

# ACADEM CUS™

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

## To Teach or Not to Teach?

### The Opinion of several ABD Students from SEBTS Engaged in Teaching.



**Randy McKinion** (teaches *Hermeneutics, Greek, Theology, Old Testament* at Shepherds Theological Seminary, Cary, NC; Ph.D. candidate in Old Testament)

Greetings, fellow Ph.D. students! I have the privilege of sharing briefly some of my experiences in the PhD program, where I am studying Old Testament. My name is Randy McKinion, and I am now in the dissertation stage of my work, with the title "An Analysis of a Compositional Approach to Biblical Narrative (Genesis 37)." Beyond spending time writing, I am also in my fifth semester of teaching at Shepherds Theological Seminary, a ministry that was birthed out of Colonial Baptist Church in Cary, North Carolina. Fortunately, teaching in Cary has allowed me to stay local to SEBTS. I began teaching one Greek class a semester when I was still taking seminars, but this school year they brought me on full time, teaching Greek, theology, hermeneutics, and Old Testament. I am also involved in helping design the academic programs for STS.

There is no doubt with all the preparation that goes into teaching that work on my dissertation has been slowed. However, for several reasons I believe it is a justified endeavor, at least for me. When my wife and I discussed coming to SEBTS to pursue a terminal degree, we did so with the firm conviction that if the Lord were to bless us with children my wife would no longer work outside the home. Therefore, understanding the nature of the program here at SEBTS, I knew I would have to work significant hours to support my family. After beginning the program and subsequently having children, I was left with a decision to make regarding full-time work. Ultimately, then, my teaching began out of necessity. Yet, since I began the degree to prepare me

to teach, it only seemed reasonable.

By teaching at a seminary, the experience I gain is invaluable. Not only am I honing my skills of reading Scripture and disciplining my time, I am also learning the dynamics of preparing lectures and teaching in the classroom, skills which are vital to my future. Specifically in the classroom, I am learning to structure my thinking and present scholarly material in an understandable way, while at the same time ministering to the students personally. The task of balancing my writing with teaching is daunting, but the fruits of both are having a positive impact on me and in turn on my students. Seeing students respond favorably to and learn consistently from my teaching is rewarding, while at the same time the benefits to me are incalculable. The students consistently challenge me to be clear and ask questions that demand impromptu responses, a skill I am developing.

With slight reservation, I recommend teaching while still in school. It should be done only if there is enough time to write consistently, else you will become overwhelmed and unproductive at both. However, since most of you have to work anyway, teaching seems like the logical job. Teaching provides invaluable experience for your future teaching career and a modest supplement to your income.

**John Ashley Nixon** (teaches *Christian Studies* at University of Mobile, Mobile, AL; Ph.D. Candidate in Church History)

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us." Gandalf the Grey.

I can't tell you whether to take a teaching position or not. I do know that teaching at the University of Mobile has added at least a year, maybe two, to my

writing. I also know that my life has become much more complicated since joining the faculty at the University of Mobile. I probably shouldn't write this, but someone has to write it: preparing lectures is hard work, you have read what you assign, and sooner or later you have to grade papers. You don't really spend that much time in the classroom each week, but students really like it when you hang out every now and then. Plus there's advising, recruiting days, committee meetings, department meetings, and a report to fill out for everything. So I guess teaching while trying to write your dissertation can get a little complicated. But as Lewis reminds us, life isn't simple (See chapter 2 of book 2 in C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*). So my best advice is: If you have the opportunity to interview, then interview. If you don't have that opportunity, then stay at SEBTS and write your dissertation.

If you do take a teaching position, the following gives you an idea of what you can expect. A basic contract at the University of Mobile requires that an instructor teach twelve hours a semester. This semester I am teaching three sections of RE 110: Christian Worldview and one section of RE 410: Church History. In other words, I have two classes for which to prepare. It usually takes from four to eight hours to prepare a basic lecture, depending on how much reading I have to do. I am assigned to five committees that meet periodically, and of course we have department meetings as needed. Each professor is also assigned about twenty to thirty students for academic advisement. If you're not careful, all of this daily grind will frustrate you, particularly when you *should* be writing your dissertation.

When I start to feel unfocused or frustrated in trying to balance family, writing, and teaching, I like to reflect on C. S. Lewis' sermon, "Learning in War-Time."

In it, he reminds us, "There are always plenty of rivals to our work. We are always falling in love or quarrelling, looking for jobs or fearing to lose them, getting ill and recovering, following public affairs. If we let ourselves, we shall always be waiting for some distraction or other to end before we can really get down to our work. The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavourable. Favourable conditions never come. . . . We must do the best we can" (C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory: "Learning in War-Time,"* 59-60). There are always plenty of rivals to our writing, whether we stay at SEBTS, pastor a church, or teach at a University. And the only students who will complete this task well will be those of us who learn to write even while the conditions are unfavorable.

**Steven P. Wade** (teaches *Christian Counseling* at SEBTS, Wake Forest, NC; Ph.D. candidate in Systematic Theology)

I finished my course work and my comprehensive exams in January 2002 and took a year off (which became two years). Don't do it! Although the extra time I spent pastoring my church during those two years has proven profitable, it was hard getting back into the routine of research and writing. Continue the work until it is accomplished. I am now pastoring a church in Zebulon, NC, teaching one course in our seminary, working to develop a Counseling Center at SEBTS and writing my dissertation. Finding time in the week for the responsibilities that each of these ministries requires sometimes becomes overwhelming, especially when you take into account that God has called me to be a husband and a father even if all else fails! God is faithful, his mercy endures forever. The Holy Spirit

strengthens and encourages in those moments when it seems that I can't go on. Working as a pastor is a blessing because it allows me the opportunity to be constantly reminded that theology is intensely practical. When your people ask you about issues such as Terry Schiavo, the death of the pope, or the purpose of tithing, it requires the theologian to bring his theology to bear on the issues that are important to the church. This same opportunity is just compounded in the seminary classroom as students express a desire to become theologians who will influence the people in their ministries. It is a humbling experience to be given the responsibility to train a generation of theologians to answer the questions of the church and culture in the coming years. Apart from the power of the Holy Spirit we are hopeless and helpless in this task. God bless as you pursue His glory and the church's edification in your task.

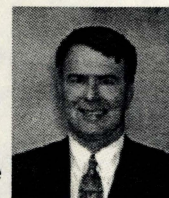
## STUDENT ARTICLES

We have decided in this issue of *Academicus* to address the question of teaching while working on the dissertation. Several ABD students were asked to discuss issues such as: concentration, date expected to graduate, the topic of the dissertation, the place of teaching—secular or Christian institution (if in a secular institution they were asked to provide information concerning witnessing opportunities), the challenges of teaching, the contribution of the SEBTS Ph.D. program in preparing for the teaching carrier, the impact of teaching upon the writing of the dissertation, suggestions for SEBTS Ph.D. students—to wait till graduation to teach or not, advantages or disadvantages in teaching while working on the dissertation, etc. The responses that we got from them were included here in the alphabetical order of their names. We would like to thank Randy McKinion, John Nixon, and Steven Wade for setting aside time from their busy schedule and contributing to our newsletter and would like to 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 Corin Mihăilă (Managing Editor). See back page for more information.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

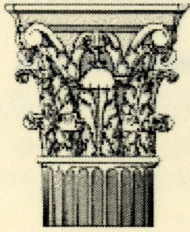
Dear friends,

I trust you are enjoying your semester and God is mightily at work in your lives and theological thinking and application. Let me extend a special welcome to our new entering students listed in this newsletter who will start the program in August. We are glad you are on board! Let me also acknowledge Janet Hellard, who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year for her excellent work and faithful service on behalf of the Ph.D. and Th.M. programs and community. She will be greatly missed by all of us. Also, consider this your personal invitation to attend any part or all of this year's Ph.D. Student conference that will be held Friday, May 6 and 13 from 1-5 p.m. I know you will benefit from listening to some excellent papers, and the students will be encouraged by your questions and comments. And don't forget to enjoy the beautiful spring weather!



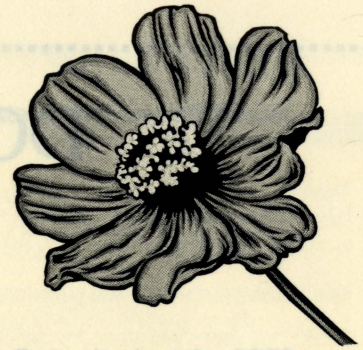
Yours in Him,

Dr. Andreas Köstenberger



# INSIDER

— SPRING 2005 —



## Women's Certificate Program

*Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary*

Call for a Teacher

2005 Fall Semester

Southeastern is advertising for Ph.D. students to teach Women's Certificate classes on Church History, Baptist History, and Basic Christian Doctrine. For those interested in teaching any of these or other classes please send in your CV and possible classes and topics you would be interested in teaching to Alicia Wong, Women's Studies coordinator. For more information call 761-2340 or e-mail [awong@sebts.edu](mailto:awong@sebts.edu).



## SEBTS E-mail Account

Please remember to set up your SEBTS e-mail account.

All the administrative and academic news that is of interest to students is communicated this way. It is to your benefit to have your SEBTS e-mail account set up.

### IMPORTANT DATES

May 6	Student Conference
May 13	Student Conference
May 16	Submit theses, project reports, and dissertations to the library for binding
May 21	Last day of classes
May 23–27	Exam Week
May 26	Semester ends. Graduation rehearsal 10:30 a.m.
May 27	Commencement Exercises 10:00 a.m.

### PLAN AHEAD

Summer 2005	Introduction to Theological French (Dr. Williams)	July 12-29 (TWR 9-12 p.m.)
Fall 2005	Introduction to Theological German (Dr. Williams)	
J-Term 2006	Theological Readings in German (Dr. Köstenberger)	
Spring 2006	Introduction to Theological Latin (Dr. Williams)	

# DOCTORAL SEMINARS

## Fall 2005

0580	Introduction to Research	Köstenberger	1	
	Dates: August 16 (2-9 p.m.) and 17 (9-4 p.m.)			
0581	Intro to Teaching in Higher Education	Buchanan	1	
	Dates: August 16 (2-9 p.m.) and 17 (9-4 p.m.)			
0116	Introduction to Theological German	Williams	2	1-5 (F)
	First meeting August 19, then meets every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates			
0575	Integrative Seminar	Köstenberger	3	1-5 (F)
	Dates: Aug. 26, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 11			
1379	Contemporary Old Testament Research	Rooker	3	12:30-3 (W)
1777	Seminar in New Testament Theology	Köstenberger	3	9-11:30 (F)
1785	Seminar in New Testament Canon	Cowen	3	7:30-10 (R)
3097	Selected Doctrine: God	Nelson	3	1-3:30 (T)
2185	Seminar in Baptist History	Harper	3	7:30-10 (W)
3281	Seminar in Western Thought	Bush	3	2-4:30 (R)
3380	Ethics of Francis Schaeffer	Heimbach	3	7:30-10 (T)
4077	Current Trends in Preaching	McDill	3	11:30-2 (R)
2379	Seminar in History of Missions	James	3	7:30-10 (T)

## Spring 2006

0112	Introduction to Theological Latin	Williams	2	1-5 (F)
	Class begins Jan. 27, then meets every Friday except Integrative Seminar dates			
0576	Integrative Seminar	Köstenberger	3	1-5 (F)
	Dates: Feb. 24, Mar. 17, Apr. 14; Student Conference: May 5 and 12			
1176	Seminar in Hebrew Prophetic Literature	Sailhamer	3	12:30-3 (W)
1485	Selected Greek Texts: Hebrews	Lanier	3	11:30-2 (R)
1898	Seminar in Biblical Theology	Köstenberger	3	9-11:30 (F)
2476	History & Theology of Spiritual Awakenings	Reid	3	7:30-10 (W)
3079	Seminar in Christology	Akin	3	2-4:30 (R)
3190	Selected Theologian: Luther	Hammett	3	7:30-10 (R)
3283	Current Topics in Philosophy: Apologetics	Little	3	7:30-10 (T)
3390	History of Moral Theology	Liederbach	3	1-3:30 (T)
	Rhetoric and Speech Communication	McDill	3	11:30-2 (W)

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

## Ph.D. Student Conference

Session one to be held in the Eitel Auditorium

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Friday, May 6, 2005 1:00-5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.	"A Prophet Reads Scripture: Intertextuality and Methodology"	Tracy McKenzie
1:25 p.m.	"Applying the Proverbs in Light of Biblical Inerrancy"	Ben Brammer
1:50 p.m.	"A Theology of Biblical Covenant in the Old Testament: Its Eschatological Implications for the Contemporary Church"	Kevin Drake
2:15 p.m.	"The Distribution of Verbal Forms in Biblical Aramaic: Ancient Greek Translator's Perspective"	Mike Shepherd
2:40 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:55 p.m.	"The Divorce Exception Clause: The Betrothal View Revisited"	John Williamson
3:20 p.m.	"Paul's Treatment of Old Testament"	Gene Pshenichny
3:45 p.m.	"What Happens to the <i>Sarx</i> in Sanctification"	Brian Sandifer
4:10 p.m.	"Evangelical Approaches to the Application of the Bible"	Erik Redelfs
4:40 P.M.	<b>ADJOURNED</b>	

Session two to be held in the Eitel Auditorium

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Friday, May 13, 2005 1:00-5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.	"A Critique of Henry Mitchell's Black Hermeneutics as Compared to Grant Osborn's Model"	Al Fullwood
1:25 p.m.	"The Hermeneutic of Jonathan Edwards"	Ted Rivera
1:50 p.m.	"Postmodern Epistemology: A Critique of Stanley Grenz and John Franke"	John Wilsey
2:15 p.m.	"Stanley Grenz's Ethic of Community"	Evan Lenow
2:40 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:55 p.m.	"Natural Theology and the Implications for Apologetics"	Jamie Dew
3:20 p.m.	"The One Ruling Norm? An Examination of Joseph Fletcher's Situational Ethic"	Seth Bible
3:45 p.m.	"John Finnis and Oliver O'Donoven: Toward Reclaiming Natural Law as an Evangelical Foundation"	Matthew Lytle
4:10 p.m.	"Contextualization: Expository Preaching in a Postmodern World"	Anthony Vahala
4:40 p.m.	<b>ADJOURNED</b>	

**EXAMS, PROSPECTUSES, AND DEFENSES**

**Thomas White** will defend his Ph.D. dissertation on April 25, 2005. The title of the dissertation is "James Madison Pendleton and His Contributions to Baptist Theology." Thomas' major professor is Dr. John Hammett. The defense will take place between 2:00-4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room in Stephens-Mackie.

The following student has successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation:

Philip Hopkins—"Missions for the Glory of God: An Analysis of the Missionary Theology of John Piper."

These students have had their Prospectuses approved:

- Alan Bandy (Ph.D.)
- Vincent Greene (Th.M.)
- Marty Jacumin (Ph.D.)
- Keith Marriner (Th.M.)
- Dwayne Milioni (Ph.D.)
- Abidan Shah (Ph.D.)
- Todd Stewart (Ph.D.)
- Larry Tyler (Ph.D.)
- Stephen Wade (Ph.D.)
- Michael White (Th.M.)

The following student has passed his Ph.D. Written & Oral Comprehensive Exams:

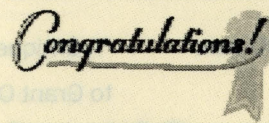
- Alan Bandy

**Congratulations!**

**NEW PH.D. STUDENTS**

On behalf of the Graduate Studies Committee, 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 and their mentors.

Justin Arbuckle	Philosophy	Dr. Bruce Little
Jason Evans	Preaching	Dr. Daniel Akin
Nathan Finn	Church History	Dr. Keith Harper
Al Fuhr	Old Testament	Dr. Mark Rooker
David Greene	Philosophy	Dr. Bruce Little
Scott Gleason	Systematic Theology	Dr. David Nelson
Jason Hall	Systematic Theology	Dr. Peter Schemm
Elizabeth Mburu	New Testament	Dr. Andreas Köstenberger
Edward Perruso	Biblical Theology	Dr. David Lanier
Ricky Persons	Systematic Theology	Dr. David Nelson
Wesley Price	Biblical Theology	Dr. David Nelson
Kevin Rodgers	Missions	Dr. Al James
Marty Sheldon	New Testament	Dr. Andreas Köstenberger
Scott Wilson	Systematic Theology	Dr. Peter Schemm
Mel Winstead	New Testament	Dr. David Alan Black



**PERSONAL NOTES**

Congratulations to **Robby Rose** for his marriage to **Kethryn Bass** on Jan 22, 2005. The ceremony took place at First Baptist Church, Henderson NC.

**Daniel Wilson** would like to announce the great news of his marriage to **Virginia Anne Murphy**. The wedding ceremony will take place in Appleby Chapel on August 13.

**Tommy** and **Carol Ann Kiker** proudly announce the birth of their daughter **Karis Diane Kiker**, born February 21 and weighing 7lbs 13oz and 19.5 inches long.

**Thayer** and **Amy Stamper** are glad to announce the birth of their little girl **Avery Kathryn**. She was born on March 3 and weighing 7lbs 6oz and 21 inches long.



## LITERARY BIRTHS

- Dr. George Braswell. *Islam and America: Questions Americans Are Asking about Muslims*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2005 (forthcoming).
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Understanding World Religions in Spanish*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2005 (forthcoming).
- Dr. Edward A. Buchanan. *Parent/Teacher Handbook. Teaching Children Ages 10 to 12. Everything They Need to Know about the Bible*, vol. 3. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005.
- Dr. Emir F. Caner and Ed Pruitt. *The Costly Call: Worldwide Testimonies of Muslims Who Have Become Christians*. Kregel Publications, 2005 (forthcoming).
- Dr. John Hammett. *The Doctrine of the Church: Baptist Prospectives*. Kregels (forthcoming).
- Dr. Daniel Heimbach with Vic Carpenter. "Buddhism: Making Sure the Gospel is Good News to a Buddhist." chapter 4, section D, part II, in *Evangelism Guidebook: Advice from Today's Evangelism Experts*, ed. Scott Dawson. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005 (forthcoming).
- Dr. David S. Hogg. *Anselm of Canterbury: The Beauty of Theology*. Ashgate, 2005.
- Dr. David W. Jones. "The Asperity of Sexual Sin: Exploring the Sexual-Spiritual Nexus." *Faith & Mission* 22.1 (2004): 3-22.
- Dr. Andreas Köstenberger. *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus*. In *New Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan (forthcoming).
- Dr. Andreas Köstenberger and Thomas R. Schreiner, eds. *Women in the Church: An Analysis and Application of 1 Timothy 2: 9-15*. Grand Rapids: Baker (forthcoming).
- Dr. Andreas Köstenberger and David Croteau. "Will a Man Rob God?' (Malachi 3:8): A Study of Tithing in the Old and New Testaments" and "Reconstructing a Biblical Model for Giving: A Discussion of Relevant Systematic Issues and New Testament Principles." *Bulletin of Biblical Research* (forthcoming).
- Dr. Mark Liederbach. "The Gospel and War." *Faith & Mission* 22.1 (2004): 84-104.
- Dr. Peter R. Schemm. "Taxis or Praxis? Why Trinitarians Do Not Make Good Feminists." *Faith & Mission* 22.1 (2004): 23-40.

## GOLD MEDALLION BOOK AWARD



The Ph.D. community at Southeastern would like to acknowledge that Dr. Andreas Köstenberger's commentary on the Gospel of John (*John*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004) is a finalist in the 2005 ECPA (Evangelical Christian Publishers Association) Gold Medallion Book Award under the category of Reference Works/Commentaries. Judged by a panel of over 200, each year's recipients are selected based on four criteria: Content, Literary Quality, Design, and Significance of Contribution. It is our honor to have as the director of our Ph.D./Th.M. studies Dr. Köstenberger, a world renown scholar and a prolific writer.

## PAPER PRESENTATION

Paul Brewster read the paper "The Perspicuity of Scripture" at the Southeast Regional ETS meeting hosted by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, March 18-19. The paper was originally written for Dr. Köstenberger's seminar on Hermeneutics. The Ph.D. community at Southeastern would like to thank Paul for representing our school in the Christian academic world.

## 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, the Administrative Assistant, and let her know what those changes might be. You may contact her at 761-2491 or [jhellard@sebts.edu](mailto: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 [corin.mihaila@sebts.edu](mailto:corin.mihaila@sebts.edu).

**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. You may submit an article or article proposal that you would like to contribute or you may suggest ideas for topics that you believe should be addressed in the front page article of *Academicus*. Send those messages to [jhellard@sebts.edu](mailto:jhellard@sebts.edu) or [corin.mihaila@sebts.edu](mailto:corin.mihaila@sebts.edu). Please type "Academicus" in the subject heading. Remember that the article should address an academic issue that is pertinent to the Ph.D. program or to the teaching ministry and will have to be approved by Dr. Köstenberger (General Editor) and Corin Mihăilă (Managing Editor).

**SOUTHEASTERN  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY**



**ACADEM I CUS**

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

**General Editor:** Andreas Köstenberger  
**Managing Editor:** Corin Mihăilă

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