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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Update
Farewell to Dr. Terry Burns
Mentoring: The Movie Director Approach
International Conference on Mentoring
Mentor Orientation Modules
New Website
Training Center Directors

UPDATE

Dear Mentors,

Though it's customary to express appreciation during the Christmas season, our gratitude to you for investing as a mentor is no seasonal cliché. We simply could not fulfill our mission as a seminary without your presence as a mentor for a student who is preparing for ministry. Every year we hear students' stories of how their mentors have impacted their lives; providing encouragement when seminary was overwhelming and they had lost perspective, facilitating integration of their studies with the rest of life and ministry, modeling faithfulness when life is hard.

On Monday, December 10 we recognized our Fall graduates with a dessert reception. Since the Fall class is smaller in size than the Spring class, we were able to give each graduate a bit of time to express thanks to those who have helped them through seminary. The comments made about mentors were profound, rejuvenating our own vision for the vitality of this approach to



DON PAYNE,
ASSOCIATE DEAN

seminary education.

Of course, we hope and pray that serving as a mentor for a Denver Seminary student proves as encouraging and transformative in your own journey as it is for the student. Mentoring truly is mutual, despite the formal roles we might play. As such, we are also grateful for the ways that God continues to use you to encourage and shape us who are on staff here in the Training and Mentoring department. As we interact with you in mentor team meetings and other settings, God uses your wisdom and faith as life-giving resources of encouragement to us. May our gracious Lord strengthen you today with the knowledge that your mentoring ministry leaves footprints in places you don't even know about!

Don Payne
Associate Dean

GODSPEED TO DR. TERRY BURNS

We are sad to say goodbye to our friend and colleague, Dr. Terry Burns. Terry and his wife Gail will be completing their ministry at Denver Seminary at the end of this month to return to their roots in the Pacific Northwest and begin ministry at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. There Terry will serve as Professor of Intercultural Studies/Mentoring.

Terry has been with us since the beginning of the Training and Mentoring process in 1998 and has consistently provided godly, wise, and caring guidance for students. He has directed our Intercultural and Parachurch Training Centers, and for several years he also served as coordinator of our Intercultural Ministries concentration. Gail has mentored numerous students and led several spiritual formation groups of students. We are deeply grateful to God for both Terry and Gail, wishing them God's grace and joy in their new ministry.

MENTORING: THE MOVIE DIRECTOR APPROACH

Roger Cauthon

There are numerous images and metaphors that help us understand what mentors do: coach and supporter, teacher of skills and the leader of an apprentice, advocate and encourager.



A mentor may open doors, making a way for a more novice person, or be a listener and friend in both professional and personal or spiritual matters. All of these are appropriate roles for a mentor to play in a given situation.

For another image of mentoring, consider the power of an imaginative role: the mentor as “movie director.” The director of a film makes sure the whole scene is being expressed. That involves making sure the actor or actress says the appropriate lines; that the lead character is able to express the emotion of the words from the script and communicate them in tone, facial mannerism, intonation and body language. The director also has to make sure that the background scenery is consistent with what the actors are saying and doing. The director, conducts various ways of communication to the audience at one time. The overall impact of the film depends on how well all this works together.

Actors do not see the whole scene. They are focused on the camera or the audience and must trust that what is going on behind them is appropriate. This calls for actors to place a great deal of trust in the director. They trust that the role being played is supported by the other elements of the stage. They trust that the director is working for their greater development as the character needed in the production.

We can imagine the movie director sitting in one of those “director chairs” watching all these elements; bringing them into harmony so the communication is as clear and powerful as possible. That role of observation and informing is vital to the ability of the actor to be the character in full bloom.

Mentors are like that movie director. As we sit and listen to the stories of our “mentorees” we have the chance to observe and inform the “mentoree” actor about what is happening on the rest of the stage of his or her life. We can take the time to see the scenery and pass that on to the “actor” so that he or she may be able to perform well with what is really happening. That scenery is what God is doing; where God is showing up and supporting the life of the actor. Our mentorees need to know that God is really there. They need to know when the scenery is changing. They need to have the confidence that they are moving in the right direction on stage.

The focus of our lives is so intense that we often cannot see the larger picture of the stage on which we live and move. Having a mentor share this perspective is a grounding experience. Mentors affirm that we are not alone on stage. To have a mentor who is at times a “movie director” is to know that someone else is assisting me to be consistent with what God is doing. We all need mentors who are “directors to help us be fully present to

ROGER CAUTHON
DIRECTOR,
COUNSELING TRAINING
CENTER

live our lives.

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 session 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, including *Introduction to Mentoring* with Laura Flanders, *Mentoring Creatively* with Nancy Buschart, *Mentoring Through the Stages of Life* with Monte Hasz, *Gender Issues in Mentoring* with Don Payne and Elisabeth Selzer, and *Cultural Issues in Mentoring* with Taewan Kim and Dee Walker.

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

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. RSVP right on our new website at <http://www.denverseminary.edu/mentors/mentor-orientation/>

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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