THE DOUBLE FOUNDING OF FULLER SEMINARY

BY KATE McGinn, ARCHIVIST

The vision of Fuller Seminary was one hewed from two separate visions of Charles E. Fuller, radio evangelist, and Harold J. Ockenga, learned pastor of Boston's Park Street Church. The two men met in 1946, at Fuller's home in Palm Springs, Smoke Tree Ranch, to discuss Fuller's dream of establishing a Bible institute that would train individuals for ministry. At the meeting, however, Ockenga argued so persuasively for an intellectually rigorous graduate seminary that Charles Fuller modified his vision to incorporate Ockenga's. Interested in challenging the extant fundamentalist model, Fuller and Ockenga joined forces to create a seminary that would rival Princeton in its curriculum and Moody Bible Institute in its evangelistic training. It would also offer a new apologetic for evangelicalism.

In the spring of 1947, efforts to start the seminary began in earnest. Charles Fuller threw his energy into establishing a seminary, drawing on the orange grove money left to him by his father, Henry—for whom the seminary was named. Students were recruited by announcements from his widely popular "Old Fashioned Revival Hour," an international radio broadcast.

Simultaneously, Harold John Ockenga, who would serve as president in absentia, assembled the seminary's first faculty. A man with a reputation for evangelism and erudition, Ockenga attracted the most articulate voices for the new evangelicalism—Carl F. H. Henry, Everett F. Harrison, Harold Lindsell, —Please turn to page 3.

THE "OTHER" FOUNDER

By ROBERT N. SCHAPER, ('64)

God wanted someone to stand beside Charles E. Fuller to give impetus and direction to Fuller Seminary. Harold John Ockenga was that person. Along with his theological and ecclesiastical discernment, he was an innovator. This meant that he combined the intellect, the vision, and the daring both to see what was possible and to get it done. He demonstrated this in the founding of the National Association of Evangelicals in 1942. He saw the possibilities of such a move from the progress of the New England Fellowship, and appropriately became the first president of the NAE.

It was his church leadership that made such ecumenical success possible. His missionary vision pioneered in the "faith promises" for the missionary budget of Park Street Church in Boston and brought the funds from $2,500 to $90,00 in record time.

His preaching was as well-ordered as his theology. You always knew exactly what his structure was. It would often be alliterated. It was never "folksy" but had a kind of weighty and personal passion that was compelling. You —Please turn to page 3.
WHO WERE THOSE GUYS?

We've all seen the pictures of the early Fuller students, with their apparently identical clothing, skin color, haircuts, and worship style. *Fuller's First Fifty* was curious: Who were those guys? Why did they enroll in an unknown institution? Were they saints? Oddballs? Just folks? For an answer we went to Dr. Robert P. Meye, '57 and '59, who also put us in touch with Dr. David H. Wallace, '51 and '53. Read on!

MY DECISION TO COME TO FULLER

by David H. Wallace ('51)

In my late teenage years I occasionally drove to Long Beach to attend a broadcast of Charles Fuller’s “Old Fashioned Revival Hour.” (This provided an excuse to get together with a young lady from my church who, toward the end of World War II, became my wife.) So the name and reputation of Charles Fuller were firmly in my mind as I came to the end of my undergraduate studies at USC.

I was uncertain about what to do with my life upon graduation. I was a member of that immense cohort of World War II vets who benefited so much from the G.I. Bill. I had vaguely planned to study engineering and go into manufacturing, but neither my heart nor my talents were in this plan. Knowing that I was undecided about a career, three people—two relatives by marriage as well as my pastor—spoke to me, without collusion, asking if I had ever considered the Christian ministry. This was a challenge I had to consider.

My interest was as yet ill-formed, but I knew that serious study of Scripture and Christian theology were mandatory for any form of Christian ministry. At that early time Fuller had only recently come into existence in nearby Pasadena. The school was hardly known, not yet accredited, and viewed with restlessness—if not suspicion—by the major denominations. The faculty was small, and the physical facilities were spare. But I trusted the leadership that gave this infant school its direction. So it was that I applied for admission in the seminary’s second entering class in 1948.

It was something of a gamble to entrust my theological education to a largely unknown and pioneer institution. Would it gain a sufficient reputation? Would it secure approval for its graduates? Would its faculty expand from what it was then, a mere nucleus of professors? As I pondered this decision with...
a few older friends, I was urged to go to a recognized and established seminary. But my youthful innocence, spurred by my pastor and consented to by my wife, Barbara, sealed the decision to go to Fuller. The decision was made. I was accepted; and my life has been enriched ever since by my education at Fuller Theological Seminary.

AN EARLY GRADUATE

by Robert P. Meye ('59)

David Wallace was a good friend of Fuller’s late President David Allan Hubbard, both during their student days at Fuller and during the time of their graduate study in Scotland (Hubbard, St. Andrews, Old Testament; Wallace, Edinburgh, New Testament). David Wallace, I hasten to note, is also my good friend! Now retired, he was formerly a professor at California Baptist Theological Seminary, but was also once my teacher as a visiting professor at Fuller, filling in for Dr. George Ladd, absent on sabbatical leave. David has been teaching for 23 years in the Adult Education Department of the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach.

David Wallace, along with David Hubbard, represent a significant number of those early Fuller students who earned both a B.D. (now M.Div.) and a Th.M. at Fuller, and then went on to doctoral study and into a teaching ministry. I was privileged to be one of the many.

THE DOUBLE FOUNDING

—from front page

...and Wilbur M. Smith—to comprise the first faculty.

And so, in October 1947, 39 students met to start classes in the basement of Lake Avenue Congregational Church. Fifty years later we pause to celebrate this bow drawn at a venture (1 Kings 22:34). n

THE “OTHER” FOUNDER

—from front page

would have to describe his style as “formal.” Yet this never seemed to remove him from your world. There was no doubt that he would be appealing to an academic mind, but he was never removed or impractical.

It is said that Charles Fuller on one occasion told Harold Ockenga, “I’ll handle the finances. You handle the academics.” It was undoubtedly because both of these men had appreciation and respect for what the other was supposed to do that things worked out as well as they did. That Dr. Ockenga was a unique leader cannot be challenged. He was pastor of one of America’s most noteworthy churches. He was president of two major evangelical seminaries (Fuller and Gordon-Conwell). He almost took on all three of these jobs at once! He was president of the NAE. Fuller remains in his debt for the profound influence of such a competent, brilliant, and devoted servant of God.
JUBILEE CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

ART GALLERY EXHIBITION
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION REGISTRATION
1:00–7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME AND FACULTY-HOSTED RECEPTION
7:00–9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

ART GALLERY EXHIBITION
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF FAITHFULNESS
Keynote speaker Richard J. Mouw, Ph.D.
10:00–11:30 a.m.

MAKING CONNECTIONS BY THE DECADES
11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Reminisce with old friends over lunch (on your own).

JUBILEE CELEBRATION SEMINARS I
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Choose to attend one of the following seminars by distinguished Fuller faculty and guests:
• Preventing Burnout in the Ministry and Other Helping Professions
  Archibald D. Hart, Ph.D.
• Trends in Missions for the Twenty-first Century
  Paul E. Pierson, Ph.D.
• Renewing Your Vision for Ministry
  Isaac J. Canales, Ph.D.
• The Spirituality of Every Day: The Key to an Integrated Life
  Robert J. Banks, Ph.D.
• Worship and the Arts
  Ken Medema, Christian musician and composer
• Spiritual Formation in the Local Church: Responding to the Longing to Know God
  Richard V. Peace, Ph.D.
• Cross-Cultural Counseling
  Yea Sun Eum Kim, Ph.D.
• The Early History of Fuller Seminary: Reforming Fundamentalism or Reviving Evangelicalism?
  James Bradley, Ph.D.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEANS
4:00–5:00 p.m.
Dialogue sessions with the deans of the Schools of Theology, Psychology, and World Mission about the challenges of educating ministry professionals.

DINNER (ON YOUR OWN)
5:00–7:00 p.m.

EVENING CONCERT
7:00–8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

ART GALLERY EXHIBITION
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S TOWN HALL MEETING
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Participate in a question-and-answer session with President Mouw. View Fuller's Fiftieth Anniversary video. Catch the Fuller vision for the future!

MAKING CONNECTIONS
10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Meet with Fuller faculty, alumni/ae, and students who share similar callings, ministries, and special interests. Make new contacts and lunch with old friends (on your own).

JUBILEE CELEBRATION SEMINARS II
1:30–3:30 p.m.
Choose to attend one of the following seminars by distinguished Fuller faculty and guests:
• Education of Second-Generation Korean Pastors in America
  Seyoon Kim, Ph.D.
• Mentoring: An Informal Means of Developing Leaders
  J. Robert Clinton, Ph.D.
• God at Work: Personal Values and Professional Expectations
  Robert J. Banks, Ph.D.
• From Willfulness to Willingness: A Model for Spiritual Development
  Barbara Eurich-Rascoe, Ph.D.
• Families in Pain
  Jack O. Balswick, Ph.D., and Judith K. Balswick, Ed.D.
• Fuller Seminary's Contribution to Biblical Scholarship
  Leslie C. Allen, Ph.D.
• The Black Church in Transition
  Robert Louis Stevenson, Jr., (Ph.D. candidate)

CELEBRATION OF HOPE
Keynote speaker Roberta Hestenes, D.Min.
4:00–5:30 p.m.

DINNER ON THE LAWN
6:00 p.m.
As Fuller's guests, dine outdoors with friends while listening to the nostalgic music of "New Sounds," a 17-piece 1940s big band, and "Brush Arbor," an awesome bluegrass gospel band!

Don't forget to send in the Registration Form attached to your invitation so we can make reservations for you.

FULLER 1947–1997