The Center for Faith and Service has selected our beloved Howard University School of Divinity to be on the 2017 – 2018 class list of seminaries that change the world! In this year’s class, HUSD is the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) selected. The feature highlights our exceptional degree programs, courses, and field education relationships that all involve the work of community service, advocacy, and justice. It also profiles several students and faculty members and alumni who have dedicated their lives and ministries to changing the world.

The Center for Faith and Service is based out of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago Illinois, and “works to develop new programs and identify existing resources that support the church to be present and relevant in the lives of young adults.” The inspiration for Seminaries that Change the World came from Loren Pope, Educational Editor for the New York Times, who desired to “highlight places where justice minded individuals could both explore their faith and deepen their commitment to service and justice.”

To read more about HUSD’s feature, visit stctw.org.
Changing the World: Faculty Spotlight

Cheryl J. Sanders, Th.D. is Professor of Christian Ethics at the Howard University School of Divinity since 1984 and Senior Pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C. since 1997. Her teaching portfolio consists entirely of courses connecting faith and justice/service, including: Christian ethics, Pastoral ethics and African American spirituality. Dr. Sanders says, “Because I am an ethics professor who pastors a church, I do not subscribe to the strict pecking order of theological inquiry and curricula where the ‘practical’ and ‘applied’ things that happen in churches are deemed to have less significance than biblical studies, history, and theology. Instead, it is my view that the parish is the premier social context for moral formation and ethical reflection. I find that key questions and issues that arise in the day-to-day lives of parishioners generate the topics which are of greatest interest to students who are being equipped for leadership and participation in faith communities.”

She views the classroom as “a gauge for detecting the strength and vitality of the lifeblood of the churches, most notably, the commitment to care enough to discern right from wrong. The specific challenge I face as an ethicist, then, is to introduce my students to a moral language for evaluating the ethical perspectives of communities and individuals who bring the basic convictions of Christian faith to bear upon their worldly existence.”

Since his arrival at the Howard University School of Divinity in 2003, Harold Dean “Doc” Trulear, Ph.D. has served as Associate Professor of Applied Theology at Howard University School of Divinity. His entire teaching portfolio includes courses connecting faith and justice/service: Prophetic Ministry, Ethics and Politics, Ministry and Criminal Justice, and Church and Community Studies. Dr. Trulear is most widely known for his work in restorative justice practices aimed at ministering to the incarcerated, supporting the families that have been left behind, and ensuring that returning citizens have a support network in place to break the cycle of incarceration.

Dr. Trulear’s courses link the Academy, the Church and society. For example, his Ministry and Criminal Justice course in Howard University’s new Inside/Out Prison Exchange Program. Different from a typical Howard University School of Divinity class, Inside/Out is an initiative that brings education courses to the District of Columbia Jail, with students divided evenly between seminarians and “inside students” or jail residents (inmates). Students are engaged through the readings and dialogue that enable them to integrate their theoretical knowledge with lived experiences. He also directs a national research and demonstration project called “Healing Communities,” which mobilizes congregations to support those returning from incarceration through the establishment of family and social support networks.

Spotlights adopted from stctw.org
Changing the World: Student Spotlight

Yasmine Arrington is the founder and Executive Director of the ScholarCHIPS program, a non-profit organization which provides high school graduates, who have incarcerated parents, with mentoring, support and funds to pursue higher education.

Eric Jones is committed to the integration of faith and social justice as reflected in his course work; conversations with faculty; leadership activities at HUSD; and his summer internship related-programs. Recently, he completed a summer internship at the Tuskegee University’s Center for Bioethics Summer Program. Jones seeks to understand how social issues/disparities, especially in relation to the environment and health, affects people of color throughout the Diaspora.

Jonathan Wade is serving as an assistant pastor, while a full-time student. He served as a consultant for MenCan-StopRape. He facilitates a middle school mentorship program, which is a part of the organization’s primary prevention strategy, to teach young boys to demonstrate positive masculine behavior to prohibit sexual violence against women.

Dean’s Q & A

I arrived to the Howard University School of Divinity as both a new dean and someone new to the world of Historically Black Theological Institutions (HBTI’s). Like many in theological education, I’ve wondered about the ability for seminaries and divinity schools to survive, to be relevant, and to truly make an impact on our world. The Howard University School of Divinity is a precious gem in the world of theological education. It takes seriously its outreach and service to the world; its integration of faith and justice; and its historical legacy as an African American community. HUSD changes the world by being faithful to its intellectual rigor and its commitment to people of the African diaspora. HUSD changes the world by being bold and unapologetically committed to the work of justice as it prepares women and men to serve the Church, the academy, and the world. In this particular historical, social, and political moment, theological education is more important than ever before. HUSD stands poised to continue the work of justice inherited from such greats as Howard Thurman, Benjamin Elijah Mays, and Kelly Miller Smith.

Spotlights adopted from stctw.org
Come Spirit, come; come Spirit, come, 
Not as a dove with gentle voice, 
But wild, untamed, as geese that fly 
Beyond the ranges of my mind.

Come Spirit, come; come Spirit, come, 
Not as a subtle stirring breeze, 
But noisy, clattering of the leaves, 
A rushing, mighty, filling wind.

Come, Spirit, come; come, Spirit, come, 
Not safe and comfortable and calm, 
But flaming as a blinding star, 
A beacon shining in the night.

Come, Spirit, come; come, Spirit, come, 
Not as a silent murmuring stream, 
But as a thundering waterfall, 
A power that cannot be denied.

Come, Spirit, come; come Spirit come, 
And stir me from my restful sleep, 
Like clarions on the mountainside, 
Wake dreams and visions into life.

Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Donaldson, Sr’s stirring sermon titled “Fulfill Your Purpose” provided the HUSD community with hope, direction, and motivation. He expounded from Luke 4:42-44 with emphasis on verse 43: But he [Jesus] said to them, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.” Rev. Dr. Donaldson provided the thought that ministry is hard at times, but knowing your purpose will drive you to continue to be all that the Divine has called us to be. Even more, from the text we can learn three things (1) we may be sent to a deserted place to live out our ministry; here is where we can grow and change the world around us, (2) be sure not to allow the crowd to stop us from our destiny, and (3), we must do what God has purposed us to do. We all possess gifts, talents, and abilities that will aid in our personal ministry to help fulfill our divine purpose on earth. Chapel is held every Wednesday in Dunbarton Chapel at 5:30pm. See you there!
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES/CALL FOR PAPERS

HOWARD UNIVERSITY 2018 RESEARCH WEEK CALL FOR ABSTRACTS *NEW*

Howard University will hold its annual Research Week April 9 – 13, 2018. Research Week is part of the University’s ongoing effort to promote and celebrate the University’s research mission, which is comprised of external grants and contracts, distinguished scholarly projects, and outstanding creative works. Students, faculty, and research staff are invited to submit an abstract for the research symposium at http://researchweek.howard.edu/. Abstract submissions will begin on Monday, October 30, 2017. Abstracts for poster or oral presentations must be submitted by 11:59pm, Sunday, February 25, 2018. For more information about Research Week, please visit http://researchweek.howard.edu. Questions should be directed to huresearchweek@howard.edu.

FORUM FOR THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION FUND FINDER

The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) Fund Finder (http://fteleaders.org/funds) provides information about financial resources beyond those offered by FTE and by individual theological institutions. Sources of financial assistance in Fund Finder can be searched by keyword and by specific categories. Fund Finder is a full listing of financial aid available for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies in theology and religion. Here you can find support offered by churches, denominations, individuals and organizations. These resources have been verified with the organizations or individuals offering aid. However, details change continuously, and persons seeking financial aid should confirm availability, requirements and benefits when contacting any of these sources. FTE is not responsible for errors or changes in funding information and in procedures made by funding sources.

Save-The-Date

Monday, February 12 –
Thursday, February 15, 2018
Memphis, TN

“STAYING IN THE STRUGGLE UNTIL THE END”

(Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., April 3, 1968)
"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

1968-2018
50TH ANNIVERSARY
Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Assassination and the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike

Want To Be A Contributer?
The Weekly Word is a weekly publication of the Howard University School of Divinity published under the direction of Rev. Paula Hall, Manager of Media and Communications. The Weekly Word is published each Wednesday during the academic year. The deadline for weekly publication is each Friday. Written contributions by Faculty, Students, Staff, and Alumni are welcomed. For submissions or questions, contact: torren.cooper@bison.howard.edu