Remember to register for CTS Summer Classes!

Donte Hilliard, MA (2010)

“On an unforgettable trip to the Middle East, Dr. Jen¬nings shared some parting words to our graduates: be weird. Watch the full Community Chapel service online at http://www.ctschicago.edu/comm/chapel.

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

Every CONNECTS Quarterly will bring you the profile of an alum. This issue’s alum is Donte Hilliard.

**What was your most transformative class or experience at CTS?**

Donte: What an opportunity to audit some of the wonderful courses being offered this summer. Summer courses begin the week of June 10-11. I chose a course on Palestine, which was taught by Profs. O’Neill and Funks. I was moved by the course and brought back a lot of photos to share on social media. We will also select our favorite picture and the winner will receive a prize in the fall.

**What is your degree program?**

Donte: My degree is a MA in Religion - Social Justice.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

Donte: I’ve been accepted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Theology program (sub-field of Religion and Science) at the University of Pennsylvania. I’m very excited about starting this new chapter of my academic journey.

**What are your current professional responsibilities?**

Donte: I work as an Analyst at the Center for Urban Poverty at the University of Pennsylvania. I am also a Program Manager for Community Action Partnerships, a non-profit organization that works with communities to implement sustainable strategies to address poverty in the city of Philadelphia.

**What interested you in the intersection of social movements, philanthropy, the non-profit sector and public policy?**

Donte: This is an area that has always interested me. I believe that we have a responsibility as religious leaders to be involved in the public sphere. I want to be at a place that takes 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. This work is closely related to my 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. This work is closely related to my hand-in-hand with my liberationist theology. I wanted to be at a place that takes theology and biblical studies seriously enough to engage the world like Jesus did. 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