



Boston Theological Institute

210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459 * (617) 527-4880

Fax (617) 527-1073 * btioffice@bostontheological.org * www.bostontheological.org

BTI Executive Director's First Quarter Report, July – September, 2011

By Rodney L. Petersen, Executive Director

First Quarter highlights include reference to strategic planning for academic year 2011-2012. Several suggestions are found in the Annual Report for 2010-2011 (pp. 8-10). With economies as they are, polarization in national politics, and daunting international challenges, we face opportunities as schools to help “fix it” (“Let’s Just Fix it”) as put by *Newsweek Magazine* editors (September 19), or as put by Elizabeth Spellman, to be involved in the work of repair – and Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite warns of the inability to return to the innocence of Eden. Seminaries and schools of theology are places for “re-creation.” They can be “seedbeds” toward a healthy culture. Our strategies as schools can reflect the faith we hold.

I. Administration

Marketing and Public Relations:

The number of schools that make explicit reference to the BTI on their websites and in printed material has increased over the past year. The national market advantage we face in our schools will continue to be pursued by the BTI office. This is enhanced first of all by the reputation of the faculties of each school, then too by our re-commitment as a consortium to Hispanic connections, ecumenical and interfaith identity, and international work as a body of scholars. The value of the certificate programs rests on these relationships.

Library Directors: (Esther Griswold, BC STM, Chair) The Library Directors first meeting on September 26 – digital and courier and books moved

Field Education Directors: (Laura Tuach, Chair, HDS) The Field Education Directors first met on September 16, set agenda that includes mentoring, assessment and prison ministry Field Education placements. Minutes are available.

Academic Deans: A meeting of Academic Deans is being arranged. I am working with Catherine Cornille (BC DT) to set the agenda for the future. I assume finding ways to raise the attention we give to inter-faith issues, as we do for matters of international mission and ecumenism, will be a subject on the agenda.

Deans of Students: A meeting of Deans of Students is being arranged.

Registrars: A meeting for Registrars is planned for October with new registrars and the full embrace of Hebrew College courses in view.

Consortia Directors: At the encouragement of the Personnel Committee last spring I have begun to reconnect with consortia directors and Stephen Graham. In view is a follow up to the meeting held under ATS auspices in spring of 2010 here in Boston.

Fall Dinner and Lecture: Hebrew College hosted the annual dinner and lecture on September 21. We had 89 RSVPs. The talk and responses will be printed in the spring edition of the *BTI Magazine*.

II. Programming (including Support/Endorsement) in the First Quarter

(See the listing for supported work in Appendix A)

A. BTI Programs

- **International Mission and Ecumenism** (with certificate)

This faculty committee is chaired by Todd Johnson, GCTS; Daryl Ireland (BUSTh) offers student coordination. The fall agenda includes the following:

- 1) Fall dinner and applicants for the IME certificate (October).
- 2) Mission Consultation at Maryknoll Sisters House (November). Elizabeth Parsons of BUSTh is a featured speaker.
- 3) Support to be given to HCGOST and its Mission Consultation (November).
- 4) Mission Consultation in February will focus on the 200th anniversary of the 2012 mission of Adoniram and Anne Judson and the first work of the ABCFM (meetings being planned for Tabernacle and First Baptist Churches in Salem and at ANTS and GCTS).
- 5) Ongoing work from 2010boston (publications and conversations)
- 6) Pentecostalism study (with Peter Berger, BU)
- 7) Ecclesiology study - with Gerard Mannion (Margaret Guider [BCSTM], Raymond Helmick [BCDT], Jack Davis [GCTS] and others.
- 8) Planning proceeding for BTI workshops with GCTS (lead role) in 2012 (“The Silk Road”) and BC (lead role) in 2013 (“The Rule of Law” in Lahore, Pakistan).

- **Religion and Conflict Transformation** (with certificate)

- 1) A meeting was held at ANTS (September 15) with John Kiser with envisioning toward program development. (Meetings were independently held with others as well.)
- 2) September 22 – “Afghanistan? An Ethical Inquiry,” with Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven (respondents: David Hollenbach, BC, and Petersen), organized by Marian Simion
- 3) The BTI-wide faculty committee will reconvene in October. Some new additions include John Shea (BC) and David Carrasco (HDS).
- 4) The Religion and Conflict Transformation retreat (under BUSTh) auspices has been set for September 30 – October 1.
- 5) The following public lecture series has been put together at EDS in connection with the course, “An Ecumenical Engagement of the Churches with Overcomng Violence”:

September 20 Developing a Culture of Life: *Building a Culture of Respect: Dignity*

Donna Hicks (Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University); discusses her new book, *Dignity: The Essential Role it Plays in Resolving Conflict* (Yale, 2011)

October 25 Peace in the Community: *Contested Sexuality* (with Patrick Cheng, Episcopal Divinity School, and Megan DeFranza, Gordon College)

November 8 Peace with the Earth: *Indigenous Religion, Missiology and the Biosphere* (with Martinus Daneel, Zimbabwe and Boston University School of Theology)

November 15 Peace in the Marketplace: *God and Money* (with Nimi Wariboko, investment banker, advisor to the Nigerian government and professor at Andover Newton)

December 6 Peace Among the Peoples *Forgiveness: A Political Virtue or a Human Right?* A Symposium featuring Martha Minow, Dean, Harvard Law School, and Fr. Leonel Narvaez of the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (Bogotá, Colombia)

- 6) Planning work for an IRD-RCT conference at BUSTh, summer 2012.
- 7) Working with an international ecumenical committee to put together a course on Justice and with work of the churches for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches (October, 2013) in Busan, Korea.
- 8) Work on going with “Churches and the Cold War.”

- **Science and Religion** (online *Journal*)
Paul Wolosow (EDS) and Professor Norman Faramelli (BU) have given continuing encouragement as well as networking with Vincent Maraventano (IP&L; ANTS campus).
 - 1) Journal of Faith and Science Exchange, vol. 6 completed. See at: <http://digilib.bu.edu/journals/ojs/index.php/jfse/index>
 - 2) Student Paper Conference with Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light: This year's theme is "Peace with the Earth" in recognition of the theme being raised up at the World Council of Churches' International Ecumenical Peace Convocation; collecting papers in fall 2011. See: <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/peace-convocation.html>
 - 3) Planning for 2011-2012: 10th Anniversary of the Human Genome Project
- **Hispanic Program**
 - 1) Leadership from Hofsman Ospino (BC-STM) and M. T. Davila (ANTS).
 - 2) In conversation with Benjamin Valentine (ANTS) about how to enlarge Hispanic-oriented work and the Costas Hispanic Lecture series.
 - 3) Arranging for the HSP institutional support meeting (October).

B. BTI Institutional Support

- **EDS Workshops** (referenced above under Religion and Conflict Transformation)
- **American Society of Missiology** – Eastern Fellowship (planning for annual in November at Maryknoll); see www.ASMEF.org for ongoing planning.

C. BTI Endorsement

- **Refugee Immigration Ministry** events, coordinated with Field Education
 - 1) EDS work with Susanne Snyder for October 10 conference
 - 2) Refugee Immigration Ministry International Dinner (September and December)
- **Various Restorative Justice Forums** (often with the Center for Restorative Justice, Suffolk University): ongoing work with Alternatives to Violence; Church and Prison; Restorative Justice in Norfolk Prison.
- **Interfaith Issues:** A number of events have been endorsed: See the website.
 - 1) 911 programming with Mass Remembers (September 11, Boston Esplanade)
 - 2) Visit of John Kiser.
 - 3) Works proceeds with 911 planning inclusively with area churches, mosques and synagogues and their respective entities.
- **REFO500** – faculty discussions through August and September with Christopher Brown (BU), Mark Massa (BC-STM), Mark Edwards (HDS) and Frank James (GCTS); meeting at BC in October.
- **Academy of Preachers** (assist with visits to various faculty: Stephanie Paulsell, HDS; Robert Hill, BU.; and others).

III. Academic Concerns

A. Cross Registration: See website for statistics.

B. Certificates of Joint Faculties

- 1) Fresh online documents are being prepared for October gatherings of students interested in the two BTI certificates in *International Mission and Ecumenism* and in *Religion and Conflict Transformation*. (Two certificates are currently senescent, Science and Religion and Youth and Young Adult Ministries.)
- 2) Following our example with BTI certificates in Boston the Washington Theological Consortium has instituted two certificates in Ecumenical Relations and in Muslim-Christian Dialogue and is looking into additional areas for certificates of study, Jewish-Christian Relations and Science and Religion. Two others are in development.

C. Faculty Colloquia and Committees

- 1) **Faculty Colloquia** (8 faculty groups)
 - a) OT/Hebrew Bible: Larry Wills (EDS) and Greg Mobley (ANTS) as leadership.
 - b) NT: on hold - Stegman (BC) and Lee (ANTS)
 - c) Patristics: Annewies van den Hoek (HDS)
 - d) Theology: Les Muray (Curry College) and Mark Heim (ANTS)
 - e) Ethics: Norman Faramelli (BUSTh) and Tom Massaro (BC) for 2011-2012. Ethics series for this academic year:

September 29 – David Hollenbach, S.J. will introduce us to the Center for International Justice and Human Rights, Boston College. In addition to his work at Boston College, Professor Hollenbach, who holds the University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice, brings a rich history of teaching and advocacy experience primarily from East Africa.

November 10 – Stephen Mott and The James Luther Adams Foundation announce the sixteenth annual James Luther Adams Forum on Religion and Society. The lecture will be given this year by Dr. Kim Beach, student and friend of Adams and editor of three collections of Adams' essays. He is the author of *Transforming Liberalism: The Theology of James Luther Adams*. He will speak on the topic, "'What's Past Is Prologue' James Luther Adams and the Unitarian Universalists." (Wilson Chapel)

February 21 – Walter E. Fluker will introduce us to the work of The Howard Thurman Center under the direction of Boston University. Professor Fluker is the Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership and the editor of the Howard Thurman Papers Project.

April 10 – David W. Gill, Mockler-Phillips Professor of Workplace Theology & Business Ethics, Director, Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace.

- f) Comparative Theology: Catherine Cornille (BC), John Berthrong (BUSTh) and Frank Clooney, SJ (HDS)
 - g) Liturgy and Worship: John Baldovin, SJ (BCSTM)
 - h) Hispanic Fellowship: MT Davila (ANTS) and Hosffman Ospino (BC – STM)
- 2) **Chairs of BTI Program Committees** (in discussion for 2011-2012)
 - a) International Mission and Ecumenism: Todd Johnson (GCTS) – continuing next year
 - b) Science and Religion: Kirk Wegter-McNelly (BUSTh) - needs review
 - c) Religion and Conflict Transformation: Tom Porter (BUSTh) and Raymond Helmick, SJ (BC-DT) – needs review
 - 3) **Faculty Task Forces:** In the past we have had such task forces around issues of Religion and Conflict, Ecclesiology and in other areas. Depending on deliberations by the Board, I would like to see the following task forces take shape next academic year:
 - a) REFO500 with Historians and others
 - b) Interfaith Planning, particularly Jewish-Christian relations and inclusive of Muslim interests as able
 - c) Science and Religion certificate (perhaps in bioethics)
 - 4) **Annual International Workshop**
 - a) Silk Road (spring 2012)
 - b) Religion and the Rule of Law (spring 2013)

- 5) **Ecumenical Education**

- a) Planning is proceeding for Busan (fall 2013). Planning meetings are September 22 and November 3.
- b) Planning with GCTS (Todd Johnson) on “The Silk Road” (Western China) for 2012
- c) Planning with BC and with Titus Pressler (formerly EDS) on “The Rule of Law” for 2013 (Lahore)

6) Teaching

(Petersen) Fall term: course on “The Ecumenical Engagement of the Churches with Overcoming Violence” (EDS); Spring term, “International Conflict and the Ministry of Reconciliation” (BUSTh)
 (Simion): courses at BC and HCHC.

7) Field Education/Work Supervisor/ or Reader

(Petersen); Simion is also involved in Field Education Supervision

- a) Kathleen Mroz (HDS)
- b) Jin Young Kim (HDS) – Simion
- c) Ross Steinborn (HDS)
- d) Mark Shan (GCTS/CUME; London School of Theology)
- e) Frank Lan (ANTS)

IV. Communications

The First Quarter has seen the following:

- 1) Continued marketing efforts with Development persons in the schools.
- 2) Publication of the fall 2011 edition of the *BTI Magazine*
- 3) Work on the final Williams’ manuscript.
- 4) Website Development Components: Continue to update and Conceptualize: 1) E-Newsletter, 2) 2010-2011 Course Catalogue, and 3) institutional component
- 5) Website; www.2010boston.org – in process of being reconceived as a Mission and Ecumenism website under the IME committee
- 6) Website www.heritages-and-horizons.org being reworked for Development and Marketing
- 7) Survey being made for possible advertisements for the study of religion and theology in Boston in major journals

V. Executive Director’s Representation of the BTI in the First Quarter

A. General and Periodic

- Meetings of Presbytery of Boston and PCUSA General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (periodic and in Louisville)
- Massachusetts Council of Churches (Board member) and Commission on Christian Unity
- Walker Center for Ecumenical and Interfaith Exchange (Board member)
- Foundation for Prison and Church (Board member)
- Refugee Immigration Ministry (Board member)
- Lord’s Day Alliance, USA (Board member)
- Regular Preaching, Presbyterian churches and Scandinavian Living Center
- Monthly meetings of Inter-Religious Center on Public Life (ICPL) ???????
- Various retirement and honorary dinners

B. Special Speaking or Program Activity in the First Quarter

- June 8-9 - Plenary Lecture at University of Zurich, Switzerland: “The Apocalyptic Luther: Exegesis and Self-Identity”
- July Family Camp
- August 26 – September 9 School Orientations

- September 3-5 – presence *in absentia* at “Church and the Cold War” (Bratislava, Slovakia)
- September 22 – Response to Justenhoven (HDS)
- September 23-24 – LDA at First Amendment Center, Nashville
- October 18 – BC-STM class with Thomas Kane

VI. Executive Director’s Publications in First Quarter

“The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity: Celebrating the Centenary of Edinburgh 1910,” *BTI Magazine*, 11.1 (Fall, 2011).

“Jamaica Convocation on the Decade to Overcome Violence,” by Raymond Helmick, S.J., Rodney Petersen, and Thomas Porter, *BTI Magazine*, 11.1 (Fall 2011).

“The Journey to Community,” in the *BTI Magazine*, 11.1 (Fall, 2011): 2.

“An Attitude of Gratitude,” *Sunday Magazine*, Volume 99, Number 2 (Fall 2011): 3-4.

VII. Academic Year 2011-2012 Initial Overview Projected BTI Focal Events, 2011-2012

September

911

Orientations

RCT Retreat

Annual Dinner and Lecture

EDS-DOV-911 Series

Dignity and Conflict Transformation

(with Donna Hicks, Weatherhead Center, Harvard)

Start Academic Colloquia

October

Church History Colloquium

Contested Narratives

1) Peace in the Community (NPI)

> Class in America (Joan Martin)

> Contested Sexuality (Patrick Cheng-Megan DeFranza)

November

ASM-EF (Maryknoll)

2) Peace in the Marketplace (Nimi Wariboko)

3) Peace with the Earth (Martinus Daneel)

December

4) Peace Among Peoples

Martha Minow-Fr. Leonel Narvaez: “Forgiveness: Political Virtue or Human Right”

January

Church Historians meet with Monica Toft of the Kennedy School

BTI Trustees’ Retreat

February

200th Anniversary of ABCFM & Judson

March

(? Religion at Harvard & 375th Anniversary: Implications for the BTI community)

April

10th Anniversary of Human Genome (provisional)

(? possible launch certificate in bioethics)

May

BTI Annual Workshop (with GCTS)

June

Consortia Directors & ATS – Inter-religious theological education

Hispanic Summer Program

Petersen – 2 courses: Fall – “The Ecumenical Engagement of the Churches with Overcoming Violence” (EDS); Spring – “International Conflict and the Ministry of Reconciliation” (BUSTh)