



ESR Reports
Vol. XII, Number 2

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ESR Reports is published in the fall and spring for alumni/ae and friends of Earlham School of Religion

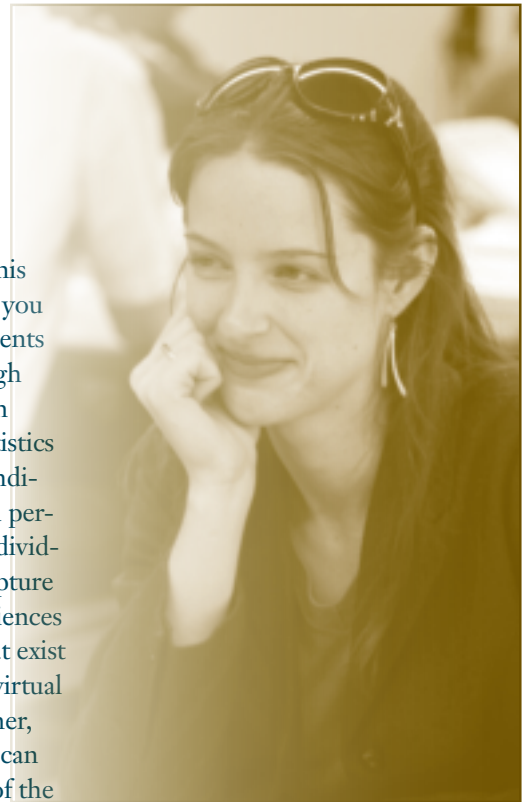
Tim Seid, Editor
Susanna Combs, Art Director

Students: The Mission and Calling of ESR

by Valerie Hurwitz, Director of Recruitment and Admissions

ESR's mission and calling is wrapped up in the very lives of our students—who they are, where they come from, what gifts they bring, and the ministries they develop over the course of their lives. Our strength lies in offering a formative and transformative education that is responsive to the needs of the Religious Society of Friends and the wider Christian world. Who are our students, what calls them to attend seminary, and how does this experience change their lives? As Director of Recruitment and Admissions, I am privy to some of the excitement people feel when they find out that they have been accepted or that we've been able to offer Cooper scholarship funds to assist them with tuition. I receive notes from people who have just left their first on-campus course excited for the possibilities seminary offers or who have discovered fellow *ESR Access* (distance learning) students in their part of the country. These stories are crucial to understanding ESR's value in the world today.

The purpose of this *ESR Reports* is to tell you about who ESR students are right now, through statistics and through personal stories. Statistics cannot capture the individual nature of each person's journey, and individual stories cannot capture the breadth of experiences and backgrounds that exist on the physical and virtual ESR campus. Together, numbers and stories can offer you a glimpse of the dynamic life of ESR today.



Valerie Hurwitz

Some General Statistics and Comments

The Association of Theological Schools indicates that "over 50" is the fastest growing age group of seminary students. Additionally, most non-Catholic seminaries are majority female. Specifically at ESR, the *Access* program has grown tremendously since it began and now constitutes about half of degree-seeking students. ESR also remains strongly Quaker and draws from all the branches of Friends to a greater or lesser extent, but also attracts students from other denominations. We are a "suggested school" for several groups.

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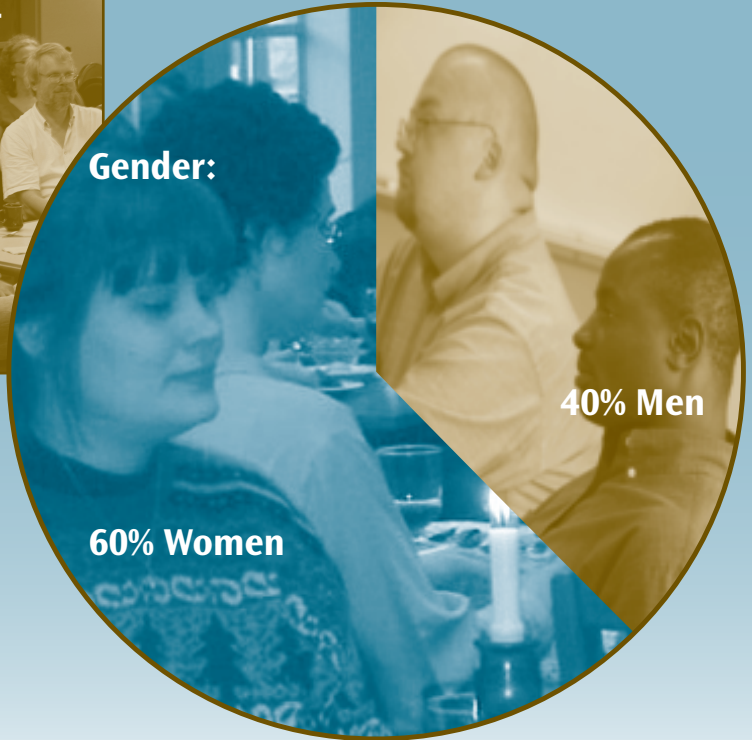


STATISTICS and COMMENTS continued from page 1

Average Age: 44



Gender:



60% Women

40% Men

Program

	MDiv/MMin	MA	Occasional Student	Total
Residential	47	7	14	68
ESR Access	47	10	24	81
Total	94	17	38	149



Student Profile

Evelyn Jadin

One of the things I've most valued about my time at ESR is the diversity of ages among my classmates, particularly among other women. Being in my mid-twenties, up until now most of my education has been with other people my own age. It is such a gift to be in a learning environment with people from multiple generations, and getting to hear their stories and wisdom while sharing my own. Hearing this multitude of voices has been a crucial aspect of my seminary education, and one of the richest parts of my experience at ESR that I know I will treasure in years to come.

Member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) and one of the editors of the recent publication Spirit Rising.

If you would prefer only to receive an electronic form of this newsletter, please email Mandy Ford fordma@earlham.edu with your email address to opt out of the printed newsletter.

Denominational Affiliation

Quaker	37%
Unitarian Universalist	14%
Non-Denominational	11%
United Church of Christ	5%
Episcopal	5%
Presbyterian	5%
Swedenborgian	4%
Baptist	4%
United Methodist	4%
Other	11%

Student Profile

Michael Jay

I am in seminary because God is not finished with me. Roughly a year before I applied, I met with an ESR employee who encouraged me to consider seminary. Seminary no longer fit into my life-plans, as I had resigned to a reality where seminary would not be helpful. Later, I was encouraged to consider seminary and reminded that, if I went through seminary, I could work as a chaplain for hospice or a hospital. I brushed that off, as it seemed impractical. Seminary was suggested a third time this summer, right around a conference of Young Adult Friends in Wichita Kansas. At this third invitation, I felt ready because: “three is a mystical number, three settles matters.” I did not know why it was time to leave the place I knew as home; however, my heart knew that God had something waiting for me.

Since I have been here, my worldview has been challenged, sometimes in positive and sometimes in negative ways. I have been invited to explore places that I used to ignore, and attempt to say what I have left unsaid. Sometimes I am tired, sometimes angry, sometimes excited – but I will not unlearn what I have learned here. The process is challenging, but the results last. I am in a seedbed, and I look forward to see where I am planted and how I will grow.



Branches of Friends (Yearly Meeting Affiliation)

FGC (Friends General Conference)	29%
FUM (Friends United Meeting)	26%
Dually Affiliated Yearly Meetings (FGC/FUM)	20%
International (non-FUM) and Independent	17%
Conservative	6%
Evangelical Friends Church International	2%

How Did Students First Hear About ESR?

This last table of information represents what we know about how students find us. Connections among Quakers are extremely important for us in attracting students, as are the recommendations of students, faculty and alumni, whether Friends or otherwise. ESR's visibility on the Internet is also essential for recruiting. We now work with Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and recently began a blog (<http://esrquaker.blogspot.com/>) that includes writings by faculty, students, and alumni/ae. All of these tools can help us better connect with alumni/ae and current *ESR Access* students, and better communicate who we are to prospective seminary students.

Sources for Information about ESR

Friends Connections	39%
Internet Search	14%
Personal Referral	8%
ESR Alumni/ae	8%
ESR Faculty/Students	5%
Local (Richmond Area)	5%
Non-Quaker Denominational Referrals	5%
Earlham College Connections	3%

(Data from those who entered since Fall of 2005—percentages do not add up to 100% because smaller categories are not listed.)

Student Profile

Lisa Walden



4 A year ago, I was living in Arizona having just completed a hospital residency of chaplain training (Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE). Feeling that the next step might be a Master of Divinity degree, I needed to find a flexible program that looked beyond the typical seminary classes on preaching and church administration. As an elder in the Community of Christ, a small Christian denomination, I had twenty-five years of that experience and sought to “diversify my portfolio.” The call was still in me, yet not for what I had been doing.

Earlham School of Religion was soon bookmarked on my computer’s Internet favorites. Although I knew nothing about Quakers, ESR felt as comfortable as a pair of old shoes. I appreciated that it offered studies in traditional studies like pastoral care and leadership, but it

also acknowledged other forms of ministry like writing, spirituality, and peace and justice. The focus on spiritual formation in the brochures welcomed me, and I felt that this was a place not only interested in academics, but in balancing the whole self.

After applying for the MDiv program, I packed up my life, including three dogs and a parrot, and followed Woody Guthrie’s “ribbon of highway” to Richmond, Indiana. It was intuitive; I knew that this would be the right place for me. The fact I hadn’t been accepted yet was no deterrence. When I was formally accepted, I also was awarded a Cooper Scholarship. In those first few days, I had no idea how I was going to pay for the

degree. That was the beginning of a gratitude journey I still walk with ESR.

The biggest surprise is that my initial attraction to the school has been sustained. The professors teach to my right brain as well as my feeble, dried up left. Their diversified instruction fits well with their known history of rigorous academics. My peers here value each other’s backgrounds and contributions and reach out to those of us who have arrived after them. From the first step out of my Penske moving truck, I have felt like

I belong to this progressive community. The attraction to this place has changed its name to loving home.

Although I didn’t arrive with a specific career goal in mind, I find intentional space designed to help me discern that path. There is safety to expand mind and heart. I’m growing in ways I could not have anticipated, due in part to living in an environment which practices Quaker values and peace processes. The prism containing these gifts reflects the light which illumines my gratitude journey.

Student Profile

Andrew Wright



My name is Andrew Wright. I am a member of Durham Friends Meeting in North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. Durham Friends Meeting is also affiliated with Friends General Conference through Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

I wrestled with a nudge to do graduate study in religion for at least 10 years before I began the

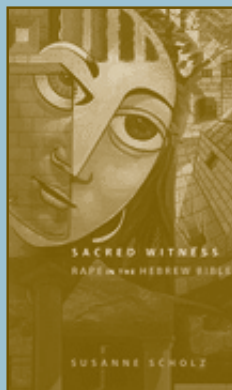
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WRIGHT continued from page 4
Masters of Ministry degree at ESR. I felt a call to ministry among Friends, but I resisted seminary. I questioned whether it would really help me to connect on a real and spiritual level with Friends. I had done the School of the Spirit program entitled “On Being a Spiritual Nurturer.” This program had supported me in growing into my calling and in learning to listen for the living Spirit moving in my Meeting. I feared that seminary would be too “heady” and would lead me away from rootedness in the Spirit.

But the nudge continued. Finally, as I came to understand that part of my calling was to open the Bible for Friends, I realized that it would be helpful to be in a more formal course of study. I did not consider other seminaries because I knew that I wanted to be among Friends and somewhere that really understood traditional Quaker ministry.

I was also a little uncertain about the *Access* program at first. I wondered whether it would cheapen the seminary experience to live at a distance. I have found this to be just the opposite. I love remaining in my faith community while I am going through this experience. I get to share the fruits of my studies with my community as they are unfolding in me. My Meeting helps me to do the unfolding.

RECOMMENDED reading

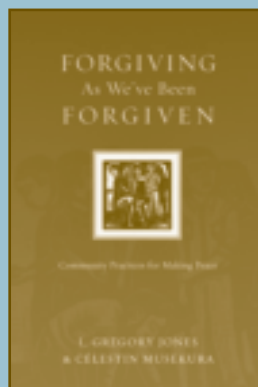


Susanne Scholz teaches Hebrew Bible at Perkins School of Theology (a United Methodist Seminary in Dallas, TX). Her recent book, *Sacred Witness: Rape in the Hebrew Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010) is a difficult but important study. The strength of this book is naming various sexual acts in the Bible for what they are, rape. Each chapter identifies a specific category of rape as we define it today and then considers how various biblical texts are similar in nature. Those categories are: acquaintance rape; rape of enslaved women; marital rape; rape laws; gang rape; rape of men. The final chapter, “Resisting the Theology of a Rapist,” examines the prophetic husband/wife metaphor that depicts God as an abusive husband.

The book is not perfect. There is better work done on the rape laws in the biblical text and the book could have been better edited to cross reference Hebrew vocabulary. However, it will clearly be the work that all future studies of the topic will use as their foundation.

—Nancy Bowen
Professor of Old Testament

L. Gregory Jones is vice president and vice provost for global strategy and programs at Duke University and former dean of Duke Divinity School. Célestin Musekura



is a pastor from Rwanda. He has a Ph.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary and founded ALARM (African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries) that offers training in conflict resolution, forgiveness, and tribal reconciliation in Africa.

Their book, *Forgiving as We've Been Forgiven: Community Practices for Making Peace* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010), alternates chapters written by each author reflecting on their work and thinking about forgiveness in their contexts: for Jones, from his context of teaching and writing about forgiveness from a mostly academic perspective and for Musekura as one who has lived it in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide.

Their stories are touching and profound. Their theology is biblically grounded. If you wonder whether you can forgive or be forgiven, this book will challenge your heart and soul.

—Nancy Bowen
Professor of Old Testament

Jung Mo Sung is one of the most engaging thinkers of a new generation of liberation theologians. Born in Korea, he has lived since

childhood in Brazil and is professor of theology at the Methodist university in San Paulo. He is often associated with the influential research center, *Departamento Euménicos de las Investigaciones* in San José, Costa Rica.

Sung's book, *Desire, Market, and Religion* (London: SCM Press, 2007), critiques economics and desire. He challenges the *sacralization* of the market and of consumer desire. Humans desire, this is part of our humanness, he acknowledges. To flourish, capitalism needs this, but it also needs a world where avarice is a virtue and where the notion of modulating desire is anathema. What we see in our own time is the “right” to the progressive expansion of patterns of consumption, and a general societal rejection of “need” in favor of “taste,” which more easily coheres with desire. *Needs* have boundaries, *desires* do not.

Sung utilizes Girard's analysis of mimetic desire, the notion that we desire things not for themselves but because they are desired by someone else. A necessary consequence of this is *rivalry* and *exclusion* (Sung notes that the same logic that sends away the poor – who have limited capacity for consuming desires in the market – cannot at the same time address their hunger). As generated by the market, mimetic desire is *encouraged* desire – denial, suppression, or modulation of desire is the new heresy.

Rather than rejecting capitalism or the market or even consumption, Sung's work is a challenge to their being absolutized or sacralized – in short, this book is a criticism of idolatry. It is the work of theology and pastoral practice to unmask the realities of idolatry, he argues. But before they can do that they have to be liberated themselves. Only then can they call for a change of desire, which is nothing less than conversion.

—David Johns
Associate Professor of
Theological Studies

Nowadays

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Victoria Burke '00 has had a part-time position since October as the St. Agnes Outreach Minister working with people from group homes. Volunteers work with her to provide social time, food, and other help to some needy folks. This work is sponsored largely by several Catholic churches in Dayton as well as some other charitable groups. Victoria likes her nice little office in a former convent building, and the parish staff there are supportive and good to be around.

As of Christmas Eve, **Ingrid Fabianson '01** is now semi-retired. She is caring for her 99-year-old father-in-law, volunteering

for Hospice, getting active in Soroptimists, swimming three times a week, attending her small island worship group, enjoying her home and family, and she is beginning to clear out years of accumulated stuff. "The future will bring what it will bring", she said. "The way will open as I continue to contemplate what it means to age and to discover the ministry of aging."

After serving as Coordinator of Short Term Education Programs at Pendle Hill from 2008-2010, **Judith Applegate '82** is now living in Richmond near Earlham College and looking for full or part-time work in the area or beyond. She would also wel-

come the opportunity to provide spiritual friendship/direction to individuals. She regularly attends West Richmond Friends Meeting, but is available for preaching, speaking engagements and/or adult educational leadership opportunities at other meetings/churches when there is a need. While she currently has the luxury of an open schedule, she would welcome re-connecting with old friends and former students who may contact her at 503-880-8350 or judithapple-gate@yahoo.com.

Paul Buckley's '01 next book, *Dear Friend: Letters and Essays of Elias Hicks* should be out and available by this summer.

Elizabeth Raid '02 had an article published in the October issue of "The Mennonite" magazine. It can be accessed at themennonite.org. The article highlights the biography of her father, the writing project began while she was at ESR. Look for the biography to be published this year! Elizabeth also began part-time work in recruitment for Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary at the Great Plains Extension in North Newton, Kansas. Her studies at ESR help give insight for others exploring theological studies. She is participating in the Companions on Journey program, a nine-month study of the Spiritual Exercises by Ignatius led by Carol Rivers Mulligan at the Magnificat Center in Wichita.

ESR People & Places FACULTY NEWS

Nancy Bowen, substituting for Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, traveled to do supervised ministry site visits for Rob Pierson in Albuquerque, Gabriela Cahaley in Tucson, and Patty Willis in Surprise, AZ. She enjoyed becoming acquainted with their various ministry sites and projects and faith communities, as well as getting a good dose of green chile and desert scenery.

April 8-10, 2011 **Carole Spencer**, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality, will be engaged in traveling ministry to Honolulu, Hawaii, to be the keynote speaker at a Friends Gathering, "In Search of a Spiritual Community." It will be held at Honolulu Friends Meetinghouse. Friends from all

over the islands – Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, and Molokai -- are invited "to gather together in a spiritual search, uplifting and multiplying each other's gifts through the power of a beloved community," as the gathering is described in their monthly newsletter. Honolulu Friends Meeting is an unprogrammed meeting of about 110 people and is part of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

David Johns' new book, *Collected Essays of Maurice Creasey*, has recently been published by the Edwin Mellen Press. Another manuscript, "Quakering Theology," is under consideration with a different publisher. In November he presided at a session of the Society for the Study of Christian

Spirituality in Atlanta concerning social media and spirituality. In April he presented a paper, "Theology on the Road: Out of the Classroom and into Reality," at the Midwest conference of the American Academy of Religion. In May he presented a paper at an international conference on Ecclesiology and Exclusion titled: "Being an Otherwise Documented Church: an Ecclesiology for All Us Immigrants." David was recently selected to be Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Christian Studies in Portland, Oregon, for Spring 2012.

During the January intensive, **Tim Seid** led a group of students to Israel/Palestine for a two-week course focused on contextual

theology. The group visited a few places in Israel (Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa, etc.) but spent most of the time in the Palestinian occupied territories within the West Bank. The students talked with people from various religious or civic organizations representing a variety of viewpoints. For a further description, read Tim's February 4 entry of the ESR blog site esrquaker.blogspot.com.

Jay Marshall is on sabbatical during the Spring semester. He will be traveling to such places as the Caribbean, Bolivia, Barcelona, Canary Islands, Morocco, and an extended stay in Guatemala for further development in Spanish. The focus of his sabbatical work is the Leadership emphasis.

LOOKING BACK on *ESR Events*

by Mandy Ford

"I'm here today because I've realized that our economy not only fails to provide for the basic needs of humankind, it also refuses to regard the limits of the Earth—our home and life support system. Progress has upped the ante, and now our bulging bubbling economy is leaving a heavy footprint," shared *Tevyn East*, as she began her keynote performance for the **2011 ESR Spirituality Gathering**. Tevyn's performance kicked off the 2011 event schedule at ESR with a unique and thought-provoking message.

As she spoke, danced, and sang, Tevyn raised the questions: "Is my gain linked to someone else's pain? What happened with our relationship to Earth? How does faith speak to our relationship with Creation?" An intimate group of members from the ESR, Earlham College, and Richmond communities were inspired, brought to laughter

and tears, and pushed to think about the connection between faith and global environment. Tevyn concluded by sharing the idea of resurrection as it relates to God's creation.

She charged the audience to consider their place and part in our "global economy" and to think of ways they can push their own comfort zone and make changes to impart a positive affect on the lives of others and on the earth as a whole. Many talked about the idea of community and how joining together to share resources,



Tevyn East

both tangible and intangible, such as food and parental support, could help alleviate the strain we collectively put on the earth.

Following the keynote, attendees chose from a variety of workshops that added to the theme of the day. Activities such as yoga, dance, and art were mixed with Taizé chant, journaling, and conversations around the topics of eco-spirituality and economic discipleship. As with every year, it was a time for connection, renewal, inspiration, and introspection.

On April 4 and 5, ESR hosted the annual *Willson Lectures* with featured speaker

Continued on next page



Spirituality Gathering workshop with Tevyn East

Up Coming @ ESR

2nd Annual Leadership Conference

Seeking the Core of Quaker Leadership

August 12-14, 2011

Featuring Plenary Speaker Joe Volk, Retired Director, FCNL
"Quaker Management: Ozymoron or Genius at Work?"

Also featuring a **Quakers in Business Panel** on the topic: "What Have You Learned in Business that Might be Helpful to Friends?"

Workshops:

"Bringing Quaker Values into Organizational Culture"
– Bonalyn Mosteller

"The Skill Set and Mindset of Innovation"
– Alan Kolp and Peter Rea

"Leadership, Can It be Taught?"
– Jay Marshall

Full conference including 5 meals: \$175

Register by May 30: \$150

Saturday only conference and three meals: \$125

Register by May 30: \$85

For more information visit our website at esr.earlham.edu. For registration contact Matthew Mosey at moseyma@earlham.edu or call (800) 432-1377

Pastor's Conference

September 26, 2011

Keynote Speaker:

Anna Carter Florence

Ministry of Writing Colloquium

November 5, 2011

Keynote Speaker: Scott Cairns

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

In this issue:
Students @ ESR

In his three lectures, Joerg related the themes of Christianity in the context of empire and the effects of power and wealth on faith.

Willson Lectures

sity, shared his thoughts on *“Empire, Economics and Christ: Does Christianity Still Make a Difference?”* In his three lectures, Joerg related the themes of Christianity in the context of empire and the effects of power and wealth on faith. He asked the questions: “What difference might Christian faith make in the context of global capitalism? Does economic power affect our interaction with others? Whose interests are served when the Church ignores these questions?” Following the first lecture on Monday evening, attendees stayed for a reception and book signing, where they could purchase Rieger’s books and continue

EVENTS continued from page 7

Joerg Rieger. Rieger, Professor of Constructive Theology at Southern Methodist University,

shared his thoughts on conversation. This topic will surely continue to be widely discussed both in the ESR community and in the wider world of Friends.

Coming Events

On August 12-14, 2011, ESR will host our 2nd annual *Leadership Conference*. *“Seeking the Core of Quaker Leadership”* will feature retired FCNL Director Joe Volk, who will give a plenary talk on “Quaker Management: Oxymoron or Genius at Work?” Also included will be a panel of Quaker business leaders and workshops on topics related to Quaker values in organizations, innovation as a skills set, and teaching Quaker leadership. Other Friends offering their expertise at this event will be former ESR dean Alan Kolp, Earlham graduate, Quaker, and Richmond business owner Ray Ontko, and

fellow Quaker business leader Bonalyn Mosteller. More information about “Seeking the Core of Quaker Leadership” can be found on the ESR website at esr.earlham.edu.

Other upcoming ESR events include our annual *Pastor’s Conference* on September 26, which will feature Anna Carter Florence of Columbia Theological Seminary, and the *Ministry of Writing Colloquium* on November 5 with keynote speaker Scott Cairns, who has published poetry, memoir, and essays. We hope you can join us for these diverse and inspiring events!

