing to further these efforts.

From the end of 2015 through November 2016, five faculty members of the School of Divinity, including the dean and the associate dean for academic affairs, have published new books. Their works speak to the crucial relationship between theological education and the life of the Church.

These authors are part of a rich tradition of scholarly writing as part of engaged church and pastoral leadership among HUSD faculty and staff. The breadth and depth of their collective experience uniquely positions them to bridge what some perceive as a chasm between the concerns of the real world of the church and religious institutions and the theory, reflection, analysis and philosophical musings rooted in academic research and study.

Through their scholarly research and publishing, HUSD faculty helps prepare new generations of leaders to flourish at the intersection of the classroom and the practice of ministry. These insightful publications will be studied and referenced by generations to come.

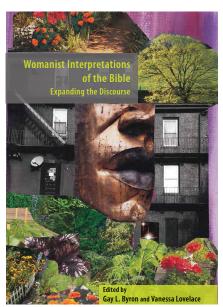
Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse Gay L. Byron, Ph.D.

A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights Kenyatta Gilbert, Ph.D. Engaged Teaching in Theology and Religion Renee Harrison, Ph.D.

The Black Church Studies Reader Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D.

African American Theology: An Introduction Frederick L. Ware, Ph.D.





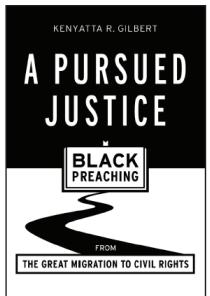
Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse (November 2016) Gay L. Byron, Ph.D., co-editor

In this collection of crossgenerational and cross-cultural readings of the Bible and other sacred sources, Gay L. Byron and co-editor Vanessa Lovelace bring together scholars from the U.S., the Caribbean, and India to review Hebrew Bible and New Testament texts, as well as Hindu scripture and Ethiopic

texts. It addresses contemporary topics, including the #BlackLivesMatter movement, domestic violence and human trafficking, while at the same time uncovering the complicated portrayals of children, women and other marginalized persons in biblical narratives.

The essays apply interdisciplinary perspectives such as gender and feminist criticism, social-scientific methods, postcolonial and psychoanalytic theory and hip-hop culture to reveal the inherently intersectional dynamics of race, gender, and class at work in womanist thought and analysis. Finally, the volume introduces the critical mass of scholars now engaged in the expanding area of womanist biblical interpretation.

Gay L. Byron is associate dean of academic affairs and professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the School of Divinity. She is also the author of "Symbolic Blackness and Ethnic Difference in Early Christian Literature" (Routledge 2002) and has written several articles and essays on gender, ethnicity and early Ethiopian Christianity.



A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights (July 2016) Kenyatta R. Gilbert, Ph.D.,

In the wake of a failed Reconstruction period, widespread agricultural depression, and the rise of Jim Crow laws, the Great Migration transformed northern Black churches and produced a new mode of preaching. Black clerics such as Baptist Reverend

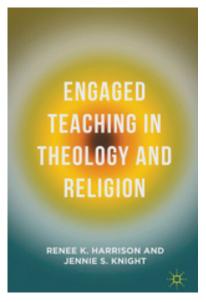
Adam Clayton Powell Sr., A.M.E. Bishop Reverdy Cassius Ransom, and A.M.E. Zion Reverend Florence Spearing Randolph rose up within these congregations and "spoke truth to power" for hope across racial, ethnic and class lines both within their congregations and between the Black community and the wider culture.

"A Pursued Justice" profiles these three ecclesiastically inventive clerics of the first half of the twentieth century whose strident voices gave birth to a distinctive form of prophetic preaching. Their radical sermonic response to injustice and suffering, both within and outside of the Black church, not only captured the imaginations of participants in the largest internal migration in American history but also inspired the homiletical vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and subsequent generations of preachers of revolutionary hope and holy disobedience.

Kenyatta R. Gilbert is associate professor of homiletics at the School of Divinity. He has also authored "The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching" (2011), as well as several published articles, essays, lectures and sermons.







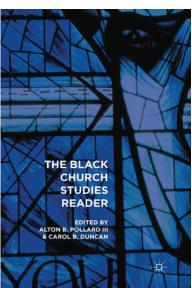
Engaged Teaching in Theology and Religion (October 2015) Renee K. Harrison, Ph.D., co-author

This book guides scholars and teachers of theology and religion through a process of self reflection that leads to intentional, transformative teaching, dialogue and reform in theological education and religious studies. Effective teaching approaches must address the selfhood of the teacher, as well as pedagogy, course commitment and community engagement. "Engaged Teaching"

sets itself apart from other works in this field because of its holistic approach.

Co-authors Renee K. Harrison and Jennie S. Knight convey a depth of scholarship and shared know-how that is much needed in theological education. Nancy Lynne Westfield of Drew University, remarks, "The theoretical explanation is enriched and made vivid by personal reflection and suggestions of practice."

Renee K. Harrison is assistant professor of African-American and U.S. religious history at the School of Divinity. She has also authored "Enslaved Women and the Art of Resistance in Antebellum America" (2009) and is an artist, poet and playwright.

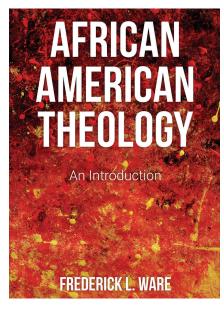


The Black Church Studies Reader (December 2015) Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D., co-editor

"The Black Church Studies Reader" addresses the depth and breadth of Black theological studies. Co-editors Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D. and Carol B. Duncan, Ph.D. examine salient themes such as gender, sexuality, race, social class, health care, and public policy. The focus of the volume, while African-American, speaks also to broader African continental and Diasporan religious contexts.

Eboni Marshall Turman, director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke University writes, "Pollard and Duncan have captured the essence of the Black Christian tradition in this celebration of the theological imagination and moral vision born at the interstices of bondage and freedom. The volume's interdisciplinary breadth is unparalleled in the field. It is a milestone text for anyone who is inspired and affirmed by the rich traditions of the Black church."

Pollard is dean and professor of religion and culture at the School of Divinity. He has published widely in the areas of religion and culture including, most recently, "The Black Church in the U.S. Since the March on Washington" (2013), "From Civil Rights to Hip Hop: A Meditation" a piece within the book "The Black Church and Hip Hop Culture" edited by Emmett Price (2012), "Deep Calleth Unto Deep: The Future of Black Theological Education" (2008) and "A Defining Vision" (2010) in The Journal of Religious Thought, among others.



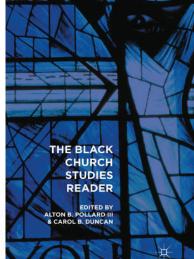
African American Theology: An Introduction (March 2016) Frederick L. Ware, Ph.D., author

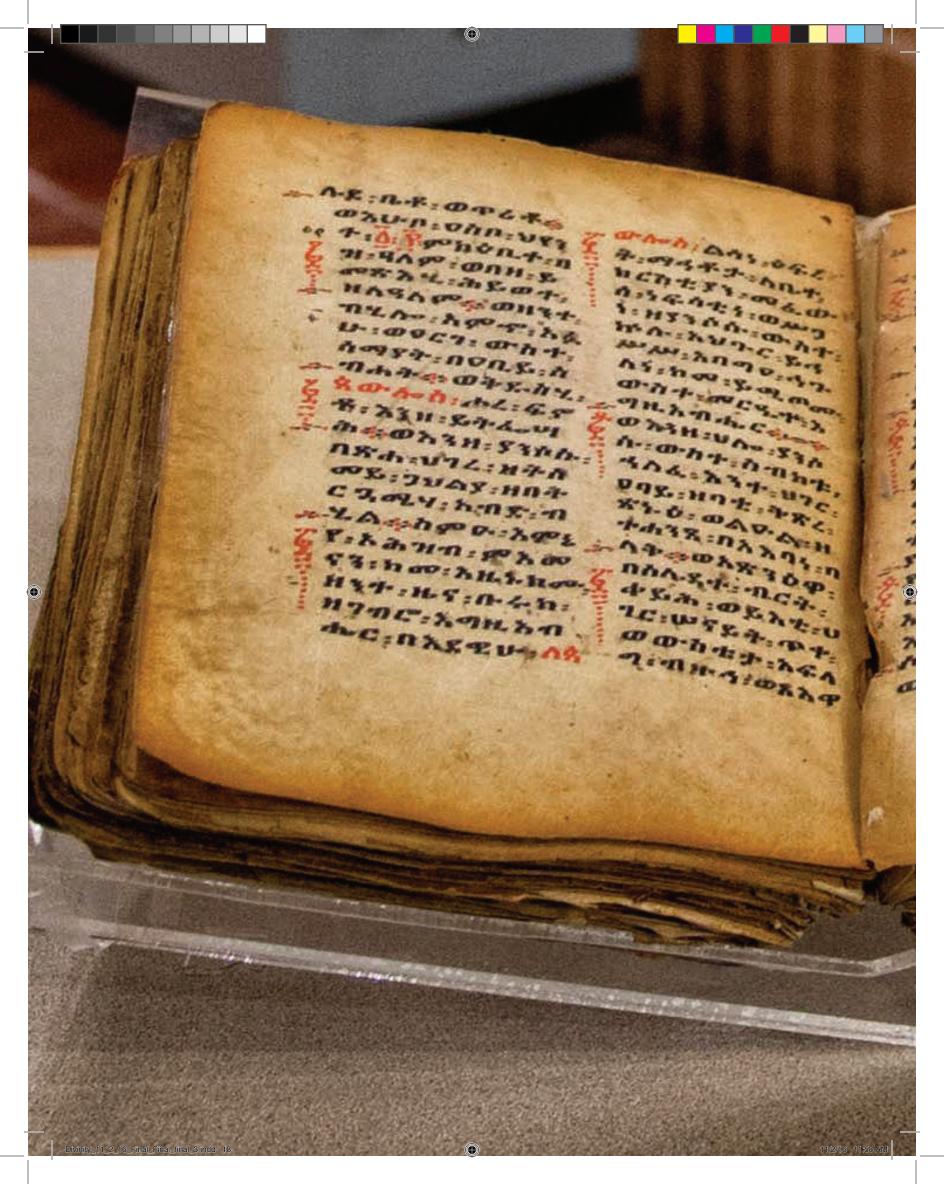
"African American Theology: An Introduction" presents a substantial introduction to the major methodologies, figures and themes within African-American theology. Ware explores African-American theology from its inception and places it within dual contexts: first, the African-American struggle for dignity

and full humanity; and second, within the broader scope of Christian belief.

Readers will appreciate Ware's demonstration of how Black theology is expressed in a wide range of sources that include not only scholarly publications but in a variety of mediums such as African-American sermons, music, news and editorials, biographies, literature, popular periodicals, folklore and philosophy. Each chapter concludes with questions for discussion and suggested resources for further study. The book provides a seasoned perspective on where African-American theology has been and where it is going, and he demonstrates its creativity within the chorus of Christian theology.

Frederick L. Ware is associate professor of theology at the School of Divinity. He is also the author of "Methodologies of Black Theology" (2008).









In January 2016, representatives from the Howard University School of Divinity embarked on a two-week journey to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to return a collection of sacred, 14th- to 15th-century manuscripts to Debre Libanos Monastery, one of Ethiopia's holiest sites. The delegation included **Dr. Alton B. Pollard III, Ph. D.,** HUSD dean; **Dr. Gay L. Byron**, associate dean and professor of New Testament and Early Christianity; **Dr. Alice Ogden Bellis** (M.Div.'74), professor and Hebrew Bible scholar; **Dr. Zebene Lemma** (M.A.'10), head priest at Debre Genet Medhane Alem Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church; and **Lawrence W. Rodgers**, a 2017 master of Divinity candidate at HUSD.

Religious leaders welcomed home the long lost manuscript, known as Tweed MS150, and warmly received its purveyors from HUSD. Tweed MS150 is part of one of the largest collections of Ethiopian sacred artifacts housed in the United States. It contains two different texts: the Acts of Paul and the Acts of Serabamon.

The 240-piece collection was originally gifted to the School of Divinity in 1993 by the late **Dr. André Tweed**, a prominent psychiatrist and two-time alumnus of the University. The rare texts provide historical insight into early Christianity and the connection between African and Judaic cultures and traditions.

Dr. Bellis explained the collective excitement of faculty and researchers at the chance to review these prized artifacts. "When we got the collection, I began to hope that we would be able to digitize it, but initially it seemed far too expensive to do. After a number of false starts, we received a small grant and were able to then digitize the manuscripts," she said. "The next step was to catalogue them, and

it was during that process that we discovered Tweed MS150 belonged to the Debre Libanos Monastery [in Ethiopia]."

RETURNING THE MANUSCRIPT TO ITS RIGHTFUL HOME

For years, HUSD faced a series of legal, ecclesiastical and administrative hurdles related to legally returning the manuscript to its rightful home. Dr. Byron was one of the first scholars to research this manuscript and clarify its provenance.

"This has been a long-standing commitment of the School of Divinity—to honor the rich heritage and cultural artifacts throughout Africa, and in particular in Ethiopia," said Dr. Byron. "We wanted to set an example for other schools, museums and institutions around the world as to what it means to have rare manuscripts in their rightful home of origin."

Ethiopia is known to have been one of the first areas beyond Jerusalem and Israel to embrace Christianity, and has been recognized

as the first country to accept Christianity as its national religion. Dr. Lemma described the journey to return the sacred texts as an impressive historic action that will reinforce international awareness of African culture and history.

"This manuscript was written by Ethiopians. So returning the manuscript is huge for Ethiopian church history and it establishes a strong relationship with Howard University," he said.

A JOYFUL HOMECOMING

The journey took place shortly after the Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrated Christmas, and Dr. Lemma noted the joy and and sense of justice that was felt by all present. "This was a momentous time for Ethiopians as we celebrated the birth and baptism of our Lord and God Jesus Christ. It was an eye-opening, justice bridging experience for Ethiopians to return these original Ethiopian books to their birthplaces," he said. "Numerous holy books, crosses and countless artifacts are still in the possession of private collections and museums around the world, especially in Britain, Germany and France, and they have no moral right to keep them."

Lawrence Rodgers also gave his perspective as a student representative on the trip. "I received so much hospitality from Abune Mathias, from the bishops, priests, monks and nuns, and from the laypeople. Being able to travel to this beautiful ancient country, to visit some of the oldest Christian churches in the world and to see this rich Christian heritage on the continent of my ancestors is something that is very meaningful to me," he said.

For Dean Pollard, the spiritual importance of this journey more than thirteen years in the making was profound. "It harkens to mind the memories of research learning that in the experience of people of African descent in this country there was a time where the most preached text from the biblical witness came from Psalms 68:31 which reads, 'Princes shall come out of Egypt, Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hand unto God,'" he said. "Now, as we continue to stretch forth our own hands to God, we are so pleased to be able to stretch forth our hand to our sisters and brothers in Ethiopia as well."











DIVINITY | page 21

What's Happening at HUSD

 \bigoplus



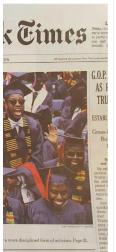








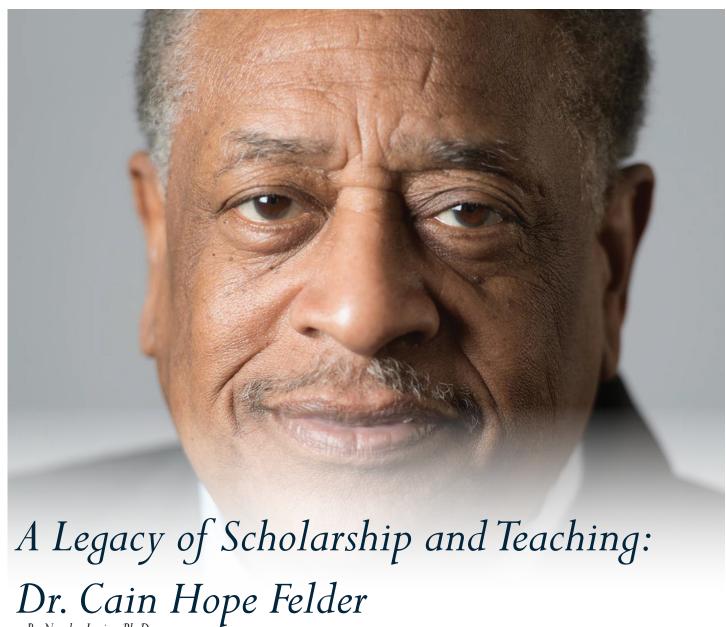












By Nyasha Junior, Ph.D.

Dr. Cain Hope Felder looks every bit the scholar and gentleman. With his graying hair, neatly trimmed moustache, and half-moon reading classes, he might have been cast for the role of professor in films like "The Great Debaters" or "Drumline." He often sports the requisite professorial blue blazer with gold buttons and his office is a dim, swampy bog of overflowing boxes and wall-to-wall bookcases. It would take an archaeologist to dig through the many artifacts collected during the professor's lifetime of teaching and scholarship.

A son of the Howard University Class of 1966, Dr. Felder returned to his alma mater as a faculty member of the School of Divinity in 1981, after being recruited by Dean Emeritus Lawrence N. Jones. Building on the work of earlier scholars who emphasized the importance of Africa and Africans in the Bible, he developed a reputation as one of the leading voices in African-American biblical hermeneutics, a field of study which involves constructing and discovering the appropriate rules for interpreting the Bible.

A Prolific Career

Prior to his return to the School of Divinity to teach, Dr. Felder was an adjunct faculty member at another prestigious theological seminary where he felt his attempts to teach and conduct research on the importance of Africa and Arabia in biblical scholarship were often discouraged by some of his colleagues. He bristled against the idea of studying the Bible through an exclusively Eurocentric lens and the pervasive view that Africa and the African Diaspora offered nothing substantial to biblical studies.





These experiences led him to develop a research trajectory that would explore the ways in which the Bible, and particularly the New Testament, has special meaning and relevance for many African-American Christians. While teaching at the School of Divinity, he was afforded more control over the curriculum he taught. Thus, during his 35 years at Howard, Dr. Felder built a model for generations of biblical scholars interested in moving past the traditionally Eurocentric focus of biblical scholarship.

Dr. Felder also edited the widely adopted publication "Stony the Road We Trod: African-American Biblical Interpretation." He helped it to become a best-seller by actively marketing the book and getting it into the hands of those outside of the academy. He has also written and edited numerous other publications, including the *Journal of Religious Thought*, "Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class, and Family" (1989), "Stony the Road We Trod: African-American Biblical Interpretation" (1991), and "The Original African Heritage Study Bible" (1993), and "True to Our Native Land: An African-American New Testament Commentary" (2007).

Future Plans

Dr. Felder initially planned to retire in 2013, but later extended that date to May 2016. His retirement coincided with the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Howard University, bringing his experience as a Man of Howard full circle. More than 200 people, including many alumni, faculty, staff and current students gathered for a spiritually uplifting and wide-ranging retirement celebration that touched on so many aspects of the life and legacy of Dr. Cain Hope Felder. Fittingly, he also gave the Closing Convocation address a week later at the 2016 School of Divinity Commencement and awards ceremony.

For him, two things remain unfinished in his professional work. First, his magnum opus, a manuscript on the mercy of God in the biblical books of Luke through Acts, which is still in progress. Second, his work to help establish a program for Doctor of Philosophy or Ph.D. at the School of Divinity. Since 1984, he and other HUSD colleagues have held conversations around establishing a doctoral program in religious studies. Dr. Felder feels that establishing such a program at the School of Divinity is

of utmost importance, as it is the terminal research degree required for most academic research and teaching positions.

"For Howard to be not the Mecca, but the Zion or Jerusalem of the academy, it [needs to] develop a program that offers a special competence in research that would not have to be supervised by people committed to a Eurocentric view," he said. "Anyone, regardless of race, would be eligible to apply, but the research focus would have to be somehow showing sensitivity to the African, Pan-African and African-American religious experiences."

Educating African-American clergy was one of the primary concerns of the founders of Howard University. Although Howard has provided stellar theological education for clergy and laypersons since its founding in 1867, a Ph.D. program in religious studies would be the first of its kind at a historically Black theological school.

"When you think about it," he explained, "it is peculiar that no African, Caribbean, or African-American institution has a Ph.D. program in religion. If we know anything about anything, it is certainly religion." Under the leadership of Dean Alton B. Pollard III, plans for this new concentration gained renewed momentum. Along with Dr. Gay L. Byron, Dr. Felder co-chaired the Ph.D. in Religious Studies Committee. The proposed Ph.D. program will have two concentrations: biblical studies and African-American religious studies.

Just as Moses saw the Promised Land of Canaan from Mount Nebo but was unable to enter it, Felder hopes to create a program in which he will never teach. Thus, Howard University's motto of *truth and service* is exemplified in the legacy of scholarship and teaching of Dr. Cain Hope Felder.

Nyasha Junior Ph.D. is assistant professor in the department of religion at Temple University in Philadelphia. She is also a former faculty member for the Howard University School of Divinity. This story is modified. The original version appeared on NyashaJunior.com Feb. 3, 2014.





Leading with Head and Heart: News and Updates

Read the latest news and happenings of those at HUSD serving the Church and society and celebrating the religious and cultural heritage of African-Americans, the African Diaspora and Africa.

Student News

Yasmine Arrington (M.Div.'18), current SGA president, represents the District of Columbia as Miss D.C. Plus America 2016. An award-winning speaker and activist on behalf of children of incarcerated parents, she delivered a keynote address on "Incarceration and Community Activism" at her *alma mater*, Elon University, in November. She has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the 5th Annual CMCA Correctional Ministries Summit in Philadelphia in May 2017.

In February 2016, Pauline Rose Moore, (M.Div.'17) student, authored a children's book, "Gabriella & Samantha's New Mom" which tells the story of two sisters and their thoughts and feelings about life in foster care.

Charles Butler Neto, (M.Div.'17). student, spoke on "Prison Ministry, Families and Friends" at the Sacred Space Conference held March 10-13, 2016 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Timonium, MD. For information visit sacredspacefoundation.org.

Terrence L. Mayo (M.Div.'16), past SGA president, presented his research on the "Analysis of President Obama's Faith-Based Domestic Policies" at the 28th Annual National Black Graduate Student Association Conference on March 16-20, 2016.

Keisha Patrick, M.Div. student, was selected to participate in the 2016 Masters Series for Distinguished Leaders (MSDL). The series was founded in 2008 by a cadre of accomplished leaders to nurture and develop a new generation of high impact executives. The global leadership and community service program assists high-performing business, government and nonprofit managers aged 25-45 who are persons of color, in moving to the next levels of their careers. MSDL has graduated over 70 gifted and talented executives. Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner (M.Div.'99, D.Min. '01), HUSD Board of Visitors member, is also a member of the MSDL faculty.

Alumni News

Rev. Shirley Gravely Currie (M.Div.'06), major gift officer for HUSD and associate minister of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church; Rev. Dennis Wiley, Ph.D. (M.Div.'81), pastor of Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Willie F. Wilson, (M.Div.'69), pastor of Union Temple Baptist Church; and Rev. Teresa Smallwood (M.Div.'10), associate minister of Israel Baptist Church, were among ten notable local faith leaders who received the Henry W. Edgerton Civil Rights Award on October 19, 2015 from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary passion and effort in the pursuit of civil justice. Previous recipients include Wiley A. Branton, Julian Bond, Glenn Greenwald, and Ben Jealous.

Marcia "Cia" S. Price (M.A. '05) has been elected to the 2016 Virginia House of Delegates for the 95th District, which includes parts of the cities of Hampton and Newport News, Virginia. A newcomer to elective office, Price received 76 percent of the vote in the election.

Faculty and Research News

Kenyatta Gilbert, Ph.D., associate professor of homiletics, was one of more than 100 Black faith leaders from across the country who signed an open letter in Ebony magazine earlier this year protesting their brethren for gathering with U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump. In an interview with *ThinkProgress* Gilbert said, "Trump is a metaphor for me of a larger reality. He wouldn't have gained as much traction in American society if there were not many persons who think as he does, who believe in accruing prestige and power at the expense of the poor. We must pay attention to these individuals, because people who are operating their lives on false notions tend to do destructive things. We will never know the full extent of the collateral damage of [Trump's] words."

Renee K. Harrison, Ph.D. was promoted to associate professor of African-American and U.S. religious history with tenure. Her new title and rank became official in the fall 2016. She is the author of "Enslaved Women and the Art of Resistance in Antebellum America" (2009) and "Engaged Teaching in Theology and Religion" (2015).

After 35 years of faculty service at the School of Divinity, Cain Hope Felder, Ph.D., professor of New Testament language and literature and editor of *The Journal of Religious Thought*, retired this year. He also served as orator of the HUSD Closing Convocation, Honors and Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 6 in Dunbarton Chapel.

Frederick L. Ware, Ph.D., associate professor of theology, serves as principal investigator of a new grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science to help strategically integrate science into core curricula. Participating faculty have implemented revisions to several core courses in theology, biblical studies, and the capstone course in social justice ministry in line with this new initiative.

Program Updates

The Howard University Board of Trustees has approved two new graduate degree programs in the School of Divinity.

First, through sustained interdisciplinary collaboration, graduate students will soon be able to complete a joint Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work degree. The joint degree responds to a growing number of students and alumni who have expressed interest in gaining practical experience in both faith and social work. The joint degree will allow students to complete the program in less time than it would take to complete the degrees separately. It also meets the growing demand, particularly in African-American communities of faith and faith-based organizations, to develop and administer combined services of pastoral care and counseling, as well as case management and other practical dimensions of social work. Students must be admitted into both programs.

Another newly-approved program is the Master of Arts in Interreligious Chaplaincy. The program will be the first of its kind in the country, designed for Christian and Muslim chaplains who are committed to becoming exemplary scholar-practitioners in intercultural and interreligious contexts.

In Memoriam

Dr. Ibrahim Abdurrahman Farajajé (aka Elias Farajajé-Jones), served as associate professor of history of religions at HUSD from 1986-1996. He was among the first scholars at Howard to address HIV as a religious and theological case, noting the ethical imperative to respond to the crisis. In 1991, he co-authored the book "African Creative Expressions of the Divine" with HUSD theology professor Dr. D. H. Kortright Davis. In 1995, he joined the faculty of the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, where he served as provost from 2009 until his death. He was noted for his research in multi-religious theological education, Sufism and intersectionality. He died February 9, 2016.

Ms. Lillian E. Roane (M.Div. '12) was a celebrated math teacher, community advocate and church woman. In 2009, she retired from teaching after 20 years of distinguished service with D.C. Public Schools, where she had been twice nominated for the Agnes Myer Teacher of the Year Award. She also received multiple listings in "Who's Who Among Teachers in America" and was inducted as a National Honor Roll Outstanding American Teacher. She was highly awarded as a student at Howard University as well. In 2011, she was inducted at into The Golden Key International Honor Society and HUSD faculty selected her as one of only four student speakers at the annual Harambee. In 2012, she was presented the Excellence Award for Outstanding Divinity Student by her peers at the Graduate School Gala. She died February 10, 2016. An endowed scholarship has been established in her name at HUSD.

Lynn Walker Huntley, former president of the Southern Education Foundation and a pioneer of social justice, dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of minorities and the poor. After earning her juris doctorate from Columbia University, she worked as general counsel first for the New York Commission on Human Rights and later as deputy assistant attorney general in the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Her work for organizations such as NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Ford Foundation Rights and Social Justice Program; and Southern Education Foundation was invaluable, raising tens of millions of dollars and furthering the cause for minority and women's rights, prisoner's rights, education policy reform; and refugee and migration

issues. Huntley was a member of the HUSD Board of Visitors and was also the daughter of the Dean Emeritus Lawrence N. Jones. She died Aug. 30, 2015

Dr. Mary Sawyer (M.A.'82) was professor emeritus of religious studies at Iowa State University. She co-founded the African American Studies Program, created a Peace and Justice Internship and advanced women's empowerment. A scholar and activist, she authored and co-edited three books and numerous articles on African-American religion and politics. She was a former member of the HUSD Board of Visitors and gave a substantial bequest to HUSD. She died May 20, 2015.

Several other members of the HUSD family have passed away since the last publication of The Divinity Magazine in the fall of 2014. They are as follows:

Laghretta D. Bell (M.A.'03), an equal employment opportunity manager at the VA Medical Center, died May 25, 2015.

Dr. Mildred Holliday (M.Div'88), an educator and a United Methodist Pastor, died Dec. 13, 2015.

Dr. Kim Queen Boyd Leathers, dean of the Honors College and professor of sociology at Shaw University, died August 28, 2016.

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Walker, (M. Div.'64), who won the Desmond Tutu Peace Prize, died September 11, 2016. Following a U.S. memorial, his funeral services were held in Liberia.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Wright (B.D.'54) was a generous supporter of the School of Divinity and a recipient of the distinguished Evans E. Crawford Living Legacy Award. He established the Thomas A. Wright and Affie M. Wright Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of his late wife.

Rev. Dr. Carol James (M.Div.'03, D.Min.'06) worked in the fields of substance abuse treatment, holistic health care and communications. She died May 4, 2016.

DR. GENE RICE, BELOVED SERVANT OF HUSD



Divinity_11_2_16_Final_Final_final_3.indd 27

Dr. Gene Rice was known for his quiet, gentle demeanor, but when he did speak, it was with insight and authority. For more than 50 years, Dr. Rice served as not only a professor of Old Testament language and literature, but as an advocate for Howard University School of Divinity, its programs and its students.

In 1958, after obtaining his Ph.D. from Columbia University, Dr. Rice began his tenure as a professor of Old Testament in what was then the Howard University School of Religion. He distinguished himself as a scholar, publishing a commentary on the biblical book of I Kings, and authored more than 20 scholarly articles, a play entitled "The Apple of God's Eye," which was performed at HUSD, and three hymns, including

"Bless the Lord O My Soul," published in "The African American Heritage Hymnal."

He enjoyed close relationships with his students, fellow faculty members and the HUSD staff, and showed loving concern for each of his university family members. Dr. Rice also cared deeply about his own family, and was a WWII veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart for his service and bravery in the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

Dr. Rice died on Thursday, April 14, 2016, and his funeral was held at Dunbarton Chapel. His work has had a profound and enduring influence on students, ministers, the field of theological education and the public at large. An endowed scholarship has been established in his name.



