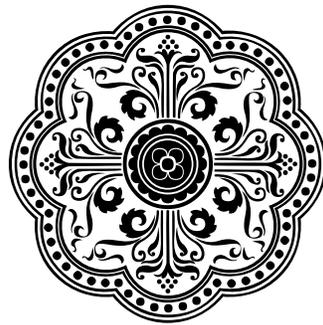


TWO THOUSAND AND NINE FACULTY APPRECIATION RECEPTION



IN HONOUR OF AND THANKS FOR THE
TEACHING AND LABOUR OF THE FACULTY OF THIS,
THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*It is the office of a true teacher to show us that God is, not was;
that He speaketh, not spake.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE OFFERED BY STUDENTS AND REFLECT THE SENTIMENTS OF THE STUDENT BODY. THE FIRST SET OF COMMENTS ARE ABOUT THE FACULTY IN GENERAL AND THE REST ABOUT PARTICULAR FACULTY MEMBERS.

GENERAL COMMENTS

I think the GTS faculty are wonderful in "engaging the City." Our professors encouraged us to use the City as a learning center. We visited the Met, Cloisters, Brooklyn Museum, and other places to see many of the things we were studying in text books. This so enhanced my seminary learning experience. I found the professors very pastoral. They really care about the well being of their students. When people were sick, many professors offered prayer at the beginning of class. Others followed up by asking how students were doing. This shows that the faculty care not only about our academic performance but care about us as individuals. The faculty have enthusiastically supported ideas and initiatives in classes I have taken. If I wanted to dig deeper into a subject, they encouraged that. They helped me make connections to things that interested me, even when no obvious connection seemed to exist.

A GTS Senior

In general I find the faculty to be very caring and warm, with particular emphasis on each of their parts toward making themselves available to students, with genuine interest in helping us to succeed in learning whatever it is we feel is required - from helping to make us scholars, to informing our various ministries going forward.

A GTS Middler

The faculty of General Seminary is its main strength. As a community of faithful scholars, they represent the best of Anglicanism's understanding of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason.

A GTS Senior

FACULTY COMMENTS

THE REV'D DR MITTIES DECHAMPLAIN:

Thanks for her gentleness, her patience, her simple belief that yes, I could get up there and preach, and by gosh she was right. She made me, and I am sure others, believe in themselves in that pulpit "six feet above reproach."

Mitties is such a powerful proponent of the student's own abilities... she is one of the most supportive, yet challenging teachers I have had the pleasure to study under. Her ability to manage rhetoric and help us to say what we really mean (or what we need to say in the world) is priceless to this institution!

Mitties has a love for the preaching task which is infectious. She deepened in me a longing to be the most authentic preacher of Christ crucified that I can be, each time I am asked to proclaim the Gospel in any liturgy, anywhere. Her prayers before class are comforting, like being embraced by the nurturing Holy Spirit, and her excitement and joy fill me whenever I am with her. When I walk into a pulpit I think of her prayer, and try to indeed preach with abandon. Mitties is a gift to this community and to the Church.

Thank you to Mitties for her gentleness and love of animals - thanks for her pets and encouraging words!



THE VERY REV'D DR WARD B. EWING

The Dean never fails to have a smile and kind word for the students he encounters around the Close.

Dean Ewing has an obvious knowledge of Scripture which informs his preaching and sense of justice.

The coming revisions of the PT curriculum show the Dean's commitment to forming students who are leaders for the Church in a changing world.



PROFESSOR DEIRDRE GOOD

Deirdre Good turned the scripture on its head, or maybe it was us she turned on our heads. Whatever, it was a different way to look at what we think we know.

A different kind of story-teller, Deirdre Good has probably forgotten more about the New Testament than all her classes will ever learn - her passion is to help us in the (sometimes intimidating) task of engaging scripture with authenticity and integrity, and the way she does so is by expressing, at every turn of the journey, so much support as to make us crave more and more - I feel deeply that, as the years go on I will continue to realize the positive impact Prof. Good has had on my ability to help myself and others to not only explore the gospels but to live them. It is one of the great pleasures of seminary life to spend time with Deirdre Good.

It has been an incredible relief to have an intelligent, strong woman as an example. I love that I am not only allowed but expected to think outside the box and I have learned more from her than she will know.

Deirdre Good was probably my favorite professor while at General Seminary (or at least she made me feel the most comfortable), and I took as many classes with her as I could. Though I understand she drove the J personalities crazy, with their need for linear thought and predictable presentation, her classes were always a breath of fresh air to me. I found her strong emphasis on connections and web-like thought structure to be intellectually compatible and welcoming, at least to one who thinks in this same way. For me, walking into a class with Professor Good was like walking into a magical world where everyone is left-handed. For a brief, shining moment (or 2-3 hours), I was relieved of the stress of trying to fit into the dangerous machinery of this linear, straight-line, Excel-spreadsheet world. And I didn't even have to fall down the stairs, like President Ford.

What is so remarkable about Professor Good is the way in which she invites students to approach the text in a way that is at once respectful and joyful. How magnificent it is to learn from a scholar of her magnitude who is also passionate about her vocation as a teacher! This is a powerful witness to me of the manifold possibilities of authentic Christian discipleship. She encouraged me to deeper levels of my own engagement, and honors the things that her students wrest from the text. Because of her commitment to learner centered teaching, I attempted bolder things in my own writing, which were extremely fruitful. Plus, her laugh is infectious!

Deirdre, Thanks for all you have done for me. Because of you I have written a great thesis. Thanks for your unceasing support from the beginning up to the end of my study here at GTS. I am so much grateful for that.



PROFESSOR DAVID HURD

Thank you so much for the short bus to Church Music. But I still can't sing!

A true genius, it is an honor to learn from David Hurd - CM 1 was as much a class in liturgy as music, and we get brilliant flashes of insight as such during his lectures - in both these lectures and in his work in the chapel and schola, it is abundantly clear how much this man truly loves God, and that his most fervent wish is to communicate as much and in such ways as will spread that love to us as individuals, and will help us to go forth in that very spirit. There are few things in life more sustaining than witnessing David Hurd when the spirit is moving in him.

David Hurd and J. Robert Wright are among the treasures of our Episcopal Church, and it has been an honor to study under both of them.

Thanks to him for his extraordinary sensitivity to the contribution music can make to liturgy; for his tireless work in sharing that with students, and for continuing to accept nothing less from us than a best that is better than we could imagine.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence in all things. In a society for which "good enough" is enough, you represent a throwback to a time when striving, practice, and general excellence were valued.

Thanks for beautiful Schola work!

Dr Hurd is the consummate churchman. His service to the worship life of the seminary and of the Episcopal Church through his teaching, composing, and performing have made an impact which will surely stand the test of time.

A great many thanks to David Hurd who has inspired so many of us to see music as one of our most valuable tools with which to proclaim the Gospel. Your teaching, as well as your many witticisms, help form us into more versatile ministers of God's Word and Sacraments. Thank you.



PROFESSOR ELISABETH KOENIG

Thanks to Elisabeth Koenig who led me to continued discernment, love of Augustine (!), and the openness to explore the mystics. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Her academic qualities, her teaching and knowledge are inspiring! What is most impressive is that despite her credentials and erudition, she never ceases to teach with kindness, compassion, gentleness and love. On more than one occasion, when I have felt overwhelmed by material or situations at GTS, she has simply reminded me, in the words of Julian of Norwich, that "all will be well" and that "Jesus loves you!"... trite though it may seem, it made all the difference in my life!

Dr. Koenig's quiet presence was a balm, and her class was a delight. She gives the weight of the presence of the Holy Spirit its reverent due, and is very supportive of her students in their own formation and engagement with the rich material of the ascetic tradition.

Elisabeth Koenig is an excellent lecturer, and one who has taken a subject that could be diffuse and difficult to grasp, and has organized it in ways that help concepts build one upon another - students in AT1 are invited to share our insights as we learn classic Christian mysticism and, what is essential, we are encouraged to protect our best instincts as we relate to the material - it's hard to express how this kind of permission-giving helps build confidence and authenticity in those of us who may, at times, encounter challenges while integrating our personal experience of God into an academic framework. Spending 1:1 time with Elisabeth Koenig is a balm on one's soul.

Many thanks to Elisabeth Koenig for the gift of her course on Discernment. This class acted as a pivotal point in my education. I draw on her insights, chosen resources and practicums continually, not only for my classwork, but in my interior life and in my relationships.



THE REV'D DR JOHN KOENIG

Thanks for John Koenig's holiness and humility, and his love of the Gospel of John (me too). He is on a par with such as Ray Brown (I have that from someone who knows first hand) but I can see him blushing at the very thought.

John is probably the kindest person on this campus! He always seems interested in student concerns and questions, and promotes an excitement for learning! His feedback, though critical and thoughtful is always balanced with a pastoral concern for the well-being of the student. He is a gentle, concerned, and conscientious teacher, who demonstrates the priesthood (and the example of Jesus Christ) in almost everything he does.

The most pastoral person on campus...I am amazed by his compassion.

Your years of service have enlightened, educated, and enriched the lives of countless students. Your commitment to GTS as an institution is inspiring.



THE REV'D DR JOHNATHAN LINMAN

Professor Linman's weekly *lectio divina* sessions are enormously helpful and enjoyable - I find him to be warm and open, an exemplar in what seems the pervasive theological value structure at GTS, i.e., creativity in approach to recognizing and demonstrating God's presence in the world while, in terms of scripture, balancing that creativity with insight borne of scholarship - the ways he embodies these are inviting, and yet edgy enough to be exciting. When you are interacting with Jonathan Linman you know you are with a genuinely good man.

Professor Linman is a wonderful presence on the Close. His sense of humble confidence makes for a calming and positive energy that keeps those around him balanced!



PROFESSOR BRUCE MULLIN

History and the stories that go with it. Worked well for me; I now understand what it means to be an Episcopalian...what a mess!

Prof. Mullin is remarkable lecturer who understands that well-organized, pertinent information is in itself interesting and needs no additional song and dance.

As a part-time evening student, I've accepted that I'll never be part of "mainstream GTS" and although some fellow students have been great, Professors rarely know me and I hardly expect them to connect a name to my face. So, how surprised was I when I ran into Professor Mullin and he said "Oh, I have your paper - you don't have a mailbox"? Very surprised. Very flattered. Very happy. When I got home that night, my husband asked after my evening and I said "Great -- my teacher knows me."

Wow, what a fabulous lecturer! "Clark Kent" by day, the mild-mannered man who sits behind piles of papers and books in the library, emerges as "Superman" by night, foiling any and all who may mistakenly claim that church history is without passion, intrigue or humor ...

Dr. Mullin's lectures are extraordinary! I love the way he tells stories from the past in the present and sometimes future tense, making the ancestors of our faith living and active. He can be playful and incredibly wise, and I have learned a great deal from him.



THE REV'D DR ROBERT OWENS

Many thanks for the wonderful prayers that alert us the day has begun, the quality of content in your lectures, and overall hunger to quench the thirst in the minds of the students at GTS.

Owens leads the best extemporaneous pre-class prayers!

Professor Owens' profound *kindness* just pervades the whole experience of taking OT... his gentle sense of humor and obvious care for students. Total pleasure. Plus, his before-class prayers touch me deeply and are inevitably helpful.

Amos and Hosea, Creation, Liturgies in the Old Testament...Prof. Owens opened the door to the Hebrew scriptures. I still can't read a word of Hebrew, but I am willing to search and struggle and try because he made it interesting...he made it real...and he made the connection to the New Testament.

Professor Owens is an excellent lecturer, due in large part to his ability to tell the story of the history of salvation in ways that communicate a deep personal love of his field of study - he opens doors for students, he did for me, that I didn't even know existed. Prof. Owens is extremely kind and sociable, with a delightful sense of humor.

Professor Owens understands the overwhelming nature of that first year. His concern is always for the student's success and he presents every opportunity to meet it without reservation. His assignments expose us to practical resources for continuing our studies of the Old Testament beyond his class, and he responds quickly to student inquiries by email or through office appointments. He clearly wants Hebrew and Judaism to come to life for the students as he sponsors interfaith events, provides tours of original manuscripts, and informs students of local events in this subject. For this reason, his influence extends far beyond the classroom.

Thanks to Prof. Robert Owens for offering up such beautiful prayers at the beginning of every class which seemingly embrace, not only the class as a whole, but where each of us can personally sense a resonating "ping." which abides within throughout the week. It is a privilege to be in your class and glean of such wonders of wonders...Biblical history. Thank you.

Everyone knows that Professor Owens is so much more than a great Professor of Hebrew Scripture at GTS. In addition to being a respected scholar, Bob is a role model of faithful Christian leadership. He is trustworthy, humble and always kind. Bob's teaching and leadership at GTS are a gift to our entire community. When new student leadership for the InterSeminary Dialogue did not emerge this past year, Bob kept it going. In the absence of a sub-dean, he has been a faithful and effective chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, always making sure that student petitions are processed in a timely and fair manner. As an accomplished sailor, Bob understands how to navigate the ever changing and sometimes treacherous currents of seminary life. When we are in the presence of Bob, we are reassured that there is an experienced sailor with a firm hand on the tiller who will help us get back to shore safely. For all that you do, thanks Bob!

Bob Owens is simply brilliant. His humility and kindness reminds me of what I wish to become.

When Dr. Owens breaks open the Hebrew Bible for his students, the Word of God dances into life with all its power, mystery, gentleness and wonder. Bob Owens renewed my love-affair with the Hebrew Bible, and encouraged me to engage the text with new depth. His opening prayers were like pieces of daily manna. He makes himself fully available to his students, and has obvious joy in his vocation as teacher. Truly it was an honor to study with him, and he is one of the great treasures of GTS.



THE REV'D CANON DR TITUS PRESLER

Dr Presler was truly one of the assets of the General Theological Seminary. He expressed a profound love and passion for the work of the Church throughout the world in corners of the Earth most of us rarely consider but where the Gospel has taken root in powerful ways. Dr Presler has instilled an appreciation for Christianity at its margins in countless students.

Sub Dean Presler's vision for the Church is one that was both catholic and evangelical, both learned and practical, both engaging society and challenging it, and both proud of our faith and humble in proclaiming it. He has, in short, an artful vision for a Church both calling and responding to the complex world She is a part of. It is a vision that bursts out of his teaching, preaching, and living.

Titus Presler shows a deep love of Christ in his teaching, preaching, and mission work. He has demonstrated to so many that the Church does not have a mission but that God's ongoing mission has a Church.



THE REV'D DR MARK RICHARDSON

Thanks to Mark Richardson for his good sense of humor with our teasing and his determination to help us understand Systematic Theology. Also Brenda's and his generosity in opening their home to us the evening before GOEs.

Professor Richardson is an excellent lecturer, incredibly patient (especially considering the vast amount of knowledge he possesses) and committed to supporting students, whatever their level of ability, in developing the ways they think about God - this man makes what might otherwise be a daunting subject, utterly thrilling and yet...(and this may sound odd) manageable.

Professor Richardson's passion for the subject of systematics infuses the room. He doesn't just seek answers from the students but more questions. He is willing to respond to any challenge a student faces in their discernment of the task of articulating theology. He is careful about selecting a wide range of perspectives to demonstrate how these theologians have affected our current society. He wants us to know where we stand by understanding how we got there. He is committed to our formation as deep thinkers and participants in the ongoing conversation of why Christ's mission is relevant for the world at large.

Mark Richardson best lives out the prayer that is said over the newly baptized, and in him I see an example of "an inquiring and discerning heart, a spirit to know and to love God, and the gift of joy in wonder in all God's works" He has a quiet gentleness which is salutary and helpful for the deep riches of the material he teaches. He is generous to his students and takes the concerns and questions of others seriously. I learned a great deal from him, and was honored to be his student.

A wonderful advocate for the students. Professor Richardson is always there with a word of common sense and thoughtful reflection!

Thank you Mark and Brenda for your warm hospitality before GOEs...Very kind and thoughtful!

THE REV'D DR ELLEN SLOAN

Ellen is amazing - it is always a pleasure to see her - I'd made myself a promise to get through three years of seminary without ever once having to meet with the chaplain, but have had to break my promise because I had a revelation that I'd be depriving myself of connecting (just for fun and refreshment) with one of the most authentic, delightful, caring, and joyful of God's servants I've ever had the extreme good fortune to encounter. God Bless this woman - she loves her work and she loves each of us here in precisely the way Jesus teaches us.

Ellen, your compassion for the students is one of the great lifeblood's of this seminary. Your ability to comfort and care for this community is touching in so many ways. Thank you for everything you do!

Thank you also to Ellen Sloan for her presence and constancy.

What a treasure for this institution, she is never thanked enough! So...Thank You!

Ellen, thank you for your steady and loving work. We appreciate your ability to handle such a large workload and still take time to comfort and guide so many of us. Your work is vital to the proper functioning of our community. Thank you.



THE REV'D CANON DR J. ROBERT WRIGHT

Thank you for sharing your dancing skills with the Junior Class! I didn't know you had it in you ...

I shall never forget tufa, the soil in the catacombs. He took us on an interesting trip through the early church, supplied us with more material than we will use in any of our lifetimes, and made us go to the Museum and the Cloisters and got us off the Close.

David Hurd and J. Robert Wright are among the treasures of our Episcopal Church, and it has been an honor to study under both of them.

Fr. Wright is a priest that, for whatever reason, I want to make proud. He encourages me to take seriously that which I am called to be.

I would like to thank Prof. Wright for his kindness, care and pastoral presence for me fall semester.

Thanks for a really nice sermon for Charles Brent

Fr Wright has been one of the most pastoral priests I have met. He takes a constant interest in how I am doing not simply as a student, but as a person. He has also been an voice for his students in many different areas of seminary life. Thanks for taking seriously the catholic nature of our Church!

A true institution! There are few graduates of General Seminary who do not ask me how Fr Wright is when I see them across the country. He has meant much to so many! Thank you for sharing patristics!

Fr Wright has demonstrated a knowledge of his field more fulsome than can be imagined. There are few as well versed in such a long and significant period in the Church's history. The Church and the General Theological Seminary are profoundly blessed to have a man of such learning and accomplishment on whom to call.

Fr. Wright, we appreciate the time you spend enveloping us in the rich history of our tradition. Your pedagogy and character saturates us with our history. This occurs through your leadership in the classroom, your presence in the Chapel, or the casual conversations you take up in the refectory. Thank you.

THE REV'D DR RICHARD CORNEY

Fr. Corney: the Bullet Train through Old Testament I. I am still catching my breath. But I hear tell that we had the "mellow version" of Fr. Corney!



THE REV'D DR FRANK WADE

Frank Wade made it all real, practical, and useful. Thanks for the "tip of the day" although most of his classes were full of tips.

Professor Wade's dedication to our formation as priests is evident in his weekly dedication to traveling from DC to teach us. He offers us practical tips on how to apply simple and wise methods for parish work. He clearly models the pastoral responsibilities of a priest. He unabashedly discusses the difficult topics of abuse and disease with great candor and care, but most importantly he helps us remember that we are more than our problems and that solutions can always be found. He responds wholeheartedly to every comment made by students and frequently invites the students to share from their experiences. This collection of conclusions are then collected into a list to illustrate how the voices of many can support the voice of one.

Sitting in his class is akin to sitting at the feet of a wise, seasoned master who clearly speaks from years of experience, with wisdom acquired by reflecting on this experience. His lectures are peppered with just the right amount of humor, personal stories, and tell-it-like-it-is, plain-old TRUTH, the kind you recognize immediately upon hearing it. Thank you, thank you Professor Wade! Yours are the notes I know I will be turning to again and again in years to come. (Can I please put your number down on my speed-dial, in my cell phone?) And his Tricks of the Day are priceless.

Frank Wade, no doubt has received some thanks from other students, so let me add my name to the list of students who find him interesting, well prepared, always punctual with returning papers, and real kick to have as an instructor. His experience in pastoral leadership comes through and gives us, the students, a living example of what we might aspire to as future church leaders in a changing world.

Someday, when I grow up, I want to be as good a priest as Frank Wade. Seriously. He is a wonderful teacher and mentor and has made me desire the best possible fruits of my vocation. Few people have impacted my understanding of priesthood more than Frank, and I feel exceedingly fortunate to have been his student.



THE REV'D LLOYD PRATOR

In the absence of a full-time liturgics professor, the Rev. Lloyd Prator did a superb job teaching the course in Liturgy of the Pastoral Rites. He always prepared detailed material and approached the class thoughtfully. His first goal was to convey practical, straightforward tips for conducting the important pastoral services of the Church. However, because his knowledge was so deep and his experience so broad, his practical curriculum inevitably revealed much deeper insights into the form and structure of liturgy.



THE VERY REV'D DR ROBERT GIANINNI

The sheer joy of coming to his class where an atmosphere of stimulating curiosity, serious, yet abandoned thought, humor, and inspired contemplation of current, universally potent issues becomes fodder for us mere church mice. It is a wonderful course. Thank you, Prof. Giannini!

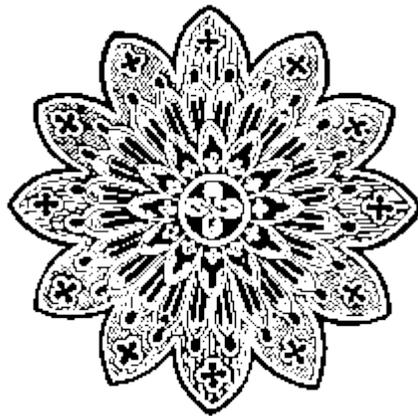


ADJUNCT PROFESSOR ANNE SILVER

Thank you for serving a delicious spiritual meal of discernment, wisdom and delight. What a pleasure it is to sit in your classes.

Her kind spirit is living example of everything she teaches. She is fully aware of the Holy Spirit working in her life, and has helped me to be quiet and listen for the same in mine. She offers good feedback in her prompt return of written assignments, is fully aware of the trials of our lives, and prays with heartfelt faith for each of us. Her leadership has inspired me to think outside the box of pastoral care.

Dr. Silver is a gift to this community, whose work with spiritual direction has informed and guided the formation of clergy and lay church leaders. She honors the work of her students, welcomes their questions, and works tirelessly to create a safe place for practicing the ancient art of spiritual direction.



THIS EVENT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
THE DESMOND TUTU CENTER

AN ESPECIAL THANKS IS DUE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR ENERGY,
ASSISTANCE, GENEROSITY AND LABOUR:

JULES JODKO

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STEPHANIE SHOCKLEY

MARY GREGORIOUS

CINDY STRAVERS

RICK EFFINGER

JERED WEBER JOHNSON

BRIDGET COFFEY

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