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**With your fresh eyes, please tell our readers something about PTS that they might not know but you think they should.**

It is always interesting to be in a building outside of its busiest working hours. I once had to spend the night in the Newark airport and was amazed at the hundreds of workers who work in the airport at night. Like other educational institutions, PTS seems pretty quiet in the summer. In the midst of the quiet, I have noticed lots of people hard at work preparing to welcome returning and new students. The building may be quieter, but life, love, and energy abound.

**Characterize your teaching style or describe a commitment that shapes your teaching.**

I teach pastoral theology, pastoral care, and ethics. Each of these interconnected fields requires self-reflection, self-awareness, and participation in community as part of the academic study of theology. I am committed in my classes bring together information and formation. I hope to create a participatory classroom environment in which we are mutually informed about some of the crucial available resources for moral deliberation and pastoral responses, historical understandings, and attention to contexts. Formation, or attending to questions around who I am called to keep becoming, also occurs in this kind of dynamic space. Teaching and studying pastoral theology, pastoral care, and ethics also require being surprised by connections to personal life dynamics in expected and unanticipated ways. For who among us has not experienced loss or growth or change?

**In your opinion, how is online education changing the face of education?**

This is also a question of mine. Online learning collapses distances around the world in ways unknown to previous generations. I can read something online and be immediately caught in my own vulnerability and obligations to others in important ways (for a recent example, see [http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/08/02/100802fa\\_fact\\_gawande](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/08/02/100802fa_fact_gawande)). I consider the learning process to be embodied. Our moral dilemmas and caring practices are complex. They require us to be present to ourselves and to others. Emerging technologies are and will continue to be a significant part of our work. We are therefore called to imagine distance learning in ways that continue to value the kind of face-to-face interaction so central to our various ministries. We are called to imagine how the increased accessibility that online education provides and the new forms of diverse communities of learners can supplement the traditional academic classroom in interesting and exciting ways.

**Tell us something about a scholarly project that is occupying your attention.**

I continue to work at the intersection of pastoral theology, ethics, and postcolonialism. I am working on several projects where pastoral theology and care can learn from what is going on in postcolonial studies. On one hand, this work makes a lot of sense among

three historically interdisciplinary fields of study. In other words, the disciplines are already accustomed to learning important things from other fields of study. On the other hand, this work is made much more complex because of the interdisciplinary nature of these fields that include knowledge of theology, psychology, sociology, history, critical theory, political theory, medicine, anthropology, and law, to name a few. Another difficult thing about considering postcolonial studies as a conversation partner is the reminder that feminist theorist Sarah Song and others urge that as soon as I try to identify cultural phenomena, culture has moved, changed, and transformed.

**Name a hope you have for the students at PTS.**

I hope that the students at PTS will bring what they know along with their creativity, passion, vision, and curiosity together with the amazing learning opportunities of advanced theological study to contribute to the justice and communal flourishing so needed in our world.

**Which book have you read recently that you would commend highly to our readers?**

It's hard to limit my response to just one book! I highly recommend Mary Clark Moschella's *Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice*. Dr. Moschella is a pastoral theologian at Yale University. In this book, she describes a detailed and thoughtful method of observing a congregation. This would be especially helpful for students and for pastors entering congregations for the first time. It also helps see the familiar in new ways with fresh insight.