

ALUMNI CONNECTION

DENVER SEMINARY

Last week I spent five days, eight hours a day, in Denver Seminary classrooms with eight Doctor of Ministry students. What an experience! We covered lots of ground, both personal and professional, as we prepared the students for their doctoral project and thesis. The students included ...

A pastor in a mountain community whose church needs to relocate, and he's crafting a needs assessment survey to see how the church's new facility can serve the community, even those who aren't church members.

An Army chaplain who, now in "retirement," is directing a retreat center to care for those in need of renewal and refreshment.

A Korean pastor who is drawing young families into leadership in his church in small town Nebraska.

A Greek Orthodox priest who has been charged with bringing adaptive leadership and spiritual revitalization to the congregations in his 12-state region.

The head of a counseling center who is helping people who've been victimized by abusive, almost cultic, spiritual leaders.

A pastor who also serves as chaplain with the local police force, who's training officers how to handle death situations with compassion and care.

A young California pastor who's focusing on making his sermon applications more effective.

A veteran pastor who's doing research on what leads to longevity and vitality in ministry.

I was struck by how each of these men and women, while gifted and experienced in ministry, recognized they still had a lot to learn. And I was moved as they opened up to one another with honesty, analysis, confession, prayer, and encouragement.

It reminded me of the words of Peter as he closed his second epistle: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We all learned a lot that week about grace and about leading in the knowledge and spirit of Jesus. As a Denver alum, you'd have been pleased. And if you would like to take a DMin class to see what it's like, email me at Marshall.Shelley@DenverSeminary.edu. I'd love to discuss the possibilities.

Marshall Shelley

Director, Doctor of Ministry Program

Alumni Life & Ministry Update

DR. KIARA JORGENSEN
class of 2007

In May of 2016 I graduated with a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Luther Seminary. As of December 2017 I was appointed as tenure-track Assistant Professor of Religion and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

My husband, Andrew Jorgenson (a former Denver Seminary student), and I live in St. Paul, MN. We have two children, Olia (6) and Ingrid (20months), and worship at Augustana Lutheran in West St. Paul, MN. Andrew is the hands-on founder and owner of Baldr Contracting and Construction, specializing in sustainable residential design. We continue to serve in intercultural ministry in Russia, India and in urban St. Paul, MN.

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STAY CONNECTED



Update your contact info
and share a life and ministry
update [HERE](#)



Upcoming Events

Come hear Halee Gray Scott, PhD speak about #MeToo and the Workplace. How can men and women partner together in an age of #MeToo? Recent months have been flooded with women coming forward to share their stories of sexual harassment in the workplace. And yet, one of the key issues facing female leaders is the difficulty in breaking through the “old boys club.” Many men refuse to meet with female colleagues alone and women often have trouble finding mentors and sponsors in their organizations. How can men and women move forward in these polar realities? For over a decade, Halee Gray Scott has focused her research on the challenges facing both male and female leaders in Christian organizations. Join us as she shares how we can build effective working relationships that honor both each other and the Lord.



Women Engage

Tuesday, January 23

for questions email Lori Frampton
lori.frampton@denverseminary.edu



Locked in Solidarity

February 4-10

for questions email Professor Patty Pell
patty.pell@denverseminary.edu

Join the Denver Seminary community for a Lunch Lecture as a part of Christian Community Development Association's Locked in Solidarity focus week. Come explore the issues involved in mass incarceration with Preston Adams, the Director of Juvenile Justice Ministries with Youth for Christ. Learn about both the impact of mass incarceration on our communities and how you can be involved in bringing the redemptive nature of the Gospel to this issue of injustice.

The Locked in Solidarity Lunch Lecture will take place on February 5th from 12:00-1:00pm in LDC room 102. Lunch will be provided by Denver Seminary's Justice and Mission Department.

I don't know; there's something a little "itchy" about Ash Wednesday and Lent doesn't feel comfortable and doesn't quite seem to fit into life right now. The whole thing creates a subtle tension within and it's easier to diffuse the tension by simply moving on and ignoring it all.

Perhaps Henri Nouwen can help us – help us enter into and discover the gifts that are intended to be received during this season. Nouwen writes, "Lent is a time of returning to God. . . . a time of refocusing, of reentering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity. It is a time to confess how we keep looking for joy, peace, and satisfaction in the many people and things surrounding us without really finding what we desire. Only God can give us what we want. . . ."

"... A time of returning to God." The pace and intensity of life easily moves us away from our intimacy with God and before we are even aware of it, we find ourselves disconnected from God's sweetness and disconnected from ourselves and others. Even in this holy season. We need to return. We long for Him to once again be our joy, peace, and deep satisfaction.

It could be said that Lent is the road - Jesus is the destination. If you would be interested in exploring how to encounter and reconnect with God, discover satisfaction in Him, join us for our Lenten Retreat and walk the road of Lent together.

This retreat is sponsored by the Denver Seminary Soul Care Initiative



Travel to Israel and Jordan

May 13- June 5, 2018

for questions call or email Dr. Helene
Dallaire
helene.dallaire@denverseminary.edu
303.762.6916



Lenten Retreat for Pastors and Leaders: The Road Home **February 8**

for questions email Howard Bakerl
howard.baker@denverseminary.edu

Explore the land of the Bible with Denver Seminary professors. This is an academic trip that will change your life as it did mine in the summer of 1990. See the biblical sites where major and minor events took place. Hike in the desert and on mountains. Pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Meet Palestinian and Israeli believers in Jesus who will gladly share their stories with you. Do a dig-for-a-day on an archaeological site in the land! Israel, with optional extension in Jordan.

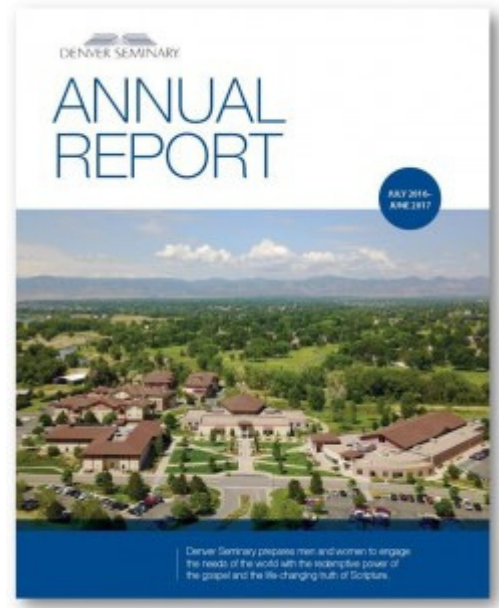
When: May 13 - June 5, 2018, two extension options in Jordan return to USA either June 7 or June 20.

Estimated Fee: \$4130; includes course registration, lodging, meals, materials, etc. Does not include airfare, Jordan extension, and personal expenses.

Seminary News

The Denver Seminary 2016- 2017 Annual Report is out.

read it [here!](#)



Remembering Dr. Edward Hayes

Denver Seminary's fourth president, Dr. Edward L. Hayes, passed away on November 20, 2017.

Dr. Hayes served as the Seminary president from 1993–1996. However, his tenure and contribution to the Seminary lasted for over 20 years as he served in the role of professor of Christian education from 1960–1979 and as academic dean for several of his years while on faculty.

When appointed president, the Seminary understood Dr. Hayes' presidency would be brief as he was nearing retirement, but someone who already knew Denver Seminary well and possessed the skill to keep the Seminary moving forward was needed.

Dr. Hayes was thus appointed and served his three years faithfully before his retirement in 1996. During his tenure as president, Dr. Hayes traveled extensively, lecturing and consulting in over twenty countries.





job board

When Denver Seminary has job openings we love for our alumni to share them with their network. You can visit the employment page [here](#).

Faculty Updates

published writings of our faculty



While I have been critical of how the internet can depersonalize and cheapen human communication, I have found that it may be—at its best—a safe and edifying place for sharing suffering and hope. Here, as everywhere, we should live well before others so that God will be glorified and shalom will be spread locally and globally.

Groothuis, Douglas. "Suffering in Cyberspace." ChristianityToday.com. October 10, 2017. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/october-web-only/suffering-in-cyberspace.html>.

It seems like a small thing, but it really isn't. How we greet—or fail to greet—others says much about our character. But in the power of the Holy Spirit, we may practice the presence of people by acknowledging and recognizing them for who they are: creatures made in God's image.

Groothuis, Douglas. "Learning to Say Hello Again." ChristianityToday.com. January 5, 2018. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/january-web-only/learning-to-say-hello-again.html>.

I have defended Christianity for forty years in my teaching, preaching, and writing. But I need to remember Christ through the acts of my body. My senses need Christ. I ought to “feed on him by faith and with thanksgiving” as my pastor says every week before communion.

Groothius, Douglas. "Liturgy for the Low Church." The Evangelical Pulpit. December 12, 2017.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/evangelicalpulpit/2017/12/liturgy-low-church/>.

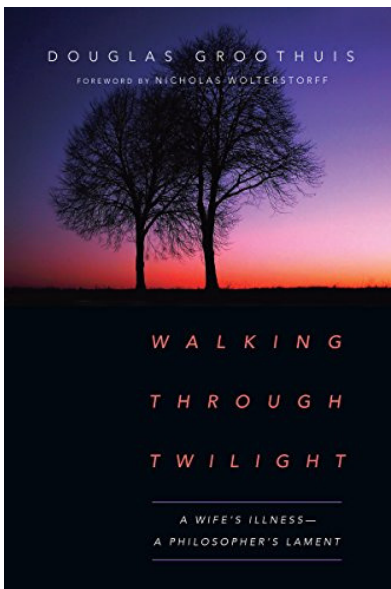
Philosophical Apologetics: After fading in influence since the 1970s, existentialism has made a comeback – primarily through the rediscovery of the French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre. Defenders of biblical faith need to discern the intellectual spirit of the times; therefore, Sartre and existentialism present a challenge that must once again be answered.

Groothius, Douglas. "Jean-Paul Sartre and the Resurgence of Existentialism." [Christian Research Journal 40, no. 04 \(2017\): 48-51](#).

A perceptive friend once told me rather sardonically that suffering is highly overrated. For a long stretch of time comfortable North American Christians seem to have either ignored the subject altogether, considering it a contra-indicator of God's favor, or done whatever possible to protect themselves from it and speedily eliminate it. As that mindset has been challenged, some seem to have elevated suffering to almost iconic status.

Payne, Don. "Suffering as the Texture of Grace." Biola University Center for Christian Thought / The Table. November 19, 2017.
<https://cct.biola.edu/suffering-texture-grace/>.

Book Corner



Groothuis, Douglas R. *Walking through twilight: a wife's illness--a philosopher's lament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2017.

How do you continue to find God as dementia pulls your loved one into the darkness?

Nothing is simple for a person suffering from dementia, and for those they love. When ordinary tasks of communication, such as using a phone, become complex, then difficult, and then impossible, isolation becomes inevitable. Helping becomes excruciating.

In these pages philosopher Douglas Groothuis offers a window into his experience of caring for his wife as a rare form of dementia ravages her once-brilliant mind and eliminates her once-stellar verbal acuity. Mixing personal narrative with spiritual insight, he captures moments of lament as well as philosophical and theological reflection. Brief interludes provide poignant pictures of life inside the Groothuis household, and we meet a parade of caregivers, including a very skilled companion dog.

Losses for both Doug and Becky come daily, and his questions for God multiply as he navigates the descending darkness. Here is a frank exploration of how one continues to find God in the twilight.

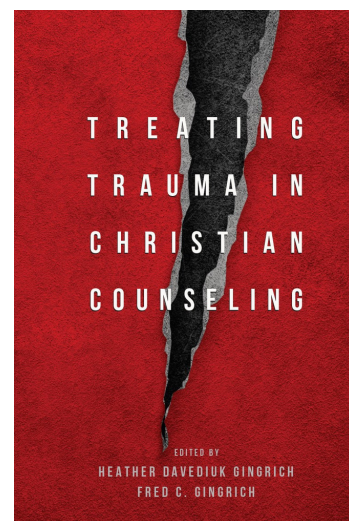
Traumatic experiences are distressingly common, and the risks of developing posttraumatic stress disorder are high.

But in recent years the field of traumatology has grown strong, giving survivors and their counselors firmer footing than ever before to seek healing. This book is a combined effort to introduce counseling approaches, trauma information, and Christian reflections to respond to the intense suffering people face.

With extensive experience treating complex trauma, Heather Gingrich and Fred Gingrich have brought together key essays representing the latest psychological research on trauma from a Christian integration perspective.

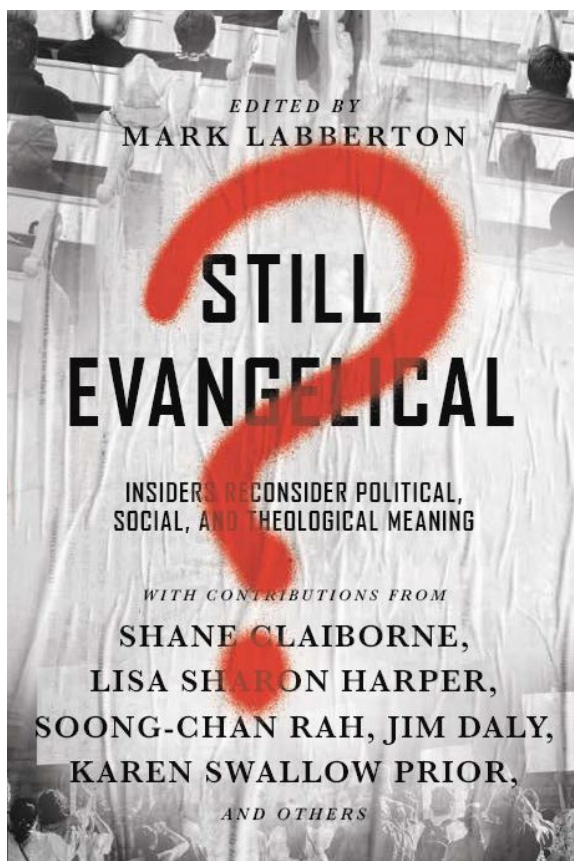
Students, instructors, clinicians, and researchers alike will find the following:

- An overview of the kinds of traumatic experiences.
- Coverage of treatment methods, especially those that incorporate spirituality.
- Material to critically analyze as well as emotionally engage trauma.
- Theoretical bases for trauma treatment and interventions.
- References for further consideration and empirical research.



Gingrich, H.D., & Gingrich, F. C. (Eds.). (2017). Treating trauma in Christian counseling. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Struthers, W., Ansell, K. & Wilson, A. (2017). The Neurobiology of stress and trauma. In Gingrich, H & Gingrich, F. (Eds.), Treating trauma in Christian counseling. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



Still Evangelical? Book Release

Check out Dr. Mark Young's chapter in the new book Still Evangelical? The book is written from varying perspectives from different educators, pastors, and leaders. You can read an excerpt from Dr. Young's chapter [HERE](#).