

A Seminarian Profile

Kathleen Hawkins Berkowe



*Kathleen Berkowe is a deacon
of the Diocese of New York
and the William G. Andersen
Scholar.*

“Having earned a Harvard degree and built a successful legal career, I joyfully ‘left my nets’ to follow Christ’s call to Seminary, and now seek to serve in a worship-centered community, together to follow God’s call to spiritual growth and mission.” So reads the introductory statement of my newly prepared resume. Recently ordained a Transitional Deacon, I will soon graduate from The General Theological Seminary to follow the call, well prepared for the next steps in my journey.

The General Theological Seminary, true to its mission, has both educated and formed me for ordained ministry. While I have read Scripture and learned Church history, I have also formed habits of spirituality and discernment that will support my calling as a priest. I have developed habits of prayer through leading and saying the Daily Office and practice of daily Eucharist. I have loved the rigorous training in systematic theology. Able and thoughtful faculty have challenged me to think critically about faith and theology;

this semester I am exploring “theology after evolution and the new physics.”

Last summer I planned and implemented a three week immersion mission to St. John’s Ndirandi, Blantyre Malawi, Southern Africa, where I lived with a priest’s family and worked in the church nursery school. I visited with Bishop Tengtenga of Southern Malawi, and traveled to other Dioceses to observe missions and projects of Episcopal Relief and Development and others. Through the Students of Color Association, we raised funds to support scholarships to the Cathedral School in the Diocese of Southern Malawi.

I have also benefited from practical and pastoral experiences at Seminary. As a chaplain at New York Presbyterian Hospital, I prayed with families, patients and staff. I baptized an infant. In field education placement at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights, I have assisted with liturgy, taught Church School, and sat in vestry meetings, following a whole cycle of parish life.

As a community of seminarians, families, lay people, professors, administrators, and workers, the Seminary has been a place of support. Friendships formed here will continue to nurture and strengthen me in the future.

Attending a full-time residential program at the General Theological Seminary was a wonderful gift, made possible by SIM scholarships and the generosity of benefactors who support SIM. With gratitude for this preparation and formation, I look forward to where Christ’s call will lead me next.

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Faithfully,

Kathleen Hawkins Berkowe

From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of SIM,

The most poignant joy of the calling to lead SIM is realizing that SIM is in the people business—specifically in our mission of investing in future ordained leaders to serve the Episcopal Church. What an exciting, meaningful and important ministry! We are privileged to support dedicated and committed men and women.

Recent trips to Sewanee, General Theological Seminary and Virginia Theological Seminary have surfaced seminary challenges beyond financial. There are other realities seminarians must balance while still keeping their eyes on the prize. The value of SIM's three legged stool of support—financial, pastoral and advocacy—becomes evident in conversations with “our” seminarians. Not only do they convey profound gratitude for SIM's monetary support but most also express how the SIM visits counter their disconnected feelings from being called away from their sponsoring parish and diocese. “In surprising ways SIM functions as a healthy substitute for the safety net that once was, and appropriately no longer exists, in seminary,” stated one seminarian.

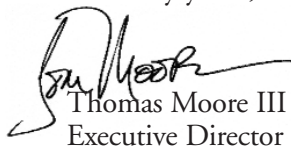
To keep this enduring, important ministry vibrant and fresh with its primary audiences—seminarians, SIM alumni and our donors—SIM has introduced new ways of connecting one to another in new, meaningful ways. Improving the SIM website www.simministry.org; introducing the *eCall*, SIM's electronic newsletter; and initiating SIMnet, the online community for SIM alumni and seminarians illustrate SIM's commitment to its potential as an important connector within the Church.

Other initiatives include our newly revamped Parish Partners Program (see page 7) that provides opportunities for parish members to visit grant recipients who have been given scholarships in the parish's name. It is a mutually rewarding ministry. Seminarians have demonstrated how much the SIM contacts mean to them. Visiting seminarians surfaces the joy and significance of SIM's ministry. Such visits are certain to be win/win experiences.

SIM is grateful to three board members whose terms end at our Annual Meeting in May: Board Chair Dr. Marnie Mueller, the Reverend Amy Fallon, who has served as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and Mrs. Marge Cunningham, Albuquerque, NM, benefactor of the Cunningham Scholarship. All have been faithful supporters of SIM and strong believers in its ministry of investing in future ordained leaders. With the election of the 15th Bishop of Connecticut, SIM will have a new Honorary Trustee in Bishop Ian T. Douglas. Archbishop Desmond Tutu will preach at his consecration and interestingly at the installation of another board member, the Reverend Dr. James B. Lemler, as Rector, Christ Church, Greenwich, CT. Acceptance to serve as Chair of the Scholarship Committee (see page 3) by the Reverend David Cobb, Rector, Christ Church, New Haven, is another blessing for SIM.

Mostly, SIM is grateful to our donors who make possible these meaningful connections of our three legs of support to future ordained leaders of the Church. As reported on page 5 by the Reverend Dr. Richard Tombaugh, Chair of the Development Committee, SIM is close to achieving its goal even in these difficult economic times. Please help us get there by our June 30 fiscal year end. Thank you.

Faithfully yours,



Thomas Moore III
Executive Director



Honorary Board Members

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Presiding Bishop

New York NY

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas

Bishop of Connecticut

Hartford CT

SIM Board of Directors

Dr. Marnie Mueller

Chair

Hartford CT

Ms. Judith C. Radasch

Vice Chair

Litchfield CT and Sarasota FL

Mr. Winthrop M. Goodwin

Secretary

Glastonbury CT

The Rev. Salin Low

Treasurer

Canton CT

Ms. Joyce Phillips Austin

New York NY

The Rev. David C. Cobb

Scholarship Chair

New Haven CT

Mrs. Margherita R. Cunningham

Albuquerque NM

Mr. William Dunakin

West Hartford CT

The Rev. Ernestine Flemister

Tampa FL

The Rev. Martha J. Horne

Alexandria VA

The Rev. Canon Angela S. Ifill

New York NY

The Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler

Greenwich CT

Mrs. Katherine B. Metcalf

East Hartford CT & Naples NY

The Rev. Canon Charles K. Robertson

New York NY

The Rev. Dr. Richard F. Tombaugh

Development Chair

Hartford CT

Mr. Richard M. Wenner

Assistant Treasurer

West Hartford CT

The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore

Atlanta GA



Mr. Thomas Moore III

Executive Director



The Rev. David Cobb, Chair

To serve as chair of the Scholarship Committee is an honor and joy. One of the great blessings of my ministry has been involvement with seminarians, particularly working with field education students from Seabury-Western, VTS, and GTS and with people in discernment in several parishes and dioceses. At Christ Church in New Haven, the relationship with Berkeley Divinity School has long been an essential part of its mission. The past four years as a member of the Scholarship Committee has provided new awareness of the challenges facing our seminarians. These fascinating, gifted and immensely dedicated men and women are too often confronted by the daunting practical issue of balancing funding the financial and opportunity costs of theological education with compensation levels inadequate for repayment of their funding. This breach is where SIM's scholarship program and ministry has made a difference for our future ordained leaders to extend the Church's sacramental and pastoral ministry, to serve the world in Christ's Name.

*The Rev. David Cobb, Rector
Christ Church, New Haven*

SOCIETY GRANTS 2009-2010 GRANT YEAR

Traditional Scholarship Program

(Full-time postulants and candidates attending Episcopal Seminaries)

Amount granted	\$ 196,700
Minimum Individual Grant	\$ 1,000
Maximum Individual Grant	\$ 4,000
Total Number of Grants	81
Average Grant	\$ 2,428

The Alternative Scholarship Program

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

Number of Grants	3
Amount Granted	\$ 7,500

Dioceses whose postulants have received Alternative Program Grants:
East Carolina, North Dakota, Los Angeles

Overall Statistics,

Traditional and Alternative Programs

42 women

Average Age = 40.5
10 under age 30 = 24%
Youngest woman 22
Oldest woman 67
24 single women
18 married women
12 women with dependent children

42 Men

Average Age = 35.4
15 under age 30 = 36%
Youngest man 23
Oldest man 56
16 single men
26 married men
14 men with dependent children
Average overall age = 38 years
84 students
49 Dioceses represented

"Term limits are a good practice until it affects a calling one loves. It has been a privilege to chair this unswerving organization for the past six years and be a part of many positive transitions. SIM is enlarging its territory and is positioned well for its next chapter of being linked to every Episcopalian who cares about our future ordained leaders. I sign off in May with sadness and excitement."

Dr. Marnie Mueller

A Donor Profile



Lydia and Bill Andersen

Lydia Andersen is the widow of the late William G. Andersen, the Executive Director of the Episcopal Church Foundation from 1992 to 2005. There Bill became known for encouraging innovation in leadership formation for building new capacities for ministry in the Episcopal Church. Guiding the ECF/SIM “Fund for Future Leaders” joint venture naturally fit into Bill’s vision for the Church in the 21st century.

Lydia says the best word to use in connection with Bill Andersen is “mentor,” providing a vision and leading others to develop their own convictions about Bill’s vision for the Church. He viewed the Foundation’s work as an opportunity to strengthen the Episcopal Church through study and research in the areas of mission, governance, and stewardship.

It is no surprise that Bill supported the work of SIM in multiple ways. His illness and subsequent death in 2006 precluded his desire to take a more hands-on role in fund raising for SIM following his retirement from ECF.

As Bill’s spouse, Lydia grew in understanding of and commitment to the role that SIM performs in supporting the future leaders in the Episcopal Church. She is actively involved in the ministry of their home parish, St. George’s, Maplewood, NJ.

Lydia is glad she can also be part of SIM’s ministry, a ministry that affects the larger Church. Lydia will say she does not have the fund raising talents that Bill had but is thankful to God she can continue Bill’s leadership as a prayerful and faithful financial contributor to the important ministry of SIM.

The Rev. Kathleen Berkowe, the seminarian featured on the cover page, is the 2009/2010 William G. Andersen Scholar.

“Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me personally to give me the SIM check. And thank you for all the work you do on behalf of seminarians, the Church, and the kingdom of God. You play an enabling role in every good work that the future leaders of the church do and will do for years to come. I pray you will see the fruit of your labors in the end.”

G.M., The General Theological Seminary

“Looking back at my service on the Board of SIM, one of the primary concerns I had – and have – was, and is, the shortage of qualified candidates to become priests in our Church and what SIM’s role can be in solving the ongoing problem. Not only are fewer candidates applying to Episcopal seminaries, but also the amount of debt students are burdened with after completing college is a serious stumbling block to seminary enrollment. My service on SIM’s Board and monetary gifts to SIM’s work are very personal efforts toward helping to assure that our beloved Church can endure and continue to serve its members as it has me and my family. Even though not on the Board after May of this year, I will continue to help SIM whenever and wherever I am called upon to serve.”

Marge Cunningham

FROM THE CORNER OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

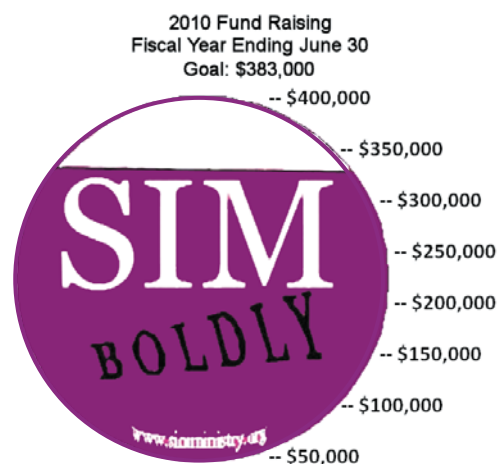


The Rev. Dr. Richard F. Tombaugh, Chair

I am pleased to report that despite the economic difficulties faced by all charitable organizations, SIM has had a good year so far.

As of March 15, 2010, we have raised \$334,026. This represents 87.2% of our fiscal year-end goal of \$383,000. The steady support of parishes and individuals has put us within striking distance of reaching our goal. Please continue your support so that by the end of June we can report 100%.

If you haven't supported SIM in the last 12 months, please give boldly in the enclosed envelope.



At Virginia Theological Seminary, (left to right) Andrea Kramer, Financial Aid Officer, Kirsten Baer '11, Amy Porterfield '10, Heather Erickson '11, Brian Turner '10, Ginny Wilder '12, and Tom Moore

“Thank you for the SIM scholarship award. It is a tremendous blessing that helps in a significant way with expenses during our time here at Sewanee. My family and I are grateful for your generous support and caring concern for the wellbeing of seminary students. Thank you for sharing with us your vision for SIM and for soliciting our feedback.”

A.C., The School of Theology,
University of the South

“I smile now when I remember my first SIM meeting. I had expected something like a grilling interview. It was such a surprise to find that there were people actually on the side of the seminarians. Blessings on your ministry.”

F.G., The General Theological Seminary

“I have so appreciated the prayers and support and look forward to giving back to SIM as I can in both prayers and financial assistance.”

M.L., Church Divinity School
of the Pacific

Alumna Profile

The Reverend Karin Wade, the rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Rockport, Massachusetts, has been a priest for over 20 years. Serving parishes in the west immediately after graduating from Nashotah House Seminary and currently in the Diocese of Massachusetts, Karin's life as a priest has always been as a rector.

Karin is a very dedicated and supportive SIM alumna. Karin's deep gratitude emerges from the special support SIM provided when she was a student at Nashotah House Seminary in the mid 1980's. She recalls many difficult issues and adjustments facing seminarians, but her pervasive concern was financial – not just the terrifying prospect of what she would owe in student loans upon graduation but also the pressing need for financial support while in seminary.

Karin recalls her rather unique middler year conundrum:

"I was single. I was a postulant and candidate in a diocese that offered not a penny of financial support. I did not have family in a position to help out financially. Students weren't allowed to hold jobs during the academic year at Nashotah House. And I was a woman student at a seminary that did not support



The Reverend Karin Wade

the ordination of women. (How I ended up at Nashotah House is an entirely different story.)

"In the second term of my middler year, I overheard several male students talking about a couple of very generous scholarships available to Nashotah students. When asked where to apply, my fellow students snickered. Part of the eligibility for these particular scholarships required signing a statement attesting to opposition to the ordination of women.

"To be honest, I was in such dire financial straits at that time that – just for a microsecond – I considered signing it. I never would have, really, but I was that desperate. I had already applied for any and every scholarship I could find – including SIM's – and had been a beneficiary of most of them. Yet this

late in the school year, I was dead broke. The financial officer was pressing me to cough up some room and board fees that were overdue. I remember being extremely depressed. "That very week I received an envelope from SIM. Having already been awarded my scholarship that fall, I had no idea why I would be receiving a letter. Inside that envelope was a check – a generous check – with a note saying SIM had received some unexpected grants. In checking their records, they noticed that I had serious financial need. 'Perhaps the enclosed check would help out a bit.' And did it ever! It made continuing my journey possible."

Things have come full circle for Karin. All of the parishes where Karin has served have included SIM as part of their outreach giving – the 1% theological education program. Karin's planned giving portfolio includes SIM. Karin's dedication to SIM also involved service on SIM's Board of Directors for two terms. Karin so believes in SIM's ministry that she looks for ways to Payback to SIM and Pay Forward to today's seminarians – to make the same difference in their lives as it did so critically in her call to the priesthood.



The Rev. Canon John Mitman visits with SIM grant recipients at The General Theological Seminary in New York City last November.

SIM

SIM Parish Partner Programs

SIMloyal Parish Partner

- Parish Support at any level
- Notification to Parish's Bishop
- Certificate of Appreciation

SIMboldly Parish Partner

- SIMloyal Parish Partner, plus
- \$5,000 annual scholarship
- 1 Annual Scholarship in Parish's Name

SIMbolder Parish Partner

- SIMloyal ParishPartner, plus
- \$10,000 over two years (\$5,000 per year)
- 1 Scholarship in Parish's Name offered for 2 years

SIMboldest Parish Partner

- SIMloyal Parish Partner, plus
- \$15,000 over three years (\$5,000 per year)
- 1 Scholarship in Parish's Name offered for 3 years
- Eligibility for the Sarah Pardee Award for Outstanding Support of Future Ordained Leaders of The Episcopal Church

Visit our website www.simministry.org to learn more about the Parish Partner Program

What a Legacy!

In 1907, Sarah Pardee included SIM in her will. Over 100 years later, seminarians continue to benefit from her beneficence. As a tribute to this visionary woman, SIM's newly renovated Parish Partner Program incorporates the Sarah Pardee Award, the SIM boldest award (see above), our highest award of parish appreciation.

The **1857 Society**, named for the year of SIM's founding, is composed of persons who have included SIM in their wills or other estate planning – persons like Sarah Pardee, Marge Cunningham (page 4), Marnie Mueller (page 3), and the Reverend Karin Wade (page 6).

You too can establish a legacy to invest in future ordained leaders to serve The Episcopal Church.

1. Make a valid will
2. Include SIM as a charitable beneficiary
3. Advise SIM and be invited to join the **1857 Society**.



SIMnet

The Future of SIM and Seminarian and Alumni Support

When “our” seminarians learn that SIM alumni number close to 2,500 around the country, many imagine how they might tap into that network. When SIM alumni asked at General Convention 2009 how they might “payback” SIM’s ministry in a hands-on way, SIM envisioned a mechanism to enlarge its ministry by providing opportunities for alumni to be a present support for today’s seminarians nationwide.

SIM is pleased to launch such a place—SIMnet, our online community for alumni and seminarians to come together to share and create numerous opportunities by connecting to one another. SIM is also working on online “off-the shelf” presentations to be used by alumni to promote support for SIM’s ministry across the country. It’s a win/win/win program!

Currently, SIMnet is in beta testing to become more robust, more user friendly and with more user input.

SIM is also looking to use SIMnet as a portal for extending connections with seminarians, alumni, and donors.

Internet security and confidentiality undergird the technology of SIMnet. When one first logs on SIMnet, you are asked to register, which takes only a few minutes and ensures only appropriate members are allowed.

Users will determine ways SIMnet can be used most effectively. Envisioned activities include: seminarians posting resumes or intern requests for alumni to view; alumni posting openings for summer ministries or job openings; parishes needing program or Sunday services assistance, seminarians seeking experience. SIMnet will make seeking opportunities for ministry more efficient.

Help us build SIMnet by registering at:
<http://www.simministry.org/forum/>



The Society for the Increase of the Ministry

924 Farmington Avenue, #100
West Hartford, CT 06107

860-233-1732
Fax 860-233-2644
info@simministry.org
www.simministry.org

Help SIM Go Green

Keep up with the latest news from SIM and help the environment at the same time. Please take a moment to email us at info@simministry.org with your email address and put “subscriber” in the subject line.

Or you may register for our online newsletter

The eCall on our website at <http://www.simministry.org>.

We will continue with our tradition of sending you **The Call** twice a year.