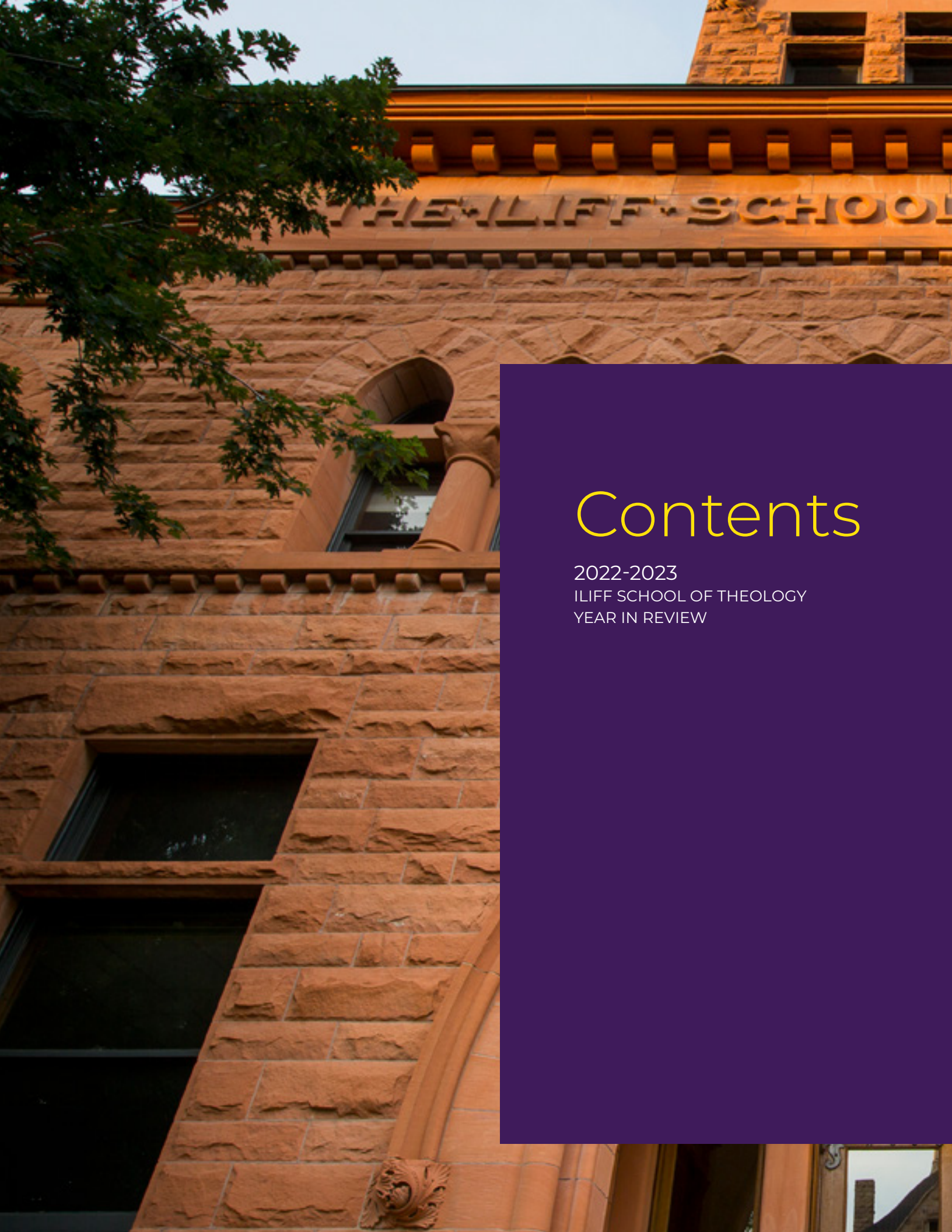




I L I F F S C H O O L O F T H E O L O G Y

YEAR END
REVIEW

2023



Contents

2022-2023
ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
YEAR IN REVIEW



4	The President's Letter to the Community
7	Board of Trustees
9	Continued Commitments
10	Social Justice & Civic Engagement
18	Relationship Building with Indigenous Communities
25	Student Body
26	Demographics
28	Student Awards
35	Faculty & Staff
36	Faculty & Staff Awards
42	Financials



Letter from the President

REV. DR. LEE BUTLER, JR.

I am delighted that you are in relationship with the Iliff School of Theology! A Year in Review is a wonderful opportunity to report all the phenomenal and exciting things that are happening on campus and around the world. I truly hope you enjoy reading this publication.

This is a very special issue because it contains two years of fiscal reporting from Iliff. We want you, our donors and friends, to know that Iliff continues to embrace creativity as we innovate theological education for a rapidly changing world. FY22 was the year the world began to transition from pandemic realities to an endemic understanding of COVID. FY23 was the year we resumed our campus community life and restored welcome at our front doors.

Winter into Spring 2023, Dr. Tom Wolfe began the work of bringing closure to a very successful ten-year term as president of Iliff. This was also the time that Iliff conducted a national search for its next president. During the month of April, the Board of Trustees invited me to become Iliff's next president. The figurative gavel was passed from President Tom Wolfe to President Lee Butler in June 2023. To this office, I bring to Iliff more than 40 years of congregational ministry experience, 30 years of experience as a religious studies and theological educator, and 10 years of ecclesial and higher education administration experience. This published Year in Review report presents what has been and what will be in Iliff's future.

During July 2023, we began to reframe our diversity commitments resulting from the Supreme Court decision on race-based admissions. The diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training sessions for all Iliffians, including the Board of Trustees, continued as an expression of our institutional commitment. Standing firm on our beliefs, we adapted and expanded our DEI work into justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). To this reformation, I included a focus on belonging (JEDIB) as an important part of speaking Iliff's future.

From July through December, we engaged in activities to get better acquainted as we began the work of rearticulating our identity as Iliff. First and foremost, Iliff is a theological graduate school dedicated to radical inclusivity and leadership formation. My commitments to ecumenism, interculturality, and social justice allow me to have conversations and offer guidance across all areas of institutional life. As an expression of my commitments, I asked the Iliff family permission to expand the name of my faculty professorship to include our founder and financial benefactor, Elizabeth Iliff Warren, whose gift established the Iliff School of Theology. I participate in faculty conversations, therefore, as the Bishop Henry White Warren and Elizabeth Iliff Warren Professor of Africana Pastoral Theology.

By the close of FY 23, I began to lay the foundation for our next five-year strategic plan. Leading the way in this initiative has been my declaration, "We Advocate Freedom!" Making this declaration tangible, I have written regular statements as reflections on national intercultural emphases like National Hispanic Heritage Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Indigenous Peoples Day, just to name a few. Demonstrating my commitment to shared governance, I have invited everyone in Iliff to participate in helping to define our work and refine our message and programs that will invite a new generation of students and inspire a new generation of leaders who will act with justice, love with vulnerability, and walk with relationship as an essential value.

Enjoy this Year in Review and plan to visit campus to participate in our special events and activities!

Lee H Butler Jr



6/29/23

Dear Lee -

Welcome to your office - the president's office. I am delighted and encouraged that you are the 17th president of Iliff. I write to wish you well and to assure you that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Iliff is a one of a kind deep and challenging place. It goes so much to the world. I look forward to observing from afar how you will continue to grow it. You have my support and respect. It is time for the person that you are to be its leader.

Blessings -

Tom

**A Letter from former Iliff President Rev. Dr. Tom Wolfe
to current President Rev. Dr. Lee Butler, Jr.**



Board of Trustees

We deeply appreciate and honor the tireless efforts of Iliff's Board of Trustees. Your dedication and commitment to the advancement of graduate theological education has been instrumental in shaping Iliff's direction and growth. Thank you for your service and support.

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Continued Commitments



Social Justice & **Civic Engagement**



Land Acknowledgement

Iliff School of Theology, founded in 1892, acknowledges that the space in which we gather today is located in the traditional and ancestral home of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples. Because ours is a geographically diverse community, we invite you to pause for a moment to acknowledge the people in whose ancestral homelands you are currently residing. Their forced removal has caused devastating impacts that the Iliff School of Theology cannot undo or fully rectify, but that we are responsible for and to in our continued occupation. Our occupancy has historically ignored the relational significance of this land and all of its peoples, both human and nonhuman. We also recognize the enduring relationships that these nations have to their homelands. Through this acknowledgement, we pledge in our learning community to listen to, to learn from, and to amplify the wisdom of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples.

In addition to our land acknowledgment, we publicly affirm our commitment to the Lenape peoples with whom we have entered into an ongoing process of accountability and building right relationships. The intertwined histories of Methodism and euroChristian conquest were exemplified by welcoming the gift of an eighteenth century book of Christian history, bound in the skin of a murdered Lenape man, and displayed as a treasure at Iliff from 1893 until 1974. We seek to address this horrific legacy through attention and sustained effort to re-shape Iliff's relationship with the Lenape and other indigenous people in our teaching and communal life.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Carlotta Walls LaNier

The 2023 Commencement speaker was Carlotta Walls LaNier, international civil rights pioneer and leader.

In the fall of the 1957-58 school year, Carlotta Walls LaNier was the youngest of a small number of African American students selected to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Known collectively as the “Little Rock 9,” LaNier and her classmates endured taunts and intimidation (both verbal and physical) from their white counterparts throughout the academic year. Through their perseverance, they became vital symbols of the efforts to test the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) decision by the U. S. Supreme Court declaring segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Despite state and local “massive resistance” to integration, LaNier became the first African American woman to walk across the stage at Central High School and receive her diploma.

LaNier went on to study at Michigan State University after her high school graduation in 1960 and completed her bachelor’s degree at the University of Northern Colorado in 1968. She has received the Congressional Gold Medal (the nation’s highest civilian honor), the Spingarn Medal (awarded by the NAACP), the Pierre Marquette Award, and the Abraham Lincoln Leadership Award. She has also been inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. Most recently, Carlotta and the other women of the Little Rock Nine were honored as the sponsors of the nuclear submarine USS Arkansas to be christened in 2025.

Her account of these experiences can be found in “A Mighty Long Way, My journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School,” which she authored with Lisa Frazier Page. A Young Readers edition is now available with a picture book to follow.





WOMEN LEADING

Colorado Candidate Forum



On October 6, 2022, four female candidates for House seats in Colorado elections – Brittany Pettersen (D, District 22), Iman Jodeh (D, District 41), Brianna Titone (D, District 27), and Ruby Dickson (D, District 37) joined educator, philanthropist, and community leader Dr. Carolyn Love to discuss their goals, their values, and what motivates them to public service. The Iliff Candidate Forum provided an opportunity for Coloradans in the Denver metro area to hear from women candidates on how their values inspire them to run for office and shape the policies they seek to achieve. The panel was moderated by Dr. Carolyn Love and provided each candidate time to share their ideas and life experiences that shape the policies they support.

From The President's Desk

President Butler uses his platform to give voice to Iliff's continued commitments to social justice and civic engagement.

Below are excerpts from letters written to the community.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

"Changing Columbus Day to a celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day is an important first step for revising a history of these lands. Unfortunately, simply changing the name of the day can also be experienced as a 'white washing' of events. Not only do we want to tell the truth about the destruction of indigenous lives that came in the wake of Columbus' expeditions, we also want to tell the stories of the lives that preceded genocide and massacre. We want to commemorate the depths of spirit that lived in harmony with the land before it was claimed as property by invaders."

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

"At Iliff, we remember the Sand Creek Massacre. As a theological institution of the United Methodist Church, we recall Chivington's leadership that resulted in the death of the innocent and the mutilation of their bodies. His zeal in defense of the Union made him a murderer without human sympathy. Iliff works to reckon with our past by not hiding the truth of the things done in the name of God and country. We are dedicated to educating a new generation of religious leaders who will both speak truth to power and relinquish the abusive power that has distorted the human soul."





FALL CONVOCATION

"We must double down on educating for freedom. American education systems have been more accurately training systems to form citizens who will keep America doubling without moral contradiction. Separate but (Un)Equal was designed to maintain the American caste system and taught a history of patriotism, exceptionalism, and triumphalism. There were separate curriculums for elite boarding schools and Indian boarding schools. There were different resources for white public schools and Black public schools. There was shop for boys and home ec for girls. If we are all to be free, we cannot stress individualism and an 'either-or' way of living. Theological education must move double belonging from the demonized margins to the center of theological discourse. We must include the sources and ongoing influence of the indigenous traditions shaping Native Americans, Mestizo, Latinx, African, and Asian descended religiosity. We must change our approach, not our commitments, to welcoming a diverse community."





Afrofuturism Through AI

On Friday November 3rd 2023, the Iliff AI Institute kicked off a weekend in partnership with the Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM). It was entitled Afrofuturism through AI, Art and Posthumanism. Notable scholars and artists from around the country gathered to share their art and ideas while discovering the intersections of their work.

Friday evenings' event took place at Green Spaces, a Black-owned shared work space. The event combined the work of local and nationally recognized artists. It was well attended, and each artist had the opportunity to tell the audience about the pieces they had on display.

Saturday was a working conference. The morning began with a panel defining Black posthumanism and set the stage for the day. The day's panel topics included the entanglement of AI and Blackness, Blackness as an orientation toward living and creating in the world, Black embodiment and art, and the historical significance of Black posthuman dialogue, AI and art as a means to speculate into Black futures. The day ended with a dinner for the participants.



Pulpit+ Exchange

Lilly's Pulpit+ Exchange Series (supported by the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.) provided space throughout 2023 for a diverse array of ordained clergy and lay leaders to gather for a meal and grapple with challenging issues. One of the main goals of the Pulpit+ Exchange was to build congregations of people who will authentically study, worship, walk, and act together across differences to create a just and equitable world.





Relationship Building **with Indigenous Communities**



Joy Harjo Event

The Power of Poetry and Art in Social Movements with National Poet Laureate Joy Harjo

In August of 2022, Iliff welcomed national poet laureate Joy Harjo. This inaugural event of the new Institute for Religion, Politics and Culture was also sponsored by the Iliff Women's Alliance and brought young artists, poets, and musicians from across the Denver area to campus. The event began with a reception to celebrate the launch of the Institute and give attendees an opportunity to enjoy the work of the young artists. Afterward, Joy shared a few of her poems before the Director of the Institute, Rev. Amanda Henderson interviewed her about her work and the role of art in justice movements. Local Denver organizations, including Art from Ashes, Youth on Record, All in Spirit, and the American Indian Academy of Denver partnered with the Institute, bringing local leaders and artists together at this unique event.



Lenape Gathering

On April 29 and 30, 2022, Iliff hosted a historic and memorable gathering with a delegation of Lenape Elders on the “Iliff book” – a book written in Latin on the history of Christianity which was bound in the flayed skin of a murdered Lenape man.

At the gathering, the Iliff community, led by Iliff President Tom Wolfe and Professor Emeritus Tink Tinker (wazhazhe, Osage), listened and discussed the intertwined histories of Indigenous Peoples and the Methodist church.

During the two-day meeting, Lenape elders shared reflections on the long history of American Indian genocide, euroChristian violence, the occupancy of Indian lands, and Iliff’s involvement in the “horrendous relic of colonial conquest and White supremacy.”





Courtesy: Rocky Mountain PBS

"My belief is that the Native American and African American suffering and survival are linked historically. We must understand this if we are to live into a future of mutuality and solidarity."

- President Butler



Winona LaDuke Event

Decisions of a Seventh Generation: One Dish, One Spoon Treaty, Sustainability and the Rights of Nature

Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabe) informed some and reminded others that the original agreements and treaties with and between Indigenous nations foundationally were treaties to protect the world and people and to consider the impact on the seventh future generation. On February 8, 2023, Winona shared how these traditional legal canons are being applied today internationally in the work on the Rights of Nature from Bolivia to White Earth in Minnesota.

"What if you made a new economy that was based on the land and your practices? Reaffirming local, and decentralized and less consumption, and then the ownership models were co-operative or collective and not individualized?"

- Winona LaDuke









Student Body

Demographics

The following figures illustrate the changing demographics of Iliff's student body. Behind every number is a name, a story, and a myriad of identities. We honor the complexities that each student brings to the Iliff Community.



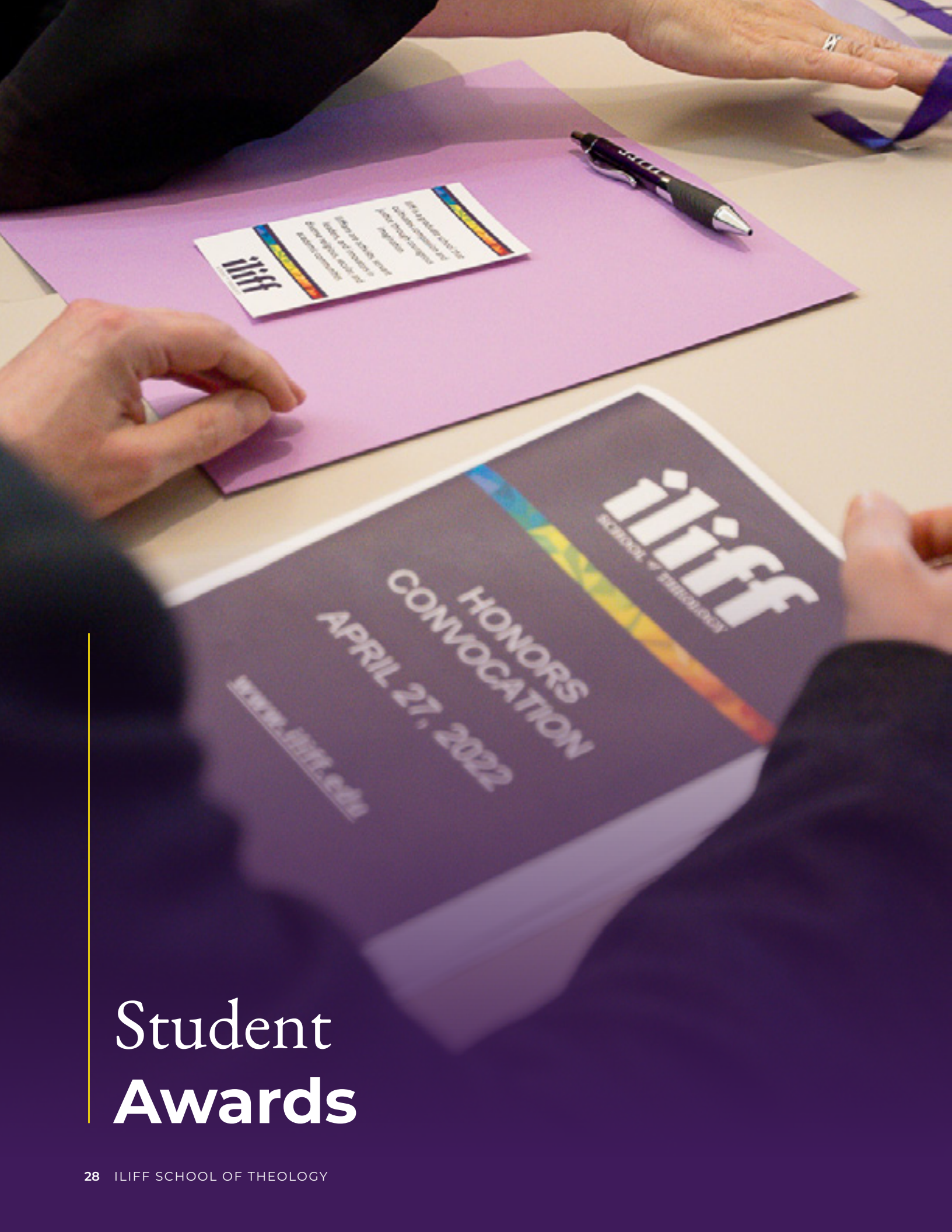
	2021-2022	2022-2023
Degree Program (%)		
DMin	9	15
MDiv	66	59
MAPSC	7	10
MASJE	4	4
MTS	14	12
Race (%)		
African American/Black	7	6
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1
Asian American	3	2
Latinx	5	5
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	1
Two or More Races	3	4
White	78	74

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Gender (%)		
Female	60	47
Male	26	23
Nonbinary	9	11
Transgender	2	3
Age (%)		
Under 22		1
22-24	3	3
25-29	21	19
30-34	12	18
35-39	14	10
40-49	22	22
50-64	21	23
65 and older	7	4
Average Age	42	47



	2021-2022	2022-2023
Top 3 Denominations (%)		
United Methodist	38	38
Unitarian	6	7
Universalist		
United Church of Christ	6	6
Religious vs. Non Religious (%)		
Religious	81	75
Non Religious	19	25

	2021-2022	2022-2023
Geography (%)		
East	13	13
North	14	11
South	26	23
West	46	43
International	1 (Canada)	0



Student Awards

2023

Student Awards

Master of Arts in Pastoral & Spiritual Care
Zachary Frederick Herzog

Master of Arts in Social Justice & Ethics
Bart Hisgen

Master of Divinity
Brigitta Vieyra and Haley Anderson

Master of Theological Studies
Lauren Ellison

Elizabeth Iliff Warren Fellowship
Meredith Joubert and Tory Moir

The Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship and Practice
Marta Fioriti

Dr. Larry Kent Graham Scholarship
Ryan Ely and Jeeyoung Kim

The Ronald E. Sleeth Preaching Award
Baranda Fermin

Jeffrey H. Mahan Praxis Award
ShaShawna Bush

Masters Student(s) of the Year
Lex Dunbar and Scott Kearney

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dennis Saavedra Carquin-Mamichand received the 2023 Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant



GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION

Haley Moriah Anderson

Kimberly Anne Eiffert

Lauren Renee Ellison

Ericka E. Graham

Zachary Frederick Herzog

Barton Jon Hisgen

Meredith K. Joubert

Scott K Kearney

Brigitta Crystal Vieyra

2022

Masters Students of the Year

LAUREN JOHNSON

Master of Divinity

As I reflect on my time at Iliff, I am filled with gratitude and transformation. I came to Iliff during a challenging period in my life—not to mention, a year before the pandemic—and immediately felt the Divine guiding me on an unexpected journey. Life moved me to reevaluate my relationship with God, the Church, religion, and, most importantly, myself.



Iliff provided me with a strong foundation of support from professors, classmates, and coursework that somehow fulfilled my needs at each stage of my journey. I learned about Iliff from a former professor and dear friend, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Leath. She introduced me to Womanist thought, which played a crucial role in deconstructing and decolonizing my beliefs. Womanism also became integral to my identity as a minister, preacher, and theologian. My spiritual healing began in a course I took during my first quarter in 2019 with visiting professor, Dr. Rachel Harding, on the religions of the African Diaspora. It continued in my pastoral care courses with Dr. Ruben Arjona and Dr. Carrie Doehring. These courses not only helped develop my pastoral skills but also provided language for my personal experiences and nurtured my wounds into places of empowerment.

Since graduating from Iliff, I became a licensed minister in the American Baptist tradition, served on the ministerial team at New Hope Baptist Church Denver, and have had numerous preaching engagements. I am dedicated to the spiritual, mental, and emotional wellness of Black women and to amplify the voices of the marginalized. I am committed to incorporating this form of justice into every pulpit I find myself in. Additionally, I practice holistic healing modalities such as Reiki, sound healing, and spiritual coaching. I aim to introduce these practices into more traditional spaces so that marginalized individuals can experience the power of God in diverse ways.

DAVID DASHIFEN KEES

Master of Divinity

Flying back from the Salt Lake City Parliament of the World's Religions in 2015, I happened to be seated by two folks who knew each other better than I knew either of them. As they chatted, it became clear that one of them was working on their MDiv at Iliff. That same year, at that same conference, I encountered a non-profit organization that has become very important to me. It focuses on learning about religion and spirituality from practitioners during interreligious dialogues that focus on what makes us different and what makes those differences beautiful. Little did I know that the founding pastor of that organization would write a letter of recommendation for my Iliff application and would, later, sponsor my MDiv internship.

I officially joined the Iliff family in 2018. I remember my first Gathering Days fondly. I often joke that I got two tattoos out of that one week; one on the inside of my left upper arm (ouch) and another on the inside of that arm's wrist (also: ouch). I remember both reveling in the opportunity to be something different from others in my cohort—a Jewish/Pagan polytheist at a Methodist-affiliated institution—but also finding ways that I was the same. It was that week that I first started using they/them pronouns and embraced my non-binary self. I took those steps largely because of and alongside others doing so.

My time at Iliff was split: two years before COVID and two years with it. Before the Lockdown Years, I was thinking about chaplaincy, but suddenly in 2020, being in hospitals to earn those CPE credits didn't seem as possible as it was in the autumn of 2019. I didn't know much about chaplaincy before Iliff, though it was at that same Parliament in 2015 that I was largely introduced to the concept. As the pandemic began, that career path seemed harder to walk than it had before. But, this also offered me a chance to consider how I truly wanted to use my skills, and now I'm about to complete training in spiritual direction.

Coming to know myself better through my time at Iliff was not something I expected in 2018; maybe that was naive. But looking back, I have trouble imagining that I'd be where I am today, as happy as I am today, without having spent some those four years of my life learning with and from my friends at Iliff.



2023

Masters Students of the Year



LEX DUNBAR

Master of Divinity

I am a Norf-Philly native and recent transplant to Denver, CO. I am a passionate educator, avid protestor, dynamic workshop facilitator, indecent preacher, and compassionate neighbor. As a Black Non-Binary Transmasc person and first-generation academic, I incorporate personal narrative alongside theoretical research in which I engage within multi-methodological praxes such as Womanism, Black liberation theologies, Transhumanist Deism, Eroticism, Afro-Pessimism, and Afro-Futurism. My research aims to engage the scholarship niche between “traditional” Black Thinkers and Afrofuturist and AfroPessimist Scholars.

Having recently completed my second Masters degree, a Masters of Divinity at Iliff, I am now a student in the Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion at The University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology. My time at Iliff solidified my desire to engage academia further as a first-generation student and contribute to Black scholarship. I am the co-director of NAPAS (National Alliance of PanAfrican Seminarians), where I organized and facilitated multiple student engagement programs to foster learning, community, and reflective conversations that lead to action.

I am also an undergraduate adjunct professor, and I have worked in various non-profits, after-school programs, and universities. I also have experience in program development, speaking, and writing on behalf of the organizations I’ve served. I am often heard before I am seen. I desire nothing more than to see wrong things made right.

SCOTT KEARNEY

Master of Divinity

I arrived at Iliff in 2020 as pandemic lockdowns started. I was a recently retired combat veteran. My spiritual formation was overseen by East Asian Buddhist emigrants and liberationist Catholics. I wasn't sure where I was going, had the vaguest ideas of why I was there, and wondered how my military history might complicate my academic experiences. Professors pushed students to grow in ways that could affect social change, in service to our communities. War had jaded my faith in such things before I arrived. With the encouragement of Iliff faculty, and mutual accountability of student peers, I deconstructed, examined, claimed, and ultimately understood how to consciously employ each of my pieces-of-self in renewed service to others.

Since graduating, I help as a Buddhist minister in two VA hospitals, and serve my home sangha as a board member. Iliff taught me to leverage my history and education in each of these spaces as members experienced different reactions to recent global violence. I assisted our sangha in cultivating a space for meaningful reflection upon the damage done to our world by toxic munitions and vulgar legacies of dehumanization and hierarchy. I walked with veterans triggered by political violence to a place of calm so they could return to their families. My wife and I recognize the ways my studies informed our engagement with our child during her sacred time of awakening to the world. Our daughter is lively, happy, kind, beautiful, and healthy because of it, which is a multi-generational testament to Iliff's formative process.

I believe the Iliff tradition of positive social change through courageous imagination requires strong spiritual roots aided by a sharp mind. The academic confidence and inspiration I gained from Iliff has led me to apply to several doctoral programs, with the hope that continued training will strengthen my ability to weave Buddhist and veteran wisdom into projects cultivating peace and compassion, especially in politicized spaces. With gratitude to Iliff, I intend for my work going forward to serve as tribute to the new hope I have for the kind of world our grandchildren can inherit.







Faculty & Staff

2023

Faculty Awards

Faculty are recognized for outstanding contributions to the school in three areas - Scholarship, Teaching, and Service.

Scholarship

Professor Miguel De La Torre

Teaching

Professor Carrie Doehring

Leadership of the Joint Doctoral Program

Professor Mark George



FACULTY OF THE YEAR LEADERSHIP

MARK K. GEORGE, PH.D.

**Professor of Bible and
Ancient Systems of Thought**

For over 40 years the DU-Iliff Joint PhD Program in the Study of Religion (JDP) has been an important part of Iliff's mission and work. Not only does Iliff's joint sponsorship of this program help educate and mentor the next generations of scholars, educators, and scholar-activists, but it keeps the inter-institutional ties between Iliff and DU strong. About 55 students are enrolled in the JDP, with a growing number of students coming from countries and communities outside the United States. Working with these young scholars as they develop their ideas and work is immensely rewarding. So, too, are the opportunities the JDP provides for collaborating with DU faculty and administrators to fulfill the JDP's educational objectives and help students graduate in a timely manner. I completed my third and final year of service as Director of the JDP in the 2022–2023 academic year. It has been a pleasure serving as JDP Director. I look forward to the JDP's continued growth and success.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

MIGUEL DE LA TORRE, PH.D.

Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies

What drew me to Iliff was its reputation of being committed to social justice with giants in the field like Vincent Harding and Tink Tinker. In an age where academic censorship is increasingly the norm, particularly in regions colored Red by political ideologies, Iliff's commitment to academic freedom resonates with me.

During my time at Iliff, I've published 37 of my 47 books and I've had the honor of being on my third Fulbright. I also serve as the President of The Society of Christian Ethics, alongside garnering over seven national book awards. There is a false dichotomy within the academy that someone engaged in social activism cannot really be a scholar. This, of course, is a eurocentric belief that allows scholars of the dominant culture to mask how what they teach remains complicit with unexamined oppressive biases. My activism and the recognition I receive from the academy for my scholarship should put such false dichotomies to rest.

Looking ahead, my itinerary includes teaching classes in Mainz, Germany (Fulbright), New Zealand, Australia, and Columbia. I also received two grants to walk 500 miles on el Camino de Santiago in Spain for an upcoming book and documentary. Additionally, I'll complete my third book on José Martí and take students to El Salvador to study Liberation Theology.





FACULTY OF THE YEAR TEACHING

CARRIE DOEHRING, PH.D.

Clifford Baldrige Professor of
Pastoral Care and Counseling

Teaching is my core vocation. I am passionate about bridging the gap between how spiritual care is taught in graduate school and how it is practiced in communities of faith, and religiously diverse organizations (e.g., healthcare, hospice, military, educational and correctional contexts). Many of my learning outcomes come from the newly adopted, extensively revised learning outcomes of Clinical Pastoral Education. I worked hard for four years with eight leading ACPE educators on the ACPE Learning Outcomes task

group, to develop these outcomes. One of my tasks was to compile the 20-page glossary of key terms instrumental in shifting CPE learning from Christian-centric to interreligious, and to now being research-based. Many of these goals can be used to bridge the gap between academy study and clinical/community of faith practice.

I use a spiritually integrative trauma-informed pedagogy grounded in body-based practices for experiencing goodness in our bodies and self-compassion. Students share their self-care practices each week, creating a learning community of compassionate accountability. Online and hybrid courses become trustworthy spaces for experiential learning of the micro skills of spiritually respectful, justice-seeking, research-literate spiritual care.

I use detailed grading rubrics that teach students how to practice spiritually respectful 'listening' in online discussions. In the first paragraph of what I call a substantive response, the person responding acknowledges what was most vulnerable about what their peer shared. Then, they demonstrate spiritual respect by paying close attention to how their peer described their self-care practices. They affirm how their peer's practices helped. They resist the urge to offer advice, problem solve, or share too much of their own experience, since they are in a listening role when they respond. In the second paragraph, they continue a discussion started by their peer about a key concept in that week's reading. Using key concepts helps them become literate in the specialized knowledge base of spiritual care (level 1 of the learning outcomes). They become fluent when they use these key terms to understand practices of care (level 2). When each student receives a substantive response, and then responds to that, there is a sense of "being heard" and co-creating meanings, similar to spiritually respectful listening in any context of care. And then, they teach and learn from each other in amazing ways!

2023

Staff Award



STAFF OF THE YEAR

RUBEN FIGUEROA III

User Experience Librarian

I joined Iliff in June of 2022, coming from rural public libraries, in a time where all visits were limited to appointments due to the pandemic turning buildings to ghost towns. As User Experience Librarian I provide as our main point of access interactions, circulation and physical materials manager, provide archives, research, and library services, tech and digital elements, and tend the physical spaces. I work alongside some truly excellent people, as a great quality of Iliff is its network; my fellow Librarian Jessi is a dynamo of energy, master of our digital back end. We've curated areas that I hope all feel welcome in and will aid you, from the social and collaboration-oriented main level with porticos, computer lab and podcast room, to the more traditional lower level housing the materials and study carrels, multimedia, and reading/green screen rooms.

I'm fortunate to work with Dr. Loring Abeyta in further investigation to uncover interwoven histories of the Iliff Book. What a powerful experience to be a part of the processing and growth that this partnership has been cultivating!

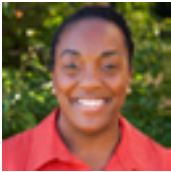
Working with Dr. Rachel Harding in honoring her parents Vincent and Rosemarie Harding, we gave their personal libraries a home here to be resource and inspiration. Echoes of their efforts not only during their time at Iliff, but also towards justice and healing globally.

It's inspiring to feel energies of transformation in interactions here, hopeful we may better understand and consider world views and systems to better support the communities we affect.

New Faculty and Staff

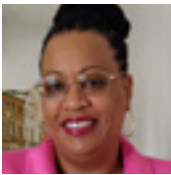


We express our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of every faculty and staff member. Iliff exists because of you. We make special note of the new faculty and staff that joined Iliff in 2023.



Dr. Kishundra King

Assistant Professor of
Pastoral and Spiritual Care
Director of the MAPSC
Program



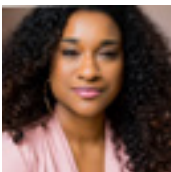
Dr. April Mack

Assistant Professor of
Religion and Social Justice
Director of the Master of
Social Justice and Ethics
Program



Dr. Tom Barlow

Term Assistant Professor in
Methodist Studies



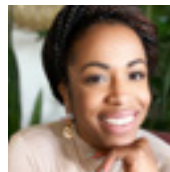
Dr. Baranda Fermin

Academic Advising and
Writing Center Director



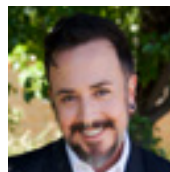
Jon Hurst

Congregational Connections
Program Assistant



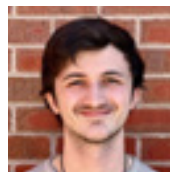
Lauren Johnson, M.Div.

Content Marketing Manager



**Matthew David Morris,
M.Div.**

Internal Communication
Specialist



Wesley Moncrief, M.A.

Information Desk &
Administrative Support
Receptionist



FY2022 & FY2023

Year in Review Financials

	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
Fundraising Performance					
Iliff Fundraising	\$2.39M	\$2.17M	\$6.81M	\$3.01M	\$897K
MEF	\$728K	\$650K	\$625K	\$636K	\$619K
SDG	\$488K	\$458K	\$433K	\$389K	\$301K
Total	\$3.61M	\$3.27M	\$7.88M	\$4.03M	\$1.82M

FY22			
Gift Source	Amount	Percent	Donor Count
Alumni	\$174,171	6%	327
Friends	\$976,195	33%	445
Foundations	\$1,733,390	58%	17
Corporations	\$89,208	3%	11
Religious Organizations	\$23,270	1%	6

FY22	
Gifts & Grants	Amount
Annual Fund	\$217,707.27
Annual Scholarships & Programs	\$1,377,678.48
Endowed Scholarships & Programs	\$736,249.25
Endowed Unrestricted	\$660,000.00
Ministerial Education Fund	\$635,924.62
Student Designated Grants	\$388,723.07
Events	\$13,679.10

FY23			
Gift Source	Amount	Percent	Donor Count
Alumni	\$125,419	14%	202
Friends	\$248,910	28%	244
Foundations	\$386,948	43%	16
Corporations	\$79,015	9%	16
Religious Organizations	\$55,111	6%	12

FY23	
Gifts & Grants	Amount
Annual Fund	\$ 233,617.24
Annual Scholarships & Programs	\$ 482,621.38
Endowed Scholarships & Programs	\$ 138,246.30
Endowed Unrestricted	\$ 40,501.84
Ministerial Education Fund	\$ 618,792.85
Student Designated Grants	\$ 300,916.60
Events	\$ 1,642.37

Legend

MEF: United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund

SDG: Student Designated Grants

Figures are based on in-house accounting as of May 31, 2023 and are unaudited. If interested, please contact the Iliff Business Office for more details.

FY2022 & FY2023

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Henderson[☞]*

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Whittemore

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Caran Lee Ware Joseph* '12

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Ebenezer B. Sunanda '63 '67+ and Rosa Pareja de Sunanda

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Douglas** and Hazel Price

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Dr. Verne A.☞ and Diana Smith

Mr. J. Robert (Bob) Young☞

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Christiano Sosa*

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 Elizabeth Jane Schmitz
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 Suzanne A. Gordon
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 and Shirley Wideman
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