

**PERKINS PROFESSORS SET TO OBSERVE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN OCTOBER 2009**

Dallas, Texas – Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University is set to observe **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in October through a variety of forums. October is also **Pastoral Care Month** and **Mental Health Month**, and the Pastoral Care faculty at Perkins is giving attention to all of these themes in course offerings during the month. On Thursday, October 15, Paula Dobbs-Wiggins, M.D., adjunct associate professor of Pastoral Care, will present the annual symposium, “Mental Health & Spirituality: Bridging the Gap.” This year’s focus, “The Conundrum of Adolescence,” will feature presentations by Misty Solt, Ph.D., Andrew Stoker, M.Div., Ph.D., and Robert J. Harden, M.D. The symposium, scheduled from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall on the SMU campus, is open to the public. Resource materials and refreshments will be provided.

The following week, on Thursday, October 22, Dr. Dobbs-Wiggins has invited Kristin Howell of the Genesis Women’s Shelter to address her “Mental Health Skills for Clergy” class on appropriate strategies for pastoral response to domestic violence. Members of the community are welcomed to audit the class, which meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in 201 Prothro Hall.

Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, professor of Pastoral Care, has led her "Pastoral Care of Women" class through family violence intervention training with the New Beginning Center in Garland. The center educates clergy on professional protocols for responding to

family violence, and staff from the center recently visited Dr. Stevenson-Moessner's classroom and awarded students with certificates of training.

During October, Dr. Stevenson-Moessner will also be inaugurating endowed lecture series at two hospitals. On October 16, 2009, at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center/North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC, she will deliver the inaugural Litzinger Lecture on the theme, "Physicians of the Soul: Words of Compassion, Lest We Fatigue" (Contact: Karen Kimbrell, kkimbrel@wfubmc.edu). On October 23, 2009, she will present the first annual David Belgum Memorial Workshop at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA. The workshop is titled "First Responders: How to Be a Supportive Presence in Times of Crisis" (Contact: Linda Liedtke, linda-liedtke@uiowa.edu).

For more information on events related to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Pastoral Care Month, and Mental Health Month contact Dr. Stevenson-Moessner (jmoessne@smu.edu), 214-768-2433, or Dr. Paula Dobbs-Wiggins (pdobbswi@smu.edu), 214-768-2741.