



DENVER SEMINARY
ALUMNI
CONNECTION



From The President



Why Seminary? Redux.

A friend of mine, an amateur birder, was recently on a guided walk through a nature preserve near Chiang Mai, Thailand. The bird population in this preserve is amazingly diverse, colorful and loud! There was plenty to see and hear. Being a North American, my friend found it difficult to identify species and distinguish their calls. The guide, however, a trained ornithologist, sifted through the cacophony of sound and flashes of color and was able to identify each species and call. She then went on to describe each one's traits and habits. My friend knew that he could trust the information and found his experience enriched by the training and knowledge of the guide.

It is patently obvious that we live in a world with plenty of information and opinion. Voices and images invade practically every waking moment. The question is, "Do we have the knowledge needed to interpret the meaning and significance of the deluge of information we are exposed to?" Do we have the hermeneutical sophistication, theological acumen and spiritual maturity to discern what's true, noble, right, pure and admirable? (Phil 4:8) That's the power of training that addresses the mind, heart and soul. That is our passion at Denver Seminary.

It was encouraging to read recently that a high profile pastor who scoffed at the need for seminary training has decided to attend Regent College. He is quoted as saying, "I'm looking at my own training and saying: 'I want to get a broader perspective. . . . I want to learn other ways of how pastors and other leaders deal with all these things.' . . . We need to learn from the historic church about ways that there is (sic) better accountability and responsibility." May God richly bless his seminary experience!

We need your voice in the ongoing conversation about the need for ministry leaders to have the training needed to sift through the cacophony of opinions on Scripture, theology and mission in order

Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Alumni Scholarship Fund was created with you in mind. All of the donations go to scholarships for current students. You can [give online here](#).

Denver Seminary is on [Amazon Smile](#).

Select us as your charity and .5% of your purchases will be donated to the Seminary Fund.

Upcoming Events:

[Network for Alumni](#)

Tuesday, May 19

7:00 a.m.

Jake's, Littleton

[Network for Alumni](#)

to discern what is true and right and noble. Join us in that conversation and [send us your answers](#) to the question, “*Why seminary?*”

Events & Resources



Torah Scroll Dedication

Denver Seminary is excited to announce the unveiling and dedication of the Larson Family Torah that has generously been gifted to the Seminary by Ken and Barb Larson and their family. Hundreds of years old, this 100 foot long Hebrew scroll of the first five books of the Bible will add much to our academic community.

Having survived some of the darkest periods of human history, this scroll is a powerful testament to God’s faithfulness and the enduring power of His Word. This stunning piece of our spiritual heritage demonstrates the meticulous care and sacrificial commitment of one faith community’s preservation of the biblical text. Denver Seminary is honored and excited to receive such a historic and meaningful gift.

Reasons to Update Your Will

Financial planners and legal professionals suggest you review your will or estate plan every few years and more often if the following events have occurred since the last revision:

1. **Family Changes-** marital status, births, deaths, adoption, who should act as guardian for your dependents, who should serve as executor of your estate.
2. **Relocation-** state laws can affect your estate plans if you have moved or bought property in another state.
3. **Estate Value-** a larger estate value may impact your desires for distribution to heirs or beneficiaries.
4. **Tax Laws-** Federal and state legislatures regularly modify estate tax laws. Your plan should consider any revisions that would impact estate tax liabilities
5. **Benevolent Desires-** If you have a meaningful connection to a cause or organization or ministry like Denver Seminary, you may want to support their mission with a portion of your estate.

For more information about estate planning, we would be pleased to send you our free booklet *Planning With Purpose- Engaging God’s Mission Through Planned Giving*. Contact Alumni Relations at alumni@denverseminary.edu.

Thursday, May 21
5:30 p.m.
Irish Snug, Denver

Network for Alumni
Saturday, June 13
4:00 p.m.
Nashville, TN
Email [Patrick](#) for details.

Alumni Resources

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



Network for Alumni: Nashville

Alumni Relations is pleased to announce a **new** Network for Alumni starting up in Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday, June 13. Whether you are looking for professional or personal growth, service opportunities, creative ideas, or ways to grow your contacts, you will benefit from this time with like-minded Denver Seminary alumni. Contact [Patrick O'Neal](#) for details.

Network for Alumni started in Denver in April but our hope is to have networks in cities all across the U.S. Send us an [email](#) if you have an interest in starting a group in your area.

Alumni Updates



Tim Grams, MA Leadership, 2012 : The conclusions arrived upon in my Seminary class "Leadership in Action" led me to form the Christian organization Biblia Global in 2014 (www.bibliaglobal.org). Through this ministry, we work to get Bibles and theological materials to Christians and pastors in the hardest to reach places of the world including China, Laos, and Vietnam. Before the Lord allowed me to complete my MA at Denver Seminary, I had first started my Seminary journey through the Spiritual Formation certificate program. I have been excited to be able to incorporate that part of my Seminary journey into Biblia Global as we seek to bring about growth and Spiritual Formation in the lives of our financial and prayer supporters. I got married to my beautiful wife Abigail in December 2013.

Bob Beversdorf, MDiv, 1977 (and wife Nancy): My wife Nancy was part of the Alethians ladies group during our time at Denver and received her P.H.T. We retired last year after a 3 year pastorate and 33 years of active ministry with Wycliffe Bible Translators, the last 18 years were in Dallas, TX. I have served Wycliffe and SIL Int'l primarily in Mobilization, Member Care, and Administration. We have now relocated to Magnolia, TX to be near to our daughter Janet and her family. Two months ago, I began a part-time role with Wycliffe USA working from home. Nancy is volunteering in a local resale shop connected with the Society of Samaritans, a local ministry to this community. In a few months we will celebrate 47 years of marriage.

We thank God for our years at Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, now Denver Seminary. It prepared us for a life of vocational ministry.

John Bell, MA Christian Studies, 2012: John and Rebecca Bell are a couple with a true calling for missions, which is lived out daily in the passionate and wisdom-filled way in which they minister. Read more about their recent return to Honduras [online](#).

Andrey Puzynin, MA Biblical Studies, 2000: Recently settled in Austria with his wife Oksana and young boys, Andrey shares more about God's faithfulness these past six months. Read more about his family [online](#).



Sidney P. Schmidt, Ph.D, 1984, Darleen Schmidt, 1987: My wife and I received the Spring, 2015 ENGAGE Magazine today. As I thumbed through the pages, a picture page 4 jumped out--the original campus. My wife and I were enrolled in the Conservative Baptist Seminary in Denver during the academic year 1952-1953—Sidney P. Schmidt and Darleen E. Schmidt. During that time I served as pastor of The Little Church in the Pines, Salina, CO.

I was called to a ministry in Portland, OR which offered me the opportunity to enroll in Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary where I earned my B.D. degree in May, 1955. I continued my academic studies by earning my MA and Ph.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. I served in two Baptist churches in the Pacific Northwest, then we were appointed as missionaries to Malaysia/Singapore where I was a seminary professor for over 32 years and my wife was seminary librarian. All this became a reality as a result of our study time in the Denver Seminary with committed professors and Dr. Carey Thomas as President.

Thank you for holding forth the Word, equipping servant leaders, and enabling students, faculty and staff to keep their eyes focused on a world with billions who need to have opportunity to hear the Gospel for the very first time.

[More Alumni Updates](#)

Faculty Updates:



Chris Hull, PhD, Associate Professor of Counseling was elected to the Board of Directors for Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).



Dr. Don Payne, Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation, has signed a contract for a forthcoming book entitled *Surviving the Unthinkable: Choosing to Live After Someone You Love Chooses to Die* (Wipf and Stock/Resource).



Janelle Hallman, PhD, Associate Professor of Counseling will be conducting a three day retreat on August 7-9, 2015 for parents of children with same-sex attraction. The retreat will be held at Denver Seminary and will provide the support, guidance, and resources that are commonly needed by parents in order to remain in strong and loving relationships with their children. For more information, please [email](#) Dr. Hallman.



Monte Hasz, PsyD, (Degree, 1983) will transition from three quarter time to full time effective July 1st and to the category of administrative faculty. He will assume the title of Counseling Division Chair and Associate Professor of Counseling.



Dr. Rick Hess, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages
With the first issue of volume 25 Dr. Hess retires as Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, after serving the maximum tenure of ten years.

The *Bulletin for Biblical Research* is the major international Evangelical research journal devoted exclusively to biblical studies. Dr. Hess invited the former editors-in-chief, as well as his successor, to contribute to this issue celebrating a quarter of a century of publication. See his contributions: "25 Years of Publishing BBR," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 25 (2015): 1-3; and "Personal Names in the

Hebrew Bible with Second-Millennium B.C. Antecedents," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 25 (2015): 5-12.

Dr. Hess has contributed a review article to Denver seminary's online Denver Journal. This review article responds to recent attempts to redescribe conservative biblical scholarship as ideologically driven by a need to protect its own interest through misrepresentation and blocking of alternative views. See his: "Protective Strategies Here and There : A Review Article of Stephen L. Young, 'Protective Strategies...' and 'Maximizing Literacy as a Protective Strategy' at <http://www.denverseminary.edu/the-denver-journal/2015/>

R. S. Hess, "How to Judge Evidence for the Exodus: Response," accessed March 17, 2015 at <http://mosaicmagazine.com/response/2015/03/how-to-judge-evidence-for-the-exodus/>

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Howard Baker, Spiritual Formation Instructor

Conversations Journal is excited to welcome on board Howard Baker as the new editor of our Transformational Theology section. Each of the sections of the journal—Transformational Theology, Honesty About The Journey, Life Together, Intentionality of the Heart, and Classical Spiritual Exercises—corresponds to the five aspects of the person, as articulated by the late Dallas Willard. Howard takes over the reins for this section from Gary W. Moon, one of the founding editors and continuing advisors for *Conversations Journal*.



David Buschart, PhD, Professor of Theology and Historical Studies, Associate Dean announces InterVarsity Academic has just published his book (co-authored with Dr. Kent Eilers [MDiv, 2005]), *Theology as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church*.

Faculty Travel Schedule

Our faculty speak across the globe. If they are speaking in your area, [check them out](#).

More Alumni Updates

Charles W. James, MDiv 1978: I am a graduate of the Seminary (MDiv, 1978), so I was there when we were in the older buildings on University and when Dr. Grounds was president. These were great years in my life and I often remember them with deep joy.

I graduated and pastored some churches--one out in Roggen, CO where I think one of DS's graduates is now. Then I pastored a church in California, my home state. I'm no longer a Baptist but I think of my Baptist brothers and sisters often. I entered the Catholic Church in 2000 while studying philosophy after seminary and finished a doctorate in philosophical theology in Berkeley, CA in 1989. It was a crazy place to study after DS, but my studies at Denver had grounded me sufficiently. At the time I wanted to know what was going on in academic theology in the US. So I wrote my dissertation on the Catholic philosopher Bernard Lonergan, SJ. The Jesuits of my defense committee liked it and passed me. Now I teach philosophy at St. Patrick's Seminary & University in Menlo Park, CA (near Stanford University). After losing confidence in phenomenology I now specialize in what is known as the golden age of American philosophy. (Peirce, James, Dewey, Royce).

I pray for continued spiritual growth at DS and for the lasting work you are doing.

David Dixon, B.D., 1962 (and wife Joyce): A graduate from the days of the ancient seminary building at Humboldt and Cheesman Park, graduating in 1962. On our first home assignment from France, I did another semester in 1969-70, at the So. University campus, and they upgraded my B.D. to an MDiv. – which all the B. D. grads got eventually anyway! We visited the new campus about 6 years ago in August – seemed very strange. We knew no one, and there was no one available to show us around. It didn't seem like my school any longer! This is the problem with outliving just

about everyone!! ☺

Yes, we have served in France since February 1965, arriving 6 months after our marriage, and we continue our ministry actively despite our “official” retirement status. We are “IRS” (= International Resource Specialists) with WorldVenture. Not really specialists at anything, but trusting God is using us in some way. We do a lot of traveling among the 60 churches of our church association, the French Baptist Association, which all of our mission-related churches joined about 12-15 years ago. This has been a great help both to our churches and to the Association. We have been able to stimulate church planting, and now have seven churches in various stages of “planting”. At the same time, our churches benefitted from a French identity and history.

We have two children, born in France, and who returned to France after attending Wheaton and Gordon respectively. They are active in the Lord’s work. We have five grandchildren, ages 13-16.

Perhaps the best thing to give you some input is to send you our two most recent Updates, as they give our current situation. We are thankful for the preparation Denver gave me, there were some Godly and competent profs in those days (and I trust so now!!). Their example meant so much, and the practical input has stood us in good stead throughout the difficulties and joys of ministry.

We pray that the Lord will bless you as you ease into your new ministry at Denver. We are thankful for the many highly qualified students who are graduating these days.

Lauren Pfister, MDiv, 1978: I have been invited to present the Earl A. Pope Memorial Lectures on World Christianity, focusing on Chinese Christianity. Colleagues in Lafayette College in eastern Pennsylvania have put up a [website](#) where this and other material / activities related to that event are also found. Most of all, I would be very glad to let colleagues and students there know about this matter, particularly in the light of my profound indebtedness to Prof. Ralph Covell as my missiological professor and long-time intellectual mentor in various realms of Chinese mission history.

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.

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.

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