

# P r a x i s

News from Hartford Seminary

December 2015 • Vol. XXVII



The 2015 International Peacemaking Fellows



**Hartford**  
SEMINARY

*Exploring Differences, Deepening Faith*

# President's Message

Greetings, and welcome to the 2015 edition of Praxis.

This has been an exciting year for Hartford Seminary, one of growth, outreach and vitality. The White House itself affirmed our reputation as a leader in the field of interfaith education by inviting us to play a primary role in the Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge in Washington in September. What a privilege this was.

Almost every day, we are reminded by events around the world and here in the United States of the central importance of the work of Hartford Seminary to religious communities and to the world at large. I am pleased to share with you three new initiatives that will help to cement our global leadership in Christian-Muslim relations.

First, we are thrilled to expand our education and dialogue so that it includes Shi'a Islam in a permanent way through our new Imam Ali Chair for Shi'i Studies and Dialogue Among Islamic Legal Schools. As its name suggests, this chair not only offers students of all traditions the opportunity to study Shi'a Islam, but it also represents the dialogue between Shi'a Islam and other forms of Islam in an institutionalized fashion. We are grateful to Prof. Mahmoud Ayoub for all he has done toward making this chair a reality, as well as to Dr. Ammar Nakhjavani, who is the first occupant of the chair, and to several board members and other friends of the Seminary who have been instrumental in making this dream a reality.

Another important dream has been to re-establish a significant ongoing

presence of a senior scholar of Christian-Muslim relations from a Christian perspective at the Macdonald Center. The Henry Luce Foundation has made this possible through a four-year \$475,000 grant. We plan to have someone in place in fall 2016.

Third, we are launching our own Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations in fall 2016, now that all the appropriate accrediting agencies have given us the green light.



Finally, I am so pleased to share with you the news that our International Peacemaking Program is growing in size and stature and also has a new coordinator who is a professional in international education. A grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations is making it possible for two Christian students from the United States to participate, and a gift from the Plowshares Institute is providing scholarships for two additional international peacemakers, for a total of seven peacemaking fellows. This year's group hails from Egypt, India, South Africa, Ethiopia, Arkansas and New York. They have

been highly visible on campus interacting with our other Muslim, Christian and Jewish students.

Happily, our Doctor of Ministry program saw a nice boost in enrollment this year, and two wonderful, skilled pastors, the Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper and the Rev. Michael Piazza, have been hired as faculty associates. Another faculty associate, Dr. Brian Clark, came aboard as our Director of Online Learning. He will work with faculty to improve the quantity and quality of online courses that can be taken from any corner of the world. Brian will also teach World Christianity.

We have several new staff members as well, and you'll read more about them in this issue of Praxis. We invite you to come by and meet them in person.

All this activity, and the continued fine work in our established programs, has given us renewed energy for our mission to prepare our students to live faithfully in and to understand today's multi-faith and pluralistic world.

As always, your suggestions and feedback are greatly appreciated. We look forward to your continued support of and advocacy for Hartford Seminary in the coming year.

Thank you,

Heidi Hadsell  
President

# International Peacemaking Program Expands

Hartford Seminary's innovative International Peacemaking Program, which started in 2004, brings young leaders from around the world for a year-long, scholarship-funded experience in studying and practicing peacemaking. In 2015-16, through generous grants and gifts, the Seminary was able to expand the program from three funded students per year to seven, two of whom are American Christians.

The two American students are supported by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, which has committed to funding two Hartford Seminary Peacemaking Fellows per year for three years. These are students with a commitment to peaceful religious coexistence in the American context.

In addition, Plowshares Institute provided its own generous grant for three years to sponsor two students each year. These Plowshares Peacemaking Fellows are particularly sought from countries where Plowshares has recently focused its peacemaking education work—South Africa, China and northern India.

Plowshares also recently donated \$90,000 to start an endowment fund – the Bob and Alice Evans Plowshares Fund for Peacemaking Enrichment – to provide additional opportunities for the Seminary's peacemaking students to work on their skills.

Participants in the International Peacemaking Program spend an academic year studying interfaith dialogue, conflict transformation, and leadership skills. They live in intentionally interfaith housing on campus, spend time in local faith com-

munities, and receive training in public speaking and engagement.

Upon completion of the required 18-credits (6 courses), all scholarship recipients receive a Graduate Certificate in either Interfaith Dialogue or Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations. Fellows conceive of and implement a leadership project as part of their program requirements.



Graduates of the IPP are making a real difference in places like Nigeria, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan and India.

## Neway Kassahun Eshete, Ethiopia

Neway is an ordained priest and has a wife along with a son and daughter. He holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology along with a Bachelor's in Clinical Nursing and a Master's in Public Health.



"Hartford Seminary has a fascinating history to bring peace building between different religions. I expect to gain the necessary skills and knowledge from this international training to better equip me to help my people when I return home or in the Ethiopian community here in U.S. Among others factors, my lack of necessary expertise and skills in conflict

resolution and transformation is the major hindrance to resolve the problems I want to resolve quickly," Neway says.

In Hartford he plans to engage the Ethiopian community; there are around 100 members of his church here and he will try to teach and resolve ethnic conflict. Also, he will strive to see Eritrean people and Ethiopian people serve together.

## Luke Frauenthal, Arkansas

Luke studied religion and philosophy at Lyon College, a small Arkansas liberal arts college. He has also studied and worked at French and Albanian schools Université de Poitiers and Univeriteti Marin Barletti.



On why he became interested in the IPP program, Luke says, "my own evolving view of Christianity developed with an appreciation of the beauty of other religions. My own family's Jewish heritage and the influence of paganism on Christianity were starting points for exploring other faiths. While studying in France and Albania I saw examples of religiously diverse peaceful societies which should be more common throughout the world, and in the U.S."

"Literalist Biblical interpretation is a wall between many Christians and their neighbors who are of other faiths, scientists, seeking family planning, or LGBT. It is equally important for humanists, progressive religious people, and people of other faiths to understand the reasoning of religious conservatives. I want to build skills for advancing dialogue about the Kingdom of Heaven and the Children of God. I want to build personal relationships through community activities and increase my understanding of how religious communities work."

### Allen Joseph, Kerala, India

Allen has an undergraduate degree and an M.Div in theology along with a graduate certificate in interfaith dialogue from Henry Martin Institute Hyderabad, India. A missionary, youth leader, director of a Church planting charity as well as a Bible college teacher in one of the majority Muslim districts in the southern part of India for nine years, Allen developed an interest in Islam and interfaith dialogue. He and his wife Lisha have a daughter, Kaitlyn.

Allen was attracted to Hartford Seminary because of the rigorous academic preparation in a specialized field. Furthermore, the school's historic emphasis on contextual and dialogical learning, together with an opportunity to interact with people of other faiths, drew him to the program.

"The faculty expertise on Islam, Interfaith, and World Religions present a more scholarly and objective view of the Abrahamic religions, a prerequisite to interfaith understanding. Finally, I believe, the life and training in Hartford will sharpen my leadership and public presentation skills, which will prove handy in subsequent years."

### Andrew Luisi, New York

Andrew's interest in interfaith conversation became solidified at Wake Forest University, where he earned a B.A. in Religion and met Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core. Prior to coming to Hartford, he lived in Germany, studying the language and, informally, the works of Martin Buber and Rudolf Steiner. Andrew holds an M.A. in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he interned with the



Interrreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

"I was led on the path of bridge-building and promoting plurality as a sophomore at SUNY Rockland Community College. During this time, I studied under a Chabad rabbi to convert to Orthodox Judaism. It was then that I realized that through studying another religion, I could learn more about the religion I was raised into - Roman Catholicism," says Andrew.

Hartford Seminary was Andrew's ideal place to learn because "vocational study of interfaith conversation requires an institution that encourages conversation, deepens understanding and cultivates respect in a multi-faith environment."

### Ayanda Nxusani, South Africa

Born and raised in the beautiful city of Cape Town, Ayanda graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor's degree in Politics, International Relations and Economic History. She is particularly interested in Transitional Justice with a special focus on violence prevention, peace, trauma healing and reconciliation for both victim and perpetrators of gross human rights violations.



She has had an interest in the interplay between religion and politics as far back as she can remember and wants to merge her two passions - Christianity and Politics. Her mentor, Bonolo Makgale, who is a social justice activist and public theologian, suggested the IPP, which drew her to Hartford Seminary. "I saw that what Hartford Seminary offers is unique and I couldn't pass by the chance of being part of this institution."

### Hany Shokralla, Egypt

A Press and Public Relations Manager for the



Diocese of Egypt, Hany is responsible for building bridges with other religious institutions and organizations.

"Due to living in a Muslim dominant society where Christians are a minority and Anglican Christians are a minority within the Christian minority, I face a lot of challenges and opportunities to reflect the image and teachings of Jesus Christ to the people around me. Daily I interact with Christians and Muslims and try to encourage a spirit of mutual understanding."

### Eman Zahran, Egypt

Emam attended Al Azhar University in Egypt, Faculty of Arts at Menoufia University in Egypt, and The Divinity School at the University of Chicago.



Of her education, Emam says "the religious education that I have gained from these various schools enhanced my understanding of the religious diversity in my community and in my country. It also facilitated my comprehension of how to strive to live peacefully and harmoniously among other global communities that encompass millions of people who have countless faiths that differ from ours."

Emam's interest in Hartford Seminary came from several colleagues who studied here and shared their valuable and memorable experience. They were either in the MA program in Christian-Muslim Relations, or in the International Peace-making Program.

This exchange of interfaith knowledge triggered her curiosity to learn more about the program.

"I was amazed by the hospitable attitude of the HartSem people and the friends of the Seminary and their willingness to share their experiences, which I deeply appreciate."

# New Faculty



The **Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper** (rhymes with “copper”) is our Faculty Associate in Religious Leadership. Formerly at Coral Gables Congregational Church in Miami and before that at Yale University, she is the Senior Minister for Judson Memorial Church in New York City. Her areas of study include leadership development; turning around congregations; new church starts; fund and energy raising; pastoral theology; public ministry; and parish ministry administration.

The second D.Min. program Faculty Associate addition is the **Rev. Michael Piazza**, a consultant for congregational renewal and stewardship with Agile Church Consulting and the Senior Pastor of the Virginia-Highland Church. For two decades he served as pastoral leader of the Cathedral of Hope UCC as it grew from 200 members to over 4000. His areas of study include congregational renewal; preaching and worship; stewardship and development; leadership development; turning around congregations; social justice and activism; and LGBTQ studies.



**Dr. Sayed Ammar Nakhjavani**, known worldwide as a British Iraqi Islamic historian, lecturer and author, joined Hartford Seminary this fall as a Faculty Associate. He occupies the newly established Imam Ali Chair in Shi’i Studies and Dialogue among Islamic Legal Schools (see Page 6). Dr. Nakhjavani now serves as the Special Representative for the Universal Muslim Association of America (UMAA). He advocates on behalf of Shi’a Islam to a variety of elected officials, think tanks, and policy institutes. In 2014 and 2015, Dr. Nakhjavani was named to the list of “The 500 Most Influential Muslims.”

**Dr. Brian Clark** has joined us as the Director of Online Learning and Faculty Associate in World Christianity. He will continue to build Hartford Seminary’s online offerings and oversee IT affairs for the institution, along with teaching responsibilities. Dr. Clark is engaged with both the study of religion and the use of technology in education. He became interested in both interreligious dialogue and online education after teaching online for Hartford Seminary as an adjunct professor.



# New Staff



**Patrick Byrne** joined the Hartford Seminary staff in January as Communications Associate and in June was named Communications and Development Associate. Patrick assists in numerous functions for both departments. Prior to joining the Hartford Seminary staff, Patrick was the Sports Information Director at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass. and University of Saint Joseph. He was also a Development Coordinator for the National MS Society and the Director of Marketing & Communications at Flight Trampoline Park.

**Michael Sandner** was named the Chief Business Officer in March; he is responsible for fiscal oversight of the Seminary. Prior to Hartford Seminary, he served as Director of Finance for Hartford Stage Company and Managing Director of Adventure Theatre. Michael serves on the board of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits as its Treasurer and has served on grant panels for the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County. He received his BS in Finance from Miami University (OH) and obtained his JD from Catholic University. Sandner is a licensed attorney and a certified spinning and group exercise instructor.



In August, **Sam Locke** began his work as Chief Development Officer. Sam is from Indianapolis and was most recently the National Director of Special Offerings and Direct Response Marketing for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Before his job with PC(USA), Sam spent a year as a consultant for Blackbaud, Inc., and was a Development Associate at The Roeper School in Bloomfield, MI. Sam has a Master of Public Administration from the University of Wyoming, a BS in Secondary Education and a BA in Political Science from Indiana University.

**Jennifer Sanborn**, a 2012 graduate of Hartford Seminary, joined the institution as our admissions recruiter in August. Additionally, she is a part-time pastor of Enfield American Baptist Church, and has 20 years of service in higher education, including five years as director of The Women’s Education and Leadership Fund at nearby University of Hartford. Most recently, Jennifer worked as interim dean of religious and spiritual life at Mount Holyoke College.



**Phoebe Milliken** is the International Peacemaking Program (IPP) Coordinator. In this new position, Phoebe will be assisting the IPP students in their training and community engagement. She spent four years studying in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and then directed Augsburg College’s study abroad program in Namibia. From 2009-2015, she was Program Manager for Plowshares Institute. She holds a master’s degree in International Education from George Washington University.

# Funding Goal Reached for Shi'i Chair

Hartford Seminary is proud to announce that it has raised \$1.5 million to establish the Imam Ali Chair for the Study of Shi'i Islam and Dialogue Among Islamic Legal Schools.

The chair has been established for two primary purposes:

- To establish a voice in the academy for Shi'i Islam
- To encourage dialogue among the diverse Islamic legal schools, including Shi'i and Sunni



**Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub**

"The chair is meant to make a real contribution to Islamic unity," said Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub, a Hartford Seminary faculty associate and well-known Muslim scholar who has been instrumental in establishing the chair, which is believed to be the first of its kind in North America.

"I see Hartford Seminary as an important platform for varieties of Christian and Muslim expressions," he said.

In the Shi'i tradition, Imam Ali, for whom the chair is named, is especially revered. Though about 85 percent of the world's Muslims are Sunni, Shi'i Islam is the majority in Iran, Iraq,

*"The chair is meant to make a real contribution to Islamic unity."*

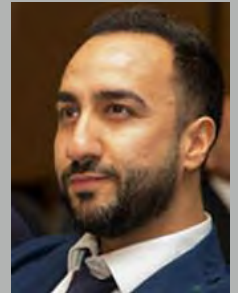
Lebanon and several other countries. Hartford Seminary believes that effective, contemporary interfaith religious understanding and leadership must include both Shi'i and Sunni traditions within Islam.

A celebration to inaugurate the Imam Ali Chair will be held at Hartford Seminary on Friday, January 22, 2016. Additional contributions to the chair are welcome. Please contact our Development Office at 860-509-9520 or [giving@hartsem.edu](mailto:giving@hartsem.edu).

## Dr. Sayed Ammar Nakhjavani Is First to Occupy Imam Ali Chair

Hartford Seminary is honored to have Dr. Sayed Ammar Nakhjavani, known worldwide as a British Iraqi Islamic historian, lecturer and author, as the first occupant of the Imam Ali Chair in Shi'i Studies and Dialogue among Islamic Legal Schools.

Dr. Nakhjavani also serves as the Special Representative for the Universal Muslim Association of America (UMAA). In this role, he promotes an understanding of the customs and beliefs of Shi'a Ithna Asheri Muslims and engages in interfaith dialogue with leaders of various faith communities. He also advocates on behalf of Shi'a Islam to elected officials, think tanks, and policy institutes.



Prior to joining UMAA, Dr. Nakhjavani served as the Visiting Scholar of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge in England. He performed extensive research and academic analysis of ancient Islamic texts and spoke at academic forums. He is also a member of the International Qur'anic Studies Association. In both 2014 and 2015, Dr. Nakhjavani was named to the list of "The 500 Most Influential Muslims."

Dr. Nakhjavani's books include *Hujr Ibn Adi: A Victim of Terror; Islam: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity; Ramadan Sermons: A Compilation of Speeches and Lectures; The Fourteen Infallibles: A Compilation of Speeches and Lectures; and The Ten Granted Paradise.*

# Luce Foundation Awards Grant



The Henry Luce Foundation has awarded Hartford Seminary a four-year grant of \$475,000 to hire a scholar with expertise in Christian-Muslim relations from a Christian perspective. This scholar will join the faculty of the Seminary's

Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, the oldest such center of its kind in the United States.

“Hartford Seminary’s longstanding partnership with the Luce Foundation uniquely positions us for work together in the highly innovative and societally necessary focus on Christian-Muslim

relations in a rigorous academic environment,” President Heidi Hadsell said. “This work will cement the Seminary’s reputation as an international leader in interfaith education and fulfill the Luce Foundation’s goal to foster international understanding through the lens of American religious life.”

Hartford Seminary developed expertise in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in the 19th century as a result of the education and training it provided for pastors going into the mission field in Muslim majority countries. The most prominent faculty member in mission at Hartford Seminary at the turn of the century, and in the first five decades of the 20th century, was Duncan Black Macdonald, a Scottish Presbyterian who became a highly acclaimed scholar of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations.

In the 1970s, the Hartford Seminary Board of Trustees chose to devote faculty, library resources and institutional experience in Islam toward a center of dialogue between Christians and Muslims as well as the study of Islam.

The Duncan Black Macdonald Center was established at that time and remains at the center of Hartford Seminary’s work in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations, which has become ever more critical.

In the late 1980s, the Seminary hired its first Muslim professor to teach Islam. Today, there are four Muslim faculty members and Muslim students are about 35 percent of the student body. The Seminary’s popular Islamic Chaplaincy Program is the only accredited such program in the United States.

## Ph.D. Program Approved

For more than a century, the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations has embodied Hartford Seminary’s commitment to the study of Islam and Christianity and the complex relationship between the two religions throughout history and in the modern world.

A Ph.D. program in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations has been approved by the Board of Trustees and by our accrediting bodies. This degree will continue the Seminary’s long legacy of educating and training experts in Christian-Muslim relations. It will provide advanced study in the knowledge and practical application of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim relations and train scholars who will be experts

in this area. We envision graduates of this program will further the mission and purpose of Hartford Seminary as professors at institutions of higher education, independent scholars and experts in Christian-Muslim relations, and as leaders or directors of organizations that are involved in interfaith work.

The learning objectives of this program are for the students to acquire:

- Comprehensive knowledge in Christian-Muslim relations,ologies of interreligious engagement, or interfaith dialogue
- Competence to produce and engage in original research and writing to advance the scholarship on Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim

Relations for the benefit of faith communities, academy, and society

- Competence to teach this area in religious communities and academia
- Skills and knowledge to inspire and encourage students to do autonomous projects that will advance the understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations in religious communities and academia

The Ph.D. program seeks international and domestic students who know about the reputation of Hartford Seminary’s long-standing work on Christian-Muslim relations and are interested specifically in Christian-Muslim relations.

For information about the program, please visit [www.hartsem.edu](http://www.hartsem.edu).

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The President's Council is comprised of former Seminary Trustees and others who have previously held leadership roles and who offer their collective wisdom to the President in service to current opportunities.

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### 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014-15 Annual Report, along with an update on the Hartford Seminary Strategic Plan, will make its way to you in early 2016. This report will include financial activities, alumni/ae events, and growth opportunities for Hartford Seminary alums and donors. The annual report will be available in a print form and online at [www.hartsem.edu/giving](http://www.hartsem.edu/giving).

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## Hartford Seminary Hosts Plowshares Institute Final Celebration

After more than 30 years of working in countries around the world, Plowshares Institute said its final goodbyes on Friday, Oct. 15, 2015, at a celebratory dinner held at Hartford Seminary.

Founded by Bob and Alice Evans, the Sims-



bury, CT-based Plowshares Institute worked as an agent of change around the world, conducting classes in mediation, leading travel seminars, and training national, community and religious leaders in creative ways to intervene in conflict. A series of speakers testified at the dinner to the powerful impact Plowshares has had on peacemaking and mediation.

Plowshares' wonderful work and legacy will continue through several substantial gifts to Hartford Seminary that support the Interna-

tional Peacemaking Program (IPP). For the next three years, two Plowshares Peacemaking Fellows will receive scholarships for a full year of study in the IPP. Another generous gift provides for enrichment activities.

Alice and Bob Evans have taken on the role of advisors to the IPP, and their former Program Manager, Phoebe Milliken, is now the IPP Coordinator at Hartford Seminary.

As Bob Evans stated in a farewell newsletter, "We did this work because we believed that together we could make a transformation for peace. Looking back, we are satisfied that together we did make a difference, and we are gratified that so many people with whom we worked will continue to strive for peace with justice. While the Plowshares office is closing, the Plowshares spirit lives on."

Those who wish to support the peacebuilding mission of Plowshares may give to Hartford Seminary's programs, including the IPP. Donors can write a check to Hartford Seminary for the IPP Enrichment Fund (designate "Bob and Alice Evans Plowshares Fund for Peacemaking Enrichment" or "Plowshares Gift" in the memo line) or if you would like to support student scholarships (designate the Hartford Seminary International Peace Program (IPP) Plowshares Peacemaking Fellows) and send to the Development office at Hartford Seminary.

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Hartford Seminary students, faculty and staff ushered in the institution's 182nd year at Convocation on September 9, 2015

# President's Interfaith Challenge Gathering



## PRESIDENT'S INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CAMPUS CHALLENGE

Hartford Seminary's faculty, staff and invited guests had a primary role to play during the Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Gathering in Washington, DC, on Sept. 10-11.

Hartford Seminary was an organizer of the event for U.S. colleges, universities and seminaries and invited international guests. The Seminary was also among those sharing models of interfaith service and engagement to help other higher education institutions that are beginning programs in interfaith community service. The program provided a chance to "celebrate the work happening on campuses across the country to provide students with opportunities to develop lifelong skills in interfaith cooperation and a commitment to community service."

Hartford Seminary became involved in the White House event after the U.S. Department of Education and the White House decided to enlarge the program to include an international aspect. Georgetown University and Hartford Seminary



were charged with inviting international university and college presidents, seminarian presidents and known interfaith

leaders from around the world.

Before the actual gathering at Howard University, the international group met a day earlier, and President Heidi Hadsell gave a speech at the El Hibri Foundation during that event.

President Hadsell also facilitated a panel called "Muslim and Christian Cooperative Social Action in Indonesia and Singapore." That panel examined how Christian and Muslim religious educators are using cooperative social action to support interfaith cooperation and religious tolerance in a global setting. Also on the panel were Dr. Siti Syamsiyatun of the Con-



sortium for Religious Studies, Dr. Joas Adiprasetya of the Jakarta Theological Seminary, and Dr. Albakri Ahmad of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore.

During a plenary session on "Going Global with Interfaith/Community Service," Hartford Seminary alumnus Adeel Zeb spoke about the Al Amana Centre in Oman, and current student Shine Harwamani gave a student perspective.

*The program provided a chance to "celebrate the work happening on campuses across the country to provide students with opportunities to develop lifelong skills in interfaith cooperation and a commitment to community service."*

At a session held at the White House, Melissa Rogers, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, thanked President Hadsell and Heather Holda, Assistant to the President, for their help in organizing the event.

Hartford Seminary's esteemed international invitees included: Philip Baji, Bishop in the Anglican Church in Tanzania; Dr. Priscilla Adoyo, Africa International University; Dr. Joas Aduprasetya, Jakarta Theological Seminary; Dr. Albakri Ahmad, MUIS Academy, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore; Dr. Amir Akrami, Eastern Mennonite University, Iran; Father James Channan, Interfaith Peace Center, Pakistan; Achim Haertner, Reutlingen School of Theology, Germany; the Rev. Douglas Leonard, Al Amana Centre, American Institution of Higher Education, Oman; Dr. George Sabra, Near East School of Theology, Lebanon; Swami Nikhilananda Saraswati, Chimaya Mission, India; Dr. Parichart Suwanbabbha, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Thailand; Dr. Siti Syamsiyatun, Consortium for Religions Studies, Indonesia; and Christoph Stuckleberger, Global Ethics Foundation, Switzerland.

# Ways to Support Hartford Seminary



## **CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD**

Many gifts are cash contributions that are made by check or credit card. These gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law and provide Hartford Seminary with immediate funding for ongoing operations.

## **SECURITIES AND PROPERTY**

Gifts of stock, other securities or property benefit the institution and provide the donor with a tax deduction for the fair market value of the gift when it is made. Additionally, in most cases the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock or property.

## **MATCHING GIFTS**

Many companies provide their employees with the benefit of increasing their gifts to certain organizations by matching those gifts either dollar for dollar or by a percentage. Please check with your employer about their matching gift program.

## **PLANNED GIVING**

Gifts made through estate planning provide for the future growth of the institution. The Legacy Society honors those who have made provisions for Hartford Seminary in their estate plans.

## **GIFTS IN KIND**

Hartford Seminary welcomes gifts in kind including goods and services that meet the programmatic needs of the organization.

## **ONLINE GIVING**

Available at [www.hartsem.edu](http://www.hartsem.edu)

**Does Hartford Seminary have your most current email address? If not, drop us a line at [info@hartsem.edu](mailto:info@hartsem.edu).**

# Spring Semester Courses

## Arts & Ministry

- The Vital Vintage Church - How Traditional Congregations Thrive! (AM-628)  
*Intensive: 1/26, 2/23, 3/15, 4/12, 5/3*

## Ethics

- Introduction to Christian Ethics (ET-525)  
*Intensive: 1/27, 2/17, 3/9, 3/30, 4/20*
- Introduction to Islamic Law (ET-640) - *Online*

## History

- Life of the Prophet Muhammad (HI-536) - *Online*
- Encountering World Christianity (HI-532)
- Muslims in American Religious History: Comparative Perspectives on Race, Gender and Politics (HI-628)  
*Online OR On Campus*

## Interfaith Dialogue

- Introduction to Christianity & Islam (DI-508)
- Religion, Conflict & Peacemaking (DI-648)  
*Intensive: 1/26, 2/23, 3/15, 4/12, 5/3*

## Language

- Introduction to New Testament Greek II (LG-562)
- Readings in New Testament Greek II (LG-662)
- Readings in the Qur'an (LG-690)

## Religion and Society

- Women, Religion and the Future of Faith Communities (RS-661) - *Online*

## Scripture

- Hebrew Bible I (SC-519)
- Major Themes of the Bible & Qur'an (SC-634)  
*Course takes place in Herndon, VA*

## Theology

- Looking at Jesus Christ in the Context of the Modern World (TH-606)
- Readings in Shi'a Tradition (TH-652)
- Christian-Muslim Encounter: The Theological Dimension (TH-663)  
*Intensive: 1/21, 2/11, 3/3, 4/7, 4/21*

## Worship and Spirituality

- Essential Writings of Howard Thurman (WS-627)
- Islamic Spirituality and Virtue Ethics in Today's World (WS-536)
- Women's Leadership Institute II (WS-552)  
*1/22-23, 2/19-20, 3/18-19, 4/15-16, 5/6-7*

## Special Pricing

The non-credit audit fee for courses is \$575. A special audit fee of \$385 is available for the following groups: donors of \$250 or more, persons age 60 and older, persons 55 and older receiving disability income, graduates of Hartford Seminary degree programs or the Cooperative M.Div, and Hartford Seminary Adjunct Faculty. There is a limit of one course per academic year for all groups except those 60 and older, for whom there is no limit.

To register, please contact the Registrar at 860-509-9511 or email [registrar@hartsem.edu](mailto:registrar@hartsem.edu).

## Events & Conferences

**January 22, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.** - *Imam Ali Chair Inauguration*

**February 1, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.** - *Nitty Gritty Church Governance from the Bottom Up with the Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper*

**April 4, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.** - *Rion Lecture on Ministry in Daily Life by Dr. Jose Casanova*

**April 11, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.** - *Spiritual Entrepreneurship Workshop: Regenerative Leadership for Clergy, Non-Profits, and Businesses with the Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper*

**May 9, 2016** - *Annual Meeting*

**September 30 - October 1, 2016** - *Inaugural Mini-Seminary Weekend*



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### **TAKE THE TIME**

Take the time to sing a song,  
for all those people who don't belong:  
the women wasted by defeat,  
the men condemned to walk the street,  
the down and out we'll never meet.

Take the time to say a prayer  
for all those people who face despair:  
the starving multitudes who pray  
to make it through another day,  
who watch their children slip away.

Take the time to hear the plea  
of every desperate refugee:  
the millions who have had to flee  
their lands, their loves, their liberty,  
who turn in hope to you and me.

Take the time to take a stand  
for peace and justice in every land.  
Where power causes deep unrest,  
come take the part of the oppressed,  
and then, says God, you will be blessed.

Words and music: Miriam Therese Winter  
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