

Western

REFRESH

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Hello from Dr. Roberts

Welcome to this edition of Western Seminary's electronic newsletter. We are delighted to give you updates on our experiment with a new way of teaching Hebrew, significant changes in our doctoral programs, highlights from our Sacramento campus graduation (which completes this year's commencement ceremony cycle), a profile on The Spurgeon Fellowship (which continues to be a much-valued outreach to regional church leaders), and a brief report on this summer's successful golf tournament.

This fall's enrollment has set yet another record high in both head count and credit hours. We are very grateful that so many men and women have chosen Western for their ministry preparation, and we thank those of you who are investing in these current and future ambassadors of gospel-centered transformation. As I travel from city to city, it is a constant source of encouragement to hear about the great reputation enjoyed by Western alumni as they exemplify faithful and fruitful ministry. Be assured that we take very seriously the responsibility that accompanies such an entrustment from the Lord.

This has been an especially busy season as we explore alternative facility sites for some of our campuses, develop collaborative relationships with like-minded schools and ministries to reflect good stewardship and related kingdom values, expand our non-traditional training programs to ground an increasing number of men and women in gospel essentials (including taking a more robust Christian world view with them into the marketplace), and enhance the use of technology in the fulfillment of our mission (including a brand new website that has just been unveiled; [please take a moment to take a look!](#)). So stay tuned; there will be a lot more news to come!

Randal Roberts





2013 COMMENCEMENT

SACRAMENTO CAMPUS

Sacramento celebrated its seventh commencement ceremony on Saturday, August 17, thanks to faithful supporters like you. Not only were nineteen graduates celebrated from the 2012–2013 school year, but this year also marked the milestone of over 100 students graduating from the Sacramento campus since its opening. Speakers Meghan Murray (M.A. MFT, pictured on first page) and Al Almeda (M.Div.) elaborated on their Western experiences followed by Pastor Mike Henderson from KLOVE and Air 1 radio. His message of “Scribbled Love” was a powerful send-off for this year’s grads.

The night prior to commencement, students celebrated with an attitude of thankfulness at the banquet dinner. Stories were shared about amazing support from family, friends, faculty, and donors who made their life-changing experiences possible.

“The 2013 Sacramento campus graduating class epitomized the transforming results the gospel has in the lives of Western grads.”

—Wes Ehrhart
Executive Dean



PROGRAM CHANGES

Doctor of Ministry

Western's Doctor of Ministry Program is in the process of incorporating some exciting new changes! Now led by Dr. Art Azurdia, there are three programs of emphasis: Christ-centered Preaching, Pastoral Leadership, and Gospel Spirituality, as well as a coaching cohort, all of which reinforce the core value of Gospel-centered transformation.

A revamped dissertation process is being led by Reid Kisling, Registrar and Dean of Student Development, to help students produce publishable works that will impact the field of pastoral ministry.

Doctor of Intercultural Studies

The Doctor of Missiology program has changed its name to the Doctor of Intercultural Studies to better communicate its aim of ministering to people in an intercultural context. The program is seeing high numbers of students enrolling and finishing, with 10 anticipated graduates and nine new students for the 2013–2014 school year. These students serve in the U.S. and around the world, all involved in intercultural ministry.

This year's graduates have focused their studies and ministries on places and people groups in Asia and South America. This Spring semester, an elective class, Global Christianity, will be taught by Miriam Adeney, author of the book, **Kingdom Without Borders**. Dr. Adeney travels extensively, investigating how God's Kingdom is expanding around the world.

RECAP

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and golfers alike, over \$21,000 was raised to help assist seminary students at this year's Western Seminary Golf Classic. In June, 136 golfers arrived at Persimmon Country Club, a new location for the Golf Classic, for a day of golf, dinner and an exciting auction. With the average golf event raising \$5,000 it is hard to not be excited for next year. "I cannot wait to see what will happen in our tenth year," remarked Duane Storey, tournament director. "We do our best to make it fun for sponsors and golfers alike to support students at Western who are pursuing a trustworthy education based on Gospel-centered transformation."

“I thank God for bringing me to a warm and caring environment with knowledgeable staff and faculty, committed to high spiritual and academic standards. My time at Western has been tremendously helpful both for my spiritual life and for my ministry, so I wholeheartedly recommend it.”

Stefan Ghinescu

Youth Pastor and current student



Photo: Bethany Dudenhofer

▲ Golfers enjoy a beautiful view of Mt. Hood on the course at Persimmon Country Club.



OUTREACH TO LOCAL PASTORS

The Spurgeon Fellowship
2nd Annual Pastor's Conference

Speaker: Alistair Begg
Date: January 20–22, 2014
Time: Monday, 3 PM through Wednesday, 12 PM
Place: Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center
Pricing: \$260 (multiple occupant room)
\$300 (single occupant room)
Registration: 503.436.1501
TSF Info: ahalvorsen@westernseminary.edu
503.517.1868


Drawing upon the gifts of experienced practitioners and theologians, The Spurgeon Fellowship (TSF) hopes to effectively contribute to Gospel-centered transformation in local churches through the transformation of the hearts and minds of local church pastors. As a fraternity of ministers devoted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its centrality for all of life and ministry, TSF aims to enhance the character and competency of pastors, and thus, by means of Word and Spirit, contribute to Gospel reformation and revival of churches in Portland, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.

In January 2013, TSF held its first ever three-day Pastors' Conference, the goal being to provide a conference for pastors and by pastors. The time was spiritually rich with the Spirit's help and presence. As one pastor stated: "I went to the conference last year and it was one of the best I've been to in the 46 years I've been in ministry! It was so edifying."

Following this success, it is with great enthusiasm that we announce the 2nd Annual TSF Pastors' Conference with Alistair Begg, held at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference.

Through the radio program, [Truth For Life](#), which stems from his weekly exposition of Scripture at Parkside Church, Alistair Begg has become an internationally known and loved Bible teacher. In four sessions, Alistair will speak about pastoral ministry as he draws upon wisdom and insight gained from a life of shepherding God's people.

In addition to the annual conference, TSF meets four times a year at Johnson Chapel on the Western Seminary campus in Portland to worship, fellowship, and sit under the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Hundreds of local church pastors and leaders are able to listen to speakers such as D.A. Carson, Jerry Bridges, Tom Schreiner, and Robert Smith, Jr.

Our prayer is that many pastors will join us at Cannon Beach in 2014 to be encouraged, refreshed, challenged, and motivated by the transforming power of the Gospel! 



WOMEN'S CENTER FOR MINISTRY EVENTS

REVIVE! is a local training and encouragement gathering for women involved in ministry in the Portland area. Find refreshment, fresh ideas and relational support from others of similar ministry interest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/25 (West Side Portland)
11/1 (East Side)
11/14 (After Five)
11/15 (Vancouver)

MORE INFORMATION

Visit: [Women's Center for Ministry](#)
Email: kstein@westernseminary.edu
Call: 503.517.1931

OUTCOME OF YOUR SUPPORT

Gifts from Western's faithful supporters make it possible for students to participate in classes such as these.

LISTEN & RESPOND

Students are being prepared for ministry through unique classroom learning

Did you ever have a teacher that changed the way you learned? Who was able to creatively present a subject and make it come alive? Dr. Jan Verbruggen is doing just that for the students in OTS 508 Hebrew Exegesis. Both Hebrew and Greek are required courses for students in several programs of study; these courses are required so that students can translate biblical texts from their original language and better understand the context of their origin.

Given the foundational nature of these courses, the Seminary is committed to dedicating resources to courses such as these, so that students are able to grasp material quickly and effectively, using it in their studies and vocation. To that end, Dr. Verbruggen is integrating an alternative teaching method known as Total Physical Response (TPR) that operates on the observation that children learning a language listen first to the speech of a parent, and then physically respond. In this way, language is internalized and remembered in a low stress environment, allowing speech to spontaneously follow at its own pace.


To sum up a usual OTS 508 class, you could say that Dr. Verbruggen speaks to the class and they respond, but it would be far more accurate to say that he speaks and the students run, jump, hop, point, flap their arms and

pretend to swim, all in reaction to Dr. Verbruggen's commands. When they're not moving around the room, Dr. Verbruggen asks questions popcorn style around the circle. While this requires students to think quickly on their feet, the environment remains non-threatening. "Students are allowed to make 10,000 mistakes." Dr. Verbruggen said.

"Students are allowed to make 10,000 mistakes... that means they will have tried 10,000 times."

"That means they will have tried 10,000 times." Props are set up in the room: a table with blocks and a table filled with random objects. Students give the object name in Hebrew as Dr. Verbruggen points to them in quick succession. Two weeks into the semester, Dr. Verbruggen estimates that students in the class already know 125 vocabulary words. Under

the grammar method, he estimates that students would know 300-400 words well by the end of two semesters.

It is friends like you who make it possible for students to be in classes that prepare them in many different ways for ministry. Through your prayers and financial support, our teachers are enabled to bring fresh and innovative ideas to the classroom so that Western students receive a deeply-rooted theological education that pays dividends for years to come. 



UPCOMING EVENTS

PORTLAND | SAN JOSE | SACRAMENTO

To view a complete schedule of events, click on the campus above.

November

REVIVE!

Your place in His story
Multiple dates and locations.

[More information and registration.](#)

December

Open House

Western Seminary Portland Campus
December 6, 2013
12 pm–4 pm

You're invited to historic Armstrong Hall for snacks and to enjoy the Christmas decor as we celebrate the season!

For more information, please contact [Bonnie Ekholm](#).
No RSVP required.

Estate Planning Seminar

Western Seminary Portland Campus
December 6, 2013
2 pm–3 pm

Whether you need to create an estate plan, or review an existing one, this seminar is for you. This no-obligation, free-of-charge service is offered for the benefit of Western's extended family.

Please RSVP to [Bonnie Ekholm](#).

January

Sacramento Campus Connection

Arcade Church
January 16, 2014
7 pm–9 pm

Come find out more about
Western Seminary Sacramento Campus!
For more information, please contact [Nathan Cozington](#).

Western Seminary

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