

The Lancaster Theological Seminary

Seminary News



Monday, December 15, 2003

Issue 2003-2004.7

Service of Godspeed for Cross-Cultural Participants

On Monday, January 5, 2004 at noon in the Santee Chapel, a service of "Godspeed" will be held for participants and family members of those traveling to India for the Cross-Cultural trip. The bus to take the group to the Philadelphia airport will arrive at 1:00 p.m. and promptly leave at 1:30 p.m. Please join the group in sending them off with prayer and love.

Seminary Hours of Operation - Some Important Dates and Times

For the holiday break, the Seminary will close at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2003 and will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2004. January Term begins on Monday, January 5, 2004 and ends Friday, January 30, 2004. Spring Term begins with the week of February 9, 2004.

News from the Registrar

Deadline to Request Extensions (Incompletes) - Request for Extension of Class Work forms must be submitted to the registrar no later than the last day of the Fall Term, December 19. Forms are available in the Dean's Office Suite or on the Lancaster Seminary website at www.lancasterseminary.edu> Students> Current Students. Be sure to review Section 5.5 of the Masters Student Handbook which outlines the policy and procedures for requesting and completing extensions. Please note that Stafford Loan borrowers may not be certified for the spring disbursement of their loans if an extension of class work is showing on their record. Results of Survey of Online Registration Process - An "Evaluation of Registration Process" using the SONIS Webtools module was sent via email to all students soon after online registration closed. Students who responded to the survey were overwhelmingly positive about the process and the SONIS Webtools module. Things the respondents liked best were that "it was very fast," "easy to use and to register," "I could do it at my convenience," "being able to register from home," and the fact that they are now able to have immediate access to their academic and financial records at the Seminary. Some students were not able to use the SONIS Webtools from their off-campus computers, and this was a frustration. However, most of those students were able to successfully register online using computers in the Library. While this and a few other issues still need to be worked out, the SONIS Webtools module proves to be an easy and efficient way for students to manage their education at Lancaster Seminary. In addition to the evaluation sent to students, a separate set of questions was sent to faculty. When those results and comments are received, they will also be reported. If you have not yet responded to the survey, please check your email and return your evaluation at your earliest convenience. Your comments and observations will be most helpful as we continue to seek ways to respond to the needs of students efficiently and in a timely manner. For more information, please contact the Registrar, Judi Hummer, at 717-290-8718.

News from the Business Office

Just a reminder that all students in Richards Hall - commuter housing need to remove their belongings and return keys to Jody Dunaway no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 19. Also, all students going on the India Cross-Cultural trip, the remaining balance for the trip is due on or before December 19 for you to be able to participate. For more information, please contact Jody Dunaway in the Business Office at 717-290-8725.

News Regarding Seminary Financial Aid

If you will be a returning, full-time, degree-seeking student in 2004-05, prepare now to apply for LTS Scholarship funds. Here's how:

1. Do not delay in preparing your 2003 tax forms; We require a copy of your federal income tax return (1040, etc.)
2. Watch your LTS mailbox following Christmas Break for an LTS Scholarship Application and a 2004-05 Fee Schedule
3. Don't procrastinate! Plan now for the required meeting with Financial Aid Director Susan Minasian. See Kristin Oberholtzer (Dean's Office Suite) to make an appointment, or call her at 717-290-8741. Completed applications and tax forms are due at the meeting with Susan. Appointment times are limited to Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., February 10 - April 15.

All components of your LTS Scholarship application process must be complete by 5:00 p.m. on April 15. Awards will be made thereafter. For more information, please contact Kristin Oberholtzer, at 717-290-8741.

Seminars Offered in February on Abuse of the Ministerial Relationship

Two seminars, offered by the Interim Ministry Network, will be offered in Baltimore at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute of Technology. One offered Feb. 9-11 is entitled, "Ethics and Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship" and the other is offered Feb. 11-13 and is entitled, "Ministry After a Betrayal of Trust." A brochure offering detailed information on the two seminars is available for review in the Dean's Office. For more information please call Ellen Goudy at 800-235-8414.

News from Cokesbury Bookstore

SALE - We are pleased to announce that all items on the "sale" table are now 70% off. Christmas items will be 50% off beginning December 15. In January, all books in the Church Leadership sections will be 25% off. HOLIDAY/JANUARY HOURS - Our Christmas and January schedule will be as follows: Closed December 23-28, Open December 29 and 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Closed December 31 - January 4 and closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19. In January, our hours will be slightly shortened - on Tuesday - Thursday we will be open only from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (instead of 6:00 p.m.) For more information, please contact the Cokesbury Bookstore at 717-393-1077. We at Cokesbury hope all of you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas!

Seminary News Deadlines for Spring 2004 Publication

The Seminary News will be published every two weeks during the Spring Term. The first issue for the Spring 2004 Term will be available on-line Monday, February 9. Following is a list of publication dates as well as deadlines for copy. Please email articles, announcements, notices and information to Maryann Bruce by the deadline. Include your name and telephone number so we may call if we have questions. Items which do not include a name and phone number will not be published.

Deadline	For publication
2/3	2/9
2/17	2/23
3/2	3/8
3/16	3/22
3/30	4/5
4/13	4/19
4/27	5/3

News Regarding Government Loans

If you plan to borrow a Federal Stafford Loan for the Fall 2004 - Spring 2005 semesters, it is time to begin the process. A FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be completed each academic year for any student applying for a loan. The FAFSA is available on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA will be filed electronically and the Seminary will receive a copy. If you prefer to complete a paper FAFSA, they are available immediately from Donna Dencler (see contact information below). When you complete the application, please include the Lancaster Theological Seminary, Federal School Code: G03286. If you have technical questions concerning the FAFSA please call 1-800-433-3243. To contact Donna Dencler with general government loan questions or to request a paper FAFSA, stop by her office (lower-level Lark) on Thursday afternoons, or call/e-mail: 717-290-8748 or ddencler@lancasterseminary.edu. Or... set an appointment with Donna by contacting Kristin Oberholtzer in the Dean's Suite (717-290-8741 or koberholtzer@lancasterseminary.edu).

Message of Thanks from the Admissions Office

Many thanks to the LTS community for your support of the December Doctor of Ministry DISCOVER day. We had 6 prospective students visit our campus. Your expressions of hospitality, participation in programs, and your helpful of the program is much appreciated. Thanks to each one of you who in any way helped our December recruitment weekend! Gratefully, Susan A. Minasian, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Ed Dickel, Student Assistant for Recruitment

Message Regarding F & M Alumni Sports and Fitness Center

To follow is the most recent update on the Seminary's usage of the F&M Alumni Sports and Fitness Center. F&M hopes to have a new policy ready for implementation July 1, 2004. We do not have details of the new policy, and although we have no confirmation of this, we think that the terms of our usage will be different. If you currently have a purple pass, your privileges are extended until June 30, 2004 even though your pass says it expires December 31, 2003...it doesn't, so don't throw it away! If you do not have a purple pass and you want to use the ASFC, you must see Peggy Stauffer ASAP. She intends to send the request for updated passes to F&M on December 22nd or early in the day on the 23rd. Anyone who has not requested an updated pass at that time will not be able to get a pass until the new policy goes into effect July 1, 2004. Peggy has been assured that we will be told the details of the new policy in a timely manner. For more information, please contact Peggy Stauffer at 717-290-9801.