Because of the ministry and academic opportunities I had at SC, I have not come up against a challenge here that I have not been able to handle.

Brandon Cunningham ‘05

Brandon and Kristina Cunningham have felt well-prepared for their Garrett experience. Brandon says, with undergraduate degrees that prepared them to enter their graduate studies confidently. “My (SC) professors helped me establish a Biblical faith foundation on which to build and enabled me to feel safe asking tough questions, because they communicated to me that God is present and active in our searching and struggling,” Kristina explains. “My professors also taught me how to think critically and look beyond the informal fallacies people often use to make their opinion convincing.

“They also taught me to give people the benefit of the doubt and know that most of the time, people are just trying to do what they think is best. This has helped me to take the thoughts of others more seriously and engage in respectful dialogue.”

Now the seminary students are putting their faith and education into action, including Brandon’s position as student minister at an AMIA (Anglican) ministry on the Northwestern University campus. This ministry is mainly to Northwestern undergraduate students, but the weekly worship is also attended by Garrett Students and persons in the Evanston community.

“I will likely be facilitating small group Bible studies with Northwestern students, preaching, and planning outreach/missions projects, or whatever else the congregation needs,” he explains.

Ross and Amanda Baker also are serving in the ministry while they attend Garrett, as part-time co-pastors of Ingleside United Methodist Church.

All are building on an SC foundation as they continue their path to full-time ministry.

“Because of the ministry and academic opportunities I had at SC, I have not come up against a challenge here that I have not been able to handle,” Brandon Cunningham says.