

In This Issue

- Keeping Connected
- What's New?
- Resources
- Connect with President
- Books & Publications
- Upcoming Events
- Alumni News

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Welcome New Graduates



AGTS recently celebrated its 35th Commencement Anniversary and we welcome the 127 graduates of the Class of 2008 into the Alumni Association! You are joining AGTS alums standing shoulder to shoulder in ministry worldwide in over 125 countries and every state in the U.S. As an alum of AGTS, you have opportunities to:

- Connect to alumni experienced in similar fields of ministry
- Access the Alumni Central webpage at www.agts.edu/alumni
- Log on and access the Alumni Directory
- Audit one course free every year
- Attend special events and lectureships
- Download podcasts of sermons and lectures
- Access faculty class notes and course syllabi
- Use the Library
- Receive alumni e-newsletter and Rapport magazine
- [Subscribe](#) to monthly newsletters
- Request job and ministry opportunities list

Would you help us in keeping you connected to the AGTS community-at-large by notifying the Alumni Office whenever you move, change jobs, or have news to share? Just e-mail us at alumni@agts.edu and update your information on the alumni directory. The Class of 2008 will receive their directory access key shortly. We look forward to hearing from you!

What's New?

2008 Alumnus of the Year



Dr. David P. Crosby, Jr. ('97/'07), was honored as the 2008 *Alumnus of the Year*. He is the founding pastor of [Pocono Community Church](#), Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania. In October 2002, David and a core group of 75 adults began meeting for prayer to plant a church. Today, over 1,200 people attend the church each weekend. Services are contemporary, biblically-driven worship services and alive with energy and creativity.

Dave and his wife, Rebekah have three children, Kathryn, David III and Henry.

Three Alumni Elected to Sigma Chi Pi Honor Society

The Alliance for AG Higher Education sponsors the *Sigma Chi Pi Honor Society*. AGTS faculty nominate alumni graduating at least 10 years ago who meet the scholastic, character and leadership qualifications. The 2008 recipients are:



Dr. Drexel T. Brunson ('77) has served as senior pastor of [Ocala First Assembly](#) in Florida since 1999. Programs include the First Assembly Christian School and Daycare for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade for 300 children. A graduate of the University of South Florida, he earned a Ph.D. in humanities/religion from Florida State University. He pastored 17 years in Columbus, GA, and Fayetteville, NC.

Drexel serves on the boards of Global University, the International Media Ministries of Brussels, Belgium, and the African Leadership Council. Drexel and his wife, Pam, have two children, Jarrod and Kellyn.

Dr. Carol A. Taylor ('78) is provost and vice president for academic affairs at [Vanguard University](#) in Costa Mesa, CA. She is professor of education and holds a Ph.D. in multilingual/multicultural education from Florida State University. Carol formerly served as vice provost at Biola University, overseeing all undergraduate programs across six schools. Her teaching and administrative experience ranges from elementary education to graduate university levels. She has consulted for state departments of education, served as an advocate for language minority children, established and worked with national and international testing committees, and taught at three state universities.



Dr. Cheryl A. Taylor ('91/'03) is the director of the [Doctor of Ministry Program at AGTS](#). She came to the seminary following a decade of ministry in the local church, on the district level and overseas. She served as the doctoral program advisor and has taught at AGTS since 2003. Cheryl also serves as the vice president for academics at Asia Theological Centre for Evangelism and Missions, an AG Bible

college in Singapore. Cheryl's passion is to help believers discover and fulfill their God-given potential. Her doctoral research centered on sexual integrity for ministers and she speaks on this topic around the country. Cheryl and her husband, Jay, have two children, Joshua and Natalie.

New Communities of the Faith Honorees

Two churches were recently honored by AGTS for their investment to ensure that the legacy of Pentecostal faith is transferred to subsequent generations. These churches have a vision to see ministers, missionaries, teachers, church planters, counselors, chaplains and other Christian leaders receive top quality education and training. The first honorees included [First Assembly of God](#) in Ocala, Florida pastored by Dr. Drexel Brunson and the [Christian Life Center](#) in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida pastored by Rev. Max Yeary. Their names are inscribed on the new Communities of the Faith display in the Great Hall at AGTS. For further information contact the Development Office at 417-268-1012.

Seminary Receives Grants

AGTS received a \$30,000 planning grant from the Kern Family Foundation in Waukesha, Wisconsin. This grant is part of a new matching grants initiative by the Kern Family Foundation entitled, "Leading Through Change: Innovation In Theological Schools." The purpose of the initiative is to strengthen Evangelical seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools through fresh thinking about how theological teaching, learning, research, governance and administration are done. AGTS is one of 10 seminaries selected to receive this grant. In 2009, the Kern Family Foundation will select up to five participating seminaries to receive matching grants up to \$500,000.

AGTS also received a \$21,180 grant from The Chatlos Foundation, Inc., in Longwood, Fla., to provide scholarships for missionaries enrolling in the Doctor of Missiology Program.

Norma Davies Honored

During the graduation banquet, Norma Davies was honored for her ministry to students. She received the first Barnabas Award inscribed in her honor as "The Encourager" presented by the Class of 2008.



Resources

Access Commencement Address



"What I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before I Was Ordained," (2 Timothy 4:1-8) by Pastor Dan Betzer was insightful, engaging, and fun. A veteran of over 60 years in broadcast media, he hosts *Byline*, a weekday radio commentary with a potential audience of 186 million viewers around the world. Rev. Betzer has pastored [First Assembly of God](#) in Fort Myers, Florida, since 1987. [Click here to listen to his address.](#)

President Klaus honored Rev. Betzer with the AGTS Legacy Award. Pastor Betzer's advocacy on behalf of AGTS facilitated an initiative which raised over \$500,000 to eliminate all long-term debt at AGTS.

Graduation Highlights Available



Visit the [AGTS Graduation website](#) to view candid photos, purchase diploma frames, and listen to graduation events. Photos taken by AGTS staff are watermark-free and are free to download and print. Photos taken by the professional photographers are watermarked. Ordering instructions for watermarked photos are posted on-line.

2008 Graduates

If you were unable to attend the Graduation Banquet, please stop by the Alumni Office located inside the Enrollment Office to pick up your alumni gift.



Connect with President Klaus

Dr. Byron Klaus will be at the following events:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| May 31 | Commencement Speaker, Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN |
| June 4-6 | William Seymour Institute Event at Embassy Center Church, Chicago, IL |



The **Prez Release** is a monthly email commentary from President Byron Klaus. Each issue contains thoughts on society, the Bible, and the role of the church in today's world.

To receive the **Prez Release** via email, [subscribe online](#) or request your subscription by emailing president@agts.edu.

Books and Publications

Monty Galloway ('05) had an article entitled "The Tale of the Two Pens" published online at www.theooze.com.

AG Women in Ministry e-newsletter

[When The Teeter-Totter Crashes: Finding Equilibrium In Life And Ministry](#) by **Jennifer Gale** ('99)

[Dance With Me](#) by **Dr. Peggy Jo Wobbema** ('94/'07)

Upcoming Events

AGTS Chaplaincy Reception

July 27 University Plaza Hotel

Islam Summit Planned

Sept. 10-12 **Islam in America Summit**
Calvary Church in Naperville, IL

Alumni News

Alumni Participate in Graduation Events



Alumni representatives from every graduating class since 1974 were invited to participate in the recent 35th Anniversary Commencement. During the prayer of commissioning, alumni encircled the graduates to powerfully pray over them. Pictured to the left are alumni who also attended the President's Brunch earlier that day.

Alumni representatives included:

Class of 1974	Jimmy L. Powers
Class of 1975	John T. Maempa
Class of 1976	J. Russell Turney
Class of 1977	Alvera R. Farrand
Class of 1978	William F. Farrand
Class of 1979	Jim L. Bennett
Class of 1980	Jonathan W. Glover
Class of 1981	David and Maria ('06) Bundrick
Class of 1982	Raymond L. Gannon
Class of 1983	Calvin A. Pincombe
Class of 1984	H. Scott McChrystal III
Class of 1985	Warren and Annette ('96) Newberry
Class of 1986	Willard D. Teague, Jr.
Class of 1987	Randy R. Rich
Class of 1988	Ronald Q. Tuttle
Class of 1989	David W. Willemsen
Class of 1990	Leo J. Theriot
Class of 1991	Cheryl and Jay ('95) Taylor
Class of 1992	Dale J. Fagerland
Class of 1993	Mary K. Glunt
Class of 1994	Paul B. York
Class of 1995	James G. Meredith
Class of 1996	James R. Link
Class of 1997	David P. Crosby, Jr.
Class of 1998	Miriam L. Testasecca
Class of 1999	Jennifer D. Gale
Class of 2000	Jay W. Kindred
Class of 2001	Gary R. Allen
Class of 2002	Roger C. Thomassen
Class of 2003	Jessica and Jeff ('99) Dorn
Class of 2004	Melissa J. Hartin
Class of 2005	Alaine T. Buchanan
Class of 2006	Ronald G. Morein
Class of 2007	Justin P. Kochs

Dr. J. Wayne Mancari ('78) is lead pastor at Cornerstone Assembly of God in Richmond, VA.



CAPT Stephen Bird, CHC, USN ('81) completed 18 months of active duty for Special Works as a special assistant to the Navy Chief of Chaplains where he developed specialized ministry programs for reservists returning from Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. He is the Clinical Chaplain II at Lanesboro Correctional Institution, in Polkton, NC.

Victor and Janet **Hedman** ('85) have served as AGWM missionaries focused on evangelism and church planting for almost 40 years. They spent 30 years in South America and currently minister in Spain where they have planted four churches in Madrid in the past 6 yrs.



Dr. Terry Hughes ('89/'05) married Carl Hosch on May 10th in Fairfax, VA. Terry serves as an AGWM international missionary with Global University.

Don Butera ('90) was recently approved as an AGWM missionary to Indonesia.



Chaplain Richard Brown ('97) is an active duty chaplain currently stationed with the 168TH Multi-functional Medical Battalion in Camp Walker, Korea (Daegu, Korea).

Judi Ballweber ('03) serves as an AGWM missionary in the Ukraine/CIS Baltics. She anticipates more teaching with rehab center leaders this fall and will focus on mobile medical clinic outreaches as she travels throughout Ukraine, sharing the gospel through compassionate ministry.



Daniel Davis ('03) serves as lead pastor at Kentwood Family Church in Covington, WA.

Dr. David DeGarmo ('04), executive vice president at American Indian College, has been named the new director for the AGTS masters program at the AIC Branch.

Chaplain Cliff Neuman ('04) arrived home to Fort Riley, KS from his second deployment in 3 years. Cliff is the chaplain for 1-4 CAV ID for 500+ soldiers and preaches at least twice a month at the Main Post Chapel.



The soldiers pictured left are a small group of those arriving home in waves. Cliff was fortunate enough to be in the first wave of soldiers to return.

Sarah Tarpley ('05) is currently serving as a Reserve Chaplain the 917

Wing at Barksdale AFB, LA.



Jarrid and Kendra **Younkin** ('05) welcomed Josiah Loyd Younkin on Friday April 18, 2008.

Jim Anderson ('06) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Research Psychology at the University of Oklahoma where he received a full scholarship.



Send Us Your News!

We want to hear from you! Send your latest news and photos for possible publication in the *Alumni E-Newsletter* and/or *Rapport*. Email your news and photos to alumni@agts.edu.

If you would like to unsubscribe, please email alumni@agts.edu with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.