

Boston University School of Theology

We greet you in friendship, thanking God for your leadership of the church's ministry. Many of you have given prayerful support to the Boston University School of Theology (STH) during the past year, and we thank you. You encourage us as partners in mission and in the pioneering work that has marked our particular mission in the past year. Thanks in large part to many of you, we have traveled the country, heard your hopes for the future, and launched many new initiatives.

What has happened during this year?

- Student enrollment increased in 2009-2010 over the previous year. Our dynamic student body has led STH efforts to respond to the people of Haiti, to enhance the School's sustainability work, and to create new forms of theological dialogue among people with diverse perspectives on God and God's creation.
- The Seminary Singers have revived the annual choir tour tradition, singing their way from Northern Virginia to Connecticut.
- Travel seminars have studied in Cuba and Ephesus (modern Turkey).
- The STH faculty published eight books in the past year, and they were honored with two book prizes, two teaching awards, one promotion to a Boston University endowed chair, and one leadership award.
- Professor Anjulet Tucker joined our faculty in 2009, bringing her expertise in Sociology of Religion and her specialized study on Black Pentecostal churches.
- Professor Dana Robert is delivering major addresses around the world in 2010 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The School will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Truman Collins Chair in World Christianity and Mission, sponsoring special events in Fall 2010 and soaring efforts to raise funds for the Chair, thanks to an anonymous challenge grant of \$420,000.
- Co-directors of Contextual Education, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Parsons, are expanding STH partnerships with local churches, service agencies, and faith-based communities, helping us extend the breadth and depth of our work in contextualizing theological education.
- The ATLAS for Alums Program now provides free online ATLAS Access to all STH alums, enabling them to utilize over 140 journals in their ministries! Please email Maggie Keelan, Development Officer, for the user name and password to ATLAS: mkeelan@bu.edu. We are grateful to the Lilly Foundation for supporting this outreach.
- We are on the road, striving to increase our presence in United Methodist Conferences around the country. Please hold us accountable to this and let us know if you would like a representative from the School to visit in the future!

What is coming?

- The new Master of Divinity curriculum will be launched in September 2010. The focus is "Faith Engaging the World," and the goals are to prepare spiritually-centered, prophetic, intelligent, practical religious leaders who can contribute to renewing and transforming the church and the world.
- Three faculty searches are underway: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Chair in Ethics or Homiletics, and positions in Religious Education and the History of Christianity.
- The STH People's History Project is expanding. This is an ambitious endeavor to record oral histories of alums from all eras, particularly the 1950s and 1960s. Contact the Alumni Office if you are interested in sharing your story with us: (617) 353-2349.

- The School has created a bold strategic plan to guide the coming years. The plan is to strengthen support for students, renovate degree programs that educate future leaders, enhance faculty excellence in teaching and research, and support research and continuing education to strengthen the church.
- The School begins a specialized, one-year Master of Sacred Theology program for military chaplains in Fall 2010, responding to their increasing needs to address issues of ethics, trauma, and conflict transformation.
- We are renovating our physical space: the famous ping pong table is back! Classrooms are becoming “smart” with technology, art displays are multiplying, and the first floor has been remodeled for hospitality and comfort. On the near horizon are plans to renovate the basement into a community center, replace light fixtures and windows for energy-efficiency, and improve the handicap accessibility of our building.
- We are developing partnerships with Africa University and two Korean Universities through student exchange and faculty exchange programs.
- Plans are underway for more work in continuing education, including onsite events and distance education opportunities. Our new work will include efforts to make our new certificate programs more widely available. We presently offer the academic certificate requirements for United Methodist Certification in Evangelism, Spirituality, and Sacred Music.

We celebrate our graduates and friends in your conference and our colleagues in ministry throughout the United Methodist connection. We hope to hear from you in the coming year and to build significant partnerships. Our relationship with you is vital for our learning and for our service in this world of many needs. We pray for you and invite you to pray for us as well!

Gratefully,
Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology