

ACADEMICUS™

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

Volume 1, Issue 2

In this month's feature article, Academicus interviewed four of our distinguished faculty members concerning the role publishing should play in the development of one's academic career. Drs. Black and Sailhamer are both established scholars and authors in their respective fields who are now sought out by publishers to print their works. Dr. Köstenberger is both a published scholar and the editor of the well-known *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. Dr. McKinion is a young scholar whose works are just now being published. Each of these men gave us their perspective on the importance of publishing one's academic work.

Academicus: "What role do you believe publishing plays in the development of the graduate student and the scholar?"

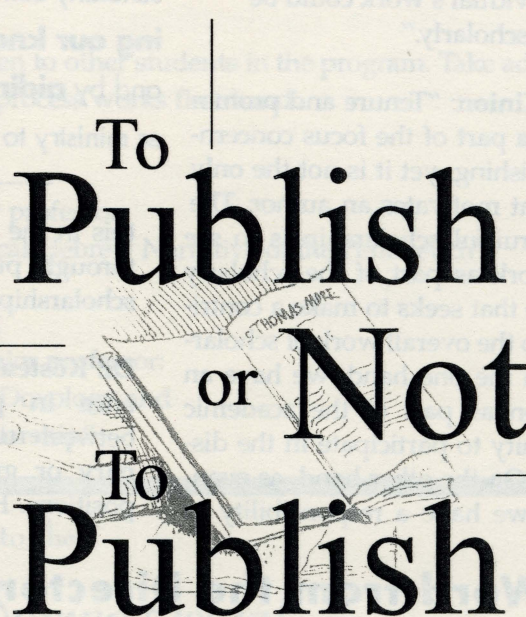
Dr. Black: "Well, for what other purpose does a doctoral program exist? The purpose is not to write a dissertation, then stop all researching and writing; in fact, the dissertation is the least important thing you will ever write. It is to be the foundation of a career of writing. What do you do with people who have doctorates but have never published anything, not even their dissertation?"

Dr. Sailhamer: "I'm not sure I would see publishing having any role for a graduate student. Publishing is something you do as a result of scholarship. Graduate students would be better off spending their time developing their scholarship skills. For the individual who has finished his training, however, writing is a major part of his task as a scholar. Having ideas that are then developed and presented for peer evaluation is a

natural aspect of true scholarship."

Dr. McKinion: "For the graduate student, publishing plays several roles. Obviously it can play a beneficial role in the acquisition of a teaching position. Yet it also plays a part in the development of the graduate student. It allows students to interact with the scholarly community and to receive vital feedback on their work concerning its content and style. Even if a journal editor rejects the student's submitted work, there will be feedback that will help the student become a better writer in the future."

Dr. Köstenberger: "We have a wide range of anticipated career goals within our graduate program at SEBTS. Some desire to enter academic fields while others are looking to enter the pastorate or other denominational positions. I would think, however, that since the Ph.D. is the highest academic degree available with research and writing forming



To Publish or Not To Publish

The Role of Publishing in One's Academic Career

the very core of the program, all of these students would want to contribute to their field of specialization in some way. By writing for publication, one helps the scholarly community both by expanding our knowledge in a given area and by aiding the church in its larger ministry to the world."

Academicus: "How important is it for a person to be published in academic circles? Is it more than just a tool for tenure acquisition?"

Dr. Sailhamer: "It depends upon the individual. Some people do not like to research and write yet they do it out of necessity for advancement. Other people enjoy exposing their ideas to critical evaluation.

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Scholarship, however, demands that one's ideas be evaluated by his peers. Otherwise you either have no original ideas or your original ideas have never been tested, in which case neither individual's work could be deemed scholarly."

Dr. McKinion: "Tenure and promotion are a part of the focus concerning publishing, yet it is not the only thing that motivates an author. The key to fruitful scholarship is to see one's work as part of the scholarly dialogue that seeks to make a contribution to the overall work of scholarship. On the one hand, we have an obligation as part of the academic community to participate in the discussion. On the other hand, as evangelicals we have a responsibility to

participate in order to infuse into our particular discipline our understanding of the faith. The only way to do

By writing for publication, one helps the scholarly community both by **expanding our knowledge** in a given area and by **aiding the church** in its larger ministry to the world.

this in the academy is to contribute through publication of meaningful scholarship."

Dr. Köstenberger: "There is a difference in publishing expectations between undergraduate and seminary or graduate school teaching positions. For a teaching position on

the undergraduate level, the emphasis tends to be less on one's research skills and more on one's classroom and interpersonal skills. This is not to say that those skills are unimportant for the professor on the graduate level, but the need for research skills, including publication, increase at the graduate teaching level. My recommendation to anyone anticipating teaching on the graduate level is to work on publishing articles while they are still in their graduate studies."

Academicus: "What do graduate students need to be doing to prepare their writing skills for publication?"

Dr. Black: "Write the papers you are working on now with publication in

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• A Word from the Director

Spring has arrived, and with it the anticipation of summer and a variety of things competing with our academic pursuits (such as resuming mowing the lawn!). While "publish or perish" may overstate the choice facing aspiring scholars at SEBTS, publishing-related inquiries are frequently raised by Ph.D. and Th.M. students. Our lead article, an interview of four published faculty members on the topic "To Publish or Not To Publish," seeks to address some of these concerns.

In other recent developments, we now have a full slate of entering students confirmed who will join our academic community this fall. From all of us we extend a hearty welcome and Godspeed in your transition! Also, the schedule for the entire 2001/2002 academic year has been finalized, so that it is now possible for students to chart out their academic and personal schedules for the foreseeable future.

Several oral defense dates are set for students who have arrived at the end of their program, with hopes that there will be several graduates from our program this May. As a social highlight to round out our year, Keith Griffin and I are planning our First Annual Spring Social for Ph.D. students and their spouses.

I want to personally thank you for your commitment to excellence in scholarship; for your pursuit of godliness in the midst of your academic work; for your commitment to ministry and family; and for the warm reception I have received from many of you in my new role as Director of Ph.D./Th.M. studies. Since the next issue of Academicus will not be out until August, may I wish all of you a great summer spent the way most pleasing to our Lord and most beneficial to you, your family, and God's people everywhere.

Yours in Christ,
Andreas J. Köstenberger

ACADEMICUS™

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INSIDER

Volume 1, Issue 2

• Ph.D. & Th.M. Calendar

DISSERTATION DEFENSES

The following dissertation defenses have been scheduled and are open to other students in the program. Take advantage of the opportunity to support your colleagues and see how the process works first-hand.

April 4, 2001 – 1:00–3:30 pm in Conference Room C of Broyhill Hall

Raymond Bouchoc – Old Testament, Dr. Mark Rooker, major professor:

“An Analysis of Disjunctive Waw Verbal Clauses in the Biblical Hebrew Narrative of the Pentateuch”

April 26, 2001 – 1:00–3:30 pm in Conference Room C of Broyhill Hall

David Nelson – Systematic Theology, Dr. Paige Patterson, major professor:

“In Spirit and Truth: The Holy Spirit and the Interrelation of Doxology and Doctrine with Implications for Evangelical Congregational Worship”

You are cordially invited to the :

First Annual Ph. D. Spring Social

Monday, April 23, 7:00–8:30 p.m., Magnolia Hill

Please RSVP to Keith Griffin at 252-431-0495 or bkgriffin@inet4u.com

April 27, 2001 – 4:00–6:30 pm in 1st Floor Conference Room of Stephens-Mackie

Charlie Warren – Systematic Theology, Dr. Paige Patterson, major professor:

“An Inquiry Into the Possible Impact of Current Scientific Research in Human Genetics on the Doctrine of Original Sin”

June 1, 2001 – 2:30–5:00 pm in Conference Room C of Broyhill Hall

Pete Schemm – Systematic Theology, Dr. Paige Patterson, major professor:

“North American Evangelical Feminism and the Triune God: A Denial of Trinitarian Relational Order in the Works of Selected Evangelical Feminists”

UPCOMING COLLOQUIUM CLASSES

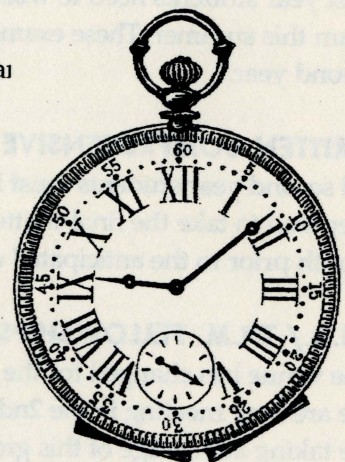
April 6 Dr. Köstenberger/Dr. Sailhamer – “The Doctrine of Scripture”

May 4&11 Ph.D. Conference papers to be presented (Appleby Chapel)

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April 27

May 18



• Program Notes

NEW STUDENTS

Our congratulations go out to the new students accepted into the Ph.D. program for the 2001/2002 academic year:

Richard Daniels – *Christian Philosophy*
Anthony Greenham – *Missions*
James Hilton – *Systematic Theology*
Colin Kerr – *Church History*
Thomas Kinchen – *Church History*
Randall McKinion – *Old Testament*
Henry Middleton – *Systematic Theology*
Andrew Neamtu – *New Testament*

John Nixon – *Church History*
Ioan Oros – *Church History*
Jose Rondon – *Systematic Theology*
Kenneth Stewart – *Evangelism*
Larry Tyler – *New Testament*
Thomas White – *Systematic Theology*
Daniel Wilson – *Church History*

INITIAL FEES

Initial fees for incoming Ph.D./Th.M. students are due no later than April 15, 2001 in the Business office.

REGISTRATION NOTES

Registration for Ph.D./Th.M. students for the 2001/2002 academic year will take place the week of April 9-13. Please note that you are registering for both fall and spring semesters at this time. All schedules must be reviewed and signed by the graduate student's major professor before they will be accepted by the Registrar's office.

Before a student's registration is official, arrangements for payment must be made with the Business office prior to the beginning of each semester's classes.

SUMMER LANGUAGE CLASS

A new structure for Theological German will begin this summer. Dr. Fred Williams will be teaching Introduction to Theological German during an extended Summer session (June 19–July 6) followed by Dr. Köstenberger teaching Theological Readings in German during the next Summer session (July 10–20). Please note these changes and adjust your schedules. All incoming students are strongly encouraged to take the German course before beginning their studies in the fall.

READING CORE EXAMS

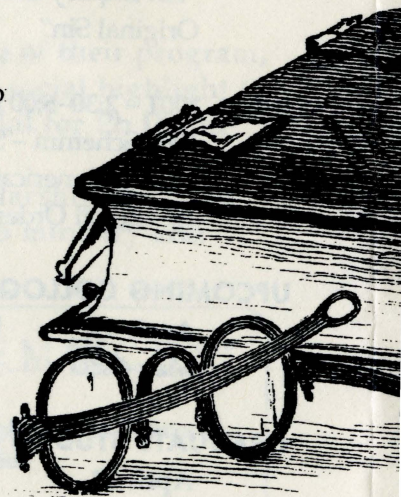
First year students need to work with their mentors to determine a date for their oral Reading Core exam this summer. These exams must be completed before one begins the fall semester of their second year.

WRITTEN COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

All second year students must inform the Graduate Studies Office in writing when they will be prepared to take the final written Comprehensive exam. This must be submitted at least one month prior to the anticipated exam date.

PH.D./ TH.M. FELLOWSHIPS

The venue has changed for the Ph.D./Th.M. fellowships held every Wednesday at 11:15 a.m. We are now meeting in the 2nd floor conference room in Stevens-Mackie Hall. Be sure you are taking advantage of this great time of food, fellowship and prayer with your colleagues in the Academic Graduate program. See you there!



CONGRATULATIONS

Ph.D. Dissertation Prospectus Approvals:

David Depp
William Curtis

Th.M. Thesis Prospectus Approvals:

Jose Rondon
David Croteau

• Book Review Guidelines

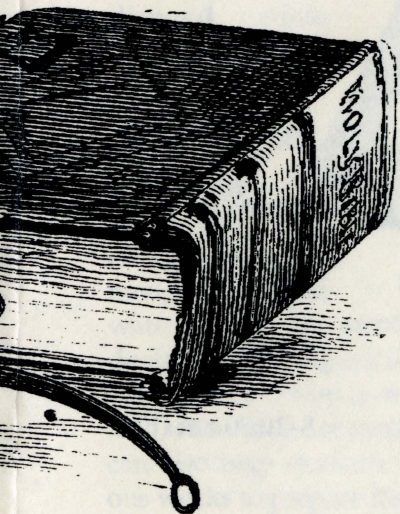
Ph.D. and Th.M. students who would like to submit book reviews for possible publication in Faith & Mission are invited and encouraged to do so. Several of you have already done this and most of these have been published. The following guidelines will help you in preparing your book reviews for submission.

- Books to be reviewed must have been published within the past two years.
- To avoid wasting your time, check first with Phyllis Jackson (faculty secretary for Dr. Beck in Stevens-Mackie, 2nd Floor/left) to insure that the book you wish to review has not already been reviewed in Faith & Mission. Also check with Thayer Stamper, Faith & Mission secretary (Appleby, bottom floor), to be sure the review has not already been assigned.
- Reviews should be approximately 800–1000 words in length, but shorter or longer reviews will be considered.
- Do not be afraid to be critical or negative in your review, but be sure to keep your remarks factual and avoid inflammatory or pejorative language or tone. See previously published reviews for samples of style and tone, especially those written by Dr. John Hammett.
- Send completed reviews electronically to dbeck@sebts.edu or give them to me on disk in PC format. I use MS Word 97, but Word 2000 or Word Perfect are also acceptable.

If you would like to receive a book to review, see Thayer Stamper for an available book in your field of interest.

Thank you for your submissions.

David Beck
Book Review Editor, Faith & Mission



• Doctoral Seminars

FALL, 2001

0580	Introduction to Research Dates: August 16-17	Köstenberger	1	9-4
0012	Introduction to Theological Latin First meeting Aug. 20, then meets every Fri. except Colloquium dates	Williams	2	1-5(F)
0575	Ph.D. Colloquium Dates: Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 9	Staff	3	1-5(F)
1779	Contemporary Approaches to NT Interpretation: Gospels	Köstenberger	3	7-9:30 (T eve)
3090	Theology of the Radical Reformers	Patterson	3	7-9:30 (R eve)
2181	Seminar in Early Christian Life and Practice	McKinion	3	1-3:30 (T)
1375	Seminar in Old Testament Theology	Galeotti	3	12:30-3 (W)
2285	Southern Baptist Foreign Missions: 1880-1920	Eitel	3	9-11:30 am (F)
3282	Seminar in Modern Western Thought	Bush	3	7:30-10 am (W)
2185	Seminar in Baptist History	Harper	3	7:30-10 am (W)

SPRING, 2002

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

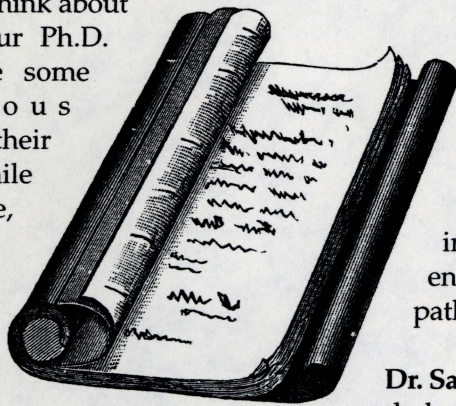
Note: Classes are to meet for at least 2 hours. At the professor's discretion, classes may meet for 2 1/2 hours.

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mind. Why write it if it isn't publishable? Everything that I have written, be it my master's thesis or my doctoral dissertation, has been published. Why else write it at all? This is one of the reasons that I went to the University of Basel for my doctoral work. There they put all of their eggs in one basket: a published dissertation. I wanted to concentrate on writing."

Dr. Sailhamer: "Develop your skills in working with the primary sources. This is where scholarship takes place. If you are going to work on Luther, then you not only need to be reading his works in the German, but you also need to be familiar with the scope of Luther's thinking. This means you will be familiar not only with his major works, but also his letters, etc. The primary sources are the key to scholarship."

Dr. Köstenberger: "For those who aspire to become a publishing scholar, my encouragement would be not to wait until after graduation to think about publishing. Our Ph.D. students have some tremendous resources at their disposal while they are here, especially in terms of faculty who have themselves successfully navigated those waters. They can mentor their students to write papers in their seminars in such a way as to be publishable when they are completed. They can also help students revise previous works to prepare them for publication. They may also be able to recommend suitable journals for the



student's particular work."

Dr. McKinion: "First, the graduate student needs to write as much as possible. The more one writes, the better he becomes as a writer. Second, one needs to get good feedback from his writing. Writing without feedback is almost as useless as not writing at all. This feedback can come from faculty here on campus, from peers in the program itself and from outside scholars as well. This refines both the student's thoughts and also his style."

Academicus: "Where should an aspiring academic author start in the publication process?"

Dr. Black: "Where everybody starts: book reviews. Numerous journals are hungry for people to write book reviews (plus you get a free book!). Then you start milking your seminar papers and your dissertation topic for publishable material. You send them out to the various refereed journals for consideration, and they either say yes or no. If they say no, then you send it out to another one. Then you take your compiled research and publish your first book. Students who are working with me are being encouraged to follow this path."

Dr. Sailhamer: "I believe that a scholar needs to develop his major body of research first. That is one reason I do not see publishing as an issue of concern for the graduate student; he is just now developing his research skills. Once a scholar has this body of research, he then seeks to publish it as a monograph. After this, he uses this research to answer different issues via the jour-

nal article. As far as book reviews are concerned, I think that a graduate student would find more benefit utilizing that time honing his research skill."

Academicus: "What are reputable journals looking for in a publishable article?"

Dr. McKinion: "One thing they are looking for is a contribution to scholarship. Real scholarship is done in the journals, not in books. They want someone who is involved with the scholastic dialogue at hand, not just rehashing old arguments or summarizing existing positions. They also consider articles that are well written, both in their prose and in the flow of their arguments. Use of primary text material is also a quality that is desired by reputable journal editors."

Dr. Köstenberger: "In the editorial of the March issue of JETS I address this subject as it affects my own editorial duties. There I list three or four different things I look for in a publishable article. The first and most important thing is quality scholarship. The second consideration is maturity of perspective. There is no substitute for experience. On the other hand, some of the best articles I receive are from doctoral students involved in significant research on a narrow topic. Third, does the article make a significant contribution to scholarship or is it simply restating the traditional points of view. Finally, I like the occasional article that 'breaks the mold' and demonstrates a fresh originality in its approach to a topic."

Academicus: "How does one approach a publisher with one's first manuscript?"

Dr. Black: "First, you have someone who has published with them tell

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you how that publisher works. You can go to their web site and find their proposal guidelines and follow them to the letter. Most of the time they do not want your entire manuscript, just a small part of it. It is also nice to have someone who has published with them in the past write a cover letter to go with your proposal."

Dr. McKinion: "With a journal article, one either sends an abstract of the article to the editor of the journal or the complete manuscript of the article with a cover letter. Any brief correspondence, particularly through email, can be helpful to introduce yourself to the editors. With books the process is a bit different because you are dealing with an acquisitions editor. Typically they would either want a short correspondence where you introduce yourself and or a brief book proposal that can be examined in a short amount of time. This may include a Curriculum Vitae, a short explanation of your book idea (which may include things like your table of contents) and an assessment of your potential audience."

Dr. Köstenberger: "With a journal article, one should locate the editor's address, request any stylistic requirements that journal may have, and conform the article to those requirements before sending it in for consideration. Then one sends the article to the editor of the journal with a cover

Develop your skills in the **primary** sources. This will **ground** you in the remainder of your scholarly pursuits.

letter that briefly summarizes the contribution this article seeks to make to the scholarly dialogue. This gives the editor an immediate sense of what this article is trying to accomplish. Then one must simply wait for a response."

Academicus: "What one piece of advice would you give to a graduate student who wants to produce publishable material?"

Dr. Black: "Beware of the greatest danger in your academic career: pride. People are writing to please

the academy; writing to join the academic guild; writing for the wrong reasons. All scholarship must be done for the church. I'm not a scholar who happens to be a disciple; I'm a disciple who has been called to be a scholar."

Dr. Sailhamer: "Develop your skills in the primary sources. This will ground you in the remainder of your scholarly pursuits."

Dr. McKinion: "Write. Write. Write and receive feedback. Not only must you be open to criticism; you must actively seek it from sources that can sharpen your skills. The more one writes and receives feedback, the more they will develop."

Dr. Köstenberger: "I would say that the most important element to the publishing process is for the student to have a passion and conviction about the issue he is writing about. That driving passion will motivate him to communicate what he thinks is important to others. With this motivation, publishing will be an inevitable result of his work."



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