

PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVES

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS DENOMINATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

The student body, faculty, and staff at Brite Divinity School are interracial, international and ecumenical. While the largest numbers of students at Brite are Disciples and United Methodists, more than twenty-five different denominations are represented in the student body. Faculty and staff are active members in over ten different denominational/religious bodies. The ecumenical spirit is also strengthened by Brite's membership and participation in the Council of Southwestern Theological Schools embracing eleven Protestant and three Roman Catholic institutions. Selected students and faculty members from COSTS schools have participated in inter-seminary courses on a variety of topics, including an intensive experience in interfaith dialogue. COSTS institutions continue to explore further possibilities of regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Faculty and students are engaged in local, state and national ecumenical organizations and programs. With the support of the faculty, local churches, and judicatory leaders, Brite offers formal and informal programs that connect with various denominational and faith traditions.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Disciples Formation program prepares students to lead in ministry by assisting in the ordination process, providing personal and professional support and engaging students in the larger denomination. Directed by a member of the Permanent Faculty, programs offer opportunities for students to develop their theological stance and pastoral identity.

Baptist Studies Program

The Baptist Studies Program is an integral part of the Divinity School. Designed to meet the special interests and needs of Baptists, this Program offers graduate courses in Baptist history, thought, and polity and provides opportunities for Baptist students in field settings in Baptist churches, worship, and other community experiences. Special lectures and workshops by Baptist professors and ministers enrich the seminary experience of Brite students. A limited number of student scholarships are provided by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to support Cooperative Baptist Fellowship M.Div. students. This program is directed by a member of the Permanent Faculty.

Episcopal Studies Program

The Episcopal Studies Program at Brite Divinity School provides a continuing Anglican/Episcopal presence within a broadly ecumenical theological school. The program offers a community of learning, worship, and fellowship within the Brite Community. Our graduates will be trained to serve effectively in ordained and lay leadership positions in the Episcopal Church.

Metropolitan Community Churches

Brite Divinity School is a recognized partner school of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). MCC students preparing for ordination may complete their required coursework at Brite and receive advising in the ordination process.

Presbyterian Studies

The Presbyterian Studies Program supports Presbyterian women and men who are in the process of discerning a call to ministry. By mentoring, providing a Reformed and Presbyterian focus, and enriching Brite's work through relationships with the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, as well as Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Program seeks to prepare students to meet all constitutional requirements for ordination or certification to ministry in Presbyterian congregations. The Program embraces students in all degree plans, but focuses primarily on those preparing for professional ministry in local churches as pastors or directors of Christian education.

United Church of Christ

Students from the United Church of Christ tradition will find courses at Brite Divinity School that support their pastoral identity and formation within this denomination. In addition, Brite has several graduates who are leaders within the United Church of Christ, and who serve as informal mentors for students.

United Methodist Studies

The University Senate of the United Methodist Church has approved the Divinity School to teach United Methodist students. The courses taught at Brite in United Methodist history, doctrine, mission, and polity—which are required for ordination in the United Methodist Church—have been officially approved by appropriate denominational offices. With the assistance of the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, students preparing for deacons' ordination may meet UMC expectations with either the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry or the Certificate of Theological Studies.

OTHER PROGRAMATIC INITIATIVES

Asian (Korean) Church Studies Program

The Asian (Korean) Church Studies Program provides resources for Brite students to learn about the history, culture, and theology of Asian and Asian-American Christianity. This is done through regularly offered courses on the subjects and lectures offered by visiting scholars and church leaders in Asian/Asian-American communities. The program also serves as a center for promoting Asian/Asian-American theological studies and training leaders for Asian-American churches (especially those affiliated with the Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]).

Black Church Studies

The Black Church Studies program offers an interdisciplinary range of courses for shaping ministerial preparation and theological reflection for seminarians of all races, aimed at providing wider knowledge of the issues of Black life and American Christianity. Students may choose to concentrate their coursework in order to pursue a Certificate in Black Church Studies at Brite Divinity School. Also, the Black Church Studies program offers events throughout the academic year in an effort to educate the public and promote the vitality of Black religious scholarship and the legacy of the Black Church.

Latina/o Church Studies

Latina/o Church Studies supports the intercultural training of students; addresses Latina/o issues and concerns in churches and community; sponsors continuing education seminars and workshops for Latina/o pastors; and encourages students preparing for ministry in Hispanic contexts. Brite participates in Hispanic Summer Program for Masters Students and the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium that supports doctoral work in theological education and Latina/o scholars.

Hispanic Summer Program

The Hispanic Summer Program seeks to train leaders in the Hispanic tradition. Brite Divinity School is a sponsor of HSP, which provides summer courses which students can take for academic credit. The program is designed primarily for Latina/o students, and they have also welcomed about 10% of non-Latina/o students nationwide who are involved in Latino-centered ministries and advocacy. The (HSP) provides the opportunity for students to study with Latina/o peers and professors. Each summer, the HSP brings together nearly 70 participants from the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing a wide variety of traditions, denominations, and theological perspectives. The HSP also provides a limited number of slots for Latina/o pastors seeking continuing theological education.

Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium

Brite Divinity School is a member of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium (HTIC), a consortium comprised of Ph.D.-granting institutions seeking to support and advance the work of Latina and Latino scholars in order to address the need for more representation of Latina and Latino students and faculty in higher theological education. Brite Divinity School supports the

mentoring and networking costs for HTIC scholars. Additionally, Brite Divinity School recognizes that pooling resources and building communities are essential elements for securing a stronger and more diverse scholarly theological body.

Jewish Studies

Brite Divinity School and Texas Christian University together sponsor the Jewish Studies Program, designed to support the teaching and scholarly study of Judaism and to promote the historical contribution of Judaism to civilization. The Program fosters a better understanding of the faith heritage of Christianity, as well as more informed dialogue and understanding among Jews and Christians. The Program is committed to serving people of all faiths and to contributing to the education of the local community. With the generous support of numerous donors, elements of the Program include Rosenthal faculty positions for courses available to students at both Brite Divinity School and Texas Christian University, the Barnett International Scholarship, the Gates of Chai Annual Lectureship in Contemporary Judaism, the Jack B. Friedman Judaica Library in Honor of Barbara Friedman Rakover in the TCU Mary Coats Burnett Library, and the Bermont Family Undergraduate Jewish Student Scholarship Fund.

Carpenter Initiative in Gender, Sexuality, and Justice

The Carpenter Initiative in Gender, Sexuality and Justice is designed to engage people around issues related to gender, gender identity and sexual orientation through courses, workshops, worship experiences, speakers, and other events. The program, directed by Dean Joretta L. Marshall, supports the work of the Brite community, local churches and leaders as they respond to these broader issues of justice.

Soul Repair Center

In 2012, Brite Divinity School launched the Soul Repair Center through a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The Center conducts research on moral injury in combat veterans and others whose work involves socially sanctioned violence, and it educates seminarians, religious leaders, their communities, and the general public in supporting recovery.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Brite Divinity School is committed to the development of a comprehensive year-round program of continuing education for ministers, religious educators, and church leaders.

The program includes an annual Ministers Week with lectures, sermons, and workshops as well as topical seminars/conferences for church leaders. The Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity offers half-day seminars by leading scholars for the laity and clergy, and, along with the Council on Christian Unity, co-sponsors a biennial Joe A. and Nancy Vaughn Stalcup Lecture on Christian Unity. Each year, Brite hosts and supports a variety of lectureships open to the public, including such events as the Gates of Chai Lectureship and the Black Church Studies Events.

VISITING LECTURERS

Brite/TCU Ministers Week annually presents distinguished Christian leaders in a four-day program of enrichment.

THE WELLS SERMONS, founded in 1943, are made possible by an annual gift from the East Dallas Christian Church in honor of its former minister, L. N. D. Wells. Past Wells preachers have included Edwin McNeil Poteat, Halford E. Luccock, Walter W. Van Kirk, Nels F. S. Ferré, George Arthur Buttrick, Harold Cooke Phillips, Roy C. Snodgrass, Granville T. Walker, McGruder E. Sadler, James W. Clarke, Albert C. Outler, Merriman Cunnigim, Robert James McCracken, Richard C. Raines, James A. Pike, C. E. Lemmon, James T. Cleland, Ralph W. Sockman, Carlyle Marney, Robert Clyde Yarbrough, A. Wayne Braden, Gustave A. Ferre, Harold A. Bosley, David H. C. Read, Jack Finegan, Browne Barr, Fred B. Craddock (twice), Charles L. Allen, Perry E. Gresham, James M. Moudy, Ernest T. Campbell, John Claypool, Joseph A. Johnson, Jr., William Muehl, Lawrence W. Bash, P. Hunter Beckelhymer, Elizabeth Achtemeier, Wallace E. Fisher, Gilbert D. Davis, Eugene W. Brice, Albert M. Pennybacker, James A.

Wharton, Gardner Taylor, William Sloan Coffin, Jr., Peter J. Gomes, James A. Sanders, K. David Cole, Joseph R. Jeter, Jr., Zan Holmes, Thomas G. Long, Eugene L. Lowry, Bryan G. Feille, Joan Brown Campbell, Alvin O. Jackson, Paul Scott Wilson, Barbara Brown Taylor, Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Pablo A. Jiménez, Patrick J. Willson, Dan P. Mosley, L. Susan Bond, Brian K. Blount, Douglas B. Skinner, William Lee, Holly McKissick, Sharon E. Watkins, John W. Kinney, Mike Graves, Anthony Bailey, Lance Pape, Cynthia Hale, Barbara Lundblad, Amy Butler, Frederick Douglas Haynes III.

THE McFADIN LECTURESHIP was founded in 1943 by an annual gift from the McFadin Ministerial Loan Fund set up by D. G. McFadin of Dallas, Texas, to be administered by Brite Divinity School. These lectures cover a broad range of theological and pastoral concerns. They have been given in the past by Rollo Resse May, Kelley O'Neill, Alexander Paul, C. W. Longman, Homer Carpenter, Samuel Guy Inman, Hampton Adams, Gaines Monroe Cook, A. T. DeGroot, George P. Fowler, W. A. Welsh, C. C. Morrison, John Knox, William L. Reed, J. Philip Hyatt, Lewis J. Sherill, Martin Rist, T. Hassell Bowen, Charles F. Kemp, A. Campbell Garnett, Howard E. Short, M. Jack Suggs, Langdon B. Gilkey, Glenn C. Routt, Ronald Osborn, Leslie R. Smith, James Mulenburg, Robert A. Raines, Dwight E. Stevenson, Schubert M. Ogden, John W. Stewart, James D. Glasse, B. Davie Napier, William R. Baird, Muriel James, Sydney E. Ahlstrom, Samuel Sandmel, John H. Westerhoff, III, James A. Sanders, William L. Hendricks, Peggy Ann Brainard Way, Krister Stendahl, James W. Fowler, William H. Willimon, James O. Duke, Leander E. Keck, John Deschner, David G. Buttrick, Jeffrey William Rowthorn, Toni Craven, M. Eugene Boring, Lewis Smedes, Maria Harris, Phyllis Tribble (twice), William O. Paulsell, Sheila Greeve Davaney, D. Moody Smith, Susan J. White, David Balch, Carol Meyers, Adela Yarbro Collins, Amy-Jill Levine, C. David Grant, Carolyn Osiek, Ronald J. Allen, Sandra M. Schneiders, Cain Hope Felder, Marcus Borg, Choon-Leong Seow, Warren Carter, Richard H. Lowery, Jeremy Schipper, Willie James Jennings, John Shelby Spong, Sara Miles, Norman Wirzba, John Holbert, and Shelly Matthews.

THE OREON E. SCOTT LECTURESHIP on "Crucial Current National and International Issues from the Christian Point of View," was established in 1952 by the Oreon E. Scott Foundation of St. Louis. The Scott Lectures have been delivered by Samuel Guy Inman, Walter H. Judd, Ellis Gibbs Arnall, Robert G. Storey, Roswell Barnes, Cleveland Kleihauer, Gerald H. Kennedy, M. Searle Bates, Albert C. Outler, Harold L. Lunger, Irwin Miller, Harold F. Fey, John E. Hines, Levi A. Olan, Robert E. Lucey, Brooks Hays, Ernest C. Colwell, Frank Porter Graham, Howard Lowry, Waldo Beach, James M. Gustafson, Joseph C. Hough, Jr., James I. McCord, Wernher von Braun, C. Shelby Rooks, Roger L. Shinn, Martin E. Marty, W. A. Welsh, T. J. Liggett, Thomas C. Oden, Jorge Lara-Braud, H. Jackson Forstman, Lawrence N. Jones, Donald W. Shriver, Jr., Gabriel Fackre, James Deotis Roberts, Walter Brueggemann, Max L. Stackhouse, Marjorie Suchocki, George Rupp, Don S. Browning, Jane Dempsey Douglass, George W. Stroup, Don E. Saliers, Beverly Roberts Gaventa, Ronald B. Flowers, Clyde E. Fant, Justo L. González, Michael Kinnamon, Martin E. Marty, Andrew Lester, Molly Marshall, Tex Sample, Mark G. Toulouse, Howard W. Stone, Nancy T. Ammerman, Charles Kimball, David J. Gouwens, Daisy L. Machado, Christie Cozad Neuger, Elaine Robinson, Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, William Paul Young, Tim Hessel-Robinson, Namsoon Kang, Rita Brock, William Kondrath, Phil Snider, Elizabeth Drescher, Timothy Sandoval, Larry Rasmussen, Melanie Harris, and Scott Bader Saye.

THE DAVIS WORKSHOP IN MINISTRY was established in 2004 and made possible by gifts in honor of Dr. Gilbert Davis, former Director of Church Relations at TCU, and his wife, Hilda. This workshop focuses on strengthening skills for engaging in pastoral ministry. Leaders of the workshop have included George Bullard, Fred B. Craddock, George A. Mason, Anthony B. Robinson, Joretta Marshall, Gilbert Rendle, Suzanne Stabile, Diana Butler Bass, Bruce Epperly, Deborah Creamer, Karen McClintock, Craig Gelder, Peter Steinke, Nora Gallagher, and Andrew Root.

The Joe A. and Nancy Vaughn Stalcup Lecture on Christian Unity, jointly sponsored with the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is held every other summer in Dallas. It brings together the participation of a wide diversity of institutional colleagues from the congregational, regional, and national levels. Lecturers are leaders in the ecumenical movement. Presenters of this lecture include Joan Brown Campbell, Leander E. Keck, Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Roberta C. Bondi, Justo L. Gonzalez, Rita Nakashima Brock, S. Wesley Ariarajah, Deborah DeWinter, Michael Livingston, John H. Thomas, Sharon E. Watkins, Diana Eck, Jose Morales, Jr., and Teresa Jefferson-Snorton.

The Louis and Madlyn Barnett Visiting International Scholars Program in Jewish Literature and Thought was established by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Barnett of Fort Worth, Texas. This visiting scholars program is a part of the Jewish Studies Program at Brite. The first Barnett International Scholar was Israel Finkelstein in 2001. Other visiting scholars have included Richard Sarason, Avigdor Shinan, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Isaiah Gafni, Yair Zakovitch, Pamela Barmash, Adele Reinhartz, Benjamin Sommer, Gary Rendsburg, Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, Ross Kraemer, Hindy Najman, Maxine Grossman, John J. Collins, and Matthias Henze.

The Gates of Chai Distinguished Lectureship for Judaic Studies was established in 1997 by the Gates of Chai, Inc., a foundation whose founder and president is Marcia Kornbleet Kurtz. It is established in memory of Larry Kornbleet as well as family members who perished in the Holocaust. Lecturers have included Chaim Potok, Harold Kushner, Elie Wiesel, Morris Dees, Susan Estrich, Joel Siegel, Thomas Cahill, Bruce Feiler, Dennis Ross, Susannah Heschel, Irwin Kula, Jack Bemporad, Carol Meyers, Amy-Jill Levine, Burton L. Visotzky, Judith Clurman, Bruce Ruben, Ted Merwin, Bishop Brian Farrell, Rabbi David Rosen, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, and Charles Asher Small.