A seminary in the city, McCormick Theological Seminary is known around the world for its cross-cultural and ecumenical models of theological education. A progressive leader in the Reformed tradition, McCormick seeks a more just and compassionate world through rigorous academic study, practical experience, spiritual formation, and an active, engaged community.
On behalf of the McCormick Community, I am excited to present our 2018 annual report. It has been an amazing year of growth and transition. We welcomed a new dean, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Steed Davidson, and said farewell to his predecessor and one of our all-time favorite professors, Professor Emeritus Ted Hiebert.

As you may also know, after a year of prayerful and diligent discernment, the Board recently announced that I have been asked to serve as McCormick’s eleventh president. I am so grateful and so humbled to have been asked to continue my service here at McCormick and look forward to building upon the good work that we, together, have begun. In the pages that follow, you will get a glimpse of why I am here and why it is such a great joy to be part of this community. As you look back with us on the many joys and blessings of the past year, you will find stories of our students, faculty, and alums who, each day, are sharing their gifts, serving
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13

and making a difference in communities large and small across the country and, indeed, around the world. You will also find the names of the individuals, churches, foundations, and organizations that support and sustain the important and critically relevant work we do here at McCormick preparing leaders for a world desperately in need of God’s healing grace.

As we move forward into our 190th year of service, we say “thank you,” and invite you to renew your spirit and discover new ways to participate in the vibrant, hopeful life of this remarkable community.

May the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and in all the days ahead.

Faithfully,

David H. Crawford
President
McCormick Theological Seminary
2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Creating Space for Respectful Presence

During her nearly 40-year career in chaplaincy and pastoral care leadership, Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels (D.Min. ’13) has used her profession, her prayers, and her presence to help ensure that pastoral care was available to anyone—and everyone—wherever she served.

As she entered the chapel at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, AIMMC, Delois Brown-Daniels’ eyes welled with tears. These were tears of thanksgiving for what her eyes beheld as they panned the room. In that quiet space, a man knelt on a prayer rug, another at a tabernacle, and a woman sat in silent meditation. This was a vision of answered prayer. Not only had her efforts overseen the construction of the hospital’s new chapel, but she also had helped to ensure that everyone felt welcome there.

While the image of hospital chaplaincy is mostly that of a clergy member praying for the sick or embracing with compassion those who are grieving, the role has been enlarged, due in part to leaders like Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels. These new leaders have initiated different kinds of ethical conversations at the highest levels of healthcare organizations, have brought attention to an increasingly diverse population that calls for multi-faith environments, and have given voice to patients and communities long left out of plans for their own health care.

“I’m thankful for the developments in chaplaincy over my years in this profession and how it’s a valued voice at the table today,” said Rev. Daniels, affectionately called “Rev. Dee.” “Chaplaincy has been integrated into the multidisciplinary team process. Spiritual assessment is part of a patient’s overall health assessment. It’s just as important to know a patient’s faith tradition as it is to know their physical condition because it can help to guide the treatment process, and it impacts the medical treatments that some patients will accept.”

Respecting Diversity

Though most chaplains in the U.S. are from the Christian faith tradition, the need to respect the religious and spiritual understanding of others is an important value, noted Rev. Dee. Her own desire to respect others’ faith came from a commitment to her own. “When I decided that pastoral care would be my path, I wanted a strong theological background,” said Rev. Dee, the mother of two and wife of Dr. David Daniels, McCormick’s Henry Winters Luce Professor of World Christianity. “I wanted to make sure that I was counseling people from a strong faith understanding, even if the social context in which I might serve
“There are opportunities within every church, mosque, synagogue and community center to help people get healthy in every aspect of their lives.”

might not allow me to explore issues of faith with patients. I’ve come to know that if you don’t know yourself well, there’s the possibility that you will offer pastoral care from your own experience as opposed to helping individuals develop and grow in their own.

Rev. Dee’s early understanding of faith and service was developed in Cowpens, South Carolina, a rural farming community. There, she learned the importance of home visitation from her father, Deacon Uzie Brown, and how to listen attentively from her mother, Alline Brown, president of the Foster’s Grove Baptist Church Bereavement Ministry. For college, she traveled nine miles down the road to Spartanburg where she earned a bachelor’s degree from Converse College. In 1976, she went to Yale University, earning a Master of Divinity degree and then returned to her community four years later to begin the certification process to become a clinical pastoral educator at Spartanburg General Hospital. Over the years, she held increasingly responsible positions, and in 1994, she began a twenty-three-year career with Advocate Health Care, retiring as vice-president of Mission and Spiritual Care at AIMMC. There, she established the first pastoral care department and CPE program in the one-hundred-year history of the hospital.

Valuing Diversity
The diverse community that Rev. Dee served on Chicago’s northside was represented on her pastoral care team. Millennials and boomers, ordained and lay, as well as individuals from various socio-economic strata and gender identifications brought their voices to the department’s pastoral care decisions. She invited religious leaders from the community to speak to the hospital’s staff about pastoral care for their religious groups. As part of the executive team at AIMMC, she helped other clinicians understand the vital role of pastoral care in a holistic patient care setting. “When the medical facility was revising policies and procedures around do-not-resuscitate, life support, or other issues, we brought perspectives that informed the decision making,” said Rev. Dee. “When funds had to be allocated or services cut, we asked critical questions based on our stated mission, values, and philosophy. We kept a light on integrity and the importance of treating colleagues, patients, families, and our community with respect.”

Expanding Diversity
Within her profession, Rev. Dee advocated for greater diversity and inclusion, creating multicultural networks and programming for the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. “These programs were not just for people of color,” said Rev. Dee; “they allowed the entire membership to gain a greater understanding of the spiritual care concerns of diverse cultures.”

Outside her professional roles, Rev. Dee has helped congregations create health ministries and encouraged pastors to discuss physical and emotional health issues in ways that would help to destigmatize certain issues. “Unless we teach about today’s health issues—suicide, STDs, HIV/AIDS, behavioral health—we continue to allow people to hide in shame and not get needed help,” she said. “There are opportunities within every church, mosque, synagogue and community center to help people get healthy in every aspect of their lives. We can teach people to pray and we can teach them how to advocate for themselves...to ask questions of medical providers...to understand the importance of medication compliance. Ministry brings wholeness to mind, body, and spirit. Healthy people make for healthy congregations and healthy communities. That’s what we are all striving for.”
Beyond the Sunday Morning Experience

“We’re not your mother’s or grandmother’s church. We’re not bound by denominational ties; that’s an organizational model that has been completely shattered for us.”

“More and more, I run into young people who, once they tap into their creativity and identity, are showing me that there are tons of ways to do ministry. You’re about to meet four of them: McCormick alums Shawn Casselberry, Damien Davis, Violet Johnicker, and Je Lee. They’re about making the love of God tangible beyond the Sunday morning experience.

The over 20 and under 40 crowd (I’m part of that cohort) is doing faith and finding ways to believe in God that are separate from the idea of being a Christian. We do good, not because we are Christian, but because it makes sense to do good whether we’re Christian or not. Sit with that for a minute.

Yet the Church has a lot to offer us. Its wisdom, traditions, and rituals can help us find meaning at this stage of life. It’s hypocritical to us to just go to church and never do anything about institutionalized injustice. We want to pursue justice issues, feed the hungry, and speak out for the marginalized. That’s why we’re at #BlackLivesMatter and #NeverAgain rallies. We stand with #MeToo to expose abusers. We’re reimagining male authority and institutions that sponsored misogyny, especially ‘religious’ ones. We call out those who are complicit in exploitative capitalism or make excuses for systemic oppression. We want to be good allies to our LGBTQI sisters and brothers.

We’re not your mother’s or grandmother’s church. We’re not bound by denominational ties; that’s an organizational model that has been completely shattered for us. And, we’re not merely looking for a hip-hop rapper to speak at the annual Youth Day program (but just so you know, I am available). We’re into real talk with real people who engage us on a regular basis.

While I’m generalizing, I don’t mean we’re monolithic. Don’t stereotype us. Our context matters. When the Apostle Paul said, “there is neither Jew nor Greek,” he wasn’t saying we’re all to be the same. He was inviting us to include everyone inside God’s universal love. There are very different faith questions that emerge if you are a Jew or a Greek—or a Latino, Asian, Native American, African American, European American or Middle Easterner, for that matter. Responsible, ethical, and morally aligned places of faith can step us through those questions to a more inclusive reality.

The good news is there are people who “get it” and like I said at the beginning, you’ll get to meet four. Notice, listen, and learn. They’re helping us find new locations for love. They’re moving us beyond the Sunday morning experience.”

Rev. Julian DeShazer is McCormick’s associate director of the Office of Field Studies and Experiential Education, pastor of Chicago’s University Church, husband to Mallorie, father to Dania and Genevieve, and known as the rapper J.Kwest.
Outside the front door of Rev. Je Lee’s home, cornfields stretch to the horizon. He can often hear cows mooing nearby. The rural scenery of the small, mostly white Indiana towns of Bedford and Mitchell, where Lee is the pastoral leader of two Presbyterian congregations is picturesque. It’s a stark change from the racially and culturally diverse urban Chicago where he attended McCormick, or the cities of Seoul, South Korea and Winnipeg, Canada, where he grew up.

Lee (M. Div. ’16) who’s been pastoring for a year, is adjusting to the people and culture of his new surroundings. However, in congregations where most of the members are older than 50, Lee recognizes the challenges of finding ways to attract younger people to the churches to continue their legacies.

“Both churches used to have lots of young people attending services,” said Lee who, along with his wife, Hannah, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Jejun Samuel, in July. “Because our parishioners are among the most educated and financially secure residents in town, they can afford to send their kids to college. However, few of these young people came back home after their graduations because of limited employment opportunities.”

Though that reality reduced the younger population, it doesn’t mean that there aren’t young people around. Those who couldn’t afford to go to college, finished high school, had children, and found work nearby. Lee and the congregations believe that Saturday workshops and weekly tutoring sessions for children could meet the needs of the young parents in their towns.

“Our after-school homework events are in the early stages of development,” he said, “as are the Saturday how-to workshops that will offer practical and fun events around planning a family’s financial future, safely handling medications, or making specialty meals. “Starting something new is always a challenge, but we remind ourselves that if they don’t come, we can go to them,” said Lee. “We can go out and help and serve people. That, after all, is why God has called us.”

When Violet Johnicker was in college, she witnessed and heard stories of friends dealing with mental health conditions. And then it got a little closer to home; her grandma was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. What do you do, what do you say?

“I started reading and gathering resources,” said Johnicker (M.Div. ’18). “I started reading all these books about the brain. I was just trying to understand.”

That was 10 years ago. Today, Johnicker wants to help those inside and outside the church realize that the church is where all can find hope and help to face the challenges in life, including stress, depression or suicidal thoughts.

“The number one challenge to getting help is the stigma around mental illness,” said Johnicker, who began serving as a pastor at Brooke Road United Methodist Church in Rockford, Ill. earlier this year. “There’s a notion that somehow this is a person’s fault, or that you can pray away the illness. It puts up mythical barriers. People can be hurtful even when they’re trying to help. I don’t want anyone to feel that stigma will prevent them from participating in church.”
Working with several churches within the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, Johnnicker helped organize “Feeling Stretched Thin Lately?” a one-day conference for clergy and staff parish relations committee members. “We have to value and have a personal understanding of the resources available to us and our congregations,” said Johnnicker. “We need to know what to do...how to cope when times are tough...how to reach out for support.”

According to the World Health Organization, one in four people in the world will be affected by a mental or neurological disorder at some point in their lives. Around 450 million people currently suffer from such conditions, placing mental health disorders among the leading causes of ill health and disability worldwide. “Many people don’t realize that severe stress, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders are forms of mental illness,” said Johnnicker. “We need to be trained as church leaders on how to address and inform our communities.”

While attending McCormick, Johnnicker directed a three-day mental health education and advocacy conference that brought together practitioners, educators, clergy, community leaders, and individuals impacted by mental health conditions to raise awareness and broaden support for managing the illness. “I’m hopeful that churches will host events like this,” she said. “We have to be courageous enough to speak up, affirm, support, and extend to those who suffer from mental illness the same radical love of Christ that was given to us.”

For Johnnicker, support can take simple actions such as including the needs of people with mental health conditions in our weekly prayers, making sure we follow up and stay in contact with members who are suffering and their families, or using biblical stories to increase awareness and support for people with mental health conditions. “We can’t ignore those who suffer,” said Johnnicker. “If we don’t have the tools, we can bring others in to help us. When any member suffers, we all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). We fulfill our call as we work, serve, and are committed to optimal health for all.”

The cover art for Damien Davis’ latest book, *The Millennial Christian*, looks like a two-toned inkblot card – an optical illusion. Davis (M. Div.’09) uses the art and the effect it has on viewers as a metaphor for how people see the Gospel. “Even though we all read the same words,” explained Davis, “the Good News can be interpreted differently, based on personal perspectives, and yet that does not diminish the power or relevancy of its message.”

Davis tries to apply this same metaphor to the young people he works with in Chicago. He says that many of the millennials he encounters through his ministry are looking to the Gospel through a lens colored by the violence, despair, and the apparent injustice they sometimes see in their communities. Their frustration often causes some of them to question whether the Gospel is relevant and whether God sees their suffering.

“The answer is unequivocally, yes,” responds Davis. “God is present. Not only does God see, God can be seen in tragedy, and God’s Word contains the answers needed to end it and make it through hard times. The Gospel is a guide...it can help us shape a more just world.”

During Bible classes and after class meet-ups, Davis works to drive home everyday examples of how Scripture applies to life. But he doesn’t stop with Scripture. He also uses art, language, and pop culture to relate to a younger generation with its own sounds, terms, and celebrities. “Knowing a bit about Beyonce is powerful social currency among young people fawning for space in the Bey-Hive,” said Davis. “It’s also a gateway to getting their attention about Christ.” Davis uses...
“Say My Name,” one of Mrs. Carter’s songs, to teach about saying the name of Jesus in times of tragedy and confusion.

Davis’ strategy to connect with young people is not just about helping them to see God’s presence, it is also helping the church to see its youth. “The church needs to understand the concerns and challenges of young adult life today,” he said. “What weighs heavy on the hearts of young people can often be lightened through honest, authentic conversations. Young people are looking to the church to show them what Christianity looks like and stands for, and they are also seeking to be seen and heard by the church.”

SHAWN CASSELBERY
Live Up Close and Personal

“Millennials are not leaving churches at higher rates than years past because of a lack of faith or a dwindling love for God,” said Shawn Casselberry. “It’s quite the opposite. Young people are wired for justice and are looking for ways to live out the teachings of Christ in disenfranchised communities.”

That thought motivates Casselberry (D.Min.’16) to offer ministry to millennials in a way that they can receive it. Through a year long immersive experience he directs called Mission Year, 18- to 30-year olds discover their personal relationship with God, partner with residents in building community, and help to create more equitable systems where people can work toward cultivating justice.

“We’re not heroes or rescuers, but partners who are there to contribute to what those in the community are already doing,” explained Casselberry, who lives in Chicago’s North Lawndale westside community. “We go in with the idea in mind that the solutions to rectify systematic disenfranchisement already exist in the community.” For Casselberry, not taking a position of power, but rather one of partnership and mutual trust, is important to breaking down the barriers intentionally built through segregation. By building community, he believes, young people can experience an integral part of what it means to pursue justice with people of different races, faiths, political views, and socio-economic backgrounds.

“Young people are learning how to put the Gospel into practice by working with people in the community at health clinics, after-school programs, schools, and legal aid centers,” he said. “They are also discovering more about their passions. Many Mission Year’s alums continue to work in the communities after the year is up or open their own centers and businesses to contribute to the neighborhood.”

In Soul Force: Seven Pivot Toward Courage, Community and Change, a book he co-authored with Reesheda Graham-Washington, Casselberry talks about his concept of building community. Ministry, noted Casselberry, is not just believing, but also about living. When he first came to the North Lawndale neighborhood 14 years ago to pursue a call to minister in the city, his eyes were opened to some of the hardships people faced. The inequality in education, policing, and food access were unlike what he had experienced growing up in a small Florida town. At college in Kentucky, he also was surrounded by people who looked like him. “I was unconsciously living a segregated existence,” he recalled. “The racial, religious and socio-economic homogeneity of my life didn’t match what I’d studied in Scripture. Living and working in North Lawndale is a constant reminder that the kingdom of God is diverse.”

Choosing to live among diversity is a starting point for living out what it means to be part of the kingdom of God, remarked Casselberry. “Following Jesus will lead us outside the walls of the church and the walls of our context and thinking,” he said. “Congregations and their leaders must find ways to connect with people and the issues of the communities around them. Showing people the connection between faith and justice through action is much more powerful than talking about it.”
LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright

His father and grandfather were pastors, his mother an assistant school principal. And, from that heritage, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. gained a love for truth and a thirst for knowledge. He is known for being a prophetic and global voice for racial and social justice and a strong proponent of theological education, specifically at McCormick.

At last October’s Legacy of Leadership Gala, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. was honored for faithful and challenging leadership within society and the church, and for a strong commitment to nurturing and growing ministry leaders. The gala was held at Chicago’s South Shore Cultural Center and was attended by more than 300 community and religious leaders and friends of Dr. Wright and McCormick.

Dr. Wright, who holds degrees from Howard University, the University of Chicago, and Union Theological Seminary, has always held education in high esteem. Under his leadership at Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ where he pastored for 36 years, he established a tuition reimbursement program for members who wanted to pursue a theological education. With his encouragement, a countless number of Trinity’s members attended McCormick. Dr. Wright often extended his experience and expertise to students at McCormick, teaching at Preaching Clinics and symposiums on the Hyde Park campus.

Dr. Wright developed Trinity’s Ministers in Training program and in so doing, cultivated a pipeline for developing multiple generations of African-centered leaders in the church and the academy, of which Rev. Dr. Stephanie M. Crumpton, assistant professor of Practical Theology, is an alumna. At the gala, Dr. Crumpton shared the impact Dr. Wright had on her life, encouraging her to embrace her theological development and leadership in the church. “He told us to listen for the sound of God’s calling and to follow it wherever it may take us,” said Dr. Crumpton. “For me that place is in the theological academy. For others it is the parish, chaplaincy, social justice work, the arts...everywhere. He never required that we be like him, only that we follow Christ, do justice, love mercy, and honor our ancestors.”

In 2016, McCormick and Dr. Wright launched a collaboratively designed Doctor of Ministry program, The Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. Scholars: African-Centered Religious Thought and Ministry, in which he is the featured scholar and mentor. This year, he designed and organized McCormick’s travel seminar to South Africa which gave Wright Scholars an opportunity to be guided through the history of apartheid and liberation by Dr. Allan Boesak, a South African scholar, theologian, and activist; Dr. Lee Butler, Distinguished Service professor at Chicago Theological Seminary; and Dr. Reggie Williams, associate professor of Christian Ethics.

“McCormick Theological Seminary is grateful for the decades-long relationship we have had with Dr. Wright and the amazing pastors, staff, and members of Trinity United Church of Christ,” said McCormick President David Crawford. “Dr. Wright and the good people of Trinity have done so much, for so many, for so very long. What an honor it is to highlight his many contributions to religious thought and formation across our nation and around our world.”
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Faithful Resistance

Travel seminars to countries in the Caribbean and Africa offered McCormick students and alumni opportunities to learn about the histories of people who use faith as a tool of resistance against colonialism and racism.

While visiting a Rastafari Village high in the mountains of St. Thomas, Jamaica, Jessica Rivera realized that the people there, in their quest for autonomy, cultural awareness, and the pursuit of liberation, had more than just separated themselves from their oppressors geographically. They also had reclaimed their identity through their worship and interpretation of Scripture.

"Jamaicans were trying to establish their own way, even though Christianity had been imposed on them," said Rivera (M.Div.’10). "The same Scripture that had been used to justify oppression was being used by the formerly oppressed to justify freedom."

Rivera was among a group of 20 students, alumni, and professors who toured the island, gaining fresh understandings of faith as a form of resistance. The tour, led by Dr. Steed Davidson, who was named vice president of Academic Affairs and dean of the Faculty earlier this year, and Dr. Sarah Tanzer, professor of New Testament and Early Judaism, gave the group opportunities to engage with and learn about the religious traditions on the island that included various Christian denominations and Jewish and Ethiopian Orthodox faith traditions.

For Drs. Davidson and Tanzer, the aim of the academic tour was to expose the group to the Afrocentric expressions that have shaped Jamaica’s culture from British colonialism to independence to its present day. Insights into the country’s history came through lectures and field trips that explored the Jamaican language, music, and religions.

"Island nations like Jamaica are not only tourist destinations," said Dr. Davidson. "As we learned this island’s history, we could see how they are using their legacy of resistance to make a strong economic case for reparation in the Caribbean, a stark difference to the handling of conversations around slavery in the U.S."
“The same Scripture that had been used to justify oppression was being used by the formerly oppressed to justify freedom.”

In addition to learning from leading professors and religious leaders on the Caribbean island, the group toured with seminary students from the United Theological College of the West Indies. “This allowed students to gain perspectives that a tourist rarely experiences,” said Dr. Davidson. “I wanted the group to get to know their Jamaican contemporaries…to experience the culture from a Jamaican point of view.”

That’s what Rivera received.

“Jamaicans found ways to express their resilience through many forms,” said Rivera. “Their emphasis on including history before colonization, telling a more inclusive knowledge of the island’s history was a form of defiance that informed the fight for freedom. By believing that God’s Word is for the less powerful, not just for those in power, it could be used to substantiate the worthiness and value of the oppressed as the people of God. This understanding isn’t always clearly expressed in a European point of view.”

**Ghana and South Africa**

Similar to Rivera’s experience in Jamaica, Kirby Spivey noticed the ways disenfranchised people overcame racism and poverty through unity of purpose and social justice movements. Spivey, a student in the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. Doctor of Ministry Program, was a member of the program’s tour of Ghana and South Africa. Participants traveled with Dr. Reggie Williams, associate professor of Christian Ethics, Dr. Lee Butler, Distinguished Service Professor of Theology and Psychology at Chicago Theological Seminary, and Dr. Allan Boesak, a South African leader in the black Christian struggle against apartheid.

“To have Dr. Boesak as a guide in South Africa was certainly a unique and profound experience,” said Dr. Williams. “He lived the history of this struggle. The struggle against apartheid needed solidarity between both black and brown people who were oppressed. They joined together and also saw that they had sisters and brothers globally, including those in the U.S…all part of a united struggle against injustice.”

For Spivey, the academic tour of these African nations cemented for him the need for the Bible to meet the streets. “To be the church means to be engaged politically,” said Spivey. “There is still chronic economic disparity between the Global North and the Global South. The Global North has its own hermeneutics because it was part of the empire. The Global South is centered around resistance to injustice.”

Being a citizen of the Global North, Spivey found that the trip shed light on his dual position in the world. “Living in North America, I am part of an oppressive order, benefiting from its economic privileges,” he said. “I need to see Scripture in fresh ways …reevaluate the text to speak to an oppressed people and the status quo…I’m part of both in a global world.”

![Wright Scholars were immersed in the political, historical, and religious developments of South Africa and Ghana during tours to those nations.](image-url)
At the Corner of Connection and Innovation

More than a source for the names of classmates from years gone by, McCormick’s Office of Alumni/ae and Church Relations helps alumni/ae gain greater understanding and engagement with today’s issues.

Stretching, pushing, and innovating are typically not the words used to describe an alumni office. But for Rev. Nannette Banks (M.Div. ’09), director of McCormick’s Office of Alumni/ae and Church Relations, they are the key words she searches for in programs, services, and events that will critically engage alumni and community leaders.

Last year, McCormick’s Office of Alumni/ae and Church Relations initiated Artist Forum, a program that focuses on the literary works of a specific artist to see how it might address issues relevant to today’s world. The first forum chose the work of author James Baldwin, and a group comprised of students, alumni/ae and members of the community gathered to read and discuss his works, “Sonny’s Blues” and The Fire Next Time. Then, the group attended a public viewing of the documentary, I Am Not Your Negro, with more than 100 other participants and heard from Johari Jabir, associate professor of African American Studies at the University of Illinois – Chicago, who facilitated a discussion about Baldwin and his relevancy today. “Programs like this help to crack us open,” said Rev. Banks, who is currently enrolled in McCormick’s D.Min. program. “Many of us came away realizing that we needed to understand more about our own context, and how much more we needed to know about the context of others.”

Artist Forum is just one way the office of Alumni/ae and Church Relations seeks to offer tools of engagement for alumni/ae and the community. Three times each year, it hosts “Dinner & Discussion.” Topics at these Thursday evening events have included the role of congregations in suicide prevention, how to break the silence about mental illness, successful social media strategies, and financing faith-based fundraising. “These informational discussions give people a place to explore current issues and discover where they intersect with ministry and theology,” said Rev. Banks, who, along with Min. Anita Crittenden, the Office’s administrative assistant, develop and coordinate events. “We want alumni/ae and our Chicago community to see McCormick as a timely resource and support as they navigate a constantly evolving world.”

Each October, the Alumni Office presents its signature program, McCormick Days. This annual two-day gathering brings together alumni/ae, students, faculty, staff, and community leaders with national and international changemakers. Every session offers insights, ideas, and the inspiration needed to work toward a more just world.

“Our Office has a strong focus on helping alumni/ae maintain and build relationships among ourselves and the communities we serve,” said Rev. Banks. “What’s exciting is making those connections happen in ways we might not have considered before.”
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  Professor of Theology
- Stephanie M. Crampton  
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- David Daniels  
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When you combine hospitality with community, you have mi casa...you have home, believes Felisa Román. And, for 20 years, Felisa Román (M.Div ’98) has hung around home, helping out whenever and wherever she can at McCormick. Román has worked closely with the Center for the Study of Latin@ Theology and Ministry to help design and provide programs, services, and resources aimed at strengthening the formation and renewal of Latin@ theological education, church leaders, and congregations. She was part of the collaborative team that developed the curriculum for McCormick’s Latin@ Certificate Program and the seminary’s new Master of Arts in Ministry degree that will be offered entirely in Spanish this fall.

Román has worked closely with seminary staff, Latin@ clergy and Bible institute leaders to continually envision ways to provide Latin@s access to culturally relevant theological education while factoring in the challenges of cost, language and flexible scheduling. She was a founding partner of the Advanced Latino Theological Program (ALTE-SCUPE),

“I enjoy dreaming and then making things happen,” said Román, who is president of the Theological Board of the Institute Bíblico Ebenezer (IBE). “I find myself in great company at McCormick where I encounter others who see beyond standard ways of doing things and beyond financial limitations... who are willing to let the creative winds of the Holy Spirit ruffle and lead us into something new.”

An active member and pastor of her denomination, Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal, M.I., Region Mediano Oeste, Román’s passion is to help Latin@s gain access to spaces where they can deepen their knowledge and relationship with God as they engage in theological education, places where they previously might not have been part of, yet places where they can find community and contribute.

“I felt such a sense of community when I was here at McCormick,” said Román, “that I want to foster that for others. That’s why I’ve always remained connected.”
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Summary of 2017-18 Operating Income and Expense

2017-18 Financial Report

Whenever we at McCormick reflect on the many ways our alumni/ae, trustees, and friends give to the advancement of a cross-cultural, urban, Reformed, and ecumenical theological education, we give thanks to God. You have been faithful partners to McCormick, giving of your time, skills, and financial resources to help equip the next generation of progressive leaders with the practical experiences and theological understanding needed to build a more just and grace-filled world. Thank you. Each gift you provide through endowments and generous annual giving is allowing us to make world-class theological education affordable and accessible to greater numbers of students.

Because of you, we’re designing innovative programs to take theological education into places of incarceration, so that those living there can discover that God’s plan for their lives has always been filled with hope. We’re offering a new Spanish-language Master of Arts in Ministry program that’s making theological knowledge available to address the growing hunger for ministry resources within the Latino/a context. These initiatives can only happen because of your gifts. You understand what truly matters for the flourishing of our communities, locally and globally, and are willing — through your words, deeds, and financial support — to help ensure that the Good News of God’s holy transformation reaches every corner of our world. To each of you, McCormick says thanks. We are deeply grateful for your support.
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John P. Sheppard
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Shu Ying Yu and Chang Yu Lin
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Kent M. Organ
June H. and Eugene P. Osborne
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William A. Alexander
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Jennifer and Mary Callaghan
Cathleen Mooris and
Zac Davies
Joan B. and John G. Davies

[*] Deceased

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Patricia Carol Guy (M.Div.'88) came to McCormick after earning a degree in English from Grinnell College, raising three children, studying art, and discovering a deep passion for theological education. She was ordained in 1989, and her first pastoral assignment was in Kettle Mountain, Wisconsin, with Margaret Towne, the first ordained female Presbyterian minister in the U.S. After that assignment, she served the First Presbyterian Church in Topeka, Kansas as associate pastor for 13 years. Rev. Guy, who passed away this year, was an ardent supporter of education. In 2016, she established an endowment at her alma mater, Grinnell College. And, a year later, she established the Reverend Patricia Pauley Scholarship at McCormick Theological Seminary for the advancement of women in Christian ministry. Her gift to McCormick will help to ensure the continued strength of our seminary and serves as a lasting reminder of the importance of providing theological education for all.

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Robert E. Ganja

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Frank Y. Ichishita

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George Landes
Robert C. Landes

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Jack Stotts
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Desire L. and K. Robert Volkwijn

[*] Deceased
In Memoriam

We give thanks for the lives of our beloved alumni who joined the great cloud of witnesses during the past year. May God continue to bless each family member and friend who mourn their loss. May we find hope and comfort in God’s gift of life eternal.

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Sherry Landes

Class of 1953
Philip Lyon

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Herbert B. Anderson

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Certificate in Theological Studies
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Thehil Christobel Russelliah Singh

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