Calling all VTS alumni/ae authors: Did you know that the Bishop Payne Library is collecting books published by VTS Alums? If you have published a book, the Bishop Payne Library would like to have two copies for the library collection. One copy goes into the library’s general collections and can be borrowed by library patrons. A second copy goes in a special collection, the Alumni/Alumnae Collection. Please notify us at paynelib@vts.edu whenever you publish a book.

Additionally, if you wrote a thesis while you were a student, the library has a copy on file. A copy of all theses written by Virginia Theological Seminary students (Doctor of Ministry, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Christian Education, and Honors Theses) are automatically added to the alumni/alumnae collection at the time of graduation.

The Bishop Payne Library also maintains a bulletin board of alumni and alumnae news. A member of the library staff posts articles about alumni and alumnae from diocesan newspapers onto the bulletin board to keep the Seminary community appraised. If you have news that you would like to share with the VTS community, please notify Deborah Hewson, Periodicals Assistant, at dhewson@vts.edu, or fax an article to Debbie at (703) 370-0935.

More information about the Alumni/Alumnae Collection, as well as other helpful resources, can be found on our web site at www.vts.edu.
"Seek the Truth, Come Whence it May, Cost What it Will"

During the Seminary’s 182nd Commencement in May, these words of Dean William Sparrow, which more than a century ago became an inspiration for succeeding faculty members and students, headlined an attractive new publication, The Faculty, issued to honor the faculty of Virginia Seminary and thank them for their service to the Seminary and our students over the ages.

In announcing the publication, Dean Horne emphasized that “The Faculty celebrates the wealth of achievements of our distinguished current faculty members, including their recent publications, while honoring all former faculty members of the Seminary since its founding in 1823.”

Publication of The Faculty coincided with the launch of a new challenge grant appeal to fund the Seminary’s 2005 Faculty Residence Initiative. In December of 2004 the Seminary began construction of a semi-detached residence at the west end of the Seminary campus along Seminary Road. The much-needed residence will house two faculty families and will help meet the near-term needs for faculty residential housing at the Seminary.

We recently received a leadership challenge matching grant of $200,000 for this vital project from a private Virginia foundation. To receive these funds we must match them by December 31, 2005. Meeting the $200,000 challenge will provide the necessary funding to complete construction of this important addition to the Seminary’s campus.

In announcing the 2005 Faculty Residence Initiative, Dean Horne stressed that “the Seminary has a strong commitment to theological education within a residential community. We have found an intense residential program to be the optimum environment for the formation of students. Members of the faculty live on campus, host small group worship in their homes each week, and invite students for fellowship and meals in their residences. A residential faculty facilitates the engagement of students and faculty in a daily round of study, worship, fellowship, and common meals.”

Demands on the Seminary’s faculty have increased significantly in the last few years. There has been an extensive revision of the Seminary’s curriculum incorporating new and intensive August and January terms; an expansion of continuing education programs at our Center for Lifetime Theological Education; a new Doctor of Ministry in Educational Leadership degree; the inauguration of a Summer Collegium for small parishes in 2006; and an increase in visiting professors and fellows to meet the needs of the wider church.

I hope you will agree with me that it is appropriate that we give thanks for the inspired and dedicated service of our faculty through the publication of this handsome brochure, at the same time we launch an initiative to enhance residential housing for our faculty here on Seminary Hill.

We ask for your generosity in supporting the 2005 Faculty Residence Initiative by honoring or remembering members of the Seminary faculty who have been important in your own lives. Each special gift will be matched by the challenge grant, doubling the value of everyone’s contribution.

Your continuing support of the Seminary does make a difference!

Ed Hall
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Copies of the new brochure, “The Faculty”, and information on how to honor members of the Seminary faculty through contributions to the 2005 Faculty Residence Initiative, may be obtained by contacting Edwin King Hall, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia, 22304. 1-800- 941-0083. ehall@vts.edu. Donations may also be made on line at www.vts.edu.
Episcopal Teacher Honored with Two National Awards

Episcopal Teacher, a quarterly newsletter of The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary, recently captured two Polly Bond Awards at the annual Episcopal Communicators conference in Salt Lake City.

The newsletter received an honorable mention for special achievement in church communications for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2004 issues. The publication is edited by Dorothy Linthicum, Amy Gearey Dyer, and George Kroupa.

Judy Gattis Smith, a regular correspondent for Episcopal Teacher, received a Polly Bond Award of Merit for a feature article directed to teachers. The article, The Challenge for Church’s Teachers: Inspire Reflection, Welcome Uncertainty, encourages teachers to trust in “the holiness God brings forth—often in our children.”

Episcopal Teacher was also honored at the Associated Church Press conference in Nashville as a winner in the Award 2004: Best of the Christian Press. More than 1,000 entries were received from contemporary Christian and ecumenical publishers throughout the country.

Episcopal Teacher received a third place award for Best in Class for newsletters. The judges noted that the publication provides “in-depth coverage of the subject matter.”

“We are honored to receive awards in general excellence from both the Episcopal Communicators and the Associated Church Press,” said Linthicum. “Recognition like this encourages us to continue our coverage of education in the Episcopal Church with more depth and creativity.”

His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.

Jeremiah 20:9

The 2006 John Hines Preaching Award

The prophetic voice that characterized Presiding Bishop John Hines’ ministry should be central to sermons submitted for Virginia Theological Seminary’s annual John Hines Preaching Award.

All preachers - bishops, priests, deacons, and laypersons - are invited to submit one sermon for the Hines Award. Sermons may be submitted by the preacher or by a listener, with the preacher’s permission.

The sermon must have been delivered to a congregation in the Episcopal Church between I Advent 2004 and the last Sunday after Pentecost 2005. The sermon must be received by the John Hines Preaching Award Committee by December 15, 2005. The name of the award recipient will be announced in Spring 2006.

The recipient of the John Hines Preaching Award will receive $2,000.

For further information about the Hines Award, please visit our web site at www.vts.edu/news/awards or call Rosemari Sullivan at 1-800-941-0083.
Class of 2005 Commencement

Photos clockwise from left to right: The Rt. Rev. Peter Lee, Bishop of Virginia, and the Very Rev. Martha J. Horne, president and dean of Virginia Seminary; Sarabeth Goodwin; the Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger, professor of Systematic Theology, and “her” class; Laine Goren accepting a special award on behalf of her son, Adam; Rose Duncan and Alistair So; recipients of the Harris Award, Scott Walters and Carlye Hughes; 2005 Doctor of Ministry recipients; Rosemary Beales (left), recipient of the Dudley Award, and Kathleen Gannon, recipient of the Ford Chair; Brad Sullivan and Lauren Browder.
Dear Friends,

What a gift Spring is here in Virginia and particularly at Virginia Theological Seminary! The campus was in full bloom as our graduating class enjoyed the well deserved celebration of the three years spent preparing for ordination by 53 graduates. It was an honor for me to participate in commencement as a recipient of a Doctor in Divinity degree, *honoris causa* (an honor on which the Board of Trustees had voted prior to the offer of Director of Alumni Affairs).

The Alumni/Alumnae Executive Committee met prior to commencement and were joined by our Class Steward coordinators, Janet Tarbox and Randy Dales. We discussed the development of the Class Steward role with an emphasis on the ministry of connection. The AAEC gave enthusiastic support to the reworking of the description of this role. In addition we are exploring some new possibilities for alumni gatherings in various places around the country. More on this in the next newsletter!

The First Three Years Program, funded by a Lilly Endowment Grant, gathered here the first week in June and “graduated” the first group to participate in this program. I was able to participate by offering a seminar on priestly vocation. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know a particular group of graduates. The participants report that this program has enhanced their ministry and strengthened them spiritually as they move into their life as priests of the Church.

One of the great joys of this work is receiving your phone calls and emails. Each day in this office, I am given the gift of “meeting” more of you in a variety of ways. We continue to enhance the web and hope that you will begin to find your class page a source of connection and reconnection with one another and with the Seminary.

Have a good summer and if you are in the area, please stop by.

Rosemari Sullivan
Director of Alumni Affairs

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS:


**September 29, 2005** - VTS Luncheon and Seminary Reflection at Christ Church, Raleigh, North Carolina.

**October 3, 2005** - Class Stewards Meeting at Virginia Seminary.

**October 5-6, 2005** AAEC Meeting at Virginia Seminary.

**November 17, 2005** - VTS Dinner in San Francisco, California.

Convocation 2005

October 4-5, 2005
Sprigg Lectures by

*The Most Reverend Robin Eames*
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

**Lecture I**
The Anglican Communion: A Growing Reality

**Lecture II**
The Anglican Communion: What Communion?

**Faculty Seminars:**

*Hearing Salvation: Christology in Music*
presented by
Dr. Jeffrey Hensley

*Lifetime Theological Education: An Alumni View*
presented by
The Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo and
The Rev. Dr. J. Barney J. Hawkins, IV
of people. Horace Clarence Boyer, Composer and Church Musician; Sally Mitchell Bucklee, Past President of the Episcopal Women’s Caucus and General Convention Deputy; and James Rowland Lowe, Jr., Chairman of the Governing Board of the College of Preachers, received Doctors of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. Three Doctors in Divinity, *honoris causa* were given out as well, to the following VTS graduates: the Rt. Rev. Samuel Kelechi Eze, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ukwa, Nigeria; the Rev. Leon Pharr Spencer, Dean of the School of Ministry for the Diocese of North Carolina; and the Rev. Canon Rosemari Gaughan Sullivan, former Executive Officer and Secretary of General Convention.

The Commencement Address was given by the Rev. Dr. Edward H. Kryder (VTS ‘53), Adjunct Instructor in Pastoral Theology at Virginia Seminary. Kryder imparted upon the graduates two gifts, the first being a prayer written by Welshman John Hencher:

*Risen Lord, give us a heart for simple things: love, laughter, bread, wine, dreams.*

*Fill us with green growing hope.*

*And make us an Easter people whose song is Alleluia, whose sign is Peace, and whose name is Love.*

The second gift Kryder shared with graduates was the idea of a personal loom onto which he hoped the graduating students would weave the prayer into their own developing tapestries. “The *warp* [of a loom],” explained Kryder, “the longitudinal basic indispensable essential onto which everything else is intersected, represents *Risen Lord;* the *weft,* the latitudinal back-and-forth interweaving is *us.* Leaders are called to teach and preach and preside over interweaving the weft of Christian holiness through the warp of Christ risen.”

Dr. Kryder spoke of the various threads making up his tapestry including love, laughter, bread, wine, dreams. Kryder also focused on hope saying, “To lead the people of God into the mission of the kingdom is to patiently, painstakingly, persistently feed and nourish them with the green growing hope of holy scripture, so that in the clutches of a world incessantly devastated by the sins of humanity and the ravages of nature, by ‘terror, terror, terror’ all around, God’s people will be richly endowed with the wealth of biblical hope.”

Kryder concluded his talk with the following words by John Donne, encouraging graduates to weave them into the warp of their own tapestries:

*Whom God loves, God loves to the end:*  
*And not to their end, and to their death,*  
*But to God’s end,*  
*And God’s end is that God might love them more.*
First Three Years Program a Valuable Resource for Newly Ordained

In 2002, Virginia Seminary’s Center for Lifetime Theological Education launched the First Three Years Program for the newly ordained, a program designed to ease the transition from seminary into ordained ministry. The first three years are crucial – especially for a young priest. It is during these formative years that a pastor will learn – or not learn – that ministry is never done in isolation, but rather in a complex quilt of relationships and learning opportunities that will support and shape one’s lifetime of ministry. In the First Three Years Program, supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, new pastors learn the skills, practices, and habits they will need as they move from their first pastoral assignment into what will be for many, their first solo job.

“From day one,” says the Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo, Director of the Seminary’s Center for Lifetime Theological Education, “in order to sustain a long and fruitful ministry, pastoral leaders must build upon their theological education with prayer, reflection, intimate friendship in a small group of peers, and continued theological study.”

Program participants learn from supervisors, mentors, and peer reflection what the challenges of ministry will be and how to build the habits and skills to meet those challenges. By allowing participants to set their own learning goals and pursue them where they wish, the new priest is enabled to learn while doing and reflect upon learning based in experience.

According to the Rev. Cheryl Clark (VTS ’02), who just recently completed her third year in the program, “For me, as a new priest in Arkansas, and not knowing any of the priests there, I had no mentors or anyone I could go to for help or to bounce ideas off of. The First Three Years Program allowed me to create a much-needed support network. Also, it forced me to commit, in advance, to continuing education, something I may not have thought to do - or had time to do - on my own.”

The depth and variety of leadership skills that a pastor must bring to the complexities of modern church life are far greater than those required a generation ago. The healthy congregation of today needs skillful leadership to guide them as they grapple with issues of change – and the theological implications for action in this world of shifting values, cultures, and religious outlook. As a result, important skills for a modern pastor are those that help him/her understand congregational systems, power dynamics, and how to manage change and resultant conflict.

The Rev. Mark Jones (VTS ’03), a participant in the First Three Years Program states, “Seminary is primarily a belief-driven experience, but in a parish the experience is about, interface and integration. The First Three Year Program helps you make a connection between theory and application rather than taking a formal, structured idea and trying to force it into a place.”

A ministry of spiritual depth and intellectual integrity will be the foundation of a lifelong ministry. The clergy who would respond to that call will need not only the riches of a thorough theological education, but the constant support of training and education that equips them for the myriad demands they will encounter during different times and places in their ministry.

“Depending on the leadership and support you get in your first job out of Seminary,” says program graduate the Rev. Lyndon Shakespeare (VTS ’02), “you can get cynical about what you do and about everyone else, or you can come to the First Three Years Program and filter through your experiences with peers”.

Our century is a time where the demands on leadership are ever changing. As such, clergy must understand that education and training are a lifetime enterprise. For more information about the First Three Years Program, contact Bridget Smiley at bsmiley@vts.edu or by calling 703-461-1758.
"Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord"
A Fond Farewell to the Class of 2005

"I arise today, through God’s strength to pilot me; God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s way to lie before me, God’s shield to protect me, God’s host to secure me…"
St. Patrick’s Lorica

On May 19, 2005, Virginia Theological Seminary celebrated its 182nd Commencement in the Lettie Pate Whitehead Auditorium, awarding 84 students, representing more than 24 dioceses and five countries, with degrees of either Master in Divinity, Master in Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Post-Graduate Diploma in Anglican Studies, Certificate of Work Accomplished, and Doctor of Ministry.

The recipient of the Dudley Speech Prize, awarded in memory of the Rt. Rev. Thomas Underwood Dudley in recognition of demonstrated excellence in the public reading of Scripture and Liturgy, was Rosemary Beales (Diocese of Maryland). The recipient of the 2005 Virginia Seminary Chair, a gift of Susan Ford to a member of the graduating class who has exhibited a strong commitment to the community life and mission of the Seminary, was Kathleen Gannon (Diocese of Southeast Florida). Recipients of the Harris Award, given each year to candidates for Holy Orders who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability, were Carlye Hughes (Diocese of New York) and James “Scott” Walters (Diocese of Arkansas). A special degree for senior Adam Pailet Goren (Diocese of Texas), who died in December 2004, was presented to Adam’s mother, Laine C. Goren, by Bishop Lee.

Eleven candidates were presented for the degree of Doctor of Ministry. This is the first time in the more than 30 years of the program that so many candidates have been presented at one time.

Honorary degrees are awarded every year by Virginia Seminary in recognition of faithful and notable service to church and the world, creative and innovative leadership in parish ministry, in civic and political life, in overseas missions, academia, and in ecumenical, social, diocesan, and national church ministries.

This year, the Seminary awarded six honorary degrees to acknowledge the service of a highly distinguished group

Members of the Class of 2005

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