

FOR THE NEW YEAR

FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Another year has come and gone, and here we are in 2018 starting Winter Term at the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO)! For some it is a first-time experience at COSSO, for others it's your first-time at MTSO, and for all of us it is the beginning of the first term of the new year!

There is one big news item this year and that is our Director, Rev. Dr. Joon-Sik Park is taking a long-deserved sabbatical! And in his absence, I have the honor of serving as Acting Director. Dr. Park will be gone through the summer and return in Fall Term. He will be writing and working on his research, traveling to give papers at international conferences in Tanzania, South Korea, and England, and taking time for spiritual retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemane. As he travels, I pray that we will all keep him in our prayers, as I know he will be praying for all of us. My job as acting director will be simply to work with Terri, our coordinator, Shin Sung, our student assistant, and Lori Weaver, our music director, and keep things running as smoothly as Dr. Park would. In other words, keep us in your prayers too, and please continue to share your joys and concerns with us as well.

I am excited about this coming year at COSSO. With the usual five courses and five faculty members sharing their expertise with all of you, it is bound to make this an exciting term. Four faculty members are returning: Sarah Lancaster, Ned Dewire, Paul Kim, and Stan Ling, and one new faculty member is joining us: Francesca Nuzzolese. I pray your time with them in the classroom will be a blessing for you and your ministry.

Completing 20 courses may seem like a daunting task at first, especially for our 20 new students, I pray you will find your time here a blessing, both educationally spiritually. Yes, 20 new students are coming aboard in February and two students will be graduating in March! It is amazing how God continues to call people into the ministry from all walks of life and in all stages of educational and spiritual development. But no matter where we are on the journey, the goal is the same - to be faithful to our calling and to continue to integrate prayer, study, and service into our lives and ministry.

We are all on a journey, and we on the COSSO staff are pleased to welcome you to Winter Term. We have been praying for you before you arrived and we will continue to pray for you when you leave. May God's blessings be with you through your studies and beyond.

Grace and peace,

Rebeka Maples, Ph.D., M.Div.

Acting Director & Director of Spiritual Formation



COSSO NEWSLETTER
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DON'T MISS: 2ND WEEKEND ENRICHMENT

March 9th at 2:00 PM

"This Side of Heaven: Race, Racism and the Church"
by Dr. Cynthia A. Tyson

Cynthia A. Tyson, Ph.D. is Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University where she teaches courses in Multicultural and Equity Studies in Education, Early childhood Social Studies and Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults. Her research interests focus on the social, historical, and cultural intersections of teaching, learning, scholarship, and activism.



Dr. Tyson has served on many boards and committees in her field and the community. Her teaching, scholarship, and service are both nationally and internationally recognized. As a former classroom teacher and multicultural education staff development specialist, Dr. Tyson has worked in the consulting capacity with school districts across the nation, the United Kingdom, Mali, West Africa, and is currently collaborating with teachers and researchers on a project in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is also United Church of Christ, Commissioned Minister of Christian Education with a specialized ministry of Hospice Educator and Spiritual Care Provider with Ohio Health Hospice.



2017 FALL COS GRADUATES

Craig Rose, Lee Iden, David Merryman, Greg Rose, Ron Slager, Carol Hickman, Fran Newman, Curtis Clarke, Matt Osborne, David Smith, Carol Brown



Course of Study School of Ohio
www.cosohio.org

Term	Class Dates	Registration Deadline	Dorm Available
2018 Spring	April 13-14 & May 11-12	2/12/2018	NO
2018 Summer	June 22-23 & July 13-14	4/23/2018	YES
2018 Summer 2 week	August 6-10 & 13-16	6/7/2018	NO
2018 Fall	Sept. 28-29 & Oct. 26-27	7/30/2018	NO



Terri Litchfield



Sarah Lancaster

COS 122 Theological Heritage I: Introduction
 Rev. Dr. Sarah Lancaster received her M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology and her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University. An elder in the North Texas Annual Conference, she is Professor of Theology at MTSO.

Norman "Ned" Dewire

COS 224 Administration & Polity

Rev. Dr. Norman Dewire received his M.Div. from Boston University School of Theology and his D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary. A retired elder in the West Ohio Conference, he served as the third president of MTSO.



Francesca Nuzzolese

COS 323 Congregational Care

Dr. Francesca Nuzzolese received her B.D from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland; Th.M. from the Melbourne College of Divinity in Australia; and a Th.D. from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She has spiritual direction certification from the Guild for Spiritual Guidance in New York.



Paul Kim

Teaching 421:

Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms & Wisdom Literature

Rev. Dr. Paul Kim received his M.Div. and Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from the Claremont School of Theology. A Presbyterian elder, he currently teaches Hebrew Bible at MTSO.



Stan Ling

COS 524 Theological Reflection: Practice of Ministry

Rev. Stan Ling received his M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary. He currently serves as Associate Director of the Council on Development for the West Ohio Conference.



SAFETY & SECURITY IN THE CHURCH
 – plus –
THE DIFFICULTIES OF OPIATE & HEROIN ADDICTION
 Saturday, March 3, 2018
 Cambridge, Ohio
 Sponsored by TARRP (Town and Rural Resource Program) of East & West Ohio Conferences

So what happens in an emergency at your church - lost child, unresponsive adult, accident, a disorderly person, gas line break, smoke, tornado, utility failure, intruder or active shooter? Who directs the members? What's the plan? Who to call?

Regarding Opiate & Heroin Addiction:
 Learn how and why persons, even 12 year olds, are addicted. Why pre-school children are addicted. Why arrests don't solve the problem.

Help your church board, mission team, and others learn and be equipped to help your church to make a difference in the lives of your parishioners and community. Plan to bring a team! Discounts for 3 or more. Registration form is available on handouts table and is posted on the COSSO website.

FROM THE WRITING INSTRUCTOR

When friends or family asked how he was doing, my grandfather was wont to reply: "I feel more like I do right now than I did a while ago." It amused him to see how long it took people to realize that, despite using a lot of familiar words, he wasn't saying anything at all. It was not amusing, however, when one of my college professors said the same thing about a paper I had submitted. I had procrastinated and as a result had very little time left to research. When returning my essay my professor said to me "You write so beautifully, it's a shame you have nothing to say." Researching our topic is what gives us the substance to our paper. Without substance, then there is no paper. It is like trying to cook Duck à l'Orange without a duck. Of course, crafting a great essay requires creativity and some finesse, but it all begins with something to say. This is why researching your topic thoroughly before you begin writing is so essential. It is also important to explore a variety of perspectives on your topic. If all your research on the topic was written by the same author, then you have only considered one point of view. Including multiple perspectives in your research opens more possibilities and potential for crafting your own, unique point of view.

Dr. Trad Nogueira-Godsey
 Writing Instructor



Course of Study welcomes 20 new students to campus this 2018 Winter term, the largest new class in several years.

Here's a quick review of the past year:

	2017	2016
Students who took classes at MTSO:	235	200
Classes completed:	523	442
New students:	64	47
Graduates:	21	14

Annual Conferences:

Detroit, East Ohio, Greater New Jersey, Illinois Great Rivers (2017), Indiana, Kentucky, New England (2016), Rio Texas, Susquehanna, Upper New York, West Michigan, West Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

2017 Enrichment Presentations:

- Alsbrooks Smith, Jr., "It's All About Grace"
- Kim Trimboli, "Common Concerns: FAQs About Writing and Citations"
- Lisa Withrow, "Encountering Racial Difference in the Way We Are Called"
- Philip Brooks, "Practical Tips for Effective Ministry (from the Perspective of Fifty Years)"
- Gaston and Jeanne Ntambo, GBGM missionaries to the Democratic Republic of Congo, "Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry"
- Francesca Nuzzolese, "All You Need Is Love: A Pastoral Response to Sex Trafficking and Human Exploitation"

CHOIR NEWS



Lori Douglas Weaver, Music Director

It has been said that the one who sings prays twice. We perform all types of music and are always open to new ideas. Join us for choir rehearsal Saturday, 7:30-7:45 AM, in the choir room. Both solo and blending voices are needed. The only requirement for membership is the enjoyment of making a joyful noise!