



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2015 Commencement Highlights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 24, 2015

WILBERFORCE, OHIO — Payne celebrated the 2015 Commencement on Friday, May 22, 2015 held at Wilberforce University Alumni Multiplex. Cornell Brooks, ESQ, President of the NAACP delivered the keynote address at this year’s spring commencement exercises. The Class of 2015 consisted of 18 amazing individuals with Rev. Sharon Staples as the Valedictorian. Payne also conferred honorary degrees to the following distinguished leaders in recognition of their service and achievements: Cornell William Brooks, Esquire, President and CEO, NAACP; Dr. Gayraud Wilmore Distinguished African American Theologian and Scholar; and Mrs. Vivienne Anderson, Episcopal Supervisor, (ret.).

2015 Payne Graduates Master of Divinity Degrees	2015 Scholarship & Award Recipients
Eraina Aseme Darlene Desmond Alicia Hudson Bernard Hudson Dwaine Jackson Roberta Jackson Phea Kennedy Cynthia Kirk Courtene’y Martin Christopher McDowell Charles Rogers Tristan Salley Terri Silas Rose Stokes-Small Sharon Staples Benessa Sweat Paulette White Mitchell Williams	The Faculty Award for Outstanding Service ~ <i>Phillip Turner</i> The Faculty Award for Academic Achievement ~ <i>Sharon Staples</i> The Community Service Award ~ <i>Felicia Bagneris</i> The Rev. Henry McNeal Brown Memorial Scholarship ~ <i>James Givens</i> Edmund C. Cooke Sr. Scholarship Award ~ <i>Lucinda Burgess</i> Dr. Larry and Inez Perry Award~ <i>Sharon Staples</i> The Peter and Heartha Kampen Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence ~ <i>Cynthia Kirk</i> The Donald W. Thompson Memorial Scholarship ~ <i>Christopher McDowell</i> Rev. and Mrs. Wesley E. Wharton Scholarship ~ <i>Samantha Douglas</i> The Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams and Dr. McDonald Williams Annual Scholarship in Memory of Rev. F. Douglass Coleman, Sr. ~ <i>Michelle Frayer</i> The Rev. Cornelia Wright Memorial Scholarship ~ <i>Janet Long</i>
2015 Payne Honorary Degree Recipients	2015 Spring Dean’s List
<i>Cornell William Brooks, Esquire</i> President and CEO, NAACP <i>Dr. Gayraud Wilmore</i> Theologian and Scholar <i>Mrs. Vivienne Anderson</i> Episcopal Supervisor, (ret.)	Michelle Frayer Michelle A. Creer James E. Minor Laymah Elaine Cisco

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