THE PROGRAMS YOU LOVE TO SUPPORT

Here’s what we’ve been up to...

The Eleanor Moody-Shepherd Resource Center for Women in Ministry has a new director. The Rev. Dionne Boissiere joined the New York Theological Seminary community this past September bringing enthusiasm and a resolve to lead the women in the NYTS community in ministry through collaborations and partnerships to discuss issues unique to them and provide a support network for them during the seminary process. This support includes mentoring across various denominations to assist with the ordination process. In the coming weeks, Women’s Center supporters will receive a communication from Rev. Boissiere outlining the coming events and themes for the 2014 calendar year. The Women’s Center was created in 1986. It hosts monthly gatherings throughout the course of the school year, and in June of each year, sponsors one or more intensive courses and a conference. Programs of the Center are open to both women and men.

The Master of Professional Studies Program at Sing Sing. Since 1982, New York Theological Seminary has proudly provided one of the most unusual programs in theological education in the nation. Each year, eleven to fifteen incarcerated men at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York are conferred with a Master of Professional Studies degree. The seminary provides this accredited degree in which the men are trained in ministerial studies and allowed the opportunity to graduate and receive their degrees with their family present. This degree is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. After successful completion of the degree, the graduates work at Correctional Institutions within New York State where they teach, serve as chaplain’s assistants and in other capacities. Graduates who have been released over the past 31 years have gone on to become pastors, community organizers, counselors and teachers. In the last 30 years, the recidivism rate is less than 10%, and in the last five years, less than 1%.

This past December 6, NYTS celebrated the achievements and accomplishments of some of the MPS graduates at the “Celebration in Song” Gospel Concert which featured some of the city’s best gospel performance groups and featured testimony from MPS graduates Theo Harris of the Interfaith Center, (top right); John Valverde of The Osborne Foundation (middle right) and George Chocos, current student at Yale Divinity School. (bottom right).

The work for the MPS fund at Sing Sing continues: If you are, or know someone who is a part of the legal system and would like to participate in a conversation about the impact of education, and the transformation of the MPS training on its participants, and subsequently the community, please join us for a roundtable discussion in March, 2014. Contact the Office of Development and Institutional Advancement for additional details at 212-870-1253.

The 11th Annual Urban Angel Awards Gala will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at the Mandarin Oriental NYC (80 Columbus Circle near Broadway). As NYTS launches a new Gala structure, we honor our own legacy as a Biblically centered seminary, and the work of our honorees whose work and mission is also Biblically centered. Join us for an evening of elegance and sophistication with an exhibit and surprise guests. Shortly after the new year, we will be sending out announcements and invitations. Thank you for joining us last year, as NYTS celebrated its 10th Gala and kicked off our Campaign for the Future. Watch your mail!