Quiet Days

Seminary life is an abundant life. Students, faculty, and staff are accustomed to going full speed, immersed in their studies, work, and ministries. Twice a year, the Seminary holds "Quiet Days", a time to stop the hustle and bustle of seminary life and spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer.

In September, the first Quiet Day can be the first day students really take the time to reflect on their lives and intentionally open themselves to listen to God. While many students look forward to this opportunity to breathe in the midst of seminary busy-ness, for some the emotions they experience are overwhelming. Juniors grieve the loss of the careers, friends, and family they have left behind; Middlers experience the fullness of the ambiguity of their lives: one foot firmly in field education, and one foot fully in academics, leaving few limbs for anything else; and Seniors face the hard reality that soon they will need to find a job.

The second Quiet Day occurs on Ash Wednesday. This Quiet Day brings to mind questions of mortality and Lenten disciplines or practices. All students are reminded to prepare for the Lenten season.

The wonderful surprise of Quiet Days is that, in the midst of all this intense introspection, very frequently the One who drew them to seminary reminds students why they are here. God comforts those who grieve, gives courage to those who are fearful, and grants joy to those who have lost their sense of perspective. In the silence God gives vision for lives of ministry and service, and restores students so that they can re-enter the world of hustle and bustle with a light step and an eager heart.

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