

**SR. SARAH RANDALL***A Seminarian Profile*

"Wait a minute—how is it possible for you to be both a priest and a sister?"

I cannot tell you how many times I have confused people thoroughly when I explain that I am both a Sister of St. Margaret and a seminarian. "But I thought you were a nun!" they exclaim. "How can you be a priest?"

Fortunately, when I am Boston, I am able to point to the Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE, who is both a brother and a bishop. Most Episcopalians in this diocese know that many of the members of the Society of St. John the Evangelist are ordained; it simply takes them a few more steps to realize that sisters, as well as brothers, can be as well. In fact, in North American religious orders, there are more than a dozen sisters serving as deacons or priests.

It means a lot to my community to have ordained sisters. Our first priest, Sr. Catherine Louise, was ordained in 1979; the second, Sr. Adele Marie, was ordained a year and a half later. Sr. Mary Eleanor was ordained in 1998. We invite other priests, men and women connected with the community, to preside at the convent, as it is good to hear a variety of voices at our daily Eucharist; however, we are also especially glad to have our own ordained sisters for major community events. When I made my vows as a sister, it was important to me that Sr. Adele Marie be the one leading our celebration.

The idea of priesthood is not a recent one for me. My father is a priest, and I grew up very much at home in church and involved in the life of a church community. Both of my parents have ministry and prayer at the center of their lives, and I have always known that some form of that would also be the center of mine; the question was simply how this was to be lived.



*Sr. Sarah Randall, candidate for holy orders from the Diocese of Massachusetts and studying at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, is the Vance Family Scholar this academic year.*

The Eucharist, too, has been central to my spiritual life since I was young. I still remember my first communion as a moment of light. Although women were not yet being ordained, I also remember playing priest, celebrating communion in a neighbor's living room with pickle slices and grape juice, using a Roman Catholic missalette the other children had brought home from their church. In our own way, we were quite serious about it.

Nevertheless, despite playing Eucharist and considering the issue of women's ordination, when a high school teacher raised the possibility of my being a priest, I was thoroughly startled, just as I was later when close friends suggested I join a religious

community. I spent years considering it, saying no, reconsidering it, and saying no again. "If God wants me to be a priest," I said, "He'll just have to bonk me over the head and drag me off." Years later, I am so grateful that God seems to have done exactly that: God's call would not go away, no matter how I tried to ignore it. I simply needed to grow and to be in the right place.

When I made my life vows as a sister in 2005, it was the biggest YES! of my life and the most joyful. I was given the opportunity to place all of myself in God's hands in a new way, heart, mind, soul, and body. I am so thankful for this, to SIM for its support, and for my sisters, family, and friends, who teach me more about God's love each day. Now as I move towards ordination, God being my helper, I seek to give myself and to serve in a new way. My prayer is that of Dag Hammarskjöld in *Markings*: "For all that has been—THANKS! To all that shall be—YES!"



## *From the Executive Director*

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Dear Friends of SIM,

While my first year as SIM's first lay Executive Director in its 152 year history has been full of

challenges, many blessings also emerged. In a year of a daunting economy, a changing seminary scene and perplexing global relationships within the Anglican Communion, SIM was graced with supporters who kept their "eyes on the prize" of empowering seminarians to fully answer their calls to serve the Episcopal Church as its future ordained leaders.

Most challenging in this past year, of course, was the dramatic effect of the economy on our Fund for Future Leaders endowment and on our annual campaign fund raising. At its low point in this past year our endowment portfolio approached a greater than 30% decline in market value. Adding difficulty in this environment was the understandable drop in overall donations and decrease in average donation size. Yet there was good news in a 20% increase in the number of donors supporting SIM. For a meaningful increase in the breadth of supporters, we are most grateful.

Genuine interest for the well being of Episcopal seminarians and their development as future ordained leaders was often expressed to me in this past year. At the recent Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, several workshops focused on the status of our Episcopal seminaries and the theological education for our seminarians. Interest in these workshops was impressive. Major events of 2008 at three of our eleven seminaries demonstrate that change is afoot in this marketplace, greatly affecting SIM's mission, the wellness of our future ordained leaders and their ability to fulfill their calls. Whatever happens with our seminaries, there will be Episcopal seminarians training to be the future leaders of our church. That's where SIM invests—in the postulants and candidates pursuing Episcopal theological education. Supporting seminarians

financially, pastorally and with advocacy is why SIM is so important to the Church. We are the only national Episcopal organization actively raising funds to support our seminarians and commonly the only national institutional connection for them.

We have been working on restructuring our website [[www.simministry.org](http://www.simministry.org)] to reflect the significant networks which we serve—seminarians, SIM alumni/ae and our donors. We hope [www.simministry.org](http://www.simministry.org) will become a mechanism through which important connections are made. Please check us out and e-mail your suggestions of how our website can further enhance the effectiveness of our future leaders and the mission of the Church.

It is with sadness that this edition of *The Call* includes the last pastoral report by The Reverend Canon Robert G. Carroon on his visits with seminarians. Jerry's contributions over the past four years have been gifts of depth in faith, knowledge, wisdom and care to SIM, our seminarians and to the seminaries he visited semi-annually. A former accomplished college and semi-pro hockey goalie, a priest, a historian's historian, and the author of multiple books, Jerry is a unique gift to his many friends in the Episcopal Church. I am blessed to have crossed paths with him before his retirement from SIM this coming June. For the SIM family, we thank you, Jerry!

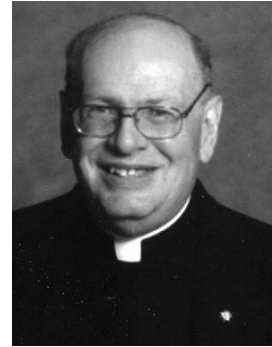
The support of so many Episcopalians keeps us grounded in faith that we are about the work God has given us to do. Please keep our future ordained leaders in your prayers and SIM in your stewardship plans for the Episcopal Church.

Faithfully yours,

Thomas Moore III

## THE FAREWELL TOUR

### WITH THE SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR



Having written a series of columns titled "On the Road Again: With the Scholarship Director" I thought, as I prepare to retire on June 1 that I should continue with the theme. As I have visited each of the seminaries I continue to be impressed with the quality of students who are the recipients of your gifts. They are frequently the leaders of the student body of their particular institution and often serve as the student representative on the board of trustees of their respective seminaries. We can all be proud of them and thankful that such leaders are being produced to guide this great Church and witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ in future years.

As I spoke with the students on my visits it was obvious that the present financial downturn in today's economic climate has had a dramatic impact on their lives. It is difficult to concentrate on your studies when concerns about the support of your family intrudes upon your academic life. The seminaries themselves, which have often provided scholarship aid to their students, find themselves less able to do so as their resources have been limited. One financial aid officer told me that not only has their endowment been severely impacted, but the income of some of their major donors, upon whom they relied on in past years, has also been reduced so dramatically that those sources are no longer available. It is in such cases that organizations such as SIM need to step up and make an extra effort to help our seminarians in need. I hope you can be of assistance again this year.

One of the great blessings of serving as the Director of Scholarship Programs is that I am able to make the acquaintance of so many fine leaders in the Episcopal Church. The Deans and Faculties of these fine institutions offer dedicated guidance and training to the future leaders of our

beloved Church. The administrators with which I, of necessity, work most closely are the Financial Aid Officers (FAOs) whose difficult task it is to administer the limited scholarships available to the seminarians and make sure that those funds that are available go to those in need. Our Scholarship Committee relies heavily on their expertise and, on your behalf as well as my own, I want to thank them for a job very well done under sometimes trying circumstances.

The greatest gift I have received while working in this position is the relationship I have developed with the seminarians themselves. I have been in this position long enough to have followed two classes to graduation and ordination. When you visit seminarians twice a year you cannot help but get to know them and, even in brief visits, appreciate them and the gifts they bring to us. I know you rejoice with me as they go out into the world into their first cures as missionaries for Christ and priests of the Church and will continue to pray for them in the years ahead.

In closing let me say how great a pleasure it has been to work with our fine staff here at the Society. I cannot begin to thank my colleagues, Thomas Moore, the Rev. Canon John Mitman, Ruth McElraevy and Joe Batkiewicz enough for their support and friendship over the years. It has been, as we say in the hockey world, "a great season."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Carroon". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon

***"What you do at the Society for the Increase of the Ministry makes such a difference. I am constantly aware that the financial help is only part of the support you send, that your prayers for us as we journey through seminary are every bit as important as the monetary help. This all connects me with the greater church in a meaningful manner. Thus, you are supplying help in a number of ways." — R.B., Vancouver School of Theology***

## SOCIETY GRANTS 2008-2009 GRANT YEAR

### Traditional Scholarship Program

(Full-time postulants and candidates attending Episcopal Seminaries)

Amount granted	\$209,190
Minimum Individual Grant	\$ 1,000
Maximum Individual Grant	\$ 3,930
Total Number of Grants	70
Average Grant	\$ 2,988

### The Alternative Scholarship Program

(The Alternative Program supports postulants who, with the approval of their diocese, are attending accredited, alternative educational programs of study.)

Number of Grants (to date)	5
Amount Granted	\$ 11,500

### Dioceses whose postulants have received Alternative Program Grants:

Atlanta, East Carolina, North Dakota, Olympia

### Overall Statistics, Traditional and Alternative Programs

Average age, men and women = 37.62 years  
75 students  
43 dioceses represented

#### 36 Women

Average Age	40.5
Ten under age 30	=23%
Youngest woman	24
Oldest woman	61
24 single women	
11 married women	
10 women with dependent children	

#### 39 Men

Average Age	35
Fourteen under age 30	=23.5%
Youngest man	24
Oldest man	54
17 single men	
22 married men	
11 men with dependent children	

*“What I give thanks for most is the ministry of hospitality which flows through and from the Society for the Increase of the Ministry. My faith has been nurtured immeasurably and I have attained clarity of vision in the work that I believe God has called me to do. Frederick Buechner, in his book Wishful Thinking states that, ‘The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.’ ‘Gladness’ would belittle my feelings toward the Society. I have been, and will continue to be honored and blessed to be a seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary, a postulant in the Diocese of Lexington and a recipient of your funding.”* — Former grant recipient



*SIM grant recipients at the General Theological Seminary, New York, NY, with Canon Jerry Carroon, Director of Scholarship Programs*

## What does SIM offer?

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry awards scholarships to persons preparing for ordination to the priesthood who are postulants or candidates from dioceses in The Episcopal Church and who are studying in one of the accredited Episcopal seminaries or in other programs or institutions under the sponsorship of their bishop. Students apply through the financial aid officer of their seminary by March 1st of each year. Awards are made in April by the SIM Scholarship Committee.

*“I cannot tell you how very blessed I am to have received the SIM scholarship. It has truly been a journey of faith for me and my husband. The first time we went to seminary for my husband, our Lord Jesus taught us what it means to live by faith in Him. Once again, He has shown Himself to be a faithful and loving God!”* —M.M.H., Trinity School for Ministry

### **The Rev. Canon Robert K. Hino: A Recipient's Story** *(Profiled, Spring 2004)*

The Rev. Robert K. "Moki" Hino, the 2004/05 SIM Cunningham Scholar, was named Canon Pastor of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Honolulu, Hawaii last month by Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick, Dean of the Cathedral. In this call, Father Hino is responsible for outreach to the community and the world and for the pastoral care of the Cathedral congregation. In his Student Profile in the Spring 2004 issue of *The Call*, Moki wrote, "I hope to do whatever I can to live into [the words of Matthew 25:31-40] in my work and in my ministry."

Moki graduated from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston IL in June 2005 and was ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Hawaii in July by Bishop Richard Chang. In his initial call he served as Chaplain at Seabury Hall in Makawao. In the summer of 2007 he was called to be the Associate to the Provost at St. Andrew's Cathedral before his appointment as Canon Pastor in January 2009. He has served on the Diocesan Council, and was elected to serve on the Search Committee to Elect the Fifth Bishop of Hawaii. He served on the design team for EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) 2008, and was part of a group of writers who compiled the DRAFT Lifelong Formation Charter. Moki maintained his SIM connection by stopping by the SIM booth at the recent Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes which he attended in New Orleans, where he was able to meet our Executive Director Tom Moore. Additionally, he will be a Deputy to General Convention this July.

Moki has been a regular and committed donor to SIM every year since his ordination to the diaconate four years ago. Living into his own words of hope for his ministry, Moki represents the future leadership in which SIM is proud to have invested.



*Moki Hino and Marge Cunningham meeting in November 2004 at the SIM Annual Meeting in West Hartford CT when he was named the Cunningham Scholar.*

### **Margherita "Marge" Cunningham: A Donor's Story**

Marge Cunningham, the SIM Board member who established the Cunningham Scholarship in 2003, is a firm believer in "giving back" in a meaningful way to the Episcopal Church.

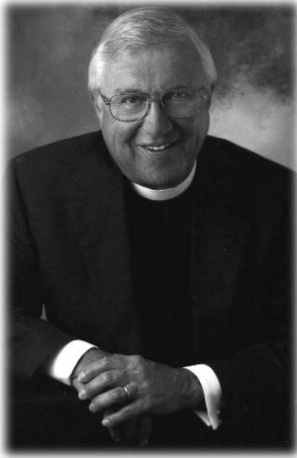
In 1960, Marge and her family moved from Hamden to West Hartford, Connecticut. She recalls the immediate connection to the Episcopal community. The rector of St. James's, The Rev. Douglas Kennedy, was on her doorstep while the movers were in the midst of hauling in the furniture.

Soon the family was in regular attendance as new St. James's parishioners. Her son, Eddie, in whose memory the scholarship was given, was developmentally disabled with ADD and dyslexia and could be disruptive in Sunday School. Still he was welcomed, nourished and loved at St. James's along with her second son and daughter. Because he was so well accepted, Eddie loved the church. In challenging financial times, when it was difficult to pay their pledge, support from

friends and the clergy at the parish never waned. Marge recalls that the support and love from both the Lord Jesus Christ and the members of the parish were constant, dependable and sustaining.

Establishing the Cunningham Scholarship was a sign of what the Lord and the Episcopal Church has meant to Marge while providing a lasting memorial to her beloved son, Eddie. Marge is also a charter member of SIM's **1857 Society**, composed of persons who have included SIM in their wills or estate planning.

For Marge giving to SIM is an outward and visible sign of the deep sense of gratitude held in her heart for the Episcopal Church and responsibility for its future. With friends like Marge, SIM continues its God given work to uphold future ordained leaders of the Episcopal Church "in body, mind and spirit in the realization of their vocation."



## *From the Director of Development*

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Dear friends and supporters of the Society,

First let me thank all those who have contributed to the support of our grant recipients since last fall. Your support of our 75 SIM students is so very, very important to their vocational development! In fiscal year 2008, we received support from 54 parishes, 250 lay persons and families, 279 priests, 9 dioceses and 22 bishops. In addition, we received grants from several foundations of differing sizes. It is certainly our hope to do as well in the current fiscal year, though the economy is clearly working against us. We thank you, thank you, thank you!

Episcopal seminarians are facing particularly dire circumstances this year in that support funds from personal resources, families, parishes, dioceses and seminaries have fallen dramatically due to the economy. Most of our dioceses and seminaries are endowment-dependent in a time when institutional endowments across country are down between 25% and 45%.

Even before this financial downturn, about half of our students graduate and are ordained with debt. Of those with debt, the average debt burden will approach \$60,000 for those graduating this spring resulting in approximately one quarter of their average starting income going to debt service and debt repayment. Such a weight of debt is almost certain to impinge upon both the quality of the newly ordained person's family life and their ministries in our parishes and chaplaincies.

Due in large part to the cost of seminary education and limited financial support (the Episcopal Church is the only mainline denomination in the USA without a central funding source for seminarians!), enrollments in Episcopal seminaries has fallen 34% in the last five years and 9% in just this last year. One of our seminaries, Seabury-Western, has ceased granting the Master of Divinity degree, the credential designed for parish ministry and chaplaincies. On March 18th, USA Today reported that "the Church Divinity School of the Pacific has received preliminary approval to offer two thirds of its master of divinity program online". The impact on the quality of clergy education, training and leadership into the future is inescapable.

Thanking you for your past support, the bottom line is that we need your help as much or more than at any time in our history.

Yours in Christ,

*John Mitman*  
John Mitman



***"Thank you so much for continuing to support my seminary career this year with a SIM award. I am very grateful not only to the SIM team but also to Mrs. Griner, to whom I shall be sending another letter of thanks. The award has been so helpful to me this year as I prepare to leave seminary, and it is really reassuring that I will graduate with less debt."*** – M.L., CDSP

*SIM grant recipients Andrew Hanyzewski, David Adams, William Dennler, Joel Prather and Joseph Hermerding at Nashotah House, Nashotah WI*

## The 1857 Society

**The 1857 Society**, named for the year of our founding, is SIM's **Legacy** society. It is composed of those persons who have included the Society for the Increase of the Ministry in their wills or other estate planning. **The 1857 Society** was officially launched on October 2, 2007 on the occasion of our Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those, like our board member Marge Cunningham (see page 5), who have made this commitment to the long-term ministry of SIM. We invite you to join with others who have made this commitment to give to **The 1857 Society**. There are many creative, tax saving methods to establish a planned giving program. Outlined below is one such unique Planned Giving program.

### Giving Away Your Home, A Brick At a Time

*Did you know that it is possible to donate a portion of your home, say, 20%, to a charity such as SIM? The upstairs bathroom? The hall closet? The garage? How can this be?*

*A person can irrevocably assign a portion (what attorneys refer to as "an undivided partial interest") of the ownership of his or her residence to a charitable organization such as the Society. At the same time, the donor can continue to live in his or her home as before and, in fact, will still be responsible for all the same upkeep, real estate tax and insurance expenses as before.*

*"Why might a person do this?" you may wonder. The answer is: to make a gift to SIM upon death while significantly lowering their current income taxes.*

*One such donor to a church pointed out that the twenty-percent of this donor's home is actually the total of a series of percentage gifts made over a period of years. "Our finances have become quite tight," the donor confessed. "And these gifts to the church every few years have really increased our disposable income by significantly reducing the taxes that we have to pay." Their CPA calculates the percentage gift that will produce the most usable tax deduction. The gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction.*

*"We are also thrilled to know that one day when our home is sold, the proceeds will create a perpetual endowment to support our parish," added his wife.*

*Here's a gift that can increase current after-tax disposable income while insuring a permanent legacy of love. A portion of your home can make a huge difference when you no longer need it.*

Adapted from the Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP, the Episcopal Diocese of California

For more information, please contact your attorney, tax advisor or us at SIM [860-233-1732]: Mr. Thomas Moore III, Executive Director at t.moore@simministry.org, or The Rev. Canon John L.C. Mitman, Director of Development at jmitman@snet.net for more information.

## Mitman Scholarship Announced

The Canon John Mitman Scholarship has been announced and will be awarded for the first time to a SIM grant recipient in the coming academic year. It is named in honor of the immediate past Executive Director of SIM who served the Society in this capacity from 2001 to 2008. Since his ordination in 1965, Mitman served various parishes, university chaplaincies and cathedrals in New Hampshire, England, Hong Kong, Michigan, Iowa and Connecticut.

The Mitman Scholarship was created on the occasion of his retirement in October 2008 as Executive Director and is funded by donations from supporters of SIM from around the country. Mitman continues as SIM's half-time Development Officer. Seminarians interested in university chaplaincy or overseas missionary work, both of which are so important to Mitman, are the most likely candidates for this scholarship.



SIM recipients Deborah Noonan and Emily Jo Bloemker (Kaman Scholar) at the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, New Haven CT

***"Thank you for your presence on campus this week. We always appreciate your face-to-face concern for our ordination process and personal growth. I am grateful for the continuing generosity of the Society, which generosity would not be possible without your personal face-to-face engagement with potential donors in the Church."*** – B.C.S., VTS



*SIM grant recipients Melissa Langdell (Griner Scholar), Alene Campbell and Andrew Shamel at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley CA*



*SIM grants recipients Hannah Mudge, Charles Jenkins and Martha Horn at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge PA*

## **SIM at General Convention 2009**

The Society will have a presence at the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church which will be held this July in Anaheim, California. Mr. Thomas Moore III, our Executive Director, and the Rev. Canon John Mitman, Director of Development, will manage a booth (#423) in the exhibit area. Canon Jerry Carroon, Director of Scholarship Programs for the Society, is a First Alternate Clerical Deputy from the Diocese of Connecticut and will help us out when he is not needed on the floor of the House of Deputies. This will be an opportunity to share our distinct mission with SIM alumni, seminarians, SIM donors, and members of the House of Bishops, Clerical and Lay Deputies and the thousands of visitors who attend this unique gathering. If you will be attending, please stop by our booth and make yourself known to us. If you have an hour or two, you might want to help us out at the booth, sharing SIM's ministry. Please contact us at [info@simministry.org](mailto:info@simministry.org) before June 26th if this is a commitment you would like to make.

## ***A Collect for Seminarians***

*As has been noted before in these pages, in keeping with the Society's commitment to support our students both financially and pastorally, the Executive Director, Tom Moore, the Director of Development, John Mitman, and our Director of Scholarship Programs, Jerry Carroon, have committed to pray daily for the students and their families supported by the Society. We invite our readers to join us in this ministry of prayerful support by using this collect or other prayers of your choosing and on whatever schedule may be appropriate for you.*

O God of all who teach and all who learn, bless we pray all who study to serve you as priests in your Church. Most especially do we intercede for those seminarians who are the recipients of your gifts given through the Society for the Increase of the Ministry. Enable the Society to uphold these students in body, mind and spirit in the realization of their vocation. Watch over and support them and their families along with the faculty and administration of their seminaries that all may be done to your honor and glory and that the Gospel may be advanced by their ministry in your Name, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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