



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SEMINARY SYNOPSIS

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 2



Building upgrade underway

Renovations are underway at the seminary building. Doors, window panels, signage, and work in the chapel are the early indicators in the revitalization of the SOT. “The new glass entry doors have already improved the external appearance of the building,” noted Dr. David Sebastian, seminary dean. The estimated \$200,000 renovation project was made possible through a \$100,000 matching challenge grant by Drs. James and Elizabeth York as a part of AU’s *Dreams. Discovery. Direction.* capital campaign. Donations from churches and individuals are nearly \$58,000 toward the \$100,000 matching goal.

During the coming months, the seminary will see fresh paint to the overall building, new carpeting, and the refurbishing of the Adam Miller Chapel. “The interior of Miller Chapel was painted over the university’s spring break. Miller Chapel will also be updated with the addition of a sound board, speakers, projector, and computer technology to enhance chapel and conference experiences,” commented Sebastian.

The seminary and development officers hope that the final funding for the matching goal will be received by June 2009.

Alumni and friends luncheon during North American Convention

The annual School of Theology alumni gathering, normally scheduled for an evening meal, will be held as a luncheon during the 2009 North American Convention of the Church of God. A significant scheduling change related to evening events away from the AU campus makes it necessary to make this adjustment.

The SOT Alumni Luncheon will take place on Monday, June 29, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the dining room of the Olt Student Center on the AU campus.

The luncheon will feature a buffet, light program, and the presentation of the seminary distinguished service awards. Reservations are required for the event. For more information on costs for the luncheon, see the School of Theology Web site at www.anderson.edu/sot or the mailing sent from the Seminary Advancement Office. Reservations and payment are due by June 19, 2009.

For a complete list of activities of the seminary will host during the North American Convention, see details in this newsletter or visit the School of Theology Web site.

In this issue

- p. 2-3 School of missions; SOT schedule for NAC; Callen receives award; Robertson returns to seminary; grant received for online students
- p. 4-5 Hawkins releases book; CCL in India; Sadler to present Newell lectures; seminary chapels; Hawkins represents Church of God
- p. 6-7 Harp Professor in Residence; CCL certifications; CASA partnership; Jeeninga Fellowship; new CCL participants; DMin flourishes
- p. 8 Serving Outside the Seminary Walls

Correction

In the Fall/Winter 2008 issue (Vol. 5, No. 1), we incorrectly listed the name of the **Dan and Betty Harman Endowed Scholarship**.

School of Missions hosted by Church of God schools

The seminary and the Church of God institutions of higher education are pleased to host a School of Missions on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, from 1 to 5 p.m. during the North American Convention. This is the first time these schools have joined together to help the church think about the role of missions and the missionary calling that may be on the lives of young people. The event will be located in the seminary building.

Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins, associate professor of Christian mission, is serving as the overall coordinator. Working with Hawkins are Dr. John Johnson, Warner Pacific College; Dr. Enrique Cepeda, Mid-America Christian University; Dr. Art Clawson and Dr. Joe Mattox, Warner University; and Dr. Fred Shively and Stuart Erny, Anderson University.

This event will serve as a basic training school providing

highlights from the Church of God institutions and Church of God Global Missions on preparation of missionaries, whether long- or short-term. The school is intended for those who are high school juniors through early 30s who are called to mission work.

Two plenary sessions will bring participants together: Hawkins will speak on the "Missio Dei" while Johnson will close out the day sharing "On Mission with Yahweh." Other breakout sessions scheduled are "World Christianity," "Empowering the Poor," "Steps to Missions," "Maximizing Short-Term Missions," "Planting Churches in the XXI Century," and "The Cross-Cultural Worker."

For more detailed information on the School of Mission and a list of speakers, see the Web page at www.anderson.edu/ccl/missions.pdf.

School of Theology schedule for 2009 North American Convention

The School of Theology will once again host a variety of programming during the North American Convention, scheduled for June 26-July 1, 2009. The convention theme is "Live out the Love of Christ." Below is a summary of the programming. Additional details may be found on the seminary Web site at www.anderson.edu/ccl/convention.pdf.

Monday, June 29

8:30 to 10 a.m.

Dealing Redemptively with Conflict in the Local Church, with Dr. John Aukerman, professor of Christian education.

There is often conflict in the local congregation. Yet how do we deal with this in constructive ways? This seminar will explore conflict and how to deal redemptively with it from a biblical perspective.

Pastoral Counseling within the Church and Wider Community, with the Rev. Michael Schwartz, Pastoral Care, Madison Park Church of God.

Pastoral care and counseling are important elements in the life of the church. Learn about practical implications and structures that help give strength to your pastoral care ministry.

Finding Your Voice: The Feminine Art of Preaching, with Dr. Kimberly Majeski, assistant professor in biblical studies.

A preaching seminar specifically designed for women.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SOT Alumni Luncheon & Seminary Awards

Buffet opens at 11:30 am. Open to SOT alumni and families. Reservations required;

payment due in advance. For reservations, contact the Office of Seminary Advancement at (765) 641-4033.

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Living Out the Love of Christ in a Midweek Intergenerational Ministry, with Dr. John Aukerman, professor of Christian education.

Midweek ministry with children, youth, and their parents is important for building life-changing and lifelong relationships within the church.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Doctrinal Dialogue: "Women in Ministry." Location: Byrum Hall.

Dr. John Stanley, professor of New Testament, Messiah College, Grantham, Pa., will present a research paper on "Women in Ministry." Respondents to the topic are Dr. Randal Huber, Chapel Hill Church of God (Pennsylvania), and Dr. Diana Swoope, Arlington Church of God (Ohio).

Tuesday, June 30

8:30 to 10 a.m.

Donald Courtney Papers in Christian Education with student presentations, coordinated by Dr. John Aukerman.

Original, guided research by seminary graduate students in Christian education sponsored by the Donald Addison Courtney family.

Hospitality: Missions Work Begins at Home, with Dr. Guy Brewer, associate professor of pastoral theology.

The thrust of this seminar is an examination of the spiritual dynamics and principles involved in hospitality.

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Go and Make Disciples: Discipleship Resources available through the School of Theology, with David Neidert, Director of the Center for Christian Leadership

Is your congregation looking for discipleship or small group programming that works? Visit with the Center for Christian Leadership and learn how this 37-year-old program can help your church equip disciples for kingdom service.

Museum Tours

The Gustav Jeeninga Museum of Bible & Near Eastern Studies will be open for self-guided tours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Location: SOT, lower level.

Callen receives award

Dr. Barry Callen, former dean of the School of Theology and university professor emeritus of Christian studies, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wesleyan Theological Society during its annual March meeting.

“Callen’s work with the Wesleyan Theological Society has been exemplary,” stated Dr. Thomas Oord, president of the society. “As the editor for the society’s journal, he moved it in 1993 from a weakened state to its present status as the premier journal in its field.” Oord believes Callen’s “diligence and excellence as editor is a primary reason the society enjoys sound financial footing and academic prestige.” Callen edited the research of more than 230 scholars in the Wesleyan tradition for the journal.

Callen also edited, with Richard Thompson, a collection of Wesleyan Theological Society essays on biblical theology called *Reading the Bible in Wesleyan Ways*, and he wrote with Bill Kostlevy *Heart of the Heritage: Core Themes of the Wesleyan/Holiness Tradition*. He was instrumental in the formation of the newly formed Wesleyan/Holiness Coalition.

Callen has authored or edited more than 30 books. His systematic theology, *God as Loving Grace: The Biblically Revealed Nature and Work of God*, has been especially well



Barry Callen receives the lifetime achievement award, presented by Richard Thompson of Northwest Nazarene University.

received. Among his most recent books is his autobiography, *A Pilgrim’s Progress*. He has pastored, traveled the world on short-term missionary assignments, and is the founding corporate secretary for Horizon International, which helps AIDS orphans in Africa.

Robertson returning to seminary

Dr. Gregory Robertson will be returning full time to Anderson University School of Theology on Jan. 1, 2010. Robertson will fill the position of associate professor of Christian theology. He and his family are currently serving the Church of God in Quito, Ecuador.

Robertson received his MDiv from Southwestern Seminary, ThM from Princeton Theological Seminary, and ThD in systematic theology from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. Dr. David Sebastian, dean of the seminary, shared, “It is our privilege to have Dr. Robertson joining us again in this assignment. Robertson has been teaching in our online program for a number of years and is currently teaching an intensive course during spring 2009. We are delighted that the Robertson family will be returning to Anderson, and it is our prayer for a safe and easy transition during the months ahead.”

Robertson served as the inaugural Harp Professor in Residence during the 2007-08 academic year. He instructed courses and delivered two public lectures during that visit.



Grant received for online students

The seminary received a \$5,000 grant from the Chatlos Foundation for the funding of scholarships for pastors of small churches to take the school’s online degree. Dr. John Aukerman and AU grant writer Karen McTague applied for a \$10,000 grant and received the current award due to funding limitations by the foundation.

“In the Foundation’s letter was a check for \$5,000. While it is only half of the grant request, in this economy it’s pretty good. We are thankful,” commented Aukerman. The seminary’s financial aid committee will set up the guidelines for use of these funds related to student scholarships.

Missions book released by Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins

Amelia Earhart. Isabella Bird. Sally Ride. You've probably heard of these intrepid women explorers who blazed new trails for women in the 19th and 20th centuries. But have you heard of Daisy Maiden, Ann Smith, or Jewell Hall? They, and other daring women like them, chose to obey God's call to "go into all the world" (Mark 16:15). In an era that had little faith in women, they responded with great faith in God and became Church of God missionaries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and beyond. *A Thread of Hope* traces the lives and ministries of nine women who followed the move of God's Spirit around the globe. Share their joys and sorrows, frustrations and accomplishments, defeats and victories, and celebrate their legacy: a golden thread of hope woven throughout the tapestry of the gospel, a thread that is unbroken to this day.

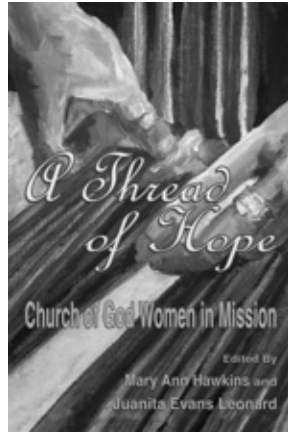
Anderson University Press and the Anderson University School of Theology will release *A Thread of Hope* in June 2009 during the North American Convention of the Church of God. MaryAnn Hawkins and Juanita Evans Leonard have

worked with their students at Anderson University School of Theology, who themselves have served and are serving in intercultural settings, to give to the church a gift of hope for the future at a crucial time in the history of mission.

A Thread of Hope will be a vital help to pastors and leaders who want the history of mission to be known by those who want to know how God has and is at work to get the love of Jesus known to those who hunger for good news.

Special thanks are due the Women of the Church of God who have helped to underwrite this important book. This is a resource that will communicate to a new generation how God can and will work in women's lives if they, too, give their lives for service.

The regular cost is \$12.95 with a "first release" price of \$10 during the North American Convention. All of the authors will be present for a book-signing during the Convention. Proceeds will provide a tuition assistance scholarship for women preparing for intercultural service at the School of Theology.



Church of God in India and the CCL

David Neidert, director of the Center for Christian Leadership, made a trip to India to be a part of the 26th Youth Fellowship Conference of the Church of God (Ecclesia), in Shillong, India, during January 2009. The annual gathering draws attendees from across the states of Meghalaya and Assam (India) and the country of Nepal. The three-day conference included worship services, conference sessions, musical presentations, and an open air evangelistic service. Neidert met and studied with the CCL participants at the conference. The CCL participants are studying "The People of God," a course written by the late Dr. Gilbert Stafford. Neidert also delivered a leadership consultation for pastors and laity at the conference.

Three others from Anderson, Ind., traveled to Shillong. They were the Rev. Keith Stork (MA '06), Robin Gerhart, and Barbara Collier. Several new participants joined the study group during this past year (see new CCL participants story in this newsletter). In addition to visiting Shillong, the group traveled to Salem, Tamil Nadu, in southern India before returning to Anderson.



The study group and US guests

Sadler to present 28th Newell Lectures

Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., will serve as lecturer for the 28th Newell Lectures in Biblical Studies on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 28-29, 2009. Sadler's lecture topic is "Implications of our Images of Jesus: The Dangers of Miscontextualization for Dealing with Difference."

Sadler is associate professor of Bible at Union-PSCE at Charlotte, N.C. His teaching experience includes courses in biblical languages, Old and New Testament interpretation, wisdom literature in the Bible, the history and religion of ancient Israel, and African-American biblical interpretation.

Sadler frequently lectures within the church and community on race in the Bible, African-American biblical interpretation, the image of Jesus, biblical archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He was the managing editor of the *African-American Devotional Bible*. He is also the author of the book, *Can A Cushite Change His Skin? An Examination of Race, Ethnicity, and Othering in the Hebrew Bible* (2005).



Hawkins represents the Church of God

Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins, associate professor of Christian mission, is the North American Church of God's representative on the Board of Directors of the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy (WHWC). The WHWC is a professional and ministry-focused organization involved in supporting and encouraging women in ministry in Wesleyan-holiness churches. The largest event coordinated by WHWC is a biannual conference called "Come to the Water."

Anderson University, the AU School of Theology, and Church of God Ministries, Inc., are each involved in providing support for this conference. The seminary hosted the student reception during the 2008 conference held in Nashville, Tenn. The reception provided a gathering place for 80 students to engage one another in conversation about what God is doing in their lives in preparation for ministry.

The WHWC Web site provides many printable articles, book recommendations, and other materials for study and encouragement of women in ministry. The Web site may be found at www.whwomenclergy.org.



Special seminary chapels

Several special seminary chapels took place during the 2008-09 year. **Dr. Chip Arn**, president of Church Growth, Inc., and author of many books on senior ministry, spoke on aging in the church. Arn also provided a mini-workshop for about 30 people responding to an invitation to learn about senior adult ministries for the local church. Former AU trustee Lois Settlemyer sponsored this event focused on aging ministry in the church.

The **Rabbi Jeffrey Adler**, a Messianic Jew, guided a traditional Passover Seder. Adler shared the significance of the Passover related to participation in communion. April also serves as a time for commissioning graduating students. During a **commissioning chapel**, students receive a "servant's towel" and share their experiences at the SOT and plans for the future. The Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, associate professor of Hebrew Bible and Homiletics at Memphis Theological Seminary, served as the speaker for the senior chapel. Both DMin and master's students were present during this chapel.

The seminary holds chapel every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon during the school year. David Aukerman, a current master's student and chapel assistant, has been coordinating podcasts of the seminary chapels. Chapel sermons over the past year are recorded for listening in mp3 and iTunes format. For more information, see the seminary's Web site at www.anderson.edu/sot.

Doctor of Ministry flourishes

The DMin program is flourishing at the seminary. The program, under the direction of Dr. James Lewis, associate dean and professor of theology and ethics, currently has 47 participants enrolled at various levels of completion. The seminary will graduate 11 participants in May. This number represents the school's largest DMin graduating class since its inception.

"These graduates and other participants in our DMin program understand and share a commitment to enhancing their quality of service to the church," commented Lewis. Additionally, Lewis noted that "our DMin participants embody a vibrant scholarship that weds heart and mind and nurtures a deep spirituality in their ongoing ministry."

The seminary's accredited DMin program is meeting the needs of many within the Church of God and other congregational groups. If you are looking for an enriching, quality, affordable academic program for ministry enhancement, contact Lewis at jwlewis@anderson.edu or (765) 641-4525.



Dr. James Lewis

Second Harp Professor in Residence lectures

Dr. Robert Lang'at delivered the second Harp Professor in Residence lectures on March 12. Lang'at spoke on the topic "A Biblical Theology of the Poor."

Lang'at's lecture examined a thread of understanding related to poverty as it develops from the Old Testament to the New. He observed that a significant change of identifying rich and poor began to unfold during the united monarchy. This more pronounced division between the rich and poor became a significant element of the prophetic texts with movement into the New Testament. He also shared his study related to the differences between spiritual and material poverty.

Lang'at is the Harp Professor in Residence for the 2008-09 academic year. He is deputy principal and lecturer at Kenya Highlands Bible College in Kericho, Kenya. Audio tapes of Lang'at's lectures are available through the Center for Christian Leadership. The CD set includes two lectures: "Leadership and Working Within Cultures Not Our Own" and "A Biblical Theology of the Poor." The cost of these CDs is \$20, which includes lectures, PowerPoint slides, vinyl case, and postage.



Certifications completed

Pastor Robert Larson of Rock Falls, Ill., completed 50 CEUs in Christian Ministry, Ministerial Track. Larson is the pastor of the Rock River First Church of God. Larson started in the CCL program studying in the area of adult senior ministry but transitioned to the Ministerial Track for congregational pastors. Larson also pastored with Church on Wheels Ministries before moving into his current ministry context.

The Rev. Donald H. Friesen of Alberta, Canada, completed the Certification in Christian Ministry in October 2008. He is the pastor of the Schuler Church of God in Alberta. He began working with the Center in 2002. Friesen initially started with the CCL program to help in ordination and with developing his pastoral ministry. He attended many annual Canadian theologian conferences as part of his own development in addition to the Center's coursework.

Marsha L. Frame of Germantown, Ohio, completed the Certification in Christian Studies in January 2009. She began working with the Center in 2001, but became more earnest in her work in 2005. Frame says, "Each course, though different in context, helped me define and better understand my spiritual giftedness and my place in the body of Christ." Frame attends the Germantown First Church of God where she is active in education and missions work.

CCL and CASA enter partnership arrangement

The Center for Christian Leadership and the Christian Association Serving Adult (CASA) Ministries joined as partners during November 2008 for the training and equipping of those working with senior ministries in the life of the church. The CCL joins CASA, Significant Living, and Total Living Network to deliver a certification program in adult ministries.

CASA was founded in 1983 by three churches in southern California. Its purpose was to “serve their 50+ members through cooperative efforts.” In 1993, CASA broadened its ministry to a “national and international outreach” in a desire to serve the church at large.

In January 2006 CASA, Significant Living, and Total Living Network “became a three-in-one ministry under the umbrella of Total Living International. The names of each of the ministries were retained and are seen as sister ministries focused on reaching the midlife and beyond population.” CASA’s current mission is “to inspire and equip the Church for ministry to and through adults in life’s second half.”

The CCL has been offering a Certification in Aging Ministries for a number of years. This unique program helps equip those working with senior ministries in the local congregation. The partnership between the CCL and CASA was a natural outgrowth of the Center’s desire to help equip those serving this vital segment in the life of the church.

CCL participants are encouraged to become members of CASA to receive discounts on materials through both programs. For details on the CCL Certification in Aging Ministries, see the Web page at www.anderson.edu/ccl/aging.html. To learn more about CASA or become a member, visit www.gocasa.org.

The Center also encourages people to attend the 2009 Annual CASA Leadership Conference. The conference is set for Sept. 16-18, 2009, at the Double Tree Hotel in Downers Grove, Ill., near the O’Hare Airport (Chicago).

Jeeninga Fellowship awarded

Haley McCracken, an undergraduate student at Anderson University, was selected as the 2008-09 recipient of the Gustav Jeeninga Fellowship in Archaeology. McCracken is planning to participate in an archaeological dig at Bethsaida Excavations Project, conducted through the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Bethsaida, mentioned in all four gospels, was the hometown of Philip, Andrew, and Peter. In addition to digging at Bethsaida, McCracken will tour Israel and participate in other archaeological sites as time allows. She will provide a report session sometime in the fall of 2009 related to her experience.

McCracken is the second fellowship recipient. Shannon New-Spangler was the inaugural Fellow during 2007-08. She excavated at Tel-Dan and also toured Israel. The Jeeninga Fellowship is open to current Anderson University and School of Theology students.

New CCL Participants (Oct. 1, 2008 - March 1, 2009)

For both the Certification in Christian Ministry and Certification in Aging Ministries.

Juli Banks, Highland Park Community Church, Casper, Wyo.

Sauna Friesen, Eastside Church of God, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada

Lady Grace Kharmujai, Church of God (Ecclesia), Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Sophia McNorton, Church of God, London, United Kingdom

Helen Murray, Parkgate Community Church, Pasadena, Texas

Lucene Nurse, Church of God, London, United Kingdom

Doshisha Phanbuh, Church of God (Ecclesia), Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Teiborson Phanbuh, Church of God (Ecclesia), Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Ibadanilin Sun, Church of God (Ecclesia), Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Elisa Toxey, Rock Creek Church of God, Bessemer, Ala.

Bernadine Wallace, New Vision, Dayton, Ohio

Kathy Zambos, Madison Park Church of God, Anderson, Ind.



School of Theology

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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY WEB SITE:

www.anderson.edu/sot — current seminary news

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WEB SITE:

www.anderson.edu/ccl — lectures, study programs, and materials

For giving or estate planning information, please contact the Office of Seminary Advancement, (765) 641-4526, or send e-mail to dlneidert@anderson.edu.

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Serving Outside the Seminary Walls

Dr. Kimberly Majeski, assistant professor in biblical studies, spoke at the Women of the Church of God Convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., in October 2008. Majeski also led morning Bible studies on Sabbath rest at the CBH Retreat at the Cove, North Carolina. In her work with CBH ViewPoint radio ministry, Majeski traveled to Israel in January 2009, along with 30 others.

Dr. James Lewis, professor of theology and ethics and associate dean of the seminary, has been very busy in his role with the seminary and church since the beginning of the academic year. He performed installation services for Adrienne Holmes at Abounding Grace Church Indianapolis and the Rev. Dr. Terry Rolenn at Brielle Avenue Church of God, Middletown, Ohio; led a workshop with Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins on forming multiethnic churches and served as moderator for the 2008 Doctrinal Dialogue at the North American Convention of the Church of God; taught for In-Service Training Institute of the National Association of the Church of God, Anderson University; workshop leader for "Wounded in the House" (Clergy Sexual Misconduct), National Association of the CHOG Camp Meeting, West Middlesex, Pa.; resource leader regarding Church of God Doctrines and Unity/Reconciliation for Church of God Ministries, Greensboro, N.C.; workshop leader and preacher at Arlington Church of God, Akron, Ohio; and co-facilitator for AIDS in Black America workshop, Anderson Univer-

sity. He preached at New Covenant Community Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Smithville Church of God, Smithville, Texas; First Baptist Church, Anderson, Ind.; Ekklesia Project, DePaul University, Chicago, Ill.; Louisiana Annual State Camp Meeting, Palmetto, La.; First Church of God, Eaton, Ohio; Pastor's Appreciation, Great Commission Church of God, Indianapolis; workshop leader and preacher for "Race and the Church," Englewood Christian Church, Indianapolis; Sherman Street Church of God, Anderson, Ind.; Martin Street Church of God, Atlanta, Ga.; Grace Fellowship Community Church, San Francisco, Calif.; AU undergraduate chapel speaker for Anderson University's Center for Public Service; and the Mercy House, Anderson. He served as Church of God Ministries representative at Faith and Order, Oklahoma City, Okla., and in Miami, Fla.; Leadership Development Board Meeting of the National Association of the Church of God, Atlanta, Ga.; presented a paper at the Wesleyan Theological Society, Anderson University; attended the Association of Doctor of Ministry Educators, Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas; and served as devotional chapel speaker for the Ball State University football team, Muncie, Ind.

Dr. John Aukerman, professor of Christian education, director of distance education, and director of outcomes assessment, continues to serve as a board member for the LOGOS Ministry and began serving on the board of Silent Blessings Deaf Ministries, a

program that brings spiritual healing to deaf and hard-of-hearing people and their families. Aukerman also participated in the 16th Annual National Character and Leadership Symposium at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs during February 2009. This symposium brings together distinguished scholars, armed forces leaders, corporate presidents, and others to explore various dimensions of character and leadership. Aukerman is also leading a team of 11 Christian education professors from several holiness universities to produce a new textbook in Christian education, written from a Wesleyan holiness perspective. This team includes SOT alumni Don Deena Johnson, John Johnson, Jane Kennard, Roger McKenzie, and Michael Sanders. Aukerman participated with the LOGOS All-Leader Training Event in Nashville, Tenn., and SHAPE and Higher Education planning event in Austin, Texas.

Dr. David Sebastian, dean of the seminary, represented the School of Theology at the Fellowship of Evangelical Seminary Presidents in San Antonio, Texas. During this meeting he was elected to serve on the executive committee of FESP. Sebastian also convened the Roundtable of Pastors of Large Churches of the Church of God in Seattle, Wash. This is a semi-annual meeting focusing on mutual support of Church of God pastors serving churches with weekly attendance of more than 500.