

# NORTHEASTERN SEMINARY

deeply **ROOTED**. faithfully **RESPONSIVE**.

NES eNewsletter Vol. 7, No. 1 — January 2010

## Bilingual Certificate in Ministry Program

It's Saturday morning and the Seminary is full of activity, singing, and learning ... in two languages. Just three years since its inception the program that started in response to the needs of the Hispanic Church has doubled in enrollment and expanded to offer courses in both Spanish and English.


Under the leadership of then Assistant Dean Brian Babcock, Hispanic pastors and leaders from the Rochester area joined Seminary administration to design a program that equips ministry leaders through biblical, historical, and theological knowledge, and spiritual development. In 2007 El Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (CHET) at Northeastern Seminary was launched and its bilingual faculty began teaching courses such as spiritual formation, Bible, pastoral ethics, church history, church and community, as well as specific ministry training for children, youth and adults. Last May the program's first 10 graduates received their certificate in ministry at the Seminary's commencement service.

This year the English counterpart to CHET, the Center for Theological Studies (CTS), began classes. Together the programs enroll 25 students from eight denominations—people from all walks of ministry from seasoned ministers to lay leaders to those responding to the call to ministry for the first time.

Both programs are two years in length and lead to a certificate in ministry. They provide instruction and development for individuals who may have not been able to obtain a formal education in ministry or who do not have the academic history to pursue a graduate level education at the Seminary. Through the advanced track option students are able to convert the academic units earned in the program into undergraduate college credits recognized by Roberts Wesleyan College—giving students a foundation for reaching their goal of earning a bachelor's degree.

NES has also partnered with local and regional churches in other certificate (non-degree) training ministries for lay church leaders. In 2003, NES partnered with Elim Christian Fellowship of Buffalo, in their three-year lay training program—the Sound of the Genuine Biblical Institute (SOTGBI). Most recently, the NES certificate program joined efforts with the Rochester Institute of Christian Education (RICE), in its two-year lay training program, building on a long-established relationship with Roberts Wesleyan College. The Seminary provides assistance in curriculum development and provides qualified faculty, student, and alumni instructors. Through these partnerships, both SOTGBI and RICE are able to convert the advanced track student's units into undergraduate college credits at RWC.

For more information regarding CTS or CHET please contact Jen Catalano at [catalano\\_jennifer@nes.edu](mailto:catalano_jennifer@nes.edu) or 585.594.6420.



Certificate program director Frank Burgos leads a CHET class.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Certificate Programs  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Benevolence Fund  
Speakers Bureau  
Upcoming Events

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration 2010

Two thousand people worshipped, sang, and celebrated the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a community-wide worship service on January 18, 2010 at the Eastman Theater in Rochester, N.Y. In a decision to support this historic tradition, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Northeastern Seminary partnered with The Martin Luther King, Jr. Greater Rochester Commission in planning and hosting the event.

Among the participants which included New York State Senator Joe Robach, Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy, and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, was NES Vice President Jack Connell who offered the benediction. The collaboration was a departure from the recent Seminary observance of hosting its own commemorative service which has featured speakers such as Rev. Kenneth James, adjunct professor of preaching and pastor of Memorial AME Zion Church, Rev. Marlowe Washington, D.Min. student and pastor of Baber AME Church, Bishop Gregory Parris, pastor of Church of Love Faith Center, Rev. Richard Douglass, pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and Rev. Norvell Goff, then pastor of Baber AME Church.



## Expertise Goes Outside the Classroom

Dr. Richard Middleton just returned from speaking at a conference on Caribbean Theology at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology. Dr. Doug Cullum will present *Jesus Among the Gods: A Comparative Look* at the Eastman School of Music.

The same engagement experienced in the classroom regularly goes on the road as faculty and administration share their areas of expertise at ministry and academic events. To assist in scheduling, a speaker's bureau has been created, offering a selection of individuals from Northeastern Seminary who are available to speak at events such as workshops, retreats, seminars, worship services and Bible studies. Speaking topics range from American Church History to the Pastoral Calling and Vocation. If you or your church are interested in hosting a NES speaker's bureau representative, please contact the speaker directly. Note that many are booked well in advance of an engagement so be sure to contact them early. You can find a list of speakers and speaking topics at <http://www.nes.edu/SpeakerBureau/Topics.aspx>.

## Being Present in Crisis: The Benevolence Fund

The tire is flat. The heating bill has spiked unexpectedly. The sick family member lives so far away. And the timing and dollar impact of these mini-crises can rarely be anticipated. This is why a special loan fund was developed to assist Northeastern Seminary students if they experience a short-term personal financial crisis such as emergency car repairs, gas or electric bills, groceries, a medical emergency, travel to see a sick or dying parent, spouse or child.

An average two students per year make use of this loan fund which has been sustained by gifts from faculty and staff. Using a loan request form obtained from the director of communication and enrollment, and making a plan for repayment a student can secure a 90-day loan to manage the emergency need a little more easily.

Students, alumni and friends may also want to assist by contributing. For more information please contact Lisa Bennett at [Bennett\\_Lisa@nes.edu](mailto:Bennett_Lisa@nes.edu) or 585.594.6804

## Welcome Cohort 24!

On January 15 students started their graduate journey at Northeastern Seminary. Among the members of the cohort are several seasoned pastors as well as four students who recently completed their undergraduate work—all at Roberts Wesleyan College. Represented in the 15 are three women and a diverse cross-section of denominations including Methodist, Baptist, Reformed, and several individuals worshipping at non-denominational churches. One distinct feature of this cohort is that three students have chosen to pursue a dream of becoming a military chaplain. The cohort begins their studies with Dr. Paul Livermore on Tuesday nights—*The Biblical Era*. Please take the opportunity to welcome new faces around the seminary in the coming months.

## Student and Alumni News

After graduating from NES **Eric Coker (C7)** went on to earn his certification in special education at Georgia State and now serves as a special education teacher in the Wynette County school district just outside Atlanta, GA. He finds his work with high school students to be highly rewarding.

**Melody Gesell (C8)** works as a church secretary at Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church and as an office assistant to her pastor at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit. She is currently applying to teach Religion online for the University of Phoenix.

**Randy LeBaron (M.Div. C4, D.Min. C9)** and his family welcomed Jillian Alexis LeBaron, born on October 15, 2009. Randy is senior pastor of the Albion Free Methodist Church, which recently celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. Among his predecessors is B.T. Roberts, founder of Roberts Wesleyan College.

**Jordan Long (C22)** recently returned from a missions trip to Ethiopia. During his trip, Jordan and his team sought to build partnership with the Ethiopian church of 5.7 million called Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekana Yesus. He shared exciting news of how the Ethiopian church has become a missions sending agent to other countries including our very own United States.

**Brian Murphy (C10)** went on active military duty in 2006 and was promoted to Captain. He was then deployed to Iraq for 15 months. He gives thanks for his education and training at Northeastern Seminary which prepared him to effectively minister in both spiritual and practical ways. He believes that being an Army Chaplain has strengthened his faith. After returning to New York, Brian plans to pursue his MSW at Roberts Wesleyan College in both CPE and Family Ministry.

**Chris Resig (C24)** was featured in an article in the [Biblical Archaeology Review](#) which highlighted his trip as a volunteer to Ashkelon with his son, Mike, a staff member of Geographic Information System. The trip to Ashkelon fulfilled Chris' life-long dream of archeology. His trip included teaching groups of Israeli beach-goers how to play frisbee and experiencing the sights and sounds of Jerusalem.

**C15** graduate, **Shane Smith**, started a church plant in Gates-Chili, NY with the Nazarene Church called Church Radiant ([www.churchradiant.com](http://www.churchradiant.com)).

**C23** student, **Robert (Bob) Stoddard** was recently hired as the Interim Pastor of Ridgeland Community Church in West Henrietta, NY (<http://www.ridgelandchurch.org>)

## Alumni of the Year Award

Northeastern Seminary's, alumni of the year award is being granted to the alumnus/ae of your choice to be presented at this year's Conference on Ministry June 15, 2010.

The award is given to recognize a graduate who demonstrates one or more of the following characteristics:

- innovative approach to ministry
- engagement of cultural context
- perseverance in the face of challenges
- excellence in biblical preaching and worship
- transformation of self and others through spiritual formation.

Nominations are requested from students, faculty, and staff and should be submitted to the vice president no later than May 1, 2010.

To obtain a nomination form, please visit: <http://www.nes.edu/alumni/default.aspx>



Brian Murphy (C10)

## Champignon Joins Admissions Staff

Northeastern Seminary welcomes **Sarah Champignon** as the newest addition to its staff. Sarah is serving as the administrative assistant in the admissions office coming to the seminary with expertise from both ministry and corporate environments. She has recently made her home in Batavia, NY after transitioning from her home town in New Jersey. Please welcome Sarah as she plays an integral part of the seminary's mission.

## ParentTEEN Seminar—Chap Clark

Hosted by *Pearce Memorial Church*

**March 13, 2010**

ParentTeen™ Seminars equip parents to both understand and nurture their children in a constantly changing cultural environment. Tailored to the specific issues and needs of a community or hosting organization, parents gain insight into their child's journey and develop a more authentic and effective parenting strategy.

Volunteer's and youth pastor's presentations are from **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at the cost of **\$25.00 per person**. The parent's presentation is from **7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** and costs **\$10.00 per person**.

Chap Clark, Ph.D., founder of ParentTeen and HURT Seminars, is vice provost and professor of youth, family, and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary, a contributing writer for Sojourners, and senior editor of Youthworker Journal.

For more information about Chap Clark, Ph.D. or the ministry of ParentTEEN, please visit [www.parentteen.com](http://www.parentteen.com). For directions to the church, visit [www.pearcechurch.org](http://www.pearcechurch.org).



## Essentials Exchange with Gordon MacDonald

*Leadership in a Rapidly Changing World*

**April 14, 2010**

Gordon MacDonald, author and editor-at-large of Leadership Journal addresses leadership issues in this series of interactive events. People from all aspects of ministry can come together to hear about the issues impacting their contexts and ministry practices and process some of the questions that arise.

This event will take place at the Shewan Recital Hall located in the Cultural Life Center at Roberts Wesleyan College from **8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.** The cost for this one-day event is **\$45.00 including lunch** and **\$35.00 including lunch for students and alumni**.

Register today for this one-day event at [www.nes.edu/MacDonald](http://www.nes.edu/MacDonald) or by contacting Jen Catalano at 585.594.6420 or [catalano\\_jennifer@nes.edu](mailto:catalano_jennifer@nes.edu).

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### Information Meetings

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Roberts Hall 213

**Tuesday, February 9**  
**Thursday, March 18**  
**Tuesday, April 13**

If you know of someone who would benefit from a seminary education, be sure they know about these information meetings.

### Employment Networking

*If you have a position to fill or your organization has any openings, please let us know so we can make them available to seminary students and graduates who may be searching for employment.*

*Send position posting or contact info to:*

*[seminary@nes.edu](mailto:seminary@nes.edu) or call 585.594.6800*

## Art Exhibit—*Documenting Hope: Lessons from Africa*

**January 9 through March 30, 2010**

This exhibition features photographs and documentary items from the travels and work at Hope Africa University (HAU) of Drs. Wayne and Darlene McCown, dean emeritus and adjunct professor, and former adjunct professor, respectively. Each year the McCowns provide education, medical aid, clothing and personal items to support the students and staff at HAU. Their photographs will be available for purchase with all proceeds benefitting HAU.

The exhibit reception is on Tuesday, March 2 from 4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at Roberts Hall, Northeastern Seminary. It has been scheduled in conjunction with the Roberts Wesleyan College Biennial Academic Conference featuring keynote speaker Krista Tippett on the topic *Speaking Faith: Conversion Across Diverse Communities*.

## NES Women's Retreat

*our Welcome: Walking through God's invitations*

**April 30 through May 1, 2010**

Students, alumni, and spouses are invited to come away and relax at a unique, natural setting, enjoy delicious food, and participate in small group sessions led by Dr. Elizabeth Gerhardt and others. For more information about the retreat please visit our [website](#).

**Deadline for registration is March 15.** To register for the retreat please contact Jen Catalano at 585.594.6420 or [catalano\\_jennifer@nes.edu](mailto:catalano_jennifer@nes.edu).

## Conference on Ministry with Ruth Haley Barton

*Strengthening the Soul of Your Ministry*

**June 15 and 16, 2010**

Ruth Haley Barton, founding president of the Transforming Center, serves as director, teacher, and retreat leader. She is the author of several books including *Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*, *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*, and *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*.

Conference sessions will draw from her extensive experience with leadership teams in church and organizational settings in the areas of spiritual formation, leadership development, and discernment at the leadership level. She has been on the pastoral staff of multiple churches including Willow Creek Community Church.

Save the date for this two-day event and look for upcoming details at [www.nes.edu](http://www.nes.edu).



Ruth Haley Barton