New Graduate Students Welcomed at “First Days”

The 2012–2013 Academic Year began with “First Days.” New graduate students joined Concordia Seminary’s ministerial formation students for several days of orientation and activities. With the addition of these new students, the Graduate School currently has almost 140 students in its Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, and Doctor of Philosophy programs. The new option of completing the PhD or STM coursework through the modular courses (two-week short courses in January and July) is bringing even more students to our campus. This option has filled a need for parish pastors and others who desire to continue their ministry while at the same time pursuing an advanced degree as well as for many of our international friends for whom a residential graduate education presents far too many hardships.

The students of the Graduate School as well as staff and faculty and their families joined together in September for a cookout on the East Courtyard. Although the weather threatened rain all day, the evening was beautiful, and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.
New International Students…

Three international students have come to the Graduate School since last fall. They are Alexandre Vieira an STM student from Brazil. Alexandre also holds an MA from Concordia Seminary. He is pursuing the STM in exegetical theology and hopes to roll up to the PhD. Alex is also the Graduate Assistant in the graduate school office. Samuel Fuhrman is also an STM student from Brazil. His focus is practical theology, and he hopes to roll up to the PhD in Theology and Culture. Andry Randrianasolo comes to us from Madagascar. He is one of our five International Adopt-A-Students. He is pursuing a PhD in Theology and Culture.

Spotlight on our Professors …

Reed Lessing (Director of the Graduate School) is serving as a reader on a dissertation entitled “My Servants Shall Eat”: The Prospect of Eating in the Book of Isaiah by Andrew T. Abernethy, a PhD candidate at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois. Dr. Lessing will also be presenting a paper at the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) meeting in Chicago in November. His paper, being presented to the Formation of Isaiah Section is entitled, “Translating Instantaneous Perfect Verbs: Interpreting Isaiah 40-55.” Additionally Dr. Lessing recently released a Lenten Series, Restore the Roar, based on his Amos commentary in the Concordia Commentary Series. Details can be found on the Concordia Publishing House Website.

Bruce Schuchard (Dean of Advanced Studies) will be presenting a paper for the Johannine Literature Section at SBL entitled, “Form versus Function: Citation Technique and Authorial Intention in the Gospel of John.” In December Concordia Publishing House will release Dr. Schuchard’s 1–3 John in the Concordia Commentary Series. From the Concordia Publishing House Website:

These epistles represent the singular voice of an extraordinary
theologian. John, the last living apostle, writes to his “children.” For decades he has served as the elder father of the house churches of Asia Minor, but during his exile, false teaching has persuaded some to abandon the faith and the life of the community of the beloved. At least one church’s leader has presumed to advance his own teaching at the expense of the apostle’s instruction. Knowing that his days are numbered, John sends a general epistle, 1 John, together with its introductory cover letter, 2 John. In order to address the errant leader’s conduct, he also sends a situation-specific, personal and pastoral addendum, 3 John. Rallying the faithful so that none would be lost to the on-going threat of deception, John urges his children to confess by the Spirit in this last hour the man Jesus as the Son of the Father, come in the flesh in truth and love. The fulfillment of God’s historic dealings with his people of old is Jesus’ atoning sacrifice of himself. Through his shed blood, a cleansing flood, God confers the life of the age to come.

Jim Voelz (Professor of Exegetical Theology) will be presiding for SBL’s Mark Section in November.

Publications Papers and Presentations …

Michael Ziegler (PhD Candidate) represented the graduate school at the 2012 Religion, Literature, and the Arts Conference hosted by the University of Iowa in Iowa City, August 23-26, 2012. The conference theme was "Futures and Illusions—Hope and the Longing for Utopia." He presented a sectional paper in the "Conceptual Structures" session entitled "Luther in Light of Freud—Community without Metaphysics." The abstract of Michael’s paper stated the following:

In his influential essay, *The Future of Illusion* (1927), Sigmund Freud presented a critical review of religion as a wish-fulfilling human neurosis. More precisely, religion is a reaction against the feeling of insignificance in the face of a capricious universe. To be religious is to seek a remedy against this feeling. In Western culture since Plato, metaphysics—the practice of providing comprehensive explanations for reality—has been a powerful religious coping mechanism. Drawing on Luther’s response to Erasmus in *On Bound Choice* (1525) as well as his *Lectures on Ecclesiastes* (1526), this paper examines Luther in light of Freud’s critique of religion. Luther is presented as no less irreligious than Freud. To the degree that Luther attacks the remedies offered in Western metaphysics, he has an ally in Freud. The paper continues by distinguishing Luther’s irreligious response from Freud’s. Luther’s response takes a non-nihilistic trajectory, whereas Freud’s takes a nihilistic one. In conclusion, it compares and contrasts the implications of each view with regard to living communally without a metaphysical undergirding. Both men sever the reciprocal link between social ethics and hope for an ultimate remedy to our helplessness. Following the nihilistic path, Freud severs the link by removing a sacred authority that has power to finally save us or damn us. Luther, however, severs the link by acquiescing to our helplessness and leaving any prospect for an ultimate remedy to be both defined and imposed by God. Yet each, in his own way, frees social ethics from the burden of achieving ultimate or
utopian success. Therefore, their visions for communal life, while different, are not necessarily incompatible.

Paul Landgraf (STM 2012) attended and gave a short paper at the Galatians & Christian Theology Conference at St. Andrews, Scotland, this past summer from July 10–14. The first keynote lecturer of the conference was N.T. Wright. Several scholars and theologians were there from the States, including Timothy Wengert (of the Kolb/Wengert edition of the Book of Concord). Paul's paper was entitled, “A Cinderella Story: The Role of Galatians within a Gospel Canon.” In it he argued for a New Testament canon that was formed due to a significant influence of the kerygmatic gospel. During the trip he was also able to visit the church in Coventry, England, where he was pastor from 2004–2009.

Tom Hobson (PhD) recently published an adaptation of Chapter 3 of his dissertation under the title "Punitive Expulsion in the Ancient Near East" in Zeitschrift für Altorientalische und Biblische Rechtsgeschichte 17 (2011): 15-32. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the new Northland College in West Frankfort, IL.

Adam Hensley (PhD Candidate) published an article entitled "σιγάω, λαλέω, AND ύποτάσσω in 1 CORINTHIANS 14:34 IN THEIR LITERARY AND RHETORICAL CONTEXT" (JETS 55 [2012]: 343–64). The article had its genesis in a doctoral seminar on 1 Corinthians with Dr. Jeff Kloha in the Spring of 2009 (EN821). This opportunity to study 1 Corinthians at CSL was instrumental to its production and eventual publication, and so Adam expresses his gratitude to God and to CSL for it. The article also grows out of Adam’s experience of the Lutheran Church of Australia's wrestling over the role of women in the church in recent decades. The LCA's debates have rightly focused on the exegesis of 1 Corinthians 14:34 (as well as 1 Timothy 2:11-14). Although Adam has long been convinced that these texts reveal God's will for a male-only pastorate, these experiences taught him that closer and more rigorous work on this key text was important for the sake of his brothers and sisters in Christ who struggled with the question more than he. Nevertheless, it led him to what he considers a richer and more nuanced understanding 1 Cor 14:34 and its literary, rhetorical, and situational context. The article focuses on the exegesis of the text rather than its implications for the life of the church. Here is an abstract that identifies its main contentions:

This article argues that the referents of σιγάω, λαλέω, and ύποτάσσω in 1 Cor. 14:34 are clarified by their immediate rhetorical context in 1 Cor 14:29–37. The silence Paul enjoins on the Corinthian women pertains to the prophetic evaluation of other prophetic utterances, with a functional differentiation between "evaluative prophetic speech" and general prophecy being the key to their interpretation and to the rhetorical continuity of vv. 26–40. 1 Cor 14:34 creates no contradiction with Ch. 11 because it urges female prophets to submit their prophecies to prophetic evaluation as true prophets do according to v. 32, while prohibiting them from
exercising such evaluative prophetic speech themselves. Thus, in v. 34 Paul addresses a problem occasioned by the women’s misconduct as prophets in the Corinthians’ public assemblies rather than as wives, while in v. 35 he addresses them in their capacity as wives/members of households to commend a solution to that problem.

**Upcoming Events**

A “social event of the season” at Concordia Seminary has been the Graduate School Christmas Party. This year, in order to include our modular and Doctor of Ministry students, the Christmas Party has been moved to Epiphany. Just as the Magi came from afar to worship the Christ Child, people will come from far and wide to celebrate his epiphany with fellow graduate students and with the rest of the seminary community and its guests. Mark your calendars now.

*Grad School Epiphany Party*

*Friday, January 11, 2013*

*7:00 – 9:00 p.m.*

*The Presidents Room*

*Concordia Seminary*

**Academic Notices**

All graduate students must pay careful attention to both the Academic Catalogue and the program guidelines located on the Graduate School Portal. Failure to follow the guidelines of the Graduate School and its procedures invariably results in serious consequences. Language exams, comprehensive exams, prospectus and proposal hearings, and dissertation forums must all be scheduled though the Graduate School Office. Submission and editing procedures must be followed for all phases of dissertation and thesis writing. Do not neglect to use the templates provided on the portal or to consult with the appropriate style guides. When in doubt, consult with your Graduate School advisor. For MA students this is Deaconess Ruth McDonnell (McDonnellR@csl.edu), and for STM and PhD students it is Dr. Reed Lessing (LessingR@csl.edu).

**STM students**, don’t forget the upgrade procedures for your 400-level classes. You need to retrieve the forms from the graduate school and have them signed by the end of the quarter.

**PhD students** need to remember to have their professors write a brief evaluation of any TA experiences and send those to the graduate school. Please also remember that you must contact the registrar to sign up for audits and TA’s.
MA
Thesis Procedures: [http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/Procedures%20MA%20Thesis.pdf](http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/Procedures%20MA%20Thesis.pdf)

STM
Student Guidelines:
[http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/STM%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf](http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/STM%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf)
Thesis Procedures: [http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/Procedures%20STM%20Thesis.pdf](http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/Procedures%20STM%20Thesis.pdf)

PhD
Guidelines: [http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/PhD%20Guidelines.pdf](http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/PhD%20Guidelines.pdf)

**Dates and Deadlines …**

**MA Thesis**
- If the student wishes to participate in the commencement exercises of a given academic year, a completed penultimate copy of the thesis must be submitted both to the Graduate School and to the advisor (for distribution to the readers) by **February 1**.
- The advisor and readers then sign together the original thesis form, indicating their formal approval (none may sign until all are prepared to do so). “Sign-off” must take place no later than **March 1** and must include the offering of all final recommendations for corrections both to the Graduate School and to the student.
- The student must then make all corrections recommended by the advisor and the readers and submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than **April 1**.
- The student must submit the final form of the thesis, incorporating corrections indicated by the thesis secretary no later than **May 1**.

**STM Thesis**
- If the student wishes to participate in the commencement exercises of a given academic year, a completed penultimate copy of the thesis must be submitted both to the Graduate School and to the advisor (for distribution to the readers) by **January 15**.
• The advisor and readers then sign together the original thesis form, indicating their formal approval (none may sign until all are prepared to do so). “Sign-off” must take place no later than **February 15** and must include the offering of all final recommendations for corrections both to the Graduate School and to the student.

• The student must then make all corrections recommended by the advisor and the readers and submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than **March 15**.

• The student must submit the final form of the thesis, incorporating corrections indicated by the thesis secretary no later than **April 15**.

**Comprehensive Exams for MA and STM**

• Please check with the Graduate School early in the Spring Quarter to find out the last date for comprehensive exams for students who intend to participate in commencement.

**PhD Dissertation**

• If the student wishes to participate in the commencement exercises of a given academic year, a completed penultimate copy of the entire dissertation (bibliography included) must be submitted both to the Graduate School and to the Dissertation Supervisor (for distribution to the readers) by **December 15**. NB: the body of the dissertation may not be fewer than 200 nor more than 300 pages in length.

• The Dissertation Supervisor and readers then sign together the PhD Dissertation Final Approval Form, indicating their formal approval (none may sign until all are prepared to do so). This satisfies the “sign-off” requirement on the Notification of Intention to Graduate form. “Sign-off” must take place no later than **January 15** and must include the offering of all final recommendations for corrections both to the Graduate School and to the student.

• The student must then make (if necessary) all corrections recommended by the Dissertation Supervisor and the readers and submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than **February 15**.

• The student must submit the final form of the dissertation, incorporating corrections indicated by the Dissertation Secretary, no later than **April 1**.