

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation names Apollos Program scholarship recipients

Gary S. Eller, president of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation has announced the recipients of Apollos Scholarship awards for this year, continuing the Foundation's tradition of support for seminary students who are pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with the goal to become ordained pastors in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Two of the recipients -- Madeleine Benishek and Benjamin Paul Masters -- have ties to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Benishek is a student at Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary and a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Masters is a student at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a member of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

The Foundation has provided support to seminarians since 1954 and has awarded more than \$3.9 million directly to students.

Distinguished Award Winners

Awards honoring former Foundation leaders provide the seminary students with \$6,000 annually during the academic year. The 2015-16 scholars selected for special recognition are:

Madeleine S. Benishek

Ms. Benishek is beginning her Middler year at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. She is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area oversees her preparation for ministry.

Joseph R. Chapman

Mr. Chapman will begin his studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Francisco, California, this fall. He is under the care of Detroit Presbytery and is a member of Northside Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Colin R. Kerr

Mr. Kerr is entering his second year as a Distance Education student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He is a member of Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and his preparation for ministry is guided by Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.

Sharon L. Rees

Ms. Rees, just beginning her seminary education as a Distance Education student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, is under care of Central Nebraska Presbytery where she is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, Nebraska.

Mary E. Stephan

Ms. Stephan is a Senior (or third year student) at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her home church is Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Jackson, New Jersey, and Monmouth Presbytery guides her preparation for ministry.

Marilyn A. Jackson Memorial Award

The Marilyn A. Jackson Memorial Scholarship Award was established “to provide support for pastoral leadership to persons who are or who will be serving small Presbyterian churches with a first preference for minority students in the Synods of Lakes and Prairies, Mid-America, Rocky Mountain and the Sun.” The scholarship honors the late Mrs. Jackson, who was a long-time member of the Center Ridge Presbyterian Church near Red Oak, Iowa.

This year, **Matthew W. Aldas**, a Senior at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, has been selected for the Jackson Award. He will receive \$7,500 upon graduation and ordination as a pastor in one of the 13 states in the Foundation’s catchment area: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Should Mr. Aldas decline the award, the alternate—Daekeun Park, a Senior at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia--would be next to be offered the award.

Apollos Scholars

The next level of Apollos Scholarships offers recipients \$3,000 annually toward their expenses while they are enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program. Twenty-two students were chosen as Apollos Scholars this year. They are listed by the seminary they attend.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas

Meagan Findeiss, Middler, from Orange Park Presbyterian Church in Orange Park, Florida, and St. Augustine Presbytery.

Jessie Light, Middler, from Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, and Heartland Presbytery.

Benjamin P. Masters, Middler, from Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Twin Cities Area Presbytery.

Edmond D. Sackett, Middler, from St. Cloud Presbyterian Church in St. Cloud, Florida, and Central Florida Presbytery.

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia

Landon Dillard, Senior, from First Presbyterian Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Presbytery of Charlotte.

Garam Han, Middler, from the Korean Community Presbyterian Church of Duluth, Georgia, and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Stephanie Bishop Loftin, Middler, from Oconee Presbyterian Church of Watkinsville, Georgia, and the Presbytery of Northeast Georgia.

Daekeun Park, Senior, from the Korean Presbyterian Church of Rossville, Georgia, and the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

Lauren M. Patrus, Middler, from the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Barrett A. Payne, Middler, from Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Asheville, North Carolina, and Western North Carolina Presbytery.

Charles M. Pittman, Senior, from First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Kate Watkins, Middler, from First Presbyterian Church of Savannah, Georgia, and the Savannah Presbytery.

Glenda C. Wickstrom, Middler, from John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina, and Foothills Presbytery.

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

Beau Dansizen, Distance Education student, from Avon Lake Presbyterian Church in Avon Lake, Ohio, and Western Reserve Presbytery.

Christine A. Dempsey, Distance Education student, from Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Homestead Presbytery.

Rod Nash, Distance Education student, from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington, and the Presbytery of Olympia.

Katina D. Sharp, Distance Education student, from Farragut Presbyterian Church in Farragut, Tennessee, and the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

Julius K. Sheppard, Senior, from Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church in Durham, North Carolina, and New Hope Presbytery.

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

Liz Herrick, Middler, from Jackson First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan, and Lake Michigan Presbytery.

Christina Westbury, Senior, from Chaple Lane Presbyterian Church of Midland, Michigan, and Lake Huron Presbytery.

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

Garrett Mostowski, Middler, from the First Presbyterian Church of Montrose, Colorado, and the Presbytery of Western Colorado.

Union Presbyterian Seminary

Laura Kelly, Senior, from Ginter Park Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia and the Presbytery of the James.

Ongoing Awards

Other Apollos Scholarship recipients (selected previously) and continuing their seminary studies include: Kathy F. Lee at **Austin**; Rebekah B. Carpenter, Brittany Fiscus, Karl Heimbuck, Keith Phillips, and Lisa Schrott at **Columbia**; Carolyn Grice and Matthew C. Wilcox at **Dubuque**; Megan C. McCarty at **Louisville**; Aaron Neff, Carolyn Newman, Jessica Rigel, and Zachary Wooten at **Princeton**; and Sarah Chivington-Buck and Patrick Kiptum at **San Francisco**.

Selection Criteria

Apollos Scholarship applications are accepted from students who are members of a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, under the care of a Presbytery as a Candidate or Inquirer, and enrolled in one of the 10 theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Applications may be submitted between January 15th and April 1st, and those honored with an award are notified in early August.

For additional information or to obtain a copy, you may contact:

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