1961

1961. Fall

Western Theological Seminary
NEW TERM OPENS AT SEMINARY

Personnel Changes In the Dean's Office

After twenty-two years of service on the faculty of Western Seminary, Dr. George H. Mennenga retired from his seminary duties on September 1. In addition to serving as professor of English Bible and Missions for many years, Dr. Mennenga had increasingly assumed the duties of Dean of The Seminary and Registrar. The expanding program of the school has now compelled a division of responsibility.

In the fall of 1960, Dr. John H. Piet was called from India to the faculty to assume the position of Professor of English Bible and Missions. This fall Dr. Henry J. TenClay for many years Pastor of the First Reformed Church of Grand-

Fall Convocation Conference An Inspirational Event

The annual Fall Convocation Conference launched the new seminary year in a two-day session held September 13 and 14. Guest speaker for the event was Dr. Robert Boyd Munger, Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California.

Dr. Munger delivered a series of addresses entitled "Dynamics for the Ministry Today." The first two addresses were presented at Camp Geneva, the Reformed Church Youth Camp on Lake Michigan, where the opening day meetings were held. Over 100 ministers of various denominations joined with students and faculty in a day of high inspiration.

The second day of Convocation Conference was held in the Seminary Chapel. Following the customary academic procession and devotions, Dr. Munger presented a third in his series of addresses.

Dr. George H. Mennenga

where he is participating in the calling program, the teacher-training program, the mid-week service, and at other points in the program in the life of the congregation. His many friends over the years and across the miles are wishing him God's best as he continues his ministerial service in his new capacity.

Dr. Henry J. TenClay

Largest Enrollment In History Of WTS

The fall term began September 13 with the largest enrollment in Western Theological Seminary's history. A total of 123 men are on the student rolls in the several programs now offered by the seminary.

One of the significant increases is in the junior class with its 50 men. These new students replace 19 who were graduated in last May's commencement. The first year men come to Western from over a dozen colleges and universities, and from widely scattered areas of the nation.

Although the largest group of juniors comes from Hope College, it is interesting to note that another of the Reformed Church colleges is represented officially for the first time. For many years, Northwestern College at Orange City, Iowa has sent many of its young men to Western Theological Seminary. Formerly a junior college, Northwestern now offers a complete four-year program, granting a Bachelor of Arts degree. This year, for the first time, three men come directly from Northwestern—members of the college's first four-year class. The three men are Donald Jiskoot, Duane Landhuis, and Thomas Vander Schaaf.

The student enrollment is made up in the following manner: Candidates for the Bachelor of Divinity degree number 112. Six men are enrolled in the seminary's new program for the Th M degree, and five men are enrolled on an internship program.

In order to care for this enlarged enrollment, new staff members have been added. The Reverend William Hiemstra, Reformed Chaplain at the Pine Rest Hospital in Grand Rapids is a lecturer in Pastoral Counseling and conducts a clinic in Pastoral Care. Mr. Robert Smith, on leave of absence from the Hope College Speech Department, and presently involved in doctoral work at Michigan State University, is teaching Speech. The Reverend Gerrit ten Zythoff, a Reformed Church minister currently in a doctoral program at the University of Chicago, is teaching in the New Testament field dur-

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New Language Lab a Result of Alumni Interest

The important beginnings of a new language lab at Westerns are a result of alumni interest and effort. A gift to the seminary of an Ampex PR-10 stereo tape recorder provided a basic piece of the lab equipment. Pictured above at the time the recorder was presented are Dr. Harold Englund, President; Dr. Henry Voogd, alumni executive secretary; the Reverend Frederick Dolfen (Eighth Reformed, Grand Rapids) past president of the Alumni Association; and the Reverend Chester Droog, (Fifth Reformed, Grand Rapids), past vice president of the Alumni Association.

Internship Experiment Launched

In keeping with the strong church-orientation of the theological training given at Western Seminary, a program of Internships has been launched this fall. Briefly the program works as follows: Students take a full year out between their Middler and Senior years for supervised field work in a parish or in an alternative clinical situation to apply present knowledge and to gain insights which will be of help to them in their final year of theological preparation in the classroom.

Monthly reports are filled out by the interns and mailed back to the seminary for a review, and quarterly reports are submitted by pastor-supervisors, by classical consultants, and by key laymen who have an opportunity to observe the work of the intern at close range. The job description for the intern is intended to provide each student with an opportunity to gain experience in the whole gamut of ministerial service—preaching, calling, personal counseling, parish evangelism, administration, teaching, and creating programs.

Five men are participating in the internship program during this academic year. Their positions are spread from New York to California. Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Van Es are serving in the Elmendorf Reformed Church in New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeYoung are serving in the Garden Grove Reformed Church in southern California; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Izenbart are working in the First Reformed Church in Denver; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Eisens are working in the Calvary Community Church of Detroit, and Richard Stadt is spending his year in the Nardin Park Reformed Church of Detroit. Three of these internships are being operated with the assistance of the Board of North American Missions which is interested in training men for inner-city service.

While the internship program willprobably not become a compulsory part of the course at Western Seminary, it is expected that more and more men will choose to participate in this invaluable aspect of their Christian training. Pastors who feel that they could profitably use an intern in their own church program are invited to write to Dr. Henry TenClay, Dean of Students at Western Seminary, for details.

Western Offers Graduate Program

Years of planning began to bear fruit this fall when WTS introduced its new Master of Theology program. Graduate study is now available in two fields of specialization, theological and biblical.

In the theological field a Master's degree is now being offered in Systematic and in Historical Theology. In the biblical field, Master's work is now being offered in the Old Testament and New Testament departments and in the Department of English Bible. The seminary is deferring Master of Theology work in the Practical Field until an enlargement of the faculty makes adequate supervision possible.


Men holding B.D. degrees who are interested in pursuing Master of Theology work at Western Seminary should write to the Dean of Students, Dr. Henry TenClay, for a description of the course and the requirements which must be met.

Dr. Blocker Honored

Dr. Simon Blocker, Emeritus Professor of Practical Theology at Western Theological Seminary was honored at a birthday party recognizing his 80th birthday. Dr. Blocker, active at the seminary from 1936 until 1962, was a guest of honor at chapel exercises and then was ushered into the seminary commons room where cake and coffee was served.

At the present time, Dr. Blocker is making his home at Resthaven, Holland, Michigan.

Western Graduate Takes University Post

Dr. Otto Grundler, a graduate of Western Theological Seminary in 1950, has been appointed an instructor of philosophy and religion at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, effective this September.

Dr. Grundler has previously held positions as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, N.J., also as an instructor of German language and literature, Westminster College; a teacher of history of Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.

He received his Ph. D. degree from Princeton Seminary in 1961.
Lecture Presented
By Dr. Bast

The Reverend Henry Bast, D. D., Professor of Practical Theology, presented a special lecture at the seminary on October 12. His subject was “Foundations For Preaching.” He shared with his overflow audience some of the basic principles which undergird the preaching ministry today.

This lecture was part of a regular program of special lectures given by members of the seminary faculty during the school year. Anyone desiring to be given advance notice of such lectures, should feel free to write the seminary and ask to be put on the regular mailing list.

Dr. Oudersluy's Travels,
Studies in Europe

Dr. Richard Oudersluy, Professor of New Testament Language and Literature is now in Europe, enrolled for the fall term at the Theological School of the University of Basel in Switzerland. The foreign study is part of a sabbatical program which will include travel and study in other theological centers of learning in Germany, the Netherlands, England, and Scotland.

Correspondence from the Oudersluy family indicates all goes well in the early stages of the experience with a period of sightseeing and visiting serving as a prelude to the serious study to follow. Son, Mark, is enrolled in a school at Lausanne for the year while his mother and father travel and study together.

As part of the Oudersluy's technique for wholehearted participation and identification with the European scene, two extremely important preliminaries have already been accomplished...the first, the purchase of a Volkswagen as fitting transportation, and the second, a serious effort to become facile with the language. Many of Dr. Oudersluy's colleagues at Western are convinced that he will handle the language even more adeptly than the Volkswagen.

WTS ALUMNI News and Notes

Keep your eye on this column and watch it grow. As our ties to each other and WTS are strengthened the alumni report is destined to mature. So let's keep things rolling! A salute to the retiring Alumni officers, Fred Dolfin, Chet Droog and Cornie Hoekstra for a job well done. A ratified constitution, a successful project drive for WTS and renewed vision and spirit for the future of the Alumni Association stand as witness to their efforts. The reins of leadership now rest in the hands of Collins Weeber, President; Allan Dykstra, Vice President and Don Den Hartog, Secretary.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Milton J. Hoffman, professor emeritus of NIETS has retired, it would seem, to an even more active life. At 76 years of age he is serving the East Millstone Church and is a member of the local Library Commission, the Housing Authority Board and the Historical Society. Beyond this, Milton is active on the Religious Liberty Committee of the NCC.

Francis Dykstra of Pekin, Illinois served as Senate chaplain at the opening session of the 1961 Illinois State Legislature.

Here's one for the record: George B. Scholten, who retired from the active ministry in 1957, reports that his father was the first graduate of WTS after it became a distinctly independent institution. This was back in 1886, and he was the sole member of the graduating class. How's that for digging up the past.

NOTES ON NEW LIFE

Paul Robert, born Feb. 21, 1961 to the Carl Van Farowes of Southgate, Michigan
Kendall Lee, born Nov. 14, 1960 to the LeRoy Koopmans of Berwyn, Illinois
Double joy came to the Harm Wieringa of Denver, Colorado in the birth of twin sons, May 16, 1961, Timothy and Thomas.

NECROLOGY REPORT — MAY, 1960 TO MAY, 1961

Peddie M. Wierama, '02, April 17, 1961
George Hankamp, '10, April 21, 1961
John Vander Schaaf, '10, October 7, 1960
Jean Vis, '13, July 11, 1960
Royal Stanton, '14, May 2, 1961
George Heneveld, '16, January 7, 1961
Harry Hoffs, '17, May 17, 1960
Cornelius Dolfin, '19, March 18, 1961
Thomas Baker, '24, June 25, 1960
James Ottropby, '26N, October 5, 1960
Lester Muller, '40, December 1, 1960

Note: the necrology report will be presented annually.

If your news item was not included in this column, keep watching.

Cordially yours,

Henry Voogd, Executive Secretary

P.S. If you have not as yet contributed to the 1961 Alumni project, do it now with interest.

Consistories Visit Western

On Monday evening, October 9, 1961, the consistories of the Second Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan, held its monthly consistory meeting in the faculty room of Western Seminary. Wind- ing up its business with unusual speed, at 9 p.m., the consistory was then ushered into the chapel where the seminary president, Dr. Harold Englund, explained the workings of the theological school to the elders and deacons present. The Rev. Raymond Beckering, Pastor of Second, Zeeland, also serves Western Seminary as the secretary of the Board of Trustees.

After this briefing session in the chapel, the consistory men toured the premises to gain an idea of just what goes on in the halls of Western day by day. They viewed the classrooms, the offices, the business operations, the library, the commons, and the men's dormitory. Following this tour, they assembled in the seminary commons where coffee and rolls were served them while the business manager of the seminary, Mr. Henry Kleinheksel, offered additional information on the life of the school, and answered questions.

Judging from the enthusiastic response, the evening was a stimulation both to the consistory men and to the seminary administration. Four additional consistories are scheduled to spend an evening at Western Seminary and the administration of the school cordially invites still other consistories to arrange for a field trip to Western Seminary. Arrangements may be made by writing to Mr. Henry Kleinheksel, Western Seminary, Holland, Michigan.
NEW FUND MAKES LIBRARY GROWTH POSSIBLE

Western Seminary On The Air

On Thursday evenings at radio station W.J.B.L. in Holland a group of Western Seminary students gather to prepare a tape recording of the weekly broadcast of the Western Seminary hour to be released the following Sunday.

Senior student, Mel Van Hattem, serves this year as the General Manager of the program, and John Zwetyhezen, assisted by Gary Looman, is the producer. Announcers, script writer, music chairman, faculty advisor—all are concerned to make the 4:45 to 5:00 p.m. broadcast on Sunday afternoons as excellent a broadcast as possible. Radio station W.J.B.L. can be heard north of Holland almost to the Straits of Mackinac and south to the Indiana border and east about 100 miles from Holland. The aim of the program is to offer to the Christian public insights into the training of men for the gospel ministry, interviews with distinguished Christian leaders, meditations from scripture and commentaries on Christian responses to world problems.

Programs this fall have included Dr. Robert Boyd Munger, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, California, who was the Convocation Conference speaker, students summarizing their summer work from the Atlantic to the Pacific, an interview of an overseas student, Mr. Leoncio Yao from the Philippine Islands, interviews with Dr. Norman Thomas, president of General Synod and with the Rev. Harvey Hoekstra, missionary to Africa and a program featuring Dr. John Piet, professor of English Bible and Missions at Western Seminary speaking on the forthcoming World Council of Churches meeting in New Delhi. For the students participating, the radio program provides invaluable experience in radio programming, in radio speaking, in script writing and in public relations. The mass media are an important vehicle for communicating the gospel, and the seminary believes that the Western Seminary hour provides a splendid opportunity for theological students to become acquainted with the possibilities of radio.

Mrs. Can't Be Missed!

The queen of the parsonage has insisted upon equal rights... and who would deny her the privilege? If wives of Western students want to study, Western wants to cooperate!

Classes for wives were instituted last spring. These classes are held on Saturday mornings and wives are included in chapel, coffee break, and other Saturday activities. Even a baby-sitting program has been worked out to allow mothers to attend.

Dr. Eenigenburg and Dr. Oudensluy's began the program with courses in The History of the American Church and Gospel of John. This fall Dr. Osterhaven and Dr. Piet are presenting courses in Heidelberg Catechism and The Nature and Function of the Church.

The American Theological Library Association has announced a new library development program for theological seminaries, made possible by the Sealantic Fund, designed to encourage theological libraries to add to their book collection volumes they might not otherwise be able to afford. The program provides for grants up to $3000 per year for three years if matched by the participating seminaries. The funds provided by the seminaries must be over and above previously budgeted amounts for the purchases of books and periodicals.

The gift offer, then, requires extra considerations on the part of the seminaries and their supporters. Western is confident that there are many individuals who are able to provide extra support for such a program and who will do so once they are aware of the opportunity. Under such a program, with adequate help from two directions, the Western Seminary library can experience its necessary growth.

The commencement of the Master of Theology program this fall at Western Seminary (a program recommended and planned for many years) will require the expansion of the Seminary library at a number of significant points. Thus, the timing of the Sealantic Fund program could not be more propitious from Western's point of view.

Plans are also underway for the enlargement of the stack space in the seminary to accommodate the gradually growing book collection. A new periodical room and rare book room are also in the planning stage. Someone has said, with real point, the essence of the school is a great teacher, a willing student, and a library!

So, if you have a gift in mind, or know of someone who has a vital interest in books and the work of the church, here is a splendid opportunity to give. To borrow a commercial phrase, "Your money will go farther with this plan!"

Largest Enrollment...

(Cont'd from page 1)
**Class of ’56 Holds Reunion**

A fifth-year reunion was held by the Class of ’56 August 2 and 3 at WTS. A family picnic, a faculty-alumni tea, a banquet, and an exchange of experiences were features of the first day. The group reconvened on the morning of the second day at the chapel where a communion service, conducted by Seminary President, Dr. Englund, was held.


**Special Instruction, Lab Equipment Improve Speech**

Juniors are now taking speech instruction from Mr. Robert Smith, Hope College Speech Department, on Saturday mornings. The special instruction, plus the use of newly acquired tape recording equipment, is aimed at improving voice and delivery. Students with special speech problems are given extra coaching and work with the lab equipment.

Dr. Bast, Professor of Preaching, is also making use of the equipment for his instruction in homiletics. Students are able to couple the professor’s comments with their own listening to tape recordings and evaluate their sermonic efforts accordingly.

The Class of 1953 has presented WTS with a delayed class gift of two tape decks for listening purposes. After continued efforts to procure a bust of John Calvin, the Class members decided to supplement the speech lab with this additional equipment. The tape decks are installed in the lower level of Beardslee Library for the use of students, professors, and visiting ministers.

Tapes may be purchased by students in the Student Bookstore so that a student may maintain a personal record of his performance for later reference. Ministers in the area who wish to make use of the equipment for their own self-improvement may do so by making arrangements with the Business Manager, Mr. Henry Kleinheksel.

**Tape Library Offers New Resources For Sermon Study**

Beginning with the acquisition of the Susan V. Russell Tape Library, consisting of more than one hundred tape recordings of sermons, radio messages, and miscellaneous addresses by noted American preachers, the Seminary Library has been acquiring taped examples of current pulpit excellence for the use of students and ministers.

It is now possible to sit at the listening decks in Beardslee Library and hear the voices of Samuel Shoemaker, Cary Weisiger, John A. Redhead, Stephen F. Bayne, Arthur Lichtenberger, Ted Hightower, J. Wallace Hamilton, George Docherty, Eugene Carson Blake, and other prominent ministers of our day.

In addition, visiting lecturers and preachers are taped for possible inclusion in the Tape Library collection. Elmer Homrighausen, Robert Munger, Stephen Neill and W. C. Van Unnik are samples of men whose lectures and sermons given at Western Seminary will be available for future listening and analysis.

Ministers near Holland who use the Seminary Library may of course avail themselves of the tape collection by speaking to the Librarian. All tapes must be used on the premises.

In addition, readers of *The Theolog* who have in their possession outstanding examples of contemporary pulpit work on tape are invited to submit such tapes to the Seminary for copying, with the understanding that the preacher himself has granted permission for this to be done.

**Seminary Students Gain Help Through Student Fund**

The Student Assistance Fund is an outgrowth of the program pioneered by the Garfield Park Church of Grand Rapids which set up full student scholarships of $500 each, or half-scholarships of $250 each. The school administers the granting of these funds based on a carefully devised method which insures that only those who really need help receive it. Ten students have received aid this term.

Several churches, as well as individuals, have given to this fund; modifications of the plan have been adopted by others. It is an excellent vehicle for giving aid to foreign students at Western because it is flexible enough to use gifts in any amount for any designated student, and it enables the school to oversee the disbursement in a controlled and orderly manner, thus protecting the best interests of each recipient.

Inquiries from interested churches and individuals are welcomed.

In addition to the program of the Student Assistance Fund of the Seminary, a number of congregations are setting up student help programs within their own memberships, specifically designed to encourage young people preparing for the church vocations. Then, following the suggestion of the General Synod of 1961, several Classes are studying the matter of Classical supervision and assistance for students from churches of the Classis preparing for the ministry or for missionary service.

Without question, the years of preparation are often the most difficult, and it is encouraging to sense the new spirit of shared concern throughout the church for the training of gifted and consecrated youth for positions of leadership in the Kingdom of God.

**Dr. Harry P. Boot Dies**

Dr. Harry Boot, graduate of Western Theological Seminary in 1903, and a missionary to China for 37 years, died at his home in Holland, Michigan last month.

Dr. Boot served in the Amoy Mission and on the faculty of South Fukien Seminary during his years in China. He retired from active service in 1940.
Introducing The Theolog

Let me introduce myself. My name is The Theolog. Men who studied at Western Seminary years ago will probably say I am Theolog, Jr., because the annual Seminary Catalog was once called by my name.

I am a combination of things: A news letter to the many people interested in Western Seminary, a report on alumni activities, a house-organ to keep other seminaries informed of Western's life and growth, and a paper to stimulate interest in study for the ministry among dedicated college and university students across the country.

I am being sent to churches in limited quantities for consistory men this first time, but any church that can use more copies within its membership (without covering the entire congregation which would be too expensive), or to send to its young people away at school may have a larger number by sending in the adjacent form.