

## **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg Report to ELCA Region 8 Synods**

Gettysburg Seminary's faculty, alumni/ae, and students brought distinction through publications, awards and notable achievement, renewing the signs of a robust environment for theological educational on Seminary Ridge. Faculty, staff and students exhibited leadership on all fronts and all levels in a challenging time and environment for the church. The Luther Colloquy and the Washington Theological Consortium turned 40, as distinguished alumnae marked 40 years of ordained service.

**Extraordinary act of leadership:** The seminary's newest alumni/ae, the class of 2010, made a commitment to "Seminary One," pledging 1% of their personal income for life. In an era of economic uncertainty, and as many graduated with considerable accumulated debt, the class of 2010 bore witness to their faith in a way that will also challenge congregations where they will serve to match this level of seminary support.

**Faculty Leadership:** Among faculty leaders, Dean Robin Steinke was elected to the Council of the Lutheran World Federation, recognizing an historic connection with Gettysburg that reaches back to the formation of the LWF when A. R. Wentz helped write the constituting documents of the global organization. Dr. Waldkoenig was named a Greenfaith Fellow to apply environmental skills in the classroom and in scholarship.

**Professors Earn Rank:** Four faculty members were promoted to the highest rank of Full Professor during the year after comprehensive review processes. . In so recognizing Drs. Maria Erling, Brooks Schramm, Kirsi Stjerna and Gilson Waldkoenig, the board of directors expressed its confidence that they merit this distinction, which requires broad public recognition for their work at the Seminary, in the wider Church and public arenas as well. The board also placed Dr. Marty Stevens in a tenure-track position as the Arthur Larson Associate Professor of Stewardship. A number of new faculty publications also appeared during the year in various academic journals as well as books or monographs and musical compositions.

**Students Awarded National Ecumenism Prizes:** It is rare that a seminary has one of its students selected for national recognition on the basis of their academic work and ecclesiastical service. During 2010, LTSG had two of its students so recognized! Ms. Susan Beck won the national essay contest of the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN), and Mr. Adam Sornchai was chosen from among all nominees to participate in the Young Adult Stewards Program for the 2010 General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCUSA).

**Amidst Deep Recession, Seminary Meets Financial Goals:** By means of further "belt-tightening," the already-lean faculty and staff achieved further expenditure reductions of 8.5% accurately anticipating reductions in income. Reaching the leanest possible operation, the Seminary now relies on continuing support on the part of the ELCA churchwide expression, the Region 8 synods and our hundreds of generous alumni and other donors, to meet income targets. The 2010 fiscal year maintained a "balanced budget," and steps were also taken to safeguard and grow the Seminary's endowment, which while modest is nevertheless a critical additional income source.

Ever grateful for the students, the prayers and sacrificial support of Region 8 synods, as well as the dedicated service of members of the Board of Directors, we remain yours in Jesus Christ,

*The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, President*

*The Rev. Glenn E. Ludwig, Chair of the Board*