Gentle people:

As you receive this communication Debbi and I will be deep in the midst of packing for our retirement and move to Chapel Hill, N.C. Sorting through a lifetime of “stuff” puts me to reflecting on the many transitions in our lives, the joys and sorrows they bring, and the perspectives they offer on what changes and what stays the same.

Andover Newton is about to welcome its 10th president of the combined schools. What history there is to tell about his predecessors: Everett Herrick, Harold Tribble, Herbert Gezork, Roy Pearson, Gordon Torgersen, George Peck, David Shannon, and Ben Griffin! Of course we should also mention the important transitional work of interim presidents George Sinclair and Ralph Eliot. Those of you reading this newsletter have, no doubt, wonderful stories to tell of each of these leaders and the changes they brought to our sacred Hill. It is humbling to be included in their number.

The arrival of Martin Copenhaver opens a new chapter in the presidency and I am excited about the possibilities Martin’s arrival represents. He brings many fine attributes as an organizational leader, speaker, author, and person of faith, but it is his enduring commitment to the local church and pastoral ministry that stands out above all. The school is in a good place; many of the demons that have haunted us for decades have been exorcised, and a strong platform for the future is in place. The challenges that remain are ones that Martin, together with our trustees, faculty, and staff are not only capable of handling, but have the creativity and insight to turn to the school’s advantage.

More than anything else I am confident about the school’s future not because of what has changed, but because of what has stayed the same. That constant in our history through 10 presidents is you, the alumni/ae, emeriti/ae, friends and supporters who have remained so committed to supporting the school through those remarkable years. It has been a time of almost unprecedented upheaval in the church, the economy, our society, and the world. It is clear to me through your communications, visits, gifts and prayers that Andover Newton is blessed with a diverse and energetic family of people and churches who believe deeply in our mission and want to sustain it.

That’s why in one of my last communications to you I want to be sure you know how deep my gratitude is. For your regular financial gifts, your bequests, your hours of volunteer time, your advice and advocacy for the school, for the students you send us, and so much more I thank you. These things are blessings that every president on that long list has known and they are blessings I know Martin will come to know. Together you make up the indefatigable and joyful spirit that is Andover Newton.

Onward!

Nick Carter,
President
Dear Members of the Andover Newton Community,

Years ago, when I first became a student at Andover Newton, I had no idea what a president of a theological school does. A few years later, President Nick Carter came onto my radar. Partly, he just looked like what I thought a president might look like. (Well, he would also have made a good king, I thought, if Andover Newton ever went in that direction.)

Then I heard good things about him from students on campus. Nick, they called him. I listened to him speak in chapel, then at baccalaureates and graduations. He spoke with clarity, humor, wisdom, and panache. Nick loves history and loves talking about the great saints of the school and their stories as they traveled the world to share their faith. I liked listening to him tell me the great story of Andover Newton. He was inspiring.

After I graduated, I had the good fortune to join the school’s board of trustees. As trustees, we have talked about dreams for Andover Newton as well as hard realities. We have talked about leadership, ministry, churches, and denominations. We have talked about remodeling classrooms, and the hope of building a new learning commons. We have considered how to retain the finest faculty, mulled over the enigma of theological school enrollments, the moving pieces in financial plans, and the temperaments of steam pipes.

Nick is a minister, an entrepreneur, a strategic planner, and a faithful, faith-filled leader. He has been willing to try things in order to strengthen the school he and we love: build new relationships, consider how best to reallocate the splendid resource of our campus, and work tirelessly to build a sustainable model to ensure Andover Newton’s future.

Being chair of the board these past four years has meant serving closely with Nick. I have learned so much from him. I have enjoyed our friendship, and our work together with the board’s executive committee — Rev. Dr. Jim Sherhlom, Linda Campanella, and Ed Bednianski — and all the trustees who give so much of themselves to serve Andover Newton.

As Nick winds up his tenure as president, and as he and his wife Debbi retire to North Carolina, I want to say thank you, Nick — on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Andover Newton extended community — for your intelligence, dreams, hard work, and many accomplishments. God bless you.

Judy Swahnberg ’66
The Chair, Andover Newton Board of Trustees

Greetings from the Hill

As the days get longer and the sunshine feels warmer, we on the Hill are embracing the transition before us with great optimism and joy. We will dearly miss President Nick Carter as he heads off into his richly deserved retirement! He has done so much to restore the financial health of the school, improve the appearance of the campus, oversee important curricular and operating innovations, and so much more during his decade at the helm. He has been a visionary yet pragmatic leader with a creativity and enthusiasm that have been positively contagious. He will be missed.

And yet we are also thrilled to welcome The Rev. Martin Copenhaver as our next President! Martin has served on the Andover Newton Board of Trustees for a number of years and knows us well. He is well aware of the challenges facing this and all seminaries these days and will bring his prodigious intelligence, collaborative style and extensive network to bear on charting the way forward. We are delighted to welcome him as our leader!

Here in the Advancement Office, we are working hard to make sure Martin and others have the resources needed to continue the hard but essential work of preparing the next generation of faith leaders. We are well on track to meet our Annual Fund goal of $35,000. Giving from both alumni and churches is higher than last year, and (with your help!) we anticipate a strong finish for the fiscal year. As you know, the Annual Fund is critical given that the tuition paid by students only covers about 35 percent of the actual cost of an Andover Newton education. We depend upon your generosity to fulfill our educational mission!

During fiscal 2014, we have been quite successful in securing some major grants from foundations that will enable us to continue to improve our program offerings. We have just received the second of three $200,000 payments from the Henry R. Luce Foundation ($600,000 in total) to be used in connection with Hebrew College to advance the schools’ CIRCLE program for interfaith leadership development. Andover Newton and Hebrew College have recently appointed Muslim scholar Celene Ayat Lizzio to a three-year term as Scholar-in-Residence at the two schools.

We have also received $219,000 from the Lilly Endowment to work on ways to address the financial challenges faced by seminaries. We will be using this money to both develop new courses in personal finances, church finances and fundraising and to design and run a new “Cooperative” model for the M.Div. degree which would involve part-time, paid work in churches over the period required to complete the degree. It is our hope that both efforts will enable more students to graduate with little or no student debt. We also received a grant of $10,000 per year for the next three years ($30,000 total) from the DeFreitas Foundation to endow student financial aid. We are grateful for this support and will continue to seek new sources of institutional funding.

Finally, the improvement in the stock market has led a number of our supporters to make their Annual Fund gifts with appreciated stock. This is an easy way to make a gift and enjoy important tax benefits. Also simple to pull together are life-income gifts. We’d be delighted to help you set up an annuity through our denominational partners that would pay you income during your lifetime and provide a gift to Andover Newton upon your death. We encourage you to be in touch with us as you think about your financial plans.

We hope you will join us on the Hill for Spring Convocation, May 15-16, 2014. Diana Butler Bass will be our featured speaker and workshop leader, we’ll celebrate this year’s Spirit of the Hill on May 15, 2014. And we’ll send Nick on his way with a fun and festive dance party. Don’t miss it!

With gratitude,

JENNIFER L. CRAIG
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Message from Institutional Advancement
In February, a group of about 30 Andover Newton students, alumni/as, faculty, trustees, and staff members traveled to North Carolina to participate in the Moral March on Raleigh. Included in the group were both President Nick Carter and President-Elect Martin Copenhaver.

On the following pages are reflections some of the participants.

**M.T. Dávila is an Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Andover Newton.**

“Following the call we so clearly received in November from The Rev. Dr. William Barber to join North Carolinians in their struggle for justice for the poor, for immigrants, for children’s education, and for voting rights, a mixed group of about 30 members of the Andover Newton community headed to Raleigh for the Feb. 8 Moral March. My task as a faculty member was to frame our participation in the march within the context of a Christian call to justice within the human family and to attend to the suffering and the downtrodden wherever they may be. We held two ‘teach-ins’ at the United Church of Chapel Hill, a church with a strong presence in the Moral Monday’s movement and deep commitments to justice and love of neighbor in North Carolina.

“But my own education took place during the 14-hour drives to and then back from North Carolina. After I had cleared my van of child booster seats, four students and Director of Admissions Alison McCarty piled into my van, committed to whatever God was asking of us during the next few days. Our students from West Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania gave me a REAL teach-in, grounded in their own experiences of exclusion, the story of lives in their hometowns with little to no opportunity, and their hopes to make a difference after their Andover Newton education. These students became my heroes and teachers throughout the weekend. They eloquently spoke to the media about their reasons for participating in the Moral March, led countless marchers in song, and became a beacon of hope to North Carolinians who were able to see through them that people as far north as Massachusetts cared about the injustices they were suffering.

“I have always been very proud of being a faculty member of Andover Newton. But our participation at the Moral March made it all make sense. In my scholarship I speak about all of us being children of an activist God, who does not stand by idle to the deepest of human suffering, but becomes one of us to die our own death and bring us into life. I am very grateful that I had this opportunity to walk this talk.”

View the Barber message to Andover Newton at http://bit.ly/BarberANTS. Sign up for Andover Newton news and announcements at http://ants.thankyou4caring.org to learn how you can participate in future events.

**Lauren Seganos is a first-year Master of Divinity student at Andover Newton. Modern Prophets: The Moral Movement in North Carolina**

“The situation in North Carolina is terrifying in the threat and targeting of the poor and marginalized. The leadership of churches and people of faith are crucial during this time of uncertainty and fear in the Old North State. They stand as beacons of hope when many are losing hope that change is possible.”

— Ruth Edens ’10, Director of Development at Andover Newton, North Carolina native

**David Miller is a first-year Master of Divinity student.**

“When The Rev. Dr. William Barber spoke to my school back in November, he challenged us with the meaning of being a ‘prophet’ in the Biblical tradition. ‘A prophet,’ he said, ‘is called when the priests aren’t doing their job.’ The priest is the minister of the status quo, but when the status quo turns evil, then the prophets must arise.

“I didn’t just go to North Carolina because I care about voting rights (even though I do). I went because something is happening in our country that is bigger than Democrats vs. Republicans, or the Tea Party vs. President Obama. When the government of North Carolina (or any state) takes away medical care and food assistance from poor people; blocks access of people of color, poor folks, and students to their right to vote; uses gay rights as a wedge issue; shuts down women’s health clinics; fires teachers; and bans laborers from unionizing, then what is being done is evil. I feel in the deepest core of my heart that my faith requires me to call out what is happening in North Carolina as immoral. This is a faith issue. It’s a moral issue. That’s why it was called ‘the Moral March.’ The time has come for us in progressive churches to claim our moral authority in the public discourse.

“In the Moral March I saw all kinds of groups come together, from many causes, to march for a better vision. I saw gay rights groups waving rainbow flags with the NAACP, various churches with Planned Parenthood, libertarians with labor unions, and in the midst of all of it we were us from Andover Newton. What I saw was holy; it inspired me to see almost 100,000 people marching together. They probably didn’t all agree with each other, but they were still marching as one. ‘Without a vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). In North Carolina, at the Moral March, I glimpsed the vision my people need.”

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**Ruth Edens is a first-year Master of Divinity student at Andover Newton. Modern Prophets: The Moral Movement in North Carolina**

“... Our faith as Christians and as Unitarian Universalists called us to action, and while most of us from Andover Newton were not residents of North Carolina, we held firm to Dr. King’s proclamation that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

“My experiences in Raleigh and with the faith and moral movements in North Carolina continue to teach me what Cornel West regaled: justice is what love looks like in public. This lesson took place outside of the classroom, but what a powerful example of faith in action. North Carolinians are inspiring me, and perhaps they will inspire you as well.”

"But our participation at the Moral March made it all make sense. In my scholarship I speak about all of us being children of an activist God, who does not stand by idle to the deepest of human suffering, but becomes one of us to die our own death and bring us into life. I am very grateful that I had this opportunity to walk this talk.”

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Sarah Collins Rudolph

More than 50 years after the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, racial tensions still divide Americans. We hope you’ll come to hear Sarah Collins Rudolph, the “fifth little girl” who survived the bombing that killed her sister and three other children.

The story of the bombing has been told before, notably in Spike Lee’s documentary Four Little Black Girls. Less well known is the story of Rudolph, who was 12 years old when the bombing killed her sister and blinded her in one eye.

Post-traumatic stress disorder and memory loss, in addition to the physical injuries, derailed her dreams of becoming a nurse. Rudolph’s testimony concluded the state’s evidence in the 2002 trial of the Ku Klux Klansman accused of the bombing.

She and her husband, George Rudolph, live in Forestdale, Alabama. The bombing took place at a time when African Americans were struggling to secure their right to vote. That fight continues today, with states such as North Carolina passing new laws that make it harder for racial minorities, retirees, and college student to vote.

Join the Andover Newton community on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. in Wilson Chapel to hear Rudolph tell her story. The Lovetones from Myrtle Baptist Church will provide special music.

Letter from Alum Board

Dear friends of the beloved Andover Newton community,

I bring you greetings from the Alumni/ae Board. This Fall/Winter has been a time of blossoming ideas and passion around building connections within the alumni/ae community as well as creating a stronger presence within the current student population. We began the year with “Get the Scoop,” serving ice cream and handing out goodie bags, filled with treats from businesses in Newton Centre, to the incoming students during Fall Convocation. Both of these efforts were received with gratitude and delight, not only from the incoming students, but from the rest of the community as well.

We continue to seek out opportunities to host gatherings around the country, to which we can send faculty and/or staff from the school to attend, share stories about Andover Newton, and to listen to the current needs of the ministry as expressed by all of you. If you are interested in hosting an Andover Newton regional gathering at your church, please be in contact with Jennifer Craig, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. (jcraig@ants.edu)

We are tremendously excited by the new Alumni/ae Online Directory! If you have not yet received an e-mail or other communication about this new way of connecting with one another, please contact Jason Tippitt, Communications Associate, at jtippitt@ants.edu. In addition to connecting with other alumni/ae, we are dreaming of ways to connect with the current student population. We are passionate about this connection, because it is imperative that all students graduate with a sense that they have the ability for institutional memory and where they can draw upon its resources throughout their lives.

Stay tuned! As we explore together what it means to be a community of 4,000+ alumni/ae, we invite you to dream big and share with us your ideas. I look forward to seeing you at Spring Convocation!

Blessings of the Spirit,

Emilia Halstead, Class of 2010

Library Co-Director Diana Yount looks back on her tenure

There are many facets to library operations, and I have had the good fortune to experience many of them at Andover Newton. I began my career in the archives and special collections department, where I welcomed the caretaker responsibility for institutional memory and where the achievements of former professors and pastors are documented. In 1988 I also assumed responsibility for reference and circulation services, and for the last seven years of my professional career I was given the opportunity to provide leadership in the rapidly changing landscape of academic libraries, with particular focus on the teaching and learning functions of library service.

I have heard many times at retirement events, “It’s all about the people.” I have worked with many great staff, students and faculty and will miss that collegial experience. Several years ago I asked a retiring staff member, “How do you know when it’s time?” Her reply says it all: “You’ll know.” It’s time now. I look forward to offering volunteer service in the school archives, where I began my employment in 1977.

Diana Yount, Co-Director, Franklin Trask Library

Upcoming Events

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<td>Sabbath Hour Workshop “Helping Congregants Navigate End-of-Life Issues,” Brita Gil-Austern and Daniel Judson</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Event with Sarah Collins Rudolph survivor of 1963 Montgomery church bombing</td>
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<td>Sabbath Hour Workshop “I Love to Tell the Story: An Introduction to Biblical Storytelling,” Cindy Mayeck</td>
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<td>Martin Copenhaver starts term as Andover Newton’s new president</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Installation of The Rev. Martin Copenhaver as new president of Andover Newton, Old South Church in Boston</td>
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<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Sabbath Hour Workshop “Money and Your Ministry,” Margaret Marcson</td>
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<td>Sabbath Hour Workshop “Uncommon Sense, Ministry, and Congregational Health,” Kenneth Reeves</td>
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Andover Newton and Hebrew College made history at both schools this spring with the joint appointment of an Islamic Studies scholar to serve as Scholar-in-Residence and to share in the leadership of our groundbreaking leadership education efforts.

Ms. Celene Ayat Lizzio is recognized as a leading representative of the new generation of American Muslim thinkers and leaders. Her position will involve both teaching courses at the schools, developing programs in conjunction with the existing interfaith work, and enabling greater interaction between Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities. Lizzio is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Divinity School, and she is a current Ph.D. candidate at Brandeis University. This three-year appointment began in March and was made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, including the visionary support of the future and offer my sincere gratitude to those who made this appointment possible, including the visionary support of the Henry Luce Foundation.”

As a current CIRCLE fellow, Ms. Lizzio is already familiar with the two schools, and she had already made an impression on Dr. Sarah Drummond, Dean of the Faculty at Andover Newton. “Over the past few years, I have encountered Celene in various interfaith educational gatherings,” Dr. Drummond said. “Each time, I found her presence to be a bright light in the room. She exudes love of ideas and learning. I so look forward to working with her as Andover Newton and Hebrew College partner in a whole new way.”

Visit www.ants.edu/circle to learn more about the CIRCLE program, which includes student fellowships and two online courses at the schools, developing programs in conjunction with the existing interfaith work, and enabling greater interaction between Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities.

Faculties of Andover Newton Theological School and Hebrew College. These two institutions are at the forefront of an interreligious leadership studies movement that is enhancing, in leaps and bounds, our collective capacity to be religious scholars and practitioners in a multi-religious world. I look forward to the future and offer my sincere gratitude to those who that made this appointment possible, including the visionary support of the Henry Luce Foundation.”

Register for Theological Studies: Mentorship in the Task of Theological Studies. This is a unique opportunity for theological students, especially early-career scholars, to engage in high-quality theological study with experienced professors. The program offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers a wide range of topics, including biblical studies, historical theology, and systematic theology. This is an ideal opportunity for students who are interested in pursuing a career in academic theology or ministry.

Staff Updates

Ngozi Robinson (M.Div. ’09) is Andover Newton’s new part-time Admissions Recruiter. She holds a national ordination from the National Baptist Convention USA and a local ordination from Myrtle Baptist Church in Newton (affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches USA).

She earned a B.A. in International Studies and Economics at Trinity College and an M.S. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. She worked in Washington, D.C., as a program associate for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and as Director of Health Disparities Initiatives at The Generic Alliance before entering the path to formal ministry.

In Boston, she has served as associate minister at New Hope Baptist Church, interfaith chaplain at Children’s Hospital Boston, and assistant pastor at Myrtle Baptist Church. She currently serves as administrator at Christ Community Church in Chicopee and works as an independent consultant in conflict resolution, race relations, project management, and online solutions.

Robert Pazmiño’s latest book, A Boy Grows in Brooklyn: An Educational and Spiritual Memoir, will be published later this year by Wipf and Stock.

Benjamin Valentin has been invited to open a conference at the University of Münster in Germany in late April presented by the school’s program in world Christianity. His 45-minute address is titled “Mapping Orlando Espin’s Idol and Grace in the Currents of U.S. Hispanic/Latino(a) Theology.”

Valentin writes:

It appears that the theological academy in Germany has finally discovered U.S. Hispanic/Latino(a) theology, and it is showing interest in learning more about it. The folk at the University of Münster have picked up on this emerging interest in “a non-European” form of theology, and they have planned this conference to explore this U.S. theological discourse. They have decided to do this by focusing a recent work authored by Latino theologian Orlando Espin, titled Idol and Grace: On Traditioving and Subversive Hope, and having theologians from different parts of the world come to speak on the significance and relevance of this work. This follows a German practice of having conferences that center around a close reading of a particular text. In the case of this conference, 10 speakers have been invited from different parts of the world. I am one of two from the United States. The task I have been assigned is that of locating the themes of Espin’s work within the wider currents of U.S. Hispanic/Latino(a) theology.”

Valentin is the only speaker at the conference from a free-standing seminary, notes Dean of Faculty Sarah Drummond.

Adam Hearlson was formally installed as the first settled Director of Wilson Chapel at a special community worship event on Wednesday, March 12.
The history of Myanmar, or “Burma” as it was called during historic and cultural sites in Bagan and the Mandalay area. The trip was divided into three main sections which included a week visiting Christian seminaries in Yangon and its cultural treasures, three days living in the rhythm of a Buddhist monk’s day at a monastery and meditation center, and four days visiting historic and cultural sites in Ibagon and the Mandalay area.

The history of Myanmar, or “Burma” as it was called during the British occupation, has been one of conquest and conflict. The country Burmese citizens are free to speak their minds in ways that would have been unthinkable as recently as three years ago, and there is a large representation in parliament of Myanmar Christians. The coexisting quiet and exuberant rituals of Theravada Buddhism (the national religion), or the overwhelming hospitality of our Burmese hosts. Our minds, spirits, and bodies were challenged constantly as we moved from experience to experience during the trip.

The Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) in Yangon is the largest Protestant seminary in Myanmar and is the pioneering leader in promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration through its Judson Center. The center is named after Adoniram Judson, a graduate of the Andover Theological Seminary who was the first Protestant missionary in Burma. Judson began converting the Burmese to the Baptist faith in 1824, translated the Bible into Burmese, and created the first English-Burmese dictionary. The Christian church in Myanmar regards Judson as almost a saint, recently celebrating the 200th anniversary of Judson’s mission with more than 30,000 people attending from all over the country, Europe, and the United States.

Our Group had the opportunity to spend time with students in the classrooms where all classes are conducted in English and contain very sophisticated content. It was striking how similar both the subject matter and the students’ questions were to those we would hear at Andover Newton. The Rev. Dr. Maung Maung Yin (professor on page 16), an Andover Newton alumnus who was a full professor at MIT, was our host throughout our stay. Maung Maung made it possible for us to interact frequently with other faculty, students, and even his own family. Meetings were also held with the school’s president, Rev. Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling, and with the chairman of their board who is also the General Secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention, Rev. Dr. Yamin Pao. Professor Gill-Austern gave a moving sermon about peace and nonviolence at the school’s chapel service, which kicked off the new school year at MIT.

Within MIT, two important institutes have been established: the Peace Studies Center (PSC) and the Judson Research Center (JRC). The JRC was established in 2003 to promote interfaith studies and dialogue in a country that is officially Buddhist (85 percent) but with important Christian and Muslim minorities (each 4 percent). We heard from a panel of religious leaders address “Religion, Security, and Co-Existence,” including a Muslim scholar who asked provocatively, “Where did I become a guest in my own country?”

MIT professor Dr. Saw Hlaing Bwa spoke eloquently about the compatibility of Buddhism and Christian faith and practice, after which one student said, “Here is one of the foremost leading voices in theology today!” Both of these leaders and our group also took part in a youth rally for interreligious dialogue and cooperation, which we found surprising for the openness with which the youth were demanding religious reconciliation. The other MIT initiative, the PSC, was founded by Dr. Yin in 2007 as a body dedicated to teaching peace.

Our group also spent an inspiring day at Pwo Kayin Seminary, a larger representation in parliament of Myanmar Christians. The coexisting quiet and exuberant rituals of Theravada Buddhism (the national religion), or the overwhelming hospitality of our Burmese hosts. Our minds, spirits, and bodies were challenged constantly as we moved from experience to experience during the trip.

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Our group also spent an inspiring day at Pwo Kayin Seminary, where the current president and dean and two faculty members are Andover Newton graduates. Pwo Kayin serves students who are mainly of the Karen ethnic group and state, the area within Myanmar where Adoniram Judson’s church was most successful and which now has a Christian majority. There we met students and heard their inspiring songs, heard from President Ko Ko Lay and other faculty members about the Karen people and toured their facility, including a 19th-century chapel built by Baptist missionaries which, like other buildings on campus, was damaged but not destroyed by the 2007 Cyclone Nargis.
Border Crossing: “Walking the Path…” continued

Among the group’s most moving experiences was the morning spent at the Wyaama Baptist Church, where Dr. Maung Maung Yin serves as Senior Pastor. There were more than 1,000 people in worship, which is fairly typical, and the obvious joy and faith of that congregation was palpable. I have never seen such a tall stack of communion plates! The church also sponsors a free medical clinic, attached to the sanctuary building, where local people of all faiths are treated free of charge.

No immersion in Myanmar would be complete without a better understanding of Buddhism, and nothing could teach about Buddhist meditative practice like a stay at the Chanmyae Yeiktha Meditation Center. For some of us this was the most difficult part of the border crossing: refraining from speech and conversation, reading, snacking, and comforts we took for granted. For those days we kept a “noble silence,” remaining quiet throughout meals (served only twice a day at 6 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) and throughout the rest of the day. We practiced over and over sitting and walking meditation, 12 hours a day, and were taught how to do all things mindfully.

“What I loved about the meditation was the reminder to take things slowly,” said current Master of Divinity student Becca Lockwood. “Constantly our teacher would see me walking outside and have to say, ‘slowly, slowly, slowly.’ Having to walk from our cabin to the dining hall slowly relaxed me, and my anxiety melted away.”

We learned that the precept to avoid harm to all creatures extended as well to the many ants and lizards in our cabins (but apparently not to the meat we were served at most meals). We also followed the precept “to refrain from using high and luxurious seats and beds.”

“I was anxious about the wooden platform bed, mattress-less, with only a straw mat, small pillow and blanket,” said Mary Catherine Chwedyk. “The real border crossing for me: finding that I could sleep pretty comfortably on a board!”

“Meditations, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning mese through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding. Our daily morning meditation, prayers, and occasional services kept us mindful through a new lens of understanding.

An update on enrollment from the Admissions & Recruitment Staff

CLASS PROFILE: Fall 2013

Fall 2013 brought us 79 new students. This was the largest incoming class we have seen since 2005, thanks in large part to a wonderful cohort of students who joined us following the closure of Bangor Theological School last June.

This year’s class very closely resembles last year’s in all areas except age. We had an unusually large cohort of students join us who are over 60 this year, which brought our average age up to 47 from 39. Just over 60 percent of the class is affiliated with our top three denominations, and the rest represent 19 other faith traditions. New to the student body this year are students from the Armenian Apostolic, Bahá’í, and Unity traditions.

Sixteen percent of the class this year (compared with 13 percent last year) are ethnic minorities, including three students with Native American heritage.

IN OTHER NEWS: Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of our several important developments this year.

- We have shifted staffing in the department in order to be able to hire a part-time Recruiter, the Rev. Ngoc Robinson (M.Div., ‘10). Ngoc has hit the ground running this past December, and has already created a new event to help introduce (or reintroduce) area pastors to our school.
- Grant awards have provided new scholarship opportunities and the chance to develop a new five-year “cooperative Master of Divinity” program. Roll-out of some of these could be a matter of months; others will take shape over the next few years.

Regular recruiting events have been well attended so far this year, and new enrollments in Winter and Spring terms have grown this year. Among these are our first four students in the brand-new Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies program. Announced earlier this year as “new for Fall 2014,” we were able to accept applications earlier than anticipated, so we are off to a great start.

In support of the MAPS program, which promises students they can complete the degree in two years of full-time study at night, online and on weekends, the Admissions Office will offer evening hours starting with the spring term. This spring our offices will be staffed until 8 p.m. on Monday nights, and staff may also be available other evenings by appointment.

A huge “Thank you” is extended to alumnae Robin Lunn and Holly Tomilson for volunteering to host exhibit tables for us at conferences they attended this year in Florida, Maine, and New Hampshire. Any alumni willing to serve in this way are “encouraged” to contact us at admissions@ants.edu.

We are grateful also to the professors who opened their classrooms to the broader public in unique ways this year: Brita Gill-Austern invited the public to a class session on ministry in times of communal trauma. Sarah Drummond opened consecutive sessions of her Ministry as a Profession class to visiting prospective students, and Mark Hein opened some of his January lectures on Passion & Atonement to public participation. People considering graduate study in theology often approach the school with trepidation, so the opportunity to “get toes wet” is welcome.

Finally, stay tuned for an opportunity to chime in during an open forum we plan to host this spring; the working title is “Admissions Listens.” Inspired by a smaller meeting with students from Maine this fall, this forum will provide the opportunity for all members of the community to contribute ideas to the Admissions staff — and a chance to receive briefings on how to present the school effectively at conferences and events. Actually, you never have to wait: Please feel free to email call us at 617-831-2430 or email admissions@ants.edu any time ideas occur to you.

With warm regards,

Alison McCarty, Director of Admissions and Recruitment
The first smiling face that met the Border Crossing group as they emerged from the airport in Yangon, Myanmar, was that of the Rev. Dr. Maung Maung Yin. Over the course of 14 days, the depth and breadth of his ministry was revealed, filling the travelers with awe at this man’s energy and impact on his community, country and region.

After achieving his B.S. degree from Yangon University, Dr. Yin earned his Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, his Master of Sacred Theology from Boston University School of Theology and, finally, his Doctor of Ministry from Andover Newton. He also holds certificates in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University.

While at Andover Newton, Dr. Yin earned the Judson Scholar Award for his academic achievement and later, as an alumnus, was awarded the first Pioneering Faith Leadership Award, also known as the Judson Medal, during the school’s Bicentennial Celebration in 2008.

Today, Dr. Yin is the Vice President and a professor at the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), an impressive institution (est. 1927) that offers both undergraduate and graduate education. In Myanmar and indeed in all of Southeast Asia, MIT is the recognized leader in both educational excellence and in cutting-edge initiatives including the Peace Studies Center and the Judson Research Center for Interfaith Studies.

Dr. Yin is the founder and Director of the Peace Studies Center, which was established in 2006 as a response to the dire need for peace in a country torn by 65 years of civil war and suffering under a brutal military regime. Today the Peace Studies Center offers a full calendar of workshops, training programs, interfaith conversations, and lectures while also working to develop curricula and publications in Peace Studies for use at MIT and other institutions of higher education.

The PSC’s workshops focus on grassroots issues of domestic violence, human trafficking, conflict transformation, recovery from natural and human-caused disasters, and the healing of trauma brought on by the country’s long civil war, and most of them are open to all persons regardless of religion or race.

The peace center has also published Burmese language editions of some volumes in Eastern Mennonite University’s “Little Books” series and sponsors research fellows to work on peace-related issues.

The Christian community in Myanmar is largely Baptist and traces its roots to the missionary Adoniram Judson, an Andover Newton graduate who traveled there in 1813. Last fall, MIT hosted a gathering in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Judson’s arrival in Myanmar to which more than 30,000 people—with some unofficial counts estimating another 20,000 who didn’t have a chance to register—came from all over the world!

Dr. Yin was involved in this massive effort and told us he still can’t believe they managed to accommodate such a huge throng of celebrants.

“I’m not the one in charge of this event, but (I was) assigned as official interpreter for the foreigners who gave greetings and delivered sermons during the celebrations,” Dr. Yin said. Among the delegates were more than 400 guests from outside Myanmar, mostly from the United States. “I have never done this many (simultaneous translations) before; it took a lot of my energy indeed.”

When not working at MIT, Dr. Yin serves as senior pastor of the Ywama Baptist Church, a vibrant congregation where more than 1,000 people worship on any given Sunday. Included in Dr. Yin’s ministry is a free medical clinic attached to the church where more than 100 people of all faiths are served weekly. Dr. Yin’s sister is one of the medical practitioners there.
Maung Maung Yin travels throughout Myanmar and its ethnic areas to offer workshops on domestic violence and peace and conflict resolution. He was recently in the Rakhine state helping to resolve conflict between Buddhists and Muslims. When not at MIT or his church or traveling within Myanmar, Dr. Yin is often on an airplane, as he is asked frequently to give lectures or teach seminars in places including Thailand, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and even Kansas! Amazingly, he also finds time to be with his beautiful family: his wife Thida, his three biological and four adopted children, and his two grandsons. He is also actively mentoring a very talented young man from the remote Chin state, Mana Tun, who he hopes will follow in his footsteps in at least some of his many ministries and who also accompanied us through our travels. Dr. Yin in many ways epitomizes the values of Andover Newton in the way he combines scholarship, hands-on ministry, and social justice action. He credits Andover Newton with helping to shape his ministry, calling the school “one of the most important institutions that shaped my life and my career as a social ethicist in academia — not only by its profound (instructory) and generous scholarship but also through very meaningful friendship when I was there for a year and in those years that followed.”

“My self-esteem, my career, and my reputation were greatly uplifted when I was invited to work as a Judson Scholar and again when I was awarded the Judson Medal. These are really humbling experiences.”

During his time in the United States, learning “about freedom and democracy, human rights and human dignity, the virtues and values, the important role of civil society, ... made me who I am and what I am today and I will ever be grateful for all these blessings,” he said.

Dr. Yin’s energy and dedication are an inspiration to all who meet him or read his work. At Andover Newton, we are proud of Dr. Yin’s energy and dedication are an inspiration to all who meet him or read his work. At Andover Newton, we are proud of Dr. Yin’s energy and dedication are an inspiration to all who meet him or read his work. At Andover Newton, we are proud of Dr. Yin’s energy and dedication are an inspiration to all who meet him or read his work.

Ministry in Myanmar (continued)

Join the Heritage Society

“Andover Newton Theological School has played a significant role in our lives. Not only was it instrumental in preparing us for parish ministry, but also it is the place where we met! We have fond memories of our education, the professors and the friends that we made throughout our time on the Hill. Obviously, for many reasons Andover Newton will always have a special place in our hearts, which is why we decided to include the school in our estate plans.

Why Andover Newton and not other institutions or churches? We feel that including the school in our estate plans will make more of an impact on the church as a whole. The reality is that the debt students take on is not something that will be re-coopied with the salary of a parish minister. Andover Newton is concerned for their students, and so are we.

As time goes on, neither of us will know the exact amount we will actually be gifting, but we do know that the people and places that have made the most impact on our lives will be remembered and thanked.

We have decided to share this with the wider community, as we believe it is something everyone should consider. Talk to a lawyer and decide for yourself whether Andover Newton should be, and how it could be, included in your estate plans.”

—Revs. Peter (’89) and Janice (’88) Howe

Don’t just make a plan, make a difference!

Many alumni/ae and friends, like Revs. Peter and Janice Howe, have already chosen to support Andover Newton in this meaningful way, and we hope you will consider joining them. Connect with a member of the Institutional Advancement team today to explore how giving to the school can also help you realize your personal and financial goals.

The Heritage Society recognizes alumni and friends who support Andover Newton through their estate plans or other planned gifts. The Society is comprised of hundreds who have made a legacy commitment to Andover Newton. For more information, please contact Ruth Edens at (617) 831-2409 or by email at REdens@ants.edu.

Sabbath Hour continues to expand!

Launched just a year ago, Andover Newton’s Sabbath Hour initiative is continuing to add events. Offering a way to track and honor ongoing learning for both clergy and laity, the initiative is also continuing to attract new participants. The first event offering Sabbath Hour credit was the 2011 Woodbury Leadership Workshop. At this year’s Workshop, 23 new participants received Sabbath Hour credit.

During the past year Andover Newton offered a series of Ministry Workshops, each providing 5-6 Sabbath Hours.

Workshops this fall focused on preparation and liturgy for same-sex marriage and dealing with difficult people and situations. Workshops already set for this year are:

• “Helping Congregants Navigate End-of-Life Issues” with the Rev. Martha Jacobs (April 25)
• “I Love to Tell the Story: An Introduction to Biblical Story telling” with the Rev. Cindy Maybeck (May 2)
• “Money and Ministry” with the Rev. Margaret Marcuson (Oct. 9)
• “Uncommon Sense, Ministry, and Congregational Health” with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Reeves (Nov. 14)

In addition there are co-sponsored events, such as “Conversations with Bishop Spong,” which we offered with Eliot Church in Newton. Sabbath Hours are now also available for selected endorsed events, which meet Sabbath Hour standards and are offered by others.

This is a great way to take advantage of the resources of Andover Newton and others who support the ministry of faith leaders! For further information go to www.ants.edu/sabbathhour. You’ll find a full description of Sabbath Hour and the events that offer them, as well as online registration. If you have questions about Sabbath Hour contact Jeff Jones, Director of Ministry Studies, at jjones@ants.edu.
Dear Nick and Debbi,

Thank you both for sharing your lives, your home, and your beautiful spirits with the Andover Newton community. Nick, I will be forever grateful for my years at Andover Newton during your time of visionary leadership. Thank you for navigating this great school through some very challenging times, positioning it for future generations of students to serve the church and wider community. Your grace, wisdom and marvelous sense of humor are gifts to be cherished and remembered.

To you both, Debbi and Nick, I join others in offering deep gratitude for your lives of dedication to building the “beloved community” and for giving us a taste of it here on the hill.

With best wishes for a retirement filled with joy!

Sharon G. Thornton
Sharon G. Thornton, Professor Emerita

Dear Nick and Debbi,

Melissa and I wish you both the very best in your move to North Carolina. It was a privilege for me to serve on the search committee that proposed you as our president, and it was evident in those earliest conversations that you had the innovative vision and the down-to-earth courage for this taxing task. Your time here has been a time to feel absolutely confident in the effectiveness and the integrity of our leadership, even in the most challenging and stressful conditions. I thank you for the security of that confidence.

You have modeled for us both a pastoral concern for persons and a holy urgency to get off the dime when the world and the culture will not wait for business as usual. Where you have gone, the estimation of Andover Newton has been raised by association with you. You have been Andover Newton’s president, but we have frequently benefited from being known as your school.

Many thanks for the late nights, the knotted stomachs, and the difficult conversations that you have borne on our behalf. Go in peace with many blessings.

Yours,

S. Mark Heim, Samuel Abbott Professor of Christian Theology
Nick Carter Tribute (continued)

Nick and Debbi!
The time to move, Debbi, even if not quite near “water,” is around the bend.

Thank you, Nick, for the years of wise and consistent guidance in the office; the pastoral moments throughout our working years; your love for order, reading, puzzles, and the arts; your joy or life intertwined with jokes, even if at times not so funny, and your patient tenacity to meet head-on the often times insurmountable challenges to the School. I keep many of these strengths as lessons for my life.

You may not recall it, Debbi, but I thank you for your wise piece of advice one day early on as we walked towards Dabney. And thank you both for the moments throughout our working years; your love consistent guidance in the office; the pastoral support throughout my time at Andover Newton! The time to move, Debbi, even if not quite near “water,” is around the bend.

Thank you, Nick, for the years of wise and consistent guidance in the office; the pastoral moments throughout our working years; your love for order, reading, puzzles, and the arts; your joy or life intertwined with jokes, even if at times not so funny, and your patient tenacity to meet head-on the often times insurmountable challenges to the School. I keep many of these strengths as lessons for my life.

Be well, be happy, go in peace.

Rose Costas
former executive assistant to the president

Spring Convocation is coming up fast!

May 15 is your chance to gather with fellow classmates, meet new people, visit with faculty, and celebrate the graduating class of 2014. We are looking forward to honoring this year’s Spirit of the Hill awardee, The Rev. Don Ng ’75 (fourth president of the American Baptist Churches USA) and celebrating President Nick Carter on his retirement with an evening of dinner and dancing on the quadrangle!

This year’s Convocation is built around the theme “The Practicing Congregation: Ten Years Later.” Our featured speaker, Dr. Diana Butler Bass, will hold two sessions on Thursday reflecting upon the events of this past decade, and the way in which they have both affirmed and challenged the insights of her book, The Practicing Congregation.

Other highlights include Friday morning’s brunch honoring alumni, especially reunion years, followed by a screening of the hilarious but relevant movie, What about Bob?, with Professor Ben Valentin, Professor Nancy Niemhus, Dean of Students The Andover Newton Alumni/ae Board. We hope you will stay for Commencement on Saturday, when President Nick Carter addresses the Andover Newton community for the last time.

Convocation participants can receive Sabbath Hour credit for attending the program portions of the event. Sabbath Hours is a new continuing education initiative at Andover Newton. (Learn more about Sabbath Hour at www.ants.edu/sabbathhour.)

Alumni/ae of Andover Newton should have already received a packet in the mail with a full schedule of events, a registration form, and a chance to contribute to the school’s honorary walkway. For more information or to register, visit http://bit.ly/springs2014ants. If you have questions, please contact Ruth Edens via email (redens@ants.edu) or by phone at (617) 831-2409.

Hope to see you in May!

Convocation Schedule

Thursday, May 15, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration, Check-in, Continental Breakfast (Wilson Chapel)
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Devotions: Professor Adam Heath, Director of Wilson Chapel (Wilson Chapel)
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Greeting: Nick Carter, Andover Newton President (Wilson Chapel)
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Morning Session: How My Mind Hasn’t Changed OR What Has Stayed the Same Dr. Diana Butler Bass (Wilson Chapel)
Noon – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (Upper Noyes Hall)
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Alumni/ae and Reunion Year Brunch (Upper Noyes Hall)
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Afternoon Session: How My Mind Hasn’t Changed OR What Was a Surprise Dr. Diana Butler Bass (Wilson Chapel)
6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Retirement Party for Nick Carter (Quadrangle)

Friday, May 16, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Alumni/ae and Reunion Year Brunch (Upper Noyes Hall)
12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Screening Theology: “What about Bob?” Professor Ben Valentin, Professor Nancy Niemhus, Dean of Students The Andover Newton Alumni/ae Board (Upper Noyes Hall)

Saturday, May 17, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Family & Friend Brunch (Upper Noyes Hall)
2:00 p.m. Commencement (First Baptist Church in Newton)
Our Mission
As a graduate theological school in the Reformed tradition, in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, we strive to educate leaders who are:
Enlivened by rigorous study in a community embracing diversities of faith and life; Devoted to the renewing of church and society through ecumenical witness and creative expression of the gospel; and Committed to enacting God’s ways of justice and love in the world.

Save the Date!
Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Sept. 17, as we open the 2014-15 academic year with Fall Convocation. And join us Sunday, Oct. 5, for the installation of the Rev. Martin Copenhaver as Andover Newton’s new president!

Want to hear more news from ‘The Hill’?
Subscribe to our e-mail newsletter!
Just visit www.ants.edu/alumni-and-friends
Enter your e-mail address to receive informative monthly updates from Andover Newton!