



For *the* Glory of God

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## *Serving the Church through Theological Education*

DENNIS P. HOLLINGER, PH.D., PRESIDENT &  
 COLMAN M. MOCKLER DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS

We are thankful to God for his faithfulness and blessing upon Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary during the past year. Despite the enrollment and financial challenges facing theological seminaries across North America, by his grace we completed FY 2014 with some encouraging signs.

Much is currently being written about these difficult challenges. Some reflect larger trends in the American Church. Some reflect seminaries' inability or unwillingness to respond to the genuine needs of the Church. By contrast, Gordon-Conwell has often run counter to the broader trends in theological education.

In the late 19th century when seminaries were not educating for global missions, A.J. Gordon founded what eventually became Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—expressly to carry out the Great Commission. At the same time in Philadelphia, Russell Conwell began training working class students who were financially unable to attend one of the elite residential seminaries dominating the theological education landscape of that era. His vision was to create "...a vigorously biblical school...in close touch with the modern culture."

In 1969, at a time when many seminaries had drifted from their biblical and theological moorings, Billy Graham, Harold John Ockenga and J. Howard Pew brought the two schools together to form Gordon-Conwell, a top-flight academic seminary with a deep devotion to church ministry, cultural engagement and biblical fidelity.

In the mid-70s, when few seminaries were training men and women for distinctively urban contexts, Gordon-Conwell established its Boston campus (CUME) to prepare ministers and lay leaders for effective ministry in our cities.

In 1992, when seminaries were largely focused on residential education, we opened the Charlotte campus to provide a church-based, adult education model to reach those who could not leave their jobs and locations. The model was duplicated in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2006.

And in 2010, as the Hispanic population in American culture was experiencing unprecedented growth, we started the Hispanic Ministries Program to prepare for ministry one of the most underserved groups in theological education.

This past year, we also built upon the long-standing Semlink online classes to develop an innovative, interactive Semlink+ to meet the online needs of all campuses and two hybrid degree programs, which bring together online classes with face-to-face interaction.

In short, we have a long history of responding to the genuine needs of the Church by preparing men and women from across denominations for a wide variety of ministries. And in our own time, as many seminaries struggle to stay afloat, we, too, feel the economic constraints. But we are grateful for solid enrollment, growth in giving and above all, a spiritually vital education that seeks to address the contexts of our world, while remaining rooted in the gospel and God's Word. In this, our vision guides us: "To advance Christ's Kingdom in every sphere of life by equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically."

## ENROLLMENT

For the fourth year in a row, we experienced overall enrollment growth, with 2,137 students in the 2013 fall semester, and 2,165 in the spring of 2014. Contributing to this continued growth are multiple delivery systems, including: a residential campus; classes offered at night, on weekends and in intensive formats at our other campuses; and offsite Hispanic Ministries courses taught in several states and countries.

Among the highlights this year were Charlotte's record enrollment of nearly 500 students during the spring semester, and record enrollments in Jacksonville and our Hispanic Ministries Program. Another key to solid enrollment has been the Partnership Program, through which students raise funds for the seminary, receive a generous scholarship and gain valuable training in financial stewardship.



New student orientation at Hamilton campus

This year our students represent 63 countries and 93 denominations. This is particularly significant, given that one major emphasis of our vision statement is to be a global seminary that both reflects the realities of the Church, and provides an education in which we learn from each other across national, ethnic and denominational lines. Some of our students come from places of overt opposition against the Church, and their faithfulness amid persecution is an encouragement and source of wisdom for our community.

## FINANCES AND GIVING

For FY 2014, we ended the year with an increase of \$8 million in assets, and our endowment reached \$55 million, thanks to a strong market and additional gifts to the endowment. Our audited statement of activities showed a very modest surplus of \$62,000. In our overall revenues of \$25 million, 60 percent is dependent on enrollment, including tuition, apartments and dorms.

Giving this year reached an all-time high of \$11 million in cash, counting both restricted and unrestricted giving. This did not include campaign pledges, but did include the fulfillment of some pledges. We are thankful to God for the 4,886 donors who gave to Gordon-Conwell last year. Their generosity reflects a strong commitment to our vision and to our deep theological and ministry commitments. Because we have an aging donor base, one of the goals for the coming year is to develop new friendships with potential major donors who believe in the mission of the seminary.

Our comprehensive campaign, "Our Legacy – Our Future, Serving the Church with Excellence and Innovation," has reached the 75 percent mark of a \$64.5 million goal, as we enter the final year of this fundraising effort. We have accomplished much through

the campaign, including campus renewal, scholarship funding and resources for new initiatives. Through the campaign, we are seeking to provide new technology for maintaining adequate education and administration across all our campuses, finish funding the Charlotte building addition and make much needed apartment renovations on the Hamilton campus. The campaign also includes a major emphasis on planned giving.

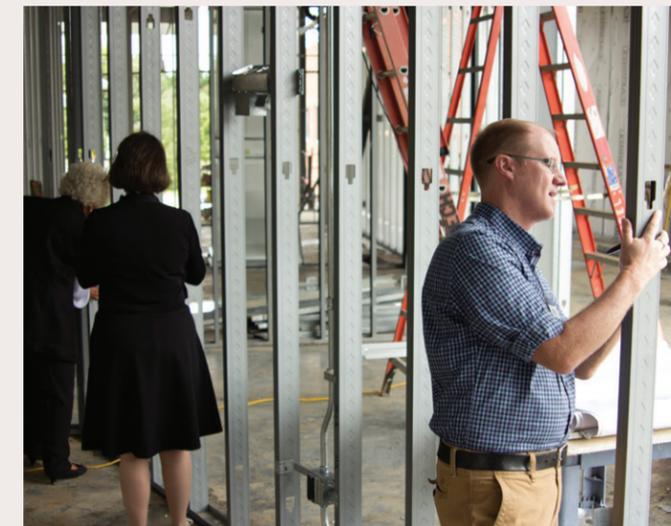
## FACILITIES

We are deeply grateful to God for beautiful and adequate facilities that enable us to educate women and men for varied ministries in Christ's Kingdom. Of the three owned properties, only the Boston campus has any debt (\$1.3 million). During the past year, Jacksonville moved into new rented facilities that provide easy geographical access, shared space with other ministries and first class accommodations for offices, a library, classrooms and community-building.

Charlotte is in the midst of a much-needed building addition, the David M. Rogers Hall of Missions, which will include classrooms, offices, a large all-purpose room and exhibition space focused on the global mission of the Church and Gordon-Conwell. The Hamilton campus continues to find the new Alumni Hall and Pierce Great Hall indispensable for both program needs and community interaction.

God calls us to be good stewards of all that he places in our hands. Thus, we want to ensure that we have adequate funding to keep all our properties in good condition. In some cases, because of financial constraints, we have fallen behind in maintenance and upkeep of some of our buildings. In particular, apartments on the Hamilton campus are 30 to 40 years old, clearly show their age and wear and are in serious need of renovation. Through the campaign, we are seeking funds to make those important renovations.

Scripture verses affixed to girders of new Charlotte campus wing during prayer service by faculty, staff, student workers.



## FACULTY

Though no new faculty were added this past year, it was a good time for consolidation and deepening of relationships across our campuses. Our two all-faculty retreats at the beginning and end of the year reflected a wonderful spirit of collegiality and fellowship among the faculty. God has given to Gordon-Conwell not just outstanding scholars respected around the world, but godly men and women who have a heart for the Church and the gospel and are deeply committed to the spiritual and ministry formation of our students.

Faculty members come from many countries and denominations, but find unity in our theological commitments and in the mission of serving the Church in theological education. As we hire future faculty, including adjunct faculty, we remain committed to adding individuals who are firmly committed to our theological and mission statements, who exhibit servant leadership in their teaching, have had ministry experience, are expert scholars in their field and are able to help women and men discern and grow in their ministry callings.

## PARTNERING WITH THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

As a multi-denominational seminary, we serve a broad spectrum of the Christian Church, and many organizations and institutions that are an arm of the Church. Thus, we have partnerships with many different denominations and organizations. Some of these are formal partnerships, while others are informal.

Throughout our history we have served mainline denominations, and many evangelicals in these denominations are Gordon-Conwell graduates. We have also served numerous evangelical denominations. As a result, the impact of the seminary has been broad in scope. Recently, several newer denominations emerging from the mainline have formed partnerships with us, including the Anglican Church in North America and the North American Lutheran Church at the Charlotte campus.

Likewise, over the years many para-church organizations have looked to Gordon-Conwell as a key source for staff. Recently both the Hamilton and Charlotte campuses have developed specific partnerships for training InterVarsity staff workers. Through our Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace, we have also developed many informal links for empowering those called to serve Christ in the marketplace.

As we educate women and men for the varied ministries of the Body of Christ, we are grateful for the prayers and gifts of our friends who have made this seminary such a significant servant of the Church. We have sought to be faithful to the gospel and God's Word, endeavored to be open to the Spirit's leading in responding to the needs of the Church and have looked to our Lord as the source and power for all that we do.

Thank you for standing with us in advancing Christ's Kingdom. 

Clockwise from top: Charlotte groundbreaking; Gordon-Conwell alumnus, Chris Rappazini (M.Div. '10); Hamilton commencement ceremony.



# Year in Review

Anne B. Doll



Across all campuses and programs, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary endeavors to serve the Church for the glory of God. Its leadership, faculty and staff are passionate about spiritually forming and biblically equipping its more than 2,000 students for gospel ministry—within the Church and beyond its doors, in the U.S. and into all the world. Following are brief glimpses of ongoing and new initiatives that took place in the past year across the broad Gordon-Conwell community. They are only the tip of the iceberg.

## Hamilton Campus

This fall, Gordon-Conwell and nearby Gordon College celebrated their mutual founding with a 125th Anniversary Worship Service in the college's A.J. Gordon Chapel. Both schools trace their roots to the Boston Missionary Training School, started by Rev. Dr. Adoniram Judson (A.J.) Gordon in 1889.

"While we are now two separate organizations, the Gordon-Conwell community is deeply grateful for the strong biblical foundation on which our two institutions stand, and for our longstanding friendship with Gordon College," comments Dr. Richard Lints, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Hamilton Campus and Andrew Mutch Distinguished Professor of Theology. "We pray that God will continue to greatly bless its leadership, faculty and staff in their faithful and steadfast service to him."

**Reaping the benefits of Alumni Hall** During the past year, the Hamilton campus has taken full advantage of the renovated Alumni Hall, hosting a number of important public forums with recognized Christian leaders and scholars. Guest speakers and topics, among many, included:

- "The Church and Immigration Reform," Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
- "Same Sex Relationships: Ministry Challenges in Light of the Bible's Teaching About Sex, Marriage and Gender," Dr. Gordon Hugenberg, Senior Minister, Boston's Park Street Church
- "Work and Rest: Ethical Reflections," Dr. Oliver O'Donovan, Emeritus Professor, Oxford and Edinburgh Universities
- "Naturalism and Religious Faith," Dr. Peter Berger, Director, Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Boston University

**National Preaching Conference** The biennial National Preaching Conference, "Faithful to the Call," welcomed pastors and other Christian leaders to campus in September. Featured speakers included Dr. Derek Tidball, Visiting Scholar, Spurgeon's College, London; Dr. Bryan Chappell, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, IL; Rev. Bryan Loritts, Lead Pastor, Fellowship Memphis; and Gordon-Conwell professors Dr. Carol Kaminski and Dr. Matt Kim.



Construction of Charlotte's new wing.

## Charlotte Campus

A major expansion project tops the list of new or ongoing initiatives at the Charlotte campus.

A new wing is currently under construction to house the David M. Rogers Hall of Mission. Named in memory of the highly respected attorney, seminary trustee and member of Charlotte's first graduating class, the new wing is expected to open in January 2015.

The hall will also house a Mentored Ministry center in honor of the late Rev. Russ Rosser, a beloved pastor, mentor and consummate servant of God who donated countless hours of service to the Charlotte campus. During the past year, a campaign to fund the expansion advanced significantly with the help of former Campaign Director Alan Cellamare. The campus also achieved an impressive budget turnaround under the leadership of Chief Operations and Advancement Officer Neely Gaston.

"The gains reflect increased giving, higher enrollments and greater participation in the seminary's Partnership Program," says Dr. Timothy Laniak, Charlotte Campus Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament.

**New online degrees** The Charlotte campus has introduced Gordon-Conwell's newest online degree options, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM) and the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL). These programs enable students to take up to 50 percent of coursework online. Residency requirements can be fulfilled in Charlotte and at other Gordon-Conwell campuses. As with all ministry degrees, students complete supervised Mentored Ministry rotations in their own local ministry contexts.

**New alumni forums** In addition, Charlotte introduced an important Alumni Forum initiative, with events to be held twice annually. The 2014 topics included "Jesus, Scripture, Israel and Palestine" and "Reach, Respect, Respond: A Conversation on the Church's Mission and the LGBTQ Community."

Lunch forum in Alumni Hall.



## Boston Campus

The Boston campus' successful launch of Field-based Mentored Ministry is already having favorable impact on its students' career choices and enthusiasm for ministry.

This unique program provides students with practical and reflective off-site training designed to develop expertise in an urban ministry specialization area and leadership skills. Church and community leaders serving as mentors facilitate learning through skill-building, personal formation and theological integration. Classes are project-based, with mentors serving as ministry coaches. Working in small groups, students address a real-life challenge or program development need of a host partner, and present a pastoral program or project report.

"This model was developed to address the specialized skills demanded of urban ministers as they seek ministry positions," explains Dr. Mark Harden, Boston Campus Dean and Associate Professor of Community Development and Outreach. "It also serves as a professional training model for many who already have rich ministry backgrounds and continue to minister while earning their degrees."

**New option for urban pastors** The Boston campus has introduced a pastoral care non-licensure track within its Master of Arts in Counseling program. This concentration is designed for individuals who do not intend to pursue licensure, but wish to better address the mental health needs of their congregations. The majority of course work is transferable to the mental health licensure track, which includes a supervised clinical practicum and internship experience. The mental health track also qualifies graduates to sit for licensure examination(s) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Kicking-off the new semester** The Boston campus is now beginning the fall and spring terms with a "first-day-of-class-orientation-and-convocation" kick-off event launched in 2013. The program is designed to provide spiritual enrichment, and enhance community and connectedness.

Boston campus' fall kick-off event.



## Jacksonville Campus

The Jacksonville campus experienced the highest summer enrollment in its eight year history. According to Dr. Ryan Reeves, Jacksonville's Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, the favorable increase "underscores our emphasis on steady and healthy growth through intentional student-focused hospitality."

During the past year, the campus also introduced a new Master of Arts in Christian Thought degree and is working toward the addition of a Doctor of Ministry.

**"Christ in Business" seminar** In February, Bob Doll—nationally recognized financial analyst and frequent guest on CNBC, Bloomberg TV and Fox Business News—led a "Christ in Business" seminar at the Jacksonville campus. The speaker shared insights on how believers can live gospel-centered lives in the workplace.

**Open courses** The campus has also launched a new opportunity for members of the public to experience a taste of theological education. A series of open courses now welcome visitors to join students for several hours of the first evening of a weekend class.

The initial event on C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien with Dr. Reeves attracted nearly 150 participants. Subsequent events, "The Dark Ages," with Dr. Reeves and "Theology of God," with guest professor Dr. Justin Holcomb, Adjunct Professor of Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary, also drew a number of Jacksonville area residents to the campus.

Jacksonville campus' new student orientation in August.





Haitian Pastoral Skills cohort.



Hispanic Ministries course in San Antonio, Texas.

## Doctor of Ministry Program

In keeping with the seminary’s vision “to advance Christ’s Kingdom in every sphere of life by equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically,” the Doctor of Ministry program, led by Dr. David Currie, Director and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, offers an array of new and ongoing D.Min. tracks that respond to that vision.

Thinking theologically, faculty teams launched two new tracks to address the needs of those ministering in an increasingly pluralistic, post-Christian world:

- Preaching to Culture and Cultures, with Dr. Scott Gibson and Dr. Matt Kim
- Transforming Congregations, with Dr. Jim Singleton and Dr. Paul Detterman

Several tracks had overseas residencies, reflecting the broader Gordon-Conwell core value to engage globally:

- Pastoral Skills in Haiti, with Dr. Karen Mason
- Bible Translation in Italy, with Dr. Roy Ciampa and Dr. Bryan Harmelink
- Global Christianity in Thailand, with Dr. Todd Johnson and Rev. Doug Birdsall

As an expression of living biblically, specifically how each generation passes along spiritual wisdom to the next, Dr. Alice Mathews and Dr. Karen Mason, a mother/daughter mentoring team, finished the third residency of their Ministry to Women track and are launching a new cohort to begin in June 2015.

To learn more about the seminary’s doctoral program, including many additional D.Min. tracks, visit

[www.gordonconwell.edu/dmin](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/dmin)

## Hispanic Ministries

The Hispanic Ministries Program (HMP) has grown steadily since it opened in 2010 to equip Hispanic church leaders with an affordable and accessible quality theological education tailored to their particular needs.

Under the leadership of its Dean and Professor of New Testament, Dr. Alvin Padilla, the program now serves approximately 400 students annually. Diploma and Master of Arts in Religion courses, taught in Spanish and English, are offered at sites throughout the U.S. and in other countries. Students also take online classes and attend intensive residencies held at the seminary’s various campuses.

**New York site in process** During the past year, Dr. Padilla and his team completed the application process to be registered as a degree granting institution with the New York Board of Regents, and will be undergoing peer review by theological seminaries in New York. A significant boost in enrollment is anticipated following Board of Regents’ approval.

**Conferring with denominations in U.S., Central America** In July 2014, after months of deliberations, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Spanish Eastern District of the Assemblies of God was signed by Gordon-Conwell President Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger and Rev. Manny Alvarez, Superintendent of the Spanish Eastern District. With this agreement, the two organizations commit to partner in providing theological education to the district’s constituency.

The HMP also began negotiations with numerous ecclesiastical judicatories in Central America—Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua—to launch a pilot program in those countries. A pilot course in El Salvador could start in early 2015.

[www.gordonconwell.edu/hmp](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/hmp)

## Ockenga Institute

The Ockenga Institute’s Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace this year joined with three other organizations to hold the Faith@Work Summit Conference in Boston.

Partners in this event included the Center for Faith & Work, LeTourneau University; the Center for Integrity in Business, Seattle Pacific University; and Oikonomia Network, Kern Family Foundation. Christian leaders from business, seminary, academic, church and ministry settings served as speakers for the sold-out conference.

The summit gathered active leaders and participants in the faith at work movement to assess the state of the movement, and develop a future agenda for individuals in the workplace, churches, marketplace ministries, seminaries, Bible schools, universities and business schools.

**Oasis serving alumni pastors** Oasis is a valuable Ockenga resource offered as a complimentary service for alumni pastors. “Here,” explains Ockenga Director Dr. David Horn, “they can receive counseling from Dr. Ken Swetland, Senior Professor of Ministry and former Academic Dean. Dr. Swetland has had an especially busy year, registering hundreds of appointments—in person, by phone and by email—for alumni pastors in transition or crisis.”

Dr. Swetland has also served as a pastor and chaplain in New England churches and nursing homes, and as a psychotherapist in several Boston area counseling centers.

**Resources** During its nearly 28 years, Ockenga has accumulated a wealth of resources in audio, video and print formats. These resources will soon be available on a new website that stands alongside and complements the seminary website. A Master Preacher series is one of myriad resources that will be accessible online. For more information, visit

[www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga-resources](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga-resources)

Guests gather outside Kaiser Chapel during Ockenga event.



## Alumni Services

Alumni Services, under the leadership of Director Rhonda Gibson, MAR '10, exists to help Gordon-Conwell’s 9,229 alumni stay connected with each other and the seminary.

Through the alumni website and InCommunity, a monthly e-newsletter that reaches more than 4,000 viewers, the Alumni Services team provides seminary and faculty news, information about continuing education opportunities, ministry tools and regional and national Alumni Connect events through which they can stay in touch with fellow graduates, seminary leaders and professors.

**Special events** In 2013 and 2014, more than 300 alumni gathered for special events, held in conjunction with major meetings such as the CCCC Family Conference, the Divine Presence conference (Hamilton campus), Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and PC (USA), PCA, UMC (WNCC) and EPC denominational meetings. In addition, nearly 350 alumni attended seminary forums and conferences.

**Promoting graduates through Alumni Impact** The team also provides Alumni Impact services through which they encourage and communicate the ongoing impact of alumni on the seminary—by their ministries and accomplishments, their recruitment of future students and their giving.

**More ministry tools** The Alumni Services office regards publications by the faculty as added ministry tools for alumni. Recently, the office created a faculty publications webpage and an ongoing series of videos called “Defining Moments” that feature Gordon-Conwell faculty members explaining their published works.

View faculty publications at [www.gordonconwell.edu/faculty-publications](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/faculty-publications)

View “Defining Moments” at [www.youtube.com/user/GordonConwell/playlists](http://www.youtube.com/user/GordonConwell/playlists)

To learn more about Alumni Services, visit [www.gordonconwell.edu/alumni](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/alumni)

Alumni gather with Dr. Jeffrey and Liz Arthurs in Singapore.





## A Vision for the Church in China

While serving as a student fellowship leader during college, Martin (M.Div., Hamilton campus) had his first taste of ministry burnout. “I was overwhelmed by the feeling of needing a true pastor, someone who would take care of me,” he remembers.

Growing up in a house church in southeastern China, he says, “We didn’t have a pastor in the sense of the common definition, one who belongs to one local church and pastors all the people there.”

During China’s Cultural Revolution in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, radical communists took over and forced missionaries to leave. Martin’s area, known as the “Jerusalem of China” for its large population of Christians, was at a loss without its church founders. The existing churches were persecuted for nearly a decade.

“After the persecution, we were on our own,” he says. “All the church leaders got back together, regardless of the background

of the missionaries. That’s why we don’t have denominations. All the churches just gathered together to build the church.

“Then God gave us revival and the Church began to grow rapidly during the ‘70s and ‘80s. The church numbers also grew, but we didn’t have enough ministers.” Because of the shortage, ministers began rotating between different churches to preach on Sundays. As Martin’s house church mentor remarked, “There is no pastor in the church.”

Not only does the Church in China need more pastors, Martin shares, it needs educated, experienced pastors. The current generation of pastors, he says,

“grew up very poor and experienced all the persecutions. The situation in China became better when the country opened up in 1978.”

One of the improvements was the accessibility of education. Previous generations rarely went to school, often needing to work at a young age to support their families. In addition, the Cultural Revolution closed all schools, eliminating what little access may have existed.

“After the Cultural Revolution, all the schools opened up again. Our generation had the opportunity to go to school. In my generation, many students can graduate from college and university. So, how can previous generations pastor us?” he asks. “We cannot expect them to. I realized my responsibility. I said to myself, ‘I have to prepare myself to be a pastor or my next generation would cry out like I did.’ And I would be responsible for that.”

As Martin began thinking through his call to ministry, he first landed on full-time church ministry—but, he says, “I wasn’t convinced.” A short time later, when Martin was in graduate school for civil engineering, he says, “I gradually came to realize the calling. It became stronger and stronger. My heart was for the revival of the Church. I realized the revival should start from the pulpit, from the ministers. My goal started to change to training spiritual leaders.

“I want to train more young people and send them to those churches that currently lack pastors,” he shares. “Some might be called by God to become missionaries, and I want the Church to support those missionaries. That’s my vision. As far as I see, Bible training is the future of the Church.

“When I was thinking through my calling, at last I had only one question left: Are you willing or not? I said, ‘God, I’m willing.’”<sup>♥</sup> HNK

## Wanting More of God

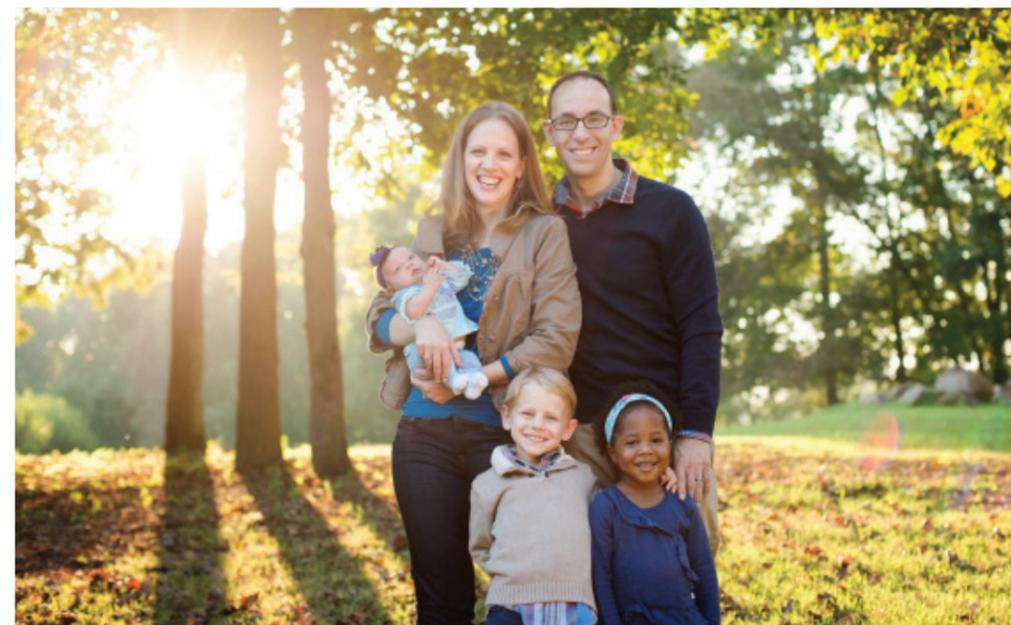
Lindsay Rich says she’s never had a “burning bush experience.” Nor had she envisioned becoming the Director of Prayer Ministries at CityChurch Charlotte, and enrolling at Gordon-Conwell.

But what the Charlotte campus student did have was a “growing desire to experience God more.”

A Christian for most of her life, Lindsay earned a nursing degree from Messiah College, and practiced nursing for six years. When she and lawyer husband Ryan adopted their son, Grayson, she left nursing to stay at home with him. It was during this time, she recounts, that she “started to encounter the Lord in prayer in ways I hadn’t before.”

Longing for more of God, she started hanging around her church, volunteering to make coffee, to lead welcome teams. As she took on more tasks, her pastor, Rev. Al Hardy, would ask her to do more. “He would say, ‘Will you lead this team? Do you think you could lead this course?’ And I would say, ‘Teach a class? I’ll do it one night, see how it goes!’ Then he would say, ‘Will you do the whole course? Will you preach on Sunday? Lead a retreat?’

“Many people have a moment when they know what they’re going toward. For me, it’s been responsive. I’ve often thought of Moses and the 70 people he raised up. He was always going to the Lord and saying, ‘I’m overwhelmed.’ And the Lord would say, ‘Ask these people to help you.’ I was one of the ones asked to help.”



Two years after Grayson came into their lives, the Riches adopted a baby girl, Jada, and three years later, another baby daughter, Macy. Theirs is a blessedly multiracial family, with each child from a different heritage: Caucasian, African American and biracial. “As a Christian, one of the things I love about adoption,” she says, “is that it helps me understand in a unique way God’s heart for us. His Word talks about adopting us into his family. We’re learning what God’s family looks like.”

Lindsay did have a defining moment of sorts that led her to Gordon-Conwell. She had gone on a silent retreat—“an amazing time, really encountering God there.” She later described the experience to her women’s small group, and was stunned when they returned the next week with a list of 22 names—and the date when all of them could attend her prayer retreat. “I said, ‘What prayer retreat? I don’t run prayer

retreats!’” When she expressed dismay to her pastor, he responded, “They came to you because they see something they want to do that you’re doing. Show them.”

“I told him, ‘I don’t know how.’ That’s when I knew I needed training.” She will soon pursue an M.Div. degree, transferring from the M.A. in Christian Leadership program.

Lindsay notes that in a book by Adele Calhoun on spiritual disciplines,<sup>1</sup> the author asserts that spiritual formation and growth start “with an ache for Jesus,” wanting to know and experience him. “That’s my story,” Lindsay says. “I want other people to love the God I know. How can I help them? That’s why I’m in school.”<sup>♥</sup> ABD

<sup>1</sup> Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2005).

## Speaking Life into Dark Places

Becky Cruz-Crosson loves her job because she is able “to give hope to people who feel there is no hope, to offer the hope that is in Christ.”

Becky is a newly-minted Master of Arts in Counseling graduate of the Boston campus. Born in the U.S. to parents who came to the States from Puerto Rico, she speaks fluent Spanish.

As an English Language Learners bilingual mental health therapist, she serves on the Student Success Team in a Boston high school. Of the school’s 539 students, 50 percent are Hispanic—from South America, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The team includes guidance counselors, social workers and mental health clinicians.

Becky says students come needing emotional support and preventive care to help them adjust to a new culture, new school system and unaccustomed routines. Many are not proficient in English. “As a team, we work to be sure they are given all the services they need to get acclimated, be able to progress academically and graduate from high school.”

Becky and her husband, Anthony, are also licensed ministers at Morning Star Baptist Church (MSBC) in Mattapan, MA. They serve on the leadership team within the church that is geared toward nurturing spiritual growth, creating access and building community for college students and young adults. The ministry offers numerous activities: Bible studies, special events, weekly transportation to MSBC and Sunday’s monthly home-cooked meals and topical discussions.



In her counseling sessions with students, Becky cannot talk about God or faith unless counselees mention these topics first. But if that door opens, she uses such moments as part of the therapeutic process. The experience of one young man stands out for her.

The first time she met him, it was under very serious conditions, and she feared for his safety. Listening to his story, Becky learned that the youth had just arrived from Guatemala, and was suffering significant trauma because of what he had seen and experienced in his country. He had been involved in gangs. There were times when he knew someone was going to take

his life. Moments when he wanted to take his own life.

But he also told Becky that he had seen God in many of these moments, as if someone was directing him. At times when he wanted to give up, he sensed that a subtle blow had shifted him. And he knew God was there with him, because he could have died years ago.

“It was an awesome opportunity to speak life into a very dark situation, to tell him, ‘There was a reason why you didn’t get killed, why you didn’t take your own life, because there is hope. Now you get a second chance. And this is what God offers.’”

“In mental health, through therapy you’re there as a listener, a helper, to equip people with coping skills, to speak light into dark places and life when they see no hope. For me, that’s when it becomes ministry. I am grateful for the opportunities to minister to young people and their families through counseling.”  ABD



## On the Ground with America’s Heroes

“They have dirty boots. That’s what makes the difference,” says Jake Corn, reflecting on the trademark of an effective chaplain.

“The ones who have dirty boots, who are with us on the ground, who exercise with us in the morning, who sleep out in the rain. Those are the chaplains who soldiers can trust enough to really open up to.”

An M.Div. student at Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville and an Army Chaplain Candidate, Jake aims to be a chaplain with dirty boots, a goal he began working toward just after graduating from Southern Utah University in 2006.



“I knew if I was going to be a chaplain, I wanted some time as an enlisted guy so I could really know what they go through—know their heart, know their struggles,” he says. For the next six years, Jake served in the U.S. Army, completing two tours in Iraq and specializing in human intelligence collection.

“The enlisted life is cleaning toilets and picking up cigarette butts and guard shifts at 2 a.m. That time was just invaluable to me to know who I would be shepherding later on down the line.”



Also memorable were the vibrant chapel services in Iraq. Soldiers came “with more of a desperation,” he remembers. “Those chapel services had such a strong impact on me that they only solidified my path.”

There was a moment, though, when the accolades began to outweigh the call. After completing his second tour and having great success in his human intelligence position, Jake re-enlisted for another five years. “I completely regretted it. The vibrancy of following that path that God set me on with ministry was just gone from my life,” he says. “I asked God, ‘I’m stuck. How do I get back? I’m sorry that I went the easy path.’”

Then, Jake learned about the Chaplain Candidate Program (CCP), which is designed to introduce seminary students to military ministry. Because Jake had taken a few online courses at another seminary—and already had significant Army experience—the CCP was a natural fit. “It was absolutely a miracle,” he recalls. In a rare move for the Army, Jake was released from his freshly signed contract. “Within six months, I went from having a five-year enlisted contract in front of me—which is a prison sentence—to, ‘You’re free. Go.’”

As a Chaplain Candidate in the Army Reserve, Jake runs a chapel service and does pastoral counseling alongside his full-time marketplace job and studies.

The choice to complete his seminary requirements at Gordon-Conwell, he says, hinged on the language focus. “Being a consumer of chaplains before, when I was enlisted, I saw the guys who just met the minimum standards. I thought, ‘If I’m going to do this path, I don’t want to shortchange myself.’”

Reflecting on his own chaplain mentor during his enlisted days, Jake says, “He never had clean boots. He would always take being with a soldier over going to meeting and looking good in front of his colonel.”

“The chaplains who dig in, even the most violent atheist soldiers feel comfortable talking to them. If you can earn the soldiers’ trust, you are embedded in their life. You are part of their walk.”

Jake can’t wait to get his boots dirty again. His wife, Gennifer, and 8-month-old daughter, Lydia, are with him every (messy) step of the way.  HNK



## From Voodoo to Christ

For 30 years, Jean-Baptiste Wadestrant's father was a voodoo priest in Haiti.

The Gordon-Conwell D.Min. student, who is now President of Evangelical Theological Seminary of Port-au-Prince (STEP), still cannot fathom why his father embraced voodoo. It happened after Jean-Baptiste's mother died of typhoid fever. Taken first to a witch doctor, she reached a hospital too late for treatment.

Within a year, his father was practicing witchcraft. For the next eight years, Jean-Baptiste and his five siblings served the spirits with their father, attending neither school nor church. Then a girl invited him to attend an evangelistic conference, and his older brother tagged along. "We stuck together in the back row and at the end of the week, we came to Christ for good."

When Jean-Baptiste became a Christian, the person who persecuted him most was his father, beating him, trying to kill him and finally kicking him out of the house. He and his older brother went to live with

a cousin until his brother was killed during a military coup. No longer able to stay there, Jean-Baptiste found shelter with American missionaries.



"God put it on their hearts to keep me for good," he says, "and I ended up staying with them. And through that, God gave me answers to my questions about why I was suffering that much because I came to Christ. And the answers I found in the Bible brought me to the point that I loved the Word and wanted to learn it."

That thirst for the Word ultimately took him to STEP for a bachelor's degree, and Dallas Theological Seminary for a Master of Theology degree.

The January 2010 earthquake that crippled Port-au-Prince also wreaked havoc on

STEP. The school lost the building that housed classrooms and offices. Classes were cancelled for all but graduating seniors, who completed their degrees in temporary facilities.

In addition, 4,000 homeless people flocked to the campus seeking shelter. Many came from the adjacent shanty town that is home to pockets of gangs—an area Jean-Baptiste describes as "a mission field right outside our walls. But we had no water, no food to give them."

Short-term mission teams helped with the relief effort, and joined STEP personnel in an ongoing effort to construct small houses for their next-door neighbors. American donors also sent money to help rebuild the campus facility; however, construction costs will exceed the funds received.

Jean-Baptiste's D.Min. cohort evolved in the wake of the earthquake, after Gordon-Conwell President Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger contacted STEP leaders through Hispanic Ministries Director Dr. Alvin Padilla to see how the seminary could help. Ultimately, Haitian leaders determined that Gordon-Conwell could best help by building their human resources. Doctoral training would enable STEP to develop higher degree programs for students. The D.Min. in Pastoral Skills, taught in French and English, launched in 2012.

In January 2009, Jean-Baptiste answered a phone call to the words, "Your dad has come to Christ this morning." The D.Min. student spent the rest of the day weeping, recalling all that had happened between father and son. He subsequently prayed with his father and gave him books to read. And a year later, his father asked him to plant a church where he had been practicing witchcraft.

"He was a voodoo priest for 30 years," Jean-Baptiste marvels, "and now there is a church with a school for kids, and it's good. It's the Lord."  ABD

## From El Salvador to the U.S.: Growing and Serving God

Ledy Cabrera's story started with a newspaper ad that read, "Prepare for your future. Job Corps."

Currently a student in the seminary's Hispanic Ministries Program, she asserts that "the Lord has always blessed me. I think he blesses every aspect of our lives."



Ledy emigrated with her family from El Salvador to Hempstead, New York, when she was 14. She graduated from high school with honors, and longed to be "the first person in my family to go to college."

But at that time she was quiet and shy, and had no money for tuition. So she accepted a housekeeping job to earn the needed funds.

Then one day she was praying and spotted the newspaper ad. "It seemed like the doors were opening," she recalls. Job Corps is a U.S. Department of Labor program that provides Career Technical Trade and education for lower income youth.

She was accepted into Job Corps in South Bronx, N.Y., and enrolled in an accounting program. She raced through accounting in five months, and then started volunteering in the academic department. There she met Moises Martinez, who was working as a secretary in that department. He was also a Christian and trained her for his position. Before long, she was hired by Job Corps.

With Moises, Ledy would often gather with students 15 minutes before lunch to pray and discuss a Bible verse. "Sometimes we had 50 students who just wanted us to pray for their necessities," she explains. "Not only that, we were allowed to take them to church."



"I used to pray all the time, 'Lord, give me the words. I don't want to change every student, every life. But I would like to make the difference in one student.'"

Ledy eventually transferred to Brooklyn Job Corps, and has held increasingly responsible positions for 14 years. Currently she is Coordinator for Literacy/Numeracy and teaches a Multicultural Diversity class part-time, where she is able to discuss Christianity along with other religions.

Along the way, she has earned associate's and bachelor's degrees while working full-time. She attended a Bible institute, and as a sophomore was asked to teach there. She now teaches at another Bible institute, leads a women's prayer group, and teaches children's Sunday School at Pastor Adan Ferrufino's church, Iglesia Evangelica Apostoles y Profetas Efesios 2:20 in Hemp-

stead. She also helps immigrants navigate myriad complexities of assimilating into a new country.

And on Sundays at 8 p.m., she participates in a live program of the online Christian radio station Ministerio Evangelico Vision y Voz Internacional de Salvacion-Radio Fe Internacional that is re-transmitted in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Argentina.

Ledy says that all along God was preparing her for Gordon-Conwell. She is within 10 courses of an M.A. in Theology.

"Gordon-Conwell has really opened my eyes, especially to think biblically," she says. "Hispanic Ministries is equipping me for lifetime missionary work. I integrate classroom lessons into my personal life and ministry."  ABD

## Planting Gospel Seeds

Jesse Papirio’s sentiment, “If I’m going to do this, I’m going to be all in,” sums up her outlook on life as a farmer, athlete, mentor, outdoor enthusiast and world traveler. Despite her many accomplishments in each area, Jesse’s “all in” attitude is most evident in her commitment to Christ, which fuels her dedicated spirit.

It began in 2007 during Compass, Gordon-Conwell’s youth leadership development program. Students experience an intense, month-long Real Ministry Immersion (RMI) comprised of a wilderness excursion, theological expedition and international mission trip, followed by a three-year mentoring component.



“We talked about Luke 10 and the Lord of the Harvest. He promises us a harvest for our labor if only we’re willing to go,” she says. “That was the first time in my life I realized that if I were to give up some of myself and the things I wanted, then the Lord would reward with so much more.”

As Jesse was wrapping up her final year as a nutrition and biological sciences student at Johnson and Wales University, she faced a tough decision: graduate school or ministry. “As much as I loved doing that work, I became convicted through prayer and Scripture: What is the point of nourishing a person’s body if their soul is perishing?”

Two years in graduate school would mean relinquishing her commitment to Young Life, in which she had been deeply involved during college. “I felt so convinced that there was an urgency in what I was doing, that high school kids needed people in their lives telling them about Jesus and walking alongside them.” Jesse soon began serving full-time as a staff associate with Young Life in Buffalo, New York.

Answering her call to ministry didn’t mean forgetting about nutrition. “Outreaches have been feeding hungry people for decades, but the people aren’t nourished completely. It’s what they’re calling ‘hidden hunger,’ when people have enough food but not the right food.” Jesse began creating a nutrition missions model with the goal of finding a sustainable, affordable way to bring proper nutrients to impoverished communities.

She decided to test her model on a community in El Salvador, where her Young Life chapter has been doing mission trips for the past three years. Jesse scoured sources to learn about villagers’ diets, locating the missing pieces and developing a solution: seeds that match the exact nutritional deficiencies. Drawing from knowledge she had acquired while working on a farm in college, Jesse says, “We taught them everything from planting the seedlings to transferring them to gardens, watering, weeding, harvesting



and how to save the seeds from the harvest so they can plant them next season. It’s completely sustainable.

“While we would plant seeds with the children and families, we would talk about how planting these seeds lines up with what God wants to do in their lives. Little things can become bigger things.”

Through Jesse’s vision, and the hard work of her Young Life high-schoolers and the Salvadorian community, an entire village now has family gardens. They plan to expand to three more villages. “The way Christ ministered to people is he met their needs, and then he shared the gospel with them. We, too, get to meet people’s needs and share Christ with them.”

Jesse is now deepening her understanding of what she learned through Compass and her time in El Salvador by taking online classes toward her M.Div. at Gordon-Conwell. ♥ HNK

## Dugout to Doctorate: A 180-Degree Transformation

Fifteen years ago, if you had asked Justin Young what he wanted to do with his life, his answer would have had something to do with baseball.

For many years, the 2014 MAOT graduate followed that dream—until serious injuries in both knees halted his pursuit. “It was during that time,” he remembers, “the Lord really ministered to me and moved in my life. God put a burden on my heart for my teammates.”

Justin used his 16 weeks of sidelined time on crutches and off the field to share the gospel. “I started praying for my teammates, praying for my friends. Eventually that led to some outreaches for my baseball team, where I gave my testimony and started a team Bible study.” Out of this, Justin developed a heart for ministry and enrolled at Moody Bible Institute. For someone with a heart long set on baseball, this meant a significant change in his life trajectory.

“It was during my time at Moody that I really fell in love with God’s Word, particularly the Old Testament and the Hebrew language. In high school, I always thought I was going to play baseball and didn’t need to work that hard at academics,” he says. “I never would have thought Hebrew was something for me. Eventually, I realized that God was working in my life.”



Justin and his high school sweetheart, now wife, Gena.



With a biblical languages degree in hand, Justin returned to his home church, Switzerland Community Church (Switzerland, Florida), and began serving as the youth pastor.

About a year into ministry, Justin decided to seek further training through Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville. “It was solely out of a love for learning,” he recalls. “There was such a 180 that happened in my life when I went to Moody. I had a passion for understanding the Bible in a greater way and I had a passion for teaching and passing that along to others.

“It’s been wonderful to be in full-time ministry for the past six years and also be in seminary, learning.” That schedule will soon be changing as Justin enters a full-time Ph.D. program at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

“I am going there because I have—especially during my time at Gordon-Conwell—developed a passion for biblical theology.” This grew, he says, while reading Dr. T. Desmond Alexander’s *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*.

Having a longstanding respect and appreciation for Dr. Alexander, Justin reached out to him while writing his final Gordon-Conwell project, which focused on the flood of Noah. Dr. Alexander and Justin began a yearlong conversation about the project—and also the Ph.D. program at Queen’s, where Dr. Alexander teaches and serves as Associate Director for Post-graduate Studies in the Institute of Theology.

Justin will spend the next several years at Queens, working on his dissertation, which will also address the theology of the flood of Noah and will be supervised by Dr. Alexander.

“I want to teach the Bible, whether on the undergraduate or seminary level. That desire comes out of everything that has happened in my testimony. I have a passion for seeing that kind of transformation happen in other people—really falling in love with his Word and falling in love with God through his Word.” ♥ HNK



Heather N. Korpi

## Meet Our Leaders:

Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger, President &

Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Christian Ethics

“DENNIS, ARE YOU WEAK ENOUGH FOR THIS JOB?”

Entering his seventh year as president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dr. Dennis Hollinger still thinks about the question posed by former board member Leighton Ford during his interview for the presidency.

“We often think to ourselves, ‘Am I strong enough for this job?’ But it’s when we are weak in Christ that we are really strong,” Dr. Hollinger reflects. “I’ve come to recognize that my strength is not in my own native capabilities, not in the things that I conjure up within myself, but it ultimately comes from Christ and the Holy Spirit.”

Born into a church planting family in rural Alabama, Dennis began sensing a call to the Church and academia early on. “Observing the problems of that setting—lots of racism, lots of alcoholism, economic destitution—helped me to realize the Christian faith needed to say something to those issues. That background was certainly very influential in my being in the field of ethics.

“Seeing issues in that context awakened me early on to a holistic understanding of Christianity that must address the hearts of humans and bring them to faith in Christ, but also address the social issues that surround people—the spiritual needs as well as the physical needs of people.

“Observing my parents in their loving ministry was very, very important in my journey to pastoral ministry. I saw the power of Christian love and care. Seeing the model of my father as a pastor awakened me early on to the importance and significance of the Church.”

Those years in a “very poor, remote, rural area of Alabama,” he says, were “a very formative part of my life.” The call that he began sensing led him down a number of paths including pastoring, teaching and leadership—all of which, he says, relate to one another as parts of a unified calling.

Prior to joining Gordon-Conwell in 2008, Dennis served as a pastor for 11 years, full-time seminary professor for 11 years and higher education administrator for 11 years. During his days in the pastorate, Dennis led two churches in New Jersey and Washington, D.C. As a Christian ethicist, he taught—and now continues to teach, write and lecture. Most recently, his leadership roles have included the presidency at Evangelical Theological Seminary and serving as Vice Provost and College Pastor at Messiah College.

“A lot of people might assume that those three are unrelated and almost three different vocations,” he says. “But I’ve seen the pastoral, teaching and leadership roles very much as part of a whole calling, of who God has called me to be.”

The common thread is service to the Church—building up the Church, preparing people for leadership roles in the Church and sustaining leaders in the Church.

“In the way I carry out my leadership, I recognize the seminary is an extension of the Church. I often say to the faculty, ‘We have no right to exist except to serve the Church,’” Dennis explains. “So, in the same way that I served the Church as a pastor, I’m serving the Church now as a leader, training pastors and people for other forms of ministry.

“For me, the callings really all came together. I never had the aspiration of being a seminary president,” he laughs. “That simply happened in God’s sovereignty and his timing.”

At the helm of a theological school, Dr. Hollinger says his pastoral experience provides a different lens through which to view the institutional mission. “I am always asking myself, ‘How best do we prepare people for the pastorate or for the mission field in the context in which we live today?’”

Our 21st-century environment presents a host of challenges. “Probably the greatest personal challenge for me is sometimes feeling cut off from the world by virtue of being in a Christian institution.

“One of the dangers is that we easily become separated from, unaware of, the larger issues around us—what people are experiencing in the marketplace, the struggles, the vital issues that are out there in society.” For Dennis and his wife, Mary Ann, bridging that gap begins with simply extending hospitality to neighbors.

“There are lots of other challenges,” he adds. “One is that we clearly find ourselves in a post-Christendom era where the Church is not nearly as much at the center of communities and society as it once was. People have much less knowledge of the Bible and of Christian themes and ideas. How do we minister in this kind of a setting in which, in many cases, there’s even animosity toward the Church?”

As society drifts from biblical values, Dennis finds that even Christians themselves are drifting from the call to ministry. “There really is much anti-institutionalism today. In the midst of that, many younger people are hesitant to say ‘yes’ to the call to ministry and leadership roles in the Church,” he says. “It’s one of the significant challenges we face, and one that as a seminary we need to address in enabling the Church to guide especially young people toward ministry.”

As people answer that call and begin training to minister within today’s context, shaping the heart becomes equally important to shaping the mind. “Many of the emphases we have go back to our own experiences,” Dennis explains. “The assumption in my formative years was that if we simply got enough knowledge about the Bible and theology, everything else would fall into place. I recognized that was a faulty anthropology; we are not simply minds. We also have an inner dimension which Scripture calls the heart. We also have an outer dimension of our actions.”

This realization fueled Dr. Hollinger to write *Head, Heart and Hands: Bringing Together Christian Thought, Passion and Action*. “In many ways, that book came out of a recognition of a one-sidedness in my faith, of being very much a head person and simply assuming that the mind was the most important thing,” he admits. “It is vital, but I think what I’ve seen over the years in leadership roles and in pastoral ministry is that people’s own hearts have to be sensitized to God and sensitized to the needs of other people. Cognitive thinking alone will not sustain us.”

Out of this conviction stems Gordon-Conwell’s commitment to spiritual formation among students. While rigorous academics and biblical languages are vitally important, they only comprise part of the equation. Hearts and actions must also be stretched and challenged.

“If people are to be sustained for the long haul in whatever ministry God calls them to, they will need more than simply knowledge of Scripture, biblical language, theology, church history, ethics, et cetera,” he says. “Their own actions and their own inner inclinations will need to be shaped toward Christ in very profound ways as well.”

Shaping hearts while shaping minds helps students anchor the relevance of the Word in their lives and in the world. “It’s not just gaining knowledge about the Word. We need to prepare leaders to preach and teach in such a way that the Word really does have meaning and significance for the issues—personal issues as well as societal issues.

“The Word becomes most alive when we see it lived out in a community of believers, in the lives of individuals, but also in the life of a community. I think that’s why God ordained the Church and didn’t have us involved in a lone ranger kind of Christianity,” Dennis says. “When we come to Christ, we come into his Body and being part of that Body means that we’re called together to live out the Christian faith and to live out the Scriptural guidelines and mandates.”

For Dr. Hollinger, that community starts with his leadership team. “I don’t go it alone. I work as part of a team that encourages each other, shares ideas, prays together and takes their calling—along with my calling—as a serious spiritual enterprise,” he says. “I am also blessed with a wonderful wife who understands what I do and is very involved in what I do. Her wisdom and her encouragement and spiritual nurturance are vitally important.”

Heeding Leighton Ford’s wise counsel, Dennis says he relies on “my colleagues, my wife and the spiritual resources that we have in Scripture, prayer and the presence of God’s Spirit to guide us. I have to rely on God more and more.”

*Dennis and his wife, Mary Ann, have two married daughters, Daphne and Naphtali, and five grandchildren who bring them great joy. Dr. Mary Ann Hollinger serves as the Special Assistant to the Seminary for Global Education. In addition to Head, Heart and Hands, Dennis is also the author of The Meaning of Sex: A Framework for the Moral Life; Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World; and Individualism and Social Ethics: An Evangelical Syncretism.*



Anne B. Doll

## Meet Our Leaders:

### Lita Schlueter, Dean of Students and Director of Student Life Services

DEAN OF STUDENTS LITA SCHLUETER INSISTS SHE HAS NO FAVORITE STUDENTS. SHE LOVES THEM ALL!

But one young man holds a special place in her heart. When Lita developed cancer two years into her current job, he and a friend held a 24-hour prayer vigil for her. After graduation, he sent her his newsletter containing the following quote: “Don’t give up on people. You do not have any idea whose life God will transform. Just be faithful to creating environments where it is easy for people to pick up the fragrance of grace.”

Reading it, she exclaimed: “I want this office to be a fragrance of grace. I want students to know that this is a safe place.”

In the intervening years, a steady procession of students has knocked on her door needing grace. Individuals with myriad problems: health issues, death of loved ones, depression, addictions and much more.

Lita recalls the first time, years ago, when a student walked in and told her, “Lita, I’m addicted to pornography, but I know God has called me to be a pastor. The Lord is leading me to tell you that I want to leave the school for one year and get help.”

“We had a wonderful time talking,” Lita says. “And eventually he told me, ‘I didn’t know how you were going to respond as the

Dean of Students. But all you have given to me is grace.’ And I said to him, ‘God had to die for Lita, too.’”

Not all students arrive with such contrition. Some come with considerable anger. Lita has learned to say, “I don’t want to have the last word in this conversation. However, I don’t want you to have the last word. I think you and I want God to have the last word. Can we pray so that we can both hear God? Because we really want to know what God has to say to both of us in this situation.”

She also tells her staff, “God does not want us to strike the rock in our students. He wants us to speak to our students (Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:8). So I want you to understand that some of the behavior of our students is going to frustrate us. But do not allow that to lead us to dishonor God by striking the rock. Let’s find out why they are mad because we’re here to serve.”

Lita grew up in Texas, the seventh of 10 children. Her parents were not Christians until after they were married and had three children. Then a man named Pablo shared the gospel with her father, who, in turn, shared the gospel with her mother. Years later, Lita also made a commitment to Christ during Youth Night at a Billy Graham crusade in the Houston Astrodome.

She and her husband, Dan, came to Gordon-Conwell in 1978, believing they were called to be missionaries. Dan earned an M.A. in Theological Studies, but then, inexplicably, all the doors closed on foreign missions. Heartbroken, they went to see the late Dr. J Christy Wilson, their mentor and Professor of Missions. Dr. Wilson advised them that many times “our disappointments are God’s appointments.” So they fasted and prayed for a month, asking God where he wanted them to go. Back to Texas?

Then one day, Lita recalls, God made it very clear that their mission field was New England and that Dan was to return to the workplace as an engineer. God also told her, “I will have a place for you.”

Lita did not apply for her current position. When it was offered to her in 1995, she was taking seminary classes toward a master’s degree and working part-time in the department she was being asked to lead. In fact, two weeks earlier, she had said, “Lord, thank you for the job I have, because I could never do that job!”

But when she and Dan prayed about the offer, the Lord made it clear that this was the attitude he wanted her to have, because he had designed her for the job. She was not there to prove anything as a woman, or as a Hispanic minority. She was there to do the work for which he had created her, for his glory!

Her first year in the new position she remembers as a “baptism by fire,” a year fraught with enormous challenges. “I saw the faithfulness of God, and I learned how it was that I would do my job, that it’s all about trusting God, his wisdom and discernment, and trusting his Word that he is true to his Word.”

Lita says she tries to live by the whole Bible. And through his Word and by his Spirit, he guides and counsels her. “There are verses through which God has said, ‘This is what I want you to know about your job: Look at what I did. Because I so loved the world, I gave. So I want you to love these students and whatever I tell you to give, you will give. Not because they deserve it, but because I love them, and they need to know that I’m working in them.’”

And so, she adds, “When students get into trouble, I always tell them, ‘I’m so happy that you got into trouble here. Because if this issue had come up at the church, they probably would have dismissed you from your ministry position. I am always remembering that we are forming you holistically. God didn’t bring you here because you were perfect. God brought you here because he wants to equip you for his Kingdom. We’ll try to help you here.’”

Lita works in close collaboration with the faculty and staff, because, as she says, “students are served by everyone.” Three faculty members in particular work with her on the Pastoral Guidance Committee, which she convenes when serious student problems arise. Together the group follows established procedures that include disciplinary hearings.

“We have dismissed students, but all our processes here are redemptive,” she stresses. “Even if we dismiss students from Gordon-Conwell, we do not have the authority to dismiss them from the Kingdom. It’s just that we are saying, ‘for this season of your life, this is not the place where you need to be, because you are at risk to yourself and you put other students at risk.’”

Lita says today’s seminary students are “more and more impacted by the world.” Recently, she conducted a survey among the faculty and staff, asking what they were seeing among students. She was amazed to discover that many of the same trends reported in demographic research as impacting non-Christians “are also impacting our students. That’s why I hold onto the words of Jesus: ‘My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth’ (John 17:15, 17).”

“I am always telling students: remember, we are equipping you for the Church of Jesus Christ. If God has called you, you need to persevere, but holistically, because you don’t know what’s up ahead. The enemy is always working against the Church of Jesus Christ. It is not going to be just your head knowledge. It’s also going to be about whether you really believe what you’ve learned about God.”

Lita says that God “is working mightily through our students. That’s why I am so thankful for the faculty. They are involved with our students. They are living their lives in a way that is transparent. And our students are challenging one another, asking, ‘Where are you in your life?’ I’m also so thankful for the Pierce Center for Disciple-Building, because students in that program form soul groups. So they’re impacting a big portion of the seminary.

“There are also many prayer groups going on. Students themselves are being tugged by God’s Spirit. There is prayer at 6:30 and 7 o’clock in the morning and at night. Throughout the day there are prayer groups, Bible study groups. The Spirit is at work here at Gordon-Conwell.”

One of the many lessons Lita learned from Dr. Wilson was to pray daily for students by name. So when students walk in with some trouble, she says to them, “You come right in. I’ve already prayed for you. And God knows why you’re here. And I am going to listen very carefully so that God can form his response to you, using his Word.” She also frequently tells students, “There is no way you can serve your congregation unless you are praying for them by name.”

Two of many Scriptures hold special meaning for Lita as she carries out her ministry to students.

The first, she says, is from I Kings 8:50. Solomon is dedicating the temple, and he asks God to forgive his people who had sinned against him and make them objects of compassion. “And I say, ‘Lord, help us to do that. Because you didn’t bring students here just to fill their minds. You want their whole life filled with your Spirit and looking like Jesus.’”

Another passage is John 14:21, where Jesus says, “He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my father, and I will love him and disclose myself to him.” She remembers exclaiming, “Wow, Jesus. For you to disclose yourself, that’s where spiritual formation begins.” Lita’s earnest desire is that love be the motivation for obeying God in all he leads her to do.

“And I tell students, ‘There is no way you can know and serve God apart from spending time with him.’”



# Serving *the* Church with You, for the Glory of God

Kurt W. Drescher  
Vice President of Advancement



**Opposite** (clockwise from top): Attendees exiting Pastors' Forum; Church history professor Dr. Gordon Isaac with students; students in a Boston campus class.  
**Above:** Comprehensive campaign includes funds to outfit new Charlotte wing.

ONCE A YEAR, IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO UPDATE YOU THROUGH THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADVANCEMENT EFFORTS HERE AT THE SEMINARY.

For several years, we have dedicated considerable time and energy to plan and prioritize these initiatives. We have held dozens of conversations with students, donors, faculty, staff, campus planners and architects, trying our best to discern God's leading for the seminary. We have always endeavored to ask the question: "How does this priority advance the mission of Gordon-Conwell to meet the needs of the Church we are so privileged to serve?"

And as we do this, we are always remembering that our work is not for personal gain or institutional recognition. Rather, that everything, in word or deed, is done with a grateful heart, in the name of Jesus...for the Glory of God.

Advancement efforts at Gordon-Conwell focus primarily on three areas: annual giving through gifts to our Education Fund, planned giving through our Founder's Society and restricted giving for projects above and beyond our regular operations. These three pieces are all covered under the current comprehensive campaign, "Our Legacy – Our Future, Serving the Church with Excellence and Innovation."

The goal of this report is to give you a sense of what has been accomplished, where we are now and what our plan is for com-

pleting this campaign. We are deeply grateful to God for the resources that have been entrusted to us. If you have prayed, served or given to Gordon-Conwell, then you are a part of this story. As we draw closer to completion of the campaign, we again trust in, and wait expectantly on, our great God.

## Annual Giving

Our annual fund for operations is referred to as the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund. It is vital to the seminary's ability to equip the next generation of Church leaders to handle opportunities and challenges presented to the Church. This fund supports the distinguished faculty, programs and centers that draw students from around the world to one of our four campuses and/or programs. It also supports the operations required for an efficient, student-focused learning environment. The Education Fund enables us to:

- Keep tuition within reach. Our longstanding goal is to ensure that educational debt will not prevent called men and women from entering ministry. Without the valuable support of the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund, many students could not even afford to attend Gordon-Conwell.
- Attract and retain gifted faculty and staff through competitive salaries, resources for research and continuing education.

- Maintain an environment conducive to learning. Gifts to the Education Fund help us provide academic resources crucial for graduate level education and facilities that enhance learning and contribute to vibrant community life.

This past fiscal year was the strongest ever for the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund, and we believe opportunities exist for additional growth in this fund. Our fiscal year goal was \$3.42 million, a 24 percent increase over the previous year goal. While we missed our stretch goal by \$195,892, we are delighted to report that more than 4,100 partners gave a total of \$3.2 million to the Education Fund alone—an all-time high, and a 10 percent increase over the previous year. That represents 459 more donors than the previous year, a 12.5 percent increase. Reaching—and even exceeding—our Education Fund goals is fundamental to a successful, long-term advancement strategy.

It is our prayer and plan to raise \$3.5 million in FY15 for the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund, and we could truly use your help to reach this goal. If you would like to make a gift of any amount to this fund, please contact me at [kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu) or visit our website at [www.gordonconwell.edu/giving](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/giving). You can play a significant role in serving the Church by partnering with the seminary in this way.

### Planned Giving through the Founder’s Society

The goal of our founders was to establish an interdenominational, evangelical seminary dedicated to equipping students for “all facets of gospel outreach.”

We are still pursuing that goal, combining educational innovation with a high priority on academics and faithfulness to the gospel.

Tuition and other student expenses continue to be one of the biggest barriers for student enrollment at Gordon-Conwell. We are happy to share that approximately 90 percent of the money we are striving to raise in planned gifts will go directly to endowing student scholarships. The remaining amount will cover building endowments, which help reduce the burden on annual operations.

We recently received a significant planned gift commitment. In our conversations with the donor, it was clear to us that she wanted to leave a legacy in memory of her loved ones. But more so, she wanted that gift to “live on,” doing God’s work, for his glory. In all likelihood, on this side of heaven she will never meet the students who benefit from her generous act. But there is another way to look at it. These scholarship recipients might never become students at Gordon-Conwell without her generosity and sacrifice. One person truly can make the difference in the lives of future generations through this type of legacy commitment.

It is our goal to raise an additional \$11 million in planned giving as we seek to complete the campaign. In some cases that may simply mean documenting planned gifts, much like bequests that have already been planned for the seminary. We would be honored to extend membership in the Founders’ Society to those

seminary friends who have already planned to leave a legacy gift to the seminary, or would be interested in making a planned gift of any amount.

Our Founder’s Society for planned giving can be found on our website, or you could contact Bill Fisher, Director of Planned Giving, at [bfisher@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:bfisher@gordonconwell.edu). As a seminary community, please know we are deeply grateful for the long-term investments that have been made, and the legacy that friends of the seminary leave to the next generation through their planned gifts.



Dennis Hollinger, Kurt Drescher with committee assessing Hamilton apartment renovation needs.

### Giving through “Our Legacy – Our Future” Comprehensive Campaign

Our campaign has three priorities: to revitalize and expand our campuses, reach more students and resource future leaders.

#### Revitalizing and expanding our campuses

Through our comprehensive campaign, we seek to enrich the South Hamilton campus as a place for reflection, research and renewal. We are accomplishing these goals by improving the functionality of apartments, dormitories, meeting spaces and classrooms, and by renewing our buildings and grounds to enhance student recruitment. This initiative turns some of our older facilities into family friendly, community enhancing facilities in excellent condition and in harmony with our extraordinary surroundings. These improvements will enable us to increase the seminary’s residential student body on the South Hamilton campus.

We have made significant progress on our revitalization priority by repurposing spaces on the Hamilton campus. Already the Gordon-Conwell community, area churches and local community organizations are utilizing our facilities. Recent projects have included:

#### Alumni Hall

Renovation of Alumni Hall has produced first class space for conferences, forums, campus and community events, weddings and many other gatherings. In it is a jewel: a library showcasing our graduates’ published works.

#### Pierce Facilities

Next door to Alumni Hall is our transformed Pierce Great Hall. Overlooking a beautiful New England hillside, its inviting environment is ideal for learning, and for fostering fellowship, community, disciple-building and spiritual formation.

The Pierce Center offices are now located behind the Pierce Great Hall, adjacent to the Wilson Prayer Chapel and Pierce Center Sacred Spaces. This move resulted in a more strategic location for the center, and will eventually provide a more welcoming place at our main entrance. In addition, adjacent to the Pierce Center is a renovated meeting room/classroom. It is a blessing to see these new spaces used regularly.

#### Hamilton Apartment Renovations

The benefits to students of learning on a beautiful, serene residential campus, among vibrant fellow Christians, are incalculable. Yet for many students, living on Boston’s North Shore would be absolutely impossible without quality, lower-rent, on-campus housing. Our apartments, built many decades ago, are in desperate need of more than a simple tune-up. Likewise, maintenance costs are soaring. As we seek to finish the Hamilton campus revitalization projects, our plan is to completely renovate 115 apartments at a cost of \$20,000 per apartment.

Such an investment could provide students with high quality, affordable housing for decades to come. If you or your church is interested in making a one-time or multi-year contribution on behalf of our students and their families, please contact Aaron Harrington, Campaign Director, at [aharrington@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:aharrington@gordonconwell.edu).

#### The Charlotte Campus

Construction is underway to expand facilities on our Charlotte campus. This needed project will accommodate Charlotte’s growing student population and partnerships with churches and missions organizations. The goal of this expansion is to enable Gordon-Conwell—Charlotte to cultivate leaders of the Church for every generation, culture and calling, and to encourage God’s people to continue in vital, lifelong learning.

The architectural motif for the expanding building is an abbey—a classic form of community space where learning, worship and collaboration come together in a blend of library collections, in-



Community members at the Charlotte campus gather for a luncheon.

teractive classrooms, indoor/outdoor courtyards, walkways and trails, sacred art and spaces designed for intimate fellowship, reflection and collaboration.

This project should be completed in early 2015, and we thank our great God for providing the resources to build this new wing. However, we continue to need resources for furniture, fixtures, equipment and technology to outfit this new structure. It is our goal to raise an additional \$1.2 million to complete the Charlotte Building Campaign. If you are interested in investing in this project, please contact Neely Gaston at [ngaston@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:ngaston@gordonconwell.edu).

#### Boston Campus

We remain committed to aggressively eliminating the \$1.3 million mortgage on our Boston campus building. Some significant results of paying off this debt will be:

- More funds toward student scholarships in Boston
- Reduced annual operating costs for the campus
- Keeping student tuition at an affordable rate

Parking continues to be a significant challenge at the Boston campus. As we endeavor to partner well with our local community, we have had conversations with our Roxbury neighbors about opportunities to develop additional parking spaces on our property adjacent to the campus.

#### Jacksonville Campus

This campus is growing steadily. We are grateful for the opportunity to prepare more and more students to serve the Church in Florida, the Southeast and beyond.

It is our prayer that all our campuses will continue to be used to develop community and church partnerships to serve the Church, and to be good Christian neighbors to those in our respective communities. We also believe God is leading us to be good stewards of the campuses he has provided. If you wish to make an investment in our Boston or Jacksonville campuses, please contact me at [kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu).

#### Reaching more students

Anticipating the needs of a growing and diverse Church, we are reaching out to many current and future church leaders who seek sound, transformative ministerial training. Some of the exciting new initiatives we are implementing or are already in place include:

- Biblical Literacy Program for the Church: Addresses a need in many churches for basic biblical and theological knowledge. We are committed to equipping Church leaders with a biblical education that can be shared with others to reverse the trend of biblical illiteracy.

- Ockenga Fellows Program: This Lilly funded program will identify and nurture high-potential, early-career pastoral leaders during a critical time of ministry development (after 5-10 years in ministry), so that they can better engage with the world of their churches and the social and ethical changes around them.

- The Lilly Endowment and the Kern Family Foundation focus on student indebtedness, financial literacy, faith, work and economics.

• **Technology Improvements:** Amid ever-changing technology, students, faculty and staff expect an appropriate technology infrastructure on our campuses and in our classrooms. We earnestly desire to provide a more robust environment for learning, and faculty and staff well equipped to serve students. Our technology improvement initiative has a goal of \$1.75 million. If you wish to invest in vital technology, please contact Robin Higle, Director of Foundation Relations, at [rhigle@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:rhigle@gordonconwell.edu).

- Kern Pastors-Scholars Program
- Military Chaplaincy Scholarship
- Presidential Scholarship for Future Christian Leaders

Dr. Carol Kaminski, Professor of Old Testament, recently spoke at a donor appreciation dinner. During her remarks, she told donors that she would not have been able to afford a seminary education without a scholarship from Gordon-Conwell.

Now a respected professor, author and church leader, Dr. Kaminski shared that she had never had the opportunity to meet and personally thank the donors who provided that valuable scholarship. Then she thanked those in the room on behalf of all students, past and present, for scholarships to study at the seminary.

I want to echo that sincere expression of gratitude to our friends of the seminary, and to our great God, who is using faithful stewards to advance the Kingdom and serve the Church.

It is one of our campaign completion strategies to raise an additional \$1.6 million across the entire institution for student scholarships. If you are interested in making an investment in the future leaders of the Church, please contact me at [kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu).

Please know that we are deeply grateful to our partners for every gift we have received. We regularly thank our great God for the tangible difference that these gifts make in the lives of hundreds of students. If you have made a gift, you are part of this story. If you would like to give, you can be part of the wonderful work that God is doing in our midst.

Gordon-Conwell has a rich legacy of serving the Church. For God's glory, with his help and the help of his faithful stewards, we will continue to carry on this tradition with excellence and innovation. We simply cannot do this work alone, and we invite you to prayerfully consider a partnership with our seminary. We will faithfully steward the resources entrusted to us.

To God be the glory for the great things he has done, and will continue to do, in and through the work of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17 (NIV)*



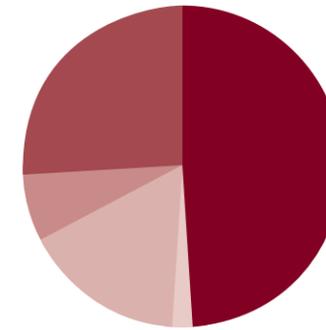
Excited and equipped students graduate to pursue ministry opportunities around the world.

**Resourcing future leaders**

It is very common for students to enter seminary with debt from their undergraduate educations. While in seminary, many students incur further debt that hinders some from becoming missionaries and saddles others with a significant financial burden in pastoral ministry. We constantly work to establish scholarships that help students limit additional educational debt, and ensure that prospective students without adequate financial means can enroll in Gordon-Conwell.

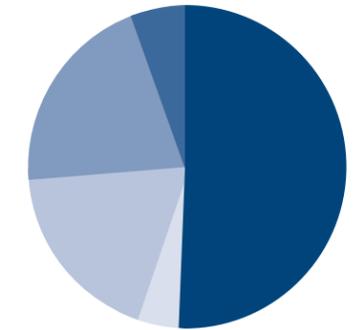
Here is just a sampling of the new scholarships established since the launch of the comprehensive campaign:

- Centrihall International Student Scholarship
- Chinese Student Scholarship
- Church Planting Scholarship
- Christopher Brown Scholarship
- Conwell Scholarship
- Doctor of Ministry Scholarship for Chinese Pastors
- Douglas G. Pratt Scholarship
- Endowed Pastors for Africa Scholarship
- Enhanced Partnership Scholarship Program
- George and Helen Bennett Scholarship for Pastor-Leaders



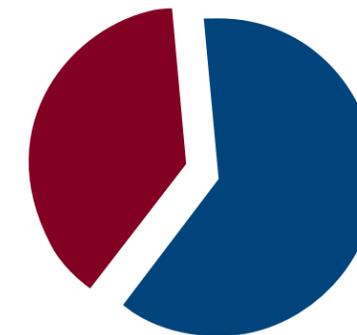
FY14 UNRESTRICTED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCE

■ Net Tuition	\$ 11,024,790	45%
■ Donor Support	6,839,679	28%
■ Endowment Distributions	2,151,974	9%
■ Auxiliary Enterprises	3,619,296	15%
■ Other Income	953,758	3%
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 24,589,497</b>	<b>100%</b>



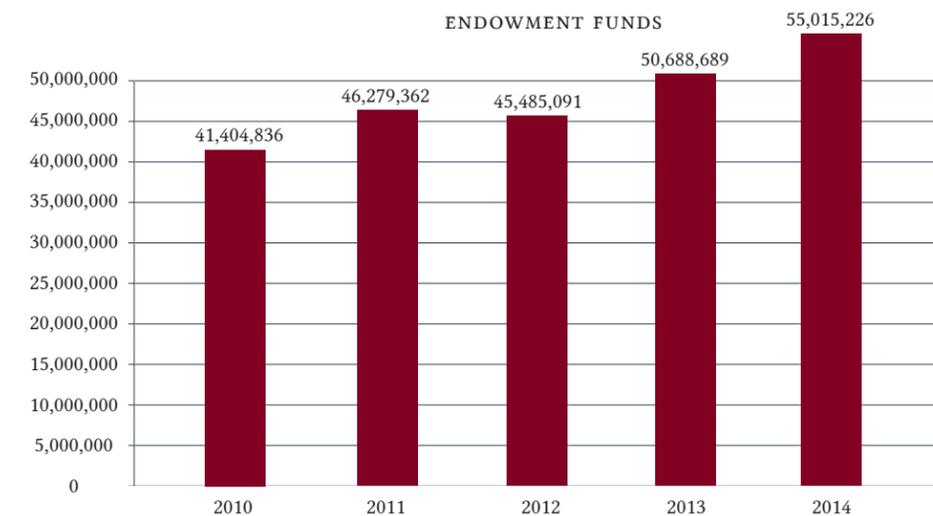
FY14 EXPENSES HOW FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED

■ Instructional and Academic Support	\$ 12,943,055	53%
■ Student Services	1,751,180	7%
■ Auxiliary Enterprises	4,357,359	18%
■ Management and General	4,061,797	16%
■ Fundraising	1,413,530	6%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 24,526,921</b>	<b>100%</b>



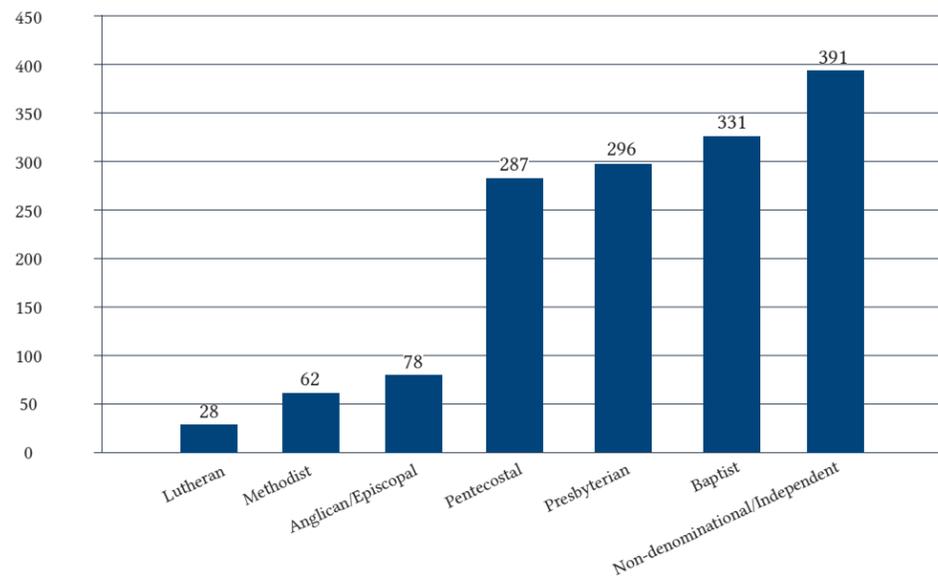
FY14 FINANCIAL AID AND TUITION MAKING A GORDON-CONWELL EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE

■ Tuition Paid by Students	\$ 11,024,790	59%
■ Restricted Scholarships and Discounts	\$ 7,561,300	41%
<b>Total Tuition</b>	<b>\$ 18,586,090</b>	<b>100%</b>

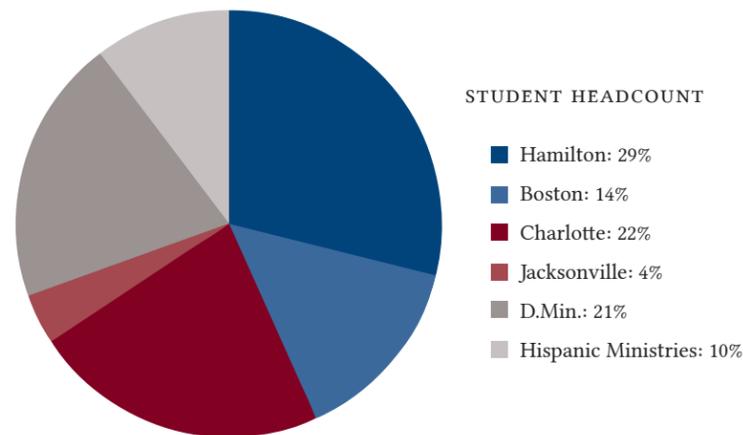


Please find a complete copy of our audited financial statements at [www.gordonconwell.edu/about/Financial-Stewardship.cfm](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/about/Financial-Stewardship.cfm)

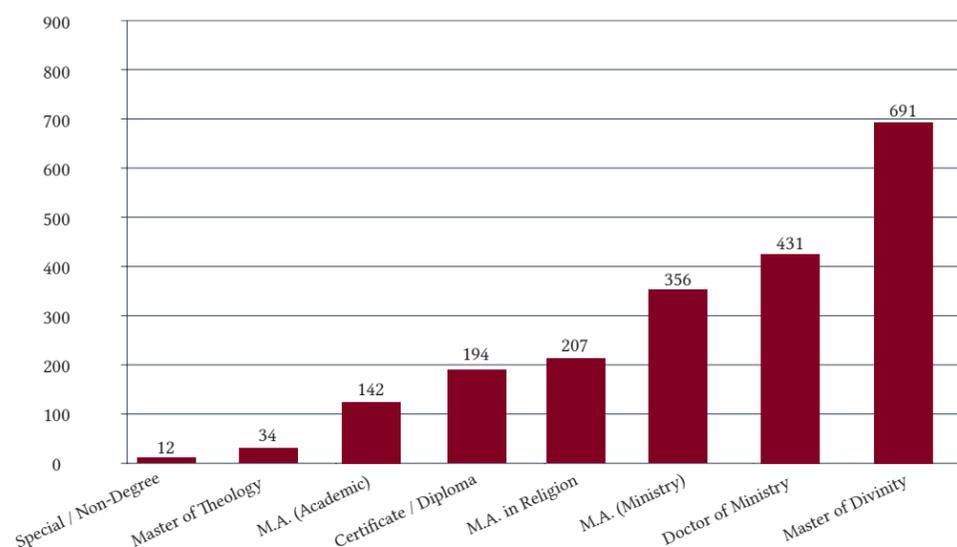
STUDENTS IN MAJOR DENOMINATIONAL CATEGORIES



STUDENT HEADCOUNT



STUDENTS BY DEGREE TYPE



Heather N. Korpi

## Our Legacy: Harold John Ockenga

Gordon-Conwell’s commitment to training the next generation of strong evangelical leaders reflects the character and vision of co-founder and former president Dr. Harold John Ockenga, profound preacher, leader and evangelist.

Born in Chicago in 1905, Dr. Ockenga graduated from Taylor University in 1927 and from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1930. He earned his M.A. (1934) and Ph.D. (1939) from the University of Pittsburgh, and was awarded several honorary degrees.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1931, Ockenga served for a brief time at First Presbyterian Church (Pittsburgh) under Clarence Macartney and as Senior Minister at Point Breeze Presbyterian Church (1931–1936) before being called to Boston’s historic Park Street Church where he served from 1936 until 1969.

In 1950, Dr. Ockenga was instrumental in bringing a young evangelist named Billy Graham to Boston. Graham’s remarkable ministry throughout New England helped to forge a lifetime friendship with Ockenga and brought thousands of new converts into New England’s churches.

While serving the Park Street congregation, Dr. Ockenga also helped to establish Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena,

California, serving as its president from 1947 until 1954 and again from 1960 to 1963.

In 1969, he turned the Park Street pulpit over to his successor. Dr. Ockenga had been working tirelessly—along with Billy Graham and J. Howard Pew—on the merger of Gordon Divinity School and Conwell School of Theology. Their efforts culminated in the establishment of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and on October 22, 1969, Dr. Ockenga was installed as the institution’s first president.

Well-loved by members of the Gordon-Conwell community, he served as president for the school’s fledgling decade. Addressing Dr. Ockenga at his retirement celebration, Billy Graham said, “I have sought your counsel a thousand times and I thank God for the life you have lived.” He went on to speak of Dr. Ockenga as a man of the Bible, prayer and the Holy Spirit; a man with missionary concerns; an educator, author, administrator and family man.

Harold Lindsell, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, noted: “When the history of this age has been written, he will be found numbered among those who made the greatest impact, wielded the greatest influence, and helped to shape what has been called by so many commentators, the age of evangelicals.”

Our own Dr. Garth Rosell, Professor of Church History, writes, “For nearly half a century, Harold John Ockenga’s name was virtually synonymous with that of evangelicalism as he voiced its concerns and convictions and provided leadership for nearly every one of its institutions.” Dr. Ockenga’s involvements included:

- National Association of Evangelicals for United Action (Founder and President)
- American Board of the World Evangelical Fellowship (President)
- *Christianity Today* Magazine (Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board)
- Christian Freedom Foundation (Director)
- Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (Board Member)
- Evangelical Book Club (Editor)
- National Association of Evangelicals’ International Commission (Chair)

Dr. Ockenga penned scores of books, articles, letters, journals and sermons, leaving a legacy of profound leadership and ministry. 🏛️

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# FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



Prepare for a lifetime of fruitful ministry, surrounded by a network of support, equipped with stewardship skills and free from unnecessary debt. Through the Partnership Program at Gordon-Conwell, you'll bring a team of prayer and financial partners, and you'll receive a full-tuition scholarship and biblical stewardship training.

[www.gordonconwell.edu/partnership](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/partnership)