

ACADEMICUS™

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ph.D./Th.M. Program of SEBTS

Volume II, Issue 3

The September 2001 edition of Academicus featured an interesting article by Bingham Hunter titled, "What Do Deans Look for in a Resume?" As former Academic Dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Hunter has certainly seen his share of scholars at the junior, mid-career and senior levels. His advice for preparing professional credentials, especially as it related to substance and presentation, was most helpful. Even so, his observations also raise an important issue that merits closer attention.

Hunter uses the terms "vita" and "resume" interchangeably, which may be adequate for his purposes, yet they are not the same thing. Resumes for the business world should be concise, not exceeding 2 pages. But, teaching at the college, university or seminary level is unlike any secular vocation. Yes, vitas are sometimes used as resumes as part of a job search. However, academicians may also use their vitas in other pursuits such as applying for grants and publications proposals.

Consequently, an academic curriculum vitae, or "vita" is not

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by Dr. Keith Harper
 Associate Professor of Church History
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

bound by the same guidelines that apply to business resumes. Your vita should reflect your versatility by summarizing every facet of your academic career.

Lengthy vitas have certain

advantages over shorter ones. For example, a vita that lists your educational background along with a brief statement about professional interests provides any interested party with considerable information.

Next, everyone's vita should include a detailed publication list. You should begin with a complete list of books that you have written as well as any "works in progress." Your book list will tell prospective employers, publishers and funding agencies if your past writing projects have been tailored primarily for the academy or a more popular audience.

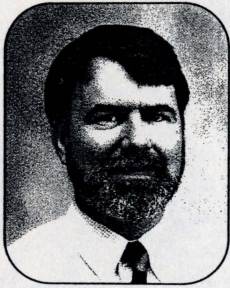
After listing your books be sure to record your articles

and book reviews. Detailed citations for articles and reviews have numerous advantages over a simple list of titles or some generic statement like, "I have written a bunch of stuff for some really cool

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• **A Word from the Director**

by Andreas J. Köstenberger



Once in a while I have an irresistible urge—indeed, need—to get away from it all, even if just for a few hours. My mind feels cluttered, my priorities unclear, and my life unfocused. On one such occasion last October, I retreated to an undisclosed location to work (I brought my laptop) and to ponder ways to reduce some of the clutter in my life. Consequently, I divested myself of several commitments and responsibilities, and the burden has lifted considerably. When was the last time you prayerfully considered your priorities and did spiritual "housecleaning"? If it has been all too long, how about "getting away from it all" long enough to do just that this spring?

Now to doctoral news. Our freshly revamped Ph.D. fellowships will feature specific speakers and topics (see the body of this issue). I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities for mutual encouragement and preparation. We want you to be the best-prepared graduates you can possibly be. 2002 will be a major year for recruitment and public relations. The new Ph.D. brochure is ready to be distributed, and the accompanying "Marks of the Scholar" booklet is currently in press. Hopefully very soon, Southeastern's Ph.D. program will no longer be the best-kept secret in theological education! My prayers and best wishes are with you as you begin this new year and new semester.

• **Ad Libitum**

The following plaque is found in the Trinity College in Cambridge, England. It gives testimony to the enduring respect for a remarkable scholar of a previous generation.

Fenton John Anthony Hort

Professor of Divinity

1828-1892

To the glory of God and to the memory of Fenton John Anthony Hort, D.D., Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, and sometime fellow of the college, this brass was dedicated by his son, also a fellow of the college. His vigorous countenance and lively eyes revealed the quick force of his mind. Unacquainted with no branch of knowledge but dedicating himself to only one, he brought to bear on the study of theological learning drawn from every source. A hard-working, perceptive and temperate scholar, who sought the truth alone before all else and in all he did, he worked to restore the original text of the New Testament using methods of research unfamiliar at that time. He was a pure and Holy man of such devotion to his friends that he did not refuse advice even to a stranger. His many friends escorted him to the grave as a token of their love, regret and reverence. He was born in Dublin on Saint George's Day 1828 and died at Cambridge on Saint Andrew's Day 1892.



INSIDER

Volume II, Issue 3

You and your spouse are cordially invited to the

Second Annual

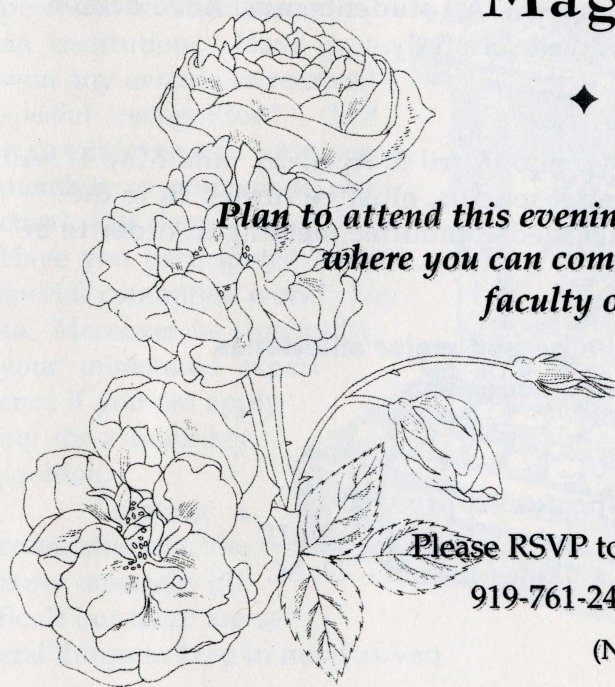
Ph.D. Spring Social



Tuesday, May 7
7:00–8:30 p.m.
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 by April 30 at
919-761-2491 or jhellard@sebts.edu

(No children, please)

• Program Notes

PH.D./TH.M FELLOWSHIPS

Plan now to attend our newly revamped Ph.D./Th.M. fellowships this spring. Each meeting will emphasize a special topic of interest for our graduate students

Feb. 5 – Dr. David Nelson	Life After Graduation
Feb. 19 – Dr. John Hammett	Prospectus Preparation and the Graduate Studies Committee
Mar. 5 – Dr. Keith Harper	Improving your Writing Style
Mar. 19 – Dr. David Lanier	<i>Faith & Mission: Student Contributions</i>
Apr. 9 – Faculty Panel	Designing Your Course Schedule
Apr. 30 – Dr. Andreas Köstenberger	Awards (Real and Imagined)

Plan now to come and participate in this time of refreshment and encouragement. We will meet from 11:15 am until 12:05 pm in the 2nd floor Stephens-Mackie Conference Room.

CORE READING LIST

The updated Ph.D. Core Reading Lists for all areas of study are now available in the Graduate Studies Office in Stephens-Mackie Hall.

Second Year Mentorship Students – Do not forget to submit your meeting log and notebook of work done for your first semester of Mentorship to the Graduate Studies Office by Feb. 15. See the Ph.D. Student Handbook, p. 18 for details.

GERMAN SUMMER COURSES

Please take note of the following dates for German this coming summer: Dr. Williams will be teaching Introduction to Theological German on July 9 – 26, and Dr. Köstenberger will be teaching Theological Readings in German on 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 Committee will meet Feb. 8, March 1 (Admissions), March 8, April 5, April 26, and 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 to these students who have passed major milestones in their programs since the last Academicus:

Degree Earned:

Pete Schemm – Ph.D.
Chris Schofield – Ph.D.
Bill Curtis – Ph.D.
Michael McDill – Ph.D.

Prospectus Approvals:

John Tarwater – Ph.D.
James Jordan – Th.M.

Comprehensive Exams:

Robert Olender – Ph.D.

Vita... Continued from page 1

journals." Why? First, complete review and article citations may offer insight into how actively you are pursuing scholarship in your field, or fields. Suppose someone earned their Ph.D. in 1985. Further suppose that their vita indicates a healthy number of book reviews and articles between, say, 1983 and 1993, but lists nothing after 1994. Either that person has chosen not to review books, has not submitted anything for publication or has a vita that is badly out of date. In any case, a prospective Dean will wonder about the lack of productivity. Second, complete citations for your reviews and articles provide insight into the breadth and depth of your scholarly interests. Finally, complete citations for book reviews and articles allows interested parties to look them up and read them if they so choose.

In addition to scholarly productivity, your vita should reflect professional activities and other intangible qualities that demonstrate your potential contributions to an institution. Have you won any awards or received special recognition? List your achievements. Are you a member of professional societies? List them - all of them. Have you participated in any special committee work? Say so. Moreover, be sure to list your ministerial experience if you are applying for a seminary position.

Creating a comprehensive vita is not especially difficult but there are several things to keep in mind as you

design it. Obviously you need to indicate how you may be contacted either by e-mail, direct mail or telephone. Otherwise, minimize

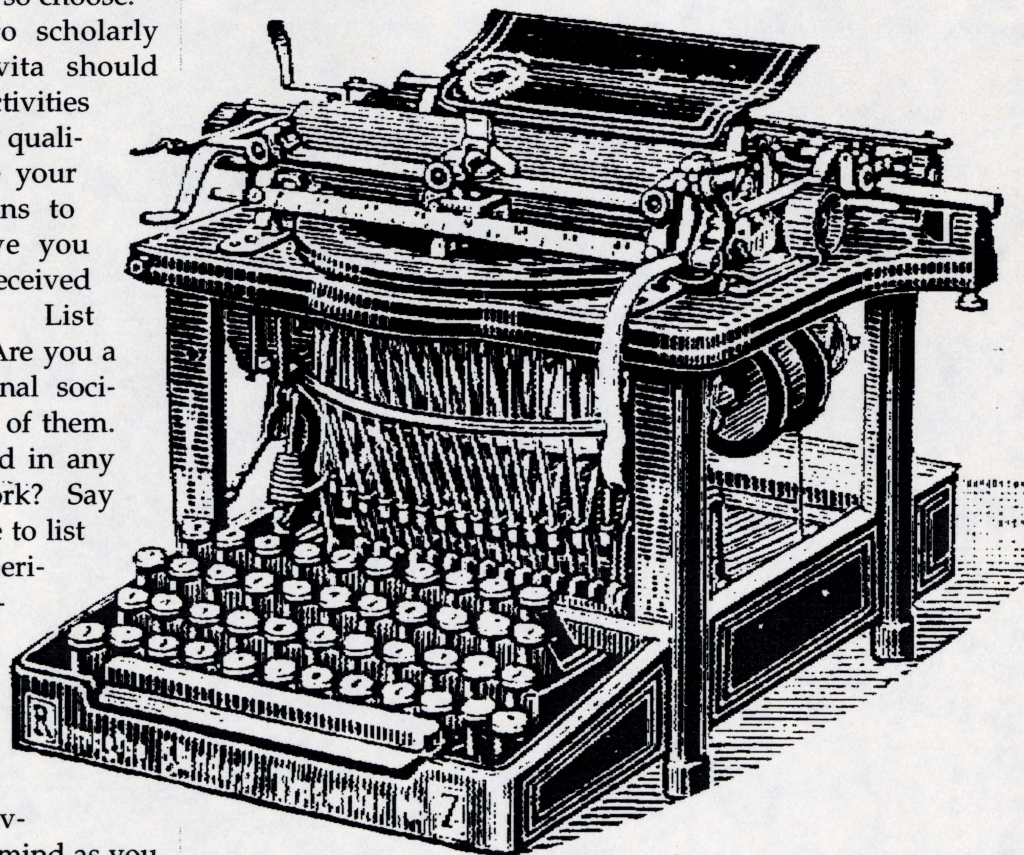
Discernment of God's will, not selling yourself, should be your overwhelming concern

the amount of personal information on your vita. If someone wants to know more about you than you have revealed, let them ask. Also, keep your vita current. Updating an out-of-date vita can be a nightmare!

Finally, remember that your vita will likely be your first introduction to a person or people you have never met. Give them your very best. Provide them with a complete vita unless you are specifically

instructed to submit an abbreviated version. Present yourself in such a way that leaves them wanting to know more about you. Caution! Do not use your vita to apply for jobs or grants for which you do not qualify no matter how snazzy it may appear. It does not matter where you went to school or how long you stayed there - Byzantinists will not be hired to fill Old Testament/Archaeology positions and Church Historians are not likely to receive funding to participate in the Human Genome Project.

Your vita is a very important tool as you pursue a career in academia. Still, Bingham Hunter was right when he said, "Discernment of God's will, not selling yourself, should be your overwhelming concern." For Christian academics, this may be the best advice of all. **A**



• Doctoral Seminars

DOCTORAL SEMINARS (Revised 11/13/01) SPRING 2002

0114	Introduction to Theological French Class begins Jan. 25, then meets every Friday except Colloquium dates	Williams	2	1-5 pm (F)
0586	Ph.D. Colloquium Dates: Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 19, May 3 and 10	Staff	3	1-5 pm (F)
1777	Seminar in New Testament Theology	Köstenberger	3	7-9:30 pm (R)
3088	Seminar on Selected Doctrine: Soteriology	Hammett	3	7:30-10 am (W)
2182	Seminar in Ante-Nicene Christian Thought	McKinion	3	1-3:30 pm (T)
1379	Seminar in Contemporary Old Testament Research	Rooker	3	12:30-3 pm (W)
3279	Christian Faith and the Modern Mind	Bush	3	1-3:30 pm (R)
4077	Current Trends in Preaching	McDill	3	8-10:30 am (F)

Note: Classes are to meet for at least two hours. At the professor's discretion, classes may meet for 2^{1/2} hours.



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