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Student Spotlight—Adam Krause



Adam Krause is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in Religion degree at Urbana Seminary.

What led you to study at Urbana Seminary? I first heard about UTS from an alumnus, Bob Hailey, who praised the seminary generously. Once I knew I wanted to pursue a seminary degree, I found I was immediately attracted by the convenience of the UTS course

schedule and the opportunity that studying at a local institution presented for building local relationships outside of work and church.

What prompted you to pursue a seminary degree?

I first considered seminary when a close pastor friend began his graduate education. I found I really enjoyed talking with him about his courses. The more I saw of his experience, the more clearly I began to think, "I could do that too." I don't have a sense that God has called me to professional ministry, but I saw that a few years of hard work now could pay spiritual dividends for the rest of my life and could prepare me to more effectively serve the church.

Can you describe learning something particularly eye-opening or especially insightful?

One of my first classes, "Creation Care and the Gospel" with Dr. Spychalla, opened my eyes to the cosmic scope of the gospel. Previously I had only heard the individualist gospel of personal salvation. I had always intuited that caring for the Earth was a good, Christian way of life but could not articulate why that might be. By studying the gospel through the lens of creation care, I came to see that Spirit-filled bearers of Jesus' name are blessed with the opportunity to live an eternity-informed life—a life shaped by the *shalom* God intends for his life together with us and all of creation.

From the President's Pen...



Fall Semester 2022 is in full swing! In powerful ways in so many lives God continues to work through students and profs interacting in classes, reading, thinking, and writing. Some meet in person, others over Zoom, which continues to expand the scope of our impact. *Taste of Seminary* has offered stimulating lectures to the community on topics Biblical and theological and cultural.

We completed Spring 2022 with an in-person commencement ceremony—it was so gratifying to be able to gather once again! The Summer was highlighted for me with an extraordinary Faculty retreat. We surveyed where the church is in the light of so many cultural changes and developments over the last few years. This was followed with a brainstorming session about how we can meet the ever-evolving needs for equipping to serve Christ in a rapidly changing society. Several new programs were germinated and are currently being designed and approved expect some exciting announcements in 2023! By the way, 2023 is also our 20th Anniversary!!! We want you to help us celebrate!

Plans for Spring semester 2023 are underway; registration is open. I'm excited to lead Training through Travel's *Land of Israel* trip to the Holy Land (March 7-18)!

We at Urbana Seminary continue to be grateful for you—your prayers for us and your generous gifts to this ministry touch student lives and make an impact for the future.

In Christ, **Ken**

continued on pg 4...

In our last newsletter we introduced the new Pascal Study Center, Urbana Seminary's Christian Study Center engaging the university community. It's off and running!



The past few months have been an exciting time at Pascal Study Center! Over the summer, PSC launched its new website: <u>www.pascalstudycenter.org</u>. If you have not already done so, please check it out, and consider signing up for PSC's e-mail newsletter.

In July, Dr. Wenneborg traveled to Madison, WI to attend the annual meeting of the Consortium of Christian Study Centers. She enjoyed the opportunity to hear what other Christian study centers are doing and to connect with colleagues from across the country.

During the Fall 2022 semester, PSC is hosting two reading groups. The Paideia reading group, which is open to all, is discussing *On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius. The student reading group is discussing *You Are Not Your Own* by Alan Noble. You can read some testimonials from participants in the student reading group below.

PSC holds a monthly prayer meeting over Zoom on the first Tuesday of every month. If you would like to attend, please email Dr. Wenneborg at ewenneborg@urbanatheologicalseminary.org.

In their own words: PSC student testimonials

"I really enjoy having intellectual conversations with other Christians that analyze what it means to live as both a person and a follower of Christ in our world. On top of that, I like reading thought provoking books, but it's hard to be motivated to read outside of what I absolutely have to for class, so this gives me a good reason to make the time in my schedule. I also appreciate having another source of fellowship in my life where I can get to know Christians from outside my campus ministry." —Isaac, PSC student "The Pascal Study Center Reading Group has been a very reflective time at such a crucial moment in my life. As I prepare to leave university soon and have anxieties about the future, going through You Are Not Your Own has been a firm reminder to me that I am Christ's and should not worry about what is to come. It has been a very convicting book regarding my own individualism and the subtle ways I look to the things of this world for my hope and joy rather than setting my sights above. After one of the sessions, I got to a point where I could not unsee one of the societal trends talked about in the book and our discussion. The reading group has humbled my heart and has set my eyes more on Jesus and His love for us." —Ryan, PSC student

"My Wednesday reading group is like a mid-week oasis. Life is busy these days with school, work, and daily life, but Wednesday is always a time to slow down, have meaningful conversations with friends, and acknowledge my Savior's guiding hand in my life. Our group has been working through You Are Not Your Own by Alan Noble. This summer will mark my 20-year anniversary as a Christian, and during the course of that time, I have read through much devotional and growth-oriented Christian literature. Noble's book has managed to speak to things in my heart and life that have been overlooked. I am thankful for this opportunity to look deeper inside myself and shift my identity further toward Christ." —Amy, PSC student



Christmas is coming! (Like you didn't realize that ...) And so is Black Friday and Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday . . .

Support Equipping God's People through Urbana Seminary Put Your Amazon Purchases to Good Use:

As you order for family and friends, we encourage you to join us in using Amazon Smile and name the Seminary as the recipient of the donations Amazon will make. Thank you to all our Amazon Smile supporters! If you haven't signed up, just go to <u>https://smile.amazon.com/</u> and choose Urbana Theological Seminary as your charity of choice. Then make all of your future Amazon purchases via amazonsmile.com and they will donate a percentage of your purchase to us. It costs you nothing extra. In a time when many experience tight finances, this is another way to give, but it costs you nothing. This is a great time of year to sign up, since all our small purchases add up!



Support your favorite Seminary with swag from the

REDBUBBLE Store!

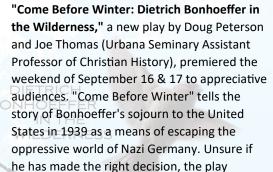


Are you looking for a unique gift for your Urbana Seminary Alum, student, or favorite professor? Or do you want to show off the seminary you attend? Urbana Seminary now has a Redbubble store with dozens of items displaying one of three different logos. To find this goodness, simply open up your computer's browser and type in the link below. That will take you to a page with three pictures—one of each of the logos on an item. Clicking on the grey link that says "Shop all

Products" will take you to the store displaying all items with that image. Coffee mugs, notebooks, even a shower curtain are among the fun options! Check it out here:

https://www.redbubble.com/people/UrbanaSeminary/ shop?asc=u_

TOGETHER HOUSE PRESENTS

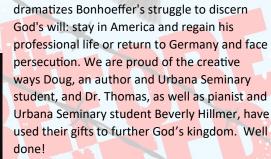


Joe Thomas



Doug Peterson

Beverly Hillmer



Cast: L to R

Douglas Malcolm (Dietrich Bonhoeffer), Wendy Marck (The Moravian), Elena Birchenough (Agnes Templeton), Bryce Bennyhoff (Paul Lehmann), Brian Aldridge (Henry Sloane Coffin)



I am taking a great course this semester at the Urbana Theological Seminary called Launching, Landing, and Leaving—it is intended to help missionaries prepare for the field. The resources we've been exploring and discussions we have had are so helpful in preparing for my next steps. I am very grateful to God for the provision of this class at just the right time!

Used with permission by Abbie Mills from her September prayer letter. Abbie will soon be joining Wycliffe "supporting Bible translation by doing what she loves and being a K-12 school librarian at Hillcrest School (HIS)" in Indonesia.

Pray for Urbana Seminary

Will you pray for us?

Pray for the Seminary:

Would you pray for us? Pray now, or better yet, put this list where you'll see it (tape it to a mirror, on your refrig, in your Bible, etc) and be reminded to intercede regularly for this ministry.

Praise:

- For God's gift of students this Fall semester.
- For God adding Dr Anne Alexander to our Faculty and Dr Emily Wenneborg as Director of the Pascal Study Center.
- For those who faithfully continue to pray for and financially give to the Seminary.

Pray:

- For the new students that God will have join our classes in 2023—That we could serve the church through equipping ever more followers of Christ.
- For broadening our base of support in prayer and financial giving.
- For an excellent year end giving and increase of monthly supporters. Especially urgent with God's clear leading to expand our circle of staff and faculty. For wisdom as we seek God's leading in adding staff to make the Seminary the most effective possible.
- For wisdom as we consider the best ways to combine online and live in-person training.
- For our students and their growth, for classes, the instructors, God's Holy Spirit to work within each person and in all the interactions.

How can you help the Seminary fulfill God's calling to train?

Here's some tangible ways you can share in our mission to equip God's people to love, know, and serve God better:

- Make a commitment to pray regularly for the Seminary. Would you join the *Seminary Prayer Team*? Pray with the guide in this Hearth, but also send your name and e-mail to Elaine Chaille (echaille@urbanatheologicalseminary.org). As needs arise we will periodically (we won't flood your in-box, don't worry!) send you e-mails with prayer needs. [I offered this in the last Hearth and no one responded—I believe there are people out there who will pray faithfully, just let us know. KC]
- Use Amazon Smile to purchase from Amazon and designate Urbana Theological Seminary as the non-profit to which Amazon will send contributions as you order.
- Make a *commitment to give to the Seminary on a regular basis*. Join our circle of financial supporters and give on a monthly (or quarterly) basis.
- Make a Year End gift before December 31.

... equipping students to know, love, and serve God

What are some strengths of the faculty, classes, and the seminary community?

I have been impressed by the faculty's knowledge and the quality of selected course texts. The professors are laser-focused on teaching well (nothing is harder than it needs to be), present material clearly and simply, and offer many opportunities to ask questions. I have enjoyed interacting with professors and other students inside and outside of class.

How has what you have learned at UTS so far benefited you? (in your work, life situation, spiritual walk?)

Today I am about halfway through the MAR program. Even at this preliminary stage, my studies with UTS have facilitated deeper and broader study of the Bible and other topics of personal interest. I find that God speaks to me through his Word much more clearly than he did before, and my admiration and love for Christ has grown through every class.

What would you say to folks who are unsure about taking classes or pursuing a degree from UTS?

Between family, church, and work obligations, I have very little spare time. Nonetheless, I have never regretted taking the time to study at UTS. The classes are accessible; the faculty, staff, and students are wonderful; and the courses are interesting and enlightening. UTS has been a great blessing to me, and I know it would be a great blessing to you as well.

Adam has been employed as a sales representative for an industrial water chemistry and technologies company since earning his undergraduate degree from Taylor University. He and his wife, Amy, met at Taylor and have been married for 6 years. They have a one-year-old daughter and live in Mahomet just outside of Champaign-Urbana. They attend a small American Baptist church in Mahomet where he serves as moderator and one of the adult Bible study teachers. Adam's main hobby at this point is doing anything he can to make his daughter laugh, but when she is asleep he enjoys running, golfing, cooking, reading, watching sports or movies, playing video or tabletop games, and occasionally napping.



Another Note of Joy: Urbana Seminary's Relationship with Jerusalem University College

Since our last *Hearth* went out, Urbana Seminary was approved to be an Associate School with Jerusalem University College in Jerusalem, Israel. This means that we are part of the consortium of seminaries and colleges that are affiliated with JUC we receive regular updates on

opportunities and ongoing discoveries in the land. Our students are also able to take part in JUC programs and spend time in the land to learn the context of the Bible. Praise God!



The Land of Israel March 7-18, 2023

The Seminary's *Training through Travel* ministry is excited for our upcoming trip to Israel. On March 7th-18th of 2023 Urbana Seminary invites you to come with us to the Holy Land.

Imagine walking where Jesus walked, and David, and Abraham, and Nehemiah, and Hezekiah... Wow! So much in the Bible happened right in what is today the land of Israel. We want you to have the chance to sit by the Sea of Galilee where Jesus told parables, and then walk through towns where he healed and taught. Stroll through the recently discovered Jerusalem palace that was probably David's. Flee with David from Saul at the desert oasis of En-gedi. Trace Jesus' steps through his passion week in Jerusalem. And so much more

But why should you join us on this venture? **How is this trip different from many other trips to Israel?** We believe that the *Training through Travel* Biblical trips are one of a kind! Some trips center on the experience and emotions of being there, or today's politics.

Our trips however are *discipleship experiences*, designed to give you *new tools to read God's Word in all the dimensions of its original context and faithfully hear his voice*. The key is that when God spoke, he spoke to people in a very different time and place and culture than where we live today. The meaning of the Word of God becomes clear in a whole new way when we learn to read beginning with their context. These trips equip you to do exactly that—to understand why Jesus encountered and called Matthew as a disciple right along the road passing through Capernaum, to see the geographical locations that make sense of Israel's settlement in the land under Joshua, or to survey the landscape of Armageddon (Megiddo) and grasp just why this is such a prime place for battles and always has been, and more. You'll certainly have all the emotions from the experience of being there, and you can't miss the contemporary scene in Israel. But you add to this *the tool for reading the Bible in its original context in all dimensions—history, culture, geography*—and hearing a Samuel or an Isaiah or a Luke speak with newfound clarity. The narratives of Scripture fill out in all their dimensions when we see where they happened and can understand so much more about why people did and said what they did.

You can still register for the Land of Israel 2023!

This promises to be an amazing experience, as we partner once again with Tutku Travel, but we need to hear soon. Don't wait too long! Brochures for the trip are available. Please feel free to request one from our office (217-365-9005). Any questions? Or ready to let us know you're on board to come? Get in touch with **travel@urbanatheologicalseminary.org** or the office (217-365-9005).



Enrich Your Experience with our Spring '23 Course on *The Land of Israel*

A value-added component of the upcoming semester is available in a course which is entitled *The Land of Israel*. This is intended to train and enrich as a wrap-around course for the trip to Israel in March. Through the semester this course will orient you to the geography of the land, its history from ancient times up to today, the sites we will see, and the archaeology for which each traveler will have a front-row seat.

You can enroll in this course without coming on the trip and still benefit greatly. You also can come on the trip without enrolling in the class again, you'll reap huge dividends just from traveling with us. For more information about this added resource for going deeper and learning to read and think about Scripture, contact the professor (also the tour leader), Dr. Ken Cuffey at

kcuffey@urbanatheologicalseminary.org.

Ancient Jsrael in Chicago: Oriental Institute of Chicago June 18, 2022

Each year Dr. Cuffey leads a tour of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute which houses a collection of artifacts from ancient Israel, Assyria, Canaan, Egypt, and Babylon. This is another opportunity to understand God's Word better. All are welcome!









Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!

Master of Arts in Religion Timothy Pearce Durst Jonathan David King Nicholas C. Modrzejewski

Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies Michael Christopher Johnson

> Certificate of Endorsement in Christian Studies David Hamilton Jessica Catherine Weaver











2023 Spring Courses

Semester begins Tuesday, January 17

Online

3 Hrs

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BL 502 100 New Testament Greek II Dr. Peter Spychalla	3 Hrs
Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 5:45 pm	Online
A continuation of the introduction to the k	Coine
Greek language with emphasis on vocabul syntax, the verbal system, and reading in t text. Prerequisite: BL 501 or its equivalent course offers graduate credit for students programs other than the M.Div. degree	he Greek . This
BI 740 400 The Land of Israel: Geography, History, Arc and Theology	2 Hrs haeology,

Dr. Kenneth Cuffey

Tuesday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Gain perspective on the land of Israel in greater depth. Consideration of geography, the history of the people of ancient Israel, and excavated finds that illuminate their world. The Bible's teaching about the land and its place in the history of God's people as fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. *Offered in conjunction with the Land of Israel trip.*

BI 620 400

Joshua , Judges, and Genocide!? Dr. Kenneth Cuffey Wednesday 6:00—9:00 pm Online

The text regularly commends Joshua for his exemplary faith. What can we learn from him for today? The people in Judges seem to forget God and all he values over and over again. What is their spiritual weakness and how can we protect ourselves from making the same mistakes? And then there's the whole issue of what it seems that God says about how his people should treat the Canaanites. Is our loving God authorizing genocide?? What should we make of this? Is that what the Bible really tells us? What are we to think?

CHRISTIAN HISTORY & THOUGHT

CH 502 100	3 Hrs
History of World Christianity II	
Dr. Joseph Thomas	
Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Online
A general historical survey of the Christian	
movement from the Protestant Reformation	up to
the present.	
CT 502 100	3 Hrs

Theology II Dr. Todd Daly Monday 6:00 - 9:00 pm Online

An overview of the Christian doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the work of Christ and salvation, the church as the Body of Christ, and the end times. CT 600 100 3 Hrs Theology and Contemporary Culture Dr. Todd Daly Four weekends Jan 27, 28, Feb 24, 25, Mar. 31, April 1, April 28, 29 Online Friday 6:00- 9:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

A study of selected topics in which contemporary cultural and church issues are addressed from a theological perspective. The course will focus on topics to be determined both by students' input and interest and changing cultural phenomena. Prerequisite: CT 501-502 or permission from the instructor.

CT 740 335	3 Hrs
George MacDonald	
Dr. Melody Green	
Wednesday 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Online

C. S. Lewis declared that the writings of George MacDonald played a large role in shaping his own faith. This Scottish, Victorian-era pastor has also been credited with creating the fantasy genre as we know it today. He also wrote realistic novels that deal with issues that are still relevant today, such as reconciling the perceived struggle between science and faith, and what happens when a pastor lacks sexual integrity. This class will read a selection of MacDonald's works in a variety of genres (realistic fiction, fantasy, poetry, sermons) to develop an understanding of his main ideas.

PRACTICAL MINISTRY

PM 740 120 3 Hrs Evangelism and Discipleship in an Oral Culture: Equipping God's People to Share His Story Dr. Anne Alexander

Tuesday 6:00 – 9:00 pmOnlineThe Gospel in an Oral Context helps students to
understand and address the 75% of the world
who prefer oral communication rather than
written. Oral preference affects Gospel
communication and training of disciples of every
age, culture, language or education level. Learn
about communication of the Good News in our
multicultural world by increasing understanding
of orality, the neuroscience of story, different
cultural modes of storytelling, and ways the
Bible speaks to different cultures.

Exciting News!



As new possibilities have opened up for Urbana Seminary to reach students not just here in Champaign -Urbana, but literally around the world, we have been looking for ways to best serve both our local students and those who live too far away to commute.

One way we are doing this is by creating a permanent Tech classroom that will be able to accommodate both students who are present in the classroom as well as students attending on zoom. One of the pieces of technology making this possible is the Meeting Owl, a special microphone/ camera that focuses on as individuals as they speak up, to enhance the shared sense of community between those online and those in person.

We have entered into an agreement with Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign to host the classroom, and hope to have it up and running for a few trial classes this spring. We hope to be able to see you in that classroom soon, either in person or online!



The library has not been idle this past year; we have added literally hundreds of books (approximately 500) to the collection while tackling the storage units on Philo Road that house a significant portion of our collection. Unit B16 has been formally christened the "Annex" and is now in good shape with hundreds of books all properly shelved and catalogued and ready to be requested. This took no small amount of labor on the part of our volunteers and our intrepid and former bodybuilder/model librarian, Seth Kerlin. Moreover, we have the beginnings now of a Chinese collection thanks to Dr. Alexander's contributions and we hope to add soon a local authors collection as well. The next project to be tackled will be to create an Archives for UTS, cataloguing and digitizing the history of UTS as well as any other relevant historical documents we may have boxed up at the moment. Our volunteer corps is simply the best...many thanks are due to Susan, Kezhen, Elisabeth, and Ryan for their hours of labor and their unflagging support of UTS and its mission.



A special **Thank You** too to all those who donated books and helped with our recent library book sale!!!

Seth Kerlin, Library Coordinator



Faculty Speaking

Anne Alexander

June 24	The Neuroscience of Story, BibleTelling and Christian Storytelling Conference, Jacksonville, IL
June 25	Recognizing Bible Story Worldviews: Tell Stories to Reach
People	from all Cultures, Bible Telling and Christian Storytelling Conference, Jacksonville, IL
Ken Cuffey	
April 9	"The Big Story" (The whole Bible in a morning) — River Valley Christian Fellowship (Bourbonnais, IL)
June 6	"The 7 Churches of Revelation" (A Clarity in Context Seminar) —Valley Church (West Des Moines, Iowa)
June 12	"The Unexpected Gospel: The Incident at Lystra"— Acts 14:1-23 —Covenant Fellowship Church (Urbana, IL)
June 18	<i>Ancient Israel in Chicago</i> (Biblical Tour of the Oriental I nstitute) — Chicago, IL
June 19	"You shall not steal! What Does God Mean and Value?"— Exodus 20:15 at Twin City Bible Church
	(Urbana, IL)
Todd Daly	
June 1	"Love, Lirturgy, and Moral Formation," Men's Prayer Breakfast, First Baptist Savoy
June 20	Two Bioethics Lectures on Neuroethics and
	Transhumanism, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerefield, IL
Oct 4	"Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deep Aging Clocks: The Moral Implications of Measuring Our 'Real' Age," Taste of Seminary
Oct 30	"Calling All Losers (Matt. 5: 4-6)," Sermon at Temple Baptist Church in Champaign
Melody Green	1
June 26	"David and Saul," New Horizon Church, Champaign
July 24	"1 Samuel 24 and 26," Quest Church, Urbana
Aug 1	"Chesterton and the First Nations," Good Medicine Way, Albuquerque
Oct 26	"Murder Mystery as a Christian Genre " Taste of

Oct 26 "Murder Mystery as a Christian Genre," Taste Seminary

Peter Spychalla

July 31	"Reaching Forward to What Lies Ahead (Phil 3:12-16)",
	Cornerstone Fellowship (Urbana, IL)

Emily Wenneborg

July 26	Two-minute talk on Pascal and pain, Consortium of
	Christian Study Centers annual meeting

July 27 "Gender Dynamics in Christian Non-Profits" (workshop co-facilitator), Consortium of Christian study centers annual meeting
Sept 13 "Homeschooling" (guest lecture), University of Illinois course EPOL 404

Oct 29 "Classical Education in a Secular Age," North American Association for Philosophy & Education

Faculty Publications

Ken Cuffey

A review of Colin Semwayo, *The Concept of Divine Sovereignty in Micah:* A Vision for the Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Promises, In the Review of Biblical Literature—July 18, 2022.

Todd Daly

Fall 2022, "The New Asceticism: Biohacking the Body for Greater Longevity," *Dignitas* 29, Journal, Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

Emily Wenneborg

"Disney's Encanto Follows in Studio Ghibli's Footsteps" (Christ & Pop Culture)

"Authenticity's Imperative" (Hedgehog Review)

"Faithful Presence in the Midst of Pluralism" blog series (Emerging Scholars Network blog)

"Pruning a Worldview: A review of Calvinism for a Secular Age: A Twenty -First Century Reading of Abraham Kuyper's Stone Lectures" (*Religious Studies Review*)

"Christian Worship as Formation for Pluralism" (*Philosophical Studies in Education*)

nday	Calendar
Now	Spring registration open
December 2	Deadline for Israel Trip Registration
December 16	End of Semester
December 21—January 4 Office closed	
January 17	Spring Semester begins