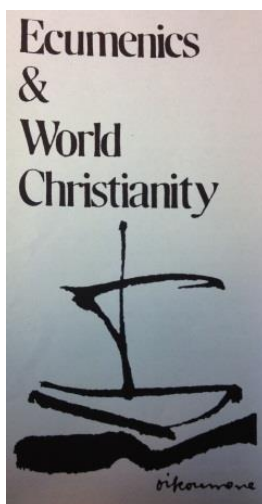


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**Ecumenical Programs Records, [197?] – 1993  
(Also called Ecumenics and World Christianity Program)**



Credit to WAB: Evangelical Alliance Records, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 5,  
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Rebecca Weintraub and Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2012  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Union Theological Seminary  
Title: Ecumenical Programs Records  
Inclusive dates: [197?] – 1993  
Bulk dates: 1980 – 1991  
Abstract: The Ecumenical Programs at Union Theological Seminary were designed to help students through programs within the Seminary and through exploration of opportunities for exchange study with seminaries around the world. Collection contains correspondence, reports, pamphlets, negatives, slides and other material.  
Size: 20 boxes, 7.75 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The papers are part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible  
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Ecumenical Programs Records, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

Union Theological Seminary in New York City (UTS) actively pursued an interest in ecumenical programs and world Christianity. In 1976 Robert McAfee Brown was brought back to the UTS faculty as Professor of Ecumenics and World Christianity, and in this capacity he researched and created "a program designed to help students learn more about the world through programs within the Seminary walls and through exploration of opportunities for exchange study with seminaries around the world." In 1977, with the support of President Shriver, plans were made to develop the first exchange study programs conducted by UTS.

The yearly brochure for Ecumenical Programs (also referred to as the Ecumenics and World Christianity Program) describes the philosophy that guided the program through the 1980's:

"Theology which is responsible to local situations must also be well informed by what is happening to humanity on a global scale....Such theology is able to see local challenges in an ecumenical perspective and the world church through the perceptivity gained in its local commitment.... The Ecumenical programs are an active expression of the conviction expressed as globalization of theological education. The programs are to invite all members of the Union community — students, staff, faculty, and spouses — to grapple with the question: How can the church live responsibly in today's world?"

Over the years, the Ecumenical Program developed ongoing work in three main areas: Oikoumene, international students, and cross-cultural study. Oikoumene focused on presenting various activities for the Seminary community with topics relating to religious, sociological, political, world, national, or local themes. Ecumenical Programs was also in charge of coordinating support programs for all the international students. This was accomplished through hiring a student to serve as advisor to the international students. As its third major responsibility, the Program coordinated both short and long term exchange programs for students and faculty. The best known and continuous of these were the January travel seminars to Puerto Rico and

the Dominican Republic. The booklet titled "From Roots to Reality" presents a brief history of the travel seminars from 1979 to 1988. The Program also created guidelines for study and assisted in funding students or faculty who were interested in traveling to other areas of the world.

One of the special areas that Ecumenical Programs was instrumental in coordinating was the "Union-Asia-Union Exchange" project funded by the Luce Foundation. Some students and faculty were assisted in traveling to different countries in Asia, and the exchange also allowed for some Asian faculty to come to Union. Another special project was the Pilot Project on Globalization of Theological Education, coordinated through the Plowshares Institute. Union was chosen to be one of twelve participating seminaries for this five-year project. The plan was to cluster three or four dissimilar theological schools and form teams of people to go on three-week travel seminars together, then to return and to try to use the experience to help evaluate education at their schools. The immersion seminars went to India, Brazil, southern Africa, and local areas of New York City.

Ecumenical Programs have always been under the direction of the Professor of Ecumenics and World Christianity. From 1980 until spring 1996, this position was held by Kosuke Koyama. The internal organization of the program varied over the years, but often had an advisory committee, full-time staff support, and part-time student staff. This collection currently ends around February 1993, although Ecumenical programs and Globalization projects still continue as a part of the Seminary's mission.

#### Sources:

Parker, Grace. *Global, or Cross-Cultural, Theological Education at Union Theological Seminary in New York City*, 1991.

*Ecumenics and World Christianity*, 1987-1988 Program

#### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is arranged chronologically into six series.

- **Series 1: Program Background, [197?]-1991 (4 Boxes, 1.75 linear feet)**

Among the materials in series one are administrative documents such as those related to budget and finance, policies and guidelines for the programs, and weekly calendar notices of events; notes by Robert McAfee Brown, Professor of Ecumenics and World Christianity; and a five-year plan for the World Christianity Program. Also available are source files, including books, brochures, and other informative materials. One folder is specific to resources relating to Africa.

Internal correspondence within Union and correspondence with outside individuals is available. Among the notable correspondents are Elie Wiesel and Bishop Desmond Tutu. Other correspondence includes letters from Union Students studying abroad.

Other records included in the first series document trips taken to Latin America, Africa and Argentina by Kosuke Koyama, Professor of Ecumenics and World Christianity at Union from 1980-1996, on behalf of the program.

- **Series 2: Oikoumene, [197?]-1992 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
Oikoumene focused on presenting various activities for the Seminary community with topics relating to religious, sociological, political, world, national, or local themes. Included in this series are newsletters, lists of events and worship activities, as well as materials relating to the appointment of Oikoumene Co-Chairs.
- **Series 3: Exchange and Cross-Cultural Studies, [197?]-1992 (6 Boxes, 2.25 lin. ft.)**  
Ecumenical Programs coordinated both short and long term exchange programs for students and faculty. The best known and continuous of these were the January travel seminars to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Within this series are three subseries, each containing materials related to a different aspect of these international programs.
  - **Subseries 3A: Luce Foundation, 1978-1989 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
This subseries contains materials relating the Luce Foundation grant that supported the three-year Union-Asia-Union program, an exchange between Asian and American theological faculty members and students. Materials in this subseries include reports to the Luce Foundation; those relating to the Luce Visiting Professorship; and materials relating to each of the three years of the grant, plus the preparatory year.
  - **Subseries 3B: Travel Seminars, [198?]-1992 (4 Boxes, 1.50 linear feet)**  
The material in this subseries relates to the January trips to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Among the materials included are correspondence relating to each trip, memos, reports, and programs. Also included are the student papers from each year's trip, plus slides of select years in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.
  - **Subseries 3C: Exchange Programs, [197?]-1991 (1 Box, 0.50 linear feet)**  
This subseries contains material relating to the Program's exchange programs, and includes student requests to study abroad, student applications to study abroad, correspondence, as well as materials specifically related to the exchange programs in Africa, Nicaragua, and Africa.
- **Series 4: International Students, [197?]-1991 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
This subseries contains materials relating to the international students at Union. Included are orientation materials intended to get visiting students familiar with New York City and Union's surrounding neighborhood, as well as materials relating to the international student advisor position.
- **Series 5: Theological Education, 1977-1992 (6 Boxes, 2.50 linear feet)**  
The material in this series is broken down into two subseries, both of which relate to theological education initiatives at Union, as well as documents relating to specific ecumenical courses. The majority of the series relates to the Plowshare Institute and the program for which Union was chosen to be one of twelve participating seminaries for a five-year project. The plan was to cluster three or four dissimilar theological schools and

form teams of people to go on three-week travel seminars together, then to return and to try to use this experience to help evaluate education at their schools. The immersion seminars went to India, Brazil, southern Africa, and local areas of New York City.

- **Subseries 5A: Plowshares Institute, 1977-1992 (5 Boxes, 2.25 linear feet)**  
This subseries includes administrative materials for the Pilot Immersion Program, such as correspondence, budget and funding information and minutes of the Globalization of Theological Education Coordinating Committee. There are folders for each of the immersion experiences – India, Brazil, Africa, and New York City – which include applications to the program, related correspondence, memos, notes, and readings.
- **Subseries 5B: Course Offerings, [198?]-1988 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
This subseries includes a listing of ecumenical courses at Union as well as materials specifically relating to the course J251: Church and Society. These materials include a course outline, surveys, findings, and other related documents.
- **Series 6: Special Formats, [198?]-1993 (2 Boxes, 0.75 linear feet)**
  - **Subseries 6A: Photographs, [198?]-1993 (1 Box, 0.25 linear feet)**  
The photographs in this subseries include unidentified negatives, images of India in the 1950s, a photograph of Professor William Bean Kennedy, the Clearwater trip, and a closing dinner event. This series contains material which did not pertain specifically to other previously mentioned programs.
  - **Subseries 6B: Cassette Tapes, [198?]-1991 (1 Box, 0.50 linear feet)**  
The forty cassette tapes in this subseries include recorded lectures from visiting professor's and Union's own Professor Koyama, chapel services, and those which relate to the Pilot Immersion Project orientation for India.

### **Processing**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The collection was originally organized and described in 1996. It has been reprocessed and updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

### **Further Sources**

The Burke Library offers many other materials and collections relating to Union Theological Seminary. Please see the archives website for more information on the collections <http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives.html> or contact archives staff at [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Program Background, [197?]-1991**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			<b>History, [197?]-1991</b>
1	1	1	Association of Theological Schools, [197?]-1977
1	1	2	Committee on US-USSR Understanding, 1985
1	1	3	Consultation in Global Solidarity in Theological Education, 1980
1	1	4	Events, [197?]-1984
1	1	5	Five-Year Plan for World Christianity Program, [197?]-1980
1	1	6-7	Global Solidarity in Theological Education Conference, 1981
1	1	8	Notes – Robert McAfee Brown, 1976-1977
1	1	9	Program History, [197?]-1975
1	1	10	Research – Ecumenical Ministries of Union's Neighbors, 1979-1982
1	1	11	World Christianity Committee, 1980-1984
1	1	12	General, [197?]-1991
1	2	1-2	Correspondence, 1979-1988
1	2	3	Letters from Abroad, 1982-1991
			<b>Administrative Records, 1979-1991</b>
1	2	4	Budget, 1979-1991
1	2	5	Job Descriptions and Qualifications, 1980-1989
1	2	6	Policies and Guidelines, [198?]-1991
1	2	7	Weekly Calendar Notices, [198?]-1988
1	2	8	General, [198?]-1988
1	2	9	General, 1984-1991
			<b>Professor Koyama's Trips, [198?]-1989</b>
1	3	1	History of Trips, [198?]-1989
1	3	2	Latin America Trip, 1981
1	3	3	Africa Trip, 1981-1982
1	3	4	Argentina (ISEDET) Trip, 1985
1	4	1-6	Source Files, [197?]-1990

### **Series 2: Oikoumene, [197?]-1992**

2	5	1	Activities and Events, [197?]-1991
2	5	2	Co-Chairs, [198?]-1992
2	5	3	Newsletters, 1981-1991
2	5	4	Worship, 1981-1991

**Series 3: Exchange and Cross-Cultural Studies, [197?]-1992****Subseries 3A: Luce Foundation, 1978-1989**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3A	6	1	Reports to Luce Foundation, 1978-1983
3A	6	2	Luce Visiting Professorship, 1981-1991
3A	6	3	Preparation Year, 1984-1985
3A	6	4	Year One of Three, 1985-1986
3A	6	5	Year Two of Three, 1986-1987
3A	6	6	Year Three of Three, 1985-1989

**Subseries 3B: Travel Seminars, 198[?]-1992**

3B	7	1	Presentation in James Chapel, [198?]-1982
3B	7	2	"From Roots to Reality" Booklet, 1987-1990
3B	7	3	Drafts of "From Roots to Reality", 1987-1990
3B	7	4-6	Student Papers, [198?]-1986
3B	8	1-5	Student Papers, [198?]-1988
3B	9	1-11	January Travel Seminar – 1979 – 1992
3B	10	1	Photographs, [198?]
3B	10	2	Negatives – January Travel Seminar, [198?]
3B	10	3-4	Slides – January Travel Seminar, 1982
3B	10	5	Slides – Dominican Republic, January 1985
3B	10	6	Slides – Puerto Rico, January 1985
3B	10	7	Slides – January Travel Seminar (Viequez), February 1987
3B	10	8	Slides – January Travel Seminar, 1988

**Subseries 3C: Exchange Programs, [197?]-1991**

3C	11	1	African Theological Schools, [198?]-1982
3C	11	2	Africa Peace Tours, 1986
3C	11	3	Nicaragua (Witness for Peace), 1985-1991
3C	11	4	Special Exchange in the Philippines, 1981
3C	11	5	Student Requests and Plans, 1980-1991
3C	11	6	General, [197?]-1990

**Series 4: International Students, [197?]-1991**

4	12	1	Orientation Materials, [197?]-1991
4	12	2	Advisor Position, 1981-1990

**Series 5: Theological Education, 1977-1992****Subseries 5A: Plowshares Institute, 1977-1992**

5A	13	1	Columbia Theological Seminary, 1991
5A	13	2-9	Correspondence, 1988-1992 – Plowshares, [198?]-1990

**Series 5: Theological Education (Cont'd)****Subseries 5A: Plowshares Institute (cont'd)****Series Box Folder Contents**

5A	14	1-4	Funding and Budget, 1989-1992
5A	14	5-6	Pilot Immersion Program, 1977-1991
5A	14	7-9	Immersion – Applications, 1989-1992
5A	15	1-6	Immersion – India, [198?]-1992
5A	15	7-10	Minutes, Globalization of Theological Education Coordinating Committee, [198?]-1992
5A	16	1	Mixed Pedagogies Project, 1991-1992
5A	16	2	Newsletters, [198?]-1992
5A	16	3	Programs for New Initiatives, [199?]-1990
5A	16	4-5	Resources, [198?]-1993
5A	17	1-7	General, [198?]-1992

**Subseries 5B: Course Offerings, [198?]-1988**

5B	18	1	Ecumenical Courses – General, [198?]-1988
5B	18	2	Ecumenical Courses – J251 (Church and Society), 1980-1981

**Series 6: Special Formats, [198?]-1993****Subseries 6A: Photographs, [198?]-1993**

6A	19	1	India, [195?]-1955
6A	19	2	James Rutebuka and Professor William Bean Kennedy, 1983-1984
6A	19	3	Clearwater Trip, 1986
6A	19	4	Closing Dinner Event – Global Awareness, 1993
6A	19	5-6	Unidentified 35MM Negatives, [198?]-[199?]

**Subseries 6B: Cassette Tapes, [198?]-1991**

6B	20		40 Cassette Tapes, [198?]-1991
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