Welcome to New Students

Doctor of Philosophy

Jean Baptiste is a native of Cameroon and an Exegetical major. When he finishes his degree, he hopes to function as part of the Bible Society of Cameroon, which currently has only one trained exegete. He also plans to teach African pastors and Biblical studies students at Ecole de Theologie Kaele so that they can share the Word of God with their communities.

Timios Cook is a Reformation Studies major. Timios comes to Concordia Seminary from Pittsburg, Kansas. After graduation he hopes to teach Church History.

Curran Bishop is a Reformation Studies major. Curran grew up in Georgia and served as a youth minister in North Carolina before completing an M.Div. at Covenant Seminary. After graduation, he hopes to serve the church through teaching and pasturing in urban contexts.

Jared Sizemore is a NT Biblical Studies major, studying under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs. Originally from the Indianapolis area, Jared recently completed his M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. After graduation he would like to pursue teaching opportunities in a Christian college or seminary setting.
Cathryn Zarnke returns to Concordia St Louis from her home town Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia after completing a MA earlier this year. She hopes to use her Doctrinal Theology concentration in conjunction with her education and visual art background to look at the visual communication of Lutheran distinctives.

Michael Zeigler is a Doctrinal Theology major, studying under the direction of Dr. Charles Arand. He came to Concordia Seminary after serving as an active duty Air Force officer. He completed his M.Div. at Concordia in 2010. After graduation, he hopes to become a pastor for LCMS and a resource on the doctrines of Creation and Eschatology.

Master of Sacred Theology

Aron Bell is an Exegetical major. He currently lives in Richmond Heights with his wife, Jessica, and his son, Levi.

Mark Femmel, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Maryland Heights, Missouri, received his M.Div. in 2006 and is an Exegetical major. Mark hopes to cultivate his understanding of the Word of God, to follow it and empower others to do so as well.

David Herald is a Historical Theology major from Michigan who graduated from Concordia University, Ann Arbor. After graduation, he plans to receive a call to a Missouri Synod congregation.
Matthew Kobs is a Systematics major from Russellville, AR. After graduation, he hopes to play an active role in Japanese ministry in the Lutheran Church.

Timothy Koch is an Exegetical major, studying NT Greek Manuscripts, particularly Greek minuscules. He comes to Concordia Seminary from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. It is his hope to finish this degree and then take a call to a parish or teach theology at the high school level.

Aaron Kuehn is an Exegetical major from Lincoln, NE. He hopes to receive a call this coming spring.

Joshua LaFeve is from Dimondale, MI. Joshua is an Exegetical major.

Aaron Roggow is a Practical major. He is looking forward to his first call in spring 2011.
Jonathan Rusnak is a systematics major. He is looking forward to his first call in spring 2011.

Jacob Scott is an Exegetical major. He is originally from Minnesota. After graduation, he hopes to serve the Church as a parish pastor and Army Reserve chaplain.

Liwei Sui is an Exegetical major from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. He hopes to finish a PhD in OT and return to his country to serve both as a pastor and teacher.

The Graduate School now has a Facebook Page. Type "Grad" in your search bar and it will take you to the Graduate School's Facebook page. If you click that you "Like It," all future posts will appear also on your Facebook page.
Fall Barbecue

More than sixty graduate students turned out for the fall barbecue to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. The weather was fantastic, and the students enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other students and their families outside of a classroom setting.

Recent Publications of Concordia Seminary Students

PhD student Beth Hoeltke co-authored and published the essay “Getting up to Speed: What Might I Read?” with Dr. Charles Arand, her Doktavater, in the summer 2010 Concordia Journal.

PhD student Chad Lakies published an essay in the September issue of the New Blackfriars, Vol. 91, No 1035. He delivered this paper at the "Towards a Philosophy of Life" conference convened by the Association for the Continental Philosophy of Religion, held at Liverpool Hope University in June, 2009. It is a philosophical/theological paper that challenges our cultural captivity to a life of total work.

PhD student David Zehnder’s article, "A Theologian's Typology for Science and Religion," was recently published in Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science. David hopes that it will expose a very broad audience to our Lutheran theology. Published since 1966, Zygon is dedicated to the manifold interactions between the sciences and human religious and moral convictions. The journal includes both religious and non-religious perspectives, those rooted in the great traditions such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, but also to religious naturalism, secular humanism, and atheism.
Paul, Michael J. “The Distinctiveness and Application of Martin Luther’s Two-Dimensional Anthropology in the Taiwan Church.” Ph.D. diss., Concordia Seminary, 2010. 320 pp.

Over the past thirty years the Chinese church has increasingly shown interest in the theology of Martin Luther. During this same time period, the western church has shown renewed interest specifically in Luther’s understanding of the two kinds of human righteousness.

This study integrates these two trends by applying Luther’s two-dimensional anthropology into the context of the Chinese church in Taiwan. First, the Chinese church’s recent interest in Luther’s theology and the recent western research treating Luther’s understanding of the two kinds of righteousness are reviewed. Next, an anthropological understanding common in the Taiwan church is introduced by presenting a survey of the popular Taiwan church and by outlining the theology of a very influential presentday Chinese theologian, Stephen Tong. In this common view, people are understood to have significant responsibilities to establish and maintain a right relationship with God, one that will ultimately result in eternal life in heaven. This focus on human performance often results in uncertainty or even fear in the lives of Taiwan Christians.

This common view is then contrasted with Luther’s, particularly by means of a detailed comparison of Tong’s and Luther’s theological anthropologies. In contrast to Tong, Luther first posits that people passively receive from God a right relationship with him in the vertical dimension of their existence. God freely grants this right relationship through the means of his Word that connects people to Christ and his perfect righteousness. God also promises to keep his beloved children in this faith relationship until their final entrance into eternal life. Since people can trust God’s promises, they are freed from worry about their status before God and are freed to serve others actively in the horizontal dimension of their existence.

Luther’s two-dimensional anthropology is quite distinctive in the Taiwan church context and Christians there could benefit from understanding and applying it in their lives. While Luther acknowledges that Christians still struggle daily with their old sinful nature, he maintains that they are freed by God from having to struggle for eternal salvation and can thus struggle instead to meet the needs of those around them.

Important 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**. There is no flexibility in this date.
  - 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). This satisfies the “sign-off” requirement on the Notification of Intention to Graduate form. “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. There is no flexibility in this date.
The student must then make all corrections recommended by the Advisor and the readers, receive again the approval of the Advisor, and submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than April 1. There is no flexibility in this date.

The student must submit the final form of the thesis, incorporating corrections indicated by the thesis secretary (and, if necessary, reviewed by the Advisor), and receiving a final approval from the Advisor, no later than May 1.

The library then prepares an archival copy of the final form of the thesis on 25% and 100% cotton bond paper. The cost for this is billed to the student. Once the archival copy is made, the student may keep the original, if the student so chooses.

The Advisor and readers must sign the title page of the archival copy before it is sent to the Library.

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. There is no flexibility in this date.

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). This satisfies the “sign-off” requirement on the Notification of Intention to Graduate form. “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. There is no flexibility in this date.

The student must then make all corrections recommended by the Advisor and the readers, receive again the approval of the Advisor, and submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than March 15. There is no flexibility in this date.

The student must submit the final form of the thesis, incorporating corrections indicated by the thesis secretary (and, if necessary, reviewed by the Advisor), and receiving a final approval from the Advisor, no later than April 15.

The library then prepares an archival copy of the final form of the thesis on 25% and 100% cotton bond paper. The cost for this is billed to the student. Once the archival copy is made, the student may keep the original, if the student so chooses.

The Advisor and readers must sign the title page of the archival copy before it is sent to the Library.

The student then fills out a TREN form (located on the grad school portal site). The TREN form is sent to the Library with the archival copy of the thesis.

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. There is no flexibility in this date. NB: the body of the dissertation may not be less 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). “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. There is no flexibility in this date.

The student must then make (if necessary) all corrections recommended by the Dissertation Supervisor and the readers, receive again the approval of the Dissertation Supervisor, and
- Submit the corrected semi-final draft to the Graduate School no later than **February 15**. There is no flexibility in this date.
- The student must submit the final form of the dissertation, incorporating corrections indicated by the Dissertation Secretary, no later than **April 1**.
- The library then prepares an archival copy of the final form of the dissertation on 25% and 100% cotton bond paper. The cost for this is billed to the student. Once the archival copy is made, the student may keep the original, if the student so chooses.
- The Dissertation Supervisor and readers must sign the title page of the archival copy before it is sent to the Library.
- The PhD student then fills out a TREN form (located in the Graduate School). The TREN form is sent to the Library with the archival copy of the dissertation.
- After approval of the full dissertation and after submission of its final form and before graduation, the student will make a public presentation of the results of his work in an open “forum.” Arrangement of the details for the Dissertation Forum will be made by the Graduate School, with the consent of all parties involved.
- The Graduate School alone shall inform the student of the final completion of all of the requirements of the program and shall inform the student of his/her opportunity to graduate and to participate in the spring commencement exercises of a given academic year.