PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR FALL 2004: MOSAIC OF VOICES
Katrina Hull and Kristin White

This fall the Anna Howard Shaw Center and The Center for Congregational Research and Development presented the final three lectures of a five-part Biblical lecture and study series, "A Mosaic of Voices: A Woman's Multicultural Biblical Lecture and Study Series." The lectures offered a multicultural and multiethnic perspective to biblical exploration and understanding.

This five-part series featured a diverse set of female biblical scholars and theologians presenting their perspectives on various aspects of the biblical text that extend beyond traditional notions of interpretation. Our series featured biblical perspectives from women within mujerista, womanist, Asian, lesbian, and feminist communities. The final three lecturers who spoke this fall were as follows. On September 24, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of African-American Studies and Sociology, Colby College. On October 8th, Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, the Krista Stendahl Professor of Divinity, Harvard University Divinity School. And finally, on November 12, Dr. Kwok Pui Lam, William F. Cole Professor of Christian Theology and Spirituality, Episcopal Divinity School.

All the presenters challenged us to question traditional interpretations of Biblical texts, as well as to question our own long-cherished interpretations of the Bible. Only by expanding our interpretive views of it do we come to the fullest understanding of what the Bible offers to our lives.

Kristin particularly appreciated the active response that the session demanded. The Mosaic of Voices program wedded theoretical approaches to study with practical application.

Conversation focused on how to carry new understandings and interpretations into our lives and ministries.

The Shaw Center hosted a visiting scholar lecture with Dr. Livia Neureiter on October 28. On November 18, Kyung Ae Pyun also gave a presentation as part of the visiting scholar lecture series.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Rev. Dr. Hee An Choi, Director

How Can We Be More Multicultural? During recent years, many people have talked about multicultural communities and societies. Different communities that we were unaware of before have been recognized. Ethnic restaurants are thriving and ethnic music is growing in popularity. Minority people's cultures and traditions have become visible and influential. We certainly see the changes in our neighbors. Our churches slowly but visibly are taking many different colors and cultures. We live in a multicultural society. However, it is still new. Many ministers and church members have wondered about how we as Christians take this complicated step to be more multicultural? How do we do multicultural ministry? How can we see and understand multicultural environments?

Over the past year, the Shaw Center has tried to draw attention to this issue and has worked with this community in many ways. One of the programs is "A Mosaic of Voices: A Woman’s Multicultural Biblical Lecture and Study Series." We started this program as a way to hear different voices and pay attention to various perspectives, continued on page 6
COMMUNION OF SAINTS
Sarah McQueen

The fall retreat sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center provided a welcome opportunity for female students, faculty, and staff to create community within Boston University's School of Theology. Held September 10-11 at the Worcester YMCA Outdoor Education Center, the brief retreat into the wilderness was a welcome respite for BU STH women prior to the anticipated crush of work throughout the semester. Over twenty women were able to attend for at least a portion of the weekend. Carpoools brought together new students and faculty and the adventure began with navigating from Boston to Worcester. After a short car ride, or a long car ride for those whose navigators were a little befuddled, we stepped into the peaceful lodge with the crackling fire and welcoming smiles as a greeting. Bunk beds were claimed in short order, and the next priority was, of course, dinner. Karen and Laurie planned and prepared delicious and nutritious food for the duration of our stay. They encouraged extra cooks to join them in the kitchen, while the remaining women created sacred space in the living room. The meal filled us with both good food and good humor. Some friends got re-acquainted after a summer apart, while others struck up new friendships.

After supper, volunteers did the dishes, and others availed themselves of the opportunity to take a quiet walk to the beach or through the woods surrounding the lodge. When all was spick-and-span in the kitchen, the group convened in the common room. A great game broke the ice. Two teams competed to create an impromptu sculpture made with common household objects. After taxing the brain to remember exactly what that crazy sculpture was supposed to look like, the team members worked with one another to beat the clock and the other team. Getting the seemingly familiar objects in just the right spot proved to be difficult, but the women were up to the task. The game brought much laughter and chatting to the lodge's common room. Soon after the game, Marsha Cutting's musical talents provided the backdrop for worship in song. Then Laurie led the group in a time of reflection on the true meaning of saint and opened a time of sharing regarding the saints in our lives. Each woman was invited to share a sacred object that she brought with her and place it on the altar for the evening. The items ranged from valued gifts, pictures of loved ones, and objects that represented meaningful relationships in life. Each shared story expanded the circle of saints in our lives. As one after another told of a spouse, parent, teacher, friend, or choir director who were the true saints of today, the altar slowly came to symbolize the community that was being formed at the retreat. The frivolity and humor represented by some objects, such as a Wonder Woman doll and a stuffed lobster, complemented the tears that accompanied the pictures of saints in our lives who are no longer with us. This opportunity to reflect upon the saints who touch our lives left an indelible mark upon some women present at the retreat. After Friday evening's reflection, there was plenty of time for further fun, games, and s'mores.

The smell of a hearty breakfast greeted Saturday morning. Some early birds were led in a peaceful meditation session by Hie An Choi, while others sought solitude in nature. Everyone was treated to the further culinary delights of Karen. A brief kitchen clean-up preceded the final time of communal worship. Saturday's worship concluded with a love feast of milk and honey. The community shared in agape love while celebrating the abundance of God's grace and blessings in life as represented by the presence of our saints. Time for reflection and celebration ended the weekend on a high note. Heed the words of wisdom from third-year M.Div. student Brooke Hoff. "Don't wait until your final year to attend! Even if you aren't able to attend for the entire weekend, it is extremely important to make time for retreat." All women of the STH community are highly encouraged to attend next year's retreat. If you are interested in volunteering to coordinate the weekend, please contact the Anna Howard Shaw Center.
TWO NEW STH BISHOPS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH

Katrina Hull

In July 2004, two women graduates of Boston University School of Theology were elected bishops in the United Methodist North Central Jurisdiction: The Reverend Deborah Lieder Kelsey (M.Div., STH 1976), and the Reverend Sally Dyck (M.Div., STH 1978). In October, I had the opportunity to interview both Bishop Dyck and Bishop Kelsey via e-mail.

**Question:** How do you remember your time at STH?

**Bishop Dyck:** The years that I was at STH were very conflicted and chaotic years for the institution. The University was actively looking for another site for the seminary, away from its urban setting. Fortunately, that did not transpire, and a new direction was created for the seminary. Students were very active in relationship to the University and in some ways it “bonded” us. I received a good education and I believe that the state of chaos and conflict helped prepare me for a future in leadership.

**Bishop Kelsey:** I remember my time at Boston University very fondly. There were not too many women there at the time, so we felt close to one another. We all lived in a house on Bay State Road, so we got to know each other well. While I was at Boston University, the School was going through a transition in its curriculum, so there was some upheaval around that. But for the most part, those were good days.

**Question:** What does it mean to you to be specifically a female bishop?

**Kelsey:** I am finding out what it means to be a woman bishop. I think women bring unique gifts to the episcopacy, but each woman has her own set of gifts. Particularly this time, the North Central Jurisdiction chose to elect two women. Part of my role is, I believe, to offer a role model for women, but it is also to speak out against injustice and discrimination wherever I find it. As a bishop, I have the opportunity to shape a conference and its leadership to be more inclusive. I can also set a tone for it to be a welcoming conference to all people. It is an exciting and fulfilling role, and I look forward to learning more about it.

**Dyck:** I am not in the first wave of women bishops, but I do not take for granted the impact that women in this role can have on the church. Recently, I was at a 150th anniversary of a church. The pastor is a woman, the district superintendent is a woman, and as the bishop, I completed the female cast. I received a long letter from a man, reflecting on how important all three of our presences were to him. People took notice and reflected. However, I believe there is a backlash against women in the church today, due to some of the teachings of Christian groups that are not United Methodists. The people in our churches can easily forget what it means to be United Methodist in light of our beliefs on diversity.

**Question:** Do you have any advice for the current students/graduates of STH?

**Dyck:** The same advice I have for all those who have answered the call to ministry. I encourage people to keep reflecting on the call to ministry. I also encourage finding the joy in ministry. Self-care is not just making sure that we get a certain number of weeks of vacation, etc., but it is making sure that every day we spend time with God in prayer and devotion (other than sermon preparation). When we fail to care for souls in that way, then we lose our center, our joy, and even sometimes our calling.

**Kelsey:** Know who you are so you can be yourself in ministry. Look at each appointment as a gift and expect to learn as much from the people you serve as you hope to teach them. Read! Continually grow and learn and re-tool. Time changes too quickly not to. Laugh a lot. Keep time for yourself and your family. Have integrity in everything you do. Walk your talk. Love your people! Love your people! Love your people!
MEET SHELLY RAMBO
Katrina Hull

New professor Shelly Rambo recently completed her Ph.D. in Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Before Emory, she attended Yale Divinity School where she earned her S.T.M., and Princeton Theological Seminary where she earned her M.Div. Between all of this learning, she took some time away from the East Coast to work in student life at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

It was the emphasis on conversation between church and academy which initially drew Rambo to Boston University, and more specifically to the School of Theology. When asked about her impression of STH, she says, “the passion for theological education is present here, and I look forward to being a part of a faculty that moves between a variety of different worlds—academic teaching, pastoring, public service, and family/community life.”

During the fall semester, Rambo worked with one of the faculty members she praises. She and Dr. Neville taught “Advanced Systematics Theology” as a doctoral seminar. She also taught a class on early and medieval theology around issues of Christ’s passion. Rambo identifies herself as a constructive theologian working to reshape Christian theology as it engages the realities of traumatic experience and the violence present in the world in which we live.

Rambo believes that events like the retreat as well as the Multicultural Bible Study, which is also sponsored by the Shaw Center, will help students to realize that theology extends beyond the walls of the School of Theology. As a teacher at Boston University, Rambo hopes “to encourage students to ask timely questions about the role of women in the church and what it means to be a woman in post-feminist America.” In an increasingly global economy and culture, these questions extend beyond the boundaries of American feminism and its particular concerns.

Rambo already says that she loves Boston. She’s been impressed with the public transportation, and she is looking forward to backpacking in the surrounding areas. She even said that she would be willing to trade the Braves and the Starbucks of Atlanta for the Red Sox and Dunkin’ Donuts of Boston. The School of Theology is happy she made the trade.

MEET KAREN B. WESTFIELD TUCKER
Katrina Hull

Although she has lived in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, and Massachusetts, Karen B. Westfield Tucker said she will consider Boston “home” for the time she is living here. She comes to Boston University after teaching for fifteen years at Duke University’s Divinity School. Before her time at Duke, Westfield Tucker, an ordained United Methodist pastor, served a church in Rock Island, Illinois, and was a campus minister at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She has taught in Norway, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand, and next summer she will return to teach in Singapore and, for the first time, will teach in Korea in a new graduate school for practical theology.

Westfield Tucker earned her B.A. degree from Emory and Henry College, a Methodist-related college in the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. She then earned her M.Div. from Duke Divinity School, and both her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

With the diversity of learning and teaching in her background, it is no surprise that the Boston Theological Institute was one of the factors that drew Westfield Tucker to Boston University. She hopes to “develop the premier program in the country specializing in liturgical and hymnological research.”

Liturgical studies are Westfield Tucker’s main area of research at Boston University. She describes herself as a “historical theologian who concentrates on the practices of the church.” Within that broader subject, she focuses on Protestant liturgical history and theology (with special attention given to the Methodist tradition), pastoral liturgy, and hymnology.

One of Westfield Tucker’s jobs at STH is coordinating the seminary community’s weekly worship. She is also teaching an introduction to Christian worship. For the fall semester, she taught courses on the history/theology of Methodist worship and on the pastoral offices (e.g., weddings, funerals) with a component of ritual writing.

She is looking forward to exploring the Boston area with her husband, Stuart. Her son, Benjamin, is a freshman at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
MEET THE NEW FIRST-YEARS
AT THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Katrina Hull

Erin Albright is a new M.Div. student at STH. Growing up, she moved about every three years; she has lived in Indiana, Virginia, Germany, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, and now Massachusetts. Erin has been a huge Patriots and Red Sox fan since junior high school. The fact that this Methodist university happened to be located in Boston was a huge pull for her. She even chose her apartment because it was close to Fenway Park. Obviously, she enjoyed the excitement of the World Series, and even got to watch the victory parade from her living room window. Not to appear as too much of a sports fanatic, she also mentioned that one of the best things about Boston is Church History class.

Before coming to the School of Theology, Erin lived for a year in Washington, D.C.

After she graduates from Boston University, Erin wants to finish up her ordination in the Methodist Church. She hopes to begin her ministry in the Boston area, working in a place where she is able to combine religion and politics. Ultimately, Erin would like to move back to Washington, D.C., and find an advisory or chaplaincy role in the government. Erin feels that there are many instances where our government needs to be conscious of the religions of the people they are representing and also those whom their decisions will affect both domestically and abroad.

Outside of school, Erin loves sports and played soccer in college at Wright State University. She also loves to sing and read when she has time.

Sarah Weston is a new combination M.T.S. and M.S.W. (Master of Social Work) student at the School of Theology. Sarah is originally from the Midwest and has lived in the Boston area since 1990. Recently, she moved to the seaside town of Marblehead with her seven-year-old daughter.

Sarah has held a number of jobs before coming to the School of Theology. She recently spent six years selling handmade flutes, and before that she worked as a behavioral therapist and administrator in the field of behavioral brain injury for ten years. So far at the School of Theology, Sarah loves the thriving intellectual environment and the diversity of personalities she has met.

After Sarah gets her M.S.W., she would like to do clinical mental health work. This would include some teaching of patients and also teaching at the college level. Sarah’s ultimate goal is to earn her Ph.D.

Sarah is the proud mother of, in her words, “an awesome little girl.” When Sarah is not attending classes, she is also active in Old South UMC in Reading, Massachusetts. She chairs their social justice committee and had played in a handbell choir for ten years until graduate school started. She loves living near her parents and the ocean. She used to do cross-stitching in her spare time, but she no longer has any spare time!

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helping people to develop a better sense of ministry. African-American, Asian, Latin, Caucasian, and homosexual women’s perspectives are being lifted up and wrestled with by ministers, laypeople, students, and professors. We have tasted different views of faith and the meaning of ministry.

When we think about a multicultural community, we imagine a colorful, elegant mosaic. Everyone looks so happy in this mosaic. All of them get what they want. It seems peaceful and beautiful. However, this is not always the reality. It is usually painful and messy. Sometimes it is not what we expect at all. Doing multicultural ministry is more complicated than it sounds. It needs a lot of work and time. There are many mistakes from which we have to learn. Developing multicultural community does not happen naturally. It needs intentionality. We often expect that because many different people are here and because we have more than one tradition in our community, we can just have multicultural community.

In particular, listening to marginalized people is the hardest task that we have to practice. When marginalized people speak, their presence is usually invisible and their voices are often heard as noise. Their difference is not seen as difference, but as something strange or weird. We sense that something is wrong with them, not us. In our attempt to make a “harmonious community,” we unconsciously or consciously exclude them. However, we do not realize that this attempt is in fact a way of excluding ourselves. We forget that “they” are “we.” Having a multicultural community is having ourselves as whole.

Having a multicultural community requires taking significant risks. We have to be ready to expand the limits of our knowledge and experience with patience. We have to face unpredictable surprises and hard tasks with persistence. We have to be warm and open-minded with great intentionality. How long must we try? As long as it takes.

THANKS TO ALL THE SHAW DONORS THIS YEAR!

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Women of the World 2005
MINISTRY AND MULTICULTURALISM: AN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2005

The Anna Howard Shaw Center invites you to join us for Women of the World 2005. In our annual conference, we will be considering Ministry and Multiculturalism: An Interfaith Dialogue. Come as we hear speakers from Islamic, Buddhist, and Christian traditions. Come to listen. Come to share. Come to dialogue. Most of all, come be changed and help transform our world.

SPEAKERS
1. Buddhist—Venerable Man-ching, Director of Greater Boston Buddhist Cultural Center
2. Islamic—Dr. Shaiba Haeri, Director of Women’s Studies Program and Associate Professor of Anthropology at BU
3. Shamanism—Dr. Eun Hoo Shin, Assistant Professor of Religion at Simpson College

The day begins with Registration at 8:00 a.m. and ends after dinner at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact us at 617-353-3075 or shawctr@bu.edu.
NEWS AND REVIEWS FROM THE STH WOMEN
Katrina Hull

The School of Theology women have been busy over the summer, publishing articles and books and attending retreats.


Rev. Dr. Hee An Choi, the director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center, had an article published this semester. "Transforming Power in the Lives of Women as Surrogates: The Dialogue Between African American and Korean Christian Women," appears in the Union Seminary Quarterly Review, October 2004. Rev. Choi’s article about becoming more multicultural appears earlier in this newsletter.

Dr. Dana Robert gave the Andrew Burgess Mission Lecture at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, on October 4, 2004. She also delivered the Fondren Lecture at Perkins Seminary in January. Dr. Robert spent the month of August in Zimbabwe and South Africa and will be teaching a class during the spring semester called "Women in Mission and World Christianity." She invites all who are interested to take her class.

MEET THE NEW FIRST-YEARS AT THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, continued

Xochitl Alvizo is an M.T.S. student at Boston University. Xochitl came to Boston from Los Angeles, where she was born and raised. Both of her parents are originally from Mexico, and her family went back to Guadalajara, Jalisco, every summer. After she completes her degree, Xochitl would like to go on to earn her Ph.D. or Th.D., and eventually go into teaching.

Teaching will be something that comes naturally to Xochitl. Before coming to Boston, she, along with a co-worker, developed an after-school youth center for students ages 8 to 18 in downtown Los Angeles. She was there for eight and a half years and saw the program grow from serving 12 students to almost 200 students, and from having only a dozen volunteers to as many as fifty volunteers. The majority of the volunteers worked for the center's one-on-one literacy program, in which their students averaged a gain of one grade level in reading for every six months of weekly mentoring.

When she finishes school, or during vacation, Xochitl looks forward to having a chance to ride her bike, exercise, make jewelry, and work on her scrapbook. She also loves her Mexican culture and can cook delicious Mexican food. She enjoys entertaining people in her apartment with her perfect husband, Jesse.

Xochitl thinks that Boston is a super-friendly and accessible city with an unending number of places to discover. She has especially loved being able to walk everywhere, something which is impossible in L.A. The best thing for her at the School of Theology has been the learning. She enjoys everything she is learning in all of her classes and her classmates are great.

Susannah Laramee Kidd is an M.T.S. student at STH, and she would like to go on and earn a Ph.D. in Religion and Literature. She is looking forward to combining her background in linguistics and literary theory with Biblical studies. Susannah and her husband are interested in missions and community development, and she would like to teach at the university level in a developing country.

Susannah received her undergraduate degree from New York University. She spent the last three years working in West Philadelphia as a church administrator for a PCUSA church. She met her husband there, and they were married in May of 2003. Although she has lived in both New York and Paris, Susannah is originally from Philadelphia.

Being involved in nonprofit organizations is something common to many of the members of Susannah’s family. She works as a part-time administrator for Place of Promise in the Boston area. Her husband works for three community organizations, and her mother-in-law is the executive director of Place of Promise. When not working for nonprofit organizations, Susannah considers herself an unabashed “foodie.” She is always trying out new food creations that she takes from the pages of Savoir and Food and Wine. Susannah thinks her food avocation comes from the fact that she is from a very large family where get-togethers revolve around food.

Susannah says the best thing about Boston and the School of Theology is the diversity. She loves the different immigrant cultures that thrive here in Boston. Susannah says that STH has students who come from different backgrounds and have different perspectives to contribute to the academic environment.
Here's how you can help carry on Anna's work...

The Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology seeks to support women in ministry through the center's research, education, support, and advocacy. If you would like to learn more about the Anna Howard Shaw Center, please fill out this form and return it to the address below. Thank you for supporting women in ministry.

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