



The Story of

MARS HILL
GRADUATE SCHOOL

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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· Introduction ·

TO ATTEMPT TO ENCAPSULATE Mars Hill Graduate School in a pithy, concise “report” (of all things) borders either on brilliance or insanity. For anyone who has been marked by the work and mission of this school, the concept of an Annual Report may seem desperately needed while simultaneously desperately foolish.

As such, the document you hold in your hands seeks to bridge the gap of that tension – knowing that not all questions will be answered, not all items will be reported, and not all topics will be ubiquitously relevant. However, the purpose of this Annual Report is to help the MHGS community find its place today by both reading the story of our past while at the same time putting words to our dreams of the future.

The driving force of the biblical narrative provides for us a structure – one that involves the notions of story, tragedy, and playfulness. It seems far more fitting to the ethos of MHGS to consider “the story of” rather than “the report of,” though the two are not light-years apart, and some may even consider the delineation a splitting of semantic hairs. Yet, to be most faithful to our essence, it has been our desire to lay out this document with four “stories.”

- The Story of Who We Are
- The Story of What We Do
- The Story of Our Impact
- The Story of Our Future

text.soul.culture. These are at the heart of our community. May your interaction with these pages remind you of the depth and breadth of what it means to experience God in transformational relationships. And may you find yourself among the pages of the MHGS story.



· *Presidential Letter* ·

ALL PEOPLE DREAM, but not equally. Those who dream by night, in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous, for they may act their dreams with open eyes to make it possible.

Jesus' consistent teaching was about such dangerous dreamers. As he walked the streets he would say, "Look, look over there – do you see it?" There it is – the kingdom of God. It's where a rich and powerful man who has been gripped by the kingdom welcomes home the son who has shamed him. Jesus says – do you see it? Dangerous dreamers of the day are anchored in the kingdom. They see it.



At MHGS, the dangerous dream is an invitation to a holy journey of building new communities, restoring hope, and transforming lives. An invitation to move beyond thoughtless individualism and to know, as Wendell Berry says, that our lives are a calling, a true vocation and we shall not opt out.

From the beginning, MHGS has believed that learning is deeply incarnational, that faith is embodied, and that education involves many things, including theology, psychology, story, faith, gospel, spirituality, and an authentic search in one's life.

2009 will be remembered as the year in which Dan Allender passed the baton of leadership to me. On May 2nd, I became the second President of Mars Hill Graduate School. I remember the moment well. At about 1:02, I received a photo from the airport in which Dan was pointing to his watch. The note said, "Tag, you're it." And while "smooth transition" remains a truly odd combination of words, our institution seems to have weathered the leadership transitions with grace, curiosity, hope, and an enduring fidelity to our mission and collective dangerous dreams. For this, I remain grateful to the Spirit and each of you; this can only be accomplished through patience, a willingness to seek understanding and trust amidst so much unknown, and a resolve to continue moving toward accomplishing the Kingdom work set before us.

Together, I believe we can see dangerous dreams move the Kingdom of God into the intersections of the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith R. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keith Anderson
President, Mars Hill Graduate School

All people dream, **BUT NOT EQUALLY.**

*Those who dream by night,
in the dusty recesses of their minds,
wake in the day to find that it was vanity.*

But the *dreamers* of the *day*
ARE DANGEROUS,

for they may act their dreams
with open eyes to make it possible.

T. E. Lawrence
The Seven Pillars of Wisdom

CHAPTER I

The Story of

WHO WE ARE

MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL
THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

· *Our Mission and Vision* ·

MORE THAN GRANTING DEGREES, Mars Hill Graduate School takes an integrative approach to education: academic rigor combined with personal engagement. Our goal is to **prepare** people to be transformational, to **further** their own personal transformation, and to **integrate** that transformation with skill and education so as to make a seismic impact for the kingdom in the world.

THE MISSION OF MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL IS TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO BE COMPETENT IN THE STUDY OF TEXT, SOUL AND CULTURE IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE GOD THROUGH TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS.

MHGS prepares people, who in obedience to Christ serve in pastoral ministries, counseling, the arts, spiritual direction, and other various professions. Graduates will be able to:

- demonstrate a growing ability to form and maintain maturing relationships with God and others,
- articulate a responsible process for approaching and interpreting the biblical text,
- exhibit self-awareness and an ability to care for others in a helping relationship
- express a passionate love for Christ's church and a sound understanding of the church's realities
- demonstrate competency in self-expression through writing, conversation and other means



· *Our History* ·

THE DREAM OF MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL began around a kitchen table, where a gathering of a few like-minded, equally passionate dreamers dared to imagine a new kind of psychological and theological training. As their audacious dreams began to take shape, the challenges, setbacks, and frustrations associated with starting a graduate school threatened to evaporate it even before it began. Despite the odds, Mars Hill Graduate School was initially established under the auspices of Western Seminary in 1997. After a three year incubation period, MHGS launched out as an independent institution, precariously located in an office park in a Seattle suburb. As a school populated by dreamers, artists, theologians, post-moderns, and lovers of the world and people, the MHGS ethos drove the school in 2006 to move into the heart of the city where it now occupies a renovated luggage factory. The old exposed brick, combined with the refinished hardwood and the soaring ceiling beams inspire students and faculty to continue the pursuit of the original dream: to take the concepts of text, soul and culture to their zenith – an engagement of the kingdom of God in the faces of real people.

In the spring of 2009, MHGS founding president Dr. Dan Allender handed over leadership to Dr. Keith Anderson, launching the school out of childhood into the throes of adolescence. As MHGS now enters its 11th year, it is to the audacious dreams that we return – not to relive them, but to see them become more of a reality than ever thought possible.



· *Our text.soul.culture.* ·

THE GOSPEL IS MORE TRUE, more radical, more breath-taking and more full than the world dares to imagine. At Mars Hill Graduate School, it is our desire to reignite the imagination and curiosity of ministers, therapists, and leaders to consider a theology and a psychology that tells a Divine story more grand and more human than the church has yet dared to dream. Essential to this dream is the integration of text, soul, and culture.

Text

At Mars Hill Graduate School, text represents not only a deep commitment to the God-breathed scriptures, but also a quintessential investigation into the interaction between the Word and the world. To read the text means to enter it. To enter the text means to experience it. To experience the text means to engage personally with the words and meaning in ways that are full of hope, risk, and the face of Christ.

Soul

When encountering God becomes more about the mystery of Him than an attempt to answer for Him, real conversations between real people about real faith changes what it means to have coffee with a friend.

At Mars Hill Graduate School, soul represents the essence of God's fingerprint on humanity. It is the place of relationship, connection, and life. The human soul will ever be one of creation's greatest mysteries, and yet both theology and psychology attempt in unison to reach new depths in its exploration. Soul is the text embodied.

Culture

At Mars Hill Graduate School, culture is the representation of a creative God in the life of a community. Culture is the expression and art and exploration of life in greater context. The world is full of culture just as much as a cafe or a family is full. To know and see and journey together is the very essence of culture. And it is the exploration of different cultures beyond ourselves that makes us rich and blessed.

· *Our Position* ·

Doctrinal Statement

MHGS is an evangelical and progressive institution. The faculty consciously submits to the authority of Scripture and the model of a hermeneutical framework that interprets the Bible in light of its grammatical, historical, literary, and theological contexts. Relational hermeneutics is a full-bodied, soul-engaged, heart-transforming encounter that involves the subjective worldview of the interpreter as much as the process of interpretation.

Biblical Statement

We confess that the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the word of God. We give thanks for them as a gift from God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, written down by God's servants. We receive them, in the tradition of the Christian church as entirely true and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct and as the authoritative guide to our identity and vocation, bringing us to the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.



“The incarnation of God in Christ suggests that every opportunity we have to encounter someone else, to encounter creation and the created order is an opportunity for grace to be evidenced and manifest. The way that Christ teaches us to see is to wonder at someone else’s story and at their narrative, and to be able to enter in and imagine on their behalf what Good News might look like.”

Dwight Friesen, Associate Professor of Practical Theology



“The face of God is actually visible in any of the people you meet, but it’s also in the interactions and exchanges. It isn’t just an individual thing, but it really is a social thing. And it’s both the presence of God and the places where you begin to see the absence of God also.”

Jo-Ann Badley, Professor of New Testament

Accreditation

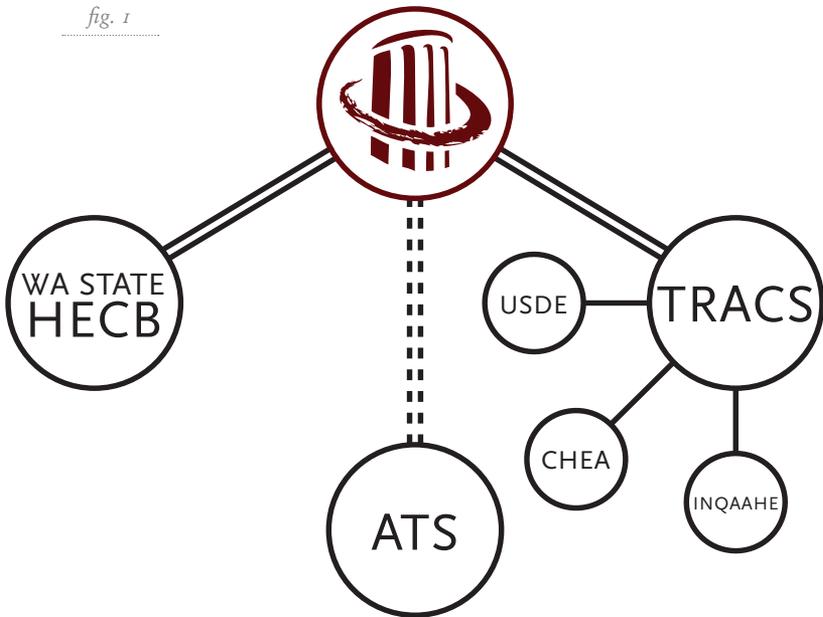
To be “accredited” to teach either about God or about the human soul is both unnerving and risky. And yet, in a world of credentials, academics, and the pursuit of knowledge, MHGS has sought to attain ever higher standards.

Mars Hill Graduate School’s authorization from the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was renewed in October 2009. This authorization certifies that we meet the requirements and minimum educational standards established for degree-granting institutions under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Mars Hill Graduate School’s Accredited Status as a Category III member institution of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) was reaffirmed for a ten-year period in November 2008. TRACS is a member accrediting agency of the United States Department of Education (USDE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

Mars Hill Graduate School is moving toward full candidacy with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Our pre-candidacy application will be sent to ATS by June 2010. The next steps are a two-year self-study process before an official accreditation team visit. Our goal is to achieve full membership in 2012.

fig. 1



· Our Community ·

THOUGH STATISTICS TELL NOTHING about the vibrancy of the MHGS story, they offer a glimpse, a snapshot, a window into the walls of our school. The truth about any community is that it is an amalgamation of overlapping narratives – all with a similar theme, tenor, and hope that binds it together, yet each individual story is vastly different and sometimes imperceptibly linked to the next. As such, to define the MHGS Community with statistics is a paradox some (not all) may find helpful.

fig. 2

DEGREE PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Student Body Breakdown



Full-time, Part-time, Enrichment



Sex



Marital Status



269

Number of Active Students

71%

Students With a GPA of 3.5 or Greater

601

Number of Alumni from MHGS

68

Number of Students in Internships

80

Number of Students Intending to Graduate

2,000

Estimated Number of Conference Attendees

· Student Stories ·

NO STATISTIC CAN EVEN approach the stories of the impact Mars Hill Graduate School has had on its students. Hear but a few reflections from those marked by Mars Hill Graduate School.

“I am remarkably thankful for my time at Mars Hill Graduate School, where movement has returned to my soul from places deeper than I knew existed. In my time at MHGS, the classes, faculty, and fellow students have together been a source of light in my darkness, pointing me toward Jesus, the wellspring of hope, in whom I can find redemption for, and through, my story. It is difficult to even find words to express how meaningful the first year and a half as a student at Mars Hill Graduate School has been.”

Scott Small, Current MDiv student, Class of '10



“I look back on my life two years ago, and it has changed. I believe the gospel more, and I hope I am more like Christ because of the relationships here. There is something in me that has become more courageous and a lot more humble.”

Smruti Desai, MACP, Class of '09



“I could have gone to any number of seminaries. While all those other seminaries could have made me a really great theologian, it's Mars Hill Graduate School that will make me a really great pastor. And it's hard, terribly hard. And it makes you want to cry most of the time. But I think that's the way things are. If you are not able to grieve over your own self, how are you going to be able to grieve with other people?”

Jon, MDiv, Class of '09



· *Our Resources* ·

MHGS Accomplices

ONE MILLION, four hundred fifty three thousand, five hundred and twenty nine. In 2009, 115 individuals, organizations and foundations contributed \$1,453,529 toward the mission and vision of Mars Hill Graduate School. This equals 29.7% of the total revenue, and represents a significant undergirding and belief that the work at MHGS is Kingdom work.

As a result of the overwhelming generosity of the MHGS Accomplices in 2009, we were able to:

- further develop the Master of Divinity program to better prepare pastors and ministers
- provide \$48,500 in academic scholarships to deserving students
- participate in missional efforts to provide trauma counseling after global catastrophes and crises
- fill key faculty and adjunct faculty positions with high-quality individuals
- and much more

M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust has been linking arms with MHGS for the past several years around an innovative project called YIELD – Your Institute for Emerging Leader Development. In 2009, the Trust contributed \$97,500 (matching 1:2) towards programs designed to enhance the MDiv degree program so as to better prepare students for Christian service. With these funds, MHGS has been able to create new courses, develop recruiting efforts, increase faculty, and much more.

81

Core Donors Giving
\$1-\$1,000

21

Key Donors Giving
\$1,000-10,000

13

Major Donors Giving
\$10,000 or more

fig. 3

REVENUE SOURCES IN 2009 FISCAL YEAR



\$4.8 MILLION
TOTAL REVENUE

Tuition
\$2,928,608

Unrestricted Gifts
\$1,453,529

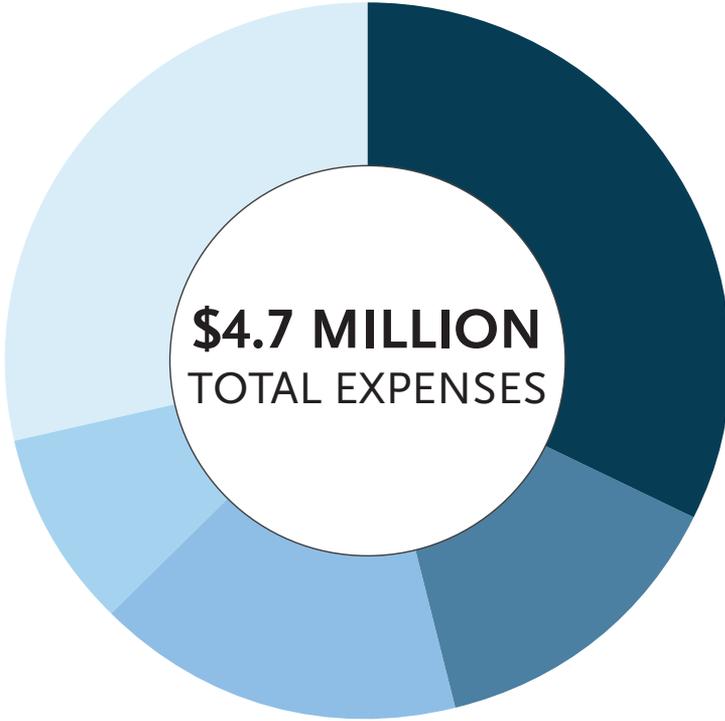
Restricted Gifts
\$109,823

Grants
\$97,500

Conference Revenues
\$249,241

Other Income
\$61,684

EXPENSE AND PROGRAM INVESTMENT IN 2009 FISCAL YEAR



\$4.7 MILLION
TOTAL EXPENSES

Institutional Support

\$1,369,948

Student Services

\$783,850

Academic Support

\$661,258

Instructional Services

\$1,553,200

Public Services (Conferences)

\$428,061

NET ASSETS AT JUNE 30, 2009

Unrestricted Net Assets \$575,380

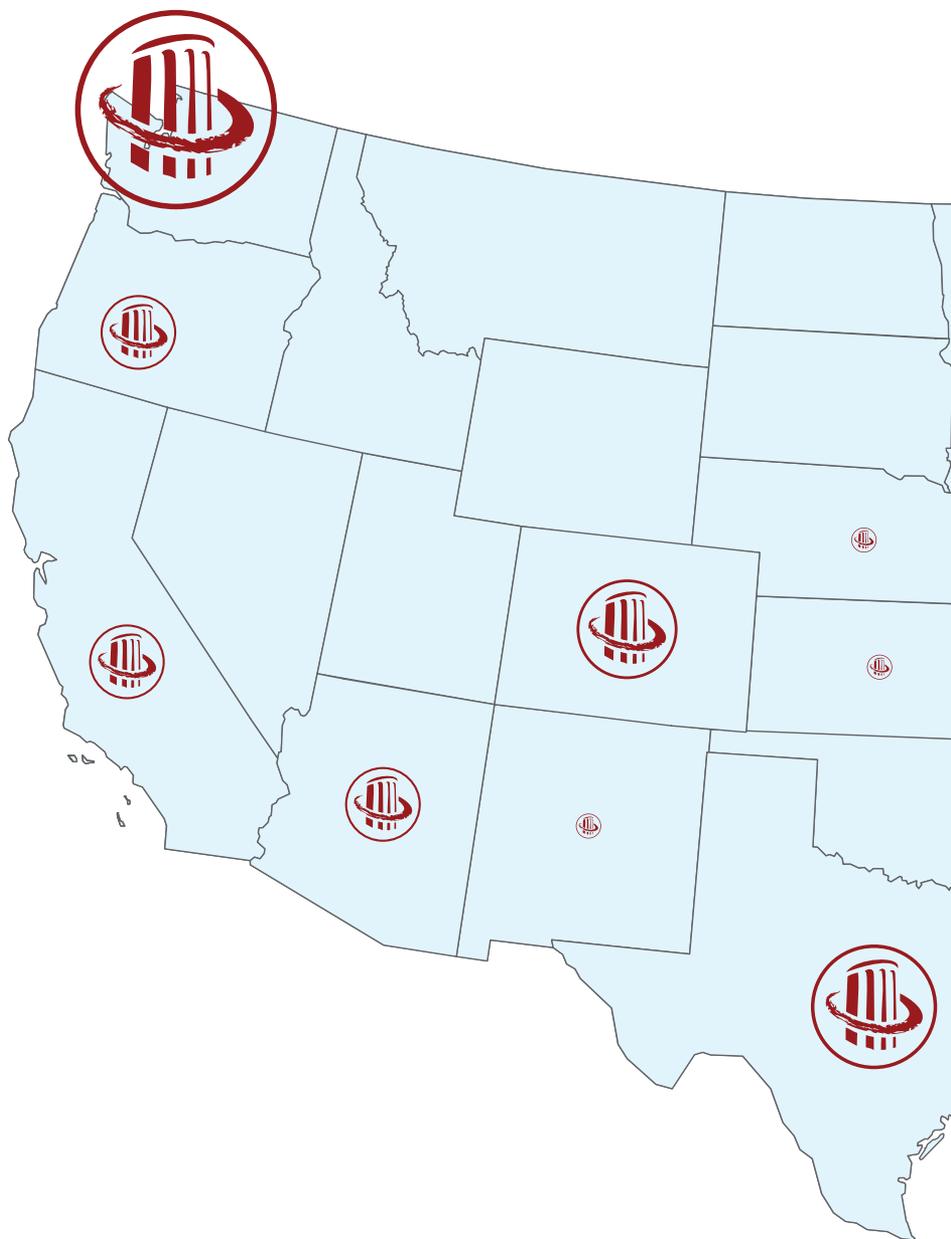
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets \$128,273

Permanently Restricted Net Assets —

Total Net Assets \$703,653

fig. 4

MHGS ACCOMPLICES BY STATE



INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND FOUNDATIONS around the country provide a strong foundation of prayer and finances for Mars Hill Graduate School. Though the school is physically located in the Northwest, scores of people from a variety of locations rally together as “MHGS Accomplices,” committed to “aid and abet” our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The map below indicates both the locations and concentrations of these committed friends.



· *Our Leaders* ·

Faculty and Staff Highlights from 2009

Working at MHGS is more than just a job. Our employees are seeking transformational experiences and are missionally driven both inside and outside their work life.

Our Diverse Community

In response to Culture Tomorrow2010, on November 12, 2009, MHGS held Humanity Through Community: Healing the Racial Divide, an all-day race and ethnicity conference for all faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our spouses/significant others. The conference featured a keynote address from Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil and twelve different sessions – facilitated by local educators and advocates in realms of engaging difference – dealing with themes of awareness, knowledge, skills and abilities, and action/advocacy surrounding issues of race and ethnicity. The workshop sought to acknowledge the voices of MHGS faculty, staff, students, alumni, and spouses/significant others who recognize our need and desire to develop intercultural competence and promote ethnic and racial reconciliation within the MHGS Community and beyond and believe such labor to be essential in living into the global reality of Christ's Kingdom.

A graphic with the words "HUMANITY THROUGH COMMUNITY" in a bold, sans-serif font. "HUMANITY" is in red and "THROUGH COMMUNITY" is in white. The text is set against a blue, wavy background that resembles a stylized horizon or water.

Our Spiritual Community

Jason Best has helped found Church of the Beloved which focuses on sustainability: spiritually, emotionally, and environmentally. Two MHGS staff members are on the board.

Staff and students are invited to share prayer requests each week through email.

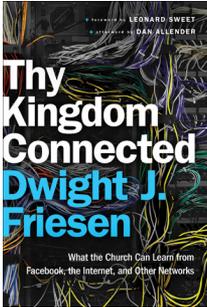


As part of a communal spiritual practice, employees and students are given the opportunity to pray each day with the chimes at nine, noon and three. Every Wednesday at noon, the Master of Divinity students offer the community the opportunity to gather for a short liturgy and receive communion in the chapel.

nine·noon·three

Professional Achievement

Roy Barsness, Jo-Ann Badley, and Doug Hansen presented a papers at IFPE conference, while Stephanie Neill and Doug moderated a panels.



In November Dwight Friesen's book *Thy Kingdom Connected: What the Church Can Learn from Facebook, the Internet, and Other Networks* (Baker, 2009) was published.

August 2009 marked Caprice D. Hollins' first full year owning and operating Cross Cultural Connections, LLC providing culturally relevant professional development and consulting to organizations seeking to improve their ability to work effectively across cultures.

Spearheaded by Ron Carucci and Tom Ryan, forty students in their leadership class were invited to submit their final papers for publication. The papers sought to capture the beauty and tragedy of these students' leadership stories - their experiences of what has been and there hopes for what could be. The papers were combined, edited for publication, and released in a book called, *Leadership Stories from Tomorrow*.

Recruitment has made major strides in process and procedure. Just this fall they have been to 23 conferences and career fairs.

Johanna Dwyer, our Financial Aid Director, continues to lead MHGS into the future through her professional achievement on boards such as NAFSA. In addition, her efforts have lead to our increase in financial aid funds which has benefitted both the students and the workload.

Chris Bruno has developed a "Fellowship" program which allows students to gain experience and training to help in their future careers in not for profit organizations.

Social Justice

Practicum Facilitator Joshua Sandoz is on staff with Interaction International, working to develop an international directory of therapists with cross cultural experience.

The Alumni Association helped develop a partnership with World Vision to allow graduates to attend crisis counseling situations in American Samoa.

National & International Impact

MHGS has developed a “Mission LOA” policy. It is the intention of MHGS to embody its mission by supporting our employees’ efforts and passions in mission work and global engagement. We believe that our employees and students can make a difference in lives around the world and hope that by providing some assistance, we can make it possible for employees to more easily take mission opportunities. To date, MHGS has assisted employees to make trips to aid others in Rwanda, Sierra Leon, Vietnam, and to attend an aid conference for missionaries in Chicago.

Dan and Becky Allender and Jan Meyers offered training to the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution at their annual conference in the Phillipines.

Art & Culture

MHGS continues to support the arts through the “Artist in Residence” program each December. In addition, MHGS regularly provides art exhibits for employees, students and other local artists.

Transitions

Cathy Loerzel directs the Conferences Department and is creating new opportunities for MHGS across the nation.

Kristen Houston took on the role of the Director of Academic Services and Registrar.

Bob Ekblad has joined the MHGS Faculty as an Old Testament Theologian which brings a wonderful sense of diversity to the faculty.

Tom Johnson has agreed to fill the Interim Academic Dean role with Stephanie Neill as Assistant Academic Dean throughout the year complete with a new Dean Search.

(S)ending

The transition from MHGS student to MHGS alumni carries its share of challenges. We hope to journey with our graduating students through these challenges, seeking to offer assistance and guidance where we are able in order to enable them to move to locations throughout the world poised to live into their calling for the life of the world. For the past several years, Mars Hill Graduate School has offered a series of events late in the Spring called “(S)ending” intended to assist those graduating in their transition to life post-graduate school. This year, we have decided – based on feedback we’ve received from our 2010 graduates, past graduates, and our own desires for those graduating from MHGS – to create a more comprehensive process that will seek to address issues such as: personal resume and portfolio building, preparing for job interviews, networking, prayer and

discernment, self-care, and bringing closure to a graduates life as an MHGS student as they begin their life as an MHGS alumni. The events will stretch from January to June – with the graduates first alumni event scheduled for September – and be voluntary with one exception, a mandatory retreat the last weekend of January which will begin the process of (S)ending.

Library

The MHGS library became an Associate Member of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) in 2009. Through this membership they have been able to provide free access to the ATLASerials, a database of over 140 religion and theology journals, to our alumni.

The library also purchased its first set of nearly 400 religious and theological electronic textbooks through their membership in the Christian Librarians Consortium.



· *Our Faculty and Board of Trustees* ·

Core Faculty

- Dan B. Allender, PhD
 - *Professor of Counseling Psychology*
 - *Founding President*
- Jo-Ann Badley, PhD
 - *Professor of Biblical Studies*
- Roy Barsness, PhD
 - *Professor of Counseling Psychology*
- Steve Call, PhD
 - *Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology*
 - *Director of Counseling Internships*
- O'Donnell Day, PhD
 - *Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology*
- Robert Ekblad, Th.D.
 - *Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies*
- Dwight Friesen, D.Min
 - *Associate Professor of Practical Theology*
- Cheryl Goodwin, M.L.S.
 - *Director of Library Services*
 - *Director of Institutional Assessment*
- Caprice Hollins, Psy.D.
 - *Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology*
- Christie Lynk, M.A.
 - *Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology*
- Stephanie Neill, Psy.D.
 - *Assistant Academic Dean*
 - *Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology*
- Michelle Stearns, PhD
 - *Assistant Professor of Theology*

Adjunct Faculty

- Craig Barnes, PhD
 - *Adjunct, Church History*
- Tom Cashman
 - *Adjunct, Spiritual Formation*
- Enika Cocoli, PhD
 - *Adjunct, Counseling Psychology*
- Doug Hansen, MSW
 - *Adjunct, Counseling Psychology*
- Nancy Murphy, D.Min.
 - *Adjunct, Domestic Violence Advocacy*
- Carl Raschke, PhD
 - *Adjunct, Philosophy*
- Randy Rowland, D.Min.
 - *Adjunct, Homiletics*
- Jacqui Smith-Bates, D. Ed.
 - *Adjunct, Counseling Psychology*
- Gina Waggoner, M.A.
 - *Director of Practicum*
 - *Adjunct, Counseling Psychology*

Board of Trustees

The board members of MHGS are actively impassioned by the mission of MHGS and believe deeply in our future. They are each committed people of faith, giving generously and maintaining a healthy “hands on” belief in taking their roles as directors seriously.

Deborah Mott

- *Chair*
- *Adjunct Professor at Institute for Extended Learning, Spokane Community Colleges*

Dan Allender, PhD

- *Ex Officio Director as Founder (non-voting)*
- *Professor at Mars Hill Graduate School*

Ivy Beckwith, PhD

- *Pastor, speaker, and author*
- *Director at Large*

Tim Conder

- *Pastor at Emmaus Way Church*
- *Director at Large*

Derek McNeil, PhD

- *Coordinator of Diversity and Associate Professor at Wheaton College*
- *Director at Large*

Mike Anderson

- *Director at Large*
- *Founder and Managing Partner at Level 7 Partners*

Lisa Kruse

- *Director at Large*
- *Instructor of group therapy class, and student counselor at Dallas Theological Seminary*

H. David Brandt, PhD

- *Director at Large*
- *President Emeritus at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon*



CHAPTER 2

The Story of

WHAT WE DO

MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL
THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

· *Our Programs* ·

Mars Hill Graduate School has been a place to experience what it means to love well.

Paula Womack

Master of Arts in
**COUNSELING
PSYCHOLOGY**

Degree Breakdown

· **201 Students Currently Enrolled**

· **2-3 Years**

· **66 Total Credits:**

43 – Counseling Studies

6 – Theology and Cultural Engagement

8 – Bible and Textual Interpretation

2 – Spiritual Formation Studies

7 – Electives

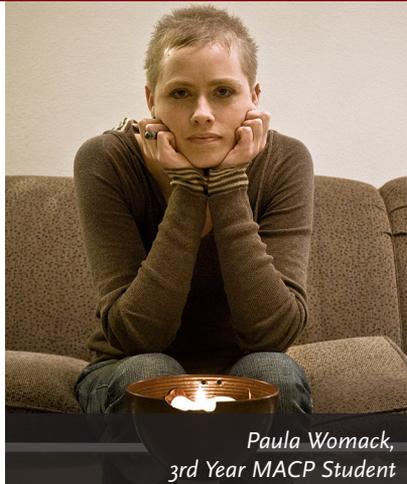
· **Vocation Opportunities:**

MACP students go on to serve vocationally in a variety of settings including Private Practice, Family Services, Counseling Centers, Mental Health Clinics and Residential or Outpatient Treatment.

THE MACP PROGRAM is a personally rigorous program that challenges students to explore their own stories in preparation for practicing the art of psychotherapy. Upon completion graduates are well equipped to face the professional and personal challenges of the counseling profession.

I came into the MHGS counseling program with a self-righteous attitude that surpassed my desire to help those who have experienced trauma and needed healing. My fists were ready for a fight with anyone who would try to silence me. My walls, my defenses, my skepticism, my anger, and my fear were armed and ready.

But throughout my time at MHGS, what I began to see was that the person I was truly fighting against was myself. I was not prepared to encounter what I was asked to encounter: my own brokenness, heartache, and fear. I was afraid of my humanity, my longing for life and relationship, and my need for God.



*Paula Womack,
3rd Year MACP Student*

In these past few years, I have been filled with **grace from mentors** whom I thought would never be able to love me;

patience from professors who bore my anger and hurt, hoping more for me than my defenses could hold;

laughter with students around me at the surprises we have encountered, and love of and for others who are also struggling.

Master in
DIVINITY

Degree Breakdown

· **50 Students Currently Enrolled**

· **3-4 Years**

· **90 Total Credits:**

26 – Theology and Cultural Engagement

24 – Bible and Textual Interpretation

26 – Relational Leadership & Ministry

14 – Electives

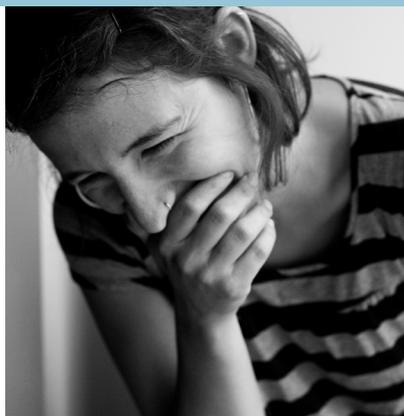
· **Vocation Opportunities:**

Graduates with their MDiv can be found in a variety of roles, including full-time and bi-vocational pastoring, church planting, and community planning and organizing. They can also just as often be found ministering in “third spaces” such as studios, pubs, and cafés.

THE MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL Master of Divinity degree emerges from the belief that theology is alive only as it is lived in community. Through an exploration of the interplay of text, soul, and culture, the degree embodies the tensions and paradoxes of Christian faith as we engage with the world.

Graduate school is not for the faint of heart, Mars Hill Graduate School is no exception to that rule. MHGS has invited me to step out of my comfortable theology and reformed my faith in a beautiful way. As a result, I have found new strengths and come to cherish profound weakness. MHGS has taught me how to put words to what is important to me, and prepared me for ministry in unimaginable ways.

I was recently asked to explain MHGS to my denomination’s Committee on Preparation for Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I took a deep breath and told the whole truth:



Abigail Jimenez
4th Year MDiv Student

I am learning to **listen well,**
speak truth,

and to do so with the humility that comes from
loving the story of my gifts and failure.

MHGS students like myself come to understand how to live out of the Biblical text in a way that responds to the call to work for continual healing in the Body of Christ.

Abigail Jimenez

My experience of the Master of Arts in Christian Studies here at MHGS has been that of naming and pursuing this passion, through wrestling with my own story, interacting with the culture, and engaging the text of Scripture.

Johnny Barbosa

Master of Arts in
**CHRISTIAN
STUDIES**

Degree Breakdown

• **2 Years**

• **48 Total Credits:**

16 – Theology and Cultural Engagement

8 – Bible and Textual Interpretation

8 – Counseling Studies

2 – Relational Leadership & Ministry

2 – Spiritual Formation Studies

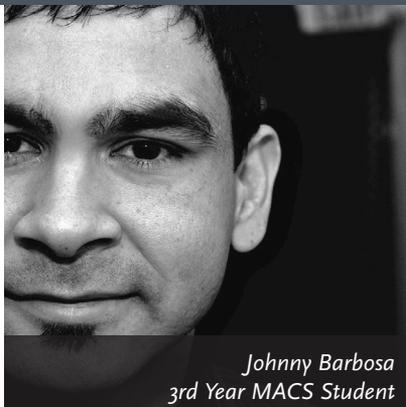
12 – Electives

• **Vocation Opportunities:**

MACS graduates are often called to traditional congregations or non-profit organizations, as well as a myriad of other vocations, using their degree to better apply a thoughtful Christian worldview.

THE MACS DEGREE is a unique experience for those looking to tailor their learning for the transformation of the world. Combining the best of all the MHGS courses, this program allows tomorrow's leaders to think vocationally about the work they hope to do in the unexpected places of God's kingdom. Those with ambitions to be agents of change will find this program to be especially helpful in preparing to be leaders of courage, humility, innovation, and restoration.

I came here with a passion that was strong, but it was undefined. My experience of the Master of Arts in Christian Studies here at Mars Hill Graduate School has been that of naming and pursuing this passion, through wrestling with my own story, interacting with the culture, and engaging the text of Scripture.



Johnny Barbosa
3rd Year MACS Student

That passion has grown through deeper thinking and dialogue with friends, professors, and other staff. I know I will be able to walk out of MHGS and live into this passion well.

NEW AND INTERESTING COURSES IN 2009

Care of the Soul and Call to Sacred Activism

Dr. Ruth Padilla-DeBorst
Fall 2008

Care of the soul focuses on continually cultivating a richly expressive, imaginative, and meaningful life centered around God's presence in everyday life; shaping our lives for the good of our own souls that are inseparable from the world's soul, calling us to work for change in God's world.

Counseling African Americans

Dr. Caprice Hollins
Spring 2009

This course provided students with the opportunity to increase their cultural competence in working with African Americans by gaining an understanding of issues related to counseling African Americans in order for students to develop appropriate multicultural counseling skills.

Moltmann Theology

Co-taught by Dr. Chelle Stearns and Dr. Peter Heltzel, Adj.
Summer 2009

Students read and discuss texts related to the topics of philosophy, theology, and psychology. This second year advanced course allows the student to further develop and integrate theory and praxis.

The Food Course

Co-taught by Dr. Jo-Ann Badley and Dr. Stephanie Neill
Fall 2009

Eating is one of the most profound ways we are related to each other, to the created world, and to God. The Food Course addressed the topic of food as a place of conversation about embodiment of Christian thought and practice. Students examined the role of food for wholeness as human beings in society.

MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL
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**The Kingdom
of God and The
New Sciences**

Dr. Dwight Friesen
Spring 2008

This course in practical theology integrated biblical images of the Kingdom of God and emerging metaphors from the new sciences ,applying them to ecclesial structures and leadership. Students explored practical implications for the metaphors which shape church life and missional leadership.

Sabbath

Dr. Dan Allender
Spring 2008

This class focused on the category of Sabbath from a biblical, theological, historical, and psychological framework in order to invite students to consider the therapeutic and community building benefits of the commandment to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

**Evil, Abuse and
Spiritual Warfare**

Co-taught by Dr. Dan
Allender and Gina
Waggoner, Practicum
Director
Fall 2009

This course addressed egregious intentional psychological and physical harm of another (evil) and the resultant effects on personality, relationships, and encounter with God. The class considered interventions that engage the trauma of evil through spiritual warfare.



· MHGS Conferences ·

Intimate Mystery



February, 2009 in Birmingham, Alabama

491 Participants

April, 2009 in Durham, North Carolina

71 Participants

The intimate mystery workshop was created to offer an event where couples could more deeply interact with the material from the Intimate Mystery conference. Our hope is to offer a transformational experience for couples who need help finding ways to understand how their stories interact with the current dynamics of their marriage.

The Leadership Crucible



March, 2009 in Seattle, Washington

24 Participants

At the Leadership Crucible, participants are immersed in the actual leadership of a simulated world. Upon their arrival, they dive into staff crises, legal issues, financial problems, media complications, and personal challenges. Authors Dr. Dan Allender and Ron Carucci provide a teaching context for the conference, helping people recalibrate their thinking about leadership. The goal of the Leadership Crucible is that life, leadership, and organizations may be transformed.

Story Workshop



August 2009 in Seattle, Washington

45 Participants

A profound event that invites others into the themes of their own life, The Story Workshop offers encouragement and wisdom as participants seek to understand, write, tell, and live their story in deeper and more transformative ways. The Story Workshop is perfect for individuals and couples, those who write and those who don't, and those who want a deeper understanding of their story and God's place in it (especially when God's absence has seemed more real than God's presence).

Recovery Weeks



Summer and Winter, 2009 in Seattle & Chapel Hill, North Carolina
50 Participants

Recovery weeks are intended to offer a week intensive to address the harm of sexual abuse in the lives of adult victims. The week includes teaching, individual sessions, and group sessions. Each week includes 10 participants.

Redeeming Sexuality



October, 2009 in Birmingham, Alabama
112 Participants

The Redeeming Sexuality conference speaks to the intended beauty of our sexuality and evil's continued attempt to harm what God intended for good. This topic is increasingly important as we are filled with mixed messages as to a healthy approach to sexuality. The hope of the conference is to speak honestly and boldly about the place our sexuality has in our relationship to ourselves, our relationship to others, and our relationship with God.

The Wounded Heart



March, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona
120 Participants
November, 2009 in Brandon, Florida
142 Participants

This unique and powerful conference provides hope for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse and those who know or work with them. Arising from his own story of abuse and recovery, Dr. Allender has focused much of his professional therapeutic career on helping others find hope in the midst of such deep tragedy. The Wounded Heart conference addresses many of the painful and often hidden issues resulting from sexual abuse, including such topics as a damaged attitude toward the self, damaged adult relationships, the false hopes of healing, and the personal journey into honesty, courage and repentant trust in God. There is hope for those who have been abused.

· *The Other Journal* ·

IN 2009, THE OTHER JOURNAL at Mars Hill Graduate School, an online journal exploring the intersections of theology and culture, published three online issues, two printed volumes, and hosted the 4th annual Film, Faith, and Justice forum – a lecture series discussing the theology of social justice. The online issues examined – through various mediums – the topics of “Death and Dying”, “Aesthetics”, and “Race.” The 2 books published were *Jesus Girls* – a collection of essays reflection on growing up female and evangelical, and *God is Dead and I Don’t Feel So Good Myself* – a collection of essays, poetry and interviews engaging the “New Atheism” theologically. *Jesus Girls* is 4th highest selling book for the publishing house, Cascade Press at Wipf and Stock Publishing, and highest seller in its specific division.



Film Faith & Justice

The film and lecture series brought 400 local leaders and advocates together to raise money for local charities, view human rights documentaries, and discuss the role of faith and social justice issues.

FILM FAITH & JUSTICE
exploring the theology of social justice

October 15th-17th
Seattle First Presbyterian Church
(on the corner of 8th and Madison)

Host to The Human Rights Watch
Traveling Film Festival

Lecture Series · Discussion Panels · Film Festival

Featuring · James K.A. Smith · Emmanuel Katongole
Rob Morris · Kelly Johnson · Mark Russell

For ticket information and schedule go to filmfaithandjustice.com

International
Film Festival

the other journal

2009 Online Issues

The Other Journal produced written and audio content publish to the online audience. This year, over 100,000 unique visits were made to the site, staying an average of two minutes and 12 seconds. In 2009, The Other Journal has been honored to feature such esteemed individuals as Cornel West, Sister Helen Prejean, Jeffrey Stout, Damien Hirst, Scott Cairns, William T. Cavanaugh, Barry Moser, and many others.



In Death and Dying, The Other Journal explored modern conceptions of Death and Dying, and the afterlife, and through essays, creative writing, and art exhibits explored the theology of death.



Around the question of what is beautiful, The Aesthetics Issue provided theological narrations of the importance of beauty in Christian living and in society.



In an allegedly post-racial America, the presidency of Barak Obama has in many ways highlighted the many conversations that need to be had still around race relations. Furthermore, racial tensions remain present among segregated churches throughout our country. The Race Issue explored the tensions around issues of race and what a robust vision of reconciliation would look like.

CHAPTER 3

The Story of

OUR IMPACT

MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL
THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

· Alumni ·

THE CONSTITUENCY OF Mars Hill Graduate School extends well beyond our students and alumni. The impact of MHGS is measured by the transformed lives of those served by our graduates, whether it is workers who care for women and children rescued from the sex slave trade in Southeast Asia, children and families being served at one of the largest Lutheran churches in Seattle, a group of men pursuing recovery from past abuse, or young couples navigating the possibilities of marriage.

MDiv and MACS Alumni:

- 20% are ordained
- 25% are licensed
- 20% seeking ordination or licensure
- 15% not seeking ordination or licensure

MACP Alumni:

- 51% work with Adults
- 33% with women
- 21% with men
- 20% with children
- 33% with adolescents
- 17% with families
- 5% with homeless

For therapists:

- 14% not licensed
- 26% registered counselor
- 33% pursuing licensure
- 24% fully licensed

Elements of MHGS education with the greatest impact?

- 67% Practicum
- 48% Interactions with Faculty
- 40% Personal life experiences
- 34% Interactions with Students
- 34% Introductions to different perspectives

For all Alumni in all degree programs:

- 27% work with youth
- 27% work in spiritual direction
- 36% work with sexual abuse
- 34% work with men/women issues
- 26% work with addictions
- 8% work with community development
- 7% work with social justice issues

· Internships ·

Our internship program offers 38 sites locally where students can gain experience and credit toward their degree completion.

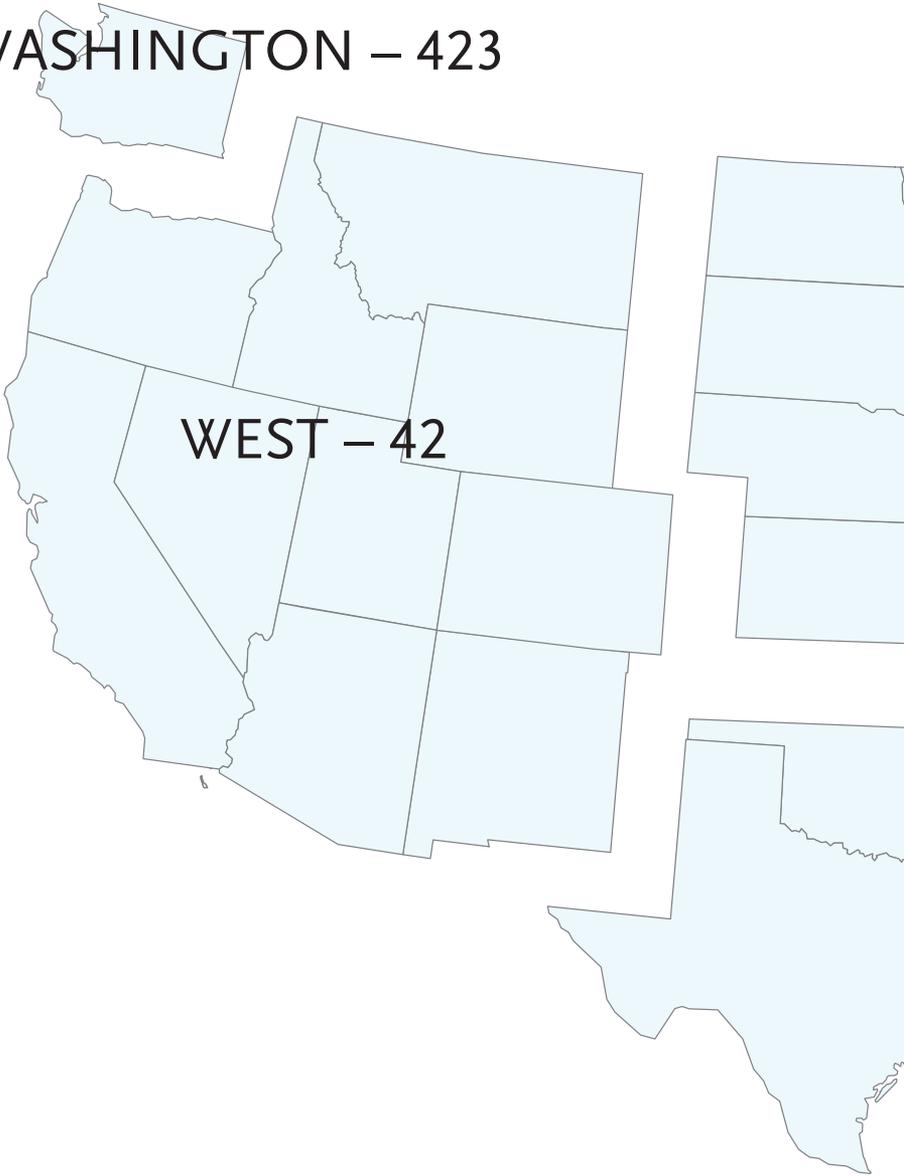
2009 Internship Sites in the Seattle Area

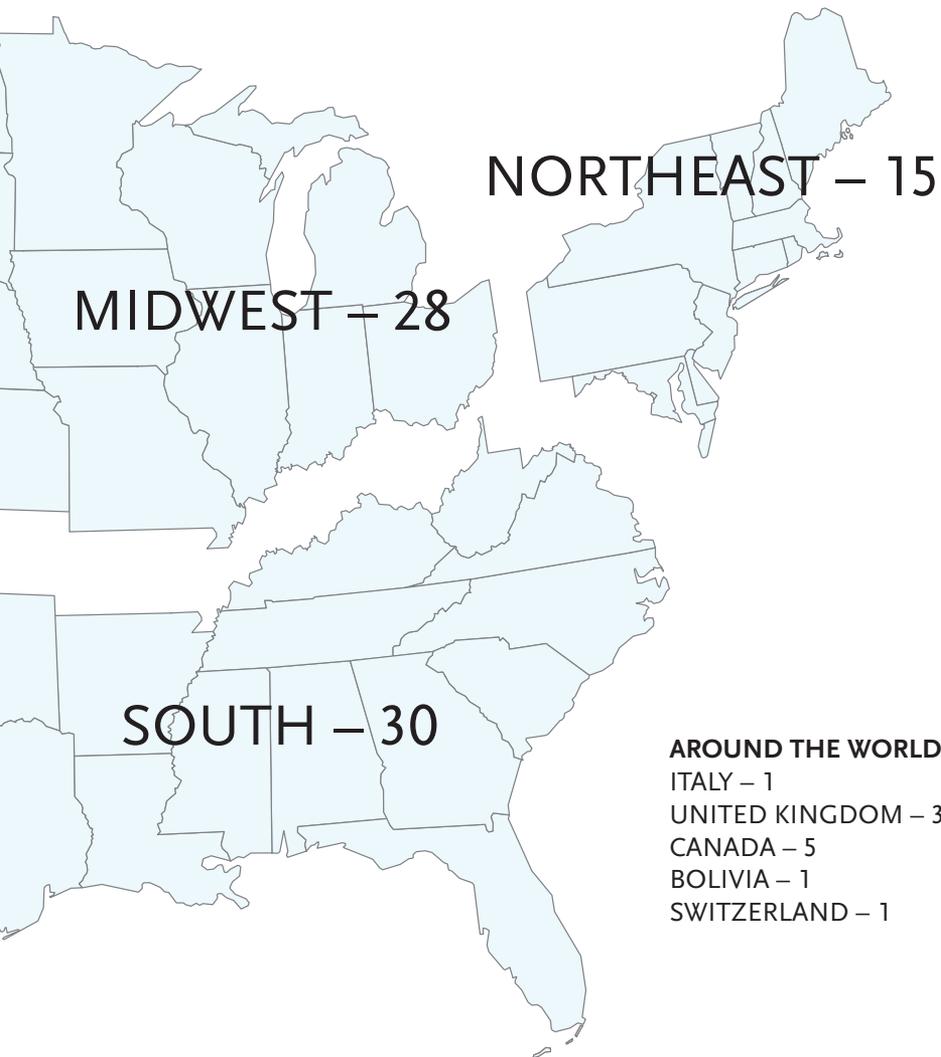
Including both clinical counseling internships and pastoral field experience internships.

Antioch Adoptions	Jeremiah Center	Seattle Union Gospel Mission
Asian Counseling & Referral Service	Counseling Services	Seattle Union Gospel Mission/Women & Children
Atlantic Street Center	Kitsap Mental Health Services	Seattle Veterans Center
Awake Church	Living Faith Community Church	Sojourner Place
Bellevue Community College	Meier Clinics	Sound Mental Health
Bellevue Community Services	Mental Health Chaplaincy	Sound Mental Health School-based Services
Bethany Christian Services	Mukilteo Evaluation & Treatment Center	Sound Youth Counseling
Breakthrough Partners	New Life Foursquare Church	SPU Student Counseling Center
Bridging Counseling	Northshore Family Services	Stevens Hospital
Catholic Community Services	Northwest Family Life	Suquamish Wellness Center
Children's Home Society	Northwest School of Innovative Learning	Tern Christian Counseling
Christ the King	Northwest University	The Center for Counseling & Health Resources
Compass Health	Olive Crest	The Moore Center
Congregations for the Homeless	Open Heart Ministry	The Recovery Café
Consejo Counseling	Providence Transitions	United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Deconess Children's Services	Quest Church	Vashon Youth & Family Services
Duvall Christian Church	Rainbow Creek	Vision House
Emmaus Road Christian Reformed Church-Belltown	REACH Ministries	Westminster Chapel
FareStart	Recovery Café	Wits End Church
Haller Lake Christian Health Clinic	Roxhill Elementary School	YWCA Transitions
Hillcrest Chapel	Ruth Dykeman Youth and Family	YWCA – Pathways Counseling
Hopelink	Ryther Child Center	
Imago Dei	Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center	
	Seattle Therapy Alliance	



WASHINGTON – 423





AROUND THE WORLD

- ITALY – 1
- UNITED KINGDOM – 3
- CANADA – 5
- BOLIVIA – 1
- SWITZERLAND – 1

CHAPTER 4

The Story of

OUR FUTURE

MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL
THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



MARS HILL GRADUATE SCHOOL envisions a new generation of leaders who see the Church as a flawed but beautiful institution worthy of a new kind of perspective, creativity and passion. Each spring we have the distinct privilege of watching a new group of men and women receive their degrees and launch out to live lives worthy of the gospel while proactively engaging culture around the globe. As we enter into the second 10 years of our institutional life, MHGS continues to dream big. It is evident to us the Lord has called us to make a lasting impact on our world and our faith. We see the quality and commitment of men and women who come to us for training, and the difference our 600+ alumni are now making in the world. God is calling us to more. And we stand ready to show up.

Positioning & Strategic Planning

Together with a newly established leadership and solid and committed team, we have identified two important and urgent projects that deserve priority attention. These address significant steps we must take as an institution with regard to our positioning and strategic planning. We have begun the process of acquiring professional guidance in the discovering of a fresh articulation of our purpose as Mars Hill Graduate School. Not only does this help us to clearly define our position in the marketplace, but it helps us achieve stronger integration amongst all of our stakeholders so that we can effectively achieve our purpose. From the strength of a clearly articulated purpose, we are also seeking professional guidance in creating a new strategic plan – every part of which supports our purpose. A picture of what we might be in 10, 20, or 30 years comes into focus when these two steps are successfully implemented.

In order to achieve these goals, God has brought a variety of individuals and organizations together – all unrelated to one another, yet providentially aligned – to lay the financial groundwork. MHGS has received over \$100,000 in both donated services and financial contributions.

What has begun in 2009 continues throughout 2010. It is our great anticipation that the result of these two priority efforts will yield exponential results for our community.

IGNITE – A Bold Campaign to Expand the Donor Base of Mars Hill Graduate School

As we enter into the second 10 years of our institutional life, MHGS continues to dream big. It is evident to us the Lord has called us to make a lasting impact on our world and our faith. We see the quality and commitment of men and women who come to us for training, and the difference our 600+ alumni are now making in the world.

In this special Ignite Campaign, MHGS is seeking to raise \$1,250,000 for specific projects designed to support our students as they complete their academic journeys and pursue the work into which they have been called. The constituency of MHGS extends well beyond our students and alumni. The impact of MHGS is measured by the transformed lives of those served by our graduates.

Our need for this funding is both urgent and strategic. As a young organization (now 11 years old), MHGS is in a year of tremendous opportunity and challenge. What began in small giving steps by some donors last year needs to build momentum to solidify those gains. Along with many other organizations, we lost some of that giving this year due to the economic downturn, and now is the time to regain and strengthen relationships with both current and new donors who know us and value our shared mission.

Through the Ignite Campaign, it is our hope to broaden the donor base, increase awareness of MHGS in a variety of ways, and raise the funds necessary to dive head-long into 2010.

Innovation & Offerings Initiative

As MHGS continues to grow, the need for innovation and development has become paramount. In the fall of 2009, President Keith Anderson charged the Director of MHGS Conferences, Cathy Loerzel, with a mandate to create a multi-representational team of colleagues dedicated to strategic development and innovation. Now, the Innovation and Offering Initiative Team (IOI) collaborates on a variety of highly strategic and creative offerings, designed to increase MHGS's transformational impact by diversifying programs, conferences, lecture series, technological and distance learning opportunities, and partnerships.

In addition, Cathy Loerzel is working to create Legacy Conferences, designed for high-impact training of students and alumni through cohorts, externships, and other experiences.

What has begun in 2009 through innovative efforts will have massive implications for the future of MHGS.

·Into the Future·

AND SO WE HAVE COME TO THE END, an end which is most certainly another beginning. As I consider the future of Mars Hill Graduate School, I am keenly aware that it is much more than another turn of calendar pages in the life of an institution. It is much more than what we have come to call “2010.” It is the ongoing and unfolding of a thousand untold stories that together make up the living fabric of our community. Together, these tales form a larger narrative that speaks of solidarity with one another, the scandal of the Gospel, and the immensity of the Kingdom of God.

- We have bold plans, both for our immediate and more distant future. A bold idea that formed a young organization must now grow to maturity.
- We must understand our identity and our distinctive place more fully in the world of theological education and training.
- We must learn from both difficult and joyful days of the past.
- We must stabilize our footing in the enduring and immediate economic challenges of the last 18 months.
- We must continue to find our way through many levels of leadership transition which often creates simultaneous hope and confusion.

Weathering these rough-and-tumble seas calls for a maturity from our students, faculty, and staff that never ceases to amaze me.

It is also true that MHGS is populated by dreamers and risk-takers.

- The greatest risks and plans and dreams involve much more than strategies and tactics; they involve courage and hope that come foundationally from a belief in the amazing transcendence and imminence of God.
- The dreamers at MHGS will not settle for the status quo, but will press “further up and further in,” pursuing a vastness and a kingdom that we have only begun to taste on earth.

I am honored to serve as President of Mars Hill Graduate School because I have the great privilege to have a seat among audacious dreamers of the day. We listen to our dreams and find new dreams in our daily work of scholarship, conversation, and community. Our goal is action: to serve God and to love the world God has created in the communities to which our alumni will go as therapists, pastors, artists, laborers, family, and friends.

Warmly,



Keith Anderson

What will the story of the next year at Mars Hill Graduate School hold? To tell it now would be fiction for it has not yet occurred. But this I can say with confidence; its tenor, its theme, its cast of characters, and its adventurous setting are the makings of what I believe could be Mars Hill Graduate School's greatest volume yet.

and...

...The End

