

From all Walks of Life...

Hospital Therapist
 Teacher of At-Risk Youth
 Special Agent, IRS Criminal Investigation
 Architect
 Flight Attendant
 Lawyer
 Pre-school Teacher
 Pediatric Rehabilitation Manager
 Electrician
 School Administrator
 Stock Photographer
 Bar Bouncer
 Highway Patrolmen
 Occupational Therapist
 Elementary School Teacher
 Horticulture Sales and Design
 Nurse for U.S. Navy
 Machine Shop Owner
 Farmer
 Accountant
 Sales Representative
 District Attorney Videographer
 Orchestra/Band Director
 Speech Therapist
 Navy Reservist

What do all these things have in common? They are a few of the occupations our students have had before hearing the call to ministry later in life.

Sometimes these students arrive at seminary nervous about going back to school after so many years. Will they be able to handle the coursework? Will they be accepted? Maybe everyone will be "super spiritual" and not down to earth. Sometimes they come with no idea of what it will be like—they are just following a call.

What they find are real people with whom they form great relationships, and coursework that leads to not just "training" from one occupation to another, but a transformation of self.

As a manager in pediatric rehabilitation, senior Lisa Bolton-Hunt was living in the fast lane, working toward a position in upper management. "I loved clothes and fancy parties and being with important people back then," she says. "But recently at a corporate party—a fancy, catered event—I struggled with all the wasted food, the huge expense, people drinking more than they should, the whole scene."

"I'm so over this," Lisa told her husband that night. "I'm not part of this anymore. I am somewhere else in my journey." She says none of this would have happened to her if it were not for Western.

Lisa commutes to the seminary from Lansing while also working as a school speech therapist. At night she serves as a hospital chaplain. She has been at the bedside of those removed from life support; she has sat quietly with a wife whose husband just died at the age of 55. She has been present for families who have lost their children, parents, and siblings and those who are making hard decisions about life and death matters. "I have cried with them, remembered with them, and prayed with them," Lisa reflects.

"During this time at seminary, I officiated at my father's funeral, preached the Word of God to strangers, listened to the stories of poor men in Mexico trying to have a better life. I have been humbled by the hospitality of those with nothing who welcomed me into their homes and fed me. These moments are blessings. Every death I've attended is holy ground. Put simply," she says, "My life is no longer my own."

Her classmate, Dick Van Dop, has seen his life transformed as well. "When I started here in 2008, the

continued...



(continued from page 1)

Spirit seemed to say to me, 'Submit!' I figured if God really wanted me to go into this line of ministry, He was going to want to change me."

As a Special Agent in the IRS Criminal Investigation Division and with 27 years with the Navy, Dick was used to a tough, structured environment. As a result, some of the classes he had to take were outside his comfort zone, such as Care and Counseling, Spiritual Formation, and Pastor as Person. To his surprise, he found himself succeeding. "God really can teach an old dog new tricks!" he laughs. "I guess if he did it for Abraham and Moses, I shouldn't be surprised."

People ask Dick what made him want to become a pastor. "I never *wanted* to!—it was nowhere near the top of my career wish list!" he says. "However, I responded to God's call. It's like the Lake Michigan surf. You can stand up to the wave

and try to fight it, but you'll end up knocked down and beat up. If you put your board on top of the wave and simply go where it takes you, you will be blessed. I have made both choices in my life and have experienced God's blessings every time I followed His leading. God took someone with a history of being a sheepdog, barking at and fighting the wolves and bears (criminals and terrorists), and decided to make him a shepherd instead. I used to be "Matthew, with a gun." Now, instead of kicking in doors, I am learning to knock gently.



Students Lisa Bolton-Hunt and Dick Van Dop

Dick will graduate from Western Theological Seminary this spring and Lisa will finish her studies in December. They are two of many students whose life and seminary experiences are being used by God to transform them into what He needs for the next chapter in their lives.

Send news to:
advancement@westernsem.edu

AlumLine

necrologist: Rev. Merwin (Mike) VanDoornik '60

News

James Elisha Taneti '05 (Th.M.) has an article printed in the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Jan. 2011, "Reconfiguring Home: Telugu Biblewomen, Protestant Missionaries, and Christian Marriage."

Jeff Roessing '07 has started 8th Day Farm, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative in Holland, MI with the desire to encourage Christians from all denominations to understand the spiritual nature of our consumption of food. Zion Lutheran

Church donated the use of their vacant lot to begin an urban farm initiative. This new site will allow 8th Day Farm to offer healthy produce and educational opportunities to the central neighborhoods of Holland. For more information, see www.eighthdayfarm.com

On February 13, **Bill Appleyard-Pekich '08** was ordained at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Bill has been called to First Reformed Church of Coxsackie, NY with his wife, **Sara Appleyard-Pekich '09**.

An Invitation

Classes of '61, '71, and '86: You are invited to attend your Alumni/ae Day reunion on May 9, 2011. Luncheons will be offered for \$10/person for the 25th, 40th, and 50th reunion classes. A special lecture by the commencement speaker in the afternoon will be followed by the Alumni/ae Banquet at 5:00 in the Western Seminary Commons (\$20/person). An invitation packet will arrive in the mail in April. For questions, call LuAnne VanSlooten at 616-392-8555, x109 or email luanne@westernsem.edu.

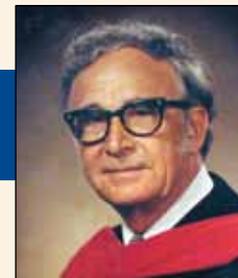
on to Glory...

Richard C. Oudersluys '32
b. Grand Rapids, MI 11/21/1906
d. Holland, MI 11/20/2010
Calvin '29, WTS '32, Univ of Chicago Divinity School, Hope, Univ of Basel, Cambridge Univ
Reformed Churches served: 1932-41, First, Milwaukee, WI
Other service to the church: 1935-61, writer for *Boys' Guide*, *Girls' Guide*, and *Sunday School Guide*
1942-78, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, WTS
1979-88, Greek instructor, Hope College

Robert Vander Schaaf '61
b. Leota, MN 12/16/1919
d. Fulton, IL 1/6/2011
Central '42, WTS '61
Reformed Churches served: (1961-70) Immanuel, Belmond, IA (1970-85) Trinity, Fulton, IL

John H. Muller '45
b. Grand Rapids, MI 12/8/1921
d. Spring Lake, MI 2/6/2011
Hope College '42; WTS '45
Winona Lake School of Theology (ThM), Fuller Theo. Sem. (DMin)
Reformed Churches served: (1945-48) Pultneyville, Williamson, NY (1948-51) Abbe, Clymer, NY (1953-58) Bethany, Redlands, CA (1958-62) Hope, Chicago, IL (1962-66) Hope Community, Orlando, FL (1966-74) Kendall Drive, Miami, FL (1974-79) Bethel, Bellflower, CA (1979-82) Hope Community, Los Angeles, CA (1982-84) Hope, Orlando, FL
Other service to the church: (1951-53) Chaplain, US Navy (1984-90) Presbyterian pastor & seminary professor, Australia
Interim pastorates in NY, Ontario, MI and IL (1962) Vice President, PSC

Reflections on Dr. Richard Oudersluys (1906-2010)



by Dr. J. John Hesselink '53

Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Oudersluys for 60 years – first as a student, 20 years later as his colleague, and since then as a special friend. What a joy and blessing it has been.

He was one of my best teachers. When I was doing my doctoral studies at Basel University in Switzerland, I heard lectures on Romans and the Gospel of John by world renowned New Testament scholars, but I felt I learned little new, having had courses on both of these books with Dr. Oudersluys. He was that good.

He was arguably one of the finest lecturers to grace the halls of Western Theological Seminary, honing his lectures with a superb use of the English language. His course on the Gospel of John became so famous that after his retirement he taught it several times to a packed lecture room.

Yet, what made him so attractive was not simply his scholarship and teaching ability but his quiet modesty and the personal faith that undergirded his teaching and outstanding preaching. We stood in awe of him, but because he was

quite reserved, some students couldn't feel close to him.

A turning point came in 1973 when his beloved wife Marian was killed in a car accident in which he was driving. This might have destroyed some people, but he valiantly carried on and taught effectively



Judy Brink, John Hesselink, and Dr. Oudersluys at his 100th birthday celebration, November 21, 2006

not only until retiring in 1978, but for years thereafter, including teaching Greek at Hope College. The death of his wife also marked a change in his personality. Whereas before he had been distant, he now opened up his heart to the outside world, needing to fill the void of the loss of Marian. Whereas before her death he was greatly respected, now he was also much loved by his colleagues, students and friends.

He continued to live alone in his large old house on 11th Street, but thanks to the kind-

ness of six women he lived a comfortable life. Every week Jean, wife of Dr. Jim Cook (Dr. Oudersluys' successor) invited him over for a meal, as did Edith, wife of Dr. Elton Eenigenburg; Margaret, wife of Dr. Eugene Osterhaven, baked him a pie; Mildred Schuppert, long-time librarian at the seminary, made him a pot of soup; and Alice DeRuiter, a Dutch immigrant, cleaned his house and brought food.

These women all helped to keep him healthy and provide tender care, but pride of place goes to his daughter Judy, who upon retiring from Petoskey Hospital in 1998, came to live with her father. Without her expertise as a nurse and her loving care, it is not likely that Richard Oudersluys would have lived 104 years. No father ever had a more loyal, loving daughter.

One of the remarkable things about our friend is that he was sharp and alert until quite recently. He gave his last lecture when he was 90 and delivered a memorable address at his 100th birthday celebration at Western Theological Seminary. Up until that time he participated in Sunrise Saints at Third Church every Wednesday at

6:30am. This group of 25 men would gather for breakfast and then discuss a book. Dr. Oudersluys rarely spoke, but when it came to an exegetical issue, someone would often ask, "Dr. O., what do you think about this?" Dr. O. would pause, and we would wait in respectful silence for a word from Mt. Olympus.

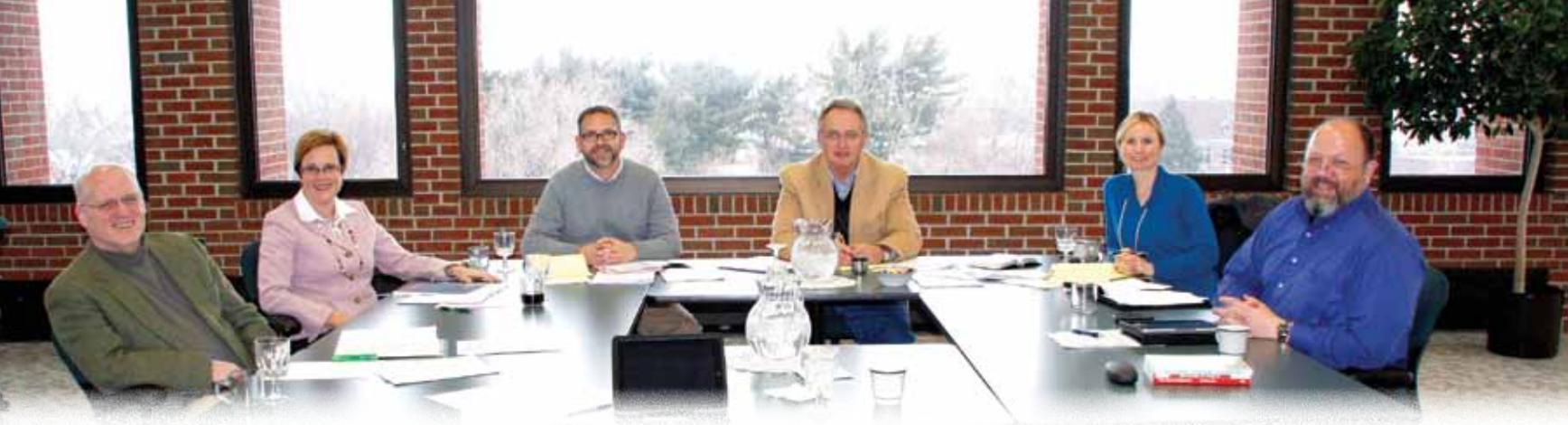
Richard Oudersluys never promoted himself; it was simply his desire to serve the church in any way possible, whether as an active member at church, serving on commissions, or writing 26 years of weekly columns for the *Sunday School Guide* and the *Christian Endeavor Weekly*.

And to the end he cared about the seminary. When we would call him, his first question was, "How are things going at the seminary?"

In those later years when he and I would go somewhere together, he would take my arm and with a twinkle in his eye say, "Lead on, MacDuff" (from Macbeth). Somehow he got a kick out of doing that. (My Shakespearean friends tell me the words are actually "Lay on, MacDuff," but as Archie Bunker would say, "whatever.")

I know it is a bit fanciful, but I like to imagine Richard Oudersluys in heaven, taking the arm of Jesus and saying, "Lead on, King Jesus, I'm home at last!"





Planning team: Jim Brownson, Leanne Van Dyk, Chuck DeGroat, Tim Brown, Kirsten Oates, Scot Sherman

“An Idea whose Time has Come”

Sometimes the best ideas start with a single conversation—a “what if...?” that hangs in the air until others finish the sentence, and from there the pieces start falling into place.

Ten years ago Western Theological Seminary was a school concentrating on students who lived in or could move to the geographical area of west Michigan to get their education. Ten years ago City Church in San Francisco was a young Presbyterian (PCA) church challenging its members to live out the gospel through outreach and service. Today Western Seminary has a thriving distance learning program and a strong desire to train men and women for missional ministry right where they live. And City Church today is an RCA church, part of the new Affinity Classis, and strongly committed to educating, forming and preparing leaders specifically for urban church planting.

Newbigin House of Studies emerged out of City Church’s desire to prepare the next generation for wise and relevant Christian engagement in the city of San Francisco. For several years now they have offered training by a faculty

of scholar-pastors experienced in navigating the terrain of church planting in urban centers, church revitalization, social justice and mercy, lay theological training, pastoral care and counseling, and more.

the changing, challenging, cultural landscape and are experienced teachers, counselors, and church planters.

Western Theological Seminary has the technology in place to teach from a distance and offer accredited theologi-



Newbigin House of Studies

A newly forged partnership with Western Theological Seminary and City Church San Francisco will build upon what the Newbigin House started. This new partnership will offer seminary education, lay theological training, a missional think tank, and an urban church planting training center to those on the West Coast. Newbigin House of Studies will link the strengths and gifts of both sponsoring institutions and create a top-notch center for training pastors for ministry in today’s world!

Dr. Scot Sherman and Dr. Chuck DeGroat are pastors of City Church and lead the Newbigin House of Studies— Dr. Sherman as the executive director and Dr. DeGroat as the academic dean. These two gifted men are tuned into

cal training to those in California. We could also teach using two-way interactive technology. At some point we may rotate faculty to teach onsite in San Francisco. Also, City Church could become an intercultural immersion site for our in-residence students. The “what if...?” questions are raising all sorts of exciting possibilities!

We will be hammering out the details of this new partnership throughout this year, but look for a launching conference in San Francisco in November.

We are very enthused to raise up a new generation of Reformed pastoral leaders who are trained to embrace the challenges of ministry in urban and multi-cultural contexts.

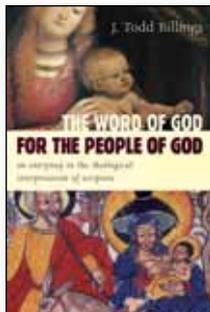


To learn more, go to www.newbiginhouse.org or read comments by Wes Granberg-Michaelson regarding City Church at www.rca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=3617

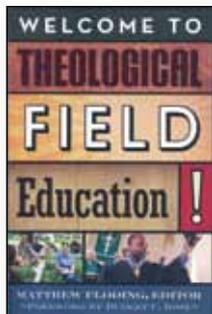
c.2011 Roy Tennant, FreeLargePhotos.com

Western Theological Seminary News

Congratulations to Associate Professor of Reformed Theology **J. Todd Billings**, whose book, *The Word of God for the People of God*, has won the 2011 Center for Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue Book Prize. Although not written with this purpose in mind, the book is being lauded for its contribution to biblical interpretation that serves a growing unity between Catholic and Evangelical Christians. The Center for Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue and Regent College are sponsoring a theological conference in Vancouver, BC in September where they will explore Dr. Billings' book in a plenary session.



The Alban Institute has published *Welcome to Theological Field Education*. Director of Formation for Ministry **Matthew Floding** is the general editor and a contributor to the book.



In January, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling **Jaco Hamman** consulted with the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa regarding the formation of their candidates and with the Dean of Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Theology regarding sacramental teaching.

Dr. Hamman contributed the chapter, "Down and Can't Get Up: Serious Depression," in *Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book: A Guide to Mental Health and Social Problems*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011: Franklin, Cynthia & Fong, Rowena (Eds.)

On April 23-25 in Orlando, FL, Professor of Missiology **George Hunsberger** will take part in a day of presentation and conversation with the Missional Church cohort of the Andrews University Doctor of Ministry program.

Ron Rienstra, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship Arts, will give a plenary address at the Symposium on Christian Worship at Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong, May 19-21, 2011. The seminary partners with the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship.

Professor of Ethics and Theology **David Stubbs** has been appointed as the Co-Chair of the Systematic Theology Section of the American Academy of Religion.

Robert Van Voorst, Professor of New Testament, has a chapter on Jesus in Jewish and Roman writings in the new *Handbook for the Study of the Historical Jesus* published by E. J. Brill in Leiden. This four-volume work deals with almost every aspect of our knowledge of Jesus and points the way to future avenues for research. The publisher describes the book, "Drawing from first-class scholarship throughout the world, the Handbook offers an assembly of 100 leading experts presenting their approaches to the historical Jesus."

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

April 11-15: John Bell Week at Western

April 18-20: 1 3 5 Gathering for recent grads

May 5-6: Youth Ministry Conference with Mark DeVries

May 10: Prepare/Enrich Training

1-800-392-8554, x167
journey@westernsem.edu

Faculty Speaking Engagements

Dr. J. Todd Billings

Feb 24, 7pm – "Ministry in Union with Christ: A Constructive Critique of Incarnational Ministry," public lecture at Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

Feb 25, 3:30pm – Public lecture at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA

April 8, 9am – "Luther and Calvin on Participation in Christ" at Calvin Studies Society Conference, Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Tim Brown, preaching

Feb 27 – Desert Haven Comm., Scottsdale, AZ

Mar 6 – Central Wesleyan, Holland, MI

Mar 13 – Prairie Ridge Church, Ankeny, IA

Mar 22 – Gun Lake Comm. Church, Wayland, MI

Mar 27 – First Reformed, Orange City, IA (am)
First Reformed, Sioux Center, IA (pm)

May 1 – Wyckoff Reformed, Wyckoff, NJ

May 8 – Tulip Time Community Service, Pella, IA

May 22 – Trinity Reformed, Holland, MI

May 29 – Gun Lake Chapel, Wayland, MI

Dr. Jim Brownson

Feb and March – "Parables" Sunday School class at 5th Reformed, Grand Rapids, MI

Mar 26 – Seminar at City Church, San Francisco, CA

April – "Parables" Sunday School class at Third Reformed, Holland, MI

Dr. Matthew Floding

Feb 17 – "Four Things That Matter Most: An Ethic for Living in the Senior Years," Ivanrest CRC, Grandville, MI

Dr. Jaco Hamman

Feb 22 – Lecture, J.C. Wynn Conference on Family Ministries, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY

Dr. George Hunsberger

Mar 3-4 – Keynote presenter at Missional Conference, Houston Graduate School of Theology, Houston, TX.

Prof. Ron Rienstra

Feb 26 & Mar 6 – "Public Prayer" Education Hour workshop, Christ Community Church, Grand Rapids

Dr. David Stubbs

Feb 14, 7:15pm – "Temple and Eucharist" with the St. Mary's Circle, Grace Episcopal Church, Holland

Mar 16, 23, 30 & Apr 13, 6pm – "The High Calling and Failures of the People of God: Numbers," St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI

April 17, 9am – "War, Peace, and Peacemaking" at Calvary CRC, Grand Rapids, MI

Prof. Travis West

May 15 & 22 - Old Testament narratives, Sunday School, Calvary CRC, Holland, MI

Eric Williams, our First Faculty Fellow



When doctoral student Eric Williams agreed to go to the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate representing the Church of God in Christ, he had no idea where that one decision would lead. This experienced world traveler adept in urban ministry would not have guessed it would land him in Holland, Michigan!

At the Assembly, he met Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich, who told him about the Urban Pastoral Ministry program she was directing at Western Theological Seminary. That led to an invitation to visit, which he did ("Driving through a blizzard to get here!" Eric recalls.) He then learned that a professor both he and Cynthia had at McCormick Theological Seminary had consulted with Western on diversity issues. Dr. David Daniels III had advised the seminary to start a faculty fellows program, bringing in scholars from different racial-ethnic backgrounds to teach.

"And it just so happened, providentially, that I would be that person!" Eric beams. "How fitting that two people Dr. Daniels trained would be instrumental in starting this."

The fellowship is designed for Ph.D. candidates to teach part-time while they finish their doctoral dissertations. Eric began his fellowship in the fall of 2009 and will complete the full draft of his dissertation before June. "It's been a gift," he says. "I pray that Western has benefited a fraction of how I have benefited!"

Eric's dissertation is on the neglect of the doctrine of the Spirit within modern Black Theology. This neglect within Christian theology in the West is often lamented, and he argues that liberation theology has also inherited this flaw. He is looking at ways this gap can be overcome. Classes he has taught, "The Spirit and the Disinherited" and "Roots and Routes of Modern Black Theology," have provided opportunities for him to read new literature and to pursue his own questions.

"It has been life-giving to me personally and to my work to engage with students in thinking through issues," he says. "It's been a win-win because the students in my courses were starving to know a body of literature they hadn't been exposed to here."

Being at Western has made Eric a stronger scholar. "There is a difference when one reads

and when one reads for teaching," he explains. "You read with another level of intensity, anticipating the questions that will be raised!"

He also values the time spent in faculty meetings, seeing how faculty members sort through issues.

"It's really beautiful to hear these scholars talk about their passion for preparing people to serve the church. It's about faithfulness and their love for the church."

Eric helped to start the Leonard Stoutemire Lecture Series in Multi-Cultural Ministry. What began as an idea to have students publicly present their papers from Black Theology class on Fridays in February turned into a yearly lecture series during Black History Month, backed by the Diversity Committee and funded by the seminary. This year Dr. William Turner from Duke University came to speak.

"This year we brought in an African American," Eric says. "Next year it might be an Asian or Hispanic. This series will increase intercultural competency, because we all need it."

Eric has been gratified overhearing his students quote from works he has exposed them to. On an intercultural trip he led to towns along the U.S.-Mexico border, he heard one of his students engaging with an activist using ideas gleaned from José Comblin, a theologian of Latin America.

"As an educator, I owe it to the students to allow those voices to be heard, to create space for alternative vision," Eric believes. "It's not that you have to agree with them! But as students go forth and do their work, they will know there are others in the body of Christ who see things in a different way."

Although Eric grins and describes himself as "denominationally, racially, and ethnically an outsider to most" here, he feels a significant bond with faculty, students, and staff. His co-workers have made him feel very valued for bringing something to Western that was not here before.

"I really believe in this Faculty Fellows program. I think everyone wins—the students, the institution, and certainly the faculty fellow. New scholars will come! They will teach new things. It's been exciting and a blessing to have been the very first one."

**Eric Williams,
Faculty Fellow in Theology
and Homiletics**

**Ph.D. Candidate,
University of Birmingham, U.K.**

Unusual Gifts

There are pictures on this page of two unusual gifts received by Western this year: Mr. Semelink's classic cane and beautiful paintings in memory of student Chuck Breen. As I thought about these particular gifts, it suddenly struck me that Western receives unusual gifts every day—simply because every gift Western receives is unusual.

If we stop to think about it, we might conclude that giving is illogical. (Maybe it's a good thing we don't!) Yet not only do we give often—there are numerous studies showing the United States is the most generous nation in the history of the world—but we do it with great joy.

Apparently I'm not the only one thinking about these things, because if you search "cheerful giver" on the internet, you will find 1,870,000 pages on the subject. That makes me smile.

The Bible is full of encouragement and teaching about giving. My favorite verse on the matter is 2 Corinthians 9:7 which says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." In fact, the Greek word translated to "cheerful" is actually the same word from which we derive the word "hilarious".

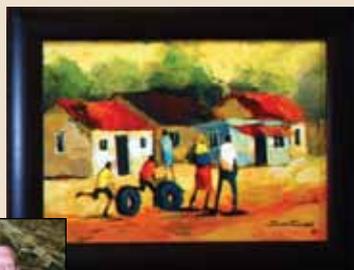
I know how much joy the donors who gave the paintings and cane got from giving them. I know how cheerful many of you are when you send a check supporting the ministry of Western Theological Seminary. Your unusual gifts are the backbone of Western. Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you make, you make a life by what you give."

Thank you for making a life that includes Western. And I'm imagining you smiling when you think of giving your next unusual gift.



Ken Neevil
Vice President of Advancement
and Communications

The first seminary building, named Semelink Family Hall, was provided by a gift from local farmer Peter Semelink in 1895. Mr. Semelink was an immigrant settler who lived frugally yet came to be known for his generous spirit in business dealings, as well as his support for mission work and education. Our current Semelink Hall sits on the site of the original building. Mr. Semelink's cane was given to the seminary by Peter Van Putten of Byron Center, MI, who acquired it through a relative who was a long-time maid of Mr. Semelink.



"Childs Play" and "Walking with Friends" by native African artist Junior Fungai Mudoviwa were given by anonymous donors in memory of WTS student Charlton "Chuck" Breen (1974-2010). As Coordinator of the Michigan Darfur Coalition, Chuck had great compassion for the people of Darfur, Sudan, Africa. www.michigandarfurcoalition.org

Special Gifts to Western Theological Seminary

received July 1, 2010 - January 31, 2011

In Memory of:

Jack O. Boerigter	George & Willa Brown
Robert & Mary Boerigter	Timothy & Nancy Brown
Chuck Breen	Donald & Erma Bruggink
Presbyterian Church (USA)	Harold & Dorothy DeRoo
Anonymous	Harvey & Margaret Doorenbos
Carl Hyink Droppers	Dale & Delores Droppers
Karen Miller	Alexander & Andrea Enyedi
Elton Eenigenberg	Herman & Blanche Hartmann
Paul & Lois Kleis	John & Etta Hesselink
John Ettema	James & Suzanne Lewis
Robert & Cynthia Warn	Anthony & Elly Muiderman
Marjorie Franken	Russell & Eleanore Norden
Darrell & Marilyn Franken	John & Eileen Nordstrom
Al Gemmen	Jacob & Leona Nyenhuis
Larry & Faye Gemmen	Burrell & Norine Pennings
Larry & Barbara VanNoord	Jerrald & Elsie Redeker
David J. Hager	Roger & Evelyn Rietberg
Daniel L. Hager	Linda D. Sparks
Paul Kranendonk	Elliot & Elaine Tanis
Giotti & Shirley Montanari	William & Sarah Unzicker
Harold Leestma	Steven & Peg VanGrouw
David & Janet Brown	Donald & Shirley VanHoeven
Iris Doiron	Elton & Beatrice VanPernis
Florine A. Enmeier	Chris & Barbara Zichterman
Mary Greve	Martha Paul
Elizabeth D. Hodge	William W. Paul
Lavina Hoogeveen	Cornelia Terlouw Poppen
Robert & Beatrice Lee	John & Etta Hesselink
David & Patti Leestma	Henry Poppen
Lois Leestma	Garrett W. Terlouw
Jean Mast	Herman Ridder
Frederick & Sandra Murray	Nancy Ridder
Ruth C. Norris	John M. Smith
Northern Trust/	Jim & Stephanie Croom
Leatherby Family	Marjorie M. Tanis
Jack & Eva Ortquist	Christine Kramschuster
Thomas & Barbara Park	Lakeshore School
Frank & Suzanne Pettinga	Glenys L. Schouten-Thies
Jerrald & Elsie Redeker	Elliot & Elaine Tanis
Michael & Betsy Ridderman	Paul H. Tanis, Jr
Judy Rigdon	Wayne & Mary Tanis
Sandra Rodebaugh	August Tellinghuisen
Bernice Luan Sands	Eleanor Tellinghuisen
Allen & Carole Scholten	Lucile TenClay
Paul & Janiece Swets	Patricia Y. Norden
Kenneth & Kathy VanderBroek	John & Nancy Norden
Henry & Emily Mouw	Jean Osterhaven
Richard & Barbara Poppe	Dennis & Peggy Randel
Richard Oudersluys	John & Etta Hesselink
Charles & Marilyn Aardema	H.M. & Stella Veenschoten
Carol M. Bechtel &	Abe & Elin Moerland
Tom Mullens	Timothy Mahlon Unger
	Robert & Betty Unger

In Honor of:

Don & Suzanne (Rich) Buteyn marriage	Mark Mast
Vernon & Lois Boersma	John & Nancy Sage
Michael Holleman	George H. Montanari
John & Nancy Sage	Giotti & Shirley Montanari
	Patricia Stromsta
	John & Nancy Sage

A Note from President Tim Brown

Earlier this school year the Western Theological Seminary family said goodbye to one of our most beloved patriarchs. Eight hours before his 104th birthday, Richard C. Oudersluys slipped quietly from this world to the next to meet the living Christ whom he had loved and so nobly served decade after decade, raising up generations of pastoral leaders. He now knows a joy which we can merely anticipate.

I want you to come with me and one of my colleagues, Dr. Tom Boogaart, to Hospice House of Holland where our dear professor spent his last days receiving a steady stream of admiring visitors, all while quietly knocking on heaven's door. We counted ourselves so privileged to sit in his company if only for a



Visiting Dr. Oudersluys on his 102nd birthday, November 21, 2008.

moment. We remembered and wept and wondered with him what heaven would be like. When it was time to go, Tom recited a Psalm in Hebrew and I offered a prayer. As we got up to leave, Dr. Oudersluys gathered up the strength to shake our hands and say, "I am proud of you boys."

"I am proud of you boys!" His words were wind beneath our wings!

There are several Scriptures that enjoin us all to "encourage one another," and that day our old professor

became a living commentary of all of them. The man who taught us once was teaching us again, and we were grateful.

We are proud of *you*, Dr. Oudersluys!

Tim Brown

Winter (March) 2011, Vol. 14, No. 2 Editor and Graphic Designer: Carla Plumert Editorial Council: Dr. Timothy Brown, Dr. George Brown, Dr. Matt Floding, Rev. Dawn Boelkins, Ken Neevel. *The Commons* is published three times a year for alumni/ae and friends of Western Theological Seminary by the Office of Advancement and Communications, Ken Neevel, vice president, 101 E. 13th Street, Holland, MI 49423. 616-392-8555; fax 616-392-7717. Reproduction in whole or in part by permission only. advancement@westernsem.edu

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Holland, MI
Permit No. 120

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
101 E. 13th St., Holland, Michigan 49423

