

GOING BEYOND: BERKELEY DIVINITY SCHOOL AT YALE

SOON AFTER WILLIAM LADD became dean of Berkeley Divinity School in 1918, he was caught in a public controversy over his decision to invite a Soviet Russian to speak at the School. Facing public charges of Bolshevik sympathies, Dean Ladd gave an adamant defense of the School: "Our policy of preparing men to preach the gospel by giving them the opportunity in the course of their preparation to acquire some knowledge of the world in which they are to preach that gospel, is one which has long prevailed at the School."

Ladd's vision that theological education should be deeply conversant with the world in which seminarians are preparing to work set Berkeley Divinity School on a trajectory whose implications we continue to discover to this day.

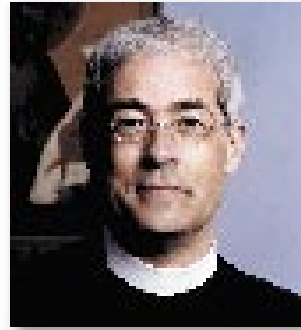


Moving the School to New Haven in 1928 to be near Yale University, Ladd established a pattern of engagement with the educational resources of the university that defines a unique approach to the formation of men and women to serve in the church:

spiritually profound, vocationally faithful, intellectually rigorous, culturally savvy, and worldly wise.

When Berkeley affiliated with Yale Divinity School in 1971, and then renewed the affiliation in 2002, it reaffirmed Dean Ladd's vision by committing itself to a full embrace of the intellectual and cultural resources of the university, within the breadth of horizon afforded by the ecumenical environment of the Divinity School. In so doing, Berkeley recognized this educational setting as a remarkable resource for the whole church for the kind of articulate, grounded, open-minded, and authentic religious leadership it can provide.

Invoking Berkeley's motto, "into the regions beyond," this commitment to "going beyond" the traditional boundaries of a denominational seminary education now forms the



theme of our ongoing development efforts to support the priorities of our long-range strategic plan. These efforts have as their goal equipping Berkeley Divinity School with the financial resources necessary to make fullest advantage of its unique place as a seminary of the Episcopal Church in the heart of a major university. Major programmatic objectives to be supported include:

• developing initiatives in leadership formation
 • expanding the Annand Program in Christian spirituality
 • providing adequate scholarship support for students
 • giving every seminarian an opportunity for international study
 • connecting with joint study programs in other parts of the university
 • recruiting candidates for ordination through the availability of post-graduate residency programs

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At a time when religion plays a major—and controversial—role in American life, we at Berkeley believe that the sophistication offered by a university-based seminary education is vital to the Episcopal Church's ability to respond to the enormous challenge of representing a genuine yet compelling Christian faith in contemporary society. At Yale Divinity School, faculty and students alike live at a point of intersection where secular criticism and reasoned faith are intimate interlocutors, providing an exceptional opportunity to form a new generation of clergy and lay leaders with this very capacity. Following Dean Ladd's lead, I can think of no more strategic place for a seminary to be than at this meeting place between the church and the world it seeks to serve, and I commend to your support the initiatives that will help to realize the vision that we have for this extraordinary place.

The Very Reverend Joseph Britton
 Dean and President



A brief note of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jackie Corning

AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE to Yale University, and many of those to Berkeley, the School said goodbye to Jacqueline Corning upon her retirement in June 2005. For most Berkeley graduates, Jackie was the first person encountered on campus and the first person to know all their names. Her presence defined what students came to understand through studies, internships, and time in community about the church's mission: to welcome all of God's people without reservation or judgment, but with a joy and generosity that is contagious. In front of Jackie's desk students spent hours sorting out the ways of the world, talking church, wine, gourmet food, how they really felt about classes, and, most of all, coming to understand the importance of the ministry of presence.

In retirement Jackie is off to travel, visit with family, spend more time at lunches and dinners with our graduates and friends. She is missed—dearly missed.

On behalf of this school and this church, it is an honor to say to Jackie, once again, "Well done good and faithful servant, well done!"

THE REVEREND DR. RICHARD KALTER

professor of theology at Berkeley Divinity School from 1958 to 1971, died November 8, 2004. He was 79 years old. Born in Dayton, Ohio, he received his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York and a Th.D. from Harvard Divinity School. Following his many years at Berkeley, he was a beloved philosopher-in-residence at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where he was honored in 2003 with the College's Medal of Honor.

Tribute to Richard Hooker Wilmer, Jr. (1918-2005)

by George Fowlkes '99 L.H.D.,
 Chair of the Berkeley Board of Trustees

DEAN RICHARD HOOKER WILMER, JR. is fondly remembered by his students and colleagues as a man of both an imposing stature and ability who had an unusually strong and uncompromising commitment to the highest moral standards. His decision in 1953, for example, to leave his position as chaplain and a member of the faculty at the University of the South over the issue of racial segregation is still much admired by those who knew him. Indeed, students from Dean Wilmer's era comment that the moral example he set is one that they have tried to live up to throughout the rest of their lives.



Dean Wilmer is also remembered as a real builder of the School, presiding over an important period of growth. At the beginning of his term in 1957, Berkeley was still a small institution with a handful of faculty and students, but by the time he left in 1969, the faculty had been much strengthened and the student body enlarged. He was responsible for the completion of a new library and dormitory buildings for the increased number of students. In addition to his administrative abilities, Dean Wilmer was a scholar whose study of the English Reformation, done while he was a doctoral candidate at Oxford University, was a model of thorough research and historical perspective.

The trustees, faculty, alumni, students, and staff of Berkeley Divinity School join in mourning Dean Wilmer's death, while also giving thanks for his model of faithful leadership that is still much revered and admired.