



Renewal

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Western Seminary

Fall Semester Highlights ...

by Randy Roberts, President

Welcome to the second edition of Western's new e-newsletter. We have a fine group of incoming students beginning their studies this fall, and our overall enrollment this term looks like it will be a bit higher than last year's. Our annual report for the 2010-11 year will be available within the next few weeks.

This should be another year of growth in kingdom impact as well: (1) the number of resources available for non-credit theological education continue to expand at www.biblicaltraining.org/westernseminary; (2) this winter a plan to extend the outreach of our Women's Center for Ministry will be implemented; (3) the Spurgeon Fellowship has already had one well-attended session in early September, with three more to come this school year (for details see thespurgeonfellowship.org); and (4) partnering with like-minded congregations in both locales, we are in the midst of building a stronger Western teaching presence in both the Fresno, California and Spokane, Washington regions.

You'll read elsewhere in this newsletter about the improvements to the outside of Bueermann Hall, courtesy of the city of Portland. Cliff Stein and his team also remodeled the two bathrooms on the first floor of that building, which were long overdue for refreshing since they receive the burden of student use. We recently discovered that the Corinthian columns supporting the portico in front of Armstrong Hall also need repair, a project that will run between \$75,000-100,000. While we are seeking support from local foundations interested in preserving historic buildings, even if successful those gifts won't cover the total cost. So if you are interested in helping with this expense through a special gift, you can either mail it to the Portland campus or use this online option: www.westernseminary.edu/Donors/PDX/makeagift.htm

Finally, Chancellor Bert Downs shares a brief remembrance of alumnus Joel Hibbs, who passed away this summer. Since Western has been producing graduates for over eighty years, at least a handful of our alumni transition into glory each year. Some like Joel, however, pass into the Lord's presence much earlier than would otherwise be humanly expected (as we were getting ready to send out this newsletter we learned of another such instance: Steve Anable [M.Div., '88], pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in The Dalles, Oregon, who passed away on Sept. 24). I trust you will join us in thanking the Lord for the faithful ministries of men like Joel and Steve, while also praying that His comforting grace will be richly experienced by those most directly affected by their passing.

Fall 2011



President Roberts, Greg Moon Honor Trustee Bob Ladd For Faithful Service

This year, Bob Ladd retired after 24 years of service on Western's board of trustees. We recently honored Bob (pictured here with his wife Patty) for his tenure as the longest-serving board member in Western's history.

THINKING ABOUT GOSPEL-CENTERED TRANSFORMATION

"The gospel is not the first 'step' in a 'stairway' of truths; rather, it is more like the 'hub' in a 'wheel' of truth. The gospel is not just the A-B-C's but the A to Z of Christianity. The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we all make progress in the kingdom. We are not justified by the gospel and then sanctified by obedience, but the gospel is the way we grow (Gal. 3:1-3) and are renewed (Col. 1:6)."

TIM KELLER,
The Centrality of the Gospel

Celebrating the Life of Western Alum, Pastor Joel Hibbs

by Bert Downs, Chancellor

“Howdy!” The greeting. It was the unique Joel Hibbs trademark. Through it, he always made you feel that he was really glad to see you . . . which he was. It was likely the first word he used in heaven.

In many ways Joel was a prototype Western alumnus from the 70’s and 80’s – Christ-following, Bible-loving, redemption-focused to the core. Born in Key West, Florida in 1954 and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Joel committed his life to ministry when he was 24, completed a Western degree a few years later and launched into church ministry. He would serve churches in Portland and Burns, Oregon, White Salmon, Washington and Page, Arizona, each marked by his loving, patient, down-home style. Joel retired from ministry after 31 years of faithful service, and personally reported to His Savior on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the age of 57. He is survived by his wife, Janell and his children Jesse, Jodi and Jason as well as four brothers: Howie, Jeff, Tim and Matt.

When asked what his best memory from ministry was, he quickly replied, “The first person I led to faith in Christ.” Explaining why, Joel said, “Because he was an arrow that traveled far.” Pastor Hibbs produced lots of “arrows that traveled far,” including his children and their families. In a remembrance of their father, Joel’s children wrote, “I remember availability, a man who was never too busy to listen and who always made you feel wanted. I remember a short stack of books consisting of the Bible, *My Utmost for His Highest* and Dad’s prayer journal. You could always find them on the end table next to his recliner. But if you got up early enough, you would find them open in his lap.”



When asked what his best memory from ministry was, Western Alum Joel Hibbs (M.Div., 1985) quickly replied, “The first person I led to faith in Christ.” Explaining why, he said, “Because he was an arrow that traveled far.”

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If you’re planning to make a purchase at Amazon.com, please consider using our web portal. Simply click on www.westernseminary.edu/Donors/PDX/makeagift.htm and start your search by using the widget pictured below. This allows you to purchase items at Amazon (at no additional cost to you) but provides a percentage of your purchase to the Seminary through a partnership program. It’s a win-win! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julia Seal in our Advancement Office at jseal@westernseminary.edu or (503) 517-1800.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

DUANE STOREY RESUMES ROLE ON ADVANCEMENT TEAM

After a year of pastoral ministry at GracePointe church, Duane Storey is returning to serve on the Advancement Team. Duane will be in the office one day a week, and we are very much looking forward to having him back. Please feel free to contact him at dstorey@westernseminary.edu.

PRAYER REQUESTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Did you know that we have an ongoing prayer list, with items for praise and petition, posted on our website? Current requests can be found at westernseminary.edu/Prayer/index.php?campus=All

WATCH FOR UPCOMING WESTERN MAGAZINE: REFORMATION AND REVIVAL

Professor of Biblical Literature Dr. Carl Laney and current Th.M. student Brian LePort examine historical movements of reformation and revival, and consider how God is at work in and through us today. This upcoming issue of *Western Magazine* will arrive in your mailbox this November and will also be available on our website. You may read past issues at www.westernseminary.edu/News/Publications/index.htm

FREE ALUMNI AUDIT

If you graduated from one of our degree programs, we invite you to audit one course per year at no cost to you. For more information, please contact Assistant Registrar Kristin Gibb at kgibb@westernseminary.edu or (503) 517-1810.



Campus Partners with City of Portland in Beautification Project

This summer, Physical Plant Director Cliff Stein and our Portland campus maintenance staff worked with city officials to install a new stormwater planter on the west side of Bueermann Hall.

The City of Portland paid for the planter, which offers a positive environmental impact as a means of preventing stormwater run off. It's a beautiful addition to campus and will also allow us to save money on our city water bill. The city is using the planter as a showcase for our residential neighbors who will have planters installed in front of their homes this fall.



From left: M.Div. student Jason Pancheau, Physical Plant Director Cliff Stein, and Th.M. student Chris Smith have also remodeled campus bathrooms, installed carpet and made other improvements to the Portland campus facilities this summer.

Annual Golf Tournament Raises Net \$12,500

This June, 98 golfers joined us at Camas Meadows Golf Club for our annual tournament and auction. After expenses, the tournament resulted in \$12,500 in funds to help students.

We are appreciative of many individuals who served as sponsors and who donated items for auction, including: Jeff and Joe Amato, the Comp family, Brenda Sauvageau, Keith Sherman, Stuart Smart, Brian Sonnenberg and Duane Storey.

We're also grateful to our business sponsors, listed below. Please keep them in mind as you have need for their services:

- All About Automotive
- Chinese Happiness Restaurant
- Gresham Golf Course
- Interlink Training and Coaching
- Ixtapa Restaurant
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- Oregon Baptist Retirement Homes
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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8 The Spurgeon Fellowship

"I am often greedy for acclaim...occasionally angry...frequently envious...embarrassingly lustful. At best, I am an utterly inconsistent man. Can the Lord of the Church use someone so marred by weakness?" While gospel ministry is a redemptive work, should pastors themselves be beyond the need of redemption? Might it be possible that our gracious God uses failures to make ministerial leaders more faithful and useful?

Join us on the Portland campus as Dr. Art Azurdia addresses these questions in his message, The Sanctification of Ministerial Failure. For more information, please contact Melissa Leary.

November 1-30 Open Registration for the Spring Semester

Have you considered auditing a course at Western? Many of our classes are open to non-credit participation. Please feel free to review our spring semester offerings, posted on the website under "Students" for each of our campus locations. You may request registration by completing the Non-Credit Application and Registration form. Enrollment for the spring semester starts in just two weeks.

For more, check out our Activities Calendar at <http://westernseminary.edu/Calendar/index.htm>