



the Bridge

VOLUME 50 ▶ NUMBER 2 ▶ SUMMER 2009

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Pursuing Truth

Twentieth-century America was a "Christian" century in our country. Christian faith and church formed an active and vital piece of the social fabric. That is why there was such an explosion of new churches across America following World War II, from which we benefited dramatically.

But, in the 21st century, Christianity is relegated to the outskirts of Western society. We're no longer in a majority position but a minority one.

Here's what this means: We must see ourselves as a missionary force in our own country rather than a maintenance force. Our schools and churches are challenged to shift from a stance of preservation to one of being salt and light, yeast and leaven, among God's lost people. We need to redefine our reason for existing — from maintaining our own to serving others so they can experience the redemptive presence of God in their lives.

The great thing about this shift in stance is that the bib-

lical relevance of such mission living is amazing, almost intoxicating. We are seeing the living hand of God active and engaged in people's lives. He is showing himself in the most unexpected events, among the least expected people. We are seeing that God lives!

Since around 1985, churches of Christ in America have been on a growth plateau — same number of churches (about 13,000), same number of members (about 1.3 million). However, in 1985 the U.S. population was 238 million people. Today, it is nearing 306 million people. That is roughly a 30 percent increase in number of people. That means for the past 23 years, while we stayed at our 1985 size, our impact on people around us devalued by 30 percent.

Did it hurt when you saw your 401K devalue by 20 percent this year? A 30 percent

devaluing of our spiritual relevance ought to drive us to repentant tears.

In his brief volume *Good to Great: The Social Sectors*, Jim Collins speaks of the need for organizations to "confront the brutal facts." Perhaps confronting these facts could be called "the pursuit of truth."

As we pursue truth, we have the opportunity to face the new world around us with creative abilities with which God has so abundantly endowed our fellowship. Complacency is no longer an option.

The truth is that God is pursuing those who live around us, even if they do not share our Christian values. The truth is that God is pursuing us, calling us to join the work he is doing all around us.

▶ Stan Granberg (M.Th., 1983, sgranberg@kairoschurchplanting.org) is executive director of Kairos Church Planting in Portland, Ore., and adjunct professor at Harding Graduate School.



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Bridge Volume 50,
Number 2
Summer 2009

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

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Photo Credits
Larry Arick, Holland Studio,
Jeff Montgomery, Mark Parker

Newsletter Production
Tom Buterbaugh, Jennifer Hannigan

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Dean's Note

A Decade Ago

As I complete a decade as dean, I praise God for the many ways we have been blessed.

The students, preachers, teachers, missionaries, counselors, church leaders and supporters of the School that Ileene and I have been blessed to know help us appreciate all that God does in the lives of his people. A gifted faculty and dedicated staff have worked faithfully to accomplish our mission.

THE STARTING POINT

I proposed three goals in 1999: increase scholarships, develop the Lewis Scholars program, and create an apprenticeship program. Now, the amount of scholarship grants has doubled. We have graduated six Lewis Scholars with full tuition thanks to the generosity of the Rogers family and other generous donors. The third goal has yet to be completed.

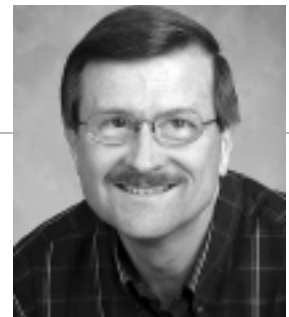
IMAGINE WHAT GOD CAN DO

As I reflect on this past decade, I can only imagine what God can do next. The constant growth at Harding University made it possible for the Grad School to grow. We lack space here to review the entire journey, but this list of highlights on this campus continues to encourage us to step into the future with even greater anticipation and hope for service HUGSR can render in the kingdom. In 10 years we have been blessed by the following:

- ▶ 296 graduates (about 40

percent in ministry, 25 percent missions, 20 percent counseling, and 15 percent in other fields)

- ▶ ATS accrediting granted in 2002 for seven years and again in 2009 for another 10 years
- ▶ Leadership Council established in 2001 and HUGSR Advisory Board in 2006
- ▶ MinistryConnection program in 2003 to offer M.A.C.M. and increase number of distance education students
- ▶ Dropout rate reduced by half
- ▶ Archaeology course in Athens with a tour of Greece, Turkey and Israel in 2006
- ▶ Professors who received the distinguished teacher award from Harding University: Drs. Black, Gray and Oster
- ▶ Graduate assistant for each professor beginning in 2004
- ▶ Honorary doctor's degree granted to Clyde Lewis in 2007
- ▶ \$1.3 million addition to the library in 2006
- ▶ Online library catalog completed in 2003
- ▶ Upgraded Web site in 2003
- ▶ Gifts to the annual fund doubled, revenue from endowment increased from two percent to 20 percent, and reliance on HU funds decreased by 60 percent
- ▶ Remodeled campus housing and upgraded education building
- ▶ All classrooms equipped with new technology and



HUFFARD

wireless Internet on campus

- ▶ Added two new faculty: Dr. Mark Powell (theology) and John Kennedy (counseling)

LOOKING AHEAD

Within a couple of years, we plan to offer a distance education format for M.A. in counseling. An endowment for two new professors in Bible would make it possible to begin a Ph.D. program. But there is more — much more.

Can you share a dream with us for **more mentoring opportunities in ministry for students and for church leaders**? Ministry students with little ministry experience welcome opportunities to be mentored. M.Div. or D.Min. graduates with several years of full-time ministry experience make great mentors. They can help an apprentice grow spiritually and discover a sense of calling within two years as the apprentice takes classes at HUGSR. We hope to see at least 50 more apprenticeships developing in churches, new church plants and mission points.

We also dream of a resource for church leaders to get mentoring they need when they need it. If these dreams resonate with you, please let me know. Effective kingdom business will always be a partnership.

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

The Lighter Side of Grad School Life

Justin Lewis and Jacob Parnell have joined their wits, acting and videography skills to produce “Behind the Scenes at HUGSR,” a series of unofficial videos depicting some not-so-serious sides to life at Harding Graduate School. The videos, posted on YouTube and on the Graduate School’s Facebook page (search for HUGSR at either Web site), have incorporated the talents of faculty, staff and students.

The Bridge set out to go behind the scenes of “Behind the Scenes” and interviewed the videos’ creators.

Describe the videos themselves. What will one see if viewing them?

LEWIS: “Behind the Scenes at HUGSR” is a show where I respond to e-mails containing questions about the

Graduate School.

What is the purpose of the videos? What prompted you to make them?

LEWIS: Jacob approached me about making a video to advertise the first Student Association event since I was in charge of advertisement. Our original purpose was to create videos as ads for S.A. events. Over Christmas break, we decided it would be fun to make some for enjoyment since they were getting positive responses, and we were enjoying doing it. Larry Arick actually recruited our services to make an ad for Run for the Son.

PARNELL: Our advertisement videos are to help keep students informed about upcoming events. We had a lot of fun making ad videos in the fall so we came up with BTS so that we could keep making videos even

when there was nothing to advertise. Hopefully people will find these videos amusing and share them with their friends, ultimately letting more people know about the Grad School.

What do you want viewers to experience when viewing them?

LEWIS: [I want them] to be informed and entertained.

PARNELL: We hope people can enjoy them and experience the lighter side of the School. The work here can be pretty challenging and time consuming; we want people to know that we have fun, too.

What is the process of writing, filming and editing? What equipment do you use?

PARNELL: We come up with a topic based on some aspect of HUGSR (like the library, dean’s office or writing a paper), then we brainstorm

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Student Academic Achievements

Sean Gearson won the 2009 student research paper competition sponsored by Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He received this award at the monthly West Tennessee AAMFT meeting April 6 held at Harding University Graduate School of Religion for his paper “Understanding Cybersexual Addiction and Its Effect on Marriage.”

Ethelene Bruce White’s paper won first place in the student paper competition at Stone-Campbell Journal Conference in



Cincinnati held in April. Her paper, “Jane Campbell McKeever (1800-1871): A Brief Biography With Comparison to Her Brother

Alexander Campbell on Slavery and Abolition,” was given the Isaac Errett Award by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society.



Justin Lewis (left) and Jacob Parnell shoot an episode of “Behind the Scenes at HUGSR,” which can be seen at the HUGSR group page on Facebook or on YouTube.

BRIEFS

What Are Faculty Members Reading?

Faculty members read, write and recommend books all the time. Here are a few of the titles currently on faculty desks.

Adventures in Missing the Point by Brian McClaren and Tony Campolo

Recommended by Dr. **Richard Oster**

Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2006.

"A group of us are going through this book at church."

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs by Emerson Eggerichs

Recommended by Dr. **Ed Gray**
Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Making the Best of It: Following Christ in the Real World by John G. Stackhouse Jr.

Recommended by Dr. **Mark Powell**

New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

"A compelling presentation of Christian Realism, offering a vision of social ethics that is an alternative to pacifism and liberation ethics."

Simply Christian by N.T. Wright

Recommended by Dr. **Phil McMillion**

San Francisco: Harper, 2006.

Steeped in the Holy: Preaching as Spiritual Practice by Raewynne J. Whiteley

Recommended by Dr. **Dave Bland**

Lanham, Md.: Cowley Publications, 2007.

Talent Is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers From Everybody Else by Geoff Colvin

Recommended by Dr. **Evertt W. Huffard**

New York: Penguin, 2008.

"The emphasis on starting early and 'deliberate practice' will encourage any educator or parent."

Faculty

Faculty Updates

ALLEN BLACK

- ▶ Black wrote the commentary on the gospel of Mark in the newly published *The Transforming Word: A One Volume Bible Commentary*, published by ACU Press.
- ▶ He spoke at Pepperdine University lectureships in the Difficult Texts series on Col. 2:14, "Erasing the Record That Stood Against Us."
- ▶ He contributed "Your Sons and Your Daughters Will Prophesy . . .": Pairings of Men and Women in Luke-Acts," in *Scripture and Traditions: Essays on Early Judaism and Christianity in Honor of Carl R. Holladay*, published by Brill.

DAVE BLAND

- ▶ Bland represented Harding Graduate School at the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education in Dallas April 16-18. The theme was "Theological Reflection in D.Min. Education," an important part of each Doctor of Ministry dissertation. Bland directs the Doctor of Ministry program at HUGSR.
- ▶ He presented a seminar on character formation for preachers in the Detroit area.
- ▶ He continues to serve as preaching section editor for the journal *Homiletic*.
- ▶ He wrote nine articles on the Psalms and three articles on other Old Testament texts for *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*, published by Westminster John Knox.

ED GRAY

- ▶ Gray conducted the Prepare/Enrich certification workshop on April 3. This is a popular inventory for ministers and counselors

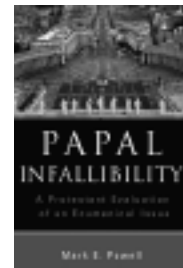
- who are providing premarital counseling.
- ▶ He taught marriage enrichment and marriage mentoring in Thun, Switzerland, in March as part of Ministry for Theological Education.
- ▶ He conducted marriage enrichment and marriage mentor training in Paragould, Ark., April 24-26.
- ▶ He spoke at the Pepperdine University lectures on marriage mentoring and senior ministry May 6 and 7.

EVERTT W. HUFFARD

- ▶ Huffard gave a keynote and three lectures on Herodian archaeology at the Ohio Valley University lectures in April.
- ▶ He gave lectures on leadership at Pepperdine University lectures in May.
- ▶ He returned to Israel for 10 days in May to serve the church in Nazareth.

MARK POWELL

- ▶ Mark Powell's book, *Papal Infallibility: A Protestant Evaluation of an Ecumenical Issue*, has been published by Eerdmans. Brian Daley of University of Notre Dame calls the volume "a perceptive critical review of the Catholic doctrine of papal infallibility . . . clear, lively and fair-minded." William Abraham of Southern Methodist University says the book is "indispensable reading for all future treatments of the topic."



- ▶ In January, Powell spoke at Holmes Road Church of Christ in Memphis, Tenn., on the topic, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Summer and Fall Audit Opportunities

Church leaders often ask for the opportunity to audit courses that interest them.

Members of supporting congregations are afforded special opportunities to audit each

semester, but anyone may audit if they wish. For more information, please contact the admissions office at hgsadmissions@hugsr.edu.

Classes of particular interest are "Gospel of Mark" (8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m., July

13-18); "History of American Restoration Movement" (8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Aug. 3-8); "Women and Ministry" (Tuesday, 6-8:45 p.m., Aug. 18-Dec. 8); and "Book of Revelation" (Thursday, 6-8:45 p.m., Aug. 20-Dec. 10).

2009-10 Course Schedule Now Online

Courses for the upcoming academic year are available at www.hugst.edu under the Academics link. Seventy-one courses for the year are scheduled in weekly, monthly, intensive

and online formats.

Here are some highlights of the fall lineup. For all courses, times and formats, explore the full schedule online.

BIBLICAL STUDIES AND THEOLOGY

- Pentateuch
- New Testament World
- Faith and Reason
- Book of Revelation
- Advanced Introduction to the Old Testament
- Old Testament World
- Early and Medieval Church

COUNSELING

- Biblical Interpretation for Counselors
- Career Counseling

- Marital Therapy
- Family Development and Parenting
- Research in Counseling

MINISTRY

- Women and Ministry
- Sermon Development and Delivery
- Congregational Ministry
- Global Evangelism
- Growing Missional Churches in Urban Contexts

Lighter Side *continued from Page 3*

funny ideas or vignettes that a funny idea while we're shooting, we go ahead and shoot that, too. If it works, we write it into the script. Once we have shot everything, we go into the editing room and add music and graphics. When we're finished, we post it on YouTube.

How do you find the time to create these videos?

LEWIS: Everyone makes time for hobbies.

PARNELL: The videos take about 10-15 hours from start (brainstorming) to finish (posting on YouTube). We do it in pieces.

Where did you learn your techniques?

LEWIS: My acting is natural talent. [Editor's note: This fact has not been verified by experts.]

PARNELL: I have been making video shorts since high school, so I have some experience working with different kinds of editing software. A lot of it you learn as you go. You think, "I'd like to incorporate such-and-such effect in this video." Then you go online and see if there's a tutorial on how to achieve that effect.

Have the movies done anything to strengthen your relationship to each other or others at the Graduate School?

LEWIS: Yes, we have learned about how much we have in common as far as sense of humor. We keep doing them because we work so well together. Some out of town students recognized me as "that guy on the videos."

PARNELL: Yeah, we always have something to talk about

when we see each other: "When are we going to work on the next video?" or "What should our next video be?" Justin is a good actor to direct because he's willing to do a lot of things for the sake of a funny shot. He's been willing to fall backward out of a chair, wear a full tiger mascot suit in the hot Memphis sun, fall off a treadmill, and let me throw a 30" rubber fitness ball at his head. We've gotten positive responses from students, faculty and staff about our videos. After seeing the first one, Dean Huffard enthusiastically agreed to make a cameo appearance in the next episode. We've used different students as extras in our videos; some are handpicked, and some just happen to be where we're shooting.

Huffards Honored at Pepperdine

Dr. Evertt (M.Th., 1976) and Dr. Ileene Huffard (M.A.C.M., 2008) were recognized May 6 at a dinner in their honor during the 2009 Pepperdine Lectureships. The appreciation dinner acknowledged the Huffards' years of Christian service.

Their ministries include work in Nazareth, Israel, inner-city Los Angeles and Memphis. Evertt has taught full time at



both Pepperdine and Harding Graduate School. Ileene teaches full time in the Freed-Hardeman education graduate program in Memphis. The Huffards continue to influence generations of ministers and missionaries in particular.

They host the monthly Missions Interest Group in their home, providing a forum for networking, discernment and spiritual growth for those looking to serve in domestic or international missions.

DONORS

Online Service Helps Donors

Donations to Harding Graduate School can now be made securely online directly at the HUGSR Web site, www.hugsr.edu. Donors may access the donation page by clicking on the Advancement link from the home page.



STUTZMAN

Student Wins Run for the Son

Joshua Stutzman (jstutzma@harding.edu) placed first overall in the March 28 Run for the Son with a time of 19:21 in the 5K race sponsored by Associated Women for Harding and the Advancement Office. Stutzman, a native of Newberg, Ore., began study toward his Master of Divinity in January after graduating from Pepperdine University in 2008.

Advancement/Alumni

Advancement Keeps Pace With Need

Despite economic downturns around the world, gifts to Harding University

Graduate School of Religion have not dropped significantly. "Our donors are very faithful," notes Larry Arick (larrick@hugsr.edu), director of advancement.

One group of faithful donors continues to be the School's alumni. During the spring, Graduate School faculty, staff and friends called more than 1,000 alumni to ask for a gift of \$250 per year for four years — a total pledge of \$1,000. "We have been overwhelmed by the response," notes Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, vice president and dean. "Our alumni are often in

ministry jobs, and yet they still find resources to support the School."

The Graduate School continues to have needs, particularly in the form of scholarship funds for students. "Scholarships may have never

help meet those challenges. "The annual scholarship fund can truly make the difference between a student being able to afford to come to the Graduate School or not," Arick adds.

At March's intensive course week, Arick surveyed students present, asking how many people had been affected by those students' ministries. "In the week before the course, our students had touched the lives of nearly 10,000

Fall Leadership Council Dinner Slated

The annual Leadership Council dinner is slated for Tuesday, Oct. 13. This year's dinner will be held in Hardin Hall at the Memphis Botanic Gardens at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jeannie Alexander at 901-761-1355.

been more important to helping students prepare for ministry," Arick says.

Difficult economic times create situations that challenge congregations and ministers but, at the same time, make it financially difficult to get the training that would

people in preaching, teaching, counseling, or other forms of direct ministry," Arick reports.

The investment that people make in our students has the highest yield imaginable — developing leaders for churches around the world.

Robinson Named Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Ed Robinson (M.Div., 1993; robinson@bible.acu.edu) was named 2009

Alumnus of the Year at the annual Ministry Forum March 19. Coinciding with the Graduate School's theme of the year, "The Pursuit of Truth," Robinson's work as a historian focuses on uncovering the stories of African-American leaders in churches of Christ.

A professor in both the history and Bible departments at Abilene Christian

University as well as a preacher, Robinson combines his passion for the church with his academic research. He has recently authored five books, most recently *To Save My Race From Abuse: The Life of Samuel Robert Cassius* and *Show Us How You Do It: Marshall Keeble and the Rise of Black Churches of Christ in the United States, 1914-1968*.

"Edward is an excellent example of the kind of alumni we wish to produce — committed to ministry and to intellectual rigor," said Dr. Evertt W. Huffard. Robinson



Dr. Edward Robinson addresses attendees at the Ministry Forum dinner.

adjunct teaches History of the American Restoration Movement and African-Americans in the Restoration Movement at Harding Graduate School.

Canadian Uncovers Own Spiritual History

Shelley Jacobs (M.A. 2009, sjacobs@harding.edu) lives 1,625 miles from Harding Graduate School but came to Memphis to find her own story of faith in the churches of Christ in western Canada.

When she graduated this spring, Jacobs had completed her Master of Arts thesis on the early ministry of J.C. Bailey, the visionary leader who called Christians to help bring about an “evangelized Canada.”

“Bailey challenged a generation of young men to think of themselves as preachers, whether they were in full-time ministry or not,” she explains. “Bailey taught that Jesus envisioned a ‘triumphant church’ where Christians ‘can do great things.’”

When J.C. Bailey was evangelizing Saskatchewan from 1927 to 1952, Jacobs explains, rural schoolhouses were spread out along the farmland of the province. Bailey would make arrangements to preach at the schoolhouse, baptize those who responded, teach them the rudiments of Bible study and conducting a Sunday service, then go to the next town. He would add them to his preaching circuit, coming through to check on the fledgling congregation.

Pioneering evangelism was growing in Canada’s pioneer territory.

Bailey eventually began winter Bible schools, which grew into today’s Western Christian College. He also

edited *Gospel Herald* from 1940-53, a highly influential journal in Canada.

“Through his roles as evangelistic preacher, teacher and editor,” Jacobs says, “Bailey was instrumental in moving the fellowship of churches of Christ in Saskatchewan from scattered, isolated, rural congregations into a movement that impacted all of western Canada.”

Although her study into Bailey’s ministry was part of her academic program, it was not merely academic.

“My grandparents were baptized in Bailey’s first evangelistic campaign in 1927,” Jacobs explains. “And I grew up on the campus of Western Christian. I know the people directly impacted by Bailey.”

“I’d like to help make intergenerational connections,” she says. “So many of the people in Bailey’s day made tremendous sacrifices for the Restoration Movement,” she explains. “I want to tell new generations these stories.”

She did not begin her journey thinking of herself as an academic, but that is where she has been directed.

“I prefer to be the quiet observer in a class,” she notes. “In some of my classes, I was the only woman, and it was a little intimidating.”

But an online course challenged her to interact more. “You cannot keep quiet in an online course. That’s where I found my voice.”

Her voice continues to tell the history of churches of Christ in western Canada.

The paper she wrote for her online course was published in 2006 by *Restoration Quarterly*. And in 2008 she presented her work at the Pepperdine University lectureships — the first lecture-ship she had ever attended in the United States.

“There really are not many people out there writing the history of western Canada’s congregations,” she says.

According to Jacobs, she probably would not have assumed this role by herself. “At Harding Graduate School, I felt God opened the door for me to share my work and dive into the new world of academics,” she comments. “I feel like the faculty really had my success at heart.”



Shelley Jacobs poses with a photo of J.C. Bailey, whom she researched for her thesis.

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Final Word

Notes From the Oasis

With summer semester upon us, the feeling on campus changes. The traditional semesters are hardly traditional, with intensive, weekend and online courses throughout the term. But summer has only one format: the one-week intensive course. Students from two-dozen or so states converge on campus a week at a time to learn, grow, be challenged, and experience a supportive academic community.

We think of ourselves during these courses as an oasis, when students can come from their ministries and recharge. No one who has taken one of these courses could call it a vacation, but there is great refreshment in the time on campus.

Here are observations I have from seeing

summer school for several years now.

- ▶ **Where did all these students come from?** Ministers from half of the states will be represented here, each bringing perceptions from their own context. This forms an exciting cacophony and surprising unison, where students from varied backgrounds come together and find the commonalities of their ministry vision. Students are truly strengthened by the network they become a part of at the Graduate School.
- ▶ **I'm so glad they're on my side!** I can say this for all of our students, but in the summer this feeling is intense. The men and women here are great individuals with amazing talents and high vision for

what God can do through his people. With the challenges the church faces, I am encouraged by the energy, passion and commitment of these students.

- ▶ **What a blessing to partner with these students!** God is doing great things in their ministries, and Harding Graduate School is blessed to be a part of his work in them. It is humbling to see the impact these students have around the world.

Ministry can be a draining endeavor, withering even the stoutest heart. What an honor to serve at an oasis that refreshes our ministry leaders.

▶ *Mark Parker*
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