

# Cherry Hill Seminary

## 2010 Annual Report



### Board of Directors

William Blumberg  
Gretchen Faulk  
Ellen Friedman  
Beth Livingston  
Michael McDermott  
Tony Mierzwicki  
Aline (Macha) O'Brien  
Michael Owens  
Michael Smith  
Kirk Thomas

### Administration

Holli S. Emore, CFRE  
Executive Director

Selina Rifkin  
Executive Assistant to Director

Megan A. Beaumont, M.A.  
Dean of Students

Wendy Griffin, Ph.D.  
Academic Dean

Valerie Cole, Ph.D.  
Pagan Pastoral Counseling

Jennifer Bennett  
Pagan Community Education

**Mission**  
Cherry Hill Seminary provides quality higher education and practical training in Pagan ministry.

### 2010 Financial Report

<i>Income</i>	
Tuition	21,148
Contributions	16,497
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,365</b>
<i>Expenses</i>	
Operating	19,569
Salaries	25,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,987</b>
Assets 12/31/10	4,970

To view a copy of IRS Form 990 for 2010 filed with the Internal Revenue Service, visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), or send request to [CHS@cherryhillseminary.org](mailto:CHS@cherryhillseminary.org).

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### Message From The 2010 Chair



The year 2010 began with Cherry Hill Seminary's strong presence in January among the presenters at the Claremont Conference on Contemporary Pagan Studies. The following month, PantheaCon, the largest Pagan gathering on the West Coast (and possibly the country), included no fewer than 13 presentations featuring CHS board members, faculty and students. The February Winter Conference featured Steven Posch, whose daylong presentation, "Giving Greater Rite: Putting Story and Mystery Back Into Ritual," was extremely well-received.

CHS welcomed three new staff members; Registrar Betsy Hopper from South Carolina; Newsletter Coordinator Laura Allen from Colorado; and Social Networking Coordinator Cosette Paneque from Florida. March saw the departure of Academic Dean Cynthia Jane Collins, M.Div., M.S. (Maine), to whom we are grateful for her hard work developing our first master's programs. Meanwhile, former web and classroom tech Selina Rifkin, L.M.T., M.S. (Connecticut), expanded her duties to become Executive Assistant to Executive Director Holli Emore. Christine Hoff Kraemer, Ph.D. (Massachusetts) was named Chair of the Department of Theology, Religion & History, a merger of two former departments, Nature, Deity & Inspiration, and Text, Tradition & Interpretation.. We can't say enough about the value of this volunteer staff, without which CHS could not offer the quality programming for which we have become known.

The 2010 Summer Academic Intensive again took place at a beautiful retreat in Western Massachusetts, hosted by Pagan supplier Azure Green. The topic, Changing Roles/Dual Roles, taught by Christine H. Kraemer, Ph.D., focused on the many roles required of those who serve as clergy, counselor, chaplains, or leaders in small and large spiritual groups.

In May we sought input from Pagans around the country in the form of a marketing survey to help determine the priorities you consider important in the development of Pagan seminary training. As a result, in part, we have put greater emphasis on our Pagan Community Education offerings, courses are for Pagans seeking to expand and deepen their knowledge of subjects important to their practiced, but who are not seeking a degree.

The CHS Board of Directors welcomed several new members, including: Ellen Friedman, Texas; Jeffrey Albaugh, California; Beth Livingston, North Carolina; and Chuck Hall, South Carolina.

We also continue to work with the New Alexandrian Library in Delaware. The NAL will be an excellent resource repository for current and future Pagan scholars and scholars of Paganism.

In September CHS instructor and chaplaincy advisor, Patrick McCollum, (California) received the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Pluralism and Religious Tolerance from the Hindu America Foundation, and in October he participated in the World Forum of Spiritual Culture in Kazakhstan.

You can tell from my mention of the states where various CHS personnel live that we reflect the geographical diversity of Pagan culture. Without specifying the personal Pagan path of each individual, I can also say that we reflect its religious diversity as well

Among several CHS faculty presenting at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia, Marion Mason, Ph.D. (Ohio) delivered a paper entitled "Gender Differences Among Pagan Seminary Students."

Also in 2010 CHS did something we've never done before: we performed a ritual. Due to unfortunate scheduling, the AAR Annual Meeting took place over the weekend of Samhain. Other religions whose practitioners attend the meeting often have prayer services or meditations or other spiritual activities for their members. This year Pagans celebrated Samhain together in Atlanta. With much help from local members of the Dogwood Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess, in the form of a central altar, singers, harpist and a drummer, Holli Emore, Amadae, and I led a ritual in honor of our Beloved Dead that concluded in a spiral dance. It was a pleasure to share this rite with so many illustrious Pagan scholars.

The accomplishment of which I am most proud and excited is the appointment of Wendy Griffin, Ph.D., as our new Academic Dean. Recently retired as Chair of the Women's and Gender Study Department at California State University-Long Beach, and formally honored by the City of Long Beach, Wendy is among the founders of the Pagan Studies Section at the American Academy of Religion. We welcome her warmly and have every confidence in her unique abilities to move CHS forward toward on its path to becoming an accredited and respected Pagan institution of higher learning.

Blessings,

Aline (Macha) O'Brien  
Board President