

To answer the query posed in the title of this little essay, I paraphrase the response to the letter in which the young Virginia enquired about the existence of a certain jolly old elf—Yes, Ph.D. student, there is life after graduation. I have been asked to pen a few thoughts

Is There —LIFE— after the Ph.D.?

about what such life is like, having completed a Ph.D. in the recent past.

I should say at the outset that I am not only reflecting here on life after graduation, but I am also musing about my tenure in the Ph.D. program. I have a better perspective on those things now, and I hope these insights are useful to the reader.

To begin, I am now keenly aware of the need for “margins” and simple disciplines in one’s life. By “margins,” I mean that it is important for each of us to have time in our schedules for reflection and repose. There is too little of that in contemporary life anyway, much less in the life of a graduate student who so often has to tend to family, church, job, and school. By simple disciplines I mean, well, simple disciplines, like Bible reading, prayer, or spending time with your wife, children, or friends.

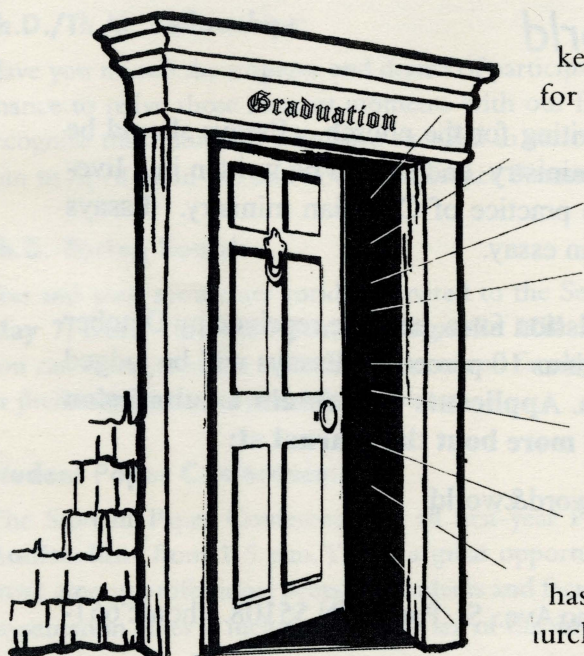
There is surely too little of that in our world today as well.

On the other side of graduation, I see now how truly difficult it is to maintain such basic elements of healthy living in the midst of the demands of the Ph.D. program. Nevertheless, it is crucial that one do so, so I will consider these matters in three areas of life.

First, it is necessary to maintain margins and simple disciplines in one’s devotions. If you digest many volumes, generate piles (or files, depending on your propensity for organization) of research, and write brilliant papers, but have not a devotional life before the Lord, your labors will amount to nothing. If the fear of the Lord truly is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7), then we at SEBTS, of all people, should recognize that a vital, growing walk with Christ is foundational to the pursuit of academic excellence, whether before or after graduating with the Ph.D.

Second, after graduation I see now how important it is to have margins and simple disciplines with respect to my family. I began Ph.D. work only after both my wife and I sensed God’s leader-

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by David P. Nelson
Assistant Professor of Theology,
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



WORD & WORLD

Theology for Christian Ministry
announces the

2002 ESSAY PRIZE FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

For students enrolled in accredited Ph.D. or Th.D. programs
in theology or religious studies.

A prize of \$1000

An opportunity for your essay to be published in
Word & World

This prize is designed to encourage scholarship and writing for the church. Essays should be devoted to topics that promote theology for Christian ministry and should be written in a lively style that is fully accessible to those engaged in the practice of Christian ministry. Essays should meet conventional scholarly standards for such an essay.

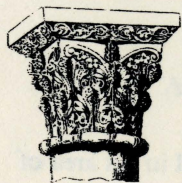
Essays, which must be accompanied by an official submission form, must be received by October 1, 2002, and should be 3500 words in length (plus or minus 10 percent). Essays will be judged according to the criteria listed on the submission form. **Applicants can obtain a submission form, access the *Word & World* style sheet, and learn more about the journal at:**

<http://www.luthersem.edu/word&world>

Address essays or requests for further information to :

Dr. Frederick J. Gaiser, Editor, *Word & World*, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Phone: 651-641-3210; e-mail: fgaiser@luthersem.edu.

All essays, not only the winner, will be considered for publication in *Word & World*. All finalists will receive a free subscription to the journal. Should no entry be deemed satisfactory, the Editorial Board reserves the right not to award a prize this year.



INSIDER

Volume II, Issue 4

Welcome New Students!

Congratulations to all those accepted into the incoming Ph.D. class. We look forward to working closely with you over the next few years.

Alan Bandy – New Testament
Brian Busch – Ethics
Michael Chiavone – Syst. Theology
Keith Church – Syst. Theology
Robert Cole – Old Testament
David Croteau – New Testament
Jason Duesing – Syst. Theology
Thomas Kiker – Evangelism

Bobby Lewis – Evangelism
Randall Mann – Philosophy
Finny Matthews – Syst. Theology
David McCollum – Church History
Matthew McDill – New Testament
Jeffrey Spencer – Philosophy
Joyce White – Women's Studies
Joshua Williams – Old Testament

• Program Notes

Ph.D./Th.M. Fellowships:

Have you missed the suspense and drama of participating in the annual Awards Chapel as a M.Div. student? Well, here is your chance to relive those anxious moments with our first annual **Ph.D./Th.M. Awards Fellowship**. This is our chance to recognize those students who have excelled in various activities this year and to have some fun at the same time. Be sure to join us April 30 in the 2nd floor Conference Room of Stephens-Mackie at 11:15am.

Ph.D. Spring Social:

You and your spouse are cordially invited to the Second Annual Ph.D. Spring Social. The event will be held on **Tuesday, May 7, from 7:00-8:30 pm, at Magnolia Hill**. Plan to attend this evening of fellowship in the President's home where you can come together with the students and faculty of the Ph.D. programs. Please RSVP to Janet Hellard at 919-761-2491 or jhellard@sebts.edu (no children please).

Student Paper Conference:

The Student Paper Conference for all first-year Ph.D. students will be held on **May 3rd and May 10th** in the **Eitel Auditorium** from 1-5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to gain experience in presenting and defending their work among professional peers. All students and faculty are encouraged to come and participate. A list of presenters and their presentation dates is included on page six of this issue.

New Ph.D. Seminar Concentration Requirements:

The Graduate Studies Committee has passed a **new requirement** for incoming Ph.D. students concerning seminars in their area of concentration. Out of the eight required Ph.D. seminars, a student must take at least four seminars in his area of con-

centration. If less than four are offered in a given two-year cycle, the student must take all the seminars offered in his area of concentration during that time plus the remainder in an immediately adjacent area per major professor recommendation.

Core Reading Exam Eliminated:

The Graduate Studies Committee has dropped the Core Reading requirement from the Ph.D. program. This reading has been shifted to the Mentorship phase of the program. If you have any questions concerning your specific assignments, please contact your major professor.

Assistant to the Director of Ph.D./Th.M. Studies Opening:

The Graduate Studies Office is now accepting applications for the position of Assistant to the Director of Ph.D./Th.M. Studies. All incoming or first-year students who are interested in working in this position should contact Dr. Köstenberger directly or via email at: akostenberger@sebts.edu

German Summer Courses:

Please take note of the following dates for German this summer:

Introduction to Theological German with Dr. Williams: July 9 – 26

Theological Readings in German with Dr. Köstenberger: July 29 – Aug. 9

All entering Ph.D. students are strongly encouraged to take these courses before beginning their program. All students must have demonstrated German Proficiency prior to beginning their second year of study.

Graduate Studies Committee Meetings:

The next Graduate Studies Committee Meeting will take place on **May 17**. All items students wish to present to the committee, such as a prospectus, must be turned in to the Graduate Studies Office at least one week prior to the scheduled committee meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

• Congratulations

Congratulations to these students who have passed major milestones in their programs since the last Academicus:

Comprehensive Exams:

Charles Busada – Ph.D.

Mark Walton – Ph.D.

Prospectus Approvals:

Matthew McDill – Th.M.

Oral Dissertation Defense:

David Jones – Ph.D.

ACADEMICUS™

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All Southeastern seminary students and faculty and the public are cordially invited to attend the:

**Seventh Annual
P.H.D. STUDENT CONFERENCE**



**Session One to be held in the Eitel Auditorium
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Friday, May 3, 2002 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

1:00 p.m.	“Ezekiel’s Inaugural Vision”	Randy McKinion
1:30 p.m.	“John 3:5: Born of Water and the Spirit”	Larry Tyler
2:00 p.m.	“The Johannine Son of Man Sayings: A Contextual Approach”	Andrew Neamtu
2:30 p.m.	“Prophecy in the Early Church”	Colin Kerr
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	“Development of Iconography in the Early Church”	Ioan Oros
3:45 p.m.	“The Doctrine of Theosis”	Danny Wilson
4:15 p.m.	“Mormon Soteriology”	Henry Middleton
4:45 p.m.	“The Anabaptists and Luther’s Views of Church and State”	Thomas White

**Session Two to be held in the Eitel Auditorium
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Friday, May 10, 2002 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

1:00 p.m.	“Anabaptists and the Role of the Pastor”	James Hilton
1:30 p.m.	“Baptismal Controversies in the Philadelphia Baptist Association”	Marty Jacumin
2:00 p.m.	“The Baptists in Virginia 1765–1775”	John Nixon
2:30 p.m.	“Christian Zionism and the Foreign Mission Board’s Evangelistic Focus in the Levant From 1893 to 1923”	Ant Greenham
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	“Expository Preaching in the Last Half of the Twentieth Century”	Alex Kinchen
3:45 p.m.	“The New Homiletic and the Purpose of Preaching”	Todd Stewart
4:15 p.m.	“Investigations into the Disappearance of the Soul”	Richard Daniels
4:45 p.m.	“The Soteriology of Gustavo Gutierrez”	Jose Rondon

• Doctoral Seminars

FALL 2002

0580	Introduction to Research	Köstenberger	1	9 – 4
		<i>Dates: August 15 and 16</i>		
0581	Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education	Buchanan	1	9 – 4
		<i>Contact Registrar's Office</i>		
0112	Introduction to Theological Latin	Williams	2	1 – 5 (F)
		<i>Class begins August 19, then every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates.</i>		
0575	Integrative Seminar	Köstenberger	3	1 – 5 (F)
		<i>Dates: Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 8</i>		
1379	Seminar in Contemporary OT Research: Hebrew Syntax	Sailhamer	3	12:30 – 3 (W)
1787	Current Issues in NT Study	Black	3	12 – 2:30 (R)
1875	Seminar in Biblical Hermeneutics	Köstenberger	3	7 – 9:30 (T eve.)
2183	Seminar in Post-Nicene Thought	McKinion	3	1 – 3:30 (T)
2475	Seminar in the Theology of Evangelism	Solc	3	7:30 – 10 (R)
3075	Seminar in the Doctrine of the Trinity	Patterson	3	7 – 9:30 (R eve.)
3280	Christian Faith and Science	Bush	3	3 – 5:30 (R)
3395	Seminar in New Testament Ethics	Heimbach	3	7:30 – 10 (T)

SPRING 2003

0114	Introduction to Theological French	Williams	2	1 – 5 (F)
		<i>Class begins Jan. 24, then every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates</i>		
0586	Integrative Seminar	Köstenberger	3	1 – 5 (F)
		<i>Dates: Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 2 and 9</i>		
1176	Seminar in Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Rooker	3	12:30 – 3 (W)
1785	The New Testament Canon	Cowan	3	1 – 3:30 (T)
1880	Seminar in the History of Biblical Interpretation	Köstenberger	3	7 – 9:30 (R eve.)
2185	Seminar in Baptist History	Harper	3	7:30 – 10 (R)
2379	Seminar in the History of Missions	Eitel	3	8 – 10:30 (F)
3087	Seminar on Selected Theologian: Luther	Hammett	3	7:30 – 10 (W)
3277	Christian Apologetics	Little	3	1 – 3:30 (R)
4176	The Use of the Bible in Preaching (New Testament)	Rummage	3	7:30 – 10 (T)

Life... Continued from page 1

ship to do so. We made my academic pursuits an important part of the life of our whole family. Whether my wife and children were praying with me, or helping me to study, or simply encouraging me, this was a family affair. In the midst of the demands of course assignments, we carefully planned special family time. I was also careful to lay aside my academic work so I could be fully engaged with the family during those times (a difficult thing, indeed). As a result, my wife, children, and I have (mostly) fond memories of graduate school life together. Also, we have better learned what it is to support and encourage one another in sundry endeavors because of our experience in the Ph.D. program.

Third, it is truly important to maintain margins and simple disciplines in your academic labors. On the other side of graduation I see now, better than before, why professors required me and my fellow students to do certain kinds of work. They were helping us to develop certain skills that would serve us for a lifetime of academic pursuits. Whether learning how to better understand a biblical text, or learning to read and review a book, or learning the value of writing, rewriting, and rewriting even more (again and again!), or, yes, learning how to read in research languages (the value of which, by the way, I cannot emphasize enough), our professors were helping us to put together a biblical/theological "tool belt" with which we could begin our professional academic

career and from which we could develop additional skills.

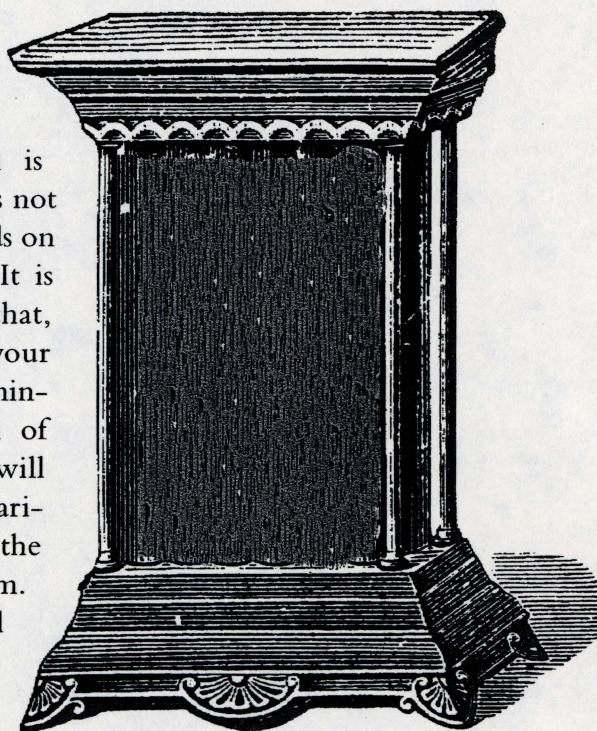
I must say, also, that as I reflect post-graduation I recognize what great benefit was my preaching and teaching ministry during my Ph.D. studies. This kept me rooted in the exegesis of God's Word and its exposition for God's people. Not only did this serve as

researching, and writing after graduation. The manner in which you conduct your life now will establish patterns, for better or for worse, for life after graduation. And that life can be rich and fruitful, especially if you recognize now the importance of maintaining those margins and simple disciplines so crucial to everyone. **A**

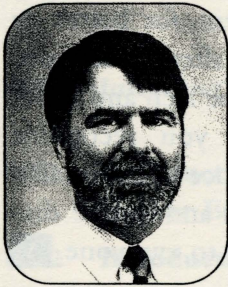
We at SEBTS, of all people, should **recognize** that a vital, growing relationship with Christ is **foundational** to the pursuit of academic excellence.

excellent material for my course work itself, but it reminded me continually of why I was pursuing the Ph.D.—so that I could do theology from the church and for the church, for the glory of God and for the good of His kingdom.

There really is life after graduation. Once graduation is past, however, it is not as though demands on your time cease. It is often true that, depending on your assignment in ministry, the breadth of demands will decrease in comparison to those of the Ph.D. program. However, you will (or should) stay busy preaching, teaching,



• A Word from the Director



Another academic year is rapidly winding down. Already people are asking about summer courses and pre-registering for 2002/2003. I look forward to seeing many of you at our final fellowship meeting for the year where several year-end awards will be given. And don't forget our Second Annual Spring Social on May 7. I believe this has been a very good year for doctoral studies at SEBTS. For this we can be grateful to God, especially in light of the turbulence of these times. My prayer for each of you is that you finish well. In the meantime, remember the following two German proverbs: "Übung macht den Meister" and

"Schuster, bleib bei deinem Leisten." As always, if I can assist you in any way, please let me know. Have a great summer!

Andreas J. Köstenberger



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