

Boston Theological Institute

Andover Newton Theological School • Boston College Department of Theology & IREPM • Boston University School of Theology
 Episcopal Divinity School • Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary • Harvard Divinity School • Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
 Saint John's Seminary • Weston Jesuit School of Theology

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May 17, 2005

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

By Rodney L Petersen
 Executive Director, Boston Theological Institute

"that you may know what is the hope of [our] calling...."
 (Ephesians 1:18).

This is a time of acknowledgement and celebration. The first commencement (1642) among BTI schools, of the *then* Harvard College, saw graduates referred to as "*commencers*" under then President Henry Dunster. This was in view of the prospect of their entering upon a life of learning, collegiate discipline, and corporate piety. The first graduation theses were printed up as *New Englands First Fruits* (London, 1643). They reflected current theological issues at this third institution of higher learning in the British Empire.

How do we *commence* 363 years later?

Life in New England was an uncertain affair at that first "BTI" commencement. Not only did settlers face a "*clash of civilizations*" in an encounter with the indigenous population, disease and natural calamity were as real as the uncertainties they attributed to Spanish and French intentions to the south and north. Our uncertainties may not be quite similar, but the lecture by Os Guinness "*Unspeakable: Facing Up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*," at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (25 January) would have found an echo in sixteenth-century Wenham as much as in twenty-first century South Hamilton. The lecture by BU's Professor Dietmar Winkler at Boston College, "*Vatican II and Ecumenism After Forty Years: Whence Have We Come; Where Are We Going?*" would have surprised all in 1642. It marks the measure of our common journey in these schools – as also the Von Euw Lectures at Saint John's Seminary, "*Jesus: A Gospel Portrait*" (2 March). The work of the newly established Pappas Patristics Institute at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and its program "*Apocalyptic Themes in Early Christianity*" (14-16 October), provides an anchor for theological studies appreciated today and recognizable then.

Political life was no more certain then than it is today: The Great Civil War (1642-6) broke out across England with implications for the colonies. Stuart and Anglican Charles I was captured (to lose his head in 1649), a period followed by the *Interregnum* and rule of Oliver Cromwell. Similarly, the American presidential elections of 2004 saw this nation divided over moral and religious issues. The symposium held at Episcopal Divinity School, "*After the Election...*"

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Andover Newton Theological School

INSIDE ISLAM: UNLOCKING TEXT AND TRADITIONS

Monday, May 23, 2005

A day of learning for scholars, clergy and religious educators from the Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions, this program is open to all members of the community seeking to reach beyond misunderstandings toward knowledge about Islam. *To register, or for more information, please contact ICPL at 617-559-8798 or visit www.interreligiouscenter.org/events/*

Boston College:

The Townes Lecture

Sunday, June 12, 2005 (5:30)

You are cordially invited to attend a dinner and a lecture at the Boston College Yawkey Center. Lecture is at 7 pm in the Higgins lecture hall and will be offered by Rosalind Picard, who will speak on "*On Building a Machine that would Deny Its Maker*." Lecture is free. Dinner is \$40. For details, please call 617.527.4880.

THEOLOGY AND RELATIONAL HEALING:

Breaking Cycles of Trauma, Retaliation and Violence

DEVELOPING AN INTERPRETIVE CURRICULUM FOR
 TRAUMA, SPIRITUAL FORMATION, RESTORATIVE
 JUSTICE, CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND HUMAN
 SECURITY*

Monday - Tuesday: June 13-14

Location: Andover Newton Theological School

While primarily for faculty, the seminar also welcomes local religious leadership and persons working in non-profits that deal with conflict and trauma, and who seek to , and who seek to foster restorative and reconciling processes among persons through such organizations. (See the flyer in this Newsletter.) Contact the BTI for registration by phone (6127-527-4880) or email (btioffice@bostontheological.org).

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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What is the Role of 'Church' in Defining Values and Shaping Policy," with Jim Wallis, Raymond Hammond, Nancy Taylor, and Richard Pierard offered an opportunity for reflection on the election, a series continuing in the *BTI Newsletter* from the remarks at this event. Such forums as that featuring Professor Raymond Helmick and David Little, "Why Camp David Failed: Negotiating Outside the Law," Harvard Divinity School (16 November) and Rona Fields, "Martyrdom and the Politics of Self-Sacrifice," (21 March) extended such discussions about morality, law and politics.

International relations and church life then were embroiled in a "clash of civilizations." This also finds its counterpart today. Our ministry is set in the context of learning to live with others in light of the hope and the vision that we nurture. Our "Prayer for Reconciliation, Remembrance, and Healing – Honoring Shared Christian and Native American Wisdom and Spiritual Traditions," at Andover Newton and the John Eliot-Chief Waban Memorial (21 November) was an effort at recognizing the "dignity of difference," a term made familiar in a book by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The Costas Consultation in Global Mission, held at Harvard Divinity School (4-5 March), "Mission in North America: What Does the World Church Say?" reminded us that the Gospel did not originate in New England – nor is this the epicenter of world Christianity today. Issues of inter-religious relationships and Christian mission were central to the opening BTI lecture by Scottish and African missiologist, Andrew Walls, "Theology and Scholarship in a Global Church," (6 October). Such political and institutional uncertainty draws us to the phrase, lifted up by a number of our faculty, "Do not fear..., because I am with you" (Joshua 1:9).

Training for ministry in the mid-sixteenth century witnessed a growing revolution in pedagogy, only to increase in pace by the time Leonard Hoar took over from Charles Chauncy as Harvard's third president. We face similar challenges in the training of religious leadership today. The recent AAAS/MIT/BTI conference, "Our Brains and Us: Neuroethics, Responsibility, and the Self," was a testimony to the impact of the sciences as they have grown upon ministry to our day. We celebrate those who were awarded the BTI certificate in Science and Religion this year for the ways in which their theological studies reflect an awareness of this challenge. Leadership in biblical and hermeneutical studies has come from faculty throughout the consortium, yet names like those of Daniel Harrington and Richard Clifford of Weston Jesuit School of Theology should be raised up for the ways they give leadership to national and international hermeneutical work surrounding the New Testament and Old Testament/Hebrew Bible.

Education for religious leadership today is shaped, as then, by our understanding of what is truly important in the face of fear. It is given form by political context and hermeneutical debate. The new sciences and deepened historical perspective shape this hermeneutics as much as detailed textual and linguistic work. Finally, ministry today – as in the sixteenth century – is shaped by good rhetoric, by good rhetorical models. Academic year 2004-2005 saw the passing of such models for ministry in persons like Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Iakovos, and in academics like C. Allyn Russell and Stanley Grenz. As *commencers* in a life of learning, collegiate discipline, and corporate piety, it is our hope as instructors and staff in the BTI schools that this year's graduates become the models for ministry in our common future (II Corinthians 5: 16-21).

Congratulations!

to the following graduates of the
BTI Certificates awarded during May 2005

International Mission and Ecumenism

Laura Elizabeth Everett
(Harvard Divinity School)

Pascal Gkortsilas
(Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology)

Marie Jean Lucca
(Weston Jesuit School of Theology)

Loren Phipps McGrail
(Andover Newton Theological School)

Tadd Allman Morton
(Andover Newton Theological School)

Judith Oleson
(Episcopal Divinity School)

Science and Religion

Braden Nicolas Molhoek
Track: Religion and Bioethics
(Boston University School of Theology)

Kenneth Arndt
Track: Religion and Bioethics
(Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

Isbel Enid Cruz
Track: Religion and Cognitive Sciences
(Boston University School of Theology)

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Barbara Bodengraven
(Weston Jesuit School of Theology)

Harumi Kawamura
(Harvard Divinity School)

Jimmy Michael Nagle
(Andover Newton Theological School)

Khalil George Samara
(Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology)

Bread for the World Institute Funded Course

Thanks to a grant from Bread for the World, a public forum and related course will be offered through the schools of the BTI in the fall term of academic year, 2005-2006. The course, "CT/PT 2152 – Global Reconciliation: Faith and the Millennium Development Goals," is supported locally by Episcopal Divinity School and will be held at its facilities adjacent to the Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, on Thursday afternoons and evenings. Instructors, Professor Ian Douglas and BTI Director Rodney Petersen, will work to draw together issues of faith and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in a series of weekly public presentations augmented by course discussion sections.

The forum, supported by the Bread for the World Institute, will draw leading persons in their fields to reflect on the eight goals from faith perspectives. The MDGs commit the international community to an expanded vision of development that promotes global social and economic progress. The MDGs address:

1. Ending Poverty and Hunger
2. Universal Primary Education
3. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
4. Child Mortality
5. Maternal Health
6. HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases
7. Environmental Sustainability
8. Global Partnerships for Development

The MDGs offer an agenda for Christian mission in contemporary society even as they raise questions about civil society and development in its different formulations. While central to conceptions of global justice, the language of faith might also see this work as an aspect of "global reconciliation." Discussion about development and its holistic character raises questions about the integral relationship between human development and our most basic beliefs about life and the world, religion, and the social construction of civil society.

THEOLOGY AND RELATIONAL HEALING:

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The purpose of this Symposium is to explore the STAR model of Conflict Transformation. We want to consider its implications for church life and for school curricula and course work in Seminaries, Schools of Theology and University Divinity Schools. We also want to invite participants to begin to think about similar programming in the Schools of the BTI and reflect on the work of courses that already highlight synchronous ideas. We also welcome local religious leadership and persons working in non-profits that deal with conflict and trauma, and who seek to foster restorative and reconciling processes among persons through such organizations. (See the flyer in this Newsletter.) Contact the BTI for registration by phone (617-527-4880) or email (btioffice@bostontheological.org).

BTI TASK FORCE ON VIOLENCE

At the request of the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches, the BTI has been asked to put together a Task Force on Violence. Faculty members met with Faith and Order Director, Dr. Ann Riggs to discuss the scope of the work which includes and analysis and possible reprise of several Faith and Order books, including : *The Church's Peace*, ed. by Miller and Gingerich (Eerdmans, 1994); *Ending Racism in the Church*, ed. by Davies and Hennessee (United Church Press, 1998); *The Fragmentation of the Church and its Unity in Peacemaking*, ed. by Gros and Rempel (Eerdmans, 2001); and *Seeking Cultures of Peace*, ed. by Enns, Holland and Riggs (Cascadia, 2004). The group envisions a next meeting in conjunction with the symposium, "Theology and Relational Healing: Breaking Cycles of Trauma, Retaliation and Violence Developing an Interpretive Curriculum for Trauma, Spiritual Formation, Restorative Justice, Conflict Transformation and Human Security," June 13-14 (Monday – Tuesday); Colby Chapel, Andover Newton Theological School. Faculty or staff of BTI schools who have an interest in this Task Force should contact the BTI Office ASAP!

It is anticipated that reporting will begin to happen at the conference on "Spirituality and Violence" (27-29 October), sponsored by the World Council of Churches, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and the BTI.

SEMINARIANS' RETREAT

September 16-17, 2005

A few faculty and a number of students have asked about a possible retreat for seminarians in the fall as centered around issues of spiritual formation and life in the BTI schools of theology, seminaries, and university divinity schools. A possible date is Friday afternoon and Saturday, September 16-17, at a retreat location in south-central New Hampshire. There are abundant and varied resources across the spectrum of schools in the Boston Theological Institute that focus on spirituality and the spiritual formation of persons, particularly persons training for ministry. Join us at this time to both learn about these resources and begin to practice good spirituality. If interested, call the BTI (617-527-4880) or contact the BTI office by email (btioffice@bostontheological.org).

TRAINING CHRISTIANS FOR INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE

Thursday, May 19, 3-5:30pm

You are cordially invited to attend a training session called: "Training Christians for Interfaith Dialogue," with Dr. Ucko and Dr. Premawardhana. For details or to register, please call MCC at 617.523.2771

Calendar of Events

ANTS: Luncheon of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue

Thursday, May 19, 10am-2:30pm you are cordially invited to attend the 25th Anniversary Luncheon of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue. This event is Co-sponsored by The Massachusetts Council of Churches and The American Jewish Committee, Boston Chapter, and will be held in Noyes Hall, Andover Newton Theological School. You are also invited to "Training Christians for Interfaith Dialogue," with Dr. Ucko and Dr. Premawardhana, which will immediately follow the luncheon. For details or to register, please contact Massachusetts Council of Churches at 617.523.2771 or email council@masscouncilofchurches.org

Massachusetts Bible Society – Luncheon

Wednesday, May 25th from noon to 1:15pm, the Massachusetts Bible Society will host a luncheon for business and professional people in downtown Boston. Rev. Dr. H. Paul Santmire, Historian and Pastoral Scholar of Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics, will speak on the theme The Greening of the Bible: A Second Look at Biblical Texts (Genesis 1-2 and Job 38-41). Drawing on his most recent book, Nature Reborn: The Ecological and Cosmic Promise of Christian Theology, Dr. Santmire will go beyond the sometimes-damaging model of 'stewardship over nature' to upholding biblical images of divine and human partnership with nature. The luncheon will be held in the Sproat Hall of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston. For reservations, please call (617) 542-2230 or e-mail massbible@earthlink.net by noon on Monday, May 23rd. Suggested luncheon donation: \$8.00

Northeast Ecumenical Institute

June 12-14, 2005, Massachusetts Council of Churches invites you to attend the Northeast Ecumenical Institute's event: "The Evening News, The Good News, and the Ecumenical Movement," at Graymore Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY. The Northeast Ecumenical Institute provides instruction on the history, theory and practice of the ecumenical movement offered in the context of ecumenical prayer and companionship. Seven scholarships will be awarded to stimulate and encourage new ecumenical leadership, especially among seminarians and recently ordained clergy. The Institute is cosponsored by Graymoor Ecumenical and Inter-religious Institute, the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, and the Massachusetts Council of Churches. For more information, registration and scholarship forms, please visit

www.masscouncilofchurches.org or call 617.523.2771. Scholarships are Available please visit BTI website do download a scholarship application form.

BC: The Roman Catholic Priesthood in the 21st century

15-18 June 2005 This conference, "The Roman Catholic Priesthood in the 21st Century," will discuss the challenges facing today's priests and the shape of the priesthood during the coming decades. All are welcome. This conference is sponsored by Boston College Theology Department and The Church in the 21st Century. For details, call 617.552.0470

ANTS: Summer Institute I

19-24 June 2005 Summer Institute for Faith, Health and Spirituality: Courage to Live in a Landscape of Fear. For upcoming details, please visit <http://www.ants.edu>

ANTS: Summer Institute II

26 June to 1 July 2005 Summer Institute for the Arts and Theology: Courage to Live in a Landscape of Fear. For upcoming details, please visit <http://www.ants.edu>

ANTS: Faith Youth Institute: Be Transformed!

9-17 July 2005 Tell rising high school juniors through graduating seniors about this transformative seminary immersion experience which will help them consider their gifts, calls, ministries, and ways of being Christian in today's world. Brochures, applications, and posters are available. Request more info by calling 617.964.1100x 267 or email fyi@ants.edu

GCTS: Writers' Publishing Workshop

1-5 August 2005 Ockenga Institute Event with Linda Triemstra, et al will take place at GCTS Hamilton Campus. \$450 registration fee. For details, call 1.800.294.2774

Do you have items that may be of interest to the BTI community?

Please send all announcements to:

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btinews@bostontheological.org or FAX 617-527-1073

Please be aware that events happening at BTI schools have first priority, and that space and time limitations may dictate what information can be included in our pages. **Unless otherwise noted, all events are open to the public.**

Volume XXXIV

The BTI Newsletter

No. 32

The BTI Newsletter (ISSN 1099-0348) is published weekly during the academic year by the Boston Theological Institute. It is the primary means of communication among the BTI member schools. The BTI Newsletter is distributed at the schools free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, it is available on the BTI Web Page at www.bostontheological.org. The editor welcomes contributions, comments, and queries; please direct all correspondence to

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