The View

SUMMER 2009

Reframing for a Changing World
Reframing for a Changing World

The world has done a lot of reframing in the past few months – some of it for the better and some of it for the worse. To say that we live in “changing times” is an understatement.

At Iliff, we have been proactively working to anticipate change, meeting emerging needs while handling immediate concerns, and engaging actively in preparation for our future. We’ve completed an exhaustive marketing research study, prepared and adopted a strategic business plan, and made curricular changes to help us grow in a focused way.

We’ve met with hundreds of alums, supporters, and friends on this journey to hear what they have to say. We’ve talked with our students and the employers of our students. We’ve listened very closely to what prospective students hope to gain from an Iliff education.

Now, it’s time for us to truly “be the change” and ensure that Iliff will continue at the forefront of theological education.

Rev. Dr. David Trickett
President
New Graduate Certificate Program Offers Easy Access to Theological Education

Iliff now offers five graduate certificates for students interested in learning more about religious or theological subjects.

“Iliff’s new Graduate Certificate Program offers those with a bachelor’s degree the opportunity to deepen their understanding of religion, social change, justice, world religions, the Bible, or other theological subjects,” said David Trickett, president and Henry White Warren Professor of Ethics and Leadership. “Today, many students aren’t interested in earning an additional degree, but would like to complement their existing profession, prepare for service in a new arena, or deepen their understanding of themselves – our certificates help them to do that.”

The Iliff Graduate Certificate Program offers students the opportunity to obtain a certificate by completing four courses (16 credits) in a specific area of concentration. Courses are available in a variety of formats – online, on-campus, or hybrid. Any credit earned toward a certificate may be applied to an appropriate Iliff degree program.

Certificates now available include:

- **Religion and Social Change** – providing preparation in non-profit or for-profit organization, volunteers or professionals in churches, campus ministry, social service, social justice agencies, and business, through an understanding of religion in its social context.
- **Biblical Studies** – education for those interested in learning more about the Bible, as well as a supplement for religion teachers.
- **United Methodist Studies** – preparation for those seeking lay professional ministry certification in the United Methodist Church, seminary graduates in need of additional denominational courses, and for those interested in United Methodist history or doctrine.
- **Anglican Studies** – offering a background in the Anglican tradition for lay persons or professionals interested in deepening their understanding of Anglican history, theology, and practice.
- **General Theological Studies** – for professionals in a variety of fields interested in adding a theological component to their training or for students interested in personal growth and development.

“Next year, we hope to offer additional areas of studies, including certificates with other educational partners,” added Trickett. “We’ll determine those certificate areas as we learn more from the communities we serve.”

For registration information or questions, contact Iliff’s Admissions Office, admissions@iliff.edu, 1-800-678-3360, or 303-765-3117.
A theological education has historically translated into a church career path. Today, as in year’s past, about sixty percent of graduates are answering calls to ministry in churches or spiritual organizations. Increasingly, an Iliff education is sought as an enhancement for new or continuing careers in a wide variety of vocations.

Justice, peace, reconciliation, and social action are areas that are most often referenced when discussing the Iliff experience. Two alums tell their stories of how their passion for bringing action to social issues led them to Iliff, was shaped by the school, and continues to help them in their life journeys.
The caller identified himself as a representative from the White House. “Would you be interested in serving on Obama’s Council for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships?,” he asked. Arturo Chavez (PHD ’06) thought, “Is this call a hoax?”

Chavez later learned that the new council will work on behalf of Americans committed to improving their communities, no matter their religious or political beliefs, and will be a resource for nonprofits and community organizations – both secular and faith based – looking for ways to make a bigger impact in their communities through innovative partnerships that effectively meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Within a week of the first White House phone call, Chavez asked and received the unanimous support of his board and family to participate in the new council, and after a complete background check, he was on a plane to Washington, DC to meet with President Obama and other council members.

“President Obama met with us after the prayer breakfast in February. He is very sincere, personable and clearly committed to community,” Chavez said. “I was both curious and flattered that my work and experience would have drawn the interest of the President of the United States,” Chavez said. “I came to understand that my current work at Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), my involvement with the Latino community, and the church and community work before and after Iliff, all came into play.”

Chavez is the president and CEO of MACC in San Antonio, TX and has more than twenty years in a variety of ministries including teacher, youth minister, chaplain to incarcerated youth, community after-care programs, community organizer, activist, author, and national speaker.

“MACC was the first center for Hispanic Ministry after Vatican II that incorporated the gospel, and celebrated the culture of the people. The new model for the church encourages pastoral centers, theological and cultural studies, and a commitment to social justice.” See more at www.maccsa.org.

“I have to credit my wife for bringing me to Iliff,” commented Chavez. “We were both looking for educational opportunities when my wife was offered a fellowship to study social work at the University of Denver (DU). She decided not to pursue doctoral studies, but while she was looking into DU, I was visiting Iliff. The joint PHD in religion and social change fit exactly what I was seeking. Iliff’s offering of the Mary Louise Iliff Scholarship to me was the impetus that sealed the deal. My family and I moved to Denver and spent 2 ½ wonderful years living on campus in a supportive community – a big change for us, since my wife had never lived outside of San Antonio.”

Arturo Chavez completed his PHD in religion and social change from the joint program in 2006 and was awarded “Iliff Alum of the Year” in 2007.

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Interpretations of an Iliff Education Continued

Chavez Appointed to Obama’s Council for Faith Based Partnerships Continued from page 5

“I am grateful to the Iliff faculty and community, and also the Benedictine Resource Center where I worked before coming to Iliff, for helping me during this turning point in my life,” Chavez added. “It was just what I needed to bring the passion and skills together to do my life work.”

“I am teaching at MACC where we are addressing the need for Latino’s access to higher education. Those seeking degrees often experience the language block. MACC is moving to change that. We will offer fully bi-literate bachelor degree programs soon.”

“For those seeking graduate degrees, I will continue to refer them to Iliff,” Chavez said.

Mohrman Leads at Warren Village

Mohrman has taken her Iliff experience and passion for helping people to executive director positions at Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, Inc., American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, and now, as CEO of Warren Village in Denver.

“My strengths seem to lie, not so much in serving people in line for food, as they are in making sure the food line happens,” Mohrman added. “I was deeply involved, along with my family and young kids at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in urban Cincinnati, OH. We were involved in afterschool and summer programs for a neighborhood that was basically Appalachian and African American children. I also volunteered in a United Methodist retirement home ministry at Scarlet Oaks, helping elderly residents prepare for trips to the podiatrist. Both experiences pushed me to earn my skills, and build a spiritual foundation that could take me anywhere.”

Mohrman’s Tips for students wanting to pursue careers in social action:

Students need to ‘think outside the box’ to find positions that promote systemic change for justice. These may not be your typical ‘ministry’ positions, e.g., advocacy groups, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, government positions, etc.

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Mohrman Leads at Warren Village  Continued from page 6

Mohrman oversees 93 housing units occupied by single adult families with up to six children in one, two and three bedroom units. The program provides housing, education for up to 130 children in the learning center, and gives parents the opportunity to change and improve their lives through vocational assessment, life skills classes, child-enrichment activities, mentoring and resident-initiated leadership opportunities.

“Every day, it is rewarding to watch our single parents and children change, thriving in a stable environment. As they are empowered, they begin to discover their dreams. It is amazing to see hope and empowerment in action.”

Mohrman leads at Warren Village

Mohrman oversaw my bachelor degree and move toward ministry. I had wanted to go to Denver for most of my life. Coming to Iliff to pursue areas of social justice and social change was a great fit.”

“While attending Iliff, I served as an associate pastor at Burns United Methodist Church - preaching, counseling, visiting parishioners and developing membership cultivation programs,” Mohrman commented. “When I was ready to graduate from Iliff, I applied for a position at Mother’s Against Drunk Driving. It was clear in my interview that they needed a director. After conversations about how I could work from the position they were offering into the directorship they needed, I was hired to lead what turned out to be a nine county agency through all facets of the start-up process. I developed grant proposals and corporate contracts resulting in funding for the previously un-funded organization, initiated a donor solicitation program, volunteer recruitment and training seminars, and worked with state agencies to identify effective measures to reduce drinking and driving.”

In the five years Mohrman has been at Warren Village, the Early Childhood Education Center has earned national accreditation and for two successive years, earned the highest possible rating for excellence through Qualistar, Colorado’s premier rating system. She noted, “Our children are from our single parent families as well as children of our graduating residents, and low-income children from the community. The message we want to send is that children matter – and low income children deserve the very best in early childhood education.”

In Warren Village’s 35 year history, it has been cited as a national model for its holistic approach in self-sufficiency programs. The Warren Village Transformational Housing Model provides safe, affordable housing; intensive case management and on-site family support services; and a quality child care.

Sue’s Tips for students interested in pursuing careers in social action:

1) As a student, be in touch with your longings or desires and follow your heart. Find out what you are passionate about and follow your intuition as opportunities arise.

2) Look for mentors within Iliff’s alums and from the wider Iliff community. You will find support from people who have shared the Iliff experience.
Iliff Announces New Appointments
President David Trickett recently announced the appointment of faculty to positions at Iliff.

Hernández Named Vice President & Dean of the Faculty

**Albert Hernández**, associate professor of the history of Christianity, has been named academic vice president and dean of the faculty. He has served Iliff since 2001. In addition to his professorial duties, he has also been associate dean for academic affairs and coordinator of Iliff’s Master in Theological Studies program.

“I am very pleased and honored to serve Iliff as its next academic vice president and dean of the faculty,” said Hernández. “Although we live in a time of unprecedented social changes that are altering the landscape of theological education across North America, this is also a moment of unprecedented opportunity for a school like Iliff to both honor and expand its historic legacy of serving the academy and the church while providing valuable and relevant leadership amidst all of these challenges. We will work together to execute our strategic business plan that will ensure that Iliff is at the forefront in our field of theology and social change.”

Antonio Now Harvey H. Potthoff Associate Professor

**Edward Antonio** has been named the Harvey H. Potthoff associate professor of Christian theology and social theory. Antonio came to Iliff in 1997 and was named the Louise Iliff Visiting Professor. He teaches theology, social theory and African studies and serves as Iliff’s diversity officer. Before coming to Iliff he taught at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa where he also served as the treasurer of the South African Academy of Religion and as a consultant for the World Council of Churches Project on Ecumenical Hermeneutics.

Creamer Announced as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**Deborah Creamer (PHD ’04)**, assistant professor of theological bibliography and director of the Ira J. Taylor Library, has been appointed associate dean for academic affairs. She will continue to direct the library. She joined Iliff’s faculty in September 2005, and has been a member of the Ira J. Taylor Library staff since 1996. She is a graduate of Iliff and University of Denver Joint PHD Program. Her teaching and research interests include information literacy, pedagogy, writing skills, feminist theology, and disability and religion. Her latest book is *Disability and Christian Theology: Embodied Limits and Constructive Possibilities*.

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Kelsey Appointed Gerald L. Schlessman Visiting Assistant Professor of Methodist Studies

**Catherine Kelsey** has been appointed the Gerald L. Schlessman Visiting Assistant Professor of Methodist Studies. “The position gives me the opportunity to live the passion I have for theology and specifically the United Methodist Church,” Kelsey said. “I am honored to follow Jean Miller Schmidt. I receive the appointment as I celebrate my 25th anniversary of being an ordained elder.”

Kelsey will continue to serve as Dean of the Chapel and direct first year students in field education.

Mahan Selected Ralph E. and Norma E. Peck Chair

**Jeffrey Mahan** has been appointed to the Ralph E. and Norma E. Peck Chair in Religion and Public Communication. Mahan, professor of ministry media and culture, joined the Iliff faculty in 1995. Before assuming the deanship in 2005, he served as director of ministry studies. His teaching, research, and publication have given particular attention to the relationships of religion and popular culture.

Mahan recently completed his term as dean and will spend the 2009-10 academic year in research related to the Peck Chair.

Turpin Promoted to Associate Professor

**Katherine Turpin** has been advanced to the rank of associate professor. Turpin joined the Iliff faculty in 2002. Prior to coming to Iliff, Turpin served as adjunct instructor at Candler School of Theology and had been a member of the faculty of the Youth Theological Initiative, Atlanta. A committed layperson in the UMC, Turpin also served four years as director of Christian education, Trinity UMC, Atlanta.

An interest in how persons become the living bearers of faith traditions, how they negotiate challenges to Christian vocation presented by consumer culture, and the politics of knowing in diverse communities informs Turpin’s work in the practice of religion education. Turpin’s publications include *Who Is My Neighbor*, a four-session DVD course she co-wrote to facilitate conversations about the intersections of faith and immigration issues, and *Branded: Adolescents Converting from Consumer Faith*, a look at adolescent vocation in a consumer-focused culture.
Artistry and Theology Create Perfect Blend for Change

“I believe art and theology are strong partners for communication,” says Sandy Ceas, master of theological studies (MTS) student. The theology of Christianity has a rich inheritance in the arts from the past. I seek to be a scholar of art and theology and an agent of change in culture - to present art with a new voice, especially for the contemporary world. Art can express the ineffable, and induce spiritual deliberation leading to change in self and surrounding culture.”

As an accomplished contemporary, conceptual installation artist and art educator, Ceas was the subject of an article in The Rocky Mountain News in January chronicling her visit to Washington, DC during Obama’s inauguration. At the time, Ceas’ work was featured in the Christians in the Visual Arts show at Wesley Theological Seminary's Dadian Gallery. Over the past several years, she has traveled to more than 18 cities, leaving about 1000 handmade, surprise gifts: palm-sized, ceramic “blessing doves,” in random locations in hope - no, certainty - that they will end up in the hands of the people who need them most. While in Washington, she placed doves in various places with a prayer that they touch the lives of the individuals who see them or take them home, highlighting her contribution to Obama’s “hope” movement.

The “blessing doves” are perhaps, individually, the smallest of Ceas’ art installations that have been exhibited across the United States. Her larger installations include such spiritual pieces as Testimony Tree, a spontaneous writing on a wall around a restored wooden tree ring. The text is written while reflecting on a question about relationship to the world and to God. Each exhibit and new writing is a journey of thought that expresses the trial and revelations experienced when submitting to a call on life.

Another piece, Time Heals, is an installation of several large ceramic vessels suspended from a ceiling while dispensing fine grains of white sand for six hours to the surface below. This passage of time evokes contemplation and reflection. Time Heals is part of a traveling international military exhibition.

“My work questions relationship with self, God and others, and offers insight toward healing and conversion,” Ceas said. “My art involves various materials taking up space to evoke an engagement and a response.”

At Iliff, Ceas seeks to advance her education in Christian theology to enrich her art with the knowledge and power of God. In the MTS program, she is studying the history of Christianity, the narrative of religious art through the ages and the power of healing. Ceas looks forward to studies of the Holy Spirit, pilgrimages, culture, world religions, and the impact of art and theology throughout the world and will be applying to the Iliff/DU joint doctoral degree program in 2010.

To view more of Sandy Ceas’ work, visit www.sandrajanceas.com and www.art4him.net.
Iliff’s new marketing campaign, question2learn, focuses on bringing people closer to understanding Iliff’s work through providing them with resources for answering “life’s big questions.” Featuring billboard advertising, a micro Web site, video casts, and podcasts tied to three of Iliff’s premier faculty members – Albert Hernandez, Jacob Kinnard, and Katherine Turpin – the campaign has already earned significant awareness and recognition for the school.

Focusing on three questions – “Can I really make a difference?,” “Can all faiths just get along?,” and “Is this all there is?” – the campaign provides the public with resources. Katherine Turpin, associate professor of religious education, shares her response to the question “Can I Really Make a Difference?”

Can I Really Make a Difference?
Katherine Turpin – associate professor of religious education

Q. How do you go about answering these big questions?

A: On this question in particular it depends on who is asking it… “Can I really make a difference?” I think people at different stages of their lives ask this question for different reasons. So, with adolescents and young adults, they’re asking, is this culture going to let me make a difference? Where can I put my energies? Will I be able to contribute something?

I think a little later, when people have been working for a while and trying to make a difference, they start to ask “Is what I’m doing really important? Am I really changing things? Why is it things keep looking the same? I just had a social worker who was in a Bible study, who said she went into her profession because she wanted to be someone who helped transform people’s lives. Instead, what she was seeing was an endless sea of human need, especially since the economy is tanking, really. So she was starting to wonder, “Can I really make a difference?” That’s when the question is more of a lament or a question of despair.

And then I think, as people move along, they start to see, wow, there’s not much more of my working life left, what am I going to do in these last few years to really make a difference?

So, I think it’s a question of considering all of the possibilities. What’s out there that calls me to work? Wow, I’ve been working for a while and I’m not really sure. That sort of question can also be one of despair or lament.

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I think we have resources here at Iliff to answer the question at all the stages of life when people start to question whether life really matters or if they are making a difference. If so, for whom, when, where and why? It’s an important question.

Q: When you’re in the classroom with diversity of age, stages of life, thought, do they help each other? When you discuss this question, the discussion must be rich.

A: It is. We have students who are 23 and fresh out of college, and we have students who are 65 and doing degrees for all kinds of reasons other than just professional development. I do think they help each other out. They say, wow, I went into classroom teaching in elementary school thinking I would really make a difference, and then what I found was – this or that – a lot of back and forth between students. There are voices of experience, voices of hope – without so much experience sometimes, which is really good for all of us to remember what it was we really cared about when we got into the things we got into. So I think they do temper each other. They speak out of different life places. It is very rich - and not always non-conflicted.

Q: What kinds of courses do you have at Iliff that could help one answer these kinds of questions?

A: Well, I think this particular question – “Can I really make a difference?” – really fits into all of our classes. But in particular, there is one I am teaching that’s called “Education and Social Change” that is about how education has contributed to movements in society that have changed things and when it has hindered social change. How do you work for a different kind of world through educating people?

Then there are other ways in which almost every class touches on this. When you study the Bible, and you are someone who works in religious communities, part of the reason you want to know that narrative is because you know its power in communities and in shaping identity, in shaping their commitments, in shaping how they see the world and how they hope the world will be. And so, when you’re learning, you’re learning about this ancient text, the Bible. But what you’re learning is how it is working in people’s lives. Does it make a difference at all that these stories exist and that we live with them? So, I think this question weaves its way into almost all of our classes in some way or other.

Q: Do you have particular books or resources you could recommend for someone looking for answers to this question?

A: For me, one of the books that I think is really powerful - that has been powerful in my own life is Sharon Welch’s *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*. Welch is someone who worked in nuclear disarmament a long time and then got very frustrated and started asking, “Can I really make a difference on this issue that we’ve been working on forever?” All these nations still have nuclear weapons. Maybe they will never go away. And that whole book is a meditation on how do you sustain work for justice in the face of knowing that it may not change in your lifetime? Many of the deep and complex issues that we care about and do want to make a difference on, don’t change over night. So, I think it is an important book on saying how you keep working in the meantime. It’s a great book.

Q: As an Iliff faculty member, how do you help students work through this question, wherever they are in their life experience?

A: Well, there are different kinds of levels. Certainly when I am advising, when someone is in my office, we talk face to face, and have conversations about what their hopes and dreams are, what they see as their strengths, contexts when they feel alive in their work. We just talk informally about where they can make a difference and what difference they can make.
I think in the classroom, we will sometimes go after these really complicated, theoretical texts and some seem to spin out to feel like they don’t really matter. But, one of the things I do is ask the students what they really care about, what are the issues that drive them, what are the answers that they want to find for their own communities and families. We always bring whatever we are talking about back to those central questions. Often they are very specific, like how is it we can be a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities – coming from someone who has a mother with Down’s syndrome. Or how can I make a difference on this particular piece of my life that is really important – always informs the discussions we are having about radical texts, or Bible or whatever – it brings it home – because it does matter to people. They want who they are to make a difference.

**Q:** What kinds of careers do students go into with graduate degrees from Iliff?

**A:** There is a very traditional path – one which we are known for – we give the Master of Divinity – the professional degree like the MD for doctors – is the professional degree for ministers. Some people go into the church and get ordained in various denominations and are ministers. But, I think the kinds of questions we ask can inform all kinds of professions. My husband has a MDIV and works for Habitat for Humanity. He’s basically working on coding or land acquisitions. But, he went into that with a real desire to make a difference in the world around housing issues. His theological education helps him work with communities that share those values, thinking about why it is important to engage in them. His education helps him to describe why it is important, why it matters. I was also thinking about this doctoral student who wrote this incredible dissertation on the role of religious discourse on Christian tradition on human trafficking laws in the United States and the ways in which conservative Christian values showed up in those laws. Here she’s talking about public policy that’s really major concerning human trafficking, particularly around sex workers. Religious tradition is right in the heart of the way we make policy as a nation.

So there’s no place where being familiar with religious tradition, understanding how people work within it, that doesn’t need to be informed about the way we work together as a culture.

View, listen or read “The Big Question” interviews with Iliff faculty members Katherine Turpin, Albert Hernandez and Jacob Kinnard at www.question2learn.com.
Susan Schlessman Duncan, Trustee 28 Years, Retires

I was raised in a down-to-earth Methodist family and was asked by a friend of my father to join the board in 1981 – the same year Donald Messer became Iliff’s president,” said Susan Duncan. “My father Gerald L. Schlessman, served on the Iliff board for many years, and my mother had served for four years after my father died in 1991. My mother enjoyed the dinners, but never really got involved in the work of the board,” Duncan said.

“It took me several years to understand the duties of a board member,” Duncan remarked. “We originally met in Bartlett Lounge and sat in that comfortable furniture. When they finally realized the board was falling asleep, they brought in tables and we got to work.”

“I always enjoyed meeting new people, but never got involved with the faculty. I enjoyed the leadership, but wasn’t interested in taking classes or being the chair of the board. I believed in the mission and goal of Iliff and frequently served on the Institutional Advancement Committee and once as the executive vice president.”

“New presidents, faculty, and students were never ending during my time here. There were some very difficult, eye-opening and painful times,” Duncan commented. “But, there was always so much potential.”

The highlight of her tenure on the board was the capital campaign to build offices, the wing with the library - an $8 million expansion. “The Hudson family gave the money for the automated library stacks and Tom Crane was a terrific manager of the fundraising,” added Duncan.

“I was asked by Don Messer to go to Detroit to get the Kresge Foundation to match the funds needed for our project. I told Dr. Messer that I wasn’t the right person to persuade the foundation, but he was just as convinced that I was perfect for the job. My husband didn’t want me to go, but I went anyway. I guess Dr. Messer was right. Together, we told the foundation the Iliff story and we left Detroit with a commitment for the money we needed.”

“We are graduating students who are changing the world,” Duncan added. “I have learned a lot. I am much more accepting of changes in the world and willing to listen to those I don’t agree with. I’ve learned you’ve just got to keep moving.”

Susan Schlessman Duncan Award Presented to Barbara Baldwin

President David Trickett introduced a new award at graduation to honor retiring board member Susan Schlessman Duncan.

“Susan’s initial interest began with her father who was a board member for many years. But, her relationship with us has grown, and over the last three decades has been much more. For more than 28 years, Susan has been an active, engaged member of our Board. Her frankness and truthfulness has made her one of our strongest leaders. Her energy and commitment in serving on various committees

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Sheila Davaney, Harvey H. Potthoff Professor of Christian Theology, announced her retirement from Iliff effective at the end of June. Davaney has been on leave since November 2007. During this time, she has served as religion program officer for the Ford Foundation, a position in which she will continue after her retirement from Iliff.

Davaney has been a member of Iliff faculty since 1980. Her roles at Iliff included directing the Joint Iliff/DU PHD Program, coordinating the MA Program, and chairing search and program committees.

The author or editor of eleven books and numerous articles, Davaney’s work has particularly advanced understandings of pragmatic historicism and of feminist theology. A popular speaker, Davaney has regularly lectured nationally and internationally. Her leadership in the academy has included key roles in the American Academy of Religion, American Theological Society and at the prestigious Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought.

Barbara Baldwin, trustee, was honored with the award as this year’s most outstanding board member. Baldwin has supported Iliff as a strong advocate for the institution in the greater community, and is someone who has demonstrated loyalty to Iliff – even in times of adversity. Baldwin has led the school’s effort to have Iliff Hall recognized on the National Historic Register, chaired the Little Rock Nine event, and has been an active member on several committees (including Building and Grounds).

“It is with great pleasure that we honor Barbara Baldwin with the first Susan Schlessman Duncan Award,” Trickett announced.

Susan Schlessman Duncan Award Presented to Barbara Baldwin Continued from page 14

requires that we recognize her with a very special remembrance as she ends her board service with us this year to move into “a more leisurely pace”…if that is possible. To this end, we have begun a new tradition – a tradition that honors an esteemed elder in our community with a continuance of her legacy – the Susan Schlessman Duncan Award,” said Trickett.

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Susan Schlessman Duncan Award Presented to Barbara Baldwin Continued from page 14

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43 students received the following awards and scholarships in the Iliff Chapel at Honors Convocation, June 4:

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<th>Scholarship</th>
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<td>The Wallace B. and Jean Dalby Clift Scholarship</td>
<td>Sarah Raven</td>
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<td>The Carmen Freeman Urban Ministry Scholarship</td>
<td>David Johnson</td>
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<td>The Edward C. Herbrand Memorial Award</td>
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<td>The Edward C. Herbrand Award for Excellence in Church History</td>
<td>Adriana Tulissi</td>
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<td>The Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship</td>
<td>Janine DeLaunay</td>
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<td>The John H. Jackson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Russell Stewart</td>
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<td>The Ronald E. Sleeth Preaching Award</td>
<td>John Fiscus</td>
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<td>The R. Allene Sather Award</td>
<td>Janet Gold</td>
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<td>The Fellowship Seminarian Award</td>
<td>Sharity Bassett</td>
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<td>The Bishop Wheatley Peace &amp; Justice Award</td>
<td>Scott Kerr</td>
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<td>The Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence</td>
<td>Kathryn Thompson</td>
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<td>The Women’s Alliance Scholarship</td>
<td>Gretchen Haley</td>
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<td>The Louis W. Bloede Field Education Scholarship</td>
<td>Avery Sledge</td>
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<td>The Maryann Downs Scholarship</td>
<td>Vivian Hiestand</td>
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<td>The S. Arthur Henry Scholarships</td>
<td>Jamie Kepros</td>
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<td>The Walter E. Bailey &amp; Edward G. Bonneau Scholarship</td>
<td>Kevin Hall</td>
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<td>The United Methodist Foundation Scholarships</td>
<td>Linda Cheek</td>
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<td>The United Methodist Seminary Awards</td>
<td>Tyler Amundson</td>
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<td>The Margaret E. Scheve Scholarship</td>
<td>Adam Burns</td>
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<td>The John D. Spangler Award for Excellence in Pastoral Care and Psychology of Religion</td>
<td>Jason Whitehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Iliff Warren Fellowship</td>
<td>Elizabeth Coody (Iliff/DU)</td>
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<td>Harvey H. Potthoff Presidential Scholars</td>
<td>Sara Rosenau (Drew)</td>
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<td>Urban Ministry Fellows</td>
<td>2007-2010 - Tiffany Baker</td>
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<td>2008-2011 - Jeffery Richards</td>
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<td>2009-2012 - Jennifer Veres-Schrecengost</td>
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<td>Schlessman Parish Fellows</td>
<td>Linda Cheek</td>
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<td>Students of the Year Award</td>
<td>Nancy Rosas Salamanca</td>
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<td>Arthur Lee Tredwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rollin Everett Smith Award for Outstanding Service to Iliff by a Staff Member</td>
<td>Elizabeth Coody</td>
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<td>Nancy Niero</td>
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<td>Vince Tango</td>
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New Faculty Books

Out of the Shadows, into the Light: Christianity and Homosexuality

Conducting a nonthreatening and accessible conversation about an issue that is presently tearing many churches and denominations apart, Out of the Shadows, into the Light focuses on communication in hopes of creating reconciliation for the Christian community.

With views from multiple perspectives, Miguel De La Torre, associate professor of social ethics, Out of the Shadows, into the Light shows how leading a congregation to discuss this controversial topic can lead to better understanding and facilitate reconciliation in the church.

Contributors include: Marvin Ellison, Janis Hahn, Luis Leon, Irene Monroe, James Oraker, Ken Stone, and Mona West and Iliff’s Larry Graham.

Alumni/ae Association Board Announced

Alumni/ae Board members include:

**Board of Directors**
- Kay Krebs, MDIV '06, President - Class of 2010
- Tony Dawson, MDIV '89, Vice President - Class of 2010
- Handi Jo Dolloff-Holt, MDIV '97, Secretary - Class of 2009
- Jane Barton, MTS '03, MASM '08 - Class of 2010
- Jason Kennedy, MDIV '08 - Class of 2009
- Craig Peterson, MDIV '02 - Class of 2011
- Jeremy Shaver, MDIV '05 - Class of 2009
- Nancy Slabaugh-Hart, MDIV '98 - Class of 2011
- Sione Tukutau, MDIV '99 - Class of 2010

**Emeritus Member**
- Lonnie Eakle, THM '67

Alumni/ae Association Board members include (left to right) Jane Barton, Lonnie Eakle, Nancy Slabaugh-Hart, Sione Tukutau, Handi Jo Dolloff-Holt. Kneeling are Kari Buchanan, alumni/ae director and Kay Krebs, alumni/ae board president.
Annie (Rigo) Arnoldy (MDIV ’04) was ordained as an elder with the UMC, June 2008. As associate pastor at First UMC, Grand Junction, CO, she led the invocation at the Iliff luncheon at the UMC Annual Conference held at Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction.

Jean Bruscia (MDIV ’06) reports that the volcano, Mt. Redoubt, was erupting in March and dumping ash around Anchorage, Alaska. She asks that we keep in our prayers the elderly and young who suffer from respiratory problems.

Aaron Gray (MDIV ’85) has been appointed to Wheat Ridge UMC, Wheat Ridge, CO.

Kathy Haley (MDIV ’98) graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology with a DMIN in Wesleyan Studies and Evangelism. We regret that it was incorrectly reported in our last issue.

Mark Holland (MDIV ’97) is celebrating with a Dr. 10/40 Party. He graduated in May from Saint Paul School of Theology with his DMIN; has served 10 years as pastor at Trinity UMC, Kansas City, KS; and turned 40.

Sudarshan Kapur (MAR ’83, PHD ’89), professor of peace studies, Naropa University, will be a part of the State Department’s delegation from the United States to India to honor the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s pilgrimage to India.

Jackie Kendall-Gebel (MAR ’82) is director of children’s and young family ministries, Denver’s Central Presbyterian Church, and has been a Christian education director for 28 years. She is a published curriculum author and has worked with the Guild for Psychological Studies.

Guchul “James” Kim (DMIN ’09) currently at Walsenburg UMC, has been appointed to Pueblo Korean Church, Pueblo, CO.

Barbara Johns-Schleicher (MAR ’94, MTS ’05) currently serving the Hygiene UMC (CO), and has been appointed to Rinn UMC, Frederick, CO.

Alums continued on page 19

Outstanding Alums Honored

Carol Westphal (MAR ’97, MDIV ’99) was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Specialized Ministry award; Melanie Rosa (MDIV ’84, DMIN ’05) was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Parish Ministry; the Distinguished Alumnus/a Award was presented to Joretta Marshall, (MDIV ’80); and Jean Miller Schmidt was recognized as the Distinguished Honorary Alumnus/a. Special recognition was given to Doug Slaughter (PHD ’88) for completion of serving on the Iliff Alumni/ae Association Board.
F. Rachel Magdalene (MDIV ’93, MAR ’94, PHD ’03) is spending two years in Germany as a visiting research scholar at the Institut fur Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Theologische Facultat, Universitat Leipzig, and as guest of the faculty, Seminar fur Altes Testament, Theologische Facultat, Universitat Humboldt zu Berlin. Last June, she was awarded a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant for their Neo-Babylonian Trial Documents Project.

Marie Marchand (MTS ’03), executive director of Whatcom Peace & Justice Center (WPJC), Bellingham, WA, accepted the 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from The Pacific Northwest Conference of The UMC. The award recognizes the organization’s outstanding efforts towards the furtherance of peace regionally and nationally. Bellingham’s Garden Street UM, Bill Green (MDIV ’81), pastor, is one of seven local congregations that contributes financially to WPJC.

Eric Massanari (MDIV ’99), pastor, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, was awarded a grant from the Louisville Institute for a pastoral sabbatical this summer for his project entitled, the Space Between: Cultivating Contemplative Relationship.

Yong Hui V. McDonald (MDIV ’02), chaplain inside prison walls in Adams County (www.transformprisons.org) has written and produced books and CDs in Spanish and English, including Maximum Saints: Eyes of Blazing Fire, about the transformational work happening there. Dancing in the Sky, a Story of Hope for Grieving Hearts, was published in June.

Ronald Roy Myers (MDIV ’84) is pastor, Colonial Hills UMC, San Antonio, TX. Ron’s wife, Linda Jean Picht-Myers (MDIV ’85) serves Bethany UMC and works in other local denominational groups dealing with both elderly and gang issues. They are involved in outreach with other churches in San Antonio as they open a new $7 million clinic. The Myers met in Professor Ron Sleeth’s preaching class while attending Iliff, were paired off as preaching partners, and now have been married for 25 years.

Tapiwa Mucherera (MA, ’94, PHD ’99) is associate professor in pastoral counseling, Asbury Theological Seminary. He has been on the Asbury faculty since 1999.

Linda Pelletier (MDIV ’96) is senior pastor, at Good Shepherd UMC, Colorado Springs, CO.

Con Pyle (MTS ’54) was a pastor in the Grand Junction, CO area for 57 years and currently works with Men Against Domestic Violence.

Robert Don Ross (MDIV ’78) was appointed to First UMC, Houma, LA after serving at Horseshoe Drive UMC, Alexandria, LA for ten years. The View regrets that this information was incorrectly reported earlier.

Scott Schiesswohl (MDIV ’85, DMIN ’06) has been appointed to St. Paul’s UMC, Boulder, CO.

Chuck Schuster (DMIN ’78) is senior pastor, First UMC, Fort Collins, CO. His church recently won a national award from the Congregation and Synagogue Library Association for their online library.

Lucas Shamala (PHD ’06) was featured in DU Today in “Empowerment Foundation Honors Alumnus’ Kenyan Roots.” He has started a non-profit to improve living conditions in rural African community.

Jeremy Shaver (MDIV ’05) is the new executive director of The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado.

Don Sperber (MDIV ’62) was appointed to serve as interim pastor, Grace UMC, Cheyenne, WY.
Community Update

Sherry Wright (PHD '02) was honored on Martin Luther King Day with the Spirit of King Community Service Award in Manhattan, KS. The award recognizes the social justice work of Manhattan citizens who have furthered King’s dream bringing diverse peoples together. Wright chaired the Martin Luther King Task Force and Juneteenth Committee in Manhattan and initiated friendship and support groups between Muslim and Christian women.

Deaths

Connie (Peck) Blake, daughter of Ralph and Norma Peck who established the Peck Chair, died in January 2009.

Robert F. Clazie (THM '53) died in June as a result of complications from surgery.

Zachary Hergott, son of Diane (MDIV '94) and Larry Hergott, died in a small plane crash in January.

Keith McDonald (MDIV '87), husband of Yong Hui V. McDonald (MDIV '02), died in a car accident in July 2008.

H. Earl Morris (MTH '49) died in September 2008.

Rodney Wilmoth (MDIV '62), retired member of the UM Minnesota Annual Conference, died in February 2009.

Alums Continued from page 19

Tyler Amundson and Travis Walker will receive The UM Higher Education Foundation’s 2009 UM Dollars for Scholars Scholarships upon their fall enrollment.

Ryan Canaday, director of The Foundation Campus Ministry at DU, leads “PB&J Nights” to take lunches to El Centro Humanitario in Denver. The group’s work was featured on 9News and in DU Today. Iliff alum, Anne Dunlap (MDIV '08), development/outreach director for El Centro Humanitario, was also featured.

Kelly Colwell an entering master of divinity student has been recognized as a young leader who demonstrates exceptional gifts for ministry by The Fund for Theological Education. The 2009 Fellowship is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. to increase the number of highly capable young people exploring or preparing for ordained ministry as a profession.

More on the Web
www.iliff.edu

Students

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Community Update

Students

Barbara Fernie published a prayer in Lifting Women’s Voices: Prayers to Change the World. The publication will debut this summer at the Episcopal General Convention. Her prayer is below:

“Knowing Poverty”

How do we come to know poverty?

Poverty of spirit?
Poverty of circumstance?
Poverty of knowledge?
Poverty of faith?
Poverty of wealth?

Who can tell who is poor and who is not poor?
When do we notice our own poverty?
When do we weep and gnash our teeth?
Set fire to our homes and kill our children?
When do bad things happen, to whom and WHY?
Where is God in this knowing of our poverty?
Where is God’s grace if not here in our search for the meaning of our own poverty?

Holy, listening God, we pray for the world to be saved from its poverty.

New Scholarship Funds Announced

Seven endowed scholarships have reached endowment status and will be awarded for the first time in academic year 2009-2010. They are:

- Charles Arehart
- Bailey-Bonneau
- Kaye Fort
- Louis Bloede
- Earl and Rhonda Hanna
- Edward Lewis
- Arthur Henry

Two other endowed scholarships have recently been established: Robert and Lois Clazie and Gerald Forshey. Both of these scholarship funds will take several years to achieve endowment status.

“It is because of the generosity of many donors that these endowed funds have been established and they will support talented and worthy students for generations to come.”

Staff

Kari Buchanan is the director of alumni/ae and community engagement.

Susanne Mueller has joined the business office.

Donna Sovern is assistant to the president.

Wanda Sparks is the assistant to the Institutional Advancement department.

Vincent Tango (MDIV ’05) will be ordained in the United Church of Christ by the Metropolitan Denver Association to serve at Iliff as the coordinator of admissions and outreach. Tango’s work was recognized with the 2009 Rollin Everett Smith Award for outstanding service to Iliff by a staff member at Honors Convocation.

Will Wedow is the coordinator of the IT helpdesk.
Community Update

Faculty

Phil Campbell, Amy Erickson, Cathie Kelsey, Eunjoo Kim, David Trickett, Ted Vial, and Richard Ward contributed essays and editing expertise to Feasting on the Word, the first of a 12-volume series that was recently reviewed in The Christian Century magazine. Barbara Melosh of The Christian Century says, “Feasting on the Word is a monumental contribution to preaching resources.”

Tony Alumkal, associate professor of sociology of religion, spoke at Christ Church United Methodist (Denver) on the topic of “Immigration and Religion in the United States.” Alumkal and his wife, Elizabeth Pexton (MDIV ’03) recently welcomed a new baby to their family.

Edward Antonio, the Henry H. Potthoff Associate Professor of Christian Theology and Social Theory, was recently appointed to an American Academy of Religion Luce Fellowship in Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theory. He will join 25 scholars representing different religions, churches and traditions as well as different fields of learning from theology, the social sciences and religious studies, whose job in the next two years it will be to think and learn about ways of bringing the challenges of religious pluralism into the classroom as well as into their research agendas.


Miguel De La Torre, associate professor of social ethics contributed a chapter in the book Injustice and the Care of Souls: Taking Oppression Seriously in Pastoral Care and wrote more than 50 biblical expositions in The People’s Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Aprocrypha. He was interviewed on Univision, and for the Louisville Courier Journal. An article in “Que Vergüenza,” Equity Magazine, reported on De La Torre’s response to a New York Times advertisement on the alleged intimidation of the Church of Latter-Day Saints by the GLBT community. De La Torre also addressed GLBT issues “Presentation on Gays in North Christian Church,” The Republic; served as keynote speaker on homosexuality organized by Evangelicals Concerned, Inc.; and as keynote speaker on GLBT Issues, organized by the Inclusive Community Coalition. De La Torre’s work in the Latino/a community included a keynote address and workshop on sexuality organized by Galilean Ministries and as keynote speaker on immigration, organized by Hispanic Christian Chamber of Commerce Foundation. De La Torre also presented a paper, “Rejecting Eurocentric Ethics for an Ethics para Jorder” at the Society of Christian Ethics.

Carrie Doehring, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling, was a co-speaker at “Thinking about God – 21st Century Christian Theology and the Challenges of Religious Fundamentalism,” St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Aurora, CO. She presented, “Using Trifocal Lenses in Pastoral Care: Assessing When Care seekers are Using Premodern, Modern, and Postmodern Approaches to Religious Knowledge,” at Denver’s Trinity UMC and “Cross Cultural Spiritual Care: The Challenges of Bridge Building” at the Psychosocial-Spiritual Issues and Multiculturalism in Health Care Conference, sponsored by Soins Continus Bruyère Continuing Care Professional Development Program, Ottawa, Canada. She presented work on an intercultural model of spiritualcare to the Denver Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisory Study Group and consulted with them about supervisory issues.

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She was the first author of an article about a research project for which she was the first investigator, “Perceiving Sacredness in Life: Correlates and Predictors,” in the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion* and her article “Theological Accountability: The Hallmark of Pastoral Counseling” was published in the online journal *Sacred Spaces.*

**Amy Erickson,** has been appointed assistant professor of Hebrew Bible, and she contributed three articles on Psalms to *Feasting on the Word,* a new 12-volume sermon resource series edited by David Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor.

**Eunjoo Kim** has received a grant from The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion for her project titled, “Teaching Worship from Global Perspectives.”

**Paul Martin** (former adjunct faculty member) has been elected president of American Baptist in Berkeley, CA, the first African American president in the history of the seminary which was founded in 1871.

**Donald Messer,** professor emeritus, recently published, *Cherishing Life and Love; Reflections of Paul Murphy,* Rider Books. **Clarence Snelling,** professor emeritus, wrote a study guide for the book and introduced it to the Harvey Potthoff group (consisting of former Iliff students and professors).

**Tink Tinker** spoke to the John Neihardt Annual Conference at the Neihardt Historical Site of the Nebraska State Museum on “Comparing Black Elk’s Spiritual World with Contemporary American Indian Spirituality.” Tinker also addressed the Ethics Committee at Swedish Hospital addressing issues of “American Indians Making End of Life Decisions,” and the statewide TASC Peer Assistance training conference, where Tinker helped trainees understand the particularities of Indian culture and spirituality as they relate to ex-offenders who are on parole.

**David Trickett,** president and Henry White Warren Professor of Ethics and Leadership, was interviewed by Colorado Public Radio (National Public Radio) on Iliff’s ability to connect theology to current realities in the program “Iliff Wants to Help Answer Life’s Big Questions.”

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**Community Update**

One of the greatest gifts the Iliff community can give to Iliff is the referral of a friend, relative or colleague. An Iliff education is more accessible than ever, with courses for graduate certificates and degrees available online and in the classroom on days, evenings and weekends. Come enjoy a class or refer others as we continue to grow... and change the world together.
Don’t Forget to Remember Iliff...

Don’t forget to remember Iliff in your will. Bob Deal (MTH ‘43) has recognized Iliff’s important contribution to his life by remembering Iliff in a very special way.

Deal’s life has been an active one. While serving small churches in rural Iowa and attending Drake University, Leslie Logan (BD ’19), an Iliff alum and Iowa minister, referred Deal to Iliff. Deal came to Denver and studied under the leadership of William Bernhardt, professor of philosophy and religious theology. While here, he lived in student housing at Grey Gables – the original residence of Elizabeth Iliff Warren. Upon completion of his degree, he served a church in Portland, OR and then served in the Navy on carriers and in hospitals.

Bob and his wife, Barbara, then served as coordinators in Camps Farthest Out, International in 28 different countries from 1979 to 1995. They had an opportunity to meet Mother Theresa in a session that changed his life.

“To see someone so small, yet strong, serving such great needs, inspired me greatly. One is never the same after meeting such a dedicated, consecrated, and determined leader,” said Deal.

Now retired in Crescent City, CA where he volunteers as a teacher in an ESL program and as a park ranger, Deal remarked, “I’m getting older and I guess I’m getting closer to my inner being. I want to make sure someone takes my place. I am happy to include Iliff in my will so that it can happen.”

There are many ways to honor the contribution Iliff made to your life by remembering us in your estate plans. For information, please call Mary Underwood, 800-765-3360, ext. 113, or munderwood@iliff.edu.

Library Awarded Grant

The Ira J. Taylor Library has been awarded a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) designed to help with preservation of special collections. The award is a core collection of books and other resources to help us better preserve some of the archived treasures already in place, such as photographs, sound recordings, and other ephemera. The reference resources will also enable Iliff to utilize DU library students or joint PHD students to improve our conservation and preservation methods.
For information, contact Kari Buchanan at 303-765-3119 or 1-800-678-3360, ext. 119.
The Iliff Circle: Photos That Tell Stories

Iliff Graduation

2009 graduates assemble in Iliff Chapel.

A festive procession led to commencement ceremonies held outside on Warren Circle.

Vince Tango (MDIV ’09) celebrates at graduation. Tango was also this year’s Rollin Everett Smith Staff Award recipient.

The Rev. Dr. Harvey Martz delivers the commencement address as President David Trickett looks on.
George “Tink” Tinker Installed as the Clifford Baldridge Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions

Tink Tinker and wife, Loring Abeita, enjoy the reception following his installation.

A painting by Alistair Bane was presented to Iliff by the Students of Color (SOC) to honor Tinker’s installation.

Guests congratulate Tink Tinker on his installation.

Honor’s Convocation

Clare Twomey (MDIV ’09) presents her painting as a class gift to Iliff on behalf of the 2009 graduates.

Elizabeth Coody and Nancy Niero were named the 2009 Students of the Year.
Peek Inside The View

- Take Action to Keep Receiving the View
- Interpretations of an Iliff Education
- New Faculty Appointments
- The Iliff Circle: Photos That Tell Stories

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