**Biblical Studies Major Figure**

Dr. Richard Schultz will be teaching the 2010 summer Major Figures course. The topic of the course will be Old Testament Criticism. Old Testament biblical scholarship in the evangelical world has changed dramatically in the last twenty years. It is now common for evangelical scholars to deny the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch and to talk of three or four “Isaiahs.” Dr. Schultz’s class will engage the works of Kenton Sparks, John Goldingay, Peter Enns and others who typify this new wave of OT interpretation.

Dr. Schultz is Carl Armerding and Hudson T. Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College. He holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies: Old Testament from Yale University. His dissertation was entitled "Prophecy and Quotation: A Methodological Study."

**Introduction to the Theology and Culture Ph.D. Program**

The PhD in Theology and Culture equips its graduates to answer the question “How does the Church faithfully embody a practice of the faith within a particular cultural setting?” Many practices of the faith are studied within this program (e.g., mission, catechesis, worship, homiletics, and counseling) along with many cultural contexts. While the theological practices and the cultural contexts vary, the PhD in Theology and Culture offers education and formation in the fundamentals of practical theology. These fundamentals enable graduates to approach various practices and various contexts with a method of theological reflection and cultural contextualization that fosters faithful practices of the Christian faith.

The core course requirements of the PhD in Theology and Culture form students in the essentials of practical theology. In this body of courses, students will examine the interplay of Christ and culture (Christ and Culture), the nature and function of cultural settings (Cultural Anthropology in Christian Perspective), the nature of communicating God’s word within various cultural settings (Culture and Communication Theory); and the nature of enacting God’s work in worship (Liturgy and Culture) and in the world (Ethics). Through these core courses, the PhD in Theology and Culture prepares students to research, to reflect, to write, and to provide leadership in the faithful embodiment of particular Christian practices in particular cultural contexts.

Perhaps the best way to communicate what such research looks like is to discuss recent doctoral work in the program. One student has chosen to examine the faithful practice of preaching in an image-based culture, using cognitive linguistics, the theory of metaphor, and recent developments in...
homiletics to form and defend his approach. Another student has chosen to examine the faithful practice of worship within the Wesleyan tradition, using historical research on John Wesley’s liturgical theology and practice and contemporary analyses of worship to form and defend his approach toward leading Christian worship in the post-Christian American context.

Such doctoral work reflects both the core essentials of this program and its broad applicability. In terms of core essentials, the students engage in a specific set of courses that form them in the core practices of practical theology. In terms of broad applicability, the students then pursue research that examines a practice of the Christian faith as it is embodied in a particular cultural setting and answers the question, “How may the Church faithfully do this work within this setting?” With such core essentials and broad application, the PhD in Theology and Culture forms graduates who faithfully attend to theology and culture as they lead the Church in the practices of the faith.

2008 Dissertation to be Published by Brill

Dr. InHee Cho, a 2008 graduate of Concordia Seminary’s PhD Biblical Studies Program and Assistant Professor at Concordia University College of Alberta, has received notice that her dissertation has been positively reviewed for publication in Brill’s *Novum Testamentum Supplements* series. Her dissertation is titled “Beyond Appearance: Irony and the Death of Jesus in the Matthean Passion Narrative (26:1-27:66)”. She has also been nominated as an SBL Regional Scholar. Following is a letter submitted by Dr. Cho concerning her awards.

“Dear faculty and colleagues at Concordia Seminary, I thank you for your prayer and support. My PhD dissertation has been positively reviewed by the editors of Brill to publish it in *Novum Testamentum Supplements* series. Although the task is slowly moving to its completion, I am currently working on a final review of the work. In addition, last March I was nominated as an SBL Central States Regional Scholar based on a paper that I had submitted on the topic of the Gospel of Matthew, and I have just begun to serve as a new member of the SBL Matthean section steering committee. While, out of humility, I am hesitant to share this news, it is my hope that this will encourage any graduate student to keep running his/her good race in hope and faith in Christ.”

Ethnic Symposium a Rousing Success

Concordia’s recent Ethnic Symposium provided the graduate school with a welcome opportunity to communicate to symposium participants the genuine interest of the graduate school in supporting the aspirations of the underrepresented. The graduate school has identified as one of its principal goals the raising up a diverse group of theological leaders from within our Synod, the building of a rich diversity of faithful, biblical, and confessional ethnic leaders whose contribution is sure to enrich and enliven the faith, life, and service of the synod. The underrepresented are often some of the poorest of the poor in our midst. Their support is essential, if their potential for contributing to the faith, life, and service of the synod is to be achieved and if their capacity for outreach in the communities from which they come is to be realized. The graduate school has
committed itself to the best possible theological training of a next generation of minority and immigrant pastors, teachers, and leaders.

**Dissertation Workshop**

On February 20th, the graduate school hosted a dissertation workshop. Patrick Alexander (left), director of Penn State University Press, and John Kutsko (right), Director of Acquisitions at Abingdon Press, shared the keys to successful dissertation writing with twenty-two of our graduate students. They emphasized important issues like keeping to a schedule and maintaining a clear, concise writing style. In the second half of the session, Patrick and John discussed publication. In a buyer’s market, those who wish to be published need to capitalize on every possible advantage, such as networking at professional societies and having an elevator speech about a prospective book topic ready at all times. The workshop was a great success. We hope to be able to have Patrick and John back in the future.

**IICS 2010 Conference Call for Papers: Christ, Culture, and the Academy**

Students are encouraged to submit a 300-word abstract for a paper to be presented at the Christ, Culture and the Academy Conference. This interdisciplinary conference is sponsored by the International Institute for Christian Studies and Christian Studies International of Canada. Dr. Christine Schirrmacher and Dr. Harold Dean Trulear will be plenary speakers. Papers will be presented on the theme of Christ, culture and the academy. The conference will include the following tracks:

1) What is the relationship of Christ to the culture and to the academy?
2) How can or should Christian academicians make a difference in the academy?
3) What role should the Christian academician play in seeking to evangelize students and other faculty?
4) How does or should a Christian worldview relate to the various academic disciplines?

To submit an abstract, please email a 300-word abstract of your paper describing the content and relationship to the theme of the conference to iics@iics.com. Please indicate which of the four categories listed above your submission falls under. Second, your curriculum vita, including complete contact information. The deadline for proposal submission is May 17, 2010.

Submissions must be sent by email and acknowledgement will be made by email. Accepted presenters will be notified by email after May 24, 2010. The actual conference paper presentations will be 30 minutes followed by ten minutes for discussion. If accepted for presentation, presenters must submit an electronic copy of their full paper to IICS by July 14, 2010. Presenters will be responsible for all travel, lodging, and registration expenses. More information is available at [http://www.iics.com/conference.html](http://www.iics.com/conference.html).
TELLOS Journal Call for Papers

MA and PhD students are encouraged to take advantage of two opportunities to submit their research for publication to the TELOS Journal. TELOS, a quarterly journal of politics, philosophy, critical theory, culture, and the arts, has issued two separate calls for papers from graduate students.

The first is a newly launched essay contest open to MA and PhD students. While there is no specific theme required for these essays, submissions are expected offer original contributions in the area of politics, philosophy, critical theory, theology, culture, or the arts. The winning essay will be published in a regular issue of TELOS, and the essayist will be awarded an annual subscription to the journal. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2010. Submission guidelines and procedures can be found at http://www.telospress.com/main/index.php?main_page=page&id=124&chapter=0.

TELOS is also requesting papers to be considered for a special issue that explores language at the beginning of the 21st century. Essays may explore topics around language in relation to modernity, postmodernity, and the critique of the present. Essays must be submitted by February 1, 2011. Contact and submissions information, as well as suggestions for possible essay topics may be found at http://www.telospress.com/main/index.php?main_page=page&id=126&chapter=0.

Opportunity for Publication

The Journal of Philosophy & Scripture is now accepting submissions for publication in their 2010 issue. The Journal of Philosophy & Scripture is an e-journal that seeks to explore the possibilities of reading Scriptures in light of philosophy, and of using the Scripture to interact with various philosophical trends. Submissions should be no more than 7,000 words, and include the author’s name, institutional affiliation, contact information, and a 100 word abstract of the article. Information about the journal, article orientation, and submission guidelines may be found at http://www.philosophyandscripture.org/index.html.

Completed Proposal Hearings

Ronald Mudge successfully submitted his proposal hearing on January 28th. His proposed dissertation title is “Honorable Shame: The Rhetorical Use of Shame Discourse as the Key to Understanding Ezekiel 36:16-32.”

Modern Language Summer Classes

T.M. and Ph.D. students are required to demonstrate competency in modern foreign research languages specific to their particular program. If the student has not yet demonstrated competency in the languages required for the program, he/she will need to complete one of two options. The first option is to register for a summer course. The second option is to inform the Graduate School of his/her plan to demonstrate competency independently by the end of the winter term 2010. Please see the guidelines below regarding foreign language competencies:
S.T.M.
Within the first year, the student shall give satisfactory evidence of a reading knowledge of at least one modern foreign language other than the student’s native language and relevant to the secondary literature in the student’s field of study, or, if the department of the major approves, of Latin. If the major or minor is exegetical theology, this language ordinarily would be German. Arrangements for demonstrating language proficiency are made with the Office of the Graduate School.

Ph.D.
I. Exegetical (Biblical Studies)
• Hebrew: upon entrance
• Greek: upon entrance
• Aramaic: proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program
• German: proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program
• Proficiency in another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study should be demonstrated within the first two years of the program

II. Systematic (Doctrinal Theology)
• German: Proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program
• Latin: Proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program
• Proficiency in another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study must be demonstrated within the first two years of the program

III. Historical (Reformation Studies or Modern World)
• German: Proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program (Ref. Studies only)
• Latin: Proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program (Ref. Studies only)
• Proficiency in another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study must be demonstrated within the first two years of the program

IV. Practical (Theology and Culture)
• German: Proficiency must be demonstrated within the first year of the program
• Proficiency in another language relevant to the student’s research must be demonstrated within the first two years of the program

Important Dates and Deadlines

All Students
March 13, 2010 - Final comprehensive exam date for 2010 Spring Commencement
May 21, 2010 – Spring Commencement

M.A. Students
March 1, 2010 - Sign-off on M.A. Thesis Approval form
April 1, 2010 - Submission of corrected form of thesis
May 1, 2010 - Submission of final form of thesis

S.T.M. Students
March 15, 2010 - Submission of corrected form of thesis
April 15, 2010 - Submission of final form of thesis
Ph.D. Students
March 1, 2010 - Overseas Study Grant Application due
April 1, 2010 - Submission of final version of dissertation