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### **FALL UPDATE**

The Fall semester is almost half over and many of us are still adjusting from the hot Summer days. I pray that in your mentoring relationship with a Denver Seminary student trust is deepening, God is opening areas of conversation that touch the core of life and ministry, and (not least) that you are truly enjoying yourself. When mentoring is working well, it usually proves to be as beneficial to the mentor as to the mentee. I hope that is your experience. Please take a few minutes to read Laura Flander's fine reflections on "Standing on the Border" in a mentoring relationship. She offers some keen insights that we pray will enrich your ministry of mentoring.

We value the partnership God has given us with you in preparing students for faithful Kingdom service. Our seminary vision, "Equipping leaders who think biblically, live faithfully, and lead wisely for a lifetime" cannot be realized without you. We mean that!



**DON PAYNE,**  
**ASSOCIATE DEAN**

Don Payne  
Associate Dean

## **THE MATHEWS LECTURESHIP SERIES**

As mentors you are invited to the inaugural Mathews Lectureship Series on October 29 and 30 from 11:00 a.m. to noon in our chapel. The theme of this year's lectureship is "Expanding the Ethical Agenda: An Evangelical Imperative." No reservations necessary.

### **Monday, October 29, 2007**

"Contours of an Evangelical Christian Social Ethics" presented by Dr. Alice Mathews, Academic Dean and Lois W. Bennett Distinguished Emerita Professor of Educational Ministries and Women's Ministries at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Dr. Mathews will lay the foundation for the series by painting a picture of the forward-moving direction of Evangelical Christian Social Ethics, offering ideas on what it will look like for Christians to broaden their idea of ethics from personal and private action to public expression in the social arena.

### **Tuesday, October 30, 2007**

"Warrants for a Broader Ethical Agenda" presented by Dr. Dieumeme Noelliste, Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Vernon Grounds Institute of Public Ethics at Denver Seminary.

Dr. Noelliste will offer motivating justification for expanding Christian involvement in social action by giving theological and scriptural bases for the Christian pursuit of social justice. He will also lend historical support to the argument by surveying times when God's people have obediently addressed social ills.

## **FAREWELL TO PASTOR YVONNE MCCOY**

After four years of faithful service as one of our Training Center Directors, we say a sad but grateful goodbye to Yvonne McCoy. Yvonne has been a full-time pastor during the time of her ministry at Denver Seminary. She has been feeling the burden of the growing needs of her congregation, along with a steadily increasing passion for ministry in Africa. We appreciate all that Yvonne has invested in students' lives through the Training and Mentoring process here at Denver Seminary and wish her all God's best in this next chapter of her ministry.

## **STANDING ON THE BORDER**

## *Laura Flanders*

*“Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.” Habakkuk 1:3-5*

As I was driving home from the airport this week I noticed a bumper sticker on the car in front of me. It read, “If you aren’t outraged, you’re not paying attention.” Without dwelling on the political message behind this sticker, I pondered the universal truth it held about person-to-person connection. When we pay attention to life and to the people around us, we experience all sorts of emotions; anger, fear, resentment, sorrow, joy, etc. At Denver Seminary, students are challenged to pay attention. And often, in this midst of their reading, writing, listening to lectures and dialoging with students from different backgrounds, they have to more deeply WATCH the world around them. And, as we learn from Habakkuk 1:3-5, watching is not an easy task.

I often tell my colleagues that the job of a mentor at Denver Seminary is the both the most rewarding and the most difficult. Helping students WATCH requires a great deal of skill. As mentors, we are asked to be willing and available to respond well to the myriad of emotions that result in a mentee’s life. What is a healthy response? Should I teach, should I answer my mentee’s question, should I simply listen, should I find a good book for them to read? What is the skill I need to learn? It may be any one of these I just mentioned. But the overarching mentor quality I must possess is that which Parker Palmer calls, “one who stands on the border”. Instead of always comforting, correcting or teaching my mentee through the emotional responses that come from watching, I should simply be present to her emotion rather than trying to fix it. In speaking of his friend who stood beside him through a painful journey, Palmer states, “He never tried to invade my awful inwardness with false comfort or advice; he simply stood on its boundaries, modeling the respect for me and my journey – the courage to let it be – that I myself needed if I were to endure” (*Let Your Life Speak*, pg 64).

The courage to let it be is what we do when we stand on the border. This is not a passive mentoring activity. It is highly active in that it requires a great deal of skill in facilitating an awareness of what God is doing in and around the life of a mentee. Anderson/Reese in *Spiritual Mentoring* remind mentors



LAURA FLANDERS  
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TRAINING CENTER

that the Holy Spirit is already at work and that the mentor should act with attentive listening, attentive prayer and active discernment. Like an optometrist, the mentor “does not invent the light or create the patient’s eyes; rather he or she helps focus the patient’s attention on the light that is already present” (*Spiritual Mentoring* pg 46).

As we help our mentees focus on the Spirit who is already present in their questions and emotions, we are not fixing them, we are simply standing *with* them. Margaret Guenther uses the analogy of a midwife. She states, “The midwife is present to another in a time of vulnerability, working in areas that are deep and intimate....She does things *with*, not *to*, the person giving birth” (*Holy Listening*, pg 87). As our mentees more deeply watch and engage the world, we should create the conditions that allow them to share their emotional response and encourage them to pose their raw and honest questions. It may get ugly! We simply need to stand on the border of their emotion and invite them into deeper dialogue. Let us listen well to their story; knowing all the while that the Spirit is present and actively working to focus our mentees on the light. While there is nothing, you as the mentor, need to do *to* your mentee, you can do this work *with* him; helping to bring his Christian faith to a greater understanding.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MENTORING - "MATURING IN MENTORING"**

**April 3-5, 2008** will be the dates for our sixth mentoring conference here at Denver Seminary. The conference theme will be "Maturing in Mentoring," featuring Dr. Roberta Hestenes as keynote speaker for the opening banquet on Thursday evening, April 3.

Fresh mentoring initiatives are emerging all around the globe, both formally and informally, bringing new questions and challenges to our ongoing mentoring relationships. Whether we are just beginning to step out into a mentoring role or far along on the mentoring journey; “maturing in mentoring” demands rich, creative resources that will encourage mastery and ground us theologically both as mentors and mentees. Join us at the next International Conference on Mentoring. Together we will explore new resources and address new challenges to mentoring in an increasingly complex world where God continues to develop people through mentoring relationships.

Multiple workshops will be available to encourage and enrich your mentoring ministry. Please put this on your calendar now and plan to be with us. Early registration is \$189, but active

Denver Seminary mentors and students may register for \$75, including the banquet, all sessions, lunch on Friday and two continental breakfasts. To register, contact Luanna Traubert at 303-762-6929 or [luanna.traubert@denverseminary.edu](mailto:luanna.traubert@denverseminary.edu)

## **MENTOR ORIENTATION MODULES**

If you have not yet been able to attend one our Mentor Orientation Modules, please plan to participate in one of the next modules, scheduled as follows. The module will acquaint you with the values and structure of our Training and Mentoring process, your role as a mentor, and some important mentoring skills and resources.

Monday, January 28, 1:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 2, 9:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, February 5, 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 9, 9:00 - 11:15 a.m.

## **NEW WEBSITE**

If you've not visited Denver Seminary's website lately, you may want to type <http://www.denverseminary.edu> into your browser and have a look! It's all new, and many features are still to come, offering multiple ways to connect and stay informed. Mentors have their own section; just click on the "Mentors" bar in the top right section of the main page.

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