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# The Western FRONT

*where the gospel meets the world*



From left to right: Mary Jean Walton, Joshua Kalsbeek, Dr. Judith Needham-Penrose, Dr. Matthew Lea, Lisa Shrewsbury, and Stephanie Castro

Photo by Poplar Photography

## Western Celebrates Commencement

### *Class of '12 Gets Degrees and Gets Deployed*

by Jeff Mammen, SJ Alumni Relations

“Be in the world. Be holy.”

That was Dr. Dan Kimball’s charge to the graduating Class of 2012, celebrating commencement in a June 26 ceremony at Saratoga Federated Church. Referring to Jesus’ prayer for his graduating class of disciples in John 17, Kimball challenged the graduates to not spend their vocation sitting in a church office withdrawn from the world. Using humorous anecdotes and images, he illustrated how the world thinks of Christians as judgmental and “creepy” and needs to take note of holy followers of

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### IMPORTANT DATES

#### September 5

Free Discover Coaching event from 6:30-8:30pm at Western Seminary San Jose. [Register](#) by September 3.

#### September 6 & 7

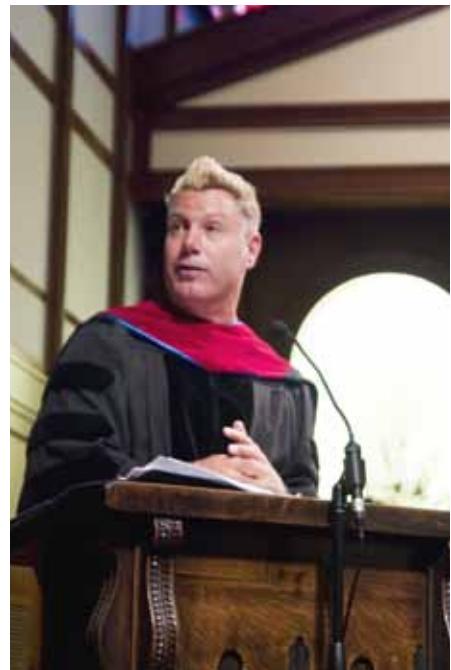
Introduction to Coaching class (MCS 510) from 8:30am-4:30pm. Non-credit (for audit) deadline is August 30. (See p. 4 to find out how to audit this class for free!)

#### September 10

Santa Cruz Alumni Gathering at The Abbey (connected to Vintage Faith Church) at 350 Mission St., Santa Cruz at 6pm. (p. 4)

**THANK YOU** so much for those of you who supported Western Seminary this fiscal year with your time, talent and treasure. We appreciate you!

- The Western Staff



#### CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Christ who engage their communities. Dr. Steve Stiles urged the graduates to follow the privilege the Israelites had to peek out of their tents each morning in the wilderness to see and follow the shepherding presence of God.

Three graduates shared about how God shaped them for life and ministry while at Western. God deconstructed and reconstructed Sat Kolli's understanding of the Scriptures, his priorities and place in ministry. When Kristi Van Pykeren allowed God to write her story, she was more ready to accept what life brings, including her calling as a counselor and suffering. Seeing a grander view of God and his Son Jesus Christ while at Western, Matt Chiu embraced his inadequacies to see the power of Christ in them.

A total of 27 seminary graduates earned degrees. Several alumni volunteered as ushers and greeters during the ceremony.

*From top left clock-wise: the class of 2012, Dr. Dan Kimball, the class of 2012 praying together before Commencement, George Poliszuk in line for the processional, Kristi Van Kykeren with diploma in hand, and President Randy Roberts with Danielle Horne.*

## SAN JOSE FACULTY BOOKS

# Reliable Guides

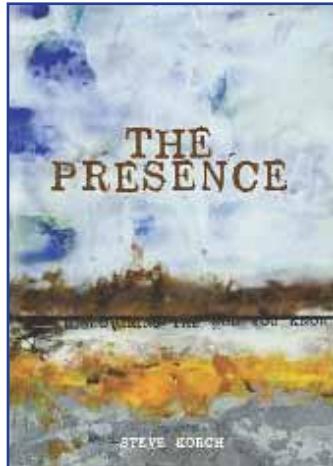
by Jeff Mammen

If you wait long enough at a local laundromat in San Francisco, you will be drawn to the announcement board where local bands advertise their next gigs and nannies leave their phone numbers.

You will also find that the growing appetite for Eastern religion has created a growing niche in the marketplace. Pictures of mystics with long exotic names, dressed in unadorned robes and flowing beards, look pitifully at me in my mundane world of laundry as if to say, "I have the inside track to spirituality, and you don't. Why else would you be here obsessed over earthly concerns like laundry, when you could wear a simple wraparound like I do?"

Eastern mystics have tapped into the disenchantment over capitalism's inability to address the needs of the soul. They write books and headline seminars on spirituality. And many have bought what they are selling.

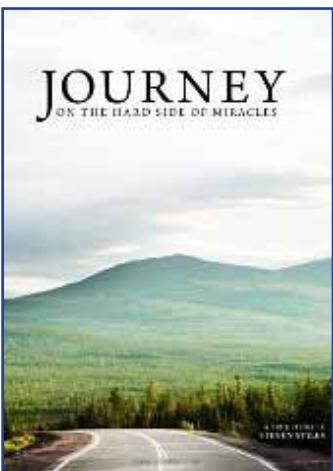
Yet, many Christians today are also hungry for a deeper, experiential faith. Dr. Steve Korch's recently published book, *The Presence*, is a personal guide to knowing God intimately. Rather than further mystifying the process and making God seem all the more unknowable, Dr. Korch offers practical insight procured from his own quest for God, peppered with humor, anecdotes, and biblical truth.



*The Presence: Discovering the God You Know*

**Steve Korch**

Red Kite Publishers,  
2011, 282 pp.



*Journey On the Hard Side of Miracles*

**Steve Stiles**

CreateSpace,  
2011, 300 pp.

Josh Chien, a current Western student, sees *The Presence* addressing a critical need: "As a pastor, I love giving copies of this rich treasure to those who are tired of mere religious fads and fluff. As someone simply longing for more of Jesus' presence, this book helped me to rediscover how to have my own thirst genuinely satisfied in a relationship with the living God."

For those who choose to follow the Shepherd and bring others along for the journey, be warned: the journey will not be easy. Dr. Steve Stiles' work, *Journey on the Hard Side of Miracles*, tells us that to wade into God's streams of mercy, the Shepherd will take us along a road marked by desperation and hardship.

*Journey* describes these stops along the way. Many Christians have journeyed far with the Shepherd but have not paused long enough to uncover the miracles that took place in tragic moments. Readers will be able to discern miracles in their lives as Stiles draws from many such moments in his learnings along the way of ministering to addicts and developing New Life Center.

These books are like their authors. They will compel you to move toward the Shepherd. Reading these works by these two Western professors named Steve will be a trip.

You can reply to Jeff at [jmammen@westernseminary.edu](mailto:jmammen@westernseminary.edu)

## RECENT WORKS



**David Eckman**

*Diet From the Heart*, 2012:  
Becoming What God Intended Ministries



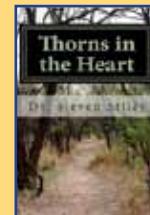
**Steven Stiles**

*Gotchyaa*,  
2012: Nexus Publishing



**Steve Korch**

*Practicing a Theology of Change*, 2011:  
LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing



**Steven Stiles**

*Thorns in the Heart*, 2011:  
CreateSpace

- **Ronald & Beverly Allen**  
*Liberated Traditionalism: Men and Women in Balance*, 2009: Wipf & Stock Pub.

- **Chad Hall, Bill Copper, Kathryn McElveen**  
*Faith Coaching: A Conversational Approach to Helping Others Move Forward in Faith*, 2009:  
BookSurge Publishing

- **Beverly Hislop**  
*Shepherding Women in Pain*, 2010: Moody Publishing

- **David Eckman**  
*Knowing the Heart of the Father: Four Experiences with God That Will Change Your Life*, 2008: Harvest House Publishers

# Welcome, Class of 2012!

## Opportunities abound for Western Alumni

We are proud to welcome you as a freshly minted member of the Western Seminary alumni. No, don't worry. You won't have to pay dues. As a graduate, you have many ways to connect and benefit:

- You can stay connected with Western alumni at various alumni gatherings that meet on campus and around the Bay Area.
- Attend a Western course. You can audit one course per year for free. Ask [Carrie Priest](#) for which courses are available to audit.
- Worried about getting started in the "real world" of ministry and vocation? You will be able to access mentors in the Western alumni family who can provide guidance.
- Get special offers at seminars (like the \$190 discount at the Global Leadership Summit that just passed).
- Western provides alumni with opportunities to [give back](#), volunteer and support the ongoing ministry of Western.

Again, congratulations, and we're glad you're a member of the Western alumni family.

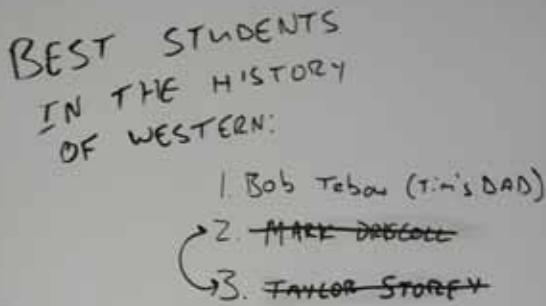
## Western Alumni Gathering in Santa Cruz

You are invited to join alumni and faculty for a pizza dinner in Santa Cruz! We'll provide the pizza and you can buy your coffee/drinks at The Abbey, a coffee, art and music lounge connected with Vintage Faith Church.

**Monday, September 10, 2012, 6-8 pm**

**The Abbey, 350 Mission St., Santa Cruz**

RSVP to [Lisa Mueller](#) with your name and guest/s. For questions and more information, contact [Jeff Mammen](#) or call (408) 356.6889 x407.



### CREAM OF THE CROP?

This was scribbled on a white board on campus. We're pretty sure Bob, Tim, or Mark did not write it.



## ONLINE COMMUNITY Transformed

<http://www.westernseminary.edu/transformed/>

This blog is a resource from the faculty and friends of Western Seminary focused on "living the Gospel in an everyday world."

## FREE ALUMNI AUDIT OPTION

## Women Teaching Women

In Dr. Phyllis Bennett's PCW 515S Developing and Delivering Life-Changing Messages course (for women only), you will discover how to speak God's truth to today's women with biblical accuracy and relevance. Dr. Bennett will help you explore using a variety of skills to bring effective devotions, or speak at services, special events and retreats. Class sessions are taught as a four-day intensive on the San Jose campus this Fall: **October 5-6 & November 16-17, 2012**. If you consider this as a free audit, follow the instructions below. Time and space is limited!

## Audit a Class for Free!

Alumni can audit one eligible course per academic year free, including Introduction to Coaching (MCS 510) and the course above. Check out Western's [fall course schedule](#) and [syllabi](#) for course descriptions, class dates and times. Complete a [Non-Credit Application](#) form and the [Alumni Audit Opportunity](#) and submit them to [Carrie Priest](#), Director of Student Services.

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For alumni news, the Western Front,

and additional community events -

[www.westernseminary.edu/Alumni](http://www.westernseminary.edu/Alumni)

(click on the "San Jose" button)

For Western Seminary San Jose campus news -

[www.westernseminary.edu/sanjose](http://www.westernseminary.edu/sanjose)