New Library Welcomes Scholars, Pastors, and the Community

On May 13, 2013, the much anticipated new library at Princeton Theological Seminary opened its doors, and students, faculty, and visitors are enjoying the openness of study and social spaces in the new building.

The largest open public space, the South Gallery on the second floor has desks and soft seating options, and three small group meeting rooms. It affords a spectacular view across Mercer Street to the Seminary’s main campus, as well as window seating, perfect for reading and reflection.

The Korean Mission Room, dedicated to the longstanding relationship between the Seminary and Christians in Korea, is also available for study and reading. It features a portion of the Moffett Collection on Christianity in Korea. Samuel A. Moffett was one of the pioneer Christian missionaries to Korea. His son and daughter-in-law, Samuel H. and Eileen Moffett, spent most of their lives ministering in Korea before Sam came to PTS to teach missions and ecumenics.

The Reference Reading Room on the lower level, below an overlooking balcony, expansive windows, and refurbished light fixtures from Speer Library, is a popular study space. The light-filled Iain R. Torrance Atrium will be used for a variety of events, including lectures, receptions, concerts, and art exhibitions. On the first floor, the café is already a popular informal gathering spot for the PTS community, with windows looking out on Mercer Street, vending machines (including a self-service coffee machine), and café-style seating (including benches crafted from the trees lost during construction). The concourse on this floor offers ample soft and table seating, and new display cases for library exhibits.

The new building provides collaborative spaces to gather and share ideas and research, including small group meeting rooms and two multipurpose rooms. The Theron Assembly Room, named for Daniel J. Theron, a former Seminary professor and generous library donor, can be reserved for meetings, continuing education events, and public lectures.

Technology supporting research, teaching, and learning is evident throughout the building. Wall-mounted digital signage features library and campus events and interactive library maps. iPads provide access to the library’s catalog, and the Princeton Theological Seminary mobile app (http://www.ptsem.edu/library/about/computers/#mobile) allows quick browsing of library resources on the go. Four seminar rooms, one on each floor at the west end of the atrium, feature document scanners, Smart Boards, audio and video (A/V) recording systems, and other tools. The Media Lab, equipped with a variety of PC and Mac workstations, regular and color printing, scanning, specialized software, and A/V equipment available for checkout to PTS students and faculty, is temporarily located on the second floor.

Other offices temporarily located in the new building include Special Collections (home to the Seminary’s archives and rare book holdings) and Digital Initiatives (the team behind the Theological Commons and the library’s other rich digital collections).

In an eco-friendly tribute to the past, some materials have been repurposed from Speer for use in the new library. In addition to the benches in the café and “disk style” lighting fixtures now in the Reference Reading Room, a number of tables throughout the new building have marble insets, recycled wall tiles from Speer Library.

“In addition to having access to all the great books, it’s a delight to study in such a beautiful space!”
— Amy Whisenand
M.Div. senior

The sculpture featured in the Library’s atrium is titled “Unending Love.” It is created from stainless steel, aluminum, neon, and oils and was designed and made by New York-based Korean artist Hyong Nam Ahn. Its presence was made possible through the generosity of Seminary Trustee Jinsoo Kim and Mrs. Kim.

“The new library at Princeton Theological Seminary provides an ideal setting for an aspiring scholar to participate in theological conversations, ancient and modern, through its extensive collections and in the comforts of its ample meeting spaces.”
— Phil Forness
Ph.D. student
Welcome to **Library Place**!

Library Place, the newsletter of the Princeton Theological Seminary Library, debuts with this issue. Its purpose is to provide a point of contact between the library and those who turn to it for service and support.

**Library Place** will feature articles about library collections and services, users, events, exhibits, projects, digital initiatives, and outreach. We’ll showcase the people and programs that advance the mission and value of the library, whether staff or users. We’ll explore trends and technologies relevant to education, ministry, and scholarship. Our goal is to connect the library with your experience as one of its users. And we’d love to hear your comments!

Princeton Seminary marked its bicentennial year and entry into its third century with this new library. Through refreshed physical as well as virtual presence, we aim to renew Andrew Carnegie’s image of a library as “a never failing spring” nourishing life and thought. As one of the nation’s premier theological centers, we want to continue to play a constructive role in education and scholarship, intervening in the causes of ignorance, increasing access to knowledge, investing in collections, building relationships, cultivating the use of innovative technologies, and pursuing collaborative solutions.

Library Place will be available in print as well as online at http://www.ptsem.edu/libraryplace/.

Donald M. Vorp
James Lenox Librarian

**DISCOVER RECENT GIFTS TO THE ARCHIVES**

- a box of Civil War letters, along with the folding travel desk on which they were written and other memorabilia, including an autograph book with photos of John Pomeroy’s classmates from the Class of 1861, given by his descendent George R. Pomeroy (PTS Class of 1963).
- eighteenth-century sermon manuscripts of James Grier (1750–1791), who had a religious conversion under the preaching of George Whitefield, studied theology with John Witherspoon at Princeton, and was pastor of the Deep Run Presbyterian Church in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, donated by Jane Minton, granddaughter of William Harris Templeton (PTS Class of 1850). Minton also donated manuscripts of James’s younger brother, Nathaniel Grier (1760–1814), pastor of the Church in the Forks of the Brandywine in Chester County, who, in the days before Princeton Seminary, trained many young men for the ministry. There is also an interesting set of mid-nineteenth-century sermons written in phonetic shorthand dating to the time William Harris Templeton served as a missionary among the Native Americans of the Muscogee Creek Nation in Oklahoma.
- materials about the Presbyterian mission on Hainan Island in the South China Sea, donated by Marie Melrose, daughter of Paul Cunningham Melrose (PTS Class of 1915). The collection includes a transcript of the memoirs of Margaret Rae Melrose, Paul Melrose’s mother, who served at the Hainan Mission from 1890 until 1940, and a collection of photographs from the history of the mission.
- an excerpt from a letter home of John Jay Pomeroy (PTS Class of 1861), who volunteered as a chaplain with a Pennsylvania regiment of the Union Army during the American Civil War.

*In the morning I followed my regiment into the battlefield. In crossing the road a shell came very near striking me on the head. Not seeing either of the surgeons in the field I went amidst the fire of the enemies artillery to inquire of the Colonel the locality of the hospital. When talking to the Colonel a shell came right near the head of the Colonel making for us both a narrow escape. The skirmishers were in front of our regiment which was about 100 yards in advance of the 1st line of battle in which the 3rd (regiment) was. In passing the second line of battle I made another escape from a shell. Proceeding a few steps further my attention was attracted by the cry, ‘Where is the doctor.’ I think he was hurt by the shell that came near hitting me. He was not wounded seriously. His little finger was severely cut & the gravel was driven into his face, so deep that he bled profusely. I helped him across the fields to the hospital. The tramp was not unaccompanied with dangers. The shells were ploughing up the ground about us. I got my patient safely to our division hospital, but there being others who were in worse condition than my man, I washed his wounds & tied them up till he could be attended to.*

Battle Field near Fredericksburg
Sabbath 1 P.M. Dec. 14th 1862

To read more of Chaplain Pomeroy’s letter, go to http://www.ptsem.edu/libraryplace

- materials from the files of former PTS president Thomas W. Gillespie, donated by his daughter, Dayle Gillespie Rounds. Dr. Gillespie was the fifth president of Princeton Theological Seminary. His papers include material about the Program for Asian American Theology and Ministry,
Luce Foundation Awards $1.5M Grant for Expansion of Theological Commons

The Seminary recently received a very generous award of $1.5 million from the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant, one of the foundation’s 75th Anniversary Grants, will allow for the expansion of the Theological Commons as a digital, multimedia library of theological resources freely available to the world.

Princeton Seminary has taken a leading role in the creation of digital resources for shared knowledge and learning by creating the Theological Commons in 2012, a free public digital library of more than 78,000 books on theology and religion. The project has been designed from the ground up with students, pastors, and theologians in mind.

The Luce grant will allow the Seminary library to radically expand the content of the Theological Commons in two major ways: by digitizing and incorporating audio and visual materials (photographs, audio, video, and three-dimensional material objects), allowing resources in advanced digital media to become a key part of the study of theology; and through the digitization and incorporation of theological and religious material of use to or housed in theological institutions and communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

http://commons.ptsem.edu

Reigner at the Crossroads of Academia and Praxis

Princeton Seminary’s best-kept secret may be its Reigner Collection. The Charles G. Reigner Education Reading Room, as it was known when it was on the Tennent campus, was named for Baltimore publisher and philanthropist Charles G. Reigner.

Under the direction of the late Professor D. Campbell Wyckoff and Professor Emerita Freda Gardner, the Reading Room served the needs of the School of Christian Education and today serves the entire Seminary community.

Late PTS professor Donald Butler organized the library of about 5,000 volumes from the old Tennent College of Christian Education into the beginnings of a specialized Christian Education library when that college was relocated from Philadelphia to the Seminary campus in 1943. This Christian Education library was originally located in Roberts Hall on the Tennent campus. With the first of Charles G. Reigner’s gifts in 1947, the library was officially named The Charles G. Reigner Reading Room, moved to a large space in Tennent Hall, and in 2004 to the former Speer Library. It is presently located on the second floor of the new library.

The mission of Reigner is to acquire a wide range of materials related to the understanding and practice of the educational ministry of the church and to promote their use at the Seminary and in local churches. As such, Reigner is integral to the Education and Formation area of the Practical Theology Department as it prepares men and women for the educational ministries of the church.

Reigner reaches out to the Seminary community as well as to neighboring churches. For both the experienced and the novice church educator, the Reigner Collection is an invaluable resource for support and provides an introduction to the newest materials available.

It is particularly valuable for those doing work in Christian education or youth ministry; it includes current resources for children’s, youth, and adult ministries, and materials for all age groups from birth to senior adults. Bible studies, worship aids, multicultural resources, mission helps, audio and visual aids, pictures, picture books, puppets—you name it, we have it! Vacation Bible curricula of all major denominations and publishers are available for browsing. CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, slide sets, posters, and games may be borrowed.

Special curriculum events, teaching and learning seminars, and workshops are planned periodically for the Seminary community and the community at large.

Information about Reigner’s holdings is available through the Seminary library’s online catalog. The Christian education librarian, Sarita Ravinder, can assist in locating and recommending resources. Email sarita.ravinder@ptsem.edu or call 609.497.7915.

papers of Abigail Rian Evans, PTS professor of practical theology emerita, focusing on bioethics and health ministries, covering topics such as the church and mental illness, addiction, holistic health, organ transplants, reproductive choice, euthanasia, AIDS, death and dying, working with persons with disabilities, parish nursing, and older adult ministry. There are also records of the National Capital Presbytery Health Ministries (which she founded), sermons and liturgies (including liturgies for services of healing), course outlines and bibliographies, and a collection of materials on women in pastoral ministry.

materials gathered in preparation for the writing of a Spanish-language biography of former PTS president John A. Mackay, donated by John H. Sinclair (PTS Class of 1947), a long-time Presbyterian missionary to Latin America and former secretary for Latin America of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations.

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MEET OUR STAFF

MAGGIE HASEGAWA is a digital library application developer who helps to design, develop, and test web applications for the library’s digital resources. She comes to us from Princeton University, where she was collection services supervisor and web developer for the Mendel Music Library. She also volunteered at Princeton Public Library and interned in our Special Collections area. Maggie has a B.A. in religion from Rutgers University and an M.L.S. from Clarion University. In her free time she enjoys reading, listening to music, yoga, and exploring nearby flea markets.

KAITLYN DUGAN is curator of the Seminary’s Barth Collection, maintaining and developing the collection and managing the Center for Barth Studies. She has a B.A. in philosophy and political science from Taylor University, an M.A. in theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She hopes to pursue doctoral studies in theology. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, listening to music, and watching “too many shows for her own good.” She has a fish named Luther and hopes to someday take a road trip to Montana.

NATHAN MADDOX is assistant to the curator of the Barth Collection. He provides resources and research guidance to students, faculty, and visiting scholars; edits book reviews; and launches social networking initiatives for the center. He has an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a B.A. in religious studies from Samford University. He hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in theological studies. When he’s not in the stacks, Nathan enjoys hiking, watching emotionally draining movies, and indulging his southern Georgia palate with hot gravy ‘n’ biscuits and sweet tea.

WHAT WE’RE READING

Discover the reading habits of PTS faculty and staff.

DR. KATHARINE DOOB SAKENFELD
William Albright Eisenberger Professor Emerita of Old Testament

- Loves to read mid-to-late evening, if only a few pages.
- Uses her Kindle to reread the novels she read in college.
- Gets recommendations from faculty colleagues’ syllabi and the monthly thematic displays of the Mercer County Library System.
- Recently read The White Tiger, by Aravind Adiga; Things Fall Apart, No Longer at Ease, and Arrow of God, by Chinua Achebe; South from the Limpopo: Travels through South Africa, by Dervla Murphy; and The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series, by Alexander McCall Smith.
- Appreciates the way depiction of life in these novels helps her to reflect on biblical ceremonies and practices.

LIBRARY GATHERINGS

Here’s a sampling of events previously hosted in the new library. For upcoming events, visit the library’s News and Events page: http://www.ptsem.edu/library/about/news/.

OCTOBER

1–31
Theological Libraries Month celebrations, including weekly book drawings, bookmarks, posters

14
Theological Libraries Month Lecture: Dr. Karlfried Froehlich, “Adventures in the Seminary Library”
Speaker: Dr. Karlfried Froehlich, Benjamin B. Warfield Professor of Ecclesiastical History Emeritus
A personal talk from one of our esteemed emeriti professors about some of the interesting materials he has worked with in the PTS library over the years.

21–24
Alumni/ae Week Library Tours and Exhibits

NOVEMBER

8
Film Viewing: Vertigo with theological interpretation by Dr. C. Clifton Black, Otto A. Piper Professor of Biblical Theology
In 2012, Sight and Sound’s international poll of movie critics voted Hitchcock’s Vertigo as the #1 film of all time, supplanting Citizen Kane at the top. A theme underlying this movie is what St Augustine referred to as “disordered love.”

DECEMBER

11
Holiday Quartet Concert: That Holy Night: Christmas Stories in Song
A library holiday concert featuring a selection of traditional, religious, and secular Christmas music for the enjoyment of the Seminary and wider Princeton communities.