Welcome New International Students!

The Graduate School welcomes two new International Students to the Seminary.

Christine Ouko from Kenya is starting the MA program. She is earning a dual degree: Masters in Social Work and a Masters of Arts. Christine is married with three children, but her family remains in Kenya as she studies in St. Louis.

Subin Raj from India is starting the STM program and hopes to roll up to the PhD. Subin was ordained in 2004 and served as “Youth Promoter” for his region in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) – a partner church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Subin is married with a three-year old son and his wife is expecting their second child on soon. Subin’s family remains in India while he is studying in St. Louis.

Farewell and Welcome…

The Graduate School thanks Dr. Reed Lessing for his 7 years of service as its director! Dr. David Maxwell assumed the duties of the Director of the Graduate School at the end of August.
Graduate School Picnic

The Graduate School held its Fall potluck on September 20th. Though it had to be held indoors due to the uncooperative weather, the picnic was still a great time for all who attended!

Publications

Graduates of Concordia’s PhD program, Peter Nafzger and Rob Fossett, have had their dissertations published. Both completed their work under the supervision of Dr. Joel Okamoto. Click on the book cover for ordering information.

These Are Written: Toward a Cruciform Theology of Scripture
By Peter Nafzger

Today there is an increasing awareness and availability of the sacred writings of the world's religions. This raises important questions about the Christian Scriptures. What is distinctive about these writings? What role do they play in the Christian story? What makes these particular texts "holy"? The modern "battle for the Bible," with its narrow focus on proving (or disproving) biblical inerrancy, has made it difficult to provide sufficient answers. This work of constructive theology rethinks the concepts, categories, and assumptions that have dominated the modern approach to the Bible by returning to the biblical narrative and its focus on the cross. It identifies the Scriptures as the written form of the living and active Word of God, which was spoken by the prophets and apostles and became human in the person of Jesus Christ. This conception of the Bible provides Christians in this postmodern world with a solid ground from which to address pressing questions about canon, authority, and interpretation of their Scriptures.

Upon This Rock: The Nature of Doctrine from Antifoundationalist Perspective
By Robert L. Fossett

Nearly thirty years ago, George Lindbeck wrote his seminal and highly influential work The Nature of Doctrine. Since that time, there has been no serious attempt at moving beyond the problems he lays out, in particular the problem of foundationalism. Upon This Rock is not merely a response to George Lindbeck's important work; it is an attempt to show how theology and religious discourse can truly move past the particular problems posed by foundationalism—the assumption of and search for so-called objective and universal standards—by looking at just one important discussion within the field: the modern discussion on the nature and function of doctrine. Upon This Rock offers an account of doctrine—an account that includes such topics as the authority of Scripture, biblical interpretation, and the role of the Church and the nature of her doctrine, among others—that moves the Church past the problems of foundationalism and back to her one true rock: Jesus Christ, her Lord.
2013 Theological Symposium

Three PhD students presented papers at Concordia’s 24th annual Theological Symposium:

PhD candidate Beth Hoeltke presented a paper entitled “(Re)Discovering a Theology of Creation in Church Hymnody.”

PhD student Ruth McDonnell presented a paper entitled “Singing the Faith: Paul Gerhardt’s Eschatological Vision and Its Revision.”

PhD student Cathryn Zarnke presented a paper entitled “Luther’s Eschatology as Depicted in the Life and Work of Cranach.”

Upcoming Events

Advanced Studies Epiphany Party
January 10th
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
The Presidents Room
Concordia Seminary

Guidelines, Deadlines, and Dates to Remember

All graduate students must pay careful attention to both the Academic Catalog and the program guidelines located on SemNet for the Graduate School. 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 through 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 and to consult with the appropriate style guides. The template is a preformatted Word doc with styles set in keeping with what’s expected of all graduate students. You are required to use the template for all stages of your written work. If you can’t find what you are looking for, or are having trouble working with the formatting and styles of the template, contact the Graduate School at gradschool@csl.edu. When in doubt, consult with the director of your program. For MA students this is Deaconess Ruth McDonnell (McDonnellR@csl.edu), and for STM and PhD students it is Dr. David Maxwell (Maxwelld@csl.edu).

Prior to presenting a prospectus, or proposal for approval, it must be submitted to the Office of the Graduate School for evaluation. Once submitted, the document is reviewed by the Graduate Editor, who marks it for errors in grammar, style, and/or formatting. The student is responsible for all corrections, which must be made before the document can continue with the approval process. Documents must be submitted to the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to their consideration for approval. The guidelines for each of the Graduate School’s degrees are available on SemNet.

It is critical that all students use the proper templates for the writing of a prospectus, proposal, thesis, or the final form of the dissertation! Each program’s templates are available on SemNet. If a student fails to use the appropriate template or fails to heed the appropriate style manuals, the approval process will be halted, and the document will be returned to the student for correction.

Keep your contact information current

Be sure to update your student information on SemNet. If you need to change your address, phone number, or other personal information, log into SemNet and click on the “My Profile” tab.

Student Accounts

Remember that under the SemNet system, no paper bills are mailed out. Students are responsible to check their accounts on SemNet to make sure that they are fulfilling their obligations. Each quarter students will receive an email from the Registrar’s Office regarding registration. This is an important and necessary time for all students to check their SemNet accounts for outstanding bills, “stops,” or anything else that might require an action on the part of a student. A student’s account may be checked by logging into SemNet and clicking on the Accounting tab. If there is a stop, the student’s account information will indicate which department has placed the “stop” on the account. In the case of a stop, the student is expected to contact the appropriate department to determine what must be done in order to have the stop removed. Then the student may proceed with registration.

Once students enter into the exam or writing phase of their work, their registration is processed automatically. However, if there is a stop on a student’s account, the registration process is halted until the stop is removed. Therefore, it is imperative that students continue to check their accounts every quarter for possible stops at the time of registration even in the exam or writing phase of their work. If a student cannot register due to a stop, the student must do what is necessary to have the stop removed and then contact the Registrar’s Office (mennekeb@csl.edu) to be properly registered.

Health Insurance

If a student no longer needs Seminary health insurance, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the Campus Nurse, Carla Hagan (haganca@csl.edu). The student will continue to be billed until the proper steps are taken. An international student, who travels home for an extended period, does not need to remain on Seminary insurance. The student is responsible for letting Carla know of all travel plans, so that the student is billed for insurance only when coverage is needed.

400-Level Course Upgrades

STM students and MDiv dual-credit students must “upgrade” their 400 level courses. Forms for this are available on the Graduate School Portal at: http://portalold.csl.edu/Gradschool/Pubs/Forms/gradschool-STM.htm. Not the right hyperlink. NB: The forms for each program are almost identical except for their headings. Be sure to use the appropriate form.

Email Addresses

Expect to hear regularly from the Graduate School through your Seminary assigned email address. It is very simple to have that email forwarded to any other address that you prefer to use. In your CSL email account, click “options” in the upper right by your name. Then click “organize email” on the left side. Click “inbox rules.” Then click “new” under “inbox rules.” A new window will pop up with two drop down menus. In the first select “apply to all messages,” and in the second select “redirect message to.” A window will come up with the Seminary directory. Simply go all the way to the bottom and type the desired email address into the box next to “To:.” Click OK in the lower right and save the new rule. All correspondence sent to your CSL account will go directly to your preferred email address.
**Teaching Assistantships**

**PhD students** need to remember to have their professors complete an evaluation of any TA experience and send this to the Graduate School. Remember also that you must contact the registrar to sign up for each experience as a TA.

**Deadlines …**

**MA Thesis**
- The advisor and readers 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**
- 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**
- The last date for comprehensive exams for students who intend to participate in commencement is April 1st.

**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) in either PDF or Microsoft Word format by **December 15**.
- 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**.