President’s Award 2012 —

Lois F. Crampton and Maurita Stueck

Maurita Stueck and Lois (Rusty) Crampton of Saint Louis, Missouri, were the recipients of the 2012 President’s Award at the spring banquet. Both are active members of Webster Hills United Methodist Church and long-time supporters of Saint Paul.

Maurita Stueck, joined the Saint Paul family first in 1992. From the beginning Maurita’s goal was to give the seminary visibility in her local church. Her family began Pathways, a memorial lecture series, at Webster Hills. The inaugural lecture was given by Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., former president of Saint Paul. Over the years Maurita hosted numerous gatherings in her home for people to learn more about Saint Paul. She has been a Saint Paul Council member, a capital campaign supporter, a member of the John Wesley Society, and member of the Board of Trustees. President McCoy thanked Maurita for her “twenty years – and counting – of loyal support for Saint Paul.”

In 1998 Lois F. Crampton, aka Rusty, became connected with the seminary during one of the events in Maurita’s home. Since then Rusty has been faithful member of the Council as well as supporting various capital campaigns. She also held events in her home to introduce friends to Saint Paul and has welcomed seminary officers who travel to Saint Louis into her home. President McCoy said, “The hospitality Rusty and her daughter Lynn have given to us has sustained us in ways we can never repay.”

President McCoy thanked Maurita and Rusty on behalf of the seminary, saying, “I thank you for your steadfast support, for all you have done and continue to do for us.”
The world’s oldest known living tree, a conifer that first took root at the end of the last Ice Age, has been discovered in Sweden, researchers say.

The visible portion of the 13-foot-tall “Christmas tree” isn’t ancient, but its root system has been growing for 9,550 years, according to a team led by Leif Kullman, professor at Umeå University’s department of ecology and environmental science in Sweden.

Discovered in 2004, the lone Norway spruce—of the species traditionally used to decorate European homes during Christmas—represents the planet’s longest-lived identified plant.

The spruce’s stems or trunks have a lifespan of around 600 years, “but as soon as a stem dies, a new one emerges from the same root stock,” Kullman explained. “So the tree has a very long life expectancy.”

James Owen in Stockholm, Sweden for National Geographic News  
April 14, 2008

Much like this Norway spruce, Saint Paul, with its 53 years of root life, has changed its top several times. We have not always been at this location, the curriculum has changed multiple times, board members, faculty, staff, and administrators have also changed. Over the years Saint Paul has lived through some lean ice age times, when its growth and life seemed to be most threatened. However, a good root system enabled us to survive as we adapted to our climate. Here we are, thrust into yet another climate change. We have some major adapting to do, so our tree can survive and thrive.

Roughly five years ago we made a decision to take part of our root system and transplant it in Oklahoma. The top of the tree at first glance looks most similar to what we have here in Kansas City, but with still deeper reflection one can see some unique differences, as we allowed the root life to adapt to its surroundings. We’ve learned some powerful things from allowing that root system to adapt to its mission field. In Oklahoma, Saint Paul, located on the campus of Oklahoma City University, is known by Oklahoman United Methodists as “Our Seminary.”

How rapid and swift the last few months and days have been as we have focused ourselves on creating a more distinct Saint Paul while embodying the DNA that has carried us well over the last 53 years. As I write, we find ourselves moving at blockbuster speed very much countercultural to the natural slower rhythms of the church and educational institutions which oftentimes take extended periods of time to make decisions. The challenges of our existing economic circumstances and the incredible need for vitality in the church have pushed us to the brink of an extraordinary future if we will claim it.

Saint Paul School of Theology is most blessed to count you as a friend and supporter. Persons like you have helped us navigate changes that have been a part of our journey since its inception. Thank you for your generous support this last fiscal year and thank you in advance for your continued support as we navigate through changes that challenge us as we adapt so that future generations will be able to see our tree tops!

President

Myron F. McCoy  
President
It’s a typical Sunday. An 80-year-old man is called to “carry the burdens” of the people. A hymn breaks out in one native tongue. Then another person shares a spiritual story through music in a different language. MDiv student and licensed local pastor Jami Moss gets up to share a sermon. Her message of the day will be heard by a congregation made up of eight different Native American tribes. “There may be differences culturally and linguistically but we still come together; we are unified through the body of Christ.”

Moss serves two churches—the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church in Kansas and the Kansas City Native American Fellowship in Missouri. “First and foremost, I love God and I love God’s people,” said Jami Moss.

Moss began her seminary studies at Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University, studying there for two years. She is finishing her last two years of study on the Kansas City campus and will graduate in May. “The real-time video conferencing was very innovative thinking,” said Moss. Though each campus has its unique qualities she was welcomed with open arms at each. “I remember one student running up and giving me a great big hug when she saw me in Kansas City. She felt like she already knew me even though I was a fellow student that she interacted with on a screen.”

Moss believes strongly in the relationships that are forming between Saint Paul at OCU and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. “I’m especially grateful for the Plains Native American Immersion as I feel it will help to alleviate racial and cultural tensions when Saint Paul student pastors take what they learn back to their congregations. There are so many tribes represented in Oklahoma. I appreciate the ministerial alliance as it’s supportive and we were invited to be a part of it,” explained Moss.

During a spiritual direction class led by Dr. Sondra Matthaei (MRE’69), Moss had an eye opening experience. “The assessment showed me that I am an auditory thinker. I also think in a global way where everything is circular and connected.” She is constantly trying to see where the next new bit of information fits to connect the story. “I spent a lot of time with my Great-Grandma growing up. She taught me using stories.”

Moss feels grateful to be a member of the Oklahoma Indiana Missionary Conference where she will be ordained as an elder after she graduates. In addition to serving local churches, the Conference asked her to be a representative for district and conference level activities. She is a district superintendent for the northeast region, on the PPRC for the region, serves on campus ministries at the conference level, leads meetings of local pastors each month, and attends her seminary classes. “Sometimes I’m tired but my congregations are flexible and understanding.”

Moss does not plan to stop her educational aspirations with the completion of her Master of Divinity degree this fall. “I want to further my education in a PhD field. I think that we can serve God in the local church and in an educational environment. Transformation takes place during learning.” Moss recently attended the Native American Mentorship Program in Oklahoma City with seminary faculty and native professors from other universities. “My vision for furthering my education was renewed and strengthened,” she said.
The Lord is my STRENGTH and my song.

Isaiah 40:31a
Jacob Lynn is no stranger to the road. He commutes five hours each way weekly to attend seminary at Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University. “Although I have a lot of windshield time it’s a compromise that I made so that my family wouldn't have to move,” said Lynn. He was raised United Methodist and preferred going to a United Methodist seminary. “Saint Paul at OCU was the most commuter friendly option for me as a nontraditional student. I’m only gone 1-2 nights a week.”

Lynn works as the associate pastor at Piney Grove United Methodist Church, the second largest UM church in Hot Springs, Arkansas. “The people of the church have been so supportive and encouraging. They have seen me grow up through the years and develop in my call to ministry. It’s a great place to take my ‘training wheels’ off. They feel that I am one of their own.

I’ve helped through the years in children’s ministry, Christian education, and with the youth groups. I then began exploring ministry as a lay speaker. I now know that preaching is where I will be and should be; it’s affirming.”

Lynn also felt the warmth of the relationships at the OKC Campus. “I completely feel the relationship of community in Oklahoma and have never felt like an outsider or the ‘Arkansas guy.’” When the students from Oklahoma City take classes in Kansas City they continue that community spirit. “We go out to eat in the evening together. We have been very intentional about building community and maintaining it. It’s been very special.”

For Jacob Lynn, some of his biggest “aha” moments have been biblical affirmations of faith. “I feel that one of the essential elements of faith is our relationships with one another. I’ve been learning how to maintain and develop community and relationships both in my church and outside its walls.”

Lynn took Native American World Religions and also participated in the Native American Plains Immersion. “The two really helped me understand a new culture and tied in well together,” he said. Jacob believes that Saint Paul emphasizes context and community building in all of their classes. “We learn what it is to be the church in many settings.”
GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18a
Reverend Lee Schott (MDiv ’07) shares her story about serving in prison ministry with Women at the Well United Methodist Church in the Iowa Correctional Institution in Mitchellville, IA.

I was appointed as pastor of Women at the Well in July 2011. When I was first approached about this possible appointment, I was not excited about it. I did not see myself in prison ministry. But God worked on me, and over time I began to see that God was calling me to this ministry. I came into this ministry with a sense of following where God was leading, but I did not know that I would love this work until after I started. The night I first stood up to lead worship inside the prison, I knew how right this was.

In accepting this appointment, I was intrigued by the realization that the Bible would read differently from inside the prison. We spent ten weeks last fall with the story of Moses. Coming through the Red Sea seems like an incredibly important moment, but when they get to the far side, where are they? In the wilderness for an inordinately long time. That has so many parallels to women getting out of prison, but then finding themselves in a wasteland of parole, limited choices, old relationship problems, burdensome financial obligations, and more. Staying the course through all of that is a challenge to anyone’s faith.

I am experiencing on a daily basis the emphasis on contextual ministry that is a hallmark of Saint Paul School of Theology’s teaching. I don’t preach inside the walls what I preach outside. The context is inherently different. The women in prison need something different. I have felt called and empowered to speak directly to their circumstances, to name things that are unique to their setting, to lift up the challenges I hear about day in and day out. My work at Saint Paul prepared me well for that.

We go to prison expecting, I think, to see scary monsters, but what we find instead are sisters, neighbors, people who in other circumstances would be our friends. Coming into their midst with the understanding that women in prison are victims before they are perpetrators gives me a heart of compassion rather than judgment. It is a powerful thing to offer love and grace—words like “sister,” “daughter,” “beloved,” “precious child of God.”

Find Women at the Well UMC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Women-at-the-Well-UMC/137281882985818.
I was sick and you visited Me; I was in PRISON and you came to Me.

Matthew 25: 36 b-c
Students on the Pueblo Native American Immersion led by Dr. Sondra Matthaei (MRE ’69) in January.

Islamic scholar, Dr. Riffat Hassan presented the Slater–Willson lecture on Women in Islam: Fundamental Theological Assumptions in October. She also conducted an informative breakfast workshop on Revisiting the Basics of Islam.

Olly the Trolley was incorporated into New Student Orientation. Students got to explore the northeast neighborhood and downtown Kansas City with stops at multiple ministries along the way.

Several Saint Paul graduates participated in “Come Celebrate,” an event sponsored by the Kansas East Conference Commission on Diversity and Advocacy held in Lawrence, KS, in August.

First Row: Kimi Yokoyama (MDiv ’06), Lorenza Andrade Smith (MDiv ’09), Hyun Jung Choi (MDiv ’11), Brenda Davids (MDiv ’11)
Second Row: Gina Gile (MDiv ’08), Angela DeFisher (MDiv ’07), Hyun-Jin Cho (MDiv ’11), Delores Williamson (MDiv ’07)

2012 Saint Paul faculty gather in front of Kresge Chapel after Opening Convocation on the Kansas City Campus on September 4th.
Fifteen Course of Study students finished their five years of study and graduated this summer.

Laity in the Oklahoma Conference attend a Seminary Lite session led by Dr. Elaine Robinson. During the 2nd Commencement of Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU, twelve people were awarded certificates for finishing the Seminary Lite program.

Dr. Mike Graves with one of the two Laity School of Theology groups he took on a "Bible and the Arts" tour of the Kansas City Nelson-Atkins Museum in October.

2012 Graduates of Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University First Row: Marla Lobo, Devon Krause, Tiffany Nagel Second Row: Alan Nagel, Kathy Brown, Paul Fancel

Students and professor mentors gather for the Native American Mentorship Program in front of Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel at OCU in August. The program helps Native American students pursue doctoral degrees.

Each summer denominational courses for Korean-speaking United Methodist pastors are held on the Kansas City campus. Shown with Dr. Young-Ho Chun, Professor of Systematic Theology (front middle) are the students taking UM Doctrine in August 2012.
Growing in Ministry

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“The seminary is a dream that is shared by many... that’s been the essence of this school from the very beginning — a dream.”

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Growing in Ministry

“Ministry is always changing and moving, and that’s what we are called to do. I’m continuing to look forward and find hope in what’s next for us.”

Shandra Yost,
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Missional evangelism is no longer just a catch phrase, but a way of life for thriving congregations. Learning and practicing what it means to be missional is at the heart of how I teach evangelism at Saint Paul School of Theology.

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“Since graduating in 2005, I have had many opportunities to be grateful for my Saint Paul education. The reason I am most grateful is that my education has helped me develop a theological lens through which I view all areas of my ministry. From worship to pastoral care, evangelism, stewardship, and missions, I am able to frame the details of my vocation within the larger framework of the Kingdom of God.”

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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<td>Seminary Fund</td>
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<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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*The seminary’s fiscal year is July 1–June 30. Gifts listed in the 2011–2012 Annual Report were made between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.*
Upcoming Events

January 8, 2013
Commonweal Campus
Speakers Program
Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson
Kansas City Campus

January 17-18, 2013
LEAD Retreat
Oklahoma City Campus

March 5, 2013
Stover Ward Lecture
Dr. John Wigger
Kansas City Campus

March 19, 2013
Evangelical Society Lecture
Carmelo Alvarez
Kansas City Campus

April 11-12, 2013
LEAD Retreat
Oklahoma City Campus

April 25, 2013
Cleaver Lecture on Justice
Michelle Alexander, JD
Kansas City Campus

May 17, 2013
52nd Commencement
Kansas City Campus

August 23, 2013
3rd Commencement
Oklahoma City Campus

Course of Study Expands Influence

The Saint Paul Course of Study program began classes the fall of 2011 on the Saint Paul Oklahoma City campus. This is an exciting expansion for the school and has brought the Course of Study option closer to many who are needed to lead our United Methodist Churches.

In the summer of 2012 the two campuses began providing simultaneous, live broadcasts of classes with students and faculty in both settings. In this format full-time local pastors can also receive the instruction required of them for licensing.

The partnership with Saint Paul at OCU, along with the weekend school for part-time local pastors in Springfield, Missouri, allows the Saint Paul Course of Study program to expand its area of influence and be more effective in serving the church through the development of leaders.

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