Dr. Tim Brown is Called to Lead the Seminary

When Dr. Tim Brown was introduced to the WTS community as the candidate to succeed Dennis Voskuil as president, his first words were: “Listen with me to these words from the Book that we love. ‘[God’s] gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.’” Ephesians 4:11-13

That kind of vision lights a fire in Tim Brown. When he was told that he had been selected as the next president of Western Theological Seminary, he immediately thought of Christian’s exclamation in The Pilgrim’s Progress: “I rejoice and I tremble!” Having taught at the seminary for 13 years, Tim Brown is uniquely positioned to know the school inside and out. He is eager to address the challenges the seminary faces, such as navigating the rapidly changing landscape in the church and thinking strategically how to meet needs there. He wants to find resources to finish visions Western Seminary has begun but which are currently under-funded. He is also thinking ahead to pending retirements of important people at the seminary and filling those with brilliant Christian scholars who can help achieve our purpose, which is preparing Christians called to lead the church in mission.

Throughout his tenure as president, Dennis Voskuil has re-energized our school with a wonderful sense of identity, great community, and really remarkable goodwill in the church. He also has helped attract some fine young scholars,” Tim says. “This has put us on a great trajectory, and quite frankly, an uncommon one. This is not your standard operating seminary procedure, and I want to see that preserved and carried forward.”

Tim Brown graduated from Hope College in 1973 with a BA degree. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1976 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1992, both from Western Theological Seminary. Tim served as the pastor of Fellowship Reformed Church in Hudsonville, MI from 1976–1981. In 1981 he became Co-Pastor of the First Reformed Church of South Holland, IL until 1998 when he was installed as the Senior Minister of Christ Memorial Church in Holland, MI where he served until 1995.

Dr. Nancy Miller, co-chair of the presidential search committee, says, “We are excited about the prospect of Dr. Brown’s leadership. He knows the challenges of teaching and is a great encourager, team-builder, and pastor who can nurture Western as a community of learners. He is widely known and respected within the RCA and in larger circles. We believe the Rev. Dr. Timothy Brown will be a superb president for Western Seminary.”

Dr. Brown will assume the presidency on July 1, 2008.

Notes from President Dennis N. Voskuil

“Are you not going to ask about Nancy and the kids?” The way he tells the story, when I telephoned Tim Brown in December 1994 about joining our faculty, I had barely said hello when I blurted out, “Tim, I need for you to feel the call of God to teach preaching at Western Theological Seminary.” By God’s grace, Tim became gripped by this call even before I completed my sentence.

Who could have known then, more than thirteen years ago, that Tim would respond to another call to Western—this time to serve as my successor as president of the Seminary. In fact, who could have known that Tim and I literally would be switching offices this June? I will move into his office on “Faculty Row” in the Burggraaff Atrium to assume full-time teaching responsibilities, while Tim will move into the president’s office on the main floor.

I am confident that Tim Brown will be an outstanding seminary president. He is a splendid communicator and an excellent teacher who has already demonstrated his capacity to lead as a pastor of three churches and as a faculty member at Western Seminary. In addition, he is passionately committed to Jesus Christ and to the church, the body of Christ.

As I reflect upon my years as president, I become increasingly aware of God’s relentless power for ever and ever.” 1 Peter 1:8
During his inauguration speech Dennis Voskuil shared his vision for Western to have "an evangelical heart and ecumenical arms." That vision has grown exponentially, shaping a missional seminary with Reformed roots living as an example to the world.

As Western's Board of Trustees, we immediately caught Dennis' vision to connect strongly and clearly with church congregations. Those early days of open communication and connection set the foundation for relationships within the seminary and churches.

With a strong spiritual heart and personal caring, Dennis' respect and appreciation for each person he meets has built remarkable communities, whether with the board, faculty, staff, students or congregants. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to work with Dennis as president. He has been a servant leader among servant leaders! His legacy will remain as a testament to the seminary community and all leaders.

Working with Dennis

As an instructor at WTS in the 1960s, Dennis was our “hatchet man” on the touring basketball team that played against Northwestern College’s JV team. Some might say he’s more like a football player on the basketball court. When touring basketball team that played against Northwestern College’s JV team.

Several things stand out with Dennis. First, the emotional trauma—yes, I actually do think it’s trauma—caused by having to miss “noon ball” for any reason. Secondly, I appreciate the way Dennis ALWAYS makes time to meet with a prospective student if he is in town regardless of what else is going on (he’ll even be late for “noon ball” to do this).

I can tell how much family means to him by his anecdotes about his grandchildren and the great fondness when he talks about Betty. Lastly, I always enjoy standing in front of him in chapel and hearing him sing hymns.

— Jill English, Admissions Assistant

When Dennis came to Western Seminary, we needed a pastor. It was a difficult time for the seminary and morale was low, but when Dennis arrived, you could feel the whole institution just relax. His pastoral presence released an enormous amount of creative energy for more productive work.

The dominant theme in Dennis’ inaugural address was centering the seminary in Jesus Christ. All through his presidency, he reiterated this theme. Dennis used his wonderful and perceptive theological instincts well. This also released creative energy. Confident of our theological center, the faculty devoted themselves to revising the curriculum to express that center more fully and effectively. I am grateful for the ways in which Dennis functioned as a theological anchor for the school.

In my personal experience working with Dennis, he is, quite simply, a great boss. His leadership style focuses upon encouraging and supporting the people around him. After my meetings with him, I would be encouraged and almost always feel better about myself. I know I am not alone in this. He genuinely delights in the successes and contributions of those around him. That makes it fun to work for him!

Dennis Voskuil has left very large shoes to fill. We are deeply indebted to him for the contributions he has made to this school. He has given his heart and soul to Western Seminary, and we are the grateful beneficiaries.

— Vern Sterk, Chair, Board of Directors
Dennis has a gracious habit of regularly writing thank you notes. He looks for the sometimes small, sometimes large efforts people in the community make for the sake of Western Seminary, and then he sits down and writes a note. This indeed of Dennis has graced our faculty, staff, students, board members, and supporters. It is such a tangible, beautiful way of building up the community and making us all feel appreciated.

— Leanne Van Dyk, V.P. of Academic Affairs

My visuals of Dennis are from his ten trips to Chiapas, Mexico:

• His delight in interacting with students on these Intercultural Immersion trips
• His love of a late night Euchre game—especially if his team was winning
• His willingness to crawl into the cramped back of a van with the rest of the students
• His vision for cross-cultural mission that grew out of these trips, which resulted in his invitation for my husband and I to become part of Western Seminary.

— Carla Sterk, Adjunct Professor, Cross-Cultural Studies

When I was deciding which seminary to attend, I made a visit to Western. I was stunned (and slightly intimidated) when I found out part of my visit included a conversation with the president. Stepping into Dennis’ office that day, I found myself in the presence of a wonderfully humble and authentic child of God, passionate about God and the church.

The impressions from that first conversation proved true during my time as a student. Dennis cares about people. He knows students by name. More often than not he knows significant things about our lives—from our internships to our families. He’s passionate about our learning and our preparation for ministry, which translates into deep concern for all parts of seminary life.

It only takes a few minutes in Church History class to realize that Dennis is knowledgeable and engaged—and not only with the past! We’re glad Dennis will still be around in the classroom sharing his contagious love of history and joy in learning.

As Student Council president, my view of Dennis has broadened while sitting in on WTS board meetings. Watching Dennis share his passion for the seminary with our board is wonderfully encouraging. We at Western Seminary truly have been blessed.

As a pastor for the last eight years, first at Meredith Drive Reformed in Des Moines and now at Fifth Reformed in Grand Rapids, my friendship with Dr. Voskuil has continued. Smiles come quickly when we see each other, and conversation is easy.

In my leadership I aspire to the approach I witnessed in Dennis—one that is welcoming, caring, and asks very authentically, “How can I best serve you?”

And for the competitive file:

At the annual faculty/student volleyball game at Camp Geneva I made the mistake of standing next to Dennis on the faculty team. The ball was coming my way, but I doubt. He promptly stepped in front of me and hit the ball back over the net. So I hit him.

While at Hope College, I was the proverbial “starving student” who had stayed on for a May term in American Church History with Dennis. To be honest, I wasn’t starving...I was just trying to get by without a meal plan. One day after class Dennis (Dr. Voskuil to me then) asked if I could babysit for their kids that night. I got there just as they were sitting down to supper. I still remember the menu: pork chops and scalloped potatoes. I also think about the fact that Dennis cares about people. He knows students by name. More often than not he knows significant things about our lives—from our internships to our families.

A few favorite student memories:

• sharing a good laugh, especially while watching last year’s Spring Banquet video (produced by Ben Bruins ’07)
• watching Dennis squirm when he realizes a student has stolen the coffee time bell
• engaging Dennis’ competitive side, from the basketball court to the sand volleyball court to various trivia banter

I met Dr. Dennis Voskuil on a campus visit to Western. I was intimidated by the thought of a seminary president, but Dr. Voskuil set me at ease with his warm greeting and caring questions. He asked about my sense of call and explained that “the church calls its leaders.”

As a student, Dr. Voskuil influenced me by his teaching, friendship, and manner of leadership. One does not forget a Voskuil class—he’s a teacher through and through. And at morning coffee or on the basketball court, Dennis made it easy to call him “friend.” His effort to guide the diverse seminary community through a springtime of renewal was a daily demonstration of a unifying kind of servant leadership; I will never forget it.

As President of Western Theological Seminary, I continued to be blessed through his friendship and example, which I will never forget.

One thing is certain: the student body loves Dennis Voskuil. We wish him all the best as he moves back into the classroom.
Israel/Palestine Reflection by Dr. Leanne Van Dyk

Originally my group of ten seminary students was looking forward to learning about the Christian community in Kenya with RCA missionaries Rowland and Jane Van Es, but mere weeks before our departure the elections in Kenya erupted into violence and civil unrest. Incredibly, we were able to plan an entirely new trip to Israel/Palestine under the leadership of Marlin and Sally Vis, RCA missionaries in Jerusalem.

Over the course of 12 days our group soaked in a geography, a history, and a political reality that challenged our minds, engaged our hearts, and deepened our faith. Marlin and Sally Vis were remarkable examples to us of faithful, hospitable, and prophetic witnesses to Jesus Christ in this troubled land. I felt so privileged to be the faculty mentor for this group of smart, committed students. We discussed, studied, laughed, cried, shared, and prayed over the days of our trip as we became a real community of support and learning.

We walked the Old City of Jerusalem, retracing the steps of Jesus and his disciples. We saw the pools of Bethesda, the probable site of Jesus’ crucifixion, the Mount of Olives, the Kidron Valley, and many other biblical sites. In each place we read an appropriate text from Scripture. In the lush, green north we visited the Sea of Galilee and imagined Jesus eating bread and fish there with his disciples. In Nazareth we were impressed by beautiful churches commemorating the Annunciation of the angel to Mary. We visited the ancient village of Capernaum where Jesus read from the Isaiah scroll in the Temple. I am certain our visits to these biblical sites will inform and enlarge our students’ preaching in their future ministries.

It was even more significant to learn and experience the political realities of present day Israel and Palestine. The hopes for a lasting peace between the state of Israel and the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza are weighted with difficulties. The settlements in the West Bank have gravely complicated an already daunting challenge for peace. The concrete wall snaking around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other communities is a shocking reminder of the deep divisions between people. Our students spent three nights with Palestinian Christian families in Bethlehem and learned firsthand the daily indignities these families suffer under occupation. We met with a Jewish organization trying to stop the demolition of Palestinian homes by bulldozers. We talked with bereaved parents, both Muslim and Jewish, who have lost loved ones to political violence.

Every day we asked countless questions of Marlin and Sally about the political and economic difficulties. One student asked, “Do you think this situation is hopeless?” Marlin responded immediately, “No, it’s not hopeless. We believe in a God of hope. We keep hoping.” But then he explained how long and difficult the road toward peace will be and how patient, faithful, and prayer-full we must all be.

The trip to Israel and Palestine transformed all of us. We are still pondering the things we learned and how we can respond faithfully to live as witnesses to Jesus Christ.
On January 7 eight travelers met in front of Western Seminary, most of us carrying backpacks. These pieces of “carry-on luggage” held snacks, hand sanitizer, puzzle books, Bibles, hats, gloves, gum, candy, cell phones, iPods, notebooks, family pictures, precious U.S. passports, and much more.

As we traveled, our backpacks began to hold more. In Tucson, AZ, we filled our water bottles with tap water and selected apples to snack on. There we met the people of Borderlinks, an organization committed to educating folks about the issues of the United States-Mexico border. We met people dedicated to helping migrants in the desert so they don’t die of exposure or heat stroke. We learned about increased militarization of the border and plans to deputize Border Patrol officers. These people do what they do to fulfill the gospel message of Matthew 25:40, “even as you did it to the least of these… you did it to me.”

In Mexico we filled our backpacks with purified water only and packaged snacks. We made memories of new friends, the beauty of God’s creation in the Sonora Desert, and the words of the faithful. We met people deported from the U.S., talked with men who wait to try to cross the desert, and stayed with others who stay in Mexico to minister to those in need. They do this because “even as you did it to the least of these… you did it to me.”

All over Mexico we saw people carrying backpacks. These contain family pictures, water bottles, snacks, gloves, a cell phone, and much more. The backpacks also carry a person’s life, hopes, dreams, and lies. A backpack is the mark of a migrant and means almost certain apprehension and deportation if the wearer is spotted in the desert. Some of these backpacks are carried all the way to Tucson, Phoenix, North Carolina or Michigan. Some are abandoned in the desert, too heavy to carry, with all they symbolize.

What’s in a backpack? All the things one needs for a journey—familiar items of comfort, necessary items of survival. But this item, so common to us, now reminds me of a complex political, economic, social, and religious situation I have seen with my own eyes.

Each person we met charged us with the same responsibility: to “go and tell” what we saw on our trip. This is the good news: that people all over the world work to further God’s realm. And this is our call: to join in acts of justice and mercy.
What was your first day on the job like? August 1, 1994 was jarring. Vern Hoffman, the Director of Advancement at that time, informed me that we were facing a budget crunch. I didn’t realize that there were financial issues. During lunch that very day Vern introduced me to a consultant who advised us to begin a capital funds campaign. Immediately I felt the weight of presidential responsibilities. Although I believed that God called me to the seminary, leaving the teaching position I loved at Hope College was very difficult for me. I remember bringing my books across the Pine Grove and realizing the seminary was a different world, a different culture. For quite a while there was a sense of loss and I was overwhelmed, almost numbed by what I was facing.

What has helped you most over the years? I have to start with my wife, Betty. She has been the steadying force, believing strongly in my gifts and my call. She has been my biggest encourager and my biggest supporter. I think the greatest assets have been the people who served here. There is no doubt in my mind that whatever has happened at Western during my presidency has to do with representing the seminary. It will be difficult to give up teaching, preaching and talking to people. I was surprised how much of the job is about relationships. I don’t take joy from things; I delight in people. I’m eager to help work through these issues as a professor. I don’t have all the answers. You’re going to make mistakes. Admit them and move on. Love the community. If you truly love the people, you can lead more effectively.

People talk about legacies in terms of buildings or programs, but I don’t think like that. I’m not interested in buildings or programs! I’m interested in people. The people around here are the assets. The visions came out of the ideals and mission of the seminary, and we drew on the gifts of the community to move ahead.

—President Dennis Voskuil

President Dennis Voskuil

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Voskuil, President

Marvin & Jerene DeWitt Professor of Church History

SPRING 2008

A PUBLICATION OF WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Matt Floding, Director of Formation for Ministry, taught at the Kwartum Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church’s leadership conference in Kwartum, The Sudan the first week of March.

In 1994, George Hunsberger, Professor of Congregational Mission, published an article in the journal Interpretation entitled “Is There Biblical Warrant for Evangelism?” That article will be included in a major new publication from Eerdmans, The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church, edited by Paul W. Chilcote and Laceye C. Warner.

At the American Academy of Religion in San Diego in November, David Stubbbs, Associate Professor of Ethics and Theology, presented his paper, “The ‘Gospel’ behind the Arguments for and against Allowing Communion before Baptism.” He also presided at the “Nature and Grace” session.

At Grace Episcopal Church in Holland Dr. Stubb’s led a forum on “Just War, Pacifism, and Peacekeeping” in January, and in February he led a 4-week book study on N. T. Wright’s Simply Christian.

Dr. Stubb’s article, “The Shape of Soteriology and the Pistis Christou Debate,” will come out in the next Scottish Journal of Theology, Vol. 62, No. 2.

Leanne Van Dyk, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be speaking at the 2008 Wheaton Theology Conference at Wheaton College April 10-12 on “Rediscovering the Trinity: Classic Doctrine and Contemporary Ministry.” Dr. Van Dyk has written a chapter in two recent books: “Evangelical Ecclesiology: Theology and Practice” in the new Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology and “The Second Word: Response” in The Ten Commandments for Jews, Christians, and Others.

Robert Van Voorst, Professor of New Testament, recently preached at Fifth Reformed in Grand Rapids and Third Reformed in Holland. He has taught an adult class on “Reformed Perspectives on Essential Christian Doctrines” at Fifth Reformed. He will speak on Mormonism at Ferrybush Community Church (CRC) on April 20 and 27; and on the Acts of the Apostles at Third Reformed in Holland on May 4, 11, and 18.

**Allelon Grant**

Western Seminary is taking part in a nationwide study on missional theological education funded by the Allelon Foundation. A consultant interviewed faculty and administrators in February to learn how a missional theological approach guides and shapes seminary education here at Western. The results will be published in a final report and sent to all the participating seminaries as faculty continue to face the challenges of curriculum development and student formation for ministry in a missional theological framework.

2008 Spring Events and Seminars

**April 21-23** - 1-3-5 Gathering (for WTS alumni/ae)
For WITS alumni/ae in their first, third, and fifth years of ministry

**April 21-25** - Week of John Bell
9:10am Chapel each day in Semelink Hall April 22, 2-4pm, “Imagination in Public Worship and Preaching” April 24, 9am-3pm, “The Singing Church” workshop, $60 incl lunch

**May 1-2** - 2008 Youth Ministry Conference
with Mark Yaconelli, “Ancient & Contemporary Spiritual Practices in Youth Ministry” $85 incl dinner

**May 14** - Prepare/Enrich Training
10am-4pm, $165

**May 15** - “The Church in a Visual Culture”
9am-2:30pm, $60 incl lunch

June 17-21 - Children and Worship Workshops

Children and Worship Following Jesus

Seminarian seminar for CW

**Questions? Call CarolAnn Bailey at (616) 392-8555, x167**

**Change and Celebration**

Standing still is likely to get you run over by those moving forward. Fortunately, Western has been moving forward for the last 140 years, and there are no signs we are slowing down.

Another class is preparing to graduate—including the first group of distance learning students. New programs are being carried out, the cost of education continues to increase, new leadership is announced, and on it goes. Change is inevitable.

Sometimes, though, in the midst of change we must pause, take a deep breath, and celebrate where we have been. As Dennis Voskull steps down from his position as president this spring, we will have opportunities to celebrate his 14 years of leadership and service to Western and the church at large. I hope you will pause with me and say thank you.

Western is not the same institution as it was when Dennis became president, and I expect it will continue to change as Tim Brown assumes the role this summer. Yet even in the midst of constant change, we remain the same. Our mission of preparing leaders for the Church remains unchanged, our commitment to the core of the gospel is the same, and Jesus Christ is and will always be our savior.

As we thank and celebrate Dennis for his leadership, I celebrate and thank you for your commitment to raising up leaders for the Church. Your gifts and prayers make a difference, and that is one thing that will never change.

You are invited to join a public celebration of Dennis’ presidency that will coincide with General Synod at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 on the seminary campus.

**Ken Neevel**

Vice President of Advancement & Communications

**Questions? Call CarolAnn Bailey at (616) 392-8555, x111 or ken@westernsem.edu**

There are many programs and projects that require special funding before they can be completed. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or wish to make a special gift to cover the cost of one or more of the following needs, please contact Ken Neevel at 800-392-8554, x111 or ken@westernsem.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launch &amp; Endow an MA program in Youth Ministry</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endow the Dennis and Betty Voskull Chair in Old Testament</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endow a faculty chair in Worship &amp; Ethics</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<td>Endow annual book purchases for Cook Center</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
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<td>Name a student apartment building</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct additional office space in the DeVitt Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name a student apartment unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endow an internship in urban ministry</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replace the carpeting throughout the Cook Center</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<td>Computer hardware for a year</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
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<td>Car for the President</td>
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<td>Replace one boiler</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endow a scholarship</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air conditioning and circulation for Mulder Chapel</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flooring for the Commons</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Replace the carpet in the advancement office</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New piano for Maas Hall</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Liturgical Furniture for Semelink</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent sound &amp; video systems in Semelink or the Commons</td>
<td>$7,000/room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional tables and chairs for 6th floor (4 tables, 8 chairs)</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carpet for room 101</td>
<td>$2,650</td>
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<td>Blinds for chapel</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podium for Semelink</td>
<td>$960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portable white board</td>
<td>$400</td>
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IN MEMORY OF:

Glenn Bruggers  
Paul & Donna Retik  
David & Louie  
Edmund & Arle Anderson  
Gordon & Martha Beld  
Stanley & Benny Bley  
Kerry T. Braman  
Phyllis Bruggers  
Elton & Elaine Brooks  
Jean Brooke  
Harvey & Margaret Doorbos  
Bruce & Susan Formosa  
Eugene & Mary Heideman  
John & Elita Hesselink  
Laura M. Huzenga  
Caitlin & Jamele Jansen  
Donald & Carol Kuyper  
Deborah Lang  
Gilmore Lawrence  
Jack & June Millard  
Tony & Elly Middendorp  
Wallace & Dianne Mugg  
David & Sally Tapley  
Sam Williams  
Abe & Elin Moerland  
Rev. Jerry O. Mooney  
Samuel Williams  
Marie VanderVeen  
Marilyn VanderVeen  
Marvin Verschoor  
Bruce & Susie Neckers  
Eugene & Margaret Oosterhuis  
Folkert "Red" Faber  
Dr. Fred F. Faber  
Folkert "Red" Faber  
Audrey & John Oosterhuis  
Theda Vonderheide  
Wilton Haysom  
Eugene & Margaret Oosterhuis  
Marinus van der Veen  
Steve & Margaret VanderBraak  
Mrs. Gerard & Eileen VanKrevel  
Gerard & Beth VanWyngarden  
Jim & Jean Wirfs  
Dr. James L. Cook  
Bruce & Susan Neckers  

IN HONOR OF:

Dennis & Betty VanUith  
Kenneth & Margaret Klets  
Robert & Betty Unger  
Cynthia Dejong  
Al & Phyllis Burren  
Hiroshi Sato  
Frederic Duff  
Suzanne & Bernard Brouil  
Emo M. Coster  
Noreen Dickerman  
James & Ann Duff  
Vera Duff  
First Reformed Church, Aurora, IL  
Louise E. Hartman  
Dorothy H. Vanek  
Jerry & & Gay Heater  
Langeland Family Funeral Homes  
Edna Moyer  
Theda Vonderheide  
Harold Grissen  
Connie Borosina  
Bud & Eleanor Barr  
Ronnie & Carrie Bremmel  
Jean Carper  
John & Mary Dower  
Lansdowne Village Condo Assoc.  
Donald & Donna Klinker  
Robert & Rose Munn  
Randal & Mar VanderVliet  
Joan Werner  
Wilhelm Haysom  
Della Haysom  
Eugene & Margaret Oosterhuis  
Marvin & Carolyn Halsall  
Elsie was the first female to receive a

Alumline

News

Gretchen Schoon Tanis '02 represented the RCA on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, Feb. 13-20 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Greg Larsen '07 accepted the position of solo pastor of Christ Congregational (UIUC) in Port Morgan, CO and began ministry there December 2, 2007.

After 40 years working as a pastor in Japan, Kumihiko Yazzaki '66 is retiring this spring. He is grateful to God for the financial support through school that helped to make his theological education possible.

In October 2006, Rick Christy '92 became Pastor of Worship & Outreach at Westlawn Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. He and his wife, Amy, are living in nearby Walker, MI.

On November 29, 2007, Harold Grissen, a student at WTS since 2004 and a lay preacher for the RCA, died at the age of 83 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a member of Christ Memorial Church and was involved in Crossroads Ministries.

Richard Davis '04, a student at WTS since 2004 and a lay preacher for the RCA, died at the age of 83 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a member of Christ Memorial Church and was involved in Crossroads Ministry.

Rich Davis '04 became the senior pastor of First Presbyterian church in River Forest, IL in December 2007. Prior to that, he and his wife, Shauna, served at Martin Reformed in Martin, MI.

An Invitation

Classes of 58, 68, & 83: Please join us for Alumni/Ae Day on May 12, 2008. Lunches will be offered for $10/person for the 25th, 40th, and 50th reunion classes. Special activities are planned for the morning and afternoon. All Western alumni/aes are invited to the Alumni/Ae Banquet at 5:00 in the Maas Center of Hope College for the 25th, 40th, and 50th reunion classes. For questions or to reserve your spot at the luncheons and/or Alumni/Ae Banquet, call LuAnne VanSlooten at 616-392-8555, or write to Carla Plumert Weese at Alumline (616-392-7717), or email cweese@westernsem.edu. 

Send your news to Carla Weese at carlaw@westernsem.edu or by mail to WTS, 101 E. 13th St., Holland, MI 49423

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on to Glory...

James Nettinga '37  
b. Chicago, IL 7/16/1912  
d. Fullerston, CA 12/3/2007  

Hope College '44, WTS '57  

Reformed Churches Served:  
(1947-48) Hartem Collegiate, NYC  
Other service to the church:  
(1947-49) Secretary, RCA Board of Domestic Missions  
(1949-79) Secretary, American Bible Society  

Wilhelm Haysom '39  
b. San Francisco, CA 12/21/1912  

Hope College '36, WTS '39  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1934-42) Bloomington & St. Remy, NYC  
(1943-45) First, Amsterdam, NY  
(1944-53) Harrington Park, NJ  
(1955-58) Bethany Memorial, NYC  
(1956-68) New Haven, CT  
(1966-73) Elmford, NY  
(1973-79) Federated, Elmford, NY  
(1980-83) Blue Mountain & Kabbazin, NV  
(1986-89) Kalamazoo, MI  
(1995-98) St. Cloud, MN  
(1996-98) High Woods, Saugerties, NY  

Frederic Duff '44  
b. Hudstonville, MI 3/9/20  

Kalamazoo, MI 11/28/07  

Reformed Churches Served:  
(1980-89) Secretary for RCA Asian Ministry  
(1976) President, Partic. Synod of

William Hilliegonds '51  
b. Chicago, IL 2/11/1922  

Hope College '49, WTS '51  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1951-55) Chatham, NY  
(1955-66) Brightton, Rochester, NY  
(1960-65) Hope, Holland, MI  
(1978-80) Second, Pella, IA  
Other service to the church:  
(1965-78) Chaplain at Hope College  

Ralph H. Van Rheenen '51  
b. Pella, IA 7/18/21  

Central College '48, WTS '51  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1951-57) Chancellor, SD  
(1957-67) Faith, Kalamazoo, MI  
(1967-77) Spring Valley, Fulton, IL  
(1977-84) Community, Hawarden, IA  
(1985-89) Barton, IL  

Collins D. Weeher '56  
b. Grand Rapids, MI 9/21/29  
d. Fl. Lauderdale, FL 2/16/08  
Hope '53, WTS '56, CA Grad Sch '76  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1955-63) Eastmont, Grand Rapids, MI  
(1965-69) Community, Palm Springs, FL  
(1968-73) Family, Canoga Park, CA  
(1972-86) New Hope, Canoga Park, CA  
1980 - Dismissed to Presbyterian Church  

Elise Shih Wen-Hua Law '63  
b. Xiamen, China 1/3/20  

Bethel Bible Seminary (Hong Kong)  
Hope College '60, WTS '54  
Seattle Pacific College '77  

Elise was the first female to receive a Master of Divinity degree from WTS.

James W. Underwood '69 (M.C.E.)  
b. Kalamazoo, MI 1/13/27  
d. Chenango, IL 5/20/61  

Ordained Methodist (E.U.B.)  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1969-71) Eastmont, Grand Rapids, MI  

Folkert "Red" Faber '72  
b. Sneek, Netherlands 8/24/46  
d. Hastings, MI 1/19/98  

Hope College '69, WTS '72  
Reformed Churches Served:  
(1972-79) Jamestown, WI  
(1979-90) Grace, Holland, MI  
(1990-2000) Peace M, Middleberg, MI  
(2002-2006) Crystal Creek Community  
2006, Pastor Emeritus, Grace Community, Holland, MI  
(1982-86) Free Grace, Middleberg, IA  

Necrologist: Rev. Merlin (Mike) VanDoomin