

Mars Hill Graduate School
2010 ANNUAL REPORT

UNFOLDING

All our progress is an unfolding, like the vegetable bud, you have first an instinct, then an opinion, then a knowledge, as the plant has root, bud and fruit. Trust the instinct to the end, though you can render no reason.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



WHEN A CUP OF COFFEE UNFOLDS...

It is a strange thing that a hot beverage can drastically alter life's course. In Seattle, known as the coffee capital of the United States, sharing a cup of coffee means much more than simply getting caffeinated. The aroma that wafts and lingers in the downtown air points to the cultural commitments of exploration, investigation, and conversation. In the Pacific Northwest, an invitation to coffee goes beyond the enjoyment of a beverage. Coffee is seen as an opportunity for relationship.

And it is through such conversations over coffee that many Mars Hill Graduate School students were first invited to the study of text, soul, and culture. As they engage in the deep study of the scriptures, the heart, and our immensely diverse and desperate world, students begin to see God's hope and purpose unfold into a mighty masterpiece.

This past year, the staff, students and faculty at MHGS had the privilege of countless conversations over coffee. What you read here is the unfolding of those cups.

25

Seminary and Graduate Fairs attended by the Admissions Team in promotion of MHGS, along with seven conferences across the nation.

80

Conversations had over a cup of coffee with prospective students specifically from the greater Seattle area by MHGS Admissions staff.

104

Inquiries gained after hosting an interview with Rob Bell at MHGS - over twice the amount from the same month in the previous year.

117

Applicants vetted and accepted in 2010, which generated a total of 81 enrolled students and 24 deferred enrollments for the following year.

42

Incoming students who first learned about MHGS through conversations with connected friends, current students, or MHGS alumni.



MHGS PROGRAMS

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 serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships. Mars Hill Graduate School is a learning community informed by an incarnational theology founded upon the belief that the presence of our Triune God is continually revealed through relationship. As persons created in the image of God, we seek to honor the other as sacred and adopt a way of thinking and being that is filled with awe, gratitude, and hope.

M.A. in COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

3 YEAR PROGRAM · 66 CREDITS · NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

The Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP) program at Mars Hill Graduate School is offered for students seeking graduate level training in counseling. Believing that education is, by its very nature, formative, the MACP program is committed to a pedagogy that is intentionally integrative, praxis-oriented, and transformational.

Master of DIVINITY

4 YEAR PROGRAM · 90 CREDITS · NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

Committed to academic excellence and relational integrity, the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program seeks to be a healing presence within the global community, developing innovative leaders in the service of the body of Christ.

M.A. in CHRISTIAN STUDIES

2 YEAR PROGRAM · 48 CREDITS · NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

The Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) program is designed as an introduction to understanding the biblical text, the human soul, and the complexity of culture. There are three tracks available in our MACS program:

Creative Art and Theology

This track prepares students for the prophetic role of the artist within the church. Students explore the intersection of theology and artistic expression in order to live into their artistic calling – the transformation of people and culture through the production of artwork and creative experiences.

Global and Social Partnership

This track trains students in developing a mutual relationship with the world while advocating on behalf of God, humanity, and creation. Students learn to engage their local community with a global perspective, marked by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while mindful of their context.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Offering students improved skills in relationships and an undergirding of the biblical and theological categories, this track offers holistic training for ministry in the church and allows a student to fully customize their program by having the most open electives of any degree program offered.

60% Students with at least a 3.6 GPA

80 Graduates in June 2010

17% Students with a 3.8 GPA or higher

68 Students in internships

15% Students over the age of 40

21 New courses since 2009

UNFOLDING IN SEATTLE

Over four years ago, Mars Hill Graduate School left its office-park childhood and moved into downtown Seattle. Now, situated in a three-story, renovated, 100-year-old fish factory, we find ourself paradoxically between one of Seattle's most prestigious hotels and a soup kitchen for the homeless. The tension of the gospel is palpable.

Over the course of the past year, our awareness and desire with regard to our location has grown. When we first moved to Belltown, we were excited to be residents of Seattle. This desire has unfolded into a passion to transition from mere residents to neighbors who partake in Seattle's urban, theological and educational mosaic.

Under the leadership of President Anderson, Mars Hill Graduate School is now actively pursuing its neighbors. The Seattle Metro Area is an amazingly diverse, rich and deeply cultural mosaic, and it is our desire to become intricately woven into the fabric of the city through a variety of means.

SEATTLE ADVISORY COMMISSION: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22). Our first step in weaving more intentionally with the Seattle community has been to gather a group of key leaders to discuss issues related to our Seattle presence, identity and strategy. These men and women provide a wealth

of insight and perspective, allowing us to move forward with confidence and wisdom.

SEATTLE EVENTS: The majesty of our city, the beauty of our location and the provision of our building offer us the unique opportunity to host a variety of events at MHGS. Throughout the fall of 2010 and 2011, we have enhanced our local events calendar to include a community open house, lecture and seminar series, and MHGS Conferences, to serve the Seattle area.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: We are actively expanding our offerings to include a menu of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) that will further develop pastors and therapists in their professional and spiritual journeys.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION: Throughout the coming year, MHGS will actively participate in an array of Seattle's key Christian and business associations. We intend to play an active role in the city's philanthropic and networking events on a variety of levels.

UNFOLDING NATIONALLY

This year, the Office of Students and Alumni – led by Paul Steinke – was developed and has turned its primary focus to the "Alumni Lifecycle." Conversations with alumni have led to a better understanding of the stories of alumni and how they have sought to embody text, soul, and culture in their particular contexts across the globe.

Paul Steinke, formerly Director of Organization Development, now serves as the Dean of Students and Alumni. Under the overarching umbrella of retention, Paul Steinke, as Mars Hill Graduate School's first Dean of Students and Alumni, will design and oversee the implementation of multiple and varied services for students and their families from the point of matriculation, to graduation and as alumni. These services include alumni leadership, pastoral care, retention management, spiritual formation, systemic student and alumni advocacy, student leadership, and vocational formation.

In addition to the Student Leadership Quad and the Bookstore team that served under Paul as Field Abbott, the Office of Students and Alumni has added two new roles: the Office of Students and Alumni Assistant and the Alumni Quad. The Alumni Quad is a group of four MHGS graduates with a desire to foster the MHGS alumni experience.

The Office of Students and Alumni also introduced

a new scholarship in 2010: the Intercultural Competency Scholarship. This new scholarship serves as one way to invite and recognize the leadership, participation, and voice of students from traditionally under-represented race and ethnic populations. The recipient of the Intercultural Competency Scholarship will lead the facilitating team for the Multicultural Dinners, help create (along with Dean of Students and Alumni) and participate in the Intercultural Competency Resource Team, and serve as a member of Anamchara within Student Leadership. The recipient will also be available to meet with students, staff, and faculty to provide support and encouragement. Richard Kim, a fourth year MDiv student and a participant in MHGS student leadership, was the recipient for 2010-2011.

The continued hope of the Office of Students and Alumni is to be able to engage MHGS alumni where they are through continued training, support, and connection.

CONFERENCES

If 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 serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships, the question to ask is "who are these people?"

From the beginning, the vision of Mars Hill Graduate School has been to bring impactful training beyond a graduate degree, and on a variety of levels, for an expansive audience. Indeed, as a graduate school, our most rigorous and specialized training focuses on the student. However, our largest constituency of "trainees" never walks our halls. The broad reach of our school extends beyond our classrooms, touching the lives of thousands across the country through conferences, seminars, lecture series, and workshops.

Throughout the past year, MHGS Conferences brought the message of restoration to over 1,400 people nationwide through multiple venues. These include a wide spectrum of experiences, from large conferences such as our marriage conference, Intimate Mystery (450 in attendance), to our more intensive and personal marriage workshop Intimate Mystery Workshop (22 in attendance). MHGS Conferences have individually helped victims of sexual abuse and trauma through our Recovery Weeks (51

total participants across five weeks), and have also trained therapists and laypersons in the difficult task of sexual abuse counseling, through the Abuse Helpers Workshop (42 participants). Additionally, MHGS Conferences has challenged men and women to consider their false idols at Bold Purpose (325 in attendance), to re-imagine biblical rest at the Sabbath Weekend (46 participants), to "read" God's narrative in their lives at the Story Workshop (42 "authors"), to find healing and restoration as adult victims of sexual abuse at Wounded Heart (125 participants), and to find redemption in their gender and intimacy in Redeeming Sexuality (182 participants).

The subtext at MHGS Conferences is: "There is more..." And indeed, the definition and mission of MHGS Conferences has expanded to include lecture series, continuing education, and certificate programs. As MHGS Conferences enters fully into 2011, it is their passion to "train people" in ever increasing ways.

FINANCIALS

Mars Hill Graduate School is a community engaged in deep sacrifice and incredible resourcefulness. Facing economic challenges and uncertainty, students and donors have invested precious dollars into gospel-inspired transformation.

Indeed, over the course of the past few years, Mars Hill Graduate School has ridden the economic ups and downs like many other institutions and individuals. There have been times of difficulty, times of stress, and times of unimaginable blessing and redemption through generosity and wise stewardship. Dollars and cents, the investments of our students and partners, are the elemental tools that allow us to unfold and grow.

The most significant "currency" at Mars Hill Graduate School is found in the value of the transformations occurring in our classrooms, and in the local and global impact made by our alumni. As a result, the "bottom line" with regard to finances should be understood as a fulcrum by which we can leverage the greatest influence in the Kingdom's impact and growth.

By the grace of God, through the tightening of the belt, and through the amazing generosity of many, Mars Hill Graduate School came to the end of our 2009-2010 fiscal year a few steps ahead. To us, this means a larger fulcrum to educate, create, expand, and dream even more.

2010 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Tuition and Fees
\$3,057,736

Contributions
\$1,049,353

Conferences
\$333,265

Other
\$87,783

REVENUE TOTAL: \$4.5 MILLION

EXPENSE TOTAL: \$4.4 MILLION

Instructional Services
\$1,566,073

Academic Support
\$533,956

Student Services
\$714,860

Conferences
\$401,955

Institutional Support
\$1,231,158

NEW MACS TRACKS UNVEILED

"I always thought they would be amazing. But never this amazing," said an MHGS student in response to the recent unveiling of the three new Master of Arts in Christian Studies Tracks. Now, **MACS students can focus their course of inquiry in Global and Social Partnership, Creative Art and Theology, or Interdisciplinary Studies.**

The Global and Social Partnership track "invites you to develop a mutual relationship with the world, based on humility, curiosity and context while advocating on behalf of God, humanity and creation...[and becoming] a global citizen marked by the Gospel."

Those focusing on Creative Arts and Theology "explore the theological work of the artist as a person whose life is being shaped by the capacious narrative of scripture as revealing God's dream for creation."

And finally, Interdisciplinary Studies remains for those whose hearts for God and education are insatiable and varied.

"Coming to MHGS, I always new I'd get to live what I study," says our anonymous informant. "I now have a focus for my life."

GOINGS AND COMINGS: STAFF TRANSITIONS

- J. Paul Fridenmaker (previously the Director of Development and Alumni Relations) has taken a position as Principal with OneAc-cord Partners.
- Johanna Dwyer (previously Director of Financial Aid) is now the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Tacoma Community College.
- Chris Bruno (previously Assistant Director of Financial Development) has moved to Colorado and is the Founder of Restoration Project.
- Crystal Miller (previously Director of Enrollment Management) has moved to Chicago and is now the Director of Outside Recruitment at TSE Education System.
- Dr. J. Derek McNeil accepted the position of Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- Isabelle Mora joins MHGS as the Director of Student Financial Services.
- Cathy Loerzel, previously Director of Conferences, was promoted to Director of Advancement.
- Jeanette White accepted the position of Manager of Conferences and Events.
- Jordan Rickard joins MHGS as the Manager of Financial Development.
- Nicole Greenwald stepped into the role of Interim Manager of Admissions.
- Anya Reeser was promoted to Admissions Counselor.

SEATTLE ON THE ROAD

Although Seattle is the official home of MHGS, prospective students meet for coffee to talk about MHGS in their own hometowns. During the first half of 2010, **over 80 individuals were treated to Seattle's famous beverage** by MHGS representatives in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Washington, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., and the greater Seattle area.

MHGS representatives also promoted MHGS at 25 graduate school/seminary fairs and seven conferences nationwide. For many, the road to MHGS is most likely to begin with a conversation, with over half of the current students first hearing of the graduate school from alumni, current students or friends. MHGS has played a significant role in engaging with others over a cup of coffee.

ON BEING LOCATED

With an estimated 3.3 million people in the Seattle metropolitan area, a graduate school with roughly 270 students can easily remain unknown and with little impact. "We are in the heart of a beautiful city that we want to know better," says Advancement representative and MACP (2012) student Nick Cox. "**Our hope is to join the conversations already taking place in our community, increase Seattle's awareness of MHGS, and begin to journey towards a partnership with the city that holds our walls.**"

In order to advocate for us within our own city, the **MHGS Seattle Advisory Committee** has taken shape, with key leaders from the Seattle community coming alongside President Keith Anderson as he leads the school into the next decade of its existence. In addition, a more robust calendar of MHGS events in Seattle has been unveiled, with open houses, numerous guest speakers and conferences, donor appreciation events, and local partnerships forums.

"We hope to develop synergy and awareness of MHGS with Seattle area leaders and the overall Seattle community," says Cox.



OUR BOOKSHELF

19,981
Items in the MHGS Library collection

1343
Number of new items added in 2010

12,710
items checked out

929
Items borrowed from other libraries

22,309
articles downloaded from databases

LEADING TO THE AFTERLIFE

Life as an MHGS student has three distinct phases: pre-, mid-, and post-. As with all good narratives, our students experience the prologue, body, and epilogue of the MHGS story. Now entering its second decade, the student population

is now outnumbered almost 3 to 1 by a growing constituency – alumni.

To provide better service and continued relationships with over 700 MHGS graduates, Paul Steinke has expanded his role as Dean of Students to Dean of Students and Alumni. Paul's first step has been **the creation of the "Alumni Quad" – a team of four MHGS graduates with the common goal of assisting MHGS in continued partnership with alumni** as well as being committed to helping alumni develop solid professional skills, offering alumni necessary resources, and provide opportunities for connection with each other and the school.

MORE NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Development of The Allender Center for Trauma and Abuse begins with six externs. These MHGS Alumni are developing the curriculum for further training, certificate programs, and workshop offerings. • **Rob Bell spoke at MHGS in February**, with approximately 150 in attendance and hundreds more viewing via video streaming online. • **75 guests attended Experience MHGS Weekend in March.** Faculty participated in mini academic forums that invited prospective students to engage the MHGS program in greater depth. • The **MHGS Library joins the ranks as a Lending Library** with the National Interlibrary Loan System, having already loaned materials to Seattle University, University of Washington, and Columbia University. • **MHGS Advancement Fellowship continues with new group of students**, supporting the Advancement efforts in conferences, donor development and marketing. • MHGS began the process of creating a **national rebranding and repositioning initiative.** • The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Commission on Accrediting **Candidacy Readiness Report was completed** and submitted in June 2010. • **Blogosphere and social networking increases** with guest posts and ads on popular MHGS Alumni blogs (Blaine Hogan, Kj Swanson, and Joshua Longbrake). • \$1650 raised by Dr. Stephanie Neill, along with a matching grant, equips **all practicum rooms with flat panel HDTV and hi-def recording devices** for counseling session review. • **Doctoral Fellowship in Integrative Studies begins** with first fellow, SPU Ph.D. candidate Chris Keller. • **MHGS Accomplishes transitions into MHGS Partners**, a term better suited to describe the accountability, shared mission, and comradery of donors alongside the work of the school.

SEE REVERSE FOR MAP OF
MHGS OFFERINGS AND EXPANSIONS

