

ACADEMICUS

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

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of *Academicus*, the new quarterly newsletter for the Ph.D./Th.M. program here at SEBTS. Our hopes are that this newsletter will become a valued source of information and encouragement to students in all phases of their academic graduate work. In future issues we will seek to include articles that prepare our students for their future God-given vocations of teaching and preaching. We also pray that this newsletter will build a sense of community among our graduate students as we learn, pray and grow together here at SEBTS.

While we are excited about this first edition of *Academicus*, we are also aware that there is much room for improvement within its contents. That is where you as a student body can have an important part. The editorial staff welcomes any articles or information that you, the student, wish to contribute. Please give all prospective articles to either Ev Wesson, the Graduate Studies secretary, located in the Registrar's office in Stealey Hall or Janet Hellard, Dr. Köstenberger's secretary, in Stevens-Mackie Hall.

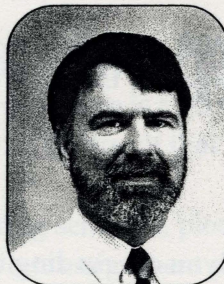
Please pray for the effectiveness of *Academicus* in the task of building a community of learners here at SEBTS. Have a great start to the spring semester.

Keith Griffin
Managing editor

An Interview with the New Director: Andreas J. Köstenberger

On January 1st, the Ph.D./Th.M. program welcomed Dr. Andreas J. Köstenberger as its new Director. While Dr. Köstenberger is a familiar face to most of the students in the academic graduate programs, the editors of *Academicus* felt that you would be interested to hear his comments concerning his new role at the helm of the program.

Academicus: Dr. Köstenberger, tell us of your involvement in the Ph.D./Th.M. program at SEBTS in the past."



Köstenberger: "My previous experience in doctoral work at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, both as a student and a faculty member, had been very positive. When I was hired by SEBTS in the fall of 1996, I was very excited that a Ph.D. program was just getting started. So in many ways I have been involved in the Ph.D./Th.M. program here almost from its inception. I usually taught one doctoral-level course a year. My particular emphasis has been in Biblical Hermeneutics. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students in the program during this time. Mentoring students at a higher level of scholarship is probably the aspect of teaching that I find most fulfilling. Being involved in the Ph.D./Th.M. program allows me to maximize that aspect by concentrating on a few gifted, highly motivated individuals and helping prepare them for the difficult work of scholarly writing and teaching.

My interest in the administration aspects of the program began soon after my arrival. Dr. David Puckett, the first director of the program, and I talked extensively concerning the management of a graduate studies program such as ours. During the transition period when the program was led by the interim director, Dr. Gerald Cowen, I expressed my interest in the position to Dr. Patterson. I was appointed Associate Director in the fall of 2000 and now take the position of Director effective January 1, 2001."

Continued on page 2

Interview...continued from page 1

Academicus: "What are your new responsibilities as the Director of Ph.D./Th.M. studies?"

Köstenberger: "I work together with the Academic Dean's office and the new Graduate Studies office in administering the program based on the Handbook and Catalogue descriptions. Both the curriculum and the basic procedures are in place; therefore I look at myself as primarily one to maintain the program as designed and to deal with any special concerns and issues as they come up. I will also work with the Graduate Studies committee to evaluate prospectuses and other special concerns. Beyond this there is a certain amount of freedom that I have

to help strengthen the quality of the program in non-academic ways, such as orienting new students, integrating students through new stages of their studies, sponsoring social opportunities, promoting professional events and facilitating discussion between students and faculty. The only limits to the opportunities for advancement of the program are time constraints, which makes the formation of priorities an utmost concern as we seek to implement a few new ideas at a time within the program."

Academicus: "Will there be any immediate changes in the pro-

grams? Are there any new developments in the works?"

Köstenberger: "Academically, there will be no curriculum changes in the immediate future. Perhaps the biggest immediate development in the program is the new Wednesday fellowship time for the

Ph.D./Th.M. students

immediately after chapel in the Ledford Center. This is a time when the academic graduate studies community

gathers together for fellowship, prayer and interaction with both fellow students and the program's administration. All Ph.D. and Th.M. students who can possibly come



•A Word from the Director

Thanks to the efforts of my assistant Keith Griffin, you are reading the very first copy of the Ph.D./Th.M. newsletter, *Academicus*. In conjunction with some other initiatives, it is my hope that the newsletter will help build a deeper sense of community among those of us who are involved in higher-level studies at SEBTS.

Rightly or wrongly so, Baptist institutions have not always been known for nurturing intellectual culture and for the most part, that may be for the better, for intellectual involvement often breeds a spirit of arrogance. Yet despite these dangers, if we truly love God, we ought to embark on a quest for truth where it can be found: God's Word.

Like the figure in Jesus' parable, we ought to divest ourselves of everything we own in order to acquire that pearl of great price. It will take all of us to succeed in this task: Motivated, committed, competent, and available mentors; tough-minded, teachable students; and the right mix of resources.

I count it as a distinct privilege to be part of nurturing a community of learners. I look forward to some great classes this semester, to colloquiums, socials, times of fellowship, and prayer. Come to our weekly fellowships, read the newsletter.

To whom much is given, much will be required. Surely, we have been given much.

Yours in Christ,
Andreas J. Köstenberger

ACADEMICUS

Published by the office of the Director of
Ph.D./Th.M. studies

General Editor: Andreas Köstenberger
Managing Editor: B. Keith Griffin

• Program Reminders

- **CORE READING LIST** - During the first year of residency each student is expected to read selected books in his or her major field and be examined on this reading by the beginning of their second year. If you do not yet have a core reading list in your area of study, ask Ev Wesson in the Graduate Studies office or your mentoring faculty member.
- **TURABIAN SUPPLEMENT** - You will be receiving a supplement to Turabian early in the spring semester that will become the standard for all research papers done in seminars as well as all thesis/dissertation-related work.
- **MENTORSHIP** - From the Ph.D. Student Handbook, page 16: "The student is expected to keep a log of all meeting times and a record of all work done for the mentorship. At the end of each semester of the mentorship, the student will submit a brief outline report on the work done to the faculty mentor and a copy to the director of Th.M. and Ph.D. Studies." If you are in the second year of the Ph.D. program and have not yet submitted your report for the fall semester, please submit it to both your mentoring faculty member and Dr. Köstenberger's office by February 9.

- **CLASS NOTES**

Those who participated in the "Teaching in Higher Education" class this past December who have not completed the assignments should note that there is a class meeting scheduled just before February's Colloquium class. All assignments will be due at that time.

If you are in Colloquium for this spring semester, please come by Janet Hellard's desk in Stevens-Mackie Hall as soon as possible to pick up your assignment sheets for Dr. Köstenberger's class in February. Note that both assignments are due in Dr. Köstenberger's office box one week prior to the Colloquium class.

- **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Please note that the last day to notify the Registrar of your intent to graduate in May is February 6.

If you are still trying to decide which seminars you plan to take in the spring semester, be aware that the last day to add a class to your schedule is February 6; the last day to drop a class without academic penalty is February 20.

The last day for those planning to graduate in May to submit their thesis or dissertation is March 19. Graduates must carefully attend to dissertation/thesis formatting and style. If you have questions, see your mentoring faculty for guidance.

• Doctoral Seminars

SPRING, 2001

0116	Introduction to Theological German Classes begin Jan. 26 and meet all Fri. except Colloquium dates	Williams	2	1:00-5:00 F
0586	Ph.D. Colloquium Dates: Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 6, May 4, 11	Staff	3	1:00-5:00 F
1176	Seminar in Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Rooker	2	8:00-10:00 W
1780	Contemporary Approaches to New Testament Interpretation (Epistles)	Black	2	3:00-5:00 T
2178	Seminar in Early Church History	McKinion	2	1:00-3:00 W
2476	The History and Theology of Spiritual Awakenings	Reid	2	8:00-10:00 R
3280	Christian Faith and Modern Science	Bush	2	2:00-4:00 R
3077	Seminar on Contemporary Theology: Doctrine of the Church	Hammett	2	8:00-10:00 T

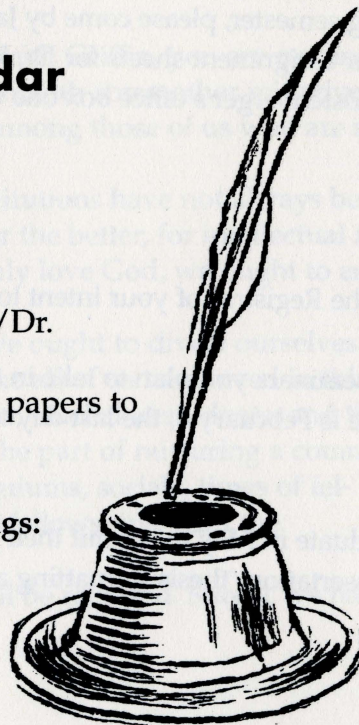
Ph.D./Th.M. Calendar

Upcoming Colloquium Classes:

February 16	Dr. Köstenberger
March 16	Dr. Sailhamer
April 6	Dr. Köstenberger/Dr. Sailhamer
May 4&11	Ph.D. Conference papers to be presented

Graduate Studies Committee Meetings:

February 2
February 23
March 23



are strongly urged to participate. I benefited greatly from similar fellowships in my own graduate studies and personally could not imagine getting through my doctoral program without a weekly time to get together with other students and the administration personnel in the program.

Looking ahead, I hope to revisit the foreign language requirements within the program and develop a system that can better prepare students to use these languages actively in their graduate research. This change, however, is still under review by the Graduate Studies committee and the administration.

I see myself as a servant to the students in the program, as well as serving those who established the program here at SEBTS. I want to be as responsive as possible to any perceived needs among the students. Often those who are in the program can see most clearly the areas of greatest need within the program itself."

Academicus: "What is your vision for the Ph.D./Th.M. program at SEBTS?"

Köstenberger: "I believe that we have a good basic format for the program, especially with the mentoring element. This program is quite unique worldwide in that it blends the best of the American and European models together. The mentoring process still needs strengthening in its structure and accountability, which will benefit both mentoring faculty and the student body. We believe that quality mentoring is vital to the success of our

students both within the program and in their future ministry.

I also envision an increased emphasis on recruiting the right kind of student for our program here at SEBTS. We desire students who are God-called and properly equipped in their undergraduate and graduate studies to perform adequately in the rigors of advanced studies and a future career in higher education. This will require us to adequately advertise our program to attract that type of scholarship in our students.

Above all, we desire to nurture an intellectual climate that promotes a unified community of learning within our students that enhances their overall experience here at SEBTS. This can be accomplished by working both with students and mentoring faculty to build such a community of learners. We must increase the awareness of expectations of those participating in the program. We desire to keep the community abreast of any developments in the program and draw on the available resources found among the students and the administration. Through this, a scholarly community of learners dedicated to God can grow and prosper in the academic graduate studies program."

Academicus: "What are your immediate goals for the Ph.D./Th.M. program?"

Köstenberger: "The most strategic assignment for the administration of the Ph.D./Th.M. program this coming semester is the upcoming ATS evaluation

of our provisional accreditation. We are seeking to secure permanent accreditation by the agency. This approval would have several positive affects on the program, such as lifting our enrollment cap and allowing us more flexibility in the administration of the program.

I am also planning to establish regular contact with our faculty mentors in order to provide the resources and encouragement they need to give adequate supervision and support to our students. I also hope to address the issue of foreign language requirements within the program, perhaps as early as this summer.

Another goal that I have is to help develop a sense of community among our students and mentors. Part of the plan to accomplish this is through nurturing the weekly fellowships and this newsletter, Academicus."

Academicus: "What role do you see Academicus playing in the development of the program?"

Köstenberger: "Together with the weekly fellowships on Wednesdays and the social events planned for the begin-

Continued on next page

"This program is quite unique worldwide in that it blends the best of the American and European models together."

Interview...continued from page 5

ning and end of each semester, I believe Academicus can help bring us together and build a true sense of community within the program. Of course there is the more mundane task of being an outlet concerning developments within the program and providing helpful information to the student body. Information concerning academic deadlines and requirements, upcoming dissertation hearings, thesis and dissertation proposals that are accepted, and other needed facts will be readily available to the students. There will also be

occasional biographical sketches of mentoring faculty members and other community news that will help us all get to know each other better. In many ways, Academicus can provide the 'glue' that binds

Academicus: "Do you have any closing comments you would like to share with us?"

Köstenberger: "It is a great privilege for me to work as director of the Ph.D./Th.M. program here at SEBTS. I've had a vision to be involved on this level of education for a long time and I'm grateful for the trust and the opportunity given to me by the administration of this school. I look forward to working with them and with the students to make this an even better program, for service to

Congratulations

Ph.D. Program:

Core reading exams passed: Jimmy Cockman, Mark Walton

Dissertation prospectus approvals: Charles Warren & David Mills

Dissertations defended: Cky Carrigan

Th.M. Program:

Thesis prospectus approvals: Jamale Johnson

our academic community together more closely than ever before."

all God's people in the churches and ultimately to the glory of God."



*S*tudy to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15



SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Office of Ph.D./Th.M. Studies
Post Office Box 1889
Wake Forest, NC 27588