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Harding School of Theology

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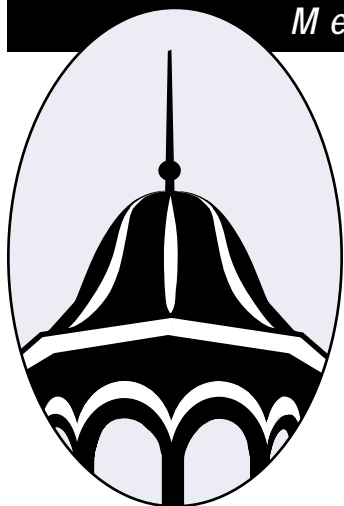
**HARDING**  
UNIVERSITY

# The Bridge

Memphis, Tennessee

Harding  
University  
Graduate  
School of  
Religion

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## September Events Open Fall Term at the Graduate School

by Marcella Trevathan, editor

The fall semester at Harding University Graduate School of Religion involves the normal activities of any college or university: registration, finding classrooms, buying textbooks and supplies, and new student orientation. At the Graduate School, however, special events on the September calendar involved students, faculty and staff, alumni, and donors.

The Student Association sponsored "Coming Together" on Aug. 25. Students, faculty and staff gathered in the auditorium of the W.B. West Jr. Center for a period of worship and then shared a fellowship meal and games in the Hospitality Room. This event introduced new students and campus residents to each other in a relaxed setting. SA officers planned the event, led worship and cooked the meal.

On Sept. 9, the third annual

convocation was held in the auditorium. Convocation is a time of worship and dedication of the school year. Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, dean/executive director, introduced the 2002-2003 Lewis Scholars.

Gary Dodd, minister at the Vultee Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn., was the featured speaker. The Dodd family — Gary, Faith, Andrew and Rebekah — completed a "Bike across America" tour in July, bicycling through the 48 contiguous states in 12 months. Dodd, who is a doctor of ministry candidate at the Graduate School, focused on the lessons he and his family learned during their trip.

At the reception that followed, Dodd offered for sale prints of a lighthouse he painted in watercolors and note cards with the same print. He gave full proceeds to the library

expansion fund.

Each fall, the Graduate School honors those who give continuously and generously to its programs with the annual Advancement Council dinner. This year's dinner was held at the Adams Mark hotel with a patriotic theme and featured speakers Cmdr. Leanne Braddock, U.S. Navy, and Col. Richard M. Hartsell, U.S. Army. (See Larry Arick's article on page 4 for a full review of the dinner.)

These three events drew together all facets of the Graduate School — students, alumni, faculty, staff and donors — and made each person feel a part of meeting the challenge of ministry.

*(Editor's Note: The January 2002 issue of The Bridge listed Graduate School alumni who serve as chaplains in the United States armed services.)*

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Gary Dodd



Leanne Braddock



Richard Hartsell

## Flatt Named to TAMFT Board

Dr. Bill Flatt, professor of counseling, has been elected West Tennessee representative to the board of directors of Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. This position is a three-year term, beginning Jan. 1, 2003.

## Library Expansion Fund Grows

In previous issues of *The Bridge*, you have read about the plans to expand the Graduate School library. The total amount needed is \$750,000. As of Friday, Oct. 18, 256 people have pledged or given \$222,175 to the library fund. Of these people, 212 are our graduates and 38 are members of the Advancement Council.

For more information about the library project, please contact Jane Tomlinson at (901) 432-7750. She will be glad to talk with you about it. And be warned: You can't say "no" to Jane!

## Notable

Dr. Rick Oster taught an extension class on Acts in western Canada last month and reported that his students traveled a total of 10,000 miles to attend.

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## From the Dean



## A Bridge to Ministry

Over the past few months, I have had several conversations with preachers, campus ministers and church leaders on the need among younger Christians for a bridge into ministry. My pre-recorded message goes something like this:

We cannot learn all we need to learn about ministry in a classroom. The best way to train for ministry is through a mentoring experience where one can integrate his or her spiritual gifts, personality, experiences and education with real ministry challenges. Everyone in full-time ministry should have several "Timothys" to whom they can pass on the valuable wisdom and insights they have gained in ministry. The mentoring will also encourage more involvement in ministry and keep us in ministry longer.

Few people started ministry knowing that it was exactly what they wanted to do or feeling totally confident in what they were called to do. I started with a group of 4th grade boys who led singing every Wednesday night, and then graduated to a five-minute talk. And step-by-step, with a ton of encouragement, it grew on me. My parents' faithfulness in ministry also influenced me. Much later I discovered that preaching was more than speaking on Sundays! It involved some administration, some counseling, an ability to manage conflict, and some interpersonal skills. Mentors built a bridge for me from God's grace to ministry.

Mentoring needs to be more intentional in every church. With dozens of young men and women looking for some way to make the transition into ministry, churches need to reclaim an active role in training for ministry. Graduate schools have been accused of being too disconnected from ministry or the church — that can happen. In view of the level of

involvement in ministry among our faculty and students, the Graduate School has no "ivory towers." But from my perspective, the tide has turned elsewhere. As churches have grown larger, they have declined in training for ministry and have become more consumer-driven. If, in these few sentences, I could convince you to be more proactive in training for ministry, what would be the next steps in building the bridge?

1. **Plan an apprenticeship or internship.** An apprenticeship is a two-year mentoring ministry where a student takes two courses a semester (commuting to Memphis a couple of weeks a year and taking online courses) and ministers 25 hours a week. As leaders, make a commitment to budget funds for at least a half-time position with a two-year appointment. Also, identify the strongest area of ministry in the church in which to mentor someone. Churches from Memphis, Tenn., to Great Falls, Mont., have provided a valuable bridge into ministry for many students.
2. **Contact the Graduate School.** Keith Mask directs our field education program. Contact him <[kmask@hugsr.edu](mailto:kmask@hugsr.edu)> and let him know of your interest in a student in a particular area of ministry such as preaching, youth, campus, family life, missions or counseling. As students are available, he will refer you to one who is interested.
3. **Encourage a vision for ministry.** Take the initiative to tell young Christians that they would make good ministers because of the specific gifts you see them using.

— *Everett W. Huffard* ([dean@hugsr.edu](mailto:dean@hugsr.edu))

## Counseling Students Capture Statewide Prizes Paper competition nets first and second places for second year running

by Mark Parker, director of admissions

Harding University Graduate School of Religion students Tammie Hacker and Tami Rosoff have been awarded first and second place in the Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's annual student paper competition.

The prizes include complimentary registration to the TAMFT conference and the opportunity to present their work to conference participants.

Hacker's first-place paper, titled "Schizophrenia," was a personal search for answers, as she has a close family member afflicted with the disorder. "There are a thousand explanations given as to the cause of schizophrenia," she noted. "What I learned most is that it is no respecter of persons."

A long-time Memphis resident, Hacker graduated from Harding University with a

degree in social work, and from the University of Mississippi with an M.Ed. in special education. Hacker appreciates the relationships she has with her professors at the Graduate School. "I love how the professors go the second mile with students," she says. "They will help you and answer any of your questions."

Rosoff's paper, titled "Solution-Focused Brief Therapy," gave an overview of the therapeutic model, then compared and contrasted it to the way Jesus ministered.

She moved to Memphis from Virginia, changing careers as well. She spent several years in public relations and television journalism after graduating with a degree in journalism from the University of Ohio.

Rosoff will graduate in December. When reflecting on



Tammie Hacker and Tami Rosoff

her experience at the Graduate School, she comments on the amount of care and attention given students by the faculty and staff. "These are kind people who care about how you want to serve the Lord."

Christine Parker, 2002 graduate and student/associate member representative to the TAMFT board of directors, says

that professors in graduate MFT programs across the state submit papers written by their students. The competition is judged by licensed MFT's not affiliated with a school, and identifying marks on papers are removed to keep the competition fair.

Last year's first and second places were also Graduate School students.

## 2002-2003 Lewis Scholars Named

Dr. Evertt Huffard is pleased to announce that three students have been named Lewis Scholars for 2002-2003: Nathan Bills, Charles Kiser and Bob Logsdon.

Nathan Bills received the

Cleaton F. Crosby Memorial Scholarship in Small Church Ministry. In December 2001, Nathan graduated magna cum laude from Harding University with a 3.99 GPA. He participat-

ed in summer campaigns to Kenya and Haiti as an undergraduate, and he served on the university's spiritual life committee. Nathan is from Tullahoma, Tenn. He and his wife, Jenni, moved to Memphis in January and look forward to a life of service together ministering to the poor.

Charles Kiser received the Oliver E. Rogers Memorial Scholarship in Pastoral Ministry and Congregational Development. Charles graduated summa cum laude from Harding University in May 2002 with a 4.0 GPA. He was a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society as well as *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Last year, Charles led a spring break campaign to St. Louis, and this

year he worked as student coordinator for all 30 of Harding's spring break campaigns. He has also served in inner city internships in Fort Worth and as a youth intern in Longview, Texas. Charles and his wife, Julie, live in Little Rock, Ark.

Bob Logsdon graduated from Harding University in December 1999 with a degree in Bible and was a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society. At the Graduate School, Bob has distinguished himself as a man of high academic caliber and spiritual strength. He works as an apprentice with the Downtown Church of Christ in Memphis, bringing his ministry skills to the inner city. Bob is from Nebo, Ill., and lives on campus. He will be married in December to Sarah Ashlock.



Jack and Annie May Lewis pose with Lewis Scholars Bob Logsdon, Nathan Bills and Charles Kiser.

*Return Service Requested*

## Advancement Council News

*by Larry Arick, director of advancement*

The Advancement Council meeting on Sept. 26 was one of the most exciting ever, and generated many positive comments.

The special event carried a patriotic theme for program and speakers. After a local Boy Scout troop presented the colors, the assembly recited the pledge of allegiance. Graduate School alumnus and doctor of ministry candidate Leon Sanderson led a male octet in singing "America The Beautiful," "The Lord Is My Shepherd," and the Graduate School Alma Mater.

The first speaker was Cmdr. Leanne Braddock of the U.S. Navy. Braddock is the director of the Navy's Equal Employment office and is pursuing the master of arts in counseling at the Graduate School. With retirement from the Navy imminent, she decided to study here. She discussed the way the Graduate School has had a positive impact on her work, adding that almost

every week she can take something she has learned and apply it.

Col. Richard M. Hartsell, a chaplain in the U.S. Army for 27 years, spoke next. Hartsell received his master's degree from the Graduate School in 1975 and has planted churches in every city in which he has been stationed. He is one of four army colonels/chaplains affiliated with the Church of Christ.

Dr. David B. Burks, president of Harding University, presented the Advancement Council Member of the Year Award to Barbara Taylor. Taylor, president of the local chapter of the Associated Women for Harding, is a super volunteer who is involved in many activities.

In September, the first annual Harding University/Harding Graduate School golf tournament was held at the Chickasaw Country Club in Memphis. Randy Lillard



*Barbara Taylor*

of Memphis chaired the committee, which planned the event and recruited 80 golfers to participate. This tournament raised money for the general fund.

The students at the Graduate School are grateful to the men and women who work tirelessly to support their studies.

## Holladay to Speak at West Lectures

*by Lance Hawley, Student Association president*

Dr. Carl R. Holladay will speak Nov. 14-15 at the annual W.B. West Jr. Lectures on "The New Testament as the Church's Book." Holladay, professor of New Testament at Emory University in Atlanta, received his B.A. from Abilene Christian University, his M.Th. from Princeton, and the Ph.D. from the University of

Cambridge. He is a respected biblical scholar and has published several books and articles on Hellenistic Judaism, preaching and biblical exegesis. Holladay is completing a new book on New Testament theology and will present sections of this work at the West Lectures.

On Nov. 14, the public is invited to hear

Holladay from 7-8 p.m. in the West Center Auditorium. A question-and-answer period will follow from 8-8:30 p.m. A question-and-answer session for the Graduate School of Religion faculty and students will be held Friday, Nov. 15 at 9 a.m. He will also speak at chapel at 11 a.m. in the Pittman Chapel in the Mansion.