

The COLUMBIA Annual Fund



JIHYUN OH
M.DIV. 2006

August 30, 2004

C O L U M B I A
T H E O L O G I C A L
S E M I N A R Y

701 Columbia Drive
P.O. Box 520
Decatur, GA 30031

Name
Address
Address
Address
Address
City, ST Zip

Dear Name:

Greetings from Columbia Seminary. This fall I'm beginning my second year at Columbia, after a summer studying Greek. (I'm sure you remember that experience!) My fellow students are returning to campus as well, after spending their summers in internships, clinical pastoral education, and other work related to their studies.

Your gifts to the Columbia Annual Fund help make it possible for many of us to return to campus every year and continue our preparation for ministry. I'd like to tell you more of my own story so you will know how your support helps students like me.

Although many of my classmates planned on coming to seminary from the time they were in high school, I came by a slightly more circuitous route. With undergraduate degrees in biology and German studies, I had worked in a research laboratory. Then, while working in a brokerage firm, I finished a master's degree in finance, fully expecting to pursue a career in the business world.

My plans changed dramatically and unexpectedly after I was offered an opportunity to work with the youth in my home church in Florida. Having previously volunteered with a church-related organization, I knew I enjoyed

(over, please)



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I am Columbia.

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The COLUMBIA AnnualFund

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ministry, but had never considered seminary—much less becoming a full-time ordained pastor as a career choice.

Serving the youth at my church, I found myself looking forward so much to work every day—to leading Bible study and building community, to teaching and preaching, to raising up youth and young adult leaders within the church and empowering Sunday school teachers. I even enjoyed the administrative tasks. Eventually, I was asked to serve as youth director.

As many people around me began affirming my call to ministry, I also began facing roadblocks as a non-ordained and non-seminary-trained youth director. I chose to come to Columbia because this seminary is committed to preparing pastors, both inside and outside the classroom. Like the youth I served in my church, the faculty and staff on this campus have diverse opinions and come from a variety of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are continually engaged in a conversation about what it means to be a diverse community of faith. Wrestling with these questions here is preparing me to go back into the diverse and dynamic community of faith that is the Church of Jesus Christ.

You too are still part of this community. Your continued support of the Columbia Annual Fund provides unrestricted dollars that help the seminary meet its commitment to the church—by offering scholarships to students like me as we prepare for ministry and by providing outstanding teachers to sustain us through this process.

I'd like to add my thanks to those of others for your generous partnership with Columbia in training and preparing men and women for ministry. I could not be here without it. I continue to look forward to all that God is doing on campus and in the congregations of Christ's church.

Sincerely,



Jihyun Oh
M.Div. 2006

P.S. With the new academic year under way, I hope that we can count on your support. I hope that you will consider a gift of \$50 to help Columbia carry out its mission of preparing men and women for ministry.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU! Please share your alumni/ae news, marriage and birth announcements, job changes, moves, etc.

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with our electronic newsletter.

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