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Cover photograph: Eboo Patel talking at a celebration for CIRCLE inside Wilson Chapel on December 9, 2014.
Message from the President

Dear Friends of Andover Newton,

As I write this, we are still in the icy grip of winter, but when I think about this season in the life of Andover Newton, it is as if spring is busting out all over — everywhere you look, there is glorious new life.

We may be more than 200 years old, but clearly our thinking is not. We are addressing the challenges of theological education in bold and innovative ways. Let me share just a few examples:

Our pioneering work in inter religious education and leadership formation continues to both broaden and deepen. Thanks to a grant from the Luce Foundation, we are greatly enriched by the presence of Celene Ibrahim-Lizzio, a Muslim scholar who is jointly appointed to the faculties of both Andover Newton and Hebrew College. Also, we have just announced a new first-of-its-kind degree in conjunction with Hebrew College — the MA in Global Interreligious Leadership (see page 18).

Our new Cooperative MDiv program gives unparalleled preparation for ministry through a co-equal partnership between congregation and seminary. It builds on Andover Newton’s long-standing commitment to pastoral ministry, and to experiential learning in particular. The pilot of this program, now in place at Hancock Congregational Church in Lexington, has been so successful and the response to this approach has been so enthusiastic, we are now in the process of expanding this program to other congregations in the immediate area, as well as to other parts of the country.

This spirit of innovation has been in full display in our Free to Dream grant program. We invited members of the wider Andover Newton community to propose new initiatives that will enhance the life of the school and bring in new revenues. (This initiative was made possible by a $600,000 Venture Fund established through donations from our Trustees.) Both inspired creativity and inspiring devotion to the school were clearly in evidence in the 23 proposals we received. As of this writing, five finalists are in the last round of the process. Announcements will come in May.

It is wonderful to see the ways in which the spirit of innovation at Andover Newton is being recognized by others. We are currently enjoying the benefits of a Science for Seminaries grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This $161,000 grant is designed to encourage the integration of science into theological courses. Through this grant, members of our faculty are working closely with distinguished scientists, including Nobel Laureates, to bring the best scientific thinking into close conversation with the best theological teaching.

All of this, and more, underscores that we take pride in our history, but we don’t rest on it. We continue to be a forward-leaning school that is, according to our mission statement, “radically open to what God is doing now.” But even more than “open,” we are eager to share in what God is doing — both now and in the future. I can’t wait!

Faithfully,

Martin B. Copenhaver
Dear Ones,

I imagine few Board Chairs of progressive Christian seminaries turn to the Book of Revelation to describe the period we are now encountering. But an apocalypse, from the Greek *apokalypsis*, simply means to disclose or make clear something which was previously obscure. The future of our beloved school has been for too long obscure. Unlike John of Patmos, the four horsemen of our apocalypse appear to be growing financial inequality, falling enrollment, changing needs and expectations of our educational models, and the growing irrelevance and shrinking financial viability of American churches.

Phyllis Tickle claims this is a once-every-500-year occurrence, but we get to adapt in our generation, just because we happen to live now, and are the ones responsible, at the time of the Great Transformation.

The good news is that a substantial number of American theological schools are expected to survive this Great Transition, and Andover Newton Theological School is better positioned than most to do so.

Our new president, the Rev. Martin B. Copenhaver, is deeply devoted to God, is an experienced leader, and is a proven fundraiser. We have already begun to create a process to try and ensure that we can continue to offer the MDiv and DMin degrees, with students paying a fraction of their actual total cost.

We have in Jennifer Craig, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, an experienced community builder for this purpose. In Nancy Nienhuis, Vice President for Operations, we are blessed with an enormously talented executive to help us reposition and repurpose our physical assets to better meet the mission of our school. In Peter Chinetti we have a Chief Financial Officer with skills and experience well beyond what we could afford, working to help us become financially sustainable. And in Professor Sarah Drummond, we have one of the finest academic deans of any theological school in America.

I guess we should never tempt fate by saying “bring on the horsemen,” but we have an excellent team already in place to deal with whatever may come.

As Board Chair, I am proud that our increasingly racially, culturally, and socio-economically diverse Board of Trustees is no less extraordinary. Judy Swahnberg, Board clerk and former Chair, is a pastor, an alumna, and a devoted supporter of this school. Linda Campanella, our Board Vice Chair, is an experienced advisor to Boards of schools nationwide. Between my many years as a public company CFO and venture capitalist, our Treasurer (Ed Bedrosian)’s many years as Senior VP and CFO at Polaroid, and our Investment Committee Chair (John Campbell)’s role as a Harvard University Economics professor, we have access to volunteer talent that such a small school could never afford to buy, but we bring experience in pursuit of helping Andover Newton become more economically self-sustaining in this environment.

During 2015 you will see new Trustee-funded initiatives, such as the $600,000 venture fund already under way, that will begin to address the impact on our students of growing economic inequality, and the impact on our school of declining national enrollment in MDiv and DMin programs. We are in active dialog with our faculty, looking for opportunities to restructure when we can with faculty retirements, and to reposition and refocus our faculty on the needs for the next generation. And we are increasingly positioning ourselves to train religious leaders for the churches that will exist and even thrive after this Great Transformation.

This is a time of great uncertainty and anxiety; much that we knew and loved will die or will go away, replaced by much that we know not yet. But Andover Newton is about as well positioned as we could be, and we are taking steps to improve our position month by month, so that we are ready to embrace the New Jerusalem, the beloved community of God, when it emerges and as its shape and structure becomes clear.

As trustees of this ancient institution, we can do no other.

Blessings on your journey.

The Rev. Dr. Jim Sherblom
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Greetings from the Hill!

The economy is back and times are good for fundraising at Andover Newton! Our goals for FY 2015 are aggressive, anticipating both new donors and increased giving from past contributors, but as of this writing we are tracking well. We thank each and every one of you who has made a gift and we encourage those who haven’t yet to do so. If you believe that the world is a better place because of well-trained, inspiring faith leaders, we invite you to join us in supporting their education here at Andover Newton! They are the future of the church, they help guide the decisions made in the communities in which they serve, and they bring a prophetic voice for justice and peace to the world at large. Let’s help them answer their sacred calls by offering our financial support!

I am pleased to announce that on top of the annual fund, we have secured three endowment gifts of $40,000 each to permanently endow CIRCLE Fellowships and ensure that this key program in interreligious studies lives beyond the grant funding period. Endowments were established by Dr. Jennifer Peace and her family in honor of her mother-in-law, Edith Crary Howe, by board chair (and alum) Jim Sherblom and his wife Loretta in honor of Jim’s father, Baptist minister Edward Sherblom, and by the Rev. Dr. Katherine Kallis, Andover Newton alumna, in honor of her colleague Amal Jadou, who was an Ambassador from the Palestinian government to the U.S. and who now works in the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are grateful for these far-sighted gifts and for the generous donors who made them. To fully endow the CIRCLE Fellowship program, we are looking for nine more of these gifts, so be sure to let us know if you are interested!

The school’s senior managers and board of trustees are hard at work on a strategic plan that lays out a vision and articulates the priorities and programs we will pursue to make progress against our mission. The process has been an inclusive one which we hope will result in a clear way forward. From the point of view of Institutional Advancement, this provides a terrific opportunity to align our fundraising priorities with the school’s missional priorities. We expect to have an approved plan in the fall of 2015, so stay tuned!

Recently, we have learned that two individuals have just re-written their estate plans to include Andover Newton. Naturally, we were thrilled to hear this, both because we are grateful for their love and support and also so we can express our gratitude to them directly. If you are someone who has named Andover Newton as a beneficiary of your will, annuity, insurance policy, or have otherwise included the school in your estate, please let us know! We want to make sure ALL members of the Heritage Society get the thanks and recognition they deserve!

In closing, I just want to say that I hope you will be in touch. There is so much happening on campus all the time; I don’t want you to miss out! We’d love to welcome you back to campus for our many events and will be having a special reunion for alumni/ae and friends in October (more information to come.) To keep up to date on happenings on the Hill, please take a moment and sign up for our e-communications by going to our new website. You can also join us on Facebook at “Andover Newton Theological School.” We hope to hear from you and we thank you sincerely for your support!

Yours in faith,

Jennifer Craig

Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Dear friends of the beloved Andover Newton community,

I bring you greetings from the Alumni/ae Board! Since the fall we have spent a great deal of time talking about how to foster better networking and communication between fellow alumni/ae, as well as between alumni/ae and current students. We have several ideas in the works that we are passionate about! In particular, with support from Nancy Nienhuis, Vice President of Operations & Dean of Campus Life and Mikel Satcher, Director of Student Life, we are in the beginning stages of building a mentor program to pair incoming students with a alumni/ae conversation partners. This optional program grows out of a year long discussion about how alumni/ae can support the current student population in a way that is meaningful for all.

We are also excited to be working with the Institutional Advancement staff as the structure and timing for Convocation and Alumni/ae Reunions is being redesigned to better suit the needs of the alumni/ae population. We hope you will join fellow alums at our Alumni/ae Convocation in October 2015.

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 or institution, please contact Jennifer Craig, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Stay tuned! There is more to come as we explore together what it means to the beloved community of Alumni/ae. We invite you to dream big and share with us your ideas. I look forward to seeing you at Alumni/ae Convocation!

Blessings of the Spirit,

Emilia Halstead, Class of 2010
You can follow Emilia on Twitter at @HalsteadE

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**Upcoming Events**

Follow us on Facebook at http://bit.ly/antsdotedu and visit the newly redesigned www.ants.edu to keep informed with other events happening at Andover Newton and off-campus.

We’ll be holding alumni/ae reunion events at the three denominational gatherings this summer (listed by the starting date): The Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly in Portland, Oregon; the United Church of Christ’s General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio; and the American Baptist Churches USA’s Mission Summit in Overland Park, Kansas.

Here is a partial list of upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 7:</td>
<td>“I Wish I Had More Time for My Sermon: Sermon Practices for the Tired Preacher” (workshop with the Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson), on campus</td>
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<td>May 15:</td>
<td>Baccalaureate</td>
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<td>To Be Announced</td>
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<td>May 16:</td>
<td>Spring Commencement</td>
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<td>First Baptist Church in Newton</td>
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<td>May 26–June 4:</td>
<td>“In the Footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare” (Sabbath Hour credit available), Assisi, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1–5:</td>
<td>Summer Session I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8–19:</td>
<td>Summer Session II</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24–28:</td>
<td>General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Portland, Oregon</td>
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<td>June 24–30:</td>
<td>UCC General Synod, Cleveland, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24–July 1:</td>
<td>UCC History, Theology, and Polity (course offered at Synod for seminary or Sabbath Hour credit), Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26–28:</td>
<td>Mission Summit of the American Baptist Churches USA, Overland Park, Kansas</td>
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I have exciting news to report from the campus. We have been involved in two new enterprises over the past several years, one that is just ending and another that is just beginning. Both bring Andover Newton new opportunities to live into our mission while also improving our financial stability.

As many of you know, Andover Newton has the blessing and the challenge of a campus full of buildings. The blessing, of course, is how our facilities help to sponsor community life and provide low-cost housing for students and their families and room for all the daily operations of the school. The down side is that each building requires expensive upkeep to maintain, and we have far more buildings than we need. This campus was built for a student body of 500. We now have 300 and foresee staying at that number for many years to come. In order to be good stewards of our resources, we are trying to “right-size” the campus to serve the mission of the school going forward.

Colby Hall and BPSI

Toward that end, five years ago we began talking to the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute (BPSI) about their desire to relocate to Colby Hall. In January, BPSI finished a major renovation to Colby Hall and moved into the building. In this BPSI accomplished what ANTS could not do alone — a multi-million-dollar renovation and upgrade of a key campus building, insuring that it remains a beautiful part of the campus landscape for decades to come.

As an educational institution, BPSI enhances our mission by offering numerous talks throughout the year on the campus, to which students are invited. Many focus on religion and psychology, a topic of interest to many students and alumni/ae. Now that they are in their new space, our talks are turning to other creative efforts we might engage together — stay tuned! Finally, this agreement with BPSI results in the equivalent of adding $5 million to our endowment in terms of how it enhances the school’s finances.

Farwell Hall and Benchmark

The second piece of news I want to share is that we have found a way to both retain Farwell Hall as a residence hall and solve our campus problem of lack of ADA housing units! Farwell is a building that has been a particular challenge for me personally. Many of you recall with great warmth your experiences of living in (or surviving!) Farwell. However, I suspect that all of you would agree that it is in need of a great deal of work, from a complete electrical upgrade to a total renovation of the ground-floor kitchen area and more. The costs for these measures are prohibitive, and the simple truth is that we can house all students needing housing without Farwell Hall.

In order to address these concerns we have recently entered into an agreement with Benchmark Senior Living, the largest builder of senior housing in the Northeast, to fully renovate and reconfigure Farwell Hall. Benchmark will be adding a memory care unit to the back of Farwell, taking advantage of the grade, while we retain the upper two floors of the original building. These floors will be gutted and rebuilt as 12 studio, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments (the styles in most demand on the campus), and half of them will be fully ADA compliant.

For the first time we will be able to offer fully accessible campus housing to any student who needs it. The memory care portion of the building will offer the school chaplaincy and other ministry opportunities. And the financial aspects of the deal are once again equivalent to adding about $5 million to the endowment. And, Farwell will become the first LEED certifiable building on the Andover Newton campus — taking advantage of best practices in sustainable building and development and moving us forward in our core value of being good stewards of the earth.

Steps like these with BPSI and Benchmark advance our mission while making the school stronger financially. They allow us to provide more programmatic and other offerings to the community while enhancing our bottom line. These efforts take time, but they reflect our commitment to be good stewards of this campus that so many of you have called home, while ensuring that we can provide training to future generations of ministry professionals for decades to come.

Nancy Nienhuis,
Vice President of Operations, Dean of Campus Life
Historic President’s House Converted to Interreligious Living and Learning Center

Editor’s Note: This piece was written in the fall of 2014. Professor Jennifer Howe Peace is on sabbatical during the Spring 2015 semester.

I walk slowly through the empty house with Celene Ibrahim-Lizzio, our new jointly appointed Islamic-scholar-in-residence and third CIRCLE co-director. Sunlight floods the large, gracious living room. Empty bookshelves line the walls on either side of a green tiled fireplace. It is a warm June afternoon, but we both get goosebumps because we can see something that is not-yet but already there in our imaginations. We see these rooms filled with students — Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist and more. We see the possibility of something new. Something hoped for. A vision of what might be. And we share a deep desire to do what we can to make it so.

Seven years ago, the Center for Interreligious and Communal Leadership Education (CIRCLE) figuratively opened its doors, ushering in a new phase of institutional commitment to inter-religious education at Andover Newton and Hebrew College. Now, after an historic vote by the Andover Newton board of trustees in June 2014, CIRCLE will be able to open literal doors with the establishment of CIRCLE house — a center for inter-religious living and learning.

Perched on the hilltop next to the Interfaith Garden on one side and stairs connecting Andover Newton and Hebrew College on the other side, CIRCLE House is poised to become a hub for new and ongoing interfaith activity. A mixed-use model will create space for residents and offices for mission-aligned religious and inter-religious organizations.

With Nick Carter’s retirement and new president Martin B. Copenhaver’s decision to remain in his family home not far from campus, conversations began about how to repurpose the existing President’s House. The idea of creating a vibrant center for inter-religious living, learning, and research for Jewish, Christian, UU and Muslim community members on our hilltop has inspired many in our community for years. Even in the initial proposal to the Henry Luce Foundation, back in 2008, a desire for an inter-religious resource center — a physical space on campus — was expressed. The opportunity to use the President’s House for such a purpose has given new life and energy to this longstanding vision.

Not only will CIRCLE house be a space to gather and concentrate the energy of the various interfaith activities that already occur at both Hebrew College and Andover Newton, it will create space for new partnerships. In coming months we will be slowly and intentionally filling the house with individuals and organizations that both share CIRCLE’s vision and bring innovative ideas for expanding that vision.

With CIRCLE’s commitment to inter-religious learning through relationship building, we have benefited from the institutional parity and physical proximity of Hebrew College’s and Andover Newton’s neighboring campuses. At the same time, this can make it challenging to expand in authentic ways beyond the Jewish-Christian-UU engagement that has been at the heart of our work. Over the past several years, we have increasingly worked with Muslim community members, including scholars, religious leaders, and practitioners in the greater Boston area interested in inter-religious education and engagement.

Beginning in 2012, we added Muslim community fellows to our CIRCLE fellowship program. The fellowship program provides yearlong inter-religious leadership development opportunities for Hebrew College and Andover Newton students through a competitive application process. Including Muslim community members in this mix has greatly increased the richness of the dialogue and the quality of our inter-religious learning. With the historic joint appointment of Celene Ibrahim-Lizzio, we have another opportunity to deepen these connections. As we populate CIRCLE house, we plan to pay particular attention to creating space for mission-aligned Muslim educational organizations along with new interfaith partners.

We see enormous potential for CIRCLE house as a kind of living laboratory to test models of inter-religious learning and engagement. It creates much-needed community-building space for Hebrew College, Andover Newton, and our Muslim partners. It extends the possibility for new partnerships as community-based organizations doing innovative interfaith and/or Islamic educational work move in. It creates a natural space to host inter-religious events and group meetings. The decision to convert the President’s house also signals an ever-deepening institutional commitment to the inter-religious work we are doing on our hilltop.

Looking out the window over the rows of bookshelves, I have a view of the Interfaith Garden. Dedicated in 2010, the garden was inspired by Andover Newton student and interfaith pioneer Edie Howe – also my mother-in-law. For so many reasons, I would not be here at Andover Newton, standing in the President’s House with goosebumps, if it had not been for Edie. Wanting to honor her work of building bridges across religious
divides even as she was battling breast cancer, friends, fellow students and family members spontaneously donated money to create what they called informally “Edie’s garden.”

On the stone marker at the entrance to the garden are these words from Isaiah 58:12, “And you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”* I can’t help smiling, knowing how happy Edie would be if she could see this new dwelling place dedicated to building connections across religious lines. Even in the midst of daily news about religiously motivated violence, standing in the soon-to-be CIRCLE house, I see a vision of something not-yet but already here; a model for how we might live together, guardians of each other’s well-being, united by our belief in the sanctity of human life and our shared promise to repair the breaches.

*Written by the prophet Isaiah in 700 BC, distraught by the violence and chaos he saw around him, these words strike a chord even now as we consider current events. The verse quoted comes at the end of a passage worth ruminating on in its entirety: “Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you remove the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, And if you give yourself to the hungry, And satisfy the desire of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness, And your gloom will become like midday. And the Lord will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell” (Isa. 58:9-12).
Retirement Reflections: Jeffrey Jones, Director of Ministry Studies

It was 47 years ago that I made my first trip to the Andover Newton campus. Back then I was a college senior exploring the possibility of seminary. Something drew me here and everything changed. It was 13 years ago that I came back to begin work on a DMin degree. Something drew me here once again, and this time I didn’t leave. It has been a joy and a privilege these past 13 years to be part of that “something” that draws students here, as it drew me, and so often changes everything for them, as it did for me.

Life plays little tricks on you, I’ve discovered. At the beginning of my time here I was part of the Andover Newton’s first foray into reflective practice in field education and for the past three years I have directed a vastly different field education program, but one still based in reflective practice. My experience in the field shaped my call and my ministry, so it is an honor to think that I might, in fact, be part of a process in which a similar shaping happens in the lives of current students.

Certainly Andover Newton is a very different place than it was 47 years ago. The student population is more diverse on almost every count. The faculty is smaller, but deeply invested in the nurturing and equipping of students for ministry. I’m also a very different person than I was 47 years ago. That many years of ministry will do that to you. Despite those differences, there is still something that draws me and many others here. As I approach retirement I’m deeply grateful that happened to me and deeply honored that I have been part of it happening for others.

STUDENT PROFILE:

David Miller  Field Education at The Crossing, an Emergent Episcopal Church

We’ve gathered for worship. The altar is adorned simply with candles, rocks evoking the wilderness, and, of course, the bread and wine for Eucharist. A shruti box drones, and we begin to chant: “Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.” Together we enter into the mystery of Lent.

This is not some ancient monastery, but a converted conference room in St. Paul’s Cathedral at Boston Common in 2015. This is The Crossing: an emerging worship community in the Episcopal tradition. This is a gathering of hipsters and heretics unafraid to combine Latin chants and icon veneration with the occasional funky reggae number, Zen meditation, or anti-racist march. This is a group of passionately spiritual millennials (you know, the generation that isn’t supposed to like church, but here they are!). This is my Field Education site.

Yes, I’m a Unitarian Universalist doing my Field Ed at an Episcopal site. This often surprises people, but truth is The Crossing is helping me be a better UU. At The Crossing an amazing diversity of folk gather: trans* and cis, straight and gay, believer and non, evangelical and skeptical, Pentecostal and Episcopalian, conservative and liberal, and other identities which shatter these binaries. We unite in song, prayer, and even the occasional dance around the Table of Christ. The Communion Table, that ancient Christian rite sadly abandoned by most UU churches, brings this motley band of unlikely pilgrims together. I learn each and every week the power of sacrament to create community.

As a UU, I crave theological and human diversity. The Crossing reminds me every time we worship that such diversity is possible, and that it’s possible to be fully engaged with the realities of the secular world while also being fully present to Holy Mystery. They remind me that my faith is supposed to be experimental, and that sometimes being experimental means reaching into the past. This Field Ed experience reminds me why I left West Virginia and came to Andover Newton: to not only move toward ministry in my own tradition, but to learn from the wisdom of other traditions as well. I am currently looking for my formal UU internship, but I know that my experience at The Crossing shall stay with me. I am richer, so much richer, for this time of righteous mischief I have spent with these vagabond disciples of that radical Rabbi who keeps showing up, unexpected, in the breaking of the bread, to open my eyes and set my heart on fire.

David Miller is a third-year MDiv candidate.
**Faculty Notes**

**Brita Gill-Austern:** Sabbatical (spring 2016).
**Mark Heim:** Sabbatical (fall 2015 - spring 2016).
**Elizabeth Nordbeck:** Sabbatical (spring 2015).
**Jennifer Howe Peace:** Sabbatical (spring 2015).
**Nimi Wariboko:** Sabbatical (fall 2014 and spring 2015).

**Simon Lee:** Professor Simon Lee is departing Andover Newton this summer after seven years of teaching New Testament and Early Christian Origins.

**Pamela Shellberg:** Andover Newton and The BTS Center (the missional successor to Bangor Theological Seminary) will employ Pamela Shellberg in a joint appointment for the 2015-16 academic year. Dr. Shellberg, Scholar-in-Residence at The BTS Center, will serve Andover Newton as Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament.

**Thandeka:** Thandeka joined the Andover Newton faculty for Spring 2015 as Visiting Professor of Affective Theological Studies, teaching the core Introduction to Christian Ethics and an elective course in Theology and Emotion. She received her PhD in philosophy of religion and theology from Claremont Graduate University. Thandeka is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and congregational consultant, an Emmy Award-winning television producer, and is the founder of affect theology, which studies religious experience from the standpoint of emotions. She was given the !Xhosa name Thandeka, meaning “beloved,” in 1984 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Learn more at http://revthandeka.org.

**Soren Hessler:** The Rev. Soren Hessler was hired as the new CIRCLE administrator in November 2014. He is a provisional elder in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and will be ordained in June 2015. Soren is pursuing a PhD in practical theology at Boston University School of Theology, concentrating in leadership and administration. The working title of his dissertation project is “Adopting and Adapting Standards with Grace: A History and Practice of Accreditation at Wesleyan and Methodist-Related Theological Schools.” Soren holds BA and MA degrees in Church Administration, an MDiv, and an MEd in policy, planning, and administration, with a concentration in higher education administration, all from BU.

**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 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 recouped 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 giving, 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 alums 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.
Grants Received

Andover Newton and its parent schools helped invent the model of theological education and create standard practices in the training of Christian clergy, and that’s a legacy we can all look upon with pride.

But the school is continuing to seek new ways to promote learning and to help future ministers and other religious leaders spread their good news in ways that reach a contemporary audience, and funds from grant-giving bodies are an aid to that mission.

Professor of Worship and Wilson Chapel Director Adam Hearlson has sought to introduce visual media into weekly Community Worship with the aid of a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute. Perhaps the most spectacular instance of this practice, was the first (annual?) Andover Newton Christmas Pageant, which brought community members of all ages and sizes into a living nativity scene presided over by a very tall chicken. (You can watch the Christmas Pageant online at: http://bit.ly/rGIWwsI.)

Mark Heim, Samuel Abbot Professor of Christian Theology at Andover Newton, and Nimi Wariboko, Katherine B. Stuart Professor of Christian Ethics, are the primary investigators attached to a $61,000 grant from the American Academy of Sciences as part of its 10-school Science for Seminaries pilot program.

As part of the first year of this program, a scientific lecturer has co-taught in Heim's Systematic Theology course required for most of Andover Newtons degree programs.

Andover Newton’s ongoing interfaith work also received a boost in 2014, when it received an equal share in a $60,000 one-year planning grant in partnership with the Boston University School of Theology and Hebrew College. Our portion of the money was used in part for renovating the old President’s House to become CIRCLE House.

Andover Newton Honorary Walkway

Join the hundreds of people honored on this walkway by engraving a brick in honor of yourself, your pastor, a professor, a graduate, or a loved one. Bricks will be installed at the end of April, but we take orders year-round. Please fill out the form below to join our illustrious history!

Please engrave my brick with the following message:

first name

last name

address

phone number (please include area code)

e-mail address:

brick size: R egular $125  S quare: $600  L arge Slab: $2500

payment type: credit card?  check?

name on credit card

type of card (Visa or MasterCard, please)

credit card number:

security code  expiration date

If paying by check, please make check payable to:
Andover Newton Theological School (with “Walkway Fund” in the memo line)

please return this form to:
Andover Newton Theological School Walkway Fund c/o Institutional Advancement 210 Herrick Road | Newton, MA 02459

Buy a brick online!
visit: www.ants.edu/walkway

Questions?
Contact Jonah Beukman 617.831.2442 or jbeukman@ants.edu
Update from the Admissions & Recruitment Staff

CLASS PROFILE: Fall 2014

A total of 67 students joined the student body in September 2014, a typical incoming class size. (Our incoming class in 2013 was unusually large due to the closure of Bangor Theological School.) Compared with previous years, this year’s class brought us more international students (a total of five) and a higher proportion of men (49 percent).

Nearly 25 percent of new students this fall were affiliated with our top three denominations, with just 10 other religious affiliations noted (compared with 19 last year.) Consistent with last year, 16 percent of this year’s class are ethnic minorities.

YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE NEXT CLASS!

Each member of this community plays a vital role in bringing new students to the school: 60 percent of new students first learned about Andover Newton through a personal contact (rather than through social media, advertisements, or secondary research). Most frequently referred by pastors or chaplains, new students were also referred to us by graduates, faculty and staff. Here are a few things to keep in mind when talking with members of your community.*

Motivating Factors

Nearly half of entering students last year indicated that the timing of their return to school was triggered by a major life event, or a new experience at work. The top five influences in their decision to enroll included (in order of importance):

• Intellectual interest in religious or theological questions
• Opportunity for study and growth
• Desire to discern God’s will or answer God’s call
• Desire to serve
• Search for meaning

Have you been having conversations with anyone in your community about any of these interests? If so, graduate studies may just be the right next step for that person.

Life goals

Nearly half of new students last year anticipated entering parish ministry, about a third anticipated seeking a chaplaincy position, and about 15 percent planned to serve in a different capacity (including nonprofit organizations and spiritual advising). About 10 percent were unsure where their path would lead.

Our short certificate programs can be a good option for anyone who is motivated to study but needs to learn more before determining where their ministry path might take them.

Important factors to understand

What do prospective students say most influenced their decisions to choose Andover Newton? In order of importance, they list these factors:

• Comfort with the school’s theological perspective;
• Confidence in the school’s academic curriculum;
• Academic reputation of the school; sense of community; and strength of the faculty (all tied for third place)

In many cases, students travel surprising distances and choose Andover Newton over other “local” seminaries based on our strong academic program and our community values. We provide as much flexibility as possible to help these students fit school in around life’s competing priorities; if you believe Andover Newton is a good fit for someone you know, then it’s worth exploring the options of how the school can make it possible for them to study here.

You can help students even after they enroll

There are three ways you can continue to support Andover Newton students once they enroll:

• Help them develop and implement their financial plan. Research demonstrates that students who have a budget borrow less, and helping students minimize their educational debt is an important way to help them have more choices once they graduate
• Encourage them to adopt a spiritual practice they can sustain while studying. Juggling coursework into life can be hard to do, and too often results in sacrificing personal moments for reflection and divine connection.
• Mentor them while they navigate their educational and denominational journeys. They may not ask for this, but if you offer they will probably be grateful. Invite continued conversation!

For information about effective ways to support people who are considering graduate studies in theology, please call the Admissions Office at (617) 831-2430. We welcome your call!

Alison McCarty, Director of Admissions & Recruitment

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In October 2014, the Andover Newton Board of Trustees elected six new members to join the board for a four-year renewable term. The newly appointed Trustees began their service at the December meeting. Andover Newton is pleased to welcome these new Board members to our “deeply rooted and radically open” faith community.

Mary Abele

The Rev. Mary Abele is Pastor of All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne, Vermont. All Souls is a nondenominational community that welcomes everyone — at whatever point a person may be in his or her spiritual journey. Their goal is to offer each person an opportunity to forge a personal connection with the Divine Source — by any name He or She is called. It is a seeker’s destination, a safe haven for exploring spiritual and human values. Rev. Abele received her MDiv from Bangor Theological Seminary and her undergraduate degree from Boston University.

Willard Ashley

The Rev. Dr. Will Ashley is Dean of the Seminary at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and is the founder and senior pastor of the Abundant Joy Community Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. Dr. Ashley was the host of a weekly religious program on Black Entertainment Television (BET), and he is a regular on the radio. He is the past president of the Blanton-Peale Alumni Association. Dr. Ashley is a board member of Disaster Chaplaincy Services and the Instituto Latino de Cuidado Pastoral Inc. He holds a DMin and MDiv from Andover Newton Theological School, a BA from Montclair State University and an Associate in Applied Sciences from the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Gregory Groover

The Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover Sr. was appointed Pastor of The Historic Charles Street A.M.E. Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in June 1994. Rev. Groover is also very involved in the greater Boston community. He is a Past President of the Black Ministerial Alliance. Rev. Groover serves on several boards including the Boston Foundation, Boston Plan for Excellence, Boston TenPoints Coalition, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He received his MDiv and MSW from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University School of Social Work, respectively. Rev. Groover completed his doctoral work (DMin) at the New York Theological Seminary.

Manuel Navia

Dr. Manuel Navia is currently an Executive-in-Residence at Oxford Bioscience Partners. He is also a consultant for a number of pharmaceutical companies in the Boston area. Earlier, he was Executive Vice President for Research at Essential Therapeutics, which was formed through the merger of Microcide Pharmaceuticals and the Althexis Company in 2001. Dr. Navia was a founder of Althexis and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Navia holds a BA in Physics from New York University, and both an MS and a PhD in Biophysics from the University of Chicago.
Joel Sisenwine

Joel Sisenwine has been the Rabbi of Temple Beth Elohim since 2000. He is currently the rabbinic chair of the Reform movement’s Commission on Worship and Religious Living, and also serves on the President’s Rabbinic Council of the Hebrew Union College. He was also as a founding member of the region’s Reform Beit Din, and has served on several local and national leadership boards, including the Jewish Community Center, the Rashi School, and the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis. Rabbi Sisenwine graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania. Following studies at various institutions of higher learning, including Tel Aviv University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, he was ordained a rabbi from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

Kathryn Windsor

Kathy Windsor is a former Field Ed Associate at Andover Newton specializing in experiential education for seminarians and laypersons and has a long-standing interest in the intersection of teaching, counseling, and ministry. An active laywoman in the Episcopal Church, she has served as chair of the Clergy Family Network, a group that lends support and counsel to families of ordained ministers. Involved in community outreach, she has served on numerous boards for both profit and not-for-profit organizations including schools, social justice agencies, ministries and publicly traded companies. Ms. Windsor earned her BA from Dickinson College and two masters’ degrees from Boston College, in Counseling Psychology and in Pastoral Ministry.

“I serve as a Trustee of the Andover Newton Theological School to give back for the many blessings I have been granted. I believe strongly in the mission of the School. We are truly doing God’s work. Thus, whatever I can contribute, financially or through work efforts, to enhance the School is very fulfilling. I know well that the continued success of Andover Newton is critical to the wider church in the 21st century.”

— Mr. Edward R. Bedrosian, Treasurer of the Board
Free Events in 2014, Thanks to You!

Andover Newton was busy in 2014, and a lot of our events were free. When you consider the monthly exhibits in the Sarly Interfaith Gallery, special speakers, book discussions, the annual block party, and movie screenings hosted by student fellowships or CIRCLE Fellows (including, sometimes, a chance to meet the filmmakers themselves), we averaged more than one event on campus for each month of the year.

Your support of Andover Newton Theological School allows us to offer events that feed the minds, nurture the spirits, and inspire the consciences of tomorrow’s religious leaders – and today’s! — without charging an admission fee. Thank you.

- **May**
  
  - **June**
  
  - **September**
  
  - **October**
  
  - **UCC Daily Devotionals**
  
  - **Birmingham Church Bombing survivor Sarah Collins Rudolph**
  
  - **Discussing the future of the Hispanic and Latino/a Church (a bilingual conversation)**
  

[http://chn.ge/1FP3rO2]
"Thy Will Be Done" documentary screening
(http://bit.ly/1tFk6Md)

Summer 2014 Block Party

Discussion of Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight & Narrow
with author the Rev. Cody Sanders, co-sponsored with Alliance of Baptists

Art workshop by the Beehive Collective
funded by Calvin Vital Worship Grant
www.beehivecollective.org

Presentation by authors of The Gender Book
www.thegenderbook.com

Open lecture by Eboo Patel,
co-founder and president,
Interfaith Youth Core (www.ifyc.org)

Discussion of Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight & Narrow
with author the Rev. Cody Sanders, co-sponsored with Alliance of Baptists
2015 Spirit of the Hill Award Winner: Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree (M.Div. ’72)

On March 20, we celebrated Spring Convocation and presented the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree (M.Div. ’72) with the 2015 Spirit of the Hill award! Davida raised awareness of sexism within the church and the school during her time as a student, and has remained a leader throughout her ministry. Her career has included a term as president of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. (Visit http://bit.ly/1EJ1gJ3 for a nice writeup by the UCC’s Eric Anderson about convocation and Davida’s honor.)

Spring Convocation happened too close to our print deadline for an article worthy of Davida, so look for more coverage in our Annual Report this fall.

Master of Arts Degree Program in Global Interreligious Leadership

Andover Newton is now accepting applications for a new Master of Arts degree program in Global Interreligious Leadership. The degree, pending approval by the Association of Theological Schools, is specifically designed to prepare graduates for service in a variety of settings where interreligious leadership is not only appropriate but needed for the purpose of creating a more peaceful and just world.

“This new degree program is the natural next step for Andover Newton, considering its burgeoning commitments to forming interfaith religious leaders,” said Dr. Sarah Drummond, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Associate Professor of Ministerial Leadership.

Upon completion of the program’s 36 credit hours, graduates will be prepared to organize and mobilize public interfaith initiatives; to draw on theology and the social sciences in describing, defining, and addressing the root causes of interfaith tensions in the world as well as the rationale for interfaith understanding and peace; to help others embrace a global perspective on faith and truth; and to provide leadership to interfaith organizations and other organizations working toward more interfaith engagement.

Many prospective students who contact Andover Newton are drawn by the school’s existing offerings in interfaith studies. In designing the program, key faculty leaders from Andover Newton and Hebrew College consulted with Eboo Patel, co-founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core, who said organizations such as his often receive “cold calls” from people who wish to dedicate their careers to promoting interfaith cooperation and understanding. This degree has the potential to fill a need that is so new, some people lack words to describe it.

The MA-GIL will be of interest to Master of Divinity candidates seeking to engage interfaith issues in their ministry, but will also offer value to current and future chaplains, social activists, and church staff members dedicated to community organizing across faith traditions.

A key component of the new degree program is “global immersion.” Students will be required to participate in at least one of Andover Newton’s Border Crossing Immersions, courses offered in settings that take students outside their comfort zones either through travel or in non-classroom settings in the Greater Boston area. At least one of the immersions must involve international travel.

“Andover Newton’s passion is preparing ministerial leaders,” Dr. Drummond said. “Today’s ministers serve in increasingly-diverse contexts. The ‘deeply rooted, radically open’ preparation Andover Newton graduates bring to their ministries already makes them outstanding in interfaith bridge-building. This degree program will provide those who seek an intense focus in interfaith collaboration and understanding a place where they can explore this crucial area at the most advanced level.”

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Many prospective students turn to Andover Newton not seeking to serve a particular faith tradition or community, but to pursue a life in peace-building and community-based social justice ministries,” she said. “This degree will provide an option for those who want to make the world a better place and who rightly believe a theological framework for their educations will provide them with a lifelong wellspring from which to draw.”

To learn more about the Master of Arts in Global Interreligious Leadership, contact Admissions at admissions@ants.edu or (617) 964-1100 (toll-free outside Boston: 1-800-964-ANTS).
Keep Connected: Online

If you haven’t visited us online at www.ants.edu recently, you really should! Our newly designed and modernized website is designed to offer you an easily navigated experience whether you’re on a laptop or desktop computer, a smart phone, or a tablet, and most of the site is designed with a “three-click” philosophy: All the information the standard visitor would need should be accessible within three clicks from the home page.

Planning for the new website was led by CFO Peter Chinetti and CIO Mugur Roz with a core team of organizers from Institutional Advancement, Admissions, the President’s Office, and the office of the Deans, with input from the faculty and other staff. We’re especially grateful to Doug Eymer of EYMER BRAND Laboratories + Think Tank (eymer.com) for his beautiful style palette and front-page images and to IT Department staffer Vidushi Raval for her tireless work helping bring the new site to life.


Keep Connected: In Person

Watch www.ants.edu and our Facebook pages for information about reunion events and booth numbers for the three denominational gatherings Andover Newton representatives will attend this summer:

- **June 24-28:** General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Portland, Oregon
- **June 24–30:** UCC General Synod, Cleveland, Ohio
- **June 26-28:** Mission Summit of the American Baptist Churches USA, Overland Park, Kansas

Admissions representatives will attend all three events, and you never know who else you’ll find at our booths during these gatherings!
Our Mission

Deeply rooted in Christian faith, and radically open to what God is doing now, Andover Newton Theological School educates inspiring leaders for the 21st century.

Visit us online!
The newly redesigned ants.edu has been built with visitor convenience in mind. Information is sorted to help you find what you’re looking for in as few clicks as possible, and a contemporary design is programmed to work well on a variety of mobile devices as well as traditional laptop/desktop computers.

On the Road!
Andover Newton representatives will attend this summer’s big three denominational gatherings: UUA General Assembly (June 24-28, Portland, OR), UCC General Synod (June 24-30, Cleveland, OH), and ABC-USA Mission Summit (June 26-28, Overland Park, KS).