

PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

FALL 2016



In this issue OPSF introduces the recipients of the 2016 Apollos scholarship awards. This fall the Foundation proudly presented the first ever William L. Mulford scholarship award. Rev. Mulford's wife, Jean, and daughter, Laurie, joined the celebration dinner at the 60th Anniversary Summer Pastors' School in Hastings, NE in June as the designation of the award was announced. Learn more about the newest Apollos scholars on page 6.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"The Spirit of Generosity"

Ted Wardlaw, a friend and colleague, tells the story of how the Civil Rights movement started in America. He says that the person whom most would say is the unquestioned father of the movement, Martin Luther King, Jr., never claimed that title for himself.

Instead, he passed that honor to his father, Martin Luther King, Sr. That he did so some time prior to his own death makes the statement all the more extraordinary.



Daddy King actually said that the real father of the Civil Rights movement was the African-American preacher who baptized him. You may never have heard of the man, most people have not. His name was Paschal. But the matter does not rest even there.

The Reverend Mr. Paschal said, before he died, that the real father of the Civil Rights movement was a white Georgia legislator who was named Robert Alston. Who has heard of him? Not many. He was a man who long before Civil Rights became a regular topic for the national news proposed legislation for fair and humane treatment of African-American convicts. Alston was shot and killed for his views.

Now here is the most amazing thing. It was Alston who paid for Paschal to go to seminary. And Paschal wound up baptizing Daddy King. And Daddy King was the father of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The ministry of generosity is intergenerational. By it, blessings are passed from one person to another. To paraphrase the Bible, a mustard seed grew into a tree, and birds of the air made nests in its shade.

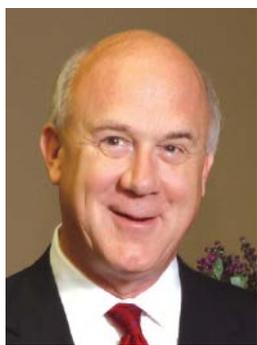
How well are we passing along to future generations what we have received from the labors and generosity of those who have gone before us? As our confessions remind us, we are not our own; no, we belong instead, in all times, to the One Who owns us.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Gary S. Eller
President

OMAHA PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY FOUNDATION | 125 Years

As the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation celebrates its 125th anniversary the Foundation would like to thank members of the Board of Directors and Council of Advisors, both past and present, for their invaluable contributions of time and talent. They are the backbone supporting the OPSF mission to seek, develop and support excellence in Christian leadership through the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the following pages several Directors and Advisors were generous enough to share a little about themselves and what it means to be a vital component of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation.



John Morey
Council of Advisors 1996-2000
Board of Directors 2000-2009
Chair -2009-2016

Do any of you remember the cigarette commercials of the 70's for Virginia Slims cigarettes? Remember the catch phrase, "You've come a long way, baby." And how about the Star Trek them of "Going where no man has gone before"?

While maintaining a steadfast focus on our mission statement, we have, indeed, come a long way.

Largely through Gary's persistence, OPSF is no longer what we used to jokingly call ourselves the "Best Kept Secret in PC/USA". Today, the foundation is widely and increasingly known and respected in the 13 states we count as ours.

This increased knowledge and recognition continues to open doors for us to partner with other Presbyterian bodies in co-sponsoring opportunities to fulfill our mission. We're doing a lot more, but spending less doing it. That is very important.

In the years to come, OPSF will have to meet new challenges and overcome new obstacles, while seeking out and embracing new opportunities to support Christian Leadership in PC/USA. I believe we have the right people in place to meet the future: a strong leader in President, Gary Eller, an energetic and effective staff, a strong Apollos and continuing ed committee, and the beginnings of a meaningful capital development effort, with the leadership of Phil Dudley and your support.

The work we do at OPSF is critical to God, and essential to the people we serve. We can and need to do more, but we first need more assets to work with, and that will be the challenge for this Board—something we've never been much good at—yet. I can tell you in all honesty, that, for me, the best years of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation are ahead of us. Thank you all for the honor and privilege of serving with you!



Jack Jackson
Council of Advisors 1997-2004
Board of Directors, Treasurer 2004-present

Our Foundation serves a very unique role in the Presbyterian denomination. We support the education of seminary students through the use of grants and scholarships. We support Presbyterian ministers through numerous educational programs offered, including our Summer Pastor's School in

Hastings, Nebraska, and we support other Presbyterian related activities with financial grants.

Since I am Treasurer of the organization, I am constantly aware of the funds needed to support our activities. The majority of the funds come from investments, dividends, interest and appreciation; and a small part from donations. A budget is established by balancing those funds available against the projected needs that we have in supporting the objective of the Foundation and Board to provide as much funding as we can to support denomination activities and still maintain a principle balance that will keep our foundation viable in the future.

Our goal is to continue to grow the Foundation to not only be able to support the education of our leadership, but to help provide debt relief to those committed to the ministry. We are continually requesting donations, whether it be cash, stock or through wills and trusts to help support these very important activities, when possible.

I deem it a real privilege to be able to serve on this Board of Directors as the Treasurer of the Foundation and through President, Gary Eller's leadership, we will continue to have a substantial positive impact on the leadership of our denomination.



Scott Darling

*Council of Advisors 2009-2010
Board of Directors 2010-present*

Serving as a director of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is a very rewarding experience as we continue the mission of this 125-year-old organization. The Foundation has changed over the years, yet today's mission, "supporting excellence in Christian education and leadership", is

very similar to the original goal of providing an exceptional education for seminary students.

I serve as chair of the Apollos committee and our primary responsibility is administering the Foundation's Scholarship program. Each year we receive 40-60 scholarship applications from seminary students throughout the nation. What I like best about my job is reading the applications and considering these students for scholarships. The application includes questions asking "what draws you to ministry", "what gifts do you possess" and "describe your spiritual journey". It is wonderful to read the answers to these questions and see what bright, thoughtful and spiritual students we have as the future ministers and leaders of our denomination. Hearing the stories of where these students have been and where God is leading them today is such a special, uplifting experience.

I am proud to be a part of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation and confident of its continued success in supporting Christian education and leadership.

Rev. James Anderson

Council of Advisors 2002-2006, Board of Directors, Secretary 2006-2016

At the Annual Meeting of 2016 last March, I concluded my term on the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Board of Directors. I had served the Board and the Council of Advisors for a total of 14 years. Of course those years seemed to fly by. I came to realize that for those 14 years I had made at least four trips per year to Omaha... and have been involved with the School for Pastors and various continuing education events in each of those years as well.

Why have I chosen to serve and to attend so many events sponsored by OPSF? First, I discovered early in my ministerial career that when I kept up on my continuing education responsibilities as ministers are required to do, I felt more confident and better prepared mentally for the tasks of ministry. At the same time, having spent time with colleagues in ministry and with leaders in the academic world, I have come to appreciate the lessons I have learned "on the side" of academic events... that is, in the milieu of the experience and wisdom of generations of dedicated ministers. I believe these experiences have made me a better minister and have kept me longing to minister.

And, with the make-up of the Council of Advisors and the Board of Directors of OPSF (both bodies of which are composed of equal numbers of ministers and laity), I have met and worked with men and women who have felt a calling to serve Christ through the support of educating ministers. Many a pastor... called and ordained in the traditional way, or called as a Commissioned Ruling Elder by the voice of churches and presbyteries... have been strengthened for their tasks by the resources of OPSF. And they have been encouraged and heartened by colleagues who share the same kinds of calls.

As I near retirement, I am thankful to God for having had the opportunity to serve the Presbyterian Church in this way. I hope many more will seek to join in serving this way and will be nourished and encouraged by the OPSF!



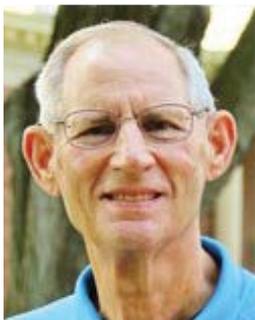
Rev. Robert Keefer

Council of Advisors 2014-present

I'm a native of Pennsylvania, and have served as a pastor for a bit more than three decades. My churches have been in Arizona and Cincinnati, Ohio, before I came to this part of the world in 2005 as Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clarinda, Iowa. I served there until 2013, when I was called to serve Presbyterian Church of the Master in Omaha.

A key area of interest for me is the relationship between the sciences and Christian theology. I hold a PhD in theology and science, and my dissertation was on the impact on the doctrine of original sin of understanding humans as evolved and evolving. I'm a former President of the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith. So, one concern I have for theological education is that those who serve the Church continue to learn how to think about the world as we understand it scientifically.

I hope that Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation will not only help fund theological education and continuing education, but will also look into ways to encourage those whom God calls to consider the ministry as a vocation. As a pastor, I have more often sat back and hoped someone would approach me to ask about ministry than I have encouraged someone to consider that calling; I need to learn a new way of being.



Phil Dudley

Board of Directors, Chair 2016-present

I am honored to serve as the OPSF Board Chair. Tom Peters, in his book, *Thriving on Chaos*, mentions “management by wandering around.” That has been my strategy the past few months. I have enjoyed conversations with board members, Council of Advisors members, President Gary Eller, and staff regarding the future of the OPSF. We will

continue our important mission to seek, develop and support excellence in Christian Leadership throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please contact me if you have suggestions or questions about the OPSF. My cell number is 402-469-1449 and my email address is pdudley@hastings.edu.

Robert (Ross) Rossander

Council of Advisors 2006-present

I am an Elder at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Villisca, IA. I have been an Advisor since 2006 and was assigned to the Apollos committee under Dr. Skelly almost immediately. I retired from the US Air Force after 42 years of service in 1993. At retirement I was Chief of the Air Force Family Housing Policy division at the Pentagon. After retiring I returned to SW Iowa with my wife where I helped my nephew's farm. I love music and have sung pretty much wherever we were stationed. I started using the name “Ross Sings Gospel” in 1996 and performed all over SW Iowa and southern CA RV parks for many years. I continue to sing at Care Centers and churches today.

I am proud of the accomplishments while with the Advisors, developing the UNO course of Church Administrative Institute, the Apollos committee and development of a debt reduction program as well as surveying pastors concerning their wishes and wants for further education efforts. Educating pastors and prospective pastors has been and is my major concern.

Gene Beinke

Council of Advisors 2015-present

As a Commissioned Ruling Elder, I seek constantly to learn and grow in knowledge and faith. I discovered OPSF about seven years ago when I first attended the OPSF Summer Pastor's School. Not only did I benefit from spending a week with nationally recognized theologians, pastors and scholars, I began to learn more about the important work done by the Foundation – Winter Pastor's School, scholarships for gifted students attending one of ten PC (USA) seminaries, financial assistance to D.Min. students, and currently under consideration, debt relief assistance for graduating seminary students. And there's much more.

With the needs created from a rapidly changing landscape in the clergy and faith worlds, I felt called to offer OPSF my time and life experiences, that I might be part of the dialog and brainstorming on how the Foundation can most effectively use its resources to address current issues challenging churches and clergy. I feel blessed to have been invited to serve on the Council of Advisors.

Dave Fulton

Board of Directors 2016 – present

I am excited about the work of the Foundation and my opportunity to be a part of a Board of Directors that includes so many devoted and talented individuals. I am confident that the ongoing work of the Foundation will continue to identify and serve our scholarship recipients with meaningful support in their individual educational endeavors, whether they be seminary students or established Pastors.

I look forward to building and growing relationships with the churches, presbyteries, and synods in our service area to grow our resource pool to help more students on the path to service.

Rev. Sandy Wainwright Rossander

Board of Directors, Vice Chair 1999-present

I grew up in Des Moines, IA as a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. After receiving my M. Div. degree from Dubuque Seminary, I served as Director of Des Moines Presbytery's church Knox Knolls. In 1988 I became Pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church in Villisca, IA, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, where I continue to work today. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999. Through serving on various committees, as Board Secretary and Vice Chair, I have watched the Foundation grow, both in its outreach and in its staff, as it stays current with today's technical world.

I feel good about the commitment of our Directors and Advisors to the needs of seminary students, pastors and commissioned Elders in their desire to serve the denomination. It is rewarding to read notes from scholarship recipients and event participants who appreciate the Foundation's efforts to address their needs.

New visions are moving this Foundation forward to meet the changes in our seminaries and congregations which seek to carry the message of Christ into the world in traditional and non-traditional ways.

www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org

Pop in to the website for this and so much more...

- Winter & Summer Pastors' School information and registrations
- Apollos, Marilyn A. Jackson and D. Min scholarship requirements and applications
- LifeLong Learning Program Grants guidelines and forms
- Program schedules and links for other OPSF supported events
- OPSF history
- Direct links to Presbyterian(USA) Seminaries and Colleges
- Donate quickly and securely with the “Donate” button
- Online newsletters
- Photos and testimonials from previous Pastors' Schools



Rev. Rick Sleyster

Council of Advisors 2015-present

As a former recipient of the Apollos scholarship and as one who has been the beneficiary of numerous Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation funded continuing education opportunities, I can say that the Foundation has been a partner in my ministry for as long as I have been serving the church.

Last year I was given the privilege of serving on the Council of Advisors. It has been exciting and inspiring to learn about what the OPSF vision is for today and tomorrow, and to have the blessing of being a part of that vision. I am confident that it will offer a witness to Jesus Christ and support those who have been called into church leadership for years to come.

I am also quite grateful to have attended this year's Summer Pastor's School in Hastings (after a long hiatus). The Hastings College facilities and staff are excellent and truly see this event as a part of their mission. The faculty was outstanding. The collegiality was spirit-filling. I came in need of inspiration and renewal and received both!

One other thing that excites me about being a part of the Foundation's work is the emphasis on student debt reduction that is so deeply needed among many serving the church. I am grateful for receiving so much from the OPSF and look forward to giving back as much as I can.

Transformation at UDTS

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary is in the midst of a transformation designed to make theological education more accessible and affordable for future church leaders.

The first stage of the transformation has included streamlining the Master of Divinity degree. By reducing the number of credits required from 84 to 75, the school has enabled motivated students in both the distance and residential formats to design a path to commencement in as little as three years.

Both distance and residential students will benefit from the transformation. Those earning an M. Div. in the distance format will no longer be required to complete one-third of their credits (28) during August and January intensives.

The residential program has an entirely new look as well. This fall all residential courses will use a flipped classroom model, with classes only meeting on Mondays. This will enable commuter students to come to campus from a much greater distance and will eliminate the need for those students to stay on campus overnight. Students can now pursue theological education in residence, while still meeting other occupational and family obligations, without moving to Dubuque.

Another significant change to the residential program is the addition of Graduate Assistants. Several residential students will be chosen each year to help with introductory courses in the college, including World View Seminar I.

While preparing new pastors has always been essential to the mission of UDTS, our calling includes training other types of leaders as well, both lay and ordained. As a result, this transformation has also included the introduction of a new degree program, the Master of Arts in Mission and Discipleship. Like the M. Div., the MAMD is available to both distance and residential students.

Another significant benefit of this transformation is a closer relationship between the seminary and college communities. Perhaps the most visible signs of this new era of cooperation are that the Vice President of Academic Affairs of the University, Dr. Mark Ward, will also serve as Dean of the Seminary and that seminary professors will now be part of the larger university faculty council.

The church is rapidly changing along with the world of theological education, and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary is committed to meeting the needs of this new era and of the students who have been called to serve our Triune God in the years to come.

Dr. Richard J. Shaffer Jr., *Director of Seminary Programs and Assistant Professor of Ministry, Fall 2016*



Introducing The 2016 Apollos Scholars...

APOLLOS NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS



Sarah Rachel Are

Senior at Columbia Theological Seminary

I assure you that I will use this gift with gratitude, faithful stewardship, and hard work. I intend to learn absolutely everything I can during these fleeting seminary years, and your financial support helps make that possible. It is an honor to carry the name of an Apollos scholar.



Paul Jun Young Kim

Middler at Princeton Theological Seminary

As I reflect on this past year, I am confident that I was able to meet God and enjoy God's presence in the midst of my struggles. With a greater excitement and vision for the future, I want to remain faithful to the calling God has given me for pastoral ministry.



Samual Lunquist

Junior at San Francisco Theological Seminary

Thank you so much for granting me this award. I'm truly honored to be a part of the Foundation's legacy as I begin my seminary education and answer my call to serve God through the Presbyterian Church.



Rosy Alexandra Robson

Senior at Union Presbyterian Seminary

I am delighted to accept this scholarship. I worked at Montreat Conference Center each summer in college, where God guided me in my discernment, introducing me to different parts of ministry, nudging me to ask questions, seek advice, and explore.



Emily Shacklett Wilmesherr

Senior at Columbia Theological

Thank you so very much for considering me for this scholarship and awarding it to me. Children are often described as the future of the church, but I believe that they are an intricate part of the present ministry of the church. I feel called to pour into the spiritual lives of children just as much as we pour into the lives of our adults.

Honoring OPSF Leaders...

In 1992, the Foundation began to offer scholarships. The first scholarships honored Foundation leaders: **Robert K. Adams**, an attorney; **Eugene C. Dinsmore**, an investment banker; and **Silas G. Kessler**, a Presbyterian pastor who had served as Moderator of General Assembly. A fourth named scholarship was added in 1994, honoring **Dr. Howard B. Dooley**, who graduated in one of the last classes of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha, and who was both a lawyer and a minister.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha and Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation this year, a fifth named scholarship is offered, honoring **Rev. William L. Mulford**. Bill was a graduate of Hastings College and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was also a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors for 22 years, serving as the Chair of the Continuing Education Program (now called Lifelong Learning Programs) Committee.

Each of the named scholarships provide the scholar with \$6,000.00 annually during the academic year.

Leave a lasting legacy. Remember Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation in your will.

Help OPSF to continue the support of seminary students and Christian leadership. The Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation's Federal Tax Identification Number is 47-0378999. All gifts made to the Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please contact your financial advisor for specific information.

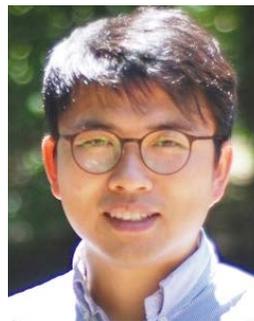
Marilyn A. Jackson Memorial Awards

This scholarship provides first preference support for the preparation of gifted racial ethnic students in a Master of Divinity program at a PC(USA) seminary. It honors the late Mrs. Jackson, who was a long-time member of the Center Ridge Presbyterian Church near Red Oak, Iowa. Each of these scholars will receive \$3,000.00 toward their educational expenses for the academic year of 2016-17.



Bernard K. Nti
Senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

With a gladsome heart, I accept the scholarship. I accept it with a heart of joy and gratitude, knowing that this favor is not only for me but also for my family and many more people who will be a part of my ministry going forward.



Sungwoo Kim
Senior at Columbia Theological Seminary

The support your scholarship provides will enable me to continue pursuing my academic and personal and spiritual growth and for that I will always be grateful. It is very noble of you to give back to the seminarians in such a selfless way; I will certainly not forget your generosity when I am in the position to do the same.

Traditional Apollos Scholarships offer recipients a maximum \$3,000.00 annually toward their expenses while they are enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree programs. Five students were chosen as Traditional Apollos Scholars this year.



David L. Annett
*Senior at Louisville
Presbyterian Theological
Seminary*



Matthew D. Connor
*Senior at Columbia
Theological Seminary*



Timothy C. McNinch
*Senior at Louisville
Presbyterian Theological
Seminary*



Eliza J. Smith
*Junior at Columbia
Theological Seminary*



Cassie L. Waits
*Senior at Columbia
Theological Seminary*

Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary

has a proud legacy of service to the Presbyterian Church dating back to 1867 and to the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. James H. Costen, a student at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, was the first Apollos scholar and later became the first Administrative Dean of the seminary.

Today, after an intentional re-visioning process, the seminary's new mission is to provide innovative theological education to advance communities of faith, justice, and compassion. "This is a decided departure," says the seminary's president Paul Roberts. "For most of its 150 years, JCSTS has focused on educating individuals. Now, the seminary views its mission as educating and resourcing whole communities in the ways of equity and justice."

Instead of offering degrees, JCSTS offers certificate programs and other professional development opportunities. JCSTS offers customizable, competency-based theological education emphasizing practical ministry skills. "We feel this approach allows us to make a unique educational contribution and better serve the Church," says Roberts.

In October 2016, JCSTS will launch its first two certificate programs. The Certificate in Worship Leadership explores the intersection of faith and justice in worship and the Certificate in Clergy and Congregational Wellness will help address the alarming burnout rates of parish clergy. Other programs will launch throughout 2017 and 2018. For more information, please stay tuned to www.smithseminary.org; and please be sure to follow JCSTS on Facebook and Twitter.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WINTER PASTORS' SCHOOL
February 6-9, 2017

SUMMER PASTORS' SCHOOL
June 4-9, 2017



Why Pastors' School

Do you feel burned out?

- Are you feeling spiritually and emotionally drained?
- Do you need fresh ideas for Sunday sermons?
- Do you think you're alone in your ministry issues?
- Are you new to ministry?

Time away from ministry – and away from home – is an important tool for recharging your batteries, regaining perspective, and rekindling your passion for ministry. Fellowship with other church leaders can help shine a new perspective on your ministry.

If you have never attended the Winter or Summer Pastors' School, now is a good time to consider it. Learn more about both Pastors' School at www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org. Take a minute to read the testimonials of 2016 school participants and check out the photos.

Winter Pastors' School ~ February 6-9, 2017 ~ at Hastings, Nebraska

For more information go to www.omahapresbyterianseminaryfoundation.org