

Graduate Studies *Bulletin*



Spring 2005

Concordia Seminary • 801 Seminary Place • St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Commencement

This year's group of PhD graduates participating in spring Commencement was the largest in 10 years. Congratulations to PhD graduates Matt Heckel, Erik Herrmann, Guntis Kalme, Joel Lehenbauer, Naomichi Masaki, and Timothy Roser. Congratulations also to MA graduates Sarah Arthur, Robert Balduc, Elizabeth Borth, Sandy Bowers, Rebecca Conner, Linda Cosgrove, Rebekah Curtis, Jeanette Dart, Sarah Day, Jonathon Giordano, Jun Hyun Kim, Cynthia Koch, Laura Lane, Maximiliano Silva, Tressa Weyer, and Ai He (Luke) Zheng, and to STM graduates David Faulkner, Ray Hagan, Andrew Kennell, Robin Korsch, Yin Chao (Frank) Lin, W. Max Mons, Douglas Reinders, John Sharp, Joseph Stanley, and Ryan Tietz.

Craig Koester to Teach in January

Dr. Craig Koester of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., has agreed to teach a two-week intensive seminar for Concordia Seminary's PhD program in Biblical Studies in January 2006. The focus of the seminar will be on the Gospel of John, an area of particular expertise for Dr. Koester. Koester's published works include *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery, Community; Revelation and the End of All Things*; and the Anchor Bible Commentary on the Letter to the Hebrews. The Graduate School is most grateful for Dr. Koester's willingness to make himself available and eagerly awaits the opportunity that his time on campus will provide.

Graduate Banquet 2005

This year's end-of-the-year banquet for those participating in spring Commencement was again a great success. Because the event was held on the night before Commencement, a much larger number of graduates, spouses and guests were able to participate. Superb food and drink, delightful musical accompaniment and wonderful fellowship were enjoyed by all.



2004/2005 PhD graduates



2004/2005 STM graduates



2004/2005 MA graduates

Scholar from the People's Republic Visits

Dr. Liu Ping, lecturer in the department of philosophy at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, was a visiting scholar studying at Concordia Seminary for three weeks. During his visit, Dr. Liu interacted with the Seminary's exegetical department, collected Old Testament reference materials, and experienced the life of the church in the United States. Liu has a Master of Divinity degree in foreign philosophy from the Center for Jewish Studies at Shandong University and a PhD in religious philosophy from Fudan University. He is the recipient of multiple awards for his work in Sino-Christian studies and author of several articles in the fields of Jewish and Christian theology and the philosophy of religion. He has been studying for almost a year as a visiting scholar at Berkeley and plans to return to continue teaching at Fudan University in July.



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Jack Dean Kingsbury Lectures

On April 5-6, students and faculty alike were privileged to hear two separate lectures from visiting professor Dr. Jack Dean Kingsbury. Kingsbury is Aubrey Lee Brooks Professor of Biblical Interpretation (Emeritus) at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and a world-renowned Matthean specialist and author. His lecture to the Seminary faculty addressed the contemporary influence of Friedrich Schleiermacher's thought in the outworkings of Liberal Protestant theology. His lecture to the Seminary students focused especially upon the work that Kingsbury has done in the study of Matthew. Kingsbury's interest in Schleiermacher arose when he saw the deleterious effects that the 19th-century German theologian and philosopher's thought was having at the seminary where Kingsbury himself was a tenured professor.



Kingsbury

His lecture was an expression both of his professional and academic interest, as well as his identity as a Christian confessor and teacher. Kingsbury is no stranger to the Graduate School at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was one of Concordia Seminary's first outside scholars to be invited to teach its now annual major figure course. Kingsbury remains an influential and important figure in New Testament narrative-critical studies, especially with regard to the Synoptic Gospels. Two of Kingsbury's former students, Dr. Jeff Gibbs and Dr. Bruce Schuchard, are members of the department of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary. The Seminary community looks forward to the next visit by Dr. Kingsbury.

This Summer's Major Figure

Dr. Edgar McKnight will teach this summer's major figure course on the topic "How Biblical Scholarship Has Changed During My Academic Career." McKnight is currently a research professor at Furman University, Greenville, S.C. He earned his MDiv in 1956 and his PhD in New Testament Studies in 1960 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is the author of several books and articles, including *Meaning in Texts: The Historical Shaping of a Narrative Hermeneutics*, *The Bible and the Reader: An Introduction to Literary Criticism*, *The Postmodern Use of the Bible*, and *Jesus Christ in History and Scripture: A Poetic and Sectarian Perspective*.



Recent Decisions of the ASC

Recent decisions of the Advanced Studies Committee are worthy of mention. For example, beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year, spring graduation only will be available only to students who meet the requirements for spring Commencement. Also, excluding front matter and back matter, no PhD dissertation may be less than 200 or more than 300 pages in length. Announcements from the Graduate School coming to students between issues of the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* will be sent to student CSL e-mail accounts and published in the *Daily Announcements*. All current students not having a present e-mail account are required to create one as soon as possible. Students who do not want to check this account for messages can set up a rule to forward messages to another e-mail account.

Other Scholars Visit

In the recent past, the Graduate School has been pleased to welcome friends and partners from throughout the world as visitors to its campus. Those visitors have included Dr. Wilhelm Weber of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa; Dr. Rung Ruengsan-Ajin of the Bangkok Institute of Theology in Bangkok, Thailand; Dr. Il Young Park of Luther University and Seminary in Kyunggi-do, Korea; and Dr. Samuel Meschak of Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute of Gurukul, India. Concordia Seminary wholeheartedly welcomes such opportunities to host friends and partners from throughout the world and hopes that the future will bring every opportunity for more of the same.



From left, Dr. Andrew Bartelt, Varunaj Churnai, Dr. Bruce Schuchard and Dr. Rung Ruengsan-Ajin.

Lessing Dissertation Published

The Graduate School is pleased to announce that the PhD dissertation of graduate Dr. R. Reed Lessing entitled “Interpreting Discontinuity: Isaiah’s Tyre Oracle” has now been published by Eisenbrauns (the first such dissertation to have been completed at Concordia Seminary and published by a outside publisher). Lessing is currently associate professor of exegetical theology and interim vice president for student life at Concordia Seminary. Lessing’s dissertation introduces its reader to the schools of redaction criticism and rhetorical criticism. It describes the tools which each school uses for its work: its methodology, presuppositions, results of previous experiments, and even a brief history of each discipline. Then follows an experiment performed on Isaiah 23, the Tyre Oracle. Here, the reader actually gets to see different critics dissect a text, make observations on what they see, and draw conclusions. Lessing does a commendable job of guiding the reader through the intricacies of the experiment and the debate over the conclusions that are reached. Congratulations Dr. Lessing!



Lessing

Students Anticipating Graduation in 2006

Students anticipating graduation in spring 2006 are urged to acquaint themselves now with the Graduate School’s policies, procedures, and deadlines available on its intranet site. All such policies, procedures, and deadlines will be strictly enforced. Therefore, students must pay careful attention to all specified authorities (especially style manuals) and established checkpoints. Failure to do so will all too easily jeopardize a student’s plans for graduation. Plans should be made now for the successful completion of all requirements. Now is the time for asking questions. Questions and/or concerns should first be directed to either Krista Whittenburg or Marla Brewer in the Office of the Graduate School.

Modified Templates to Be Offered

The Graduate School plans to spend time this summer working toward the offering of improved, user friendly templates for the construction of theses, seminar papers, and dissertations. Such templates and assistance with their use should be available by the end of the summer. Expect announcements to this effect. The expectation of the Graduate School is that the available templates will be used in the production of all theses, seminar papers, and dissertations. A student who chooses not to do this does so at his or her own peril. It is expected that all written projects will conform to the model exemplified by the templates.

Model Prospectus Available

A recommended model for the construction of a PhD prospectus, especially for those in the Biblical Studies Concentration, will soon be ready for distribution. When the model is available on the intranet site of the Graduate School, all students and supervisors will be informed.

Seminary Writing Center Available

The Seminary Writing Center is available to all students writing theses, seminar papers, or dissertations needing assistance with their writing mechanics or style issues. The Writing Center also has a very helpful Web site, <http://portal.csl.edu/writinglab/writinglab.html>, which contains information regarding common grammatical errors and effective writing techniques. Helpful links to additional resources also are provided. This service is offered free of charge to all Concordia Seminary students.

It's ELCE Time Again

Prior to matriculation, all MA students must demonstrate proficiency in basic Christian doctrine (as represented especially in Luther's Small and Large Catechisms), Old Testament content, and New Testament content. Proficiency may be demonstrated either by transcript credit (courses of suitable content, especially those taken at a CUS school) with a grade of "B" or higher, by passing proficiency examinations administered by Concordia Seminary, or by passing applicable courses (credit not applicable to the MA degree) at Concordia Seminary during the month of August.

Orientation Information

The first meeting designed to inform graduate students is during the orientation week before the beginning of the academic year (a brochure with a detailed schedule for orientation week is included in a package of registration materials and sent in July to graduate students who anticipate being present in the Fall Quarter). All new students especially are expected to attend this general orientation week.

Fulbright Scholar Program

The Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Go to <http://www.cies.org/> for application deadlines and program information.

Word and World Essay Prize

The Word and World Essay Prize is a \$1,000 prize for students enrolled in accredited PhD or ThD programs in theology or religious studies and is designed to encourage scholarship and writing for the church. A recent recipient of the Word and World Essay Prize was Concordia Seminary's own Dr. Leo Sanchez. For more information, go to <http://www.luthersem.edu/word&world>.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Available MA, STM, PhD Comprehensive Exam Dates

Summer - August 24, 2005 - Last Wednesday of the quarter

Fall - November 9, 2005 Last Wednesday of the quarter

Winter - February 15, 2006 Last Wednesday of the quarter

Spring - April 5, 2006 (by permission of the dean only for students anticipating spring Commencement)

Spring - May 17, 2006 - Last Wednesday of the quarter

Available Greek and Hebrew Exam Dates

Fall - September 7, 2005 - First Wednesday of the quarter

Winter - November 30, 2005 First Wednesday of the quarter

Spring - March 8, 2006 - First Wednesday of the quarter

Available Modern Foreign Research Language Exam Dates

Every Wednesday

Student must submit Request to Take Examination Form
at least two weeks before examination date.

Orientation - August 31, September 1, and September 2

Brochure will be mailed in July with itinerary.

Individual Sessions - Presidents Room in Pritzlaff Hall

August 31, 2005

MA 1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

STM 1:20 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

PhD 1:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Intention to Register Forms

Available now on the student portal site.

August 24 - Submit Approval of Intention to Register Form and update Progress Card
(to the Graduate Office)

August 30 - Pick up Approval of Intention to Register Forms
(in the Graduate Office)

Registration - August 31, 2005, Sieck Hall

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Classes Begin - September 6, 2005

Graduate School Reception with Faculty

Welcoming all graduate students

September 15, 2005

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Presidents Room

Theological Symposium - September 20-21