

# Alumni Connection

DENVER SEMINARY

Alumni Connection

March, 2019



We recently celebrated our inaugural Blacks in Theology week. The purpose of this week was to listen carefully to the voices of black theologians, pastors, and leaders. Each of us was challenged to carefully consider how their voices enrich our understanding of God, His Church, and His mission in the world.

The week culminated with a gala celebration at Restoration Christian Fellowship. During this week we also established an endowed scholarship for black students.

I believe this was one of the most important events we've ever held at Denver Seminary. We need to listen carefully to those whose faith, worship, and theology have been shaped through exclusion, discrimination, oppression, and suffering. Their voices call for honest reflection on the pernicious presence of racism in our nation and its enduring legacy in our churches and theologies. We have a long way to go and the path will not be easy, but it is the right path.

Blacks in Theology was the brainchild of Dr. Felix Gilbert, Director of Denver Seminary's Urban Initiatives. Under his leadership the Seminary is pursuing three goals: (1) expand the number of black students, (2) enhance the black student experience at Denver Seminary, and (3) extend Denver Seminary programs to students in urban churches. Dr. Gilbert's leadership has been very effective in helping us make progress on all three goals.

**Mark Young, PhD**  
**President**



## An Interview with Felix Gilbert, DMin

### What inspired the vision of Blacks in Theology Week?

*There were several points of inspiration for Blacks in Theology Week. The first was the many celebrations that occur during Black History Month. The second inspiration was recognizing a gap in theological education. Little, if any, focus has been placed on the perspectives and ideas both black theologians and black lay people have contributed to theology. I saw an opportunity to expand the scope of what we celebrate during Black History Month as well as shed light on a gap in theological education. It is through these lenses that the name and idea “Blacks in Theology Week” was birthed.*



*The name is intended to emphasize Denver Seminary's intentional recognition of the legacy of blacks who have made contributions and sacrifices to make theological education possible, acknowledge those who are currently shaping culture, and to express our desire to strengthen and engage with black communities in the future.*

### **What were your hopes for the week?**

*The hope for the week was to emphasize the truth that Denver Seminary cares deeply for, is committed to, and is investing in the black community. The intent was to: (1) Publicly demonstrate that Denver Seminary is taking intentional steps to create a welcoming community for blacks and minority students. (2) Emphasize the truth that embracing black communities is vital to the health of the Seminary and to the communities it serves. (3) Communicate the truth that it is the Seminary's responsibility to address the barriers that weaken its growth and to build and repair relationships with black communities.*

### **What was the outcome of the week?**

*The week was filled with presentations, live musical performances, discussion groups, personal stories, and celebration. The week culminated on Friday, February 8, 2019, with an evening gala held at Restoration Christian Fellowship's Event Center. The focus of the gala was to raise dollars to fund the Black Student Fellowship Endowed Scholarship. The intent of the scholarship is to make seminary education more accessible and affordable to black students. The attendance at the gala surpassed all expectations as the black community showed up in record numbers and demonstrated to Denver Seminary both their appreciation for taking the initiative to bridge the divide, and for partnering with the community in funding the Black Student Fellowship Endowed Scholarship. That evening, the audience of black pastors, business leaders, and community residents committed over \$60,000 toward the scholarship.*

### **What were you most encouraged by during the week?**

*There were three encouraging and inspiring encounters from the week that stand out. The primary one was the support received from Denver Seminary's community in planning and executing the week of Blacks in Theology. Second, the response of the community with their presence at all the events of the week, specifically filling the auditorium for the gala, was deeply moving. Third was Denver Seminary's commitment to provide matching contributions up to \$100,000. That announcement by Denver Seminary's President, Dr. Mark Young, was the loudest voice that spoke to the black community that week. As the saying goes, "action speaks louder than words." The Seminary's financial commitment to the Black Student Fellowship Endowed Scholarship said to the black community, Denver Seminary is serious about partnering with, creating space for, and valuing the voices of the black community.*

If you would like to learn more about the Black Student Fellowship Endowed Scholarship you can visit [denverseminary.edu/bsfes](http://denverseminary.edu/bsfes).

The week's events included a special presentation of *At the Table with Dr. King*, which is a show performed by professionals from More than Music. *At the Table with Dr. King* is a multifaceted, live performance that teaches the audience about the American Civil Rights movement as well as valuable lessons of equality and respect. Through music, poetry, historical video footage, and Dr. King's own words, *At the Table* also challenges its audience to engage in creative acts of service and leadership in their communities.

Making the evening even more memorable was the participation of Dr. Felix Gilbert playing the base and the involvement of Denver Seminary Alumnus Ayinde Russell (class of 2006), who is a regular member of the group. We followed up with Ayinde to ask about his experience performing at his alma mater.

**Can you describe your experience performing with *At the Table* at your alma mater during Blacks in Theology Week? What did this performance mean to you?**

*It reconnected me with how the gospel is a foundation for every redemptive act God performs. It's all been covered through the work of Christ and can be accessed through Him. Jesus elevates any discussion of human dignity, justice, and mercy. He models humility and accountability, both so critical in conversations about racial reconciliation and social justice.*



**If you could give a word of wisdom to the Denver Seminary student body, what would you say?**

*Risk the hard conversations that could illuminate the blind spots in your own heart for Christ's transformative*

*work. Risk the interactions that expose the hardened areas in your heart for the Lord to soften.*

**If you could give a word of wisdom to the current Denver Seminary staff and faculty, what would you say?**

*Thank you for every effort you make to be vulnerable learners yourselves while leading instruction in God's Word to an increasingly diverse audience.*

For more information about At The Table With Dr. King please visit their [website](#).

*In This Issue*

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# Alumni Life & Ministry Updates



**Ray Pountney,  
class of 1986**

Judy and I are pastoring a 187 year old church in London which

was started by C.H Spurgeon back in the day. Who would have said we would be called from Zimbabwe to lead a church in central London when we were dealing with Church History exams and Dr. Burdick's Greek class? But here we are only by God's amazing grace and design. And we are here with Dr. Mike Burgess, also a Denver Seminary man, running East Hill Baptist Bible College with Church History in Plain Language and Biblical Preaching as our two key text books. Denver Seminary really was a brilliant foundation for us all. We give thanks.

## **Tony Brittin, class of 1980**

I retired in June of 2017 from the senior pastor role of the church plant that began in 1995. We prefer to call this season of our life "redeployment". We have been ministering in a small church in San Luis, Mexico, on a monthly basis - preaching, training leaders, and encouraging the pastor and his family.

*Update Your  
Information*



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

**Alumni Prayer  
Requests**



## Clay Clarkson, class of 1985

In 2019, Sally and I will mark twenty-five years of full-time ministry to Christian parents and families through Whole Heart Ministries ([wholeheart.org](http://wholeheart.org)). After our first 12 years as a new couple--seminary (MDiv, 1985), missions, and church pastoral ministry--we jumped off a cliff of faith in 1994 to start our family ministry from a 70-year-old farmhouse in rural Texas with no idea where it would take us. After twenty years of over 60 hotel conferences for moms, a national children's book catalog, countless church events in the US and around the world, over two dozen books for parents and families, and numerous other online and offline ministry initiatives, we're still encouraging and equipping Christian parents to raise wholehearted children for Christ. It's mostly always been just the two of us, with help from our four children and some great friends and volunteers. We're both officially seniors now, and though we may slow down after this year, we plan to keep doing this ministry of "keeping faith in the family" as long as God allows.

## Upcoming Events



DENVER SEMINARY  
Washington DC

DENVER SEMINARY WASHINGTON DC PRESENTS

## Ordering Your Private World for Sustainable Ministry

March 23, 2019

9:00 a.m. – noon

First Baptist Church of Glenarden Ministry Center

The Event is FREE - Registration is required  
Visit [www.DenverSeminary.Edu/DC](http://www.DenverSeminary.Edu/DC) to Register

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# Praxis Information Nights

Learn more about the Praxis, a 9-month guided experience for pastors, parachurch ministry leaders, and faith leaders along the Front Range longing for a deeper intimacy with God. The Praxis offers rest, refreshment, and soul care for leaders through a combination of monthly retreats, spiritual direction, and prayer practices to encourage a deeply personal reconnection with the abundant life in the kingdom of God.

These informational evenings are for leaders curious about, as well as those looking to join the 2019-20 cohort of the Praxis starting in September. Learn more at [www.theabbeycolorado.org/the-praxis](http://www.theabbeycolorado.org/the-praxis).



**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Or Thursday, April 5, 2019

**Time:** 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Central Denver

To sign up for an informational session visit:

[www.theabbeycolorado.org/the-praxis](http://www.theabbeycolorado.org/the-praxis)

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## Rally for the Common Good: Globalization, Nationalism, & National Identity

**With Featured Speaker: Miso Slav Volf, Henry B. Wright, Professor of Systematic Theology, and Founding Director, Yale Center for Faith & Culture**



Further details will be posted to the Denver Seminary website closer to the event.

## Dates & Times:

**Monday, April 8, 2019, 11:00 a.m.-** National Identity: Distance and Belonging

**Monday, April 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m.-** Monotheism and Violence

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 11:00 a.m.-** Panel Discussion with: Miroslav Volf, Patty Pell, and Dieumeme Noelliste. Moderated by Craig Blomberg.

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## Prepare & Enrich Workshop

Prepare and Enrich is a training program that enables counselors and pastors to identify a couple's specific strength and growth areas, teach them communication and conflict-resolution skills, and help them resolve key relationship issues.

- Prepare and Enrich will help you to provide professional pre-marital and marital counseling.
- Prepare and Enrich will help you to build stronger marriages and therefore stronger communities.
- You will receive certification to administer and counsel from 3 pre-marital and 2 marital inventories.

***“Prepare and Enrich will help you to build stronger marriages and therefore stronger communities.”***

For more details, visit our [website](#).

**Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Mountain); 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Eastern)

**Location:** Denver Seminary, Classroom 100B in the Harold and Virginia Simpson Leadership Center; and streamed live at Denver Seminary Washington DC Extension Campus, 3600 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD.

**Cost:** \$155 general price; \$105 for students/staff/current mentors/faculty; \$90 for those certified who need to upgrade to the new on-line version (includes new materials); refresher is free!

**Contact:** Sharon Gipe, Counseling Office  
303.762.6954 or [Sharon.Gipe@denverseminary.edu](mailto:Sharon.Gipe@denverseminary.edu)



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# Women Engage

Women Engage is a dynamic, intergenerational community of women in Denver committed to pursuing communal development and personal growth. As part of Denver Seminary, we address these areas from a perspective that engages and proclaims the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

On April 23, 2019 Denver Seminary's Dean and Provost Dr. Lynn Cohick will be speaking on the topic of **Women in the Early Church**.

**This event is open to the public. We encourage you to bring friends!**



**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Denver Seminary Chapel

[www.denverseminary.edu/womenengage](http://www.denverseminary.edu/womenengage)

*Seminary News*



Alumni Facebook Group

We are excited to announce our official Facebook group for Denver Seminary Alumni. This is a place for alumni to connect with one another from around the world and share updates, questions, resources, and stay connected to Denver Seminary.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/denverseminaryalumni/>

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## Audit a DMin Seminar

Interested in auditing a one-week DMin seminar in July? Check out these possibilities and contact the DMin office at [dmin@denverseminary.edu](mailto:dmin@denverseminary.edu) for a syllabus. The semester begins mid-April with seminars in July. Audit registrations must be approved by the DMin Director and completed by April 10.

### **July 8 – 12, 2019**

LD 1101 Leading Well: Becoming a Leader Who Leads Effectively

Instructors: *Larry Lindquist and Marshall Shelley*

SF 1101 Biblical and Historical Foundations of Spiritual Formation

Instructor: *Kathleen Mulhern*

### **July 15 – 19, 2019**

LD 1102 Leading Systems/Leading Change

Instructor: *Larry Lindquist*

SF 1103 The Interior Work Necessary for External Influence

Instructor: *Brad Strait*

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**Free Online Courses**



## Unlocking the Parables of Jesus, taught by Dr. Craig Blomberg

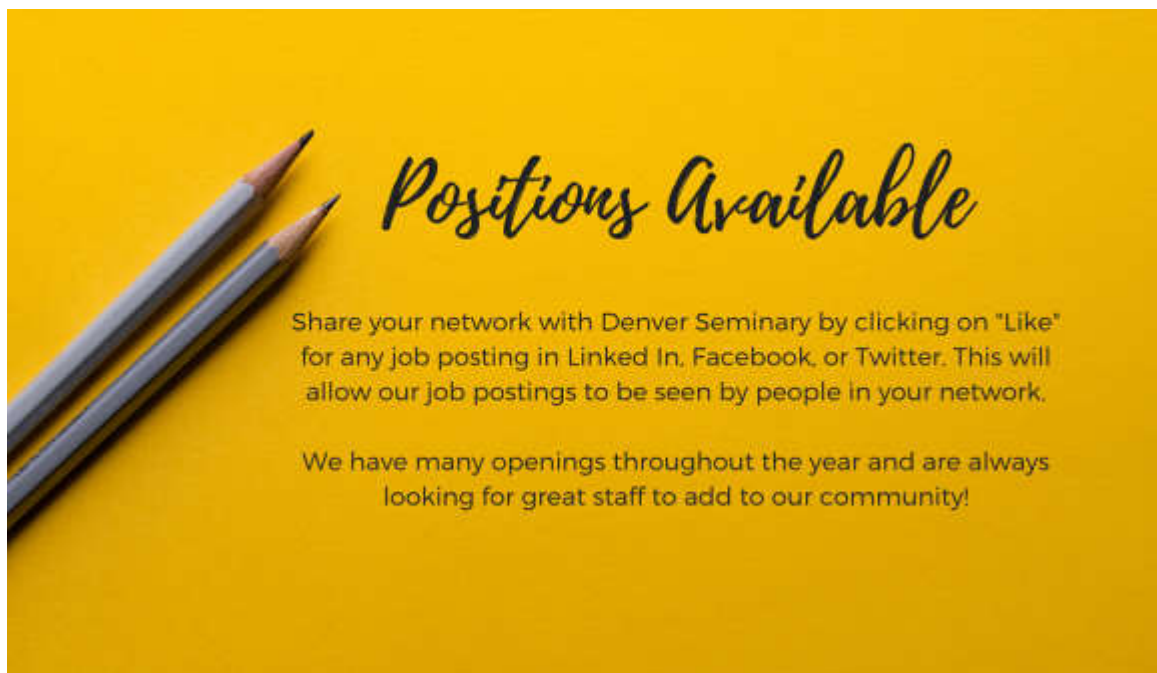
At Denver Seminary, our intention is to graduate life-long learners. We hope these online courses offer a way to refresh and revisit areas of study that can greatly influence your faith journey. We also want to encourage you to share these with your friends and family or to use them as teaching tools in your church or ministry context.

“Unlocking the Parables of Jesus,” begins by discussing the parable of the Prodigal Son, then looks at several approaches that have been used to unpack and understand the parables. Dr. Blomberg also walks through over a dozen different parables, exploring their interpretation and application to our daily lives.

\*This class is not intended for credit towards any Denver Seminary degree program.

**Register Now**

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*Positions Available*

Share your network with Denver Seminary by clicking on "Like" for any job posting in Linked In, Facebook, or Twitter. This will allow our job postings to be seen by people in your network.

We have many openings throughout the year and are always looking for great staff to add to our community!

# Faculty Updates



**Howard Baker, ThM - Assistant Professor of Christian Formation; Director of Christian Formation**

March 5, 2019: Golden, CO  
Teaching, Praxis Retreat for Ministry Leaders  
April 2, 2019: Golden, CO  
Teaching, Praxis Retreat for Ministry Leaders  
April 4, 2019: Golden, CO

**Craig L. Blomberg, PhD - Distinguished Professor of New Testament**

March 14-17, 2019: La Mirada, CA  
Guest teaching, MA Apologetics Program, Biola University  
April 14, 2019: Denver, CO  
Guest preaching, Denver Chinese Evangelical Church



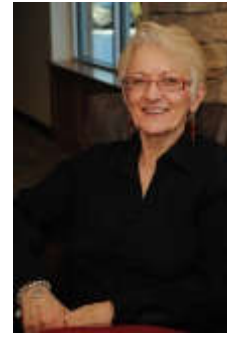
**Lynn Cohick, PhD - Provost and Dean; Professor of New Testament**

April 4-6, 2019: Wheaton, IL  
Speaker: Theology Conference  
April 10-11, 2019: Deerfield, IL  
Speaker: TEDS Lecture  
April 15-17, 2019: Grand Rapids, MI  
Speaker: Talking Points Conference

**Hélène Dallaire, PhD - Earl S. Kalland Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages; Director of Messianic Judaism**

April 8-9, 2019: New York, NY

Meeting of the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion Alumni Council President of the Pine School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association



**Richard Hess, PhD- Distinguished Professor of Old Testament; Editor of the Denver Journal**

March 8-9, 2019: Oakland, CA  
Consultation, China Academic Consortium

March 14-15, 2019: San Francisco, CA  
Moderator, Del Cristo Presbytery, Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church

**William Klein, PhD - Professor of New Testament**

May 16-30, 2019: Republic of Georgia  
Pilgrimage to the Republic of Georgia



**Betsy Nesbit, PhD - Associate Professor of Counseling**

March 12-13, 2019: Indianapolis, IN  
Young Adult Initiative, Lilly Foundation

March 20-23, 2019: Dallas, TX  
Presenter, *Transformational Teaching: Helping Students Become “Bilingual” in Counseling and Theology*, Christian Association of Psychological Studies Conference

April 2, 2019: Greeley, CO  
Speaker, *Effective Generational Ministry*, Christ Community Church

April 18, 2019: Blackhawk, CO  
Speaker, *Bridging the Generational Gaps*, Law Enforcement Explorer Post Advisors Association of Colorado

**Don Payne, PhD - Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation**

Dr. Payne is currently finishing a book on the doctrine of sanctification, to be published by Baker Academic. The core argument is that the already accomplished aspect of sanctification actually constitutes the defining and dominant aspect of sanctification. While it does not imply the completion or accomplishment of spiritual maturity in this life, accomplished sanctification actually serves as the dynamic and animating (not merely “positional”) work of God on which ongoing spiritual transformation depends. We can and must be transformed because we have been sanctified. The book will unfold what actually occurs in accomplished sanctification to make transformation possible and hopeful without being either antinomian or moralistic.



**Marshall Shelley, DD - Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program & Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Ministry**

March 15-16, 2019: Littleton, CO  
Converge Pastors Conference  
April 4-6, 2019: Ontario, CA  
Association of Doctor of Ministry Education

**Daniel Steiner, ThM - Mentoring Director**

April 3-6, 2019: Wheaton, IL  
Wheaton Theology Conference





**Scott Wenig, PhD - Professor of Applied Theology;  
Haddon W. Robinson Chair of Biblical Preaching**

April 3-5, 2019: Irvine, CA  
Catalyst West Coast Leadership Conference

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