

A photograph of a Black man with glasses and a grey beard, wearing a black clerical robe with a colorful, patterned stole and a gold chain. He is standing behind a wooden podium, gesturing with both hands raised. The background is a blurred interior of a church or hall. Overlaid on the image are large, stylized numbers '23' in teal and '24' in light green, with a diagonal line separating them.

23
24

YEAR IN REVIEW

WE ADVOCATE FREEDOM!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us in celebrating another year of growth and transformation at the Iliff School of Theology. As we reflect on our journey, we're excited to share the progress we've made and the steps we're taking to shape our future.

This year, we've focused on a comprehensive strategic planning process, bringing together voices from the board, faculty, staff, and community. Through collaborative workstreams in marketing, revenue, curriculum, fundraising, and budgeting, we are designing action steps to connect with new audiences, increase enrollment, and enhance the financial health of Iliff.

A key element of our strategic vision is a reimagined curriculum. Transitioning from quarters to semesters empowers our students to approach their education with greater intention. Additionally, our shift from four to two Master's programs, including a Master of Arts with four new concentrations, better aligns with contemporary educational needs and strengthens our mission to nurture students' passions for the greater good.

While enrollment has faced challenges, these curriculum updates are designed to attract new students who resonate with our values and mission. As a supporter of Iliff, you are taking Iliff into the world, and you are the people who can inspire the next generation of Iliffians. As our best ambassadors, I ask you to consider: Who in your life needs Iliff? Who do you know who is looking for the education, the support, and the community Iliff offers? Will you be the voice that points them here?

Though much is changing, the heart of Iliff remains constant—a place for learning, growth, freedom, support, and community. Together, we will continue to shape a future filled with hope and purpose. Thank you for your continued dedication to Iliff School of Theology. Your support is essential as we embark on this exciting new chapter.

With gratitude, Rev. Dr. Lee H. Butler, Jr.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



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FACULTY CELEBRATIONS

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

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP



DR. MIGUEL DE LA TORRE **PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL ETHICS AND LATINX STUDIES**

Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre is an international scholar, documentarian, novelist, academic author, and scholar activist. The focus of Dr. De La Torre's academic pursuit is social ethics within contemporary U.S. thought, specifically how religion affects race, class, and gender oppression. Since obtaining his doctorate in 1999, he has authored over a hundred articles and published forty-one books.

CELEBRATING TEACHING



DR. ALBERT HERNANDEZ **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

Dr. Albert Hernandez has over thirty years of experience in different educational settings as an administrator, curriculum developer, and successful change-agent for organizational management systems. His current writing projects and recent classes focus on medical history and spiritual healing; Italian Renaissance humanism after the Black Death; mysticism in the Spanish Reformation; and the history of social justice.

CELEBRATING SERVICE



DR. KATHERINE TURPIN **PROFESSOR OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** **& DIRECTOR OF THE MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM**

Interests in how people learn and critically engage with religious traditions, how they disrupt formation into the assumptions and practices of dominant culture, and how they navigate the politics of knowing in diverse communities inform Dr. Turpin's work in religion education and practical theology. Her current research interests include how histories of oppression and structural inequality inform the identity of white women and unlearning and disrupting white supremacy in the practices of education and theological reflection.

MASTER'S STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

The following awards celebrate the achievements of our students. Each recipient represents dedication, hard work, and a unique journey. We honor the contributions and excellence they bring to the Iliff community.



BETH ELLIOTT
Master of Divinity

"Receiving the Student of the Year award alongside the astounding Joshua Perez was a deeply meaningful affirmation of the power of collaborative, community-centered work. My time at Iliff was grounded in mutual aid and centering the most vulnerable. This inspired me to accept the invitation to combine my education at Iliff and my experience as an End of Life Doula to help create the Iliff Death Care Collective. This initiative of The Center for Theological Innovation offers justice-centered and somatically grounded death care education that builds both skills and community at Iliff and beyond."



JOSH PEREZ
Master of Divinity

"I came to Iliff not interested in dogmatism but in meaning-making and what it means to be human. More specifically, what does my life mean? What does it mean to be me? I dove in head first, fully submerged, giving my all to the decision to pursue a master's degree. This award represents that I did show up fully, and my efforts were seen and recognized as beneficial to the community at Iliff. This recognition represents Iliff's reciprocated investment in me as a part of this community, so much so that I decided to stay a little longer for a PhD. Student of the Year showed me that I am capable, worthy, and have much to offer society. I belong in the space I take up."

EVENTS AT ILIFF

Many outstanding events took place at Iliff this year. The **Renewal and Pulpit + Exchange Series** provided space for a diverse array of ordained clergy and leaders to gather and discuss the challenging issues of our time and Iliff's future.

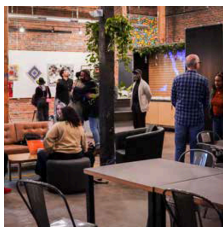
9/18/23



ECOJUSTICE CONFERENCE

Iliff's Third Biennial EcoJustice Conference "Food Fight: When What We Eat is Weaponized" was held September 27-29, 2023. This conference focused on the intersection of Food with Discrimination, Environmentalism, and Colonialism – and how those with power, privilege, and profit use and misuse food to strengthen oppressive political, social, and economic structures through institutionalized violence.

11/3/23



AFROFUTURISM CONFERENCE

The Iliff AI Institute and the Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM) cohosted Afrofuturism Through AI, Art, and Posthumanism. Scholars and artists from across the country gathered to explore the intersection of their work. Friday evening's event showcased artists who shared insights on their pieces. Saturday's conference began with a panel on Black posthumanism, followed by discussions on AI and Blackness, and Black embodiment in art.

2/8/24



BIG MAMA SPEAKS: A TULSA RACE RIOT SURVIVORS STORY

Big Mama Speaks, a one-woman play that recounts the history of "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, OK, and explores the work of reconciliation, came to Iliff during Gathering Days. The free, public performance featured accomplished actress and Director of Outreach & Alliance for The John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Vanessa Adams-Harris (Muscogee Creek Nation and African American). The performance was followed by a post-performance conversation between Vanessa and the gathered guests.

4/13-16/24



ILIFF ELDERS COUNCIL GATHER ON ILIFF CAMPUS

In April 2024, Iliff hosted a historic and memorable gathering with our Lenape Elders Council. Iliff is proactively committed to a healing relationship with the Lenape and other Native American nations. Our restorative justice work has supported our ongoing efforts of curriculum change and the development of an Indigenous Studies program.

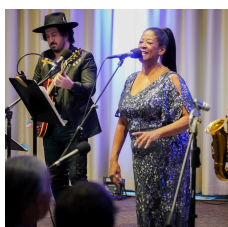
5/8/24



DYING WELL

This Women's Alliance Event was facilitated with Dr. Kelly Arora, Dr. Carrie Doehring, Rev. Dr. Val Jackson, Beth Eliot, and Tonya Hunt, about the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges that confront us as we face mortality and as we seek to support others as they approach the end of their lives. This conversation focused on the intentional dying phase of our life journeys and explored issues of meaning-making, legacy, and preparation for active dying.

5/19/24



MICHELLE COLTRANE, LIVE AT ILIFF!

For the 2nd Annual Vincent Harding Day Celebration, Iliff was honored to welcome world-renowned vocalist Michelle Coltrane to Shattuck Hall. Daughter of Alice and John Coltrane, Michelle serves as the Chief Creative Officer for The Coltrane Home, an organization dedicated to bringing music education and awareness while providing services and learning tools for young people.

5/31/24



2024 COMMENCEMENT WITH SPEAKER JOANNE RODRIGUEZ

On May 31, 2024, Rev. Joanne Rodríguez delivered a Commencement Address to the Iliff graduating class of 2024. Rev. Joanne Rodríguez is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Theological Initiative. She received a history-making honorary doctorate from Iliff, becoming the first Latina to be awarded a doctoral degree by a theological school without the recipient first holding a PhD degree.

Investing in the Future, Rooted in Legacy



BARBARA KELLEY

Board of Trustees Member Since 2017

Barbara Kelley has served as president of the Rollie R. Kelley Family Foundation since its inception in 1994. The Foundation, started by her father, a former Iliff trustee, continues his mission to enhance business and cultural education along with community needs in the Rocky Mountain region.

We recently had a conversation with Barbara about her long history with Iliff and what she loves about being a board member.

Do you have a favorite Iliff story that you like to tell people unfamiliar with the organization?

"Dad (Rollie R. Kelley) knew Donald E. Messer, former president of Iliff. Don officiated the wedding between my dad and his new wife, Pat, in the Iliff Chapel. The signage was so bad that I was late for the wedding! When I sit in the chapel now, I think of Dad's wedding. There wasn't even a sign on the street for Iliff at that time."

What is your most important experience as a board member?

"The whole experience is meaningful. There are amazing people on the board, and it's growing, too. We share a common goal to make Iliff stronger. We are always looking for people who are interested and committed, who are willing to join the board."

What about Iliff gets you excited?

"What always gets me excited about Iliff is the students and what they do with their knowledge in the world. Board members who are graduates of Iliff are doing amazing work in the world. They're coming back and paying it forward with current students. How Iliff expands and grows, and has an awareness of what new students and the world are looking for. It's a small niche and Iliff is so creative and committed to students and going forth with the Iliffian thoughts and standards. I like what Iliff produces."



HONOR ROLL FISCAL YEAR 23/24

June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024

John Wesley Iliff Society \$500,000+

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry of The
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John Wesley Iliff Society \$100,000 - \$499,999

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Pauline Wagner '74 and Rod Rippel+
Anonymous

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June L. Patterson+
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Peterson
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Mr. C. Orville Strohl & '34+ and Mrs. Marjorie+ Strohl
Marion Tate+
Dr. Glendora (Dusty) D. Taylor & '76 & '80◇
Robert Taylor+
Dr. J. Alton & '53 & '56+ and Dorothy Jean Templin & '54
Dr. David G. Trickett
The Rev. Joan M. & '82 and Jerald VanBecelaere
The Rev. James (Jim) Laurie and The Rev. Jane E.
Vennard
Jerald R. Wagenman and Rev. Joan Van Becelaere
Edgar M.+ and Eunice L. Wahlberg & '24
Brunson C. Wallace & '41+
The Rev. Marilyn Klinger+ & '88 and Philip (P.K.) K. Ware
Dan & '07 and Elizabeth (Beth) Ann Whittemore
The Rev. Fletcher (Fletch) & '66+ and Shirley Wideman
Dr. Dana W.Δ+ and Linda Wilbanks
Suzanne (Suzy) Iliff◇ and J. L. (Cap)+ Witzler
Dr. Ransom (Bud) & '81 and Mrs. Justine Woods
Lynda N. and Bill Wright
Mr. J. Robert (Bob) Young◇

SYMBOL KEY

- * STAFF AND FACULTY
- ** BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- ∞ HONORARY TRUSTEE
- ◇ FORMER TRUSTEE
- Δ EMERITUS FACULTY
- § CURRENT STUDENT
- + DECEASED

FINANCIAL REPORT

SECURING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY: THIS REPORT DETAILS THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND DEMONSTRATES OUR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP IN SUPPORT OF OUR PURPOSE.

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

Year	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Iliff Fundraising	\$6.81M	\$3.01M	\$897K	\$996K
United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund	\$625K	\$636K	\$619K	\$543K
Student Designated Grants	\$433K	\$389K	\$301K	\$284K
Total	\$7.88M	\$4.03M	\$1.82M	\$1.82M

GIFT SOURCES

Gift Source	Amount	Percent	Donors
Alumni	\$90,584	9%	198
Friends	\$162,042	16%	243
Foundations	\$567,321	57%	23
Corporations	\$146,985	15%	14
Religious Orgs	\$24,648	2%	2

GIFTS AND GRANTS

Annual fund	\$186,859.45
Annual Scholarships & Programs	\$549,058.52
Endowed Scholarships & Programs	\$258,801.65
Endowed Unrestricted	\$23.92
Ministerial Education Fund	\$503,921.54
Student Designated Grants	\$284,013.82
Events	\$1,041.25

OPERATING REVENUES

Net Tuition and Fees	\$2.08M
Gifts, Grants, Bequests	\$1.03M
Auxiliary and Other	\$252K
Investment Income	\$6.1M

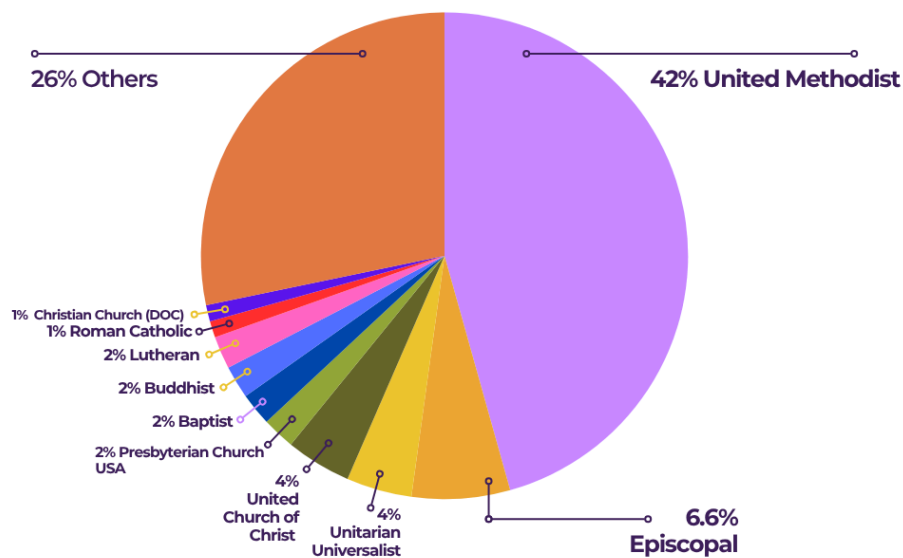
OPERATING COSTS

Instruction, Library, Student Services	\$4.3M
Institutional Support	\$2.6M
Institutional Advancement	\$348K
Auxiliary and Other	\$2K
General Operations	\$923K

STUDENT BODY

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES REFLECT THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF ILIFF'S STUDENT BODY. BEHIND EACH NUMBER IS A NAME, STORY, AND UNIQUE IDENTITY. WE HONOR THE COMPLEXITIES EACH STUDENT BRINGS TO THE ILIFF COMMUNITY.

ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY Student's Denominational Affiliation



MOST RECENT STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Percentage of Journey (Out-of-State) students: More than 60%.

Percentage of male students: 25%

Percentage of non-binary students: 7%

Percentage of female students: 63%

Percentage of transgender students: 2%

Percentage of students who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ Community: around 35%

Average student age: 44

Median student age: 38

Student's racial/ethnic Reported Identities: 69% White, 13% Latinx, 14% multi-racial. 2% Asian, 2% Black/African

PRESEDENT'S INSTALATION

The Rev. Dr. Lee H. Butler Jr. became the 17th President and CEO of the Iliff School of Theology on July 1, 2023. He holds the rank of full professor as the Bishop Henry White Warren and Elizabeth Iliff Warren Professor of Africana Pastoral Theology.



STAFF OF THE YEAR



ERIN LAURVICK

Director of Programs, Vocational Formation Office

"As I approach six years in a staff role at Iliff and the culmination of my year as Staff Person of the Year, I took a moment to reflect back on my time and connection to this institution. Iliff is in my DNA; it is part of my heart and runs through my veins. I am grateful for the knowledge, experience, support, and relationships that this place has provided me since my days as a student in the early '00s. Thank you for the honor of calling me an Iliffian and allowing me to be your Staff Person of the Year this past 365 days."

NEW STAFF

WE APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF EVERY FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBER—ILIFF EXISTS BECAUSE OF YOU. WE ESPECIALLY RECOGNIZE THE NEW FACULTY AND STAFF WHO JOINED IN 2023–24



LAURA PARIS Registrar

"My first year at Iliff, I felt that I'd found a wonderful group of colleagues – people who care about the spirit, the mind, and higher education. It's neat how this has brought us all together. My first Gathering Days was a whirlwind of activity and joyful energy in which I got to put more faces with names. I got to see students, faculty, and staff reconnecting and forming new connections. Now having been to a few more Gathering Days, it's this experience that I enjoy most about the Iliff community, witnessing and feeling the excitement of connection and reconnection."



WESLEY MONCRIEF Information Desk & Administrative Support Receptionist

My first year at Iliff has been incredibly welcoming. Fostering deeper connections with staff, faculty and students within my new role has been a delightful change of pace and perspective that reminds me in fresh and new ways the ways in which Iliff has such brilliant and vibrant potential to create lasting change within the world. I have gotten the unique opportunity to greet and connect with people from all over Iliff's sphere of influence and I'm reminded daily of the shared belief in creating a more just world, even if those groups do not recognize their belonging in that larger framework.



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