Our imaginations are stirring in meaningful ways at Iliff as we have moved past the rapid change that has often asked, “What have we accomplished?” Instead, we are embracing a new set of questions that point us more purposefully toward our responsibility in the world…

“What change has impacted us and how do we account for it?”

“What change have we created as an institution that is our contribution to the future of theological education?”

“What new capacities have we developed that cause us to claim the spirit of our institution in new ways?”

“Theological education is being called to stand in its full stature and seek new relationships through which it will continue to address the deep questions and overwhelming brokenness that reside in the world. In the midst of the rapid change touching each of us, Iliff is walking closer to it, inquiring of it, and learning from it. Change, as our teacher, has stirred our spirit for growth and strengthened our capacity to imagine new ways to prepare students and be a resource in newly created partnerships. Our goal is nothing less than setting a new course for theological education.

Enjoy this Year in Review. You are part of Iliff’s growth and strength. I invite you to continue to be with us in stirring our imaginations in meaningful ways at Iliff. We have moved past the traditional question "What have we accomplished?" instead, we are embracing a new set of questions that point us more purposefully toward our responsibility in the world…

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“Improvement of our 126-year-old facilities with new classroom spaces, updated heating and cooling systems, an inviting new driveway entrance with green-conscious landscaping, and additional parking spaces.

“A budget based on a seven-year equilibrium projection.

Iliff is still in the early days of making unprecedented change in providing meaningful contemporary and courageous leadership to transform existing communities. Iliff continues on a positive trajectory in emerging as a leading theological school in the nation.

As we enter the next phase, Iliff seeks to remain authentic to what we bring to our community. In the past year, many people contributed to our progress and helped Iliff to achieve significant milestones:

- Successful accreditation reviews by both the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Higher Learning Commission.
- Improvement of our 126-year-old facilities with new classroom spaces, updated heating and cooling systems, an inviting new driveway entrance with green-conscious landscaping, and additional parking spaces.
- A budget based on a seven-year equilibrium projection.

“Our goal is nothing less than setting a new course for theological education.”

– Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe

P R I D E P O I N T S

+ A 126 year old legacy

+ Student in 44 States

+ About 30% of the incoming class self-identified as LGBTQ

S H A P I N G T H E F U T U R E

+ Recruitment of new leadership talent, including hiring the first female Korean American Academic Dean among ATS schools.
+ Successful accreditation reviews by both the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Higher Learning Commission.
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CUT OUT ON THE COVER

The cut out silhouette speaks to the FUTURE of Iliff. It represents a prospective student, a faculty or staff member, alumni, donor, or community partner. We will leave it to your IMAGINATION.
In the Spring of 2018, Iliff began a “lab” initiative to foster a culture of experimentation, exploration, and innovation throughout the institution. The guiding impulses for the labs are to reimagine theological education in a rapidly changing world, to further strengthen the quality of the Iliff experience, and to embolden Iliff’s impact in the public sphere.

The first of these labs has been focused on the increasingly relevant area of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Building upon the expertise of select Iliff board members, faculty, and staff, the AI Lab is creating spaces for conversations between theorists and practitioners of AI at Iliff and those developing AI in government and industry. The goal of these spaces will be to promote, inform, and support the development and implementation of AI, taking seriously the emerging ethical landscape brought about by our increasing relationships with machines. The Iliff AI Lab leverages three years of active AI development in the Experimental Humanities Group at Iliff and intensive discussion of AI among faculty and board members.

Continuing the progressive legacy of Iliff, the AI Lab is primarily focused on four main questions:

1) How can the rich tradition of theological anthropology speak usefully into current conversations about AI?
2) How can the new frontiers of AI help us creatively imagine new possibilities for what it means to be human in the world?
3) How do our approaches to ethics need to change given the unsustainable dichotomy between human and machine?
4) What capacities are needed to equip scholars and AI practitioners to collaboratively and ongoingly address the emerging questions raised by the development and use of AI?

“The new AI Lab at Iliff is a great example of Iliff’s progressive DNA…. Iliff’s new initiative promises to create a forum where the ethical and spiritual dimensions of AI are explored more deeply in a deliberate and purposeful way.”

- Silvio Tavares, Board of Trustees
“Trying to make right what has been made so wrong for so long in our world is a daunting task, but one that will persistently call on us for creative thought and action.

Indeed, thinking and living theologically will require boldness and the courage to rethink ourselves fearlessly.

Only then can we productively reimagine the world which we have inherited—creating a new social imaginary fueled by compassion for all our relatives in the world and focused on the goal of social justice, harmony, and balance.”

– Dr. Tink Tinker

As a professor, mentor, and activist, Dr. Tink Tinker inspired many generations of Iliff students in his 32 years at the theological institution. He is never shy to express his opinions, thoughts, and insights on social justice and civil rights issues, especially those impacting Native Americans. To many who had the privilege to work with him, his intellectual contributions and community activism make him a living legend.

At the career celebration of Dr. Tink Tinker’s (wazhazhe, Osage Nation) tenure and achievements (on April 12, 2018), Shattuck Hall was standing room only, filled with family members, long-time friends, former students, and the Iliff community. The celebration also marked the launch of the Tinker Program Endowment Fund that ensures that Dr. Tinker’s educational legacy carries forward, in perpetuity.

Read more online and listen to a prayer by Dr. Tinker at www.iliff.edu/report2018

Watch a slideshow of the celebration at www.iliff.edu/photo-albums
expressing  our  gratitude –
interpreting  the  dead  sea  scrolls

In an intimate corner of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, John Wesley Iliff Society donors were treated to a special presentation on the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition (May 22, 2018). The more than 70 donors who attended the presentation heard from faculty panelists Pamela Eisenbaum, Alison Schofield, Amy Erickson, Mark George, and Eric Smith who provided entertaining and thoughtful insights about the ways the Dead Sea Scrolls informs readings of the Bible in the modern world.

Armed with the interpretations and perspectives from the Iliff faculty, the donors were treated to the once-in-a-lifetime experience to see these oldest-known biblical documents and the hundreds of ancient artifacts. Denver is the last stop for the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition following its premiere at Discovery Times Square in New York City in 2011.

Learn more about ways to support Iliff - www.iliff.edu/give/
See a slideshow of the event - www.iliff.edu/photo-albums

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“THANKS TO OUR DONORS’ deep commitment to Iliff and enthusiasm for our future, 2017–2018 was a breakout year for our fundraising.”

– David Worley, Ph.D.
Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Enrollment
What was your experience as a student at Iliff?

My experience at Iliff has been a colorful one. I love color because color gives you a multitude of interesting, different, challenging, wonderful, and authentic experiences. It also values the colorful emotions, perspectives, and exposures that come from students, faculty, and staff and the everyday learning that happens.

The beautiful thing about Iliff is Iliff stands with you and walks with you as you encounter and engage the differences you aren’t familiar with or have ignored for so long. Iliff gives you those colorful tools to help you process and find courage to recognize and acknowledge your authentic self and the authenticity of others.

How has your education (and engagement with faculty) been at Iliff?

My education at Iliff was overwhelming because I did not have a background in theology or religion. It was a very pleasant education. I have learned so much about social justice and what it means to have my own theology and not be dependent on another person’s theology. I can learn from others’ theology and gain understanding but I have a right to my own theology and I will honor that.

What are your future plans?

I am currently an Associate Pastor at Hope UMC and will be overseeing the youth and discipleship. I am excited about caring for the souls of people, meeting them where they are at, and working with them to find their authentic identity and help them accept and appreciate that. This will allow them to tap into their gifts and talents and share that with the world. I am attentive to the Spirit so wherever God sends me I will go, my plans are in the Lord’s hands! Commit to the Lord whatever you do and God will show you the way (Proverbs 16:3).

As I cross the threshold from Iliff student to Iliff alumnus, I feel excited about the career and service ahead of me. I recently learned that, in Latin, alumnus literally means “nourished one.” And as I close my career as a student of Divinity at Iliff, I find that term to be perfect. My relationship with the Iliff faculty has involved so much deconstruction, critical analysis, and accountability – but above all, it has been a relationship of nourishment. Even the most challenging moments in this journey have nourished me toward seeing perspectives more marginalized than my own, that I may, in turn, more deftly nourish those people who will be in my spiritual care from all social locations. From here, I plan to continue working in chaplaincy at the University of Louisville Hospital while I apply for residencies there and elsewhere, as well as continuing to write about spirituality and justice. As I launch forward, I will rely on the strengths that my professors and colleagues have helped me identify in myself to nourish both the individuals and worlds I encounter for the rest of my life.
It has been a busy year for many of our faculty members. Here are some of their accomplishments, for the current year and previous years:

**Co-organized a VOA sponsored day at Iliff National Center for Science Education, War on Reality, November 2017**

- Rubén Arjona, Assistant Professor of Religion/Religious Studies
- William H. Hays
- Karen Frances Hansen ’93

**Commentary on the book of Jonah for new journal, Worship in Multicultural Contexts, Spring 2018**

- Dr. Jeffrey H. Weiss
- Susan (Sue) M. and James G. J. Siemens
- The Rev. Dr. Robert E. ’55 ’56 and Phyllis Mitchell
- The Rev. Dr. William ’53 ’55 and Edythe M. Cascini
- Dr. William ’53 ’55 and Edythe M. Cascini
- Dr. Delwin D. Seckman
- The Rev. Eugene ’76
- Mr. J. Robert (Bob) Young
- Dr. Anne Franklin
- Mr. C. Orville+ ’34 and Mrs. Marjorie+ Strohl
- The Rev. Dr. Walter+ J. ’53 ’61
- The Rev. Dr. T. William (Bill) ’46
- The Rev. Dr. John C. ’46 ’59
- Dr. Esther Elaine Fleenor
- Dr. Richard Rossiter ’84
- Dr. J. Alton R. (Toby) Wilkins
- The Rev. Dr. Catherine (Cathie) L. Kelsey

For more information on the accomplishments of other faculty members, please refer to our faculty updates section.
Launched at our 2018 Renewal Conference, ReSource is Iliff’s innovative new approach to skills development and lifelong learning for those serving in leadership today.

Spring 2018 Workshops:
- Spiritual and Practical Aspects of Fundraising
- MedAwareness
- Essentials of Financial Management

Fall 2018 Workshops:
- Authentic Engagement (values-based leadership)
- Demographics Intensive with Dr. Tom Bandy

Online ReSource Content (free):
- Skills for Interviewees: Funneling Conversations
- Social Media in Fundraising
- Challenges of Bivocational Ministry
- Innovative ministry approaches
- Online mini-resources & podcasts

...with a lot more to come!

ReSource Academy 2018
A two-track, on-campus conference
- Track A: Organizing Communities with Dr. Curtis Brown
- Track B, Day 1: Endowments with Kristi Kinnison
- Track B, Day 2: Grant Funding with Megan Conklin & Kelsey Cochrane

ReSource Workshops Throughout the Year
ReSource Academy October 3-4, 2018
ReSource Online Available 24/7

ReSource On The Road Launching 2019
Going on the Road in 2019
We will start offering face-to-face ReSource workshops in other locations beginning in 2019. If you have ideas about where we need to visit, or you want to partner with us to help make a workshop happen, let us know!

For more information, visit resource.iliff.edu

RENEWAL 2018
Iliff’s Renewal Conference continued to grow, setting yet another record for attendance! Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the school enjoyed times of fellowship, learning, and reflecting on the challenges facing our communities and our world. Our chapel services included sermons from Rev. Dr. Rubén Arjona, Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee (who was installed as our new Dean of the Faculty), and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, our Jameson Jones preacher for the year. Rev. Tawanna Davis & Rev. Dr. Dawn Riley Duval provided deep insights about embodied love in the face of racism. Rev. Dr. Carrie Doebler facilitated a fishbowl conversation on moral injury, and our plenary speaker, Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, further explored issues of moral injury and soul repair.

Panel discussions and workshops included scholarly work on comics (with Dr. Elizabeth Coody - MA 2009, PhD 2015), community partnerships (with Rev. Trudy Robinson - MDiv 1998, Rev. Mitchell Boone - MDiv 2012, and Fr. Teri Harren - MDiv 2009), the restorative potential of storytelling (Rachel Pater – MA 2013), and wholeness (Rev. Kerry Greenhill – MDiv 2005). Current students Mary Raynard, Georgia Metz, and Lila Bauman shared talks on their work and interests, and a faculty panel (Dr. Ted Vial, Dr. Miguel De La Torre, Dr. Mark George, Dr. Jenny Whitcher, and Dr. Amy Erickson, facilitated by Caran Ware Joseph) provided thoughts about ways for leaders to effectively lead in today’s climate. Among all of the high points of the conference, Dr. Tink Tinker’s plenary talk Red Skin, Tanned Hide and his public conversation with Iliff’s President, Rev. Dr. Tom Wolfe, stood out as particularly meaningful for participants.

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Eliza Iliff is an incredible seminary but it's also so much more than that. It’s a heart-centered community driven by a deep desire to partner with God in making all things new.

Iliff provides a much needed environment where students, faculty and staff from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and orientations can have open and open dialogue about spirituality, ethics, and social justice. Iliff students leave with sharpened yet impassioned hearts, ready to bring change and social justice.

We welcome your feedback. Email: feedback@iliff.edu