

Greetings!

Summer has flown past and a flurry of activity is taking place at RPTS. A very large incoming class, close to a record number, is arriving from Dallas, Indiana, Canada, East Asia, India, and Japan. Online students are in many other locations. The professors are ready to teach, and the staff is finalizing last minute details. After 207 years, you might think that the hub-hub would get old, but it is really quite exciting. Praising the Lord!

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## WESTMINSTER CONFERENCE

If you had a spare \$20,000 you might contemplate one of the many enticing trips in Europe to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Or you could save some cash and come to Pittsburgh! What does Pittsburgh have that Wittenberg doesn't? VanDoodewaard, Gamble, Williams, Bower, and York! This expert team will guide you through the life of Martin Luther and the impact of his work.

Join us September 8 and 9, 2017. [Click here](#) for more information or to register. Special gifts are provided for early registrants!



## FACULTY IN ACTION

Perhaps a better title would be 'God in Action'. You may have been praying for Dr. Jack Kinneer after some extensive surgery for cancer over the summer. Dr. Kinneer gives praise to the Lord for sustaining and strengthening him. A CT scan last week was clear of cancer. Praise God for his faithfulness and healing!

Dr. George Scipione has trotted around the globe once again this summer. Enjoy these links to a few of his talks:

[The Necessity of Individualized Counseling](#)

[The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Counseling](#)

## ALUMNI IN ACTION

Several recent graduates were installed and ordained in the RPCNA over the summer. [Ryan Bever](#), Joseph Friedly, and [Brian Wright](#) began work in Virginia, Colorado, and Kansas. A not-so-recent alumnus, [Lucas Hanna](#), was installed at First RP in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. RPTS Alumni, let us know how you are serving the kingdom today by emailing [Mark Sampson](#).

## STUDY AT RPTS USING VETERAN'S BENEFITS

Did you know that veterans can use their educational benefits to study at RPTS? While this has been the case for many years, a recent policy change will make this opportunity even more accessible. On August 17, the Seminary was informed of the following by Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration:

*The President just signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in 1944. This legislation contains 34 new provisions, the vast majority of which will enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, Service members, Families and Survivors.*

*Most notably, Veterans who transitioned out of the military after January 1, 2013 will not be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill benefits - hence the bill's nickname, "Forever GI Bill." This law also restores benefits to Veterans, who were impacted by school closures since 2015, and expands benefits for our reservists, surviving dependents, Purple Heart recipients, and provides many other improvements."*

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## THE ADMISSIONAL

*(News from the Admissions' Office)*

Summer is nearly gone, and the smell of school is in the air. Or something like that. And, this school year is nearly on us, ready or not. We have had many international and domestic, students moving in over these last couple weeks. Pray for international students still trying to get visas, and domestic students still trying to complete their applications.

In addition to studying, of course, we have a variety of student activities we are looking forward to. Here are some of the activities we are encouraging students to take part in: Bite Sized Theology, FEAST - Friends Eating At Seminary Tables, Ultimate Frisbee, Walking, Seminary Women, and Tea Time for Women.

Orientation for new students is on Monday, September 4, with an evening picnic for all students. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 5, so ready or not, here it comes!

Remember, if you, or someone you know would like to get seminary information, please provide contact information [here](#). For more information contact [Ed Blackwood](#) at 412-731-6000.

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# SAVE THE GABLES

Check out the latest video describing, in concise detail, the major components of this important campaign. [Dr. O'Neill will walk you through](#) why your participation in this endeavor is crucial. A [general history of the Seminary](#), particularly in this neighborhood may also be of interest to you. Help to ensure that future generations of men and women will study God's holy and inerrant word at RPTS. Your gift to the campaign may qualify for the Strike the Match event! [Click here to donate.](#)



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## WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Mr. Rogers doesn't live near the Seminary but a whole lot of other people do. August has been a wonderful time in the RPTS neighborhood to welcome many new students! Furniture has been hauled up and down steps and across the street as nine new families have joined us in housing around the Seminary. They come as young married couples with no children to one family with four, from places as near as New Jersey, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, and as far as Japan, India, and East Asia. Other families have also come to Pittsburgh and are living nearby. Keep the students, faculty, and staff in your prayers as we kick things off on Labor Day.

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## STRIKE THE MATCH



The next time you go to your favorite store, head over to the 'pastor' or 'missionary' aisle and check out the selection of kingdom servants. What? Your store doesn't have those sections? For more than 207 years, the Seminary has been preparing men for the pastorate and others for various work in Christ's Kingdom. The expense of such an education is beyond the reach of most men and women with the Lord bridging that gap through the generosity of the church. From October 9th through the 13th, your gifts to RPTS will be matched at 50 cents on the dollar. [More information is available here.](#)

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## UPCOMING DATES

September 8-9, 2017	Westminster Conference, RPTS Campus
February 9, 2018	Seminary Support Dinner, Sheraton Station Square
April 20, 2018	Dr. O'Neill's Retirement Dinner, Sheraton Station Square
May 18, 2018	Commencement - Memorial Park Church, Allison Park, PA

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## FOLLOW RPTS

Do you follow RPTS on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)? These are great ways to keep track of professor quotes, conferences, and news at the Seminary.

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