

ACADEM CUS™

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PH.D./TH.M. PROGRAM OF SEBTS — VOLUME IV, ISSUE 4

STRESS: A Good Thing?

Stress is a word that often lingers on the lips of students, especially Ph.D. candidates. Stress has a semantic range including everything from syllabic emphasis to mental breakdown. Typically people use stress in a negative sense to connote a “state of extreme difficulty, pressure, or strain.” We view stress as some sort of plague that disrupts our sense of enjoyment and wellbeing. Radio, magazines, newspapers, television, and even infomercials all decry the dangers of stress as they offer medications, mattresses, and even meditation techniques to rid one’s life of stress.

Many of us know the familiar pressure of studies, family, and ministry. As Ph.D. students we have committed ourselves to academics and serious scholarship. We are not here by accident; we arrived here from a sense of calling, hard work, and diligent study. As we advance toward our academic goals, we are also divided by the responsibilities of home life. While our spouses and children respect our need to study, they also need us to keep them in the foreground of our pursuits. On top of all this, many of us bear the responsibilities of being an elder in a local church. The sheer weight of responsibilities that constantly press down upon us is enough to crush the average person. We are all too aware of the negative effects of stress. However, I would like to suggest that stress might equally serve as a positive force in shaping godly

(and scholarly) character.

In physics, stress refers to an “applied force or system of forces,” or the “internal resistance of a body to such an applied force or system of forces.” In other words, stress is either an external or internal force that causes something to happen to a body or thing. Stress serves as the instrument by which God prunes

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and molds us into the scholars and the ministers that he has called us to be. Instead of viewing stress as an additional strain, we can see it as an opportunity to concentrate our determination and aspirations, while at the same time recognizing our physical, spiritual, mental and emotional limits. Without stress we might not accomplish very much. Without deadlines for our assignments we would perhaps procrastinate indefinitely. The stress that we feel becomes the motivation for us to excel beyond mediocrity in our thinking, writing, and preaching. Stress may produce benefits in our lives in at least four areas.

First, stress forces us to make

choices about our priorities. When stress bears its weight upon us, we become painfully aware of all the things we want to accomplish. We must make decisions to prioritize our tasks. Typically, the assignments that are due earlier in the semester receive more priority than those due toward the end. In addition to assignments, we must make choices about where and how we spend our time. Often hours may flutter away as we attend to meaningless curiosities, while more important tasks remain unattended. Stress helps to highlight those areas and tasks that are essential and helps us decide which ones could be discarded.

Second, stress drives us to become very intentional about what we do. Some of the most helpful sources or insights I gained were the results of serendipity. However, we cannot afford to bump aimlessly along and suddenly produce a dissertation. We must intentionally pursue research, writing, and clear thinking. Stress serves to clarify this need for intentionality. The pressure we feel will either crush us or conform us into men and women who are very intentional about our scholarship, ministry, academic career, and personal lives.

Third, stress stimulates personal holiness and integrity in our character. While under stress, one may be more prone to yield to a personal weakness in sin. Stress, however, may serve as God’s pruning shears to cultivate holiness in the lives of his servants. The pressure we feel when stress presses down

upon us exposes the moral weaknesses in our character. Based on the two prior benefits of stress, when our priorities are right and we are intentionally pursuing our calling, then we are more likely to avoid succumbing to the temptation of sin.

Finally, stress solidifies our resolve to accomplish the task set before us. The stress of Ph.D. studies will either cause us to collapse and give up or fill us with fortitude and determination to finish the task. As each assignment is completed and the semester passes, we are that much closer to completion. No athlete ever wins an event without feel-

ing the stress of fitness training, trials, and physical strain. No child is ever born without the stress and strain of labor. Neither will an advanced academic degree be awarded without stress, strain, and sweat. Run the race with endurance.

Of course, the benefits that stress has to offer depend on how the individual responds to it. It is possible for stress to deform us, but it can also transform us into scholars. We would benefit to learn the parable of the sluggard in Proverbs 24:30-34: "I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of

the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man." Let us utilize the stress we feel to cut down the thorns, pull weeds, and build walls. Most of us have been students for at least ten years; it would be a tragedy to collapse under the pressure now.

STUDENT ARTICLES

The main article in the current issue of *Academicus*, "Evaluating the Benefits of Stress," has been written by PhD student, Alan Bandy. We would like to thank Alan for his contribution, and would invite other students interested in publishing an original piece in the Ph.D. newsletter to submit an article or article proposal to Dr. Köstenberger (General Editor) or Brian Busch (Managing Editor).

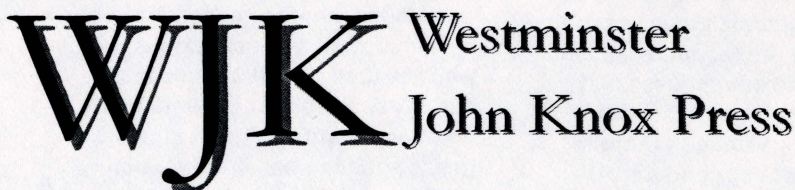
WRITING COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

From Westminster John Knox Press!

Junior Faculty Members and Ph.D. candidates:

In May 2003, the board of directors established the Presidential Prize for Excellence in Religious Scholarship and Writing in recognition of our President and Publisher Dr. David Perkins' more than twenty-five year tenure in religious publishing.

With an aim to identify and support writers and scholars in the early stages of their careers, Westminster John Knox Press will annually award \$10,000 and publish the winner's original manuscript.



As the deadline for the Presidential Prize submissions is on the horizon, the best and brightest emerging scholars should be encouraged to apply. Junior faculty members and top Ph.D. candidates should take advantage of this exciting opportunity! More information is available in Mrs. Janet Hellard's office (1st floor, Stephens-Mackie).

Additional inquiries should be made to: Nicole Smith, Executive Liaison for the President Prize. nsmith@wjkbooks.com. Phone: 502-569-5000. Fax: 502-569-5113. www.wjkacademic.com



INSIDER

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 4

Important Dates!

April 26 th , 8–12am (Monday): NEW DATE	Integrative Seminar (with Dr. Harper)
April 23 rd , 3pm (Friday)	Graduate Studies Committee Meeting
April 30 th , 1–5pm (Friday)	Ph.D. Student Conference, Session 1
May 7 th , 1–5pm (Friday)	Ph.D. Student Conference, Session 2
July 13–29 th (Tues., Wed., Thurs.)	Introduction to French
August 23 rd , 9am–1pm (Monday)	Ph.D. Student Orientation at Bay Leaf Baptist Church Special Speaker: President Daniel L. Akin
August 19–20 th , 9am–4pm (Monday)	Introduction to Research
August 19 th –20 th , 9am–4pm (Thur.-Fri.)	Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education



SEMINAR PREREGISTRATION

Ph.D. and Th.M. students will find the seminar schedule for the upcoming 2004–2005 academic year in the current issue of *Academicus*. Also enclosed is an “Advanced Degree Registration” form. Please complete and return the form to Mrs. Janet Hellard (1st floor Stephens-Mackie). The forms may also be returned by mail. Send the forms to: Office of Ph.D./Th.M. Studies, P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588. **Please return the forms by Friday, April 16, 2004.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Remember, students, the deadline for Southeastern Seminary’s General Scholarship is April 15th. Pick up an application in the Student Life Office in the Ledford Center today.

TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you a student, desiring to be a professor, needing some teaching experience? If so, contact Joy White at jwhite@sebts.edu or at 261-9934. There is a need for Ph.D. students and Th.M. students to teach courses in the Women’s Certificate program, specifically, an instructor is needed for a seven-week Church History course for Fall 2004.

GRADUATE STUDIES MEETING

Students who need to submit materials to the Graduate Studies Committee during the Spring Semester (2004) should do so soon. The final Committee Meeting will be Friday, April 23rd. The Committee will not meet again until the Fall semester.

NEW ADMISSIONS CYCLE

Prospective Ph.D. students will be pleased to know that a second admissions cycle has recently been implemented. The deadline for applications for January 2005 is **July 1, 2004**. Students who have completed their applications may take the entrance exams in August (8-9, 2004) and enter the program in the Spring semester (2005). The deadline for the Fall 2005 semester is **January 1, 2005**, with entrance exams being held **January 24-25, 2005**.

LITERARY BIRTHS

Academicus is pleased to recognize these faculty members and their literary accomplishments:

Dr. Edward A. Buchanan. *Parent/Teacher Handbook Volume 1: Teaching Younger Children Everything They Need to Know About The Bible.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2004.
 _____ *Parent/Teacher Handbook Volume 2: Teacher Younger Children Everything They Need to Know About Their Christian Heritage.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2004.

Dr. Mark F. Rooker. *Studies in Hebrew Language, Intertextuality, and Theology.* Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 2003.
 _____ "Blasphemy," and "Theophany," in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch.* Ed. David W. Baker and T. Desmond Alexander. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003, pp. 30-83, 859-64.
 _____ "Dating and Patriarchal Age: The Contribution of Ancient Near Eastern Texts," in *Giving the Sense: Understanding and Using Old Testament Historical Texts.* Ed. David Howard, Jr. and Michael Grisanti. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2003, pp. 217-35.

PERSONAL NOTES

John Bohannon is planting a church in Water's Edge Community Church. Water's Edge is in Clarksville, VA. The church moved into its first building the first Sunday of February after working a month on renovations. God has grown the small fellowship from about 25 to 65 since its birth last August. John is pleased to announce that the church has already sent a team to Mexico on a short-term mission trip with SEBTS this past January.

James Hilton is now serving as the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, Orange City, FL. James' new address is 975 East Graves Avenue, Orange City, FL, 32763.

Vic Carpenter is now at Coldwell Banker - Howard Perry and Walston. He would appreciate the business from anyone buying or selling a home in the Triangle area. You can reach Vic at viccarpenter@hpw.com.

Mike Muender is now pastoring Maranatha Baptist Church in Exmore, VA.

Bob and Jennifer Olender are pleased to announce the birth of their 4th child, Joseph Robert Olender. Joseph was born on March 15.

Terry Beatty now fills the full-time position of Minister of Education and Outreach at Christ Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC.

Scott and Dana Pace had their first child, Gracelyn Elizabeth, on November 26.

Chet Roden has had a book review published in the *Near Eastern Archaeological Society Bulletin*, vol. 48 (Feb. 2003): 55-56. He has also been asked to teach "Old Testament Archaeology" during the summer 2004 term at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Matthew and Dana McDill are expecting their fourth child at the end of June 2004.

Brian and Kelly Busch are expecting their first child at the beginning of June 2004.



DOCTORAL SEMINARS

Fall 2004

0580	Introduction to Research Dates: Aug. 19 and 20	Köstenberger	1	9-4
0581	Intro to Teaching in Higher Education Dates: Aug. 19 and 20	Buchanan	1	9-4
0112	Introduction to Theological German Class begins Aug. 23, then meets every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates	Williams	2	1-5 (F)
0575	Integrative Seminar Dates: Aug. 27, Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 12	Köstenberger	3	1-5 (F)
1375	Seminar in Old Testament Theology	Sailhamer	3	12:30-3 (W)
1897	Theological Foundations	Nelson	3	1-3:30 (T)
2185	Seminar in Baptist History	Harper	3	7:30-10 (W)
1875	Seminar in Biblical Hermeneutics	Köstenberger	3	9-11:30 (F)
3280	Christian Faith and Modern Science	Bush	3	2-4:30 (R)
3385	Seminar in Contemporary Moral Theology	Heimbach	3	7:30-10 (T)
2390	The Modern Church Planting Movement	Brown	3	7:30-10 (R)

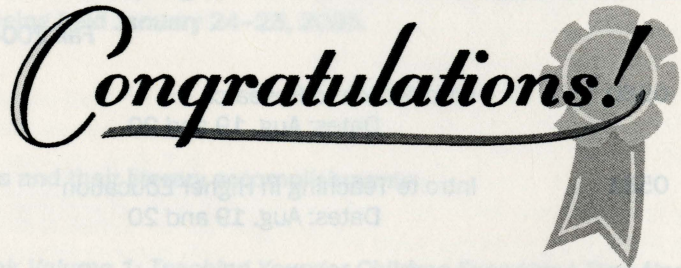
Spring 2005

0112	Introduction to Theological Latin Class begins Jan. 28, then meets every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates	Williams	2	1-5 (F)
0576	Integrative Seminar Dates: Feb. 25, Mar. 18, Apr. 22; Student Conference: May 6 and 13	Köstenberger	3	1-5 (F)
1176	Seminar in Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Rooker	3	12:30-3 (W)
	Seminar in New Testament Greek Linguistics	Black	3	1-3:30 (R)
3097	Seminar on a Selected Doctrine: Soteriology	Hammett	3	7:30-10 (R)
1485	Seminar in Selected Greek Texts: Gospel of John	Köstenberger	3	9-11:30 (F)
3283	Current Topics in Philosophy of Religion I	Little	3	7:30-10 (T)
3380	Seminar in Christian Ethics: Natural Law	Liederbach	3	1-3:30 (T)
2385	Seminar in Southern Baptist Foreign Missions (1880-1920)	Eitel	3	7:30-10 (W)
4190	Seminar in Expository Preaching	Akin	3	7-9:30 p.m. (R)

NEW PH.D. STUDENTS

Dr. Köstenberger is pleased to announce that the following students have been admitted to the Ph.D. program at Southeastern. Included in the following list are the students' areas of concentration.

Seth Bible	Ethics
Benjamin Brammer	Preaching
Bryan Brown	Ethics
Titus Buck	Systematic Theology
James Dew	Philosophy
Kevin Drake	Old Testament
Alfonza Fullwood	Preaching
Jason Johnson	Missions
Evan Lenow	Ethics
Matthew Lytle	Ethics
Tracy McKenzie	Old Testament
Gennady Pshenichny	Old Testament
Erik Redelfs	Old Testament
Ted Rivera	Systematic Theology
Roger Russell	Preaching
Brian Sandifer	Systematic Theology
Michael Shepherd	Old Testament
Anthony Vahala	Preaching
John Williamson	Philosophy
John Wilsey	Philosophy



EXAMS, DEFENSES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to James Hilton and Thomas White who have passed their Comprehensive Exams.

Congratulations to the following students who have had their Ph.D. prospectuses approved:

Thomas White
James Hilton
Mark Leeds
Bob Olender
Rob Evans

Congratulations to Mark Owens who has had his Th.M. prospectus approved.

David Mills will defend his Ph.D. dissertation on April 26, 2004.

Congratulations to Douglas Ngatunyi. Douglas successfully defended his Th.M. thesis, *The History of Interpretation of the Jeremiah's New Covenant Promises Among the Evangelicals in the Last Half of the Twentieth Century*.

Congratulations to Jon E. Smith. Jon successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis, *A Comparative Analysis of Factors Affecting Southern Baptist Church Planting Grids in the East Asia, Middle America, and Eastern Africa Regions*.

Congratulations to Michael J. Vlach. Michael successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis, *The Church as a Replacement of Israel: An Analysis of Supersessionism*.

All Southeastern Seminary students and faculty and the public are cordially invited
to attend the Tenth Annual

Ph.D. Student Conference

Session one to be held in the Eitel Auditorium
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Friday, April 30, 2004 1:00–5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.	"Psalm 23: The Royal Shepherd Psalm"	Bill Youngmark
1:25 p.m.	"The Use of Psalm 95 in Hebrews 3 and 4"	Bernard Maurer
1:50 p.m.	"An Analysis of the Imagery in Psalm 121"	Scott Pace
2:15 p.m.	"Psalm 137 as Imprecation, Theology, and Poetry"	Steve Frary
2:40 p.m.	BREAK	
3:00 p.m.	"An Examination of the Placement of Ecclesiastes within the Canon"	J. J. Lesley
3:25 p.m.	"Money and Missions: Financing Evangelism in the New Testament"	Daniel Streett
3:50 p.m.	"Persuasiveness in Preaching: Paul's Use of Rhetoric"	Corin Mihaila
4:15 p.m.	"Galileo and Newton: Dividing Nature and Philosophy"	Daniel Dockery
4:40 p.m.	Open Discussion	

Session two to be held in the Eitel Auditorium
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Friday, May 7, 2004 1:00–5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.	"Four Aspects of the Puritan Doctrine of Sacred Work"	Vic Carpenter
1:25 p.m.	"John Wesley's Standard of Truth: The Source and Content of his Message"	John Bohannon
1:50 p.m.	"The Influence of the First Great Awakening in the South"	Matt Rummage
2:15 p.m.	"The Life and Contribution of David Heagle: An Early Twentieth-Century Baptist"	Wil Owens
2:40 p.m.	BREAK	
2:55 p.m.	"Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom"	Raymond Meyer
3:20 p.m.	"Omniscience and Open Theism"	Rich Holland
3:45 p.m.	"Bound to Earth: A Theological Critique of Pop Art"	Shane Arnold
4:10 p.m.	"A Theological Treatise on Christianity's Role in Culture"	Paul Brewster
4:35 p.m.	"The Seeker Church"	Jason Hiles

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep Up to Date: Students, if you suspect that your mailing or e-mail address or phone number may need to be updated please contact Mrs. Hellard, and let her know what those changes might be. You may contact our Administrative Assistant at 761-2491 or jhellard@sebts.edu. Or if you are not receiving the occasional e-mail messages and reminders about events and happenings in the Ph.D. program, please send an updated e-mail address to buschbrian@hotmail.com.

How Can We Minister to You? We hope *Academicus* is serving your needs. Feel free to send an e-mail concerning the news and issues you would like to hear more of in the future. Include ideas for topics that you believe should be addressed or material that you want to contribute. Send those message to jhellard@sebts.edu or brian.busch@sebts.edu. Please type "Academicus" in the subject heading.

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