

# Alumni Connection



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September, 2019

## *Alumni Life & Ministry Updates*

### **Alumni Story- Brian Ralph, class of 2016**

Brian Ralph moved to San Antonio, Texas, with his family shortly after graduating from Denver Seminary in 2016. He took a job working in the field of executive coaching and was working on church planting nights and weekend. In time, he walked away from the church plant, as doing both jobs was, in his words, “creating a joyless existence.”

“I determined that even if I was paid full time at the church and could walk away from coaching, that wasn’t my desire,” said Brian. “The further I got into coaching, the more I enjoyed it, and the further I got into church planting, the less I enjoyed it.”

He wondered if he was called to be a pastor.

Brian said he threw parties to bring neighbors into the fold of the church, but began to invite neighbors to his home to get to know more about who they were. He walked past buildings and admired their architecture, rather than trying to determine if the building would work for a Sunday gathering.



“I think I came here to change San Antonio, and the city is changing me...God had felt distant for some time. Somehow, I lost Him... However, the other morning, I could have sworn His love woke up beside me,” said Brian.

According to Brian, his executive coaching career often mirrors his work in spiritual formation.

“I sat with another executive coach and she said her desire was to ease the suffering of humanity in the world and that world was the corporate world... People in corporate jobs carry a lot of weight and fear, and as coaches, we can help them get out of ditches. I’ve sat with people who had been angry or sad and have seen them grow and the burden lift, not unlike the sessions I did in spiritual formation.”

For Brian, the question isn’t “What do you do after seminary?” It’s “Who are you after seminary?”

“If someone told me I’d never be a pastor, I would still repeat my journey at Denver Seminary,” he said. “I think I would repeat it over and over again... What will I do on this side of seminary? I’m doing it now and am open to a new direction. But the bigger question will always be, “Who am I now on this side of seminary?”

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## Alumni Prayer Requests

Did you know that each week the Alumni Relations team prays for Denver Seminary alumni? Click the button above to share a prayer request.

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*Upcoming Events*

## Noticing the Movement of God: The Prayer of Examen

We go throughout our days experiencing a myriad of emotions, often not even taking notice. What is God trying to communicate to us through our feelings and experiences?

Together, we will explore The Prayer of Examen, which provides an opportunity for us to notice what is happening in the experience of life and engage God in the noticing.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2019

**Time:** 5:00- 7:00 pm

**Location:** Denver Seminary Chapel

**More info and registration here:** [denverseminary.edu/womenengage](http://denverseminary.edu/womenengage)



## Denver Seminary 17th Annual Golf Tournament

It's not too late to sign up to play in or be a sponsor for the Denver Seminary Golf Tournament! All proceeds go to the General Scholarship Fund, which directly impacts students through scholarships and tuition discount programs.

**Date:** September 30, 2019

**Time:** Shotgun start at 1:00 pm

**Location:** The Club at Rolling Hills, Golden, CO

**More info and registration at:** [denverseminary.edu/golf](http://denverseminary.edu/golf)



## Advent Retreats

Rather than “peace on earth,” the seasons of Advent and Christmas can produce stress in our souls. Instead of the joy of expectation, we are seduced into the agitation of crowds, noise, hurry, and consumerism.



Join us for the day to connect with God and to prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Two brief sessions of Scriptural guidance will ground your time of silence, solitude, and rest.

### Advent Retreat for Pastors and Leaders

Prof. Howard Baker and the Soul Care Initiative team will facilitate the day.

**Date:** November 20, 2019

**Time:** 8:30 am- 3:30 pm

**Location:** The Stone House at Mother Cabrini Shrine, 20189 Cabrini Blvd, Golden, CO US 80401

More info and registration can be found [here](#)

### Advent Retreat for All God's People

Prof. Howard Baker and the Soul Care Initiative team will facilitate the day.

**Date:** November 22, 2019

**Time:** 8:30 am- 3:30 pm

**Location:** Sacred Heart Retreat Center , 4801 N. Highway 67, Sedalia, CO US 80135

More info and registration can be found [here](#)

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## Denver Seminary Breakfast at the 2019 ETS Annual Meeting

We are excited to invite you to the Denver Seminary Breakfast at the 2019 ETS Annual Meeting. In addition to enjoying a meal together you can look forward to:

- Picking up some exclusive Denver Seminary swag
- Time to connect with fellow alumni and Denver Seminary Faculty
- Entering a raffle to win a copy of Dr. Knut Heim's latest commentary, *Ecclesiastes: An Introduction and Commentary*

We want to ensure that there will be plenty of food for everyone, so if you are interested in coming, please let us know by clicking the link below.

[ETS Breakfast- Sign Up](#)

**Date:** November 21, 2019

**Time:** 7:30- 8:30 AM

**Location:** ETS Annual Meeting, Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

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*Seminary News*

DENVER SEMINARY  
**ENGAGE360**  
PODCAST



Are you listening to Engage360, the Denver Seminary podcast? Through Engage360, Denver Seminary and our guests explore the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture at work in our culture today. Together, we address the larger conversations taking place within the spheres of evangelicalism, theological education, and cultural engagement. Listen on [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), or [Google Play](#). This week's episode featured Denver Seminary President Mark Young and Provost/Dean Lynn Cohick discussing *Charitable Orthodoxy in the Conversation about Gender Roles in Ministry*. Questions, comments, or suggestions? Email [podcast@denverseminary.edu](mailto:podcast@denverseminary.edu). We'd love your feedback.

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Join the Denver Seminary Alumni Facebook Group! 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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## Shop to Support

Thanks to everyone who signed up for King Soopers/Kroger Community Rewards Program. We earned almost \$680 for the last quarter from 31 households. Great work!

If you have not yet done so please sign up AND ask your family and friends to join and select Denver Seminary as their preferred charity. It only takes 3 minutes to sign up! Simply go to [kingsoopers.com/communityrewards](https://kingsoopers.com/communityrewards).

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## Audit Doctor of Ministry Seminar

There is an opportunity to audit a one-week Doctor of Ministry seminar January 6-10, 2020 (Semester starts mid-October.) Click [here](#) for course descriptions. For syllabi, contact the DMin office at [dmin@denverseminary.edu](mailto:dmin@denverseminary.edu). Audit registrations, approved by the DMin Director, are due no later than the first week of October. Audit space is limited.

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## Hispanic Initiatives at Denver Seminary

For over 15 years, the Hispanic Initiatives at Denver Seminary has served the Hispanic community through offering courses and educational resources in Spanish. If you or someone you may know would like more information about these lay-level educational programs and trainings, you can read about it here <https://denverseminary.edu/academics/non-credit-programs/>

Denver Seminary also hosts an extension campus of the Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA), which offers an accredited Associates in Biblical Studies degree, find out more here: <https://denverseminary.edu/academics/extension-seteca/>

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## Our Daily Bread University

Denver Seminary is honored to have formed a ministry alliance with Our Daily Bread University to offer training and education through their online course library. This is an exciting opportunity for Denver Seminary to share our expertise and expand learning opportunities to new audiences, with another Christ-centered, education-focused organization. Currently, we offer educational training from Dr. Blomberg and Dr. Young, but look for new training opportunities from your favorite professors in the future. This is just one more way we are impacting the Kingdom, as we find new ways to engage the needs of the world through the power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

If you are interested, you can check out various training opportunities and other educational offerings on the [Our Daily Bread University website](#).

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## Are you ready to go green?

If you do more reading online than offline, you may be ready to go green with *Engage Magazine*. If you'd like to receive a PDF version rather than a hard copy, please email [Communications@denverseminary.edu](mailto:Communications@denverseminary.edu) and let them know. In the future, you'll receive an email with a pdf. Same magazine, just a different way of reading! If you want to continue to receive *Engage Magazine* in the mail, that's great, too! No need to do a thing, and you'll receive your copy this fall.

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# Book Corner

## - Alumni Publications -

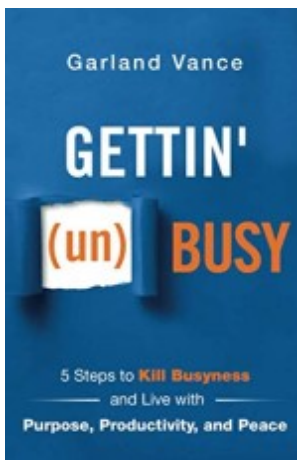
*We are happy to share information regarding recent publications of Denver Seminary Alumni. The views expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect the views of Denver Seminary.*



### **The Final Days of Jesus: The Thrill of Defeat, The Agony of Victory: A Classical Historian Explores Jesus's Trial, Death, and Execution**

by Mark D. Smith, class of 1983

In *The Final Days of Jesus*, Mark Smith brings his experience as a classical historian to bear on the life of the historical Jesus, piecing together the volatile political context of first-century Judaea, as well as the lives of Pontius Pilate, Annas, and Joseph Caiaphas. The claim that 'the Jews crucified Jesus' has spawned a long and tragic history of Christian anti-Semitism. Smith challenges this claim through detailed exploration of Roman, Jewish, and Christian written sources and a broad range of archaeological evidence, such as the ossuary of Caiaphas, the 'Hidden Gate', and the rich vein of research devoted to the archaeology of ritual purity. The result is an earthy and nuanced portrait of Jewish life under Roman rule.

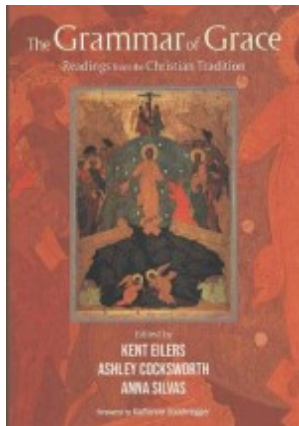


### **Gettin' (un)Busy: 5 Steps to Kill Busyness and Live with Purpose, Productivity, and Peace**

by Garland Vance, class of 2016

Everyone is busy. And it's killing us all. Hurry is the new normal. When someone asks us how we're doing, we tell them that we're "good... but busy." We want to achieve our dreams and live a significant life, so we cram our calendars with nonstop activities. Instead of feeling fulfilled, we're distracted, exhausted, and overwhelmed. We have too

much to do and not enough time. But it doesn't have to be this way! Garland Vance knows how you feel. In *Gettin' (un)Busy*, he shares how he nearly burned out while leading a nonprofit, having a family, and working on his doctorate in leadership and spiritual formation. He discovered a powerful, proven, and research-driven system that will help you shed stress, accomplish your dreams, and love life. If you're ready to do less, get more done, and enjoy life, it's time to get (un)busy!

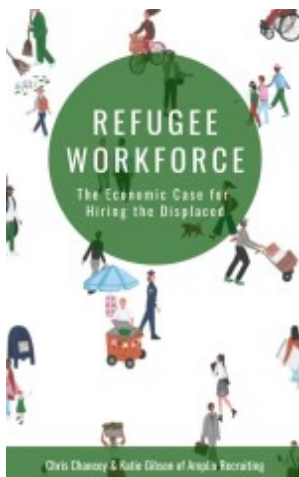


## **The Grammar of Grace: Readings from the Christian Tradition**

Co-edited by Kent D. Eilers, class of 2004, Ashley Cocksworth, and Anna Silvas

This anthology is a collection of readings on the Christian life. They were carefully selected from every era of history and from across the spectrum of Christian traditions. They include letters, sermons, treatises and disputations, poems, songs and hymns, confessions, biblical commentary, and even part of a novel. In each case, the

subject is life with God, life in God, life for God--life infused and enlivened by God's grace. The editors introduce each selection, highlighting relevant aspects of the author's biography, spirituality, and historical context. Introductions are also provided for the major eras of the church which present theological, historical, and cultural perspectives to help the reader best engage the selections.

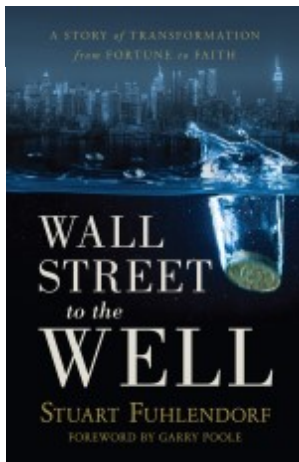


## **Refugee Workforce: The Economic Case for Hiring the Displaced**

by Chris Chancey, class of 2012 and Katie Gibson

Refugee Workforce was born out of the experience of launching a staffing company serving resettled refugees in Clarkston, GA. Author, Chris Chancey and his family moved to the fringe of Clarkston, known as the most diverse city in America, in 2013 and started a business, Amplio Recruiting, to connect refugees with open positions in the Atlanta job market a year later. For the past 5 years, Amplio has grown steadily now

operating in Houston, Dallas, and Raleigh in addition to Atlanta while helping over 4000 refugees gain access to full time employment.

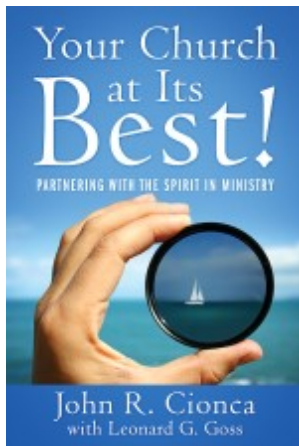


## Wall Street to the Well: A Story of Transformation from Fortune to Faith

by Stuart Fuhlendorf, class of 2015

Stuart Fuhlendorf was a Wall Street whiz kid, taking three companies public on the Nasdaq by his early forties. On paper he was worth millions. Then his world fell apart and was transformed in a way that he could have never imagined.

In *Wall Street to the Well*, Stu Fuhlendorf tells the captivating story of his journey from success and riches to losing everything. Then, when he assumed his life was over, an unexpected phone call gave him new hope and new life. It's a true story about self-sufficiency, wealth, excess, a Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit, possible jail time, financial failure, alcoholism, faith, and finally dependency on God. A relevant story for anyone who struggles with pride, success and failure.



## Your Church at Its Best!

by John R. Cionca, PhD, class of 1971

Broken into four parts, *Your Church at Its Best!* examines sixteen crucial components of a healthy church, along with best practices for keeping a ministry running smoothly. This comprehensive and practical resource helps leaders see that we are not victims of the past, of location, or of present conditions. We can improve our church's effectiveness and take charge of its destiny, regardless of the waters in which we are sailing.

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# Faculty Updates

The faculty travel schedule can be found here

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