



Peace. Service. Justice.

A seminary of and for the community.

Summer 2020 – A Year in Review

Dear Alumni/ae, Friends, and Community Partners of CRCDS:

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School embarks upon its 202nd fiscal year ever mindful that we have “come this far by faith.” The previous twelve months presented us with unusual circumstances in which to live our School’s core values – community, compassion, collaboration, flexibility, respect.

We said farewell to some members of our community and welcomed others. We give thanks for the contributions of Mrs. Barbara Hessdoerfer, Ms. Marge Meade, and Mr. W. Thomas McDade-Clay. We acknowledge Dr. David Yoon-Jung Kim’s contributions to students, the faculty, and the broader community as the Arthur J. Gosnell Associate Professor of Social Ethics. We celebrate the gifts and graces of The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Sauvé for her service to her alma mater as Vice President of Academic Life and Dean of the Faculty. We thank Mr. Peter Abdella, Rev. Dr. Amy Fowler, Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, and Rev. Dr. Leonard Thompson for their service to the Board of Trustees. Joining us last year were Rev. Paula B. Blue, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Special Assistant to the President; Ms. Marisely Marte, Office Manager; Rev. Dr. Carey C. Newman, Trustee; Dr. Courtney Wiley-Harris, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; and Ms. Desirae Zingarelli-Sweet, Reference Librarian.



We adapted to unforeseen circumstances and celebrated accomplishments. A fall emphasis on strengthening the School’s infrastructure, with specific attention to technological enhancements and obtaining approval to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) program to conduct distance education made it possible, in response to COVID-19, to transition in mid-March from on campus - to remote -instruction. Each instructor, student, and administrator is to be commended for their flexibility and continued active engagement in learning. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students and their families! Because of your generosity, we awarded 11 Student Emergency Fund grants last quarter. Your investment makes it possible for us to continue to provide financial assistance to students in a serious time of need.

We acknowledge Mrs. Polly Bush’s promotion to Director of Admissions, Dr. Mark Brummitt’s appointment as Assistant Dean of Students, Dr. Jin Young Choi’s promotion to full professor and appointment as the Baptist Missionary Training School Professorial Chair in Biblical Studies, Mrs. Patricia Keenahan’s promotion to Controller and Vice President of Administration, and Mr. Max Kurzdorfer’s promotion to Registrar and Financial Aid Associate. A highlight, in the midst of social distancing, was this year’s Baccalaureate. Organized by students, in collaboration with Dr. Brummitt, more than 90 persons attended this virtual celebratory worship. As a surprise to our 25 graduates, it was a joy to watch their expressions as Rev. Dr. Michael Ford, Chair of the Board of Trustees, conferred degrees and Dean Sauvé read each name.



2020 Virtual Baccalaureate
May 15, 2020

As we begin the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, we welcome Dr. Deborah J. Rogers, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Hilary Scarsella, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Director of Women and Gender Studies in Church and Society; Mr. Mike Schwabl and Ms. Kristin F. Zimar to the Board of Trustees; and, note the following changes in title: Rev. Paula B. Blue, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness; and Mrs. Patricia Keenahan, Vice President of Finance and Administration.

It is a joy to serve this community of learners that forms students in theological and multi-religious studies to serve, care, and advocate for all peoples and the earth. I begin my second year as President with deep appreciation for each of you. In the midst of uncertainty, our 2020-2021 theme is “This Far by Faith.” While none of us can predict what this year will bring, here at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School we are, in the words of the hymn writer, “leaning on the Lord and trusting in God’s holy Word” and simultaneously implementing a four-year strategic plan, A Time of New Beginnings, approved by the Board in May.

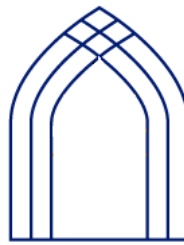
On July 1st, we revealed our new mission and vision statements and brand. Our new logo honors the school’s rich heritage and symbolizes what CRCDS stands for and what we provide to our students, faculty, key stakeholders, and community. When you look at our logo, it is my prayer that you will see in CRCDS’ brand glimpses of yesterday that point us each towards hope-filled possibilities. As we remain faithful to CRCDS’ distinctive Christian identity, I ask that you continue to pray with and for us and remain an active participant in the life of the School as we strive to become a seminary of and for the community committed to practices of peace, service, and justice.

Blessings,

Rev. Angela D. Sims, Ph.D.
President, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School



The CRCDS Brand



The three converging lines represent the legacies and unification of Colgate Theological Seminary, Rochester Theological Seminary, Crozer Theological Seminary, and the Baptist Training Missionary School creating a window that frames the principles of peace, service and justice.

Our Mission

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School forms students in theological and multi-religious studies to serve, care, and advocate for all peoples and the earth.

Our Vision

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School will be faithful to its distinctive Christian identity as the institution becomes a seminary *of* and *for* the community, committed to practices of peace, service and justice.



The converging olive branches emerging from a book represent peace and understanding through theological and multi-religious studies.



The dove pointing upward toward light symbolizes a curious and openminded optimistic spirit.

The blue waves evoke water, a universal representation of the sacredness of life and spiritual truths.

Upcoming CRCDS Events

Please check our website and email blasts regularly for schedule updates and links to follow us virtually for these events.

August 17, 2020✝ 2020 Convocation and Commencement
Preaching: Bishop Yvette Flunder, Founder and Senior Pastor; City of Refuge United Church of Christ; Oakland, CA
Time: 4:15 pm EDT



Bishop Yvette Flunder

September 28, 2020✝ Presidential Panel, “When and Where We Enter” featuring Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman, Dr. Melva Sampson and Dr. Emilie Townes. Moderated by Dr. Marla Frederick. *Time:* TBD

September 29, 2020✝ Inauguration Worship service led by Dr. AnneMarie Mingo
Time: 11:15 am EDT
Inauguration of Rev. Angela D. Sims, Ph.D.
Time: 4:00 pm EDT

October 5-8, 2020*✝ Fall Lectures

October 6, 2020*✝ CRCDS Alumni/ae Reunion

#CRCDSCares Conversations

July 28, 2020✝ Public Responses to Government Sanctioned Violence

August 25, 2020✝ Leadership in Response to Crisis

September 22, 2020✝ CRCDS Alumni/ae

October 27, 2020✝ Faith and Politics: Whose Lives Matter?

December 8, 2020 Faculty Spotlight

* Please watch your mail for a postcard detailing Fall Lectures and Alumni/ae Reunion Itinerary and Speakers.

✝ **Fall events will be held virtually and made available on Facebook Live at www.facebook/crcds/.**

ENGAGING ROCHESTER

During the 2019-2020 academic year, CRCDS invited four organizations to gather for our “Engaging Rochester” monthly initiatives. Organization members who attended were able to attend a reception, tour the facility and chat with President Dr. Angela Sims to hear and learn about the CRCDS mission and vision.

Many thanks to the members of:

- Roc Acts
- Divine 9 – Black Greek Organizations
- The Village Gate Business Community
- Faith In Action (Greater Rochester Community Churches)

CRCDS plans to relaunch Engaging Rochester (as soon as it becomes safe to gather) by inviting, celebrating and thanking Rochester area First Responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you know of a group that may be interested in learning about CRCDS and think they would like to be part of an upcoming Engaging Rochester, please call Lisa Bors, Director of Development, at (585) 340-9647 or lbors@crcds.edu.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Graduate Certificate Studies



Beverly Murrell-Frasier



Michelle Allen



Sue E. Ouellette*

Master of Arts



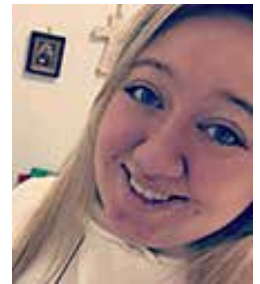
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Thank you for supporting CRCDS so generously during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We are grateful for the expression of your support and partnership with us. Your contributions help us to live out the CRCDS mission and vision and strengthen our community.

~CRCDS

If you use a financial institution to mail your contributions to CRCDS, please ensure that they have our correct mailing address to avoid a delay in processing acknowledgments.

320 N. Goodman Street | Suite 207 | Rochester, NY 14607

Who says Retirement can't be celebrated during a Pandemic?!

On June 16th, the CRCDS President, faculty and staff honored the work of Dr. Stephanie Sauvé with a surprise caravan and socially distanced parade of appreciation and affection on the occasion of her retirement from CRCDS.



The CRCDS President, faculty and staff bid farewell to Dr. Sauvé.

CRCDS — a seminary of and for the community

#GivingTuesday – Gratitude is our Attitude

Our Giving Tuesday 2019 Drive encouraged members of the CRCDS community to post selfies and make a statement about why they are grateful for their CRCDS experience, encouraging others to make a donation. The posts resulted in over \$6k for the CRCDS Giving Tuesday Drive. THANK YOU!!



Christmas Giving – GiGi's Playhouse Rochester

During the month of December, we asked the local CRCDS community to provide needed supplies for Gigi's Playhouse Rochester. We had an overwhelming response, and we are grateful to all who donated items from the list that GiGi's provided.

GiGi's Playhouse Rochester empowers those with Down syndrome and their families to reach their highest potential.



Valentines Day Blessing of Relationships

This event has become a community tradition for CRCDS.



Greetings from the Vice President of Academic Affairs

Greetings Alumni/ae, Friends, and Community Partners of CRCDS!

As another academic year begins, I am grateful to join the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School community. The current moment is filled with myriad challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities. I sense that our invitation in this moment is to be attentive to the work that God is doing within us and the ways that God is inviting us to be transformed. Simultaneously, there is a responsibility to be faithful to the work that God has entrusted to us that leads to the manifestation of God's love, goodness and justice in the world. What a gracious invitation and opportunity!

In this season, I draw strength, comfort and enthusiasm from one of my favorite passages of scripture, Ephesians 2:10 [We are God's poetry, God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do]. May our eyes, our hands and our hearts be open to see and to embrace the good works that God is inviting us to do in this season.

I look forward to connecting and collaborating with you in the year ahead toward our mutual transformation and our continued work for peace and justice in the world.

Dr. Deborah J. Rogers
Vice President for Academic Affairs



Celebrating members of the CRCDS family

Dr. Jin Young Choi Named the BMTS Professorial Chair

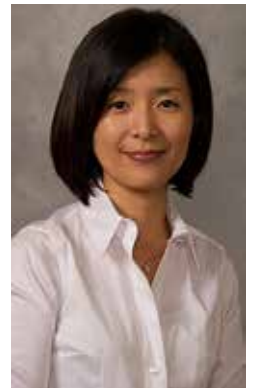
We are pleased to announce effective July 1, Dr Jin Young Choi was promoted to Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins and Baptist Missionary Training School Professorial Chair in Biblical Studies. With this appointment, Dr. Choi is the first person of Asian descent to be promoted to full professor at CRCDS, making this a truly historic moment in the CRCDS community.

About the BMTS Professorial Chair

The BMTS Professorship was established in 1996, the first fully-endowed chair at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

The chair honors the rich legacy brought to the divinity school by the Baptist Missionary Training School, which opened in 1881 to prepare young women for Christian mission work, whether home or foreign. In 1961, the BMTS moved to Rochester to dedicate its resources to prepare women for pastoral ministry. The chair, therefore, also honors the foresight of the women who led BMTS and the unfailing faithfulness of their support of the divinity school. The first person to hold the chair was Professor Werner Lemke, who retired.

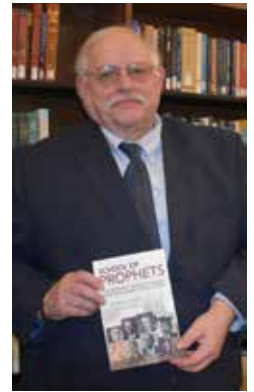
Dr. Choi shared this, "I am immensely honored to be appointed as the Baptist Missionary Training School Professorial Chair. BMTS's legacy of forming women leaders across ecclesial, cultural, and geographical boundaries has been a critical part of CRCDS's identity. I'm deeply grateful for this affirmation that strengthens my sense of vocation and commitment as a dedicated biblical scholar and theological educator even more."



Celebrating members of the CRCDS family

[School of Prophets: A Bicentennial History of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School](#)

The long-anticipated book, *School of Prophets: A Bicentennial History of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School*, written by CRCDS faculty member Dr. John Tyson has been released. The book is a commemorative of the 200th anniversary of CRCDS. We congratulate Dr. Tyson on this accomplishment.



About the Book

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School's beginnings – with thirteen men and thirteen dollars – this significant work unfolds the organizational history of a great theological seminary, as well as the dramatic story of the notable women and men who contributed to the school's rich legacy. Hence, while this is a bicentennial history of an institution, it is fundamentally the history of the people who have epitomized, shaped, and advanced its expanding heritage. Thus, the narrative includes chapters about institutional growth and development, as well as chapters that serve as cameo biographies of key people who exemplified the spirit of that same period: William Newton Clark, Walter Rauschenbusch, Howard Thurman, Joanna P. Moore, and Martin Luther King, Jr. In the final analysis, founding president Augustus Strong was correct to call this a story of “bricks, brains, and books,” but in the larger sense it is an account of the galvanizing prophetic Christian vision evolved from its American Baptist roots to the ecumenical enterprise known as Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Source: [Amazon.com](#)

Welcome Dr. Hilary Scarcella

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS) is happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Hilary Scarsella to the position of Assistant Professor of Ethics and Director of Women and Gender Studies in Church and Society.

Prior to joining CRCDS July 1, Dr Scarsella was Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Memphis Theological Seminary. She is a fellow with the Louisville Institute. Dr Scarsella earned her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and focuses her research, writing, and teaching around the intersection of Christian ethics with women, race, gender, and sexuality studies. In close connection with her academic work, she is the Director of Theological Integrity for a national nonprofit that supports survivors of sexual violence in diverse Christian contexts and strategizes for systemic transformation.



ALUMNI/AE REFERRALS ARE VALUABLE GIFTS TO CRCDS!

Alumni/ae may think of their contributions to the school solely in terms of financial giving. However, alumni/ae referrals provide some of our best leads for identifying promising women and men who have the determination and ability to carry on the CRCDS legacy of visionary leadership.

Please consider investing in the future of CRCDS by participating in our Prospective Student Referral Program. An online referral form is available on the CRCDS website under “Alumni/ae.” Simply provide the names and contact information of the prospective students you would like to refer to CRCDS and we will personally follow up with each individual. Be assured that any information you provide CRCDS will be kept confidential and personal data will not be shared or sold.

We appreciate your assistance in encouraging future leaders to enroll at CRCDS!

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