

Subject:

FW: Denver Seminary Alumni Connection

September 2014



From The President



Are Seminaries Irrelevant?

What do you think? [Reply here.](#)

One of the most striking, and troubling, trends in the Church today is the assumption that seminary training is not necessary for pastoral leadership. Just yesterday the pastor of a large and growing church in our area was talking about an excellent young preacher he is working into the preaching rotation. I asked if the

young man had seminary training. "No." Will you direct him to study at the seminary? "No, he's already a good preacher." That conversation typifies the commonly held perspective that seminary training, or any formal theological education, is irrelevant to ministry leadership.

The editor of a leading journal for pastors wrote in an email to me a couple of years ago, "Our readers are not interested in seminaries *per se*, but they are very interested in theological education." Fascinating. When, how and why did the disconnect between seminary and theological education occur? What are the consequences of this decoupling of seminary training and pastoral leadership for the Church in the years ahead? What are the consequences of an untrained clergy on the credibility of the gospel in our society in the years ahead?

Matching Your Gift

Now is the time to support Denver Seminary! A generous donor has promised to match up to \$100,000, \$1 for \$1 for any new donor. The offer expires December 31st, 2014. [Give online here.](#)

Denver Seminary is now on [AmazonSmile!](#) Select us as your charity and .5% of your purchases will be donated to the Seminary Fund.

Upcoming Events:

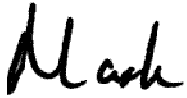
We might be coming to your area. Check the [events](#) page regularly to see where we will be.

Obviously, I believe seminary training is critical for credible and effective ministry leadership. I'm not saying that someone without seminary training cannot be used of God. I do believe, however, that the process of formal theological education provides depth, breadth, and nuance to one's understanding of Scripture, theology and ministry that cannot be gained by those who are self-taught. Would you go to a self-taught dentist for a root canal? Would you depend upon the advice of a self-taught attorney to settle a large, complex and contested inheritance that's supposed to come to you? I suspect not. I guess we care more for our teeth and our money than we do for our spiritual lives and witness.

We need your help in developing a list of reasons why someone should go to seminary. Voices from the front lines of ministry can be quite compelling for those desiring to prepare for ministry. Recognizing that no seminary program can adequately address all the challenges of ministry, what do you believe are the primary reasons that someone aspiring to ministry leadership should attend seminary?

In other words, how would you answer the question, "Why seminary?" Please send your reasons to alumni@denverseminary.edu.

Thanks for your input,



Alumni Updates



Jay & Deb Lindstrom (M.Div., 1996 and M.A. Counseling Ministries, 1997)

Jay and Deb Lindstrom stopped by the Alumni Relations office on campus and shared their life and ministry update! They have 4 children: Ben (17), Jonathan (15), Alina (13), and JoAnna (10). Jay has been the pastor of Bethel Baptist in Newell, IA for eight years. Deb works at Newell Fonda High School as a Para-professional caring for a down syndrome student. She is also able to spend time counseling and leading in ministry with Jay at their church.

Nathan Kendall (M.Div., 2001)

Nathan and his family are preparing to return to Guinea to resume their

Alumni Webinar

October 15th, 2014
12:00 (MDT)
Seminary Reimagined
Panel Discussion.
[Register here.](#)

Alumni & Prospective Student Gathering

October 16th, 2014
7:00 PM Lexington, MA. Speaker: Mark Young. [Click here to register.](#)

3rd Annual Alumni Advent Service

December 4th, 2014
details coming soon.

Alumni Resources

- [Job Board](#)
- [Alumni Webinars](#)
- [Denver Journal](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

ministry with World Venture. Although Guinea is in the heart of the Ebola outbreak, God is opening the doors for their return. Please pray for them. You can read their latest update [here](#).

Fran Sciacca (M.A. Theology, 1980)

Since graduation, Fran has taught Bible in two major Christian High Schools (Colorado Springs, Birmingham AL), and founded a Bible teaching ministry, [Hands of Hur](#). He recently released a book on the relationship between identity, purpose and mission, titled [So, What's Your Point?](#). You can find more information on his current ministry at [Knot of Noose?](#) conference or [The Darkside Challenge](#), a 30 day assessment of one's use of technology.

Bob Hakes (M.Div., 1952)

Bob was in the first class to graduate Denver Seminary in 1952. "I've a million memories of my Denver "daze" but none more lasting than seeing pros live out what they taught in class. My son, Terry, also a Denver graduate, lives in Japan where he works with major corporations as a consultant in intercultural communications and international management. The big C is trying to take me down but the Lord keeps holding me up. Blessed be the name of the Lord! God Bless Denver Seminary!"

What's New with You? We want to know your ministry and family updates and anything else you would like to share! Send your update along with a photo, degree and year graduated to alumni@denverseminary.edu to be included in the next Alumni Connection.

Events & Resources



Greece/Turkey Trip with Denver Seminary

In the Path of Paul Seminar in the Bible and the Aegean. Approximate dates: May 20-June 5th 2015, Estimated cost \$4600. \$200 deposit due by October 31. Contact [David Mathewson](#) for details.

Publications



Quick-Start Guide to the Whole Bible: Understanding the Big Picture Book-by-Book by Dr. William H. Marty (M.Div., 1973) and Dr. Boyd Seevers.

In this easy to read handbook, two respected Bible professors will help you make sense of the Bible, book-by-book. Using a conversational tone, they cut right to the heart of the matter, focusing on two main questions: "What does it say?" and "Why does it matter?"

Faculty Updates

Dr. Heather Gingrich, Professor of Counseling

Dr. Heather Gingrich was a guest on *Java with Juli*, a podcast with Dr. Juli Slattery. She discussed the topic of her book, *Restoring the Shattered Self: A Christian Counselor's Guide to Complex Trauma*. You can listen to the podcast [here](#). Dr. Gingrich will be presenting on this topic at the AACC National Conference in Branson, MO on October 5-6.

Dr. Craig Blomberg, Distinguished Professor of New Testament

Dr. Blomberg will be speaking at the "Biola on the Road" conference in Granite Bay, CA on October 11th. On October 15th he will be debating an atheist on the deity of Christ at Oregon State University.

Come Back to Campus!



We would love to see you and hear your story. In fact, we have a gift for every alumnus that comes to the Advancement office! You are a part of the Denver Seminary family, we care for you, and we invite you to stay in touch.

Also, remember that all chapel services are open to alumni. It is held from 11am-12pm every Monday and Tuesday in the chapel on campus. You can also watch the latest chapel services [here](#).

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