



The Western FRONT

June 2013

where the gospel meets the world

IMPORTANT DATES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON JUNE 12!

For morning and evenings events. See pg. 2.

JUNE 12

Free Discover Coaching event from 6:30-8:30pm. RSVP by June 5 at <http://westerncoaching.com> or contact Lisa Mueller (lmueller@westernseminary.edu)

JUNE 12

Church Community Event with Gary Thomas, 10-11:30am. RSVP by June 10. See p. 2 for details.

JUNE 13-15

Developing Strong Families (PTS 508SH) - a hybrid course. Taught by author, Gary Thomas. The audit deadline is June 5.

JULY 16-19

Exposition of Psalms (BLS 527S). Taught by Dr. Ron Allen. The audit deadline is July 9.

JULY 20

Commencement 2013 - Hillside Church in San Jose at 11am. Volunteers needed! Contact Carrie Priest (carriepriest@westernseminary.edu)

JULY 26-27

Urban Mission & Ministry (DIS 563GEH). Taught by Dr. Jeff Garner. A combination of online and on-site (San Francisco) instruction. The audit deadline is July 19.

AUGUST 8-9

Global Leadership Summit at host churches with discount for Western alumni (p. 3).

SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20

Introduction to Coaching class (MCS 510S). Audit deadline is September 12. Taught as a 2-day intensive from 8:30am-4:30pm.

SEPTEMBER 28 (Save the date!)

Join us as we celebrate Donelyn Miller and her 20 years of teaching at Western Seminary. Location TBD. More details to come.

Western Alumni Speak at BASS

By Christen Heaton,
Western Seminary Alumna,
Marital and Family Therapy,
Class of 2010

Over 3 days in March, Western Seminary had seven alumni speak at the Bay Area Sunday School Convention, or BASS as some of you know it. The BASS Church Workers Convention is held on the facilities of Redwood Chapel Community Church, Neighborhood Church and First Baptist Church of Castro Valley, and provides a great opportunity to hear a variety of speakers teach on subjects they are passionate about. Topics can range from relationships, to educational opportunities, to small groups, or how to host a good retreat, all relating back to ministry.

I had the opportunity to speak with one of our alums, Winnis Chiang, and was able to hear how she is using her seminary training in her personal and professional life today. Read on to hear the story of Winnis Chiang, Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling grad from 1998.

WINNIS CHIANG



Winnis received an M.A. MFCC (Master of Arts in Marriage, Family & Child Counseling) in 1998. She is a wife, mother, speaker, author, licensed therapist, and teacher.

Christen Heaton: Hi Winnis! Thank you for taking the time to help myself and your fellow alums get to know you and hear about how God is moving in your life. My first question for you is since graduating from Western Seminary, have you been using your degree?

Winnis Chiang: Yes, and in so many ways! Upon graduation in 1998, I started my MFT internship at a community agency with the main focus on counseling students in public schools.

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“WESTERN ALUMNI SPEAK AT BASS” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That same year, I became a full-time Children’s Minister on staff at Chinese Church in Christ, Mountain View and served there until the end of 2004. I became licensed in April 2003 and I have been in private practice as a Marriage & Family Therapist ever since. Currently, I have offices in Fremont and Los Altos.

The more I tried to help kids and teenagers in the community and at church, the more I realized the important roles parents and original families play. In 2005, I founded “[Parenting ABC](#)” to specialize in helping Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking parents so they can get along with, enjoy, influence and equip their American-Born Chinese children. Other than providing clinical therapy, I help families to improve marital and parent-child relationships through speaking, training, coaching and writing.

My husband James graduated from Western with his M. Div. in 2004 and started serving full-time. My training at Western also helped me better understand, accept and support him as a servant of the Lord.

CH: How would you say God is currently working in your life?

WC: My life verse is Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you ...” and our Lord has continued to amaze me with His plan even though my life started on the wrong note. As soon as I was born, my paternal grandmother publicly shared her disappointment that my

mom gave birth to another girl. One year later, my dad’s mistress gave birth to a baby boy. In agony and defeat, my mom eventually accepted that she would have to live with the reality of dad’s concubine. I was brought up to be independent, self-sufficient, over-achieving, and well-behaved on the outside; but nobody knew my hunger for love and acceptance inside.

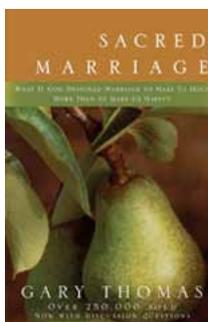
In 1973, I came to the United States for college. Two years later, I married James after only three months of dating. When my “living happily ever after” bubble burst, I became a workaholic in the Silicon Valley. Due to parenting conflicts, my marriage became less and less satisfactory after our son, Scott, was born.

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GARY THOMAS
Closer to Christ. Closer to Others.

International Speaker & Bestselling Author on Campus on June 12!



Gary Thomas, D.D. '06 will be our special guest at our first [Church Community Event](#) taking place Wednesday morning, June 12th from 10-11:30am. Are you a pastor or ministry leader with interest in providing greater spiritual insight for dating, engaged, married or parenting believers? Western desires to become a greater resource to you and your church congregation. Please spread the word and have your church leadership rsvp to [Lisa Mueller](#) by **June 10th**. A continental breakfast will be provided. Seating is limited.

Gary is teaching “Developing Strong Families” (PTS 508HS) on June 13th-15th. To audit this class, email [Carrie Priest](#) for registration and deadline information.

Lastly, we need four volunteers on Wednesday, June 12th for this Church Community Event and the evening President’s Dinner. If interested, please email [Charmaine Williams](#) or call her at 408-356-0889 X412.

Western Alumni and Students Who Presented at BASS

The following Western alumni and students presented at BASS workshops in March. Some Western presenters created such a “buzz” that people would flock to the Western booth after each session to find out more about our Gospel-centered training. There was such a range of inspiring, culturally relevant topics!

PIRA TRITASAVIT

Masters of Divinity, Class of 2011

- *He Said, She Said, God Says: Coaching for Marriage Oneness*
- *Coaching Christians for Workplace Witness*
- *Getting in the Game: Life and Ministry Coaching for Leadership*

PATRICK LEE

MA Specialized Ministry (Youth Ministry), Class of 2011

- *Reaching a Growing Lost People Group (Public School Student)*

ROLANA SMITH

Current Student (MA Marriage and Family Therapy)

- *Building Relationships with the Parents of Students*
- *The Wonderful World of Small Groups*
- *Good Youth Group Games*

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“WESTERN ALUMNI SPEAK AT BASS” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I became depressed and secretly contemplated a divorce. But by the grace of God, I became a Christian in 1989 when Scott was five. Subsequently, James and Scott were saved in 1990 and 1992, respectively. Who could have imagined the paths ahead of us?

God has worked in amazing ways when we simply followed Him. For example, I was called to serve children after Scott received Christ during our church's first Vacation Bible School. Later, I became a deaconess in charge of Children's ministry. While working with kids, the Lord convicted me that there would always be things to do and people to help, but I was the only mother for Scott. As soon as I decided to leave my career to become a stay-at-home mom in 1995, the Lord opened a door to seminary study one night when I unexpectedly attended a performance in Cupertino by the Western Men's Choir from Portland, Oregon.

There were so many other divine appointments that I would have to write a book to tell you about them. One thing led to another, and I started studying Marriage, Family and Child Counseling at Western Seminary, San Jose. During Scott's junior high and high school years, I could treat him as top priority while attending seminary and volunteering at church. During practicum, I counseled women and their young children at a Christian residential recovery facility. Upon graduation in 1998, I was appointed as a full-time Children's Minister on staff in our home church, Chinese

Church in Christ (CCIC) in Mountain View, at the time while "Linsanity" Jeremy Lin was growing up there.

I served at CCIC until the end of 2004 after James started serving in San Ramon for a few months. It was hard for me to leave our church of sixteen years, but the Lord had His plan. Not only could I support James, I could also focus more on my private practice and receive whatever the Lord sent my way. Since 2005, I have spoken at churches, retreats and conferences in the United States, Germany,

UK, and China. (I have led workshops annually at the BASS convention since 2006.) I have published articles in English and Chinese online, and in newspapers, magazines and compiled books.

In spite of life's ups and downs, James and I continue to find amazing love in Christ as a couple having FUN, functioning as a team! Between his pastoral ministry in San Ramon (July 2004 to March 2010) and San Jose

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Leadership Summit Discount for Alumni

Western alumni can register for the annual [Global Leadership Summit](#) on August 8-9, 2012 at a special discounted rate of \$79 (Reg. \$249). GLS is telecast live from Willow Creek Community Church and features world class speakers, music and drama to help equip Christian leaders around the world.

Here are the Bay Area Global Leadership Summit host sites:

- *San Jose – Church on the Hill
(Western and Dr. Steve Korch are hosting a lunch August 8. Join us!)
- *Foster City – Central Peninsula Church
(Western and Dr. Judith Needham-Penrose are hosting a lunch on August 9.)
- *San Francisco – Sunset Church
- Pleasanton – Valley Community Church
- Richmond – Hilltop Community Church

To sign up for one of the Western-hosted lunches, contact Charmaine Williams at cwilliams@westernseminary.edu.

No longer live in the Bay Area? There are [National](#) or [International](#) host sites.

**Western will have a booth at these locations. Stop by and send people our way!*

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KIRK BERTSCHE

MA Exegetical Theology, Class of 2005

- *Christian Education: How Old is God's Creation*

MATTHEW BLEVINS

Current Student (Ministry to Men)

- *Anger and the Man of God*
- *Loving Her to Death (Especially When It Hurts)*

VALERIE DOYLE (Ministry to Singles)

MA Marriage and Family Therapy, Class of 2006

- *Are You My Boaz? Are You My Ruth? Discerning God's Voice*
- *I Want to Forgive, But.*

COLLEEN LAM NGUYEN

MA Marriage and Family Therapy, Class of 2010

- *Family Life in the Bay Area*

SIK-LAM WONG

MA Marriage and Family Therapy, Class of 2013

- *Using Talks on American Culture to Reach Int'l Students*

WINNIS CHIANG

MA Marriage and Family Therapy, Class of 1998

- *Making Good Marriage Great (presented in Mandarin)*
- *Parenting American-Born Chinese (presented in Mandarin)*

“WESTERN ALUMNI SPEAK AT BASS” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

(January 2012 to now), we traveled almost every month to teach and coach at discipleship training conferences with a team (many of whose members are also Western grads). James and I have served together in our family, churches, and in Europe, Asia and the United States. We especially love sharing our experiences with couples and teaching them how to break destructive cycles, rekindle their love, and communicate so that they get the love they really want.

I believe our faith, transparency and vulnerability have also impacted our son. When Scott graduated from Western (M. Div. 2008), I imagined him serving ABCs but God led him to Africa. The Lord spoke clearly to me one day when some concerned parents questioned Scott's reasoning for taking his young family to the desert. I heard Scott say, "Yes, it is inconvenient. Yes, it could be dangerous... But God's only Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to earth and we're just going from one continent to another." God has rewarded Scott with a lovely wife who also follows Christ. It is rewarding just watching how they parent their little girl (4) and boy (2). I believe God wants couples to learn from each other

and from their children!

CH: Wow, what an incredible journey you have been on. How has graduate training at Western prepared you for the work you are now doing?

WC: I graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1976 with a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and worked for 19 years in the Silicon Valley. After being a Christian for six years, I left my career as a software development manager in 1995 to be a stay-at-home mom. Being relatively young in faith and with no prior training in psychology, Western provided the initial education, training and experience on my path to be a minister, a licensed MFT, and a pastor's wife!

CH: Is there anything else that you'd like other alums to know about what you are currently doing in your ministry and career?

WC: It is my calling to share Biblical principles and real-life practical applications that allow couples to grow in understanding, friendship, intimacy, and partnership in Christ. While I'm still busy with counseling and coaching, I am

focusing more on training and writing to help more couples and families. I also love spending time with family and friends (especially singing with my 90-year-old mother-in-law, and playing with my grandchildren). I am writing a book about the redeeming love, grace and truth that continue to transform my family moment by moment with hope, help and healing in Christ.

I worship at [Friendship Agape Church](#) in San Jose and enjoy serving with James in worship, Bible studies, small groups and fellowships. Currently, I work with family ministries and discipleship training. We will be expanding our Heart2Heart ministry for couples and young families and would love to mentor Western Seminary students and alums. Come join us!

CH: Winnis, thank you for taking the time to share your story with myself and your fellow alums. It is wonderful to hear of how God is moving in your life, personally and professionally, right now. It is so exciting to hear that you want to continue to be a part of the Western Seminary San Jose community by mentoring current students! What a gift that will be.



Recap: Alumni Connect Writers' Workshop

On March 28, about 20 alumni from various educational and ministry backgrounds came together with a common interest...writing. Dr. Steve Korch and Dr. Judith Needham-Penrose shared about their experience with writing and getting their works published. Dr. Korch shared about new opportunities writers have with blogging and on-demand publishing houses. He concluded the evening by having the alumni discuss what they would be interesting in writing about if they had the opportunity. There were some common themes among the group, and who knows...maybe a collaborative book will come out of this discussion.

Audit a Class for Free!

Alumni can take one eligible course per academic year free as an audit course, including Introduction to Coaching (MCS 510). You need only complete a [Non-Credit Application](#) form and the [Alumni Audit Opportunity](#) and submit them to [Carrie Priest](#), Student Services Coordinator. Email her at carriepriest@westernseminary.edu or call her at 408.356.6889 x 405.

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