The Iliff School of Theology is in its second century of providing leaders who are effective in engaging one of the most demanding challenges facing our world today: How to develop community with integrity. Since 1892, Iliff, a graduate school of theology and a United Methodist-related seminary, has served a multitude of faith traditions while remaining grounded in its Methodist and Christian roots.
It is an honor to share with you our Annual Community Report for the academic year 2013-2014. I hope you will see the evidence of how your life-giving support has made it possible for our students and graduates to engage human need around the globe through leadership that is marked by compassion and a commitment to justice.

From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to Delhi, Minturn to Mexico, Iliff graduates are holding tension with the human condition as it is and how it can be. They are helping to imagine new possibilities for marginalized communities, ministering to those in need, leading congregations toward deeper purpose and engaging diverse communities.

Through your generous support, Iliff has added numerous scholarships (see a complete list on page 8) and we’ve raised more than $2 million to inspire courageous leaders through progressive theological education.

Iliff is committed to providing an intellectually alive and spiritually grounded theological education for our students as they prepare to lead in the Church, Academy, and the World. Throughout the 2013-2014 school year, your gifts have been steadfast and incited imagination as we continue to open possibilities for the future.

You’ve awakened our spirits by making possible the renovation of classrooms and common areas, advancement of academic technology, and new initiatives.

To say “thank you” for your support does not seem enough.

We offer this report with gratitude. It is with your continued support that imagination is set free for Iliff graduates to put a human touch in their leadership while working in the midst of our complex, changing world.

Gratefully,

Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe
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Our students bring creativity, curiosity, excellent critical thinking and a bias for action to everything they do. As a result, our graduates are courageously imagining a better world through traditional and alternative ministry, community service, and the advancement of peace and social justice. Iliff gives them the organizational tools to succeed in their mission.

KIM PATMORE
Chairperson, Iliff Board of Trustees
Certified Public Accountant, Photographer, and Former CFO, First Data Systems
This past year we took time to listen. We listened carefully to what you – as donors and friends – had to share. Here’s what you said when we conducted our most recent Friends and Alumni survey:

You value the work that Iliff does and you’ve set some expectations for us:

- **99%** Want Iliff to be a resource for clergy with regard to leadership development and continuing theological education
- **97%** Expect Iliff to teach students how to critically address theological issues
- **95%** Believe Iliff prepares students effectively for ministry
- **94%** Believe Iliff should continue to provide progressive theological education for clergy
- **93%** Want Iliff to maintain its progressive public voice on social justice issues
- **92%** Feel that Iliff should be a resource for religious and secular organizations
Endowed and Designated Funds provided by donors strengthen Iliff and its ability to make theological education accessible to students who can more ably answer a call to ministry or service without the weight of student loan debt. Likewise, Endowed and Designated funds secure core faculty positions, enabling Iliff to offer the rigorous curriculum and programs for which it has been known for more than 122 years. We are grateful to those now, and in years past, who have made this mission their passion and legacy. We join them in giving thanks for those who have been remembered and honored through these legacies.

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In a world of complexity and the absence of civil discourse and collaboration, it is important to have institutions that can teach students to analyze and evaluate situations from different perspectives with a commitment to civility. A critical question is what kind of world do we want to live in? Iliff creates an environment for students to wrestle with that question within her or his faith tradition.

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Sydney Schilling was born in Wyoming and has bright blonde hair. She’s not someone you’d expect to speak Swahili, or to have experience bringing African communities together. But, that’s exactly what she does.

The Iliff School of Theology’s Master of Arts in Social Change student just returned from her 2.5 month internship in Tanzania where she worked with the non-profit, grassroots organization, Zanzibar Legal Services Centre. Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous Tanzanian island off the mainland’s east coast in the Indian Ocean. The Centre’s primary focus is to provide free legal aid to Zanzibar citizens, as well as to host workshops around the city to combat, and bring awareness to, gender-based violence against children in collaboration with Save the Children International.

“We organized the Sheha’s, or the community leaders, to come to the workshops where we discussed the rights of the child,” Schilling explained. “It’s about creating a dialogue between community leaders. When I spoke, it was primarily of different community organizing tactics that they could use.”

According to a United Nations Population Fund article that ran in August 2014, two in five Tanzanian women 18-years-old or younger are married, and 23 percent of women 18-years-old or younger are pregnant or already have children. This can be a result of gender violence where the accuser will walk free until the woman gives birth and a DNA test can be conducted as proof. Even if the DNA test is conclusive, the police may fail to act by asking for bribes, or it may take years to go through the court system.

“We wanted people to be informed of their rights and how to move forward as a community,” Schilling said. “Often, people would get carried away talking about how corrupt the police are, and instead, we would turn the conversation around to ‘what more can we do as a community to combat this violence?’ We took the approach of addressing ‘what’s wrong’ and ‘here’s what more we can do and come together as a community to address the issue.’"

In addition to organizing workshops, Schilling also assisted the organization with their social media, photography, writing and editing reports, and forming ties with individuals in the organization to help create community collaboration.

“There was such a feeling of solidarity with the people,” she said. “It was really cool to be in an organization where I felt valued. There aren’t words to explain how I would feel after talking at a workshop and people coming up to introduce themselves and talk with me. Just sharing that connection was out of this world, especially given the fact that I am a white westerner. It was a very humbling experience to recognize my social location, and how that location connects to the colonization of Tanzania, and still be able to create meaningful relationships despite my difference.”

Schilling is in her second year at Iliff’s MASC Program and is focusing on a career in community organizing. She has a bachelor of arts in sociology from Whitworth University located in Spokane, Wash. This is also where she was first introduced to the Tanzanian culture when she embarked on a four-month study abroad as an undergraduate.
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“Love and compassion are not shields against the instruments of physical destruction. Rather, they provide us with the power to stand and face the enemies of light; they generate energy to create perpetual starbursts of brilliant hope, even as we take our last breath.” — Vincent Harding

Civil Rights Leader, Historian, and Theologian Vincent Harding died on May 19th, 2014 at the age of 82, leaving behind thousands of people whom he inspired through his embodiment of Love with a capital “L.”

Let us recall Vincent.

Along his magnificent journey, he served for 23 years as Professor of Religion and Social Transformation at The Iliff School of Theology in Denver where I met him in 2002. His manner of teaching was patient, kind, radiant. He had a mellifluous way of speaking, every word emerging from a well thought-out question or idea, no extraneous or wasted word, his language a measured procession of genius grounded...
Harding took a different tack. He referred to the Civil Rights Movement as the Freedom Movement, saying that the Movement freed more white people than it did black people—freed them from violence of the soul and from the scourge of hatred that stripped them of their humanity.

I shared my trepident feelings in class one day. In his gentle, wise way, Dr. Harding shook his head, having none of it. He looked at me and said, “Marie, Martin belongs to you.” That one statement changed the way I lived my life from that point on. I considered it a charge to continue King’s work in any small way I could: as an activist, a mother, a believer in goodness—to continue what Harding called “King’s unfinished business.”

Dr. Harding called me his “sister/daughter/co-worker.” That’s how he spoke: in union with the whole, believing in our full potential as human beings, calling us to discover our own greatness. And, in accordance with his timetable, there was no time to waste: the world needed us to be great in that exact moment. This is how he engaged everyone. He loved the world with a love beyond imagining. He stood alongside us, guiding us in the evolving struggle for peace and justice, holding the door open for new possibilities in every moment, his presence an invitation into all that is good.

I remember he wrote in the margin of one of my papers: “Compassion is what connects you.” He taught us that compassion is the means by which we learn to love one another, just as he believed in compassion as an end in itself. On the subject of holding onto our authenticity in this broken, misguided world, he was the quintessential teacher. A prophet who leaves his students with many questions…

What is our destiny as people? What rewards, if any, do we reap in exchange for our kindness as we pursue “the long and bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world”? What is our responsibility in ushering forth the beloved community? A vision Harding believed was not only necessary, but possible.

What difference does our small role make in the larger vision for humanity? This is, perhaps, the most salient question for change-makers. Vincent Harding believed deeply in our capacity; however, he also recognized our limitations. There is a limit to how large and powerful we can be. Isn’t there? And if we fall short, did we fail?

“Living in faith is knowing that even though our little works, our little seed, our little brick, our little block may not make the whole thing, the whole thing exists in the mind of God, and that whether or not we are there to see the whole thing is not the most important matter. The most important thing is whether we have entered the process.”

Let us recall Vincent.
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Why Iliff? Because you believe in Courageous, Compassionate Leadership!

The Iliff School of Theology is in its second century of providing leaders who are effective in engaging one of the most demanding challenges facing our world today: How to develop community with integrity. Since 1892, Iliff, a graduate school of theology and a United Methodist-related seminary, has served a multitude of faith traditions while remaining grounded in its Methodist and Christian roots.

Iliff was founded with the vision that it is called to inspire a passion for human dignity and compassion for those on the social margins. We proudly continue that tradition today. For students, Iliff has found ways to incorporate peaceful advocacy for social change and inclusion into their professional work – wherever that may be – in congregations, agencies, higher education, government, or other organizations throughout society.

Iliff’s vision is to prepare students:

- To be effective congregational and non-profit leaders with strong foundations in management, administration, fundraising, and organizational development
- To combine their administrative skills with an ability to be inspirational and transformational in their leadership
The preparation for an educated ministry and spiritual leadership requires substantial private support. We appreciate the many gifts – of all sizes – that were dedicated to Iliff for the purpose of training leaders for the Church, Academy, and the World.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVING 2013-2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Gifts</td>
<td>$262,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated Gifts</td>
<td>$346,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Gifts</td>
<td>$240,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Gifts</td>
<td>$243,981</td>
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<td>Methodist Educational Fund</td>
<td>$669,332</td>
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<td>Student Designated Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL CHARITABLE SUPPORT:</td>
<td>$2,029,983</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES: $6,513,120

- Tuition & Fees: $3,714,420
- Gifts & Grants: $988,670
- Housing & Misc.: $588,060
- Scholarships and Program Support from Endowment: $671,420
- Unrestricted Operating Funds From Endowment: $550,500

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: $6,513,120

- General Institutional Services: $2,327,595
- Instruction & Library: $3,474,030
- Facilities: $601,990
- Student Housing & Services: $109,505
Iliff is a creative community that seeks to engage the world as it is and create opportunities for change when it is needed. We need students who are willing to lead others on transformational theological journeys in a complex world with compassion, humility, and openness. Iliff teaches students the tools they need to meet religious and theological challenges with grace and flexibility.

JASON WHITEHEAD
PHD ’10
Counselor, Director of Consultation and Guidance, Iliff
Iliff graduates are impacting lives with integrity, care, and kindness.