

CONNECTSQUARTERLY

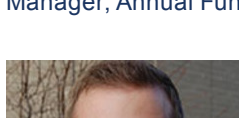
May 2016

Greetings from CTS!

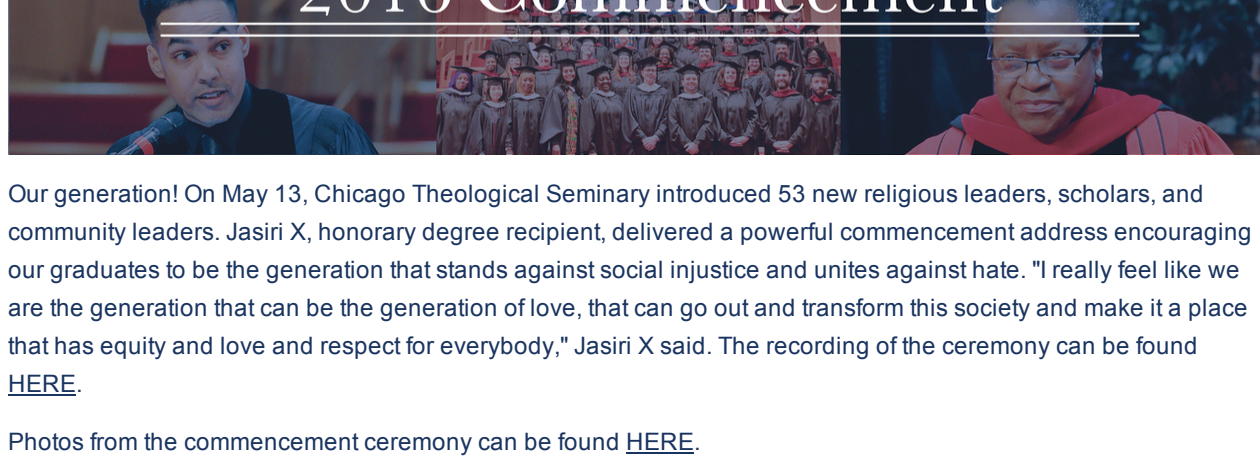
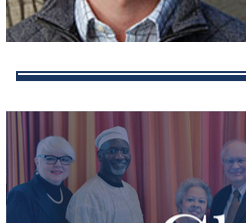
I want to welcome you to the first issue of the CONNECTS Quarterly, an electronic newsletter for CTS alumni/ae. Sent out four times a year, each issue will offer a collection of stories and events from CTS students, staff, faculty, and other alumni/ae. It is our goal to make this newsletter a place where you are encouraged to share your own stories, writings, and events with each other as we continue to grow the alumni network. To that end, if you have any stories or events you would like us to include in our next issue (August 2016), please let us know.

This issue features a number of stories associated with commencement. I invite you to read through these stories and share in our celebration.

Sincerely,



Chad Schwickerath
Manager, Annual Fund & Alumni Relations



Our generation! On May 13, Chicago Theological Seminary introduced 53 new religious leaders, scholars, and community leaders. Jasiri X, honorary degree recipient, delivered a powerful commencement address encouraging our graduates to be the generation that stands against social injustice and unites against hate. "I really feel like we are the generation that can be the generation of love, that can go out and transform this society and make it a place that has equity and love and respect for everybody," Jasiri X said. The recording of the ceremony can be found [HERE](#).

Photos from the commencement ceremony can be found [HERE](#).



This year, we interviewed seven graduates. They will bring their skills developed at CTS to the nonprofit sector, academia, the Church, and more. Read their stories [HERE](#).

Here is an excerpt from one of our interviews:



Tyler Tully, MDiv

What is your degree program?

Master of Divinity

What are your plans after graduation?

I've been accepted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Theology program (sub-field of Religion and Science) at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, where I also received the Arthur Peacocke Graduate Studentship in Theology Award. My interdisciplinary research engages Christology through the lens of post-humanist theory and animal studies.

What drew you to CTS?

CTS has a reputation of doing justice work in balance with cutting-edge theological and biblical studies. Through the advice of some mentors, I decided to pursue the MDiv program at CTS as I approached graduation during undergrad. I knew CTS would be a place where I could grow, but the practical "hands-on" focus of the MDiv went hand-in-hand with my liberationist theology. I wanted to be at a place that took theology and biblical studies seriously enough to engage the world like Jesus did. Sometimes that means healing, feeding, and teaching, but other times that means flipping over tables and speaking fiery truth to power.

What was your most transformative class or experience at CTS?

That's a difficult question for me since it's like asking which of my children is my favorite! We have twins so I'll answer in kind. Two courses have been extremely transformative for me during my experience at CTS. First, the 2016 Israel-Palestine course was a once in a lifetime experience for me and many others. Not only did we get to see the ancient and historic sites of the Bible, but we also engaged with contemporary issues of justice, power, and spiritual transformation. I had the pleasure of experiencing that trip alongside CTS professors, trustees, and other students from all over the world. The second most transformative class for me is undoubtedly Ken Stone's "Animals and Ecology in the Bible" course. Ask anyone else in that class and they will tell you the same. That course literally changed my life and was formative in my Constructive Theology thesis work that dealt with trauma and sacrifice in the Bible and also in operative theologies that abuse children in the Church. My future research at the University of Oxford utilizes much of what I was exposed to during that course, and I'm happy to say that I'll continue to engage with Ken's work while I'm doing my doctoral studies in the UK.

Read more [HERE](#).

Congratulations to our 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients!



The Rev. Dr. William Craig Rennebohm



The Rev. Dr. Camilla Scott Tanner



This year, Chicago Theological Seminary continued its proud tradition of honoring alumni for their outstanding work. The recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award are **The Rev. Dr. William Craig Rennebohm** and **The Rev. Dr. Camilla Scott Tanner**. CTS celebrated both the recipients and the 2016 graduating class at a luncheon before commencement.

The Rev. Dr. William Craig Rennebohm served for 25 years with the Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle, doing outreach on the streets with individuals facing mental illness, working with families, and helping develop mental health ministry in local

congregations. He graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1970 with a Bachelor of Divinity and is an ordained UCC minister. He has been a member of the NAMI Faithnet Advisory Board, The UCC Disabilities Ministry Board and executive director of Pathways to Promise, a national interfaith mental health resource. Craig is the author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God* (Beacon Press). The Rev. Rennebohm is retired, living on an island in Puget Sound and sharing quietly in the life of a Quaker meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Camilla Scott Tanner is an Episcopal priest and retired chaplain, serving many years as an advocate for persons with HIV/AIDS, as well as in hospice care. In her active years as a chaplain, she educated and helped religious communities remove notions of stigma and promoting loving creative responses to the pandemic. In 2000, she founded and was co-Pastor of "The Temple of Agape," a non-denominational ministry in the Woodlawn area. The Rev. Camilla lives by two rules: "Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you" and "to whom much is given, much is expected." The Rev. Camilla is an active member at the national level of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Links, and the Top Ladies of Distinction.



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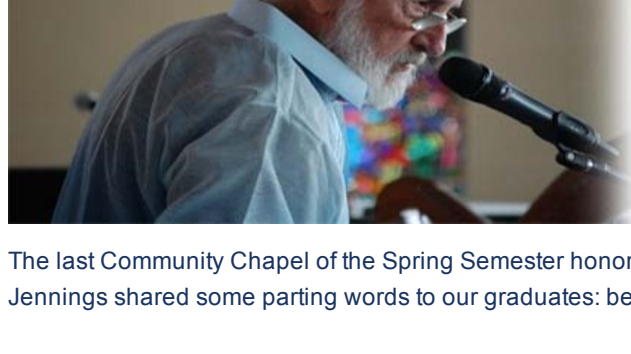
CTS Quarterly Alum Profile

Donte Hilliard, MA (2010)

Every CONNECTS Quarterly will bring you the profile of an alum. This issue's alum is Donte Hilliard. Donte has notable experience as an interdisciplinary educator, trainer, cultural worker, activist, researcher, and clergy person. He brings with him more than 10 years of educational and administrative leadership in Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice education/training. His areas of specialty include Social & Racial Justice Movement History, Community Organizing and studying the complex relationship between identity, culture and power. He is specifically interested in the intersection of social movements, philanthropy, the non-profit sector and public policy. Currently, Donte serves as the Director of Mission Impact for the YWCA USA where he is charged to provide strategic thought leadership and help to build a sustainable racial justice infrastructure for the national organization. He holds a BA in Psychology from The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a MA in African American Studies from The Ohio State University, and a MA in Religious Studies from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Read more of Donte's story [HERE](#).

Is there a CTS alum you would like to see profiled? Send your suggestions to Juli Nunez at juli.nunez@ctschicago.edu.



"Be as unpredictable as the wind. Be weird."
-Dr. Ted Jennings

The last Community Chapel of the Spring Semester honored our graduating students. Chapel speaker, Dr. Ted Jennings shared some parting words to our graduates: be weird. Watch the full Community Chapel [HERE](#).



Chicago Theological Seminary has over 3,000 alums across the globe! This summer, take a picture of your CONNECTS membership card at whatever place, church, or job you call home. The Alumni Office will gather these photos to share on social media. We will also select our favorite picture and the winner will receive a prize in the mail. Please send your submissions to Juli Nunez at juli.nunez@ctschicago.edu.



Remember to register for CTS Summer Classes!

As an alum of Chicago Theological Seminary, you receive a discount to audit courses! Don't miss out on the opportunity to audit some of the wonderful courses being offered this summer. Summer courses begin the week of May 23. Please contact Elena Jimenez at ejimenez@ctschicago.edu to register.

Chicago Theological Seminary UPCOMING EVENTS

It may be summer, but at Chicago Theological Seminary, we're always on the move! CTS faculty and staff will be participating in the following conferences and events in the upcoming months:

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting
Green Lake, WI
June 10-12

Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Meeting
Indianapolis, IN
June 10-11

Ohio Conference Annual Meeting
Westerville, OH
June 10-11

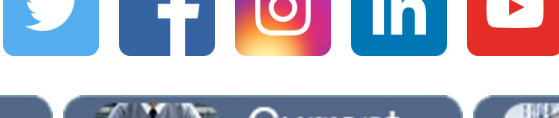
Massachusetts Conference Annual Meeting
Amherst, MA
June 17-18

Illinois Conference Annual Meeting
Peoria, IL
June 17-18

Chicago Pride Parade
Chicago, IL
June 26

Metropolitan Community Church General Conference
Victoria, BC, Canada
July 4-8

Class of 2016 Conference Call
July 13



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