

## Office of the Dean

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Dean's Message Another Season of Learning! Welcome to another season of learning. As we prepare for the 2010-2011 academic year, we do so with enthusiasm and anticipation. We are excited to meet our new entrants, as well as our returning students, at this place of intellectual inquiry, dialogue, research and study. Each semester brings with it change, and new possibilities and opportunities. This year is no different. It is with great honor that I note the following updates.

Dr. Renee K. Harrison will assume the position of assistant professor of African American and U.S. Religious History. She joins us having previously served as the assistant professor of African American Religious Practices and Culture at Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. Rev. Edward P. Harding Jr., senior pastor, Prince George's Community Church, will join us as the new director of Field Education. He succeeds Dr. Christine Wiley, who served diligently in the position for many years. We wish her well in her current academic pursuits. Rev. Robyn Franklin-Vaughn, Anglican/Episcopal/Lutheran Chaplain for the University, will return as worship coordinator for Howard Thurman Chapel. She was a tremendous support to the School of Divinity in this capacity last year. We welcome her back. Lastly, but certainly not least, the School of Divinity is pleased to announce the institution of the Cynthia Wedel Lectureship that will focus on religion and public policy. Upholding the principles of its namesake, the lectureship will promote ecumenism and attend to the very pressing issues of our day like health care, immigration, the environment and peacemaking. Being located in the nation's capital, our concern for the role of religion in the public square is both our dedication and responsibility, especially as it relates to the African American community and people of color. Friends, HUSD welcomes this new season of learning. And, whatever it brings, we remain committed to our mission to "educate, form and empower academic and religious leaders to transform the church and the world; and to celebrate the religious and cultural heritage of African Americans, the African Diaspora, and Africa, as we engage in the pursuit of excellence in scholarship and ministry, driven by a passion for justice and freedom, and a relentless search for truth." In the Presence, Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D. Contact Office of the Dean Main: (202) 806-0500 (main)  
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