An academic revolution of sorts begins in August as we welcome the very first class of seminarians to enroll in our bold, new Master of Divinity program. The new degree program, the result of nearly a year in development, is designed to address the pressing needs of the church and the realities of students’ lives.

Building on the enduring values of our 190-year-old history, the faculty carefully crafted an entirely new curriculum that is relevant to contemporary life and modern ministry. In addition to new courses, the program offers two unique tracks to graduation, a Day Track and a Weekend Track, options that will make a graduate degree more accessible for students who must balance the demands of work and school.

The new degree replaces the MDiv program that has been offered, with periodic updates, since 1970. That program will continue to be taught for the next three years to accommodate currently enrolled seminarians.

“With a fresh, focused curriculum, a streamlined schedule, and flat-rate tuition that includes post-graduate courses, the New Lancaster Master of Divinity will put a quality seminary experience within reach for those who need an advanced degree but never thought it was financially or practically possible,” said President Carol Lytch. “The timing of classes and the predictability of the curriculum provide opportunity for students who must work either part-time or full-time while attending.”

Facing the Challenge

The Board of Trustees noted that enrollment at Lancaster Seminary and at most seminaries across the United States has been declining under pressure from a number of factors including exploding student debt that deters enrollment, and students’ need to work while pursuing an advanced degree. The Board charged the administration and faculty to take a bold step to ensure the relevance and attractiveness of the degree.

“We are delighted that Lancaster Seminary is taking the lead in building an entirely new Master of Divinity designed to educate and nurture leaders to serve the modern church and the changing world with confidence, agility, and well-informed faith,” said Dr. Richard Kratz, chair of the Board of Trustees.

—continued on p3

“Breaking the mold
Master of Divinity Debuts in August

“A bold investment in community” mymdiv.com
We believe students will be better able to absorb this education and keep themselves whole in mind, body, and spirit.

Making It Possible to Open the Door to God’s Call

When I slipped into a pew at a local church recently, the pastor announced my name and title. During the passing of the peace, a woman nearby pointed to a young woman in my pew and said, “You need to speak to her. She needs to be at Lancaster Seminary.” The young woman, the lector that day, read the scripture with expression and intelligence. After the service, she shared with me that she had thought about coming to seminary last fall but deferred because she had received a promotion at her job to full-time. I was delighted to give her some very good news: “We have a new design for our Master of Divinity degree. You can keep your job and study in the weekend program. Now you can pursue God’s call.”

You will read in this issue about the new MDiv curriculum launching in August. It offers a weekend option that allows students who work full-time the opportunity to keep their jobs and complete the degree in four years. Students can answer God’s call because by keeping their jobs, they can avoid piling up excessive debt that limits them upon graduation.

How did we accomplish this? The schedule in both the day and weekend tracks is more compressed. The curriculum is more tightly focused on the essentials and the realities of today’s church. This was validated by clergy and regional denominational leaders who helped us refine the new curriculum.

We believe students will be better able to absorb this education and keep themselves whole in mind, body, and spirit. This fits our new mission statement: “Lancaster Seminary educates and nurtures leaders to join in God’s redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish.” Our students will flourish in their own lives as they prepare for ministry in the most exciting and transformative time of their lives.

Do you know someone who should discern a call to ministry? The path to seminary may be open to that person as never before. Join me in accepting the privilege of naming the gifts you see in someone you know who may be called. Our world needs educated Christian leaders now more than ever to join in God’s redemptive and liberating work. You may be the one God uses to identify such a leader for the church.
“Embodied” vs. Online Learning

While several seminaries are experimenting with all-online degree programs, Lancaster Seminary values and prioritizes personal, face-to-face learning that takes place both in the classroom and in community with fellow students, faculty and staff.

“Online technology supports our learning environment it does not replace it,” says President Lytch. “Theological formation requires those in-person connections and skills that are often lacking in the online world.”

Introducing the New Lancaster Master of Divinity

ADDRESSING THE REAL WORLD, REAL NEEDS

Our unique, integrative courses are timely and relevant, starting with pressing questions and concerns of the church and the world, and then turning to a variety of disciplines for resources and inspiration.

Combined with the deep learning in theological disciplines at the heart of our rich heritage, two years of practical field education experience, and our pioneering cross-cultural immersion program, students will be well prepared for the challenges of contemporary religious engagement.

Dr. Stephanie M. Crumpton, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, says, “I am really looking forward to our new interdisciplinary courses. They encourage us as professors to step outside of our individual disciplines to connect with other fields of study. The interdisciplinary courses also are very much focused on supporting students in translating theory and analysis into sound practices of ministry.”

TWO WAYS TO GET THE DEGREE

DAY TRACK: attend classes 3½ days per week, graduate in 3 years
Classes held Tuesday–Thursday until 4:30 pm and Friday until 1 pm

WEEKEND TRACK: attend classes 2 half-days per week, graduate in 4 years. Classes held Friday nights and Saturdays until 1 pm

POST-GRADUATE SUPPORT

We build in two advanced courses at no extra charge after graduation, because we know that learning doesn’t stop when you get your diploma.

Dr. Julia O’Brien, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, has led the curriculum revision as Acting Dean during Dr. David Mellott’s winter sabbatical. She underscores the importance of learning in community, one of the hallmarks of a Lancaster education.

“Lancaster Theological Seminary insists that you have to learn the way you will lead - with people,” Dr. O’Brien explains. “This degree program is a bold investment in community. It makes theological education more accessible without giving up the importance of diverse people engaging one another in real time.”

President Lytch, our faculty and staff have met with scores of pastors, conferences, and national church leaders to gain their insights and input into our new curriculum including the Lancaster UCC Ministerium, pictured after meeting this winter with President Lytch and Rev. Paul Eyer, director of alumni/ae and church relations.
Risking their lives and their livelihoods, Lancaster Seminary students and faculty in the turbulent Fifties and Sixties marched, preached, and worked for equality and understanding in racially divided America.

Marking the 50th anniversary of many of the civil rights milestones — enactment of the Voting Rights law, the March on Washington, Martin Luther King Jr.’s march from Selma to Montgomery — several of these courageous clergy returned to campus in March to share their memories of the time that author Charles Marsh calls “God’s long summer.”

Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul Irion and a group of seminarians joined the last leg of Rev. King’s 54-mile, five-day march into Montgomery which he clearly recalls:

“We got to Montgomery early. ... Many whites drove by, making it obvious that they were not looking at us. Others rolled down their windows and shouted jeers. ... Police cars occasionally went by, but they were small comfort because we knew that they offered us no protection. ... Many had looks of undiluted hatred on their faces. It was clear that they despised those in the march. I made friends with an older (African American man) ... he said he was marching for the next generation, black and white.”

Learning about the Seminary’s activism in the mid-20th century was inspiring to current students.

“I interviewed Rev. Allen Kroehler and Rev. Dr. Bill Rader. They felt a calling from God on their lives. We would do well to learn from their examples and experiences. We can learn to be fearless in the face of the unknown, and in the face of potential violence. We can trust that God called them to do God’s work in that time and place. We can pray that God is still calling us, as the work is not finished.”

—Amy Fishburn, MA(R) student
In his address at the end of the march, Rev. King said, “There never was a moment in American history more honorable and more inspiring than the pilgrimage of clergymen and laymen of every race and faith pouring into Selma to face danger at the side of its embattled Negroes.”

The March event on campus grew out of a student project for New Testament Professor Dr. Greg Carey’s Master of Arts in Religion seminar. Through interviews and research, Dr. Carey says, “We heard that Seminary people had been involved in teaching African American history to young people outside the public school curriculum, that our alumni had been forced out of the churches they served for their witness to racial justice, and that they had marched and worked not only in Lancaster but also had been present for Civil Rights milestones.”

Panel moderator, retired Episcopal Bishop and former Lancaster Seminary Dean Rev. Dr. Nathan Baxter, ’76/’84, pointed out that the civil rights movement significantly altered American history as it unified people of all faiths in a common goal. Rev. Dr. Jack Seville, ’64/’73, recalled, “It was a tremendous time of cultural change in the country and people don’t change cultures willingly or easily.”

Lancaster Seminary’s support for change was a crucial source of strength. According to Dr. Irion, “Being part of Lancaster Seminary encouraged me to be actively involved.”

Rev. Dr. Doyle Luckenbaugh, ’65, said, “I entered Lancaster Seminary with the conviction that my Christian beliefs challenged me to participate and seek justice for all persons. Through biblical and theological studies here, those beliefs were strengthened further. It also resulted in my being a strong advocate of civil rights throughout my ministerial career.”

Rev. Dr. Herbert Davis, ’60, was a young pastor of a local church when he announced plans in 1964 to go to Mississippi to register voters. “I am not sure many (congregants) were following me up the civil rights hill. Those were difficult years. The Sunday I announced I was going … some would not shake my hand at the door after the service but others slipped money into my hand.”

Rev. Davis remarked, “We always need to remember the civil rights struggle was led, fought, and won by African Americans. We were just support staff.” Rev. Luckenbaugh agreed. “We could go home. They had to stay. That’s the big difference.”

In an afternoon session, Rev. Dr. William Rader, ’54, advised students, “Remember that the struggle is a spiritual one. This means that we don’t struggle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers. It means that prayer is vital — for those who seem to stand in the way and for deeper understanding, patience, and hope.”

According to Dr. Carey: “We’re still working toward full racial justice in our society and in this seminary. We are profoundly grateful for those who have shared their stories and for the challenge they set before all of us.”

I interviewed Rev. Dr. Doyle Luckenbaugh and Rev. Dr. Harry Serio. Both men share the ideal that in order to live into a faith calling, social justice, on some level, is an essential part of the process. Listening to all that they have done, and continue to do, was an inspiration and impetus for me to ‘do more’ — to reach out to the other and to speak up when things simply are not right.”

—Kristen Adams, MA(R) student
Lee Barrett  
**Professor of Systematic Theology**

This spring, Lee will teach at Derry Presbyterian Church; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Immanuel UCC, Shillington; and Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg. In July, he will teach and preach in the Bay View Chautauqua in Michigan.

Lee has been invited to edit a volume of essays on Kierkegaard and Augustine by the University of Nitra in Slovakia, and to serve on the advisory board of *Estudios Kierkegaardianos*, a Mexican theological journal.

Lee’s recent book, *Eros and Self-Giving: Intersections of Augustine and Kierkegaard*, was the focus for scholarly conferences at St. Olaf College and The University of Copenhagen. *The Journal of Theology of the University of Toronto* is publishing a special volume of essays in response to his book, and he has been invited to give public lectures at Villanova University and Universidad Anáhuac, Mexico City.

This year, Lee co-edited *The Theologically Formed Heart* (Eugene: Pickwick, 2014), an anthology concerning the spiritual benefits of the theological task; published “The Distinctive World of Mercersburg Theology: Yearning for God or Relief from Sin?” (*Theology Today*, January 2015).

Lee published several essays on Kierkegaard for *Blackwell’s Companion to Kierkegaard* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2015) and for *Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Receptions and Resources* (Ashgate: Burlington, 2015), and “The Moral Implications of Augustine’s Philosophical and Spiritual Journey” in *The Confessions*, co-authored with Roman Králik and Michal Valso, in *Communications*, a Slovakian journal.

**Stephanie M. Crumpton**  
**Assistant Professor of Practical Theology**

This summer, Stephanie will participate as a summer fellow in the Wabash Center for Teaching and Religion African American Pre-Tenure workshop.

This spring, she presented “Laugh, Dance, Cry: Womanist Practices of Rebodying Identities Disintegrated by Violence” as part of the academic lecture series on race and coordinated three Testify conversations on race and violence.

Julia M. O’Brien  
**Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament**

Julia recently completed a commentary on the book of Micah in a new series devoted to feminist biblical interpretation to be published by Liturgical Press this fall.

Recent lectures and presentations include “Biblical Perspectives on Marriage” at the Penn Central UCC Open and Affirming Coalition; “How to Read a Prophet” at Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill; and “Gender and the Bible” for Elizabethtown College students.

**Myka Kennedy Stephens**  
**Seminary Librarian, Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography**

In June, Myka will be presenting “Hosting Conversations in the Library: A User-Centered Approach to Change,” a listen-and-learn session at the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference in Denver.


Darryl Stephens  
**Director of United Methodist Studies**

Darryl presented “Healing Congregations: Where Compassion Meets Justice,” at the annual Deacon Dialogue in Evanston, Illinois, exploring how the Deacon often is in a crucial position to identify, name, and address the symptomatic evidence of clergy sexual misconduct, creating opportunities for healing within the congregation.

Anne T. Thayer  
**Professor of Church History**

Anne has been awarded a one-month Durham University Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Library Fellowship to be used this summer. She will continue her work on the marginalia of Thomas Swalwell, an early 16th-century monk in the Durham Priory.
In local communities and around the world, Lancaster Seminary people are making a difference, people like alumna Rev. Dr. Rosie Magee, MDiv ’08.

When she first stepped onto the Lancaster Theological Seminary campus, Rosie Magee had no idea her path would lead to ordination and international peace and justice work.

The journey from the Seminary’s herringbone brick walkway led to the Scottish island of Iona where she is Centre Director for the Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian community with members who advocate for peace and social justice throughout the world.

Born in Northern Ireland, trained as an optometrist, and with a master’s degree from the London School of Economics, Rosie began auditing Lancaster Seminary classes while waiting for a U.S. work permit. That led to a Master of Divinity degree in 2008. “I had wonderful support and mentorship in terms of leading me towards the realization that God’s call was to go into ordained ministry,” she reminisces.

She was ordained at the Second Presbyterian Church of Carlisle and served five years as chaplain at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa. In February she headed to Scotland and the Iona Community where she provides strategic leadership for two residential centers and oversees programming at the Abbey Church.

Through her, the Lancaster Seminary ethos of community, inclusion, and Christian caring will continue to radiate beyond our borders.

Rosie found a labyrinth soon after arriving on the island.
LEADERSHIP LETTER

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“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” —Isaiah 43:19

NEW

MDiv: Building a Bridge to a New Tomorrow

We invite you to make a STRETCH GIFT this spring in support of the new MDiv.

For more information on ways to give, please contact Crystal Mills in the Advancement Office, (717) 290-8738 or cmills@lancasterseminary.edu.

God is leading us as we embark on a “new thing,” and we invite you to share in this momentous occasion.

Your next pastor could be exploring seminary right now. Please join us in making this critical education accessible to the next generation. We prayerfully ask for your support, and we sincerely thank you.

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