The milestones in our lives are opportunities to look forward as well as back. This commencement week is the occasion for our graduates to be reminded of their Call to Ministry and look back over their experiences at ETSC. Major changes in the politics of Egypt began during their second year of studies due to the uprising of the Arab Spring. These changes created challenges and opportunities for our graduates to be leaders and servants not only to the Church, but to the whole nation. On Friday they will be launched into their next opportunities to serve Jesus Christ in churches and ministries throughout this changing landscape. In this 150th year, our community will be reminded again of the generations of Saints who have walked this same road of preparation and commencement. We are grateful for the partners, families, congregations and individuals who have supported the students and the
Seminary as we seek to “develop and hone their gifts of ministry in order to present them as faithful ministers of the gospel of Christ, capable of meeting the challenges of ministry in contemporary society.” We are grateful for the caliber of students we are privileged to equip and the generous support from our Partners who make it possible.

In the pages to follow you will find information about members of our faculty who look back on their accomplishments and other who face turns in the road ahead. You can read about new ways that our partners can connect to ETSC with a click of a mouse. We hope you will catch the vision for the improvements planned for the campus landscape.

One of the biggest challenges ETSC faces as we approach the end of every fiscal year, June 30, is the Student Scholarship Fund balance. ETSC serves 321 students in its Cairo, Alexandria and Minia campuses in full and part-time Bachelor, Diploma, and Master of Arts in Theology programs. A typical full time student at ETSC can afford to pay for three percent of his educational and living expenses at ETSC. The Student Scholarship fund offsets that difference to provide all qualified students a quality theological education. We invite you to prayerfully consider helping ETSC cover the gap.

- A $150 gift covers the cost of books for a full time student for a full year.
- A $537 gift pays for the summer internship expenses of one student.
- A $1,500 gift covers the housing/food expenses of a full time student for the academic year.
- A $2,000 gift will pay the tuition expense of a full time student for one academic year.

You may support ETSC by sharing our story with others and by donating online or through the PC(USA) and The Outreach Foundation.

Atef M. Gendy (Ph.D.)
President
Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo
The President Travels for the Seminary and the Christian Church

Dr. Atef Gendy spoke at the annual meeting of the Egypt Outreach Network in Omaha, Nebraska April 26-27. He shared the message of ETSC and the present day context in Egypt as well as preaching at the West Hills Church on Sunday. He also spoke to adult forums in Evanston, IL and Washington D.C. the following week. Coming on the heels of the dedication of the Center for Middle Eastern Christianity, he conveyed good news about the vision and growth of ETSC. Dr Gendy accepted the invitation to address the current situation of Christians in Egypt at an Interfaith Roundtable in Washington D.C. He spent one day at the offices of the Overseas Council International in Indianapolis. OCI is a strong advocate for ETSC.

“The mission leaders of NPC were most gratified to meet Dr. Atef and hear from him about the expedited startup of the new seminary extension in El Minia which started classes in the Fall of 2012…. and about the general health and growth of ETSC. Dr. Atef also had the opportunity to address a broader group of members about the everyday impacts of the current political situation on the lives of Egyptians. They were most interested in the faith life and ongoing mission of the Evangelical/ Presbyterian Church in Egypt since that is less in the news than the Coptic Orthodox. Many questions addressed issues of religious freedom and human rights, and Dr. Atef consistently encouraged various groups to consider human rights in the broadest context of all of society and not just how it affects Christians.”

Nancy Fox, Egypt Outreach Network Coordinator

Dr. Atef also participated in a series of meetings called by the World Evangelical Alliance to examine the best practices and provide appropriate recommendation for WYCLIFFE/SIL regarding the Familial Divine Terms of "Father, Son debate." After a final trip to Istanbul in April, the last of several meetings and studies, the panel issued the final report which is available [http://etsc.org/new/images/final_report.pdf](http://etsc.org/new/images/final_report.pdf)

ETSC in Print

Dr. Michael Parker, ETSC Professor of Church History, authored “150 Years of Witness in Egypt” for publication in the May 2013 edition of Presbyterians Today. A link to the article is available on the ETSC website at [http://etsc.org/new/alumni-a-friends/news](http://etsc.org/new/alumni-a-friends/news). It also features Hanna Maher, a 33 year old ETSC student who pastors a congregation in Gaza, Palestine. Our readers will find these articles both encouraging and informative. Michael will replace Mark Nygard as the Director of the ETSC's Graduate Studies program. ETSC is grateful to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for supporting this position and Michael’s continuing presence with us.

Rev. Dr. Magdi will travel to Hong Kong to participate in a conference entitled "Contextualizing Theological Education in Oral Contexts."

Rev. Dr. Tharwat Waheeb will travel to Kenya to teach a course about "Missiology" at Daystar University.

Rev. Dr. Wageeh Mikhail will travel to Kenya to teach a course about " Middle East Christianity" at Daystar University.
**Campus Visitors**

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA visited ETSC as part of five whirlwind days in Cairo and Alexandria May 9-13, **The Rev. Neal D. Presa**, pastor of Middlesex (N.J.) Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth Presbytery, was elected moderator on June 30, 2012 for a two year term. Others in the travel group to Lebanon and Egypt included Rev. Dr. Steve Yamaguchi (pictured here with Dr. Atef and Neal), Rev. William Golderer, Rev. Erin Dunigan and Amgad Beblawi, Coordinator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s mission work in the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia. It was an honor for ETSC to receive the Moderator’s delegation from the PC(USA) in our 150th Anniversary year.

**Arie van der Poel**, Country Coordinator for Egypt, of the GZB (Reformed Mission League of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands) was the guest of Dr. Willem J. de Wit, Professor of Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology. He attended Dr. Willem’s class on the Holy Spirit and visited the library which has received the generous support of GZB.

In February, a group of 24 women belonging to the Evangelical Church in Germany, along with three Roman Catholic women came from Southern and central Germany to ETSC. Some of women were official representatives of their Church concerning the World Day of Prayer as well as those who were preparing for the World Day of Prayer for Women in their congregations.

Last November ETSC received a group of five people from Gemensam.

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**ETSC Online**

The Seminary website is a work in progress. New sections on the “English side” include an update of information about the Center for Middle Eastern Christianity. Watch during June for more information about the M.A.T.S. program and details about the 150 Anniversary celebration coming mid-November. Check it out at http://etsc.org/new/cmec. Suggestions for information you would find helpful can be sent to the Webmaster, samehnaim@etsc.org. And don’t forget to visit us on Facebook at ETSC Cairo https://www.facebook.com/etsc.cairo?ref-ts&fref-ts.

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**Prayer requests**

Please lift up our thirty graduates as they celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends on May 31 and embark on the next stage of their Call to service. (More details in the June edition of ETSC Update).

Pray for our first to third year students in their summer field work experiences. First year students shadow a pastor in a congregation. Second year students work in a variety of social service agencies. Third year students step into the pastoral role in a church without a pastor and may continue to serve that church on weekends during their fourth year. The summer newsletters will include more information about selected students.

Pray for the people of Egypt and all those whose human rights are being limited or abused.
Framtid (Common Future) which has since become Equmeniakyrkan. Under the leadership of Bertil Svensson, International Coordinator, they explored further contacts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Equmeniakyrkan is the new Uniting Church in Sweden, which is a merger (2011) between the Mission Covenant Church, Baptist Union and the Methodist Church. Their present context in Sweden includes encounters with many immigrants and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa.

Samuel Barkat, Board Member of Overseas Council International spent four days as the guest of the Seminary with his wife, Sheila.

We look forward to welcoming a scheduled Mission-Vision Trip which will include the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of ETSC. For information about Looking to God’s Future: Our Presbyterian Family in Cairo, Egypt, contact Lisa Dill at 615-778-8881 or lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org. This trip will be lead by Marilyn Borst and Rev. Nancy Fox November 8-16, 2013. The estimated land cost is $1300 and flight costs are $1300 per person.

Goodbye to the Nygards

The ETSC community gathered to say Ma’a salama to Dr. Mark Nygard and his wife, Linda, at a reception on May 23rd. They will return to their home and family in North Dakota USA in June after four years as a part of the ETSC community. Mark is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church and has served as the Director of Graduate Studies since 2009. Mark has taken a leadership role in:

- Initiation of the Organizational Leadership and Management program for working professionals in church and business leadership positions.

Congratulations- Mabrouk! Mabrouk!

Just the week before celebrating the opening of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Wageeh Y. F. Mikhail Interim Director of CMEC, defended his dissertation ‘Ammār al-Baṣrī’s Kitāb al-Burḥān: A Topical and Theological Analysis of Arabic Christian Theology in the Ninth Century. He will receive his PhD from The University of Birmingham, U.K. in July.

Wageeh's book Research Methods has been re-published this time by Dar Manhal al-Hayat, Beirut. The book lays out fundamentals of academic writings—especially for theological writings and research. The book is the first of its kind, and it has proven helpful to seminarians across the Middle East.

Hani Kostandi Hanna, Assistant Professor of Theology, defended his dissertation "The Historicized Christology of Karl Barth and Matta al-Miskin: A Comparison for the Sake of Ecumenical Renewal" at Princeton Theological Seminary and stayed for graduation on
• Offering a new Systematic Theology track in the Master of Theological Studies program, in addition to Biblical Studies and Christianity in the Middle East.

• Establishing the Floyd and Ragna Jenson Scholarship Fund for promising international students who need support in pursuing graduate work.

• Beginning an English-language learning support program for pastors of the Presbyterian church in Egypt attempting to qualify for the master’s program.

• Developing a circle of interested candidates who are preparing themselves for master’s studies, sometimes years ahead of their enrollment.

Linda Nygard volunteered three days each week cataloging 3,000 English books in the ETSC library. Mark and Linda will be sorely missed by students and colleagues alike.

An Oasis in Abbassia

The price list is in. We invite our partners to help us make the ETSC campus a beautiful setting for studying and teaching, hosting conferences and Synod activities, welcoming our international and Egyptian guests and making the campus an oasis for the families and students who live here year round.

Our partners are invited to consider a gift for any of these portions of this Campus Beautification Project in our 150th Anniversary Year

- $3,830 – Landscaping -Design, prepare gardens and plant flowers, bushes and drought tolerant plantings

May 18. The ETSC community congratulates both of these colleagues for their academic achievements and looks forward to their years of service to ETSC.
- $51,094 – Café - Demolish the crumbling canteen and unused clinic. Build a new enlarged café and outdoor eating area

- $44,478 – Bookshop - Construct and furnish a corner bookshop to sell books, stationery supplies and keepsakes to residents and visitors.

- $61,321 – Infrastructure - No more dirt driveway or walkways! Paving, stone work, and new exterior electrical conduit

- **The total cost for this project** (including 10% administrative overhead) is **$160,720**

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