



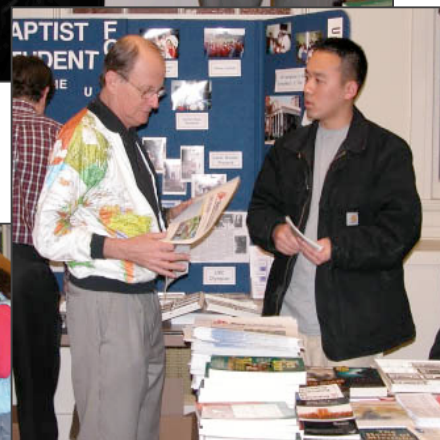
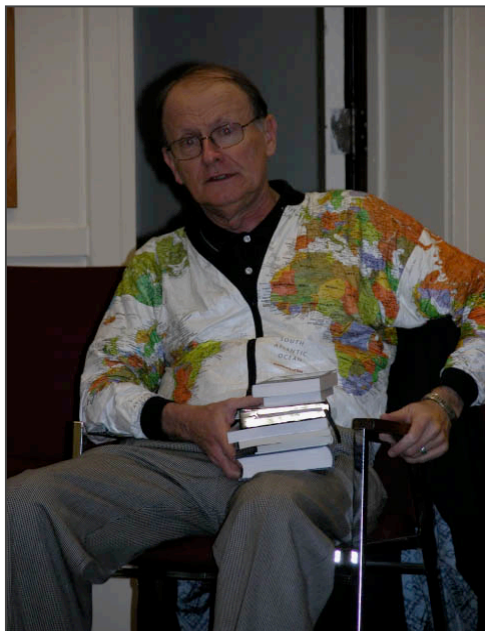
THE FLAME

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Students Connect with George

At the end of February, Urbana Seminary students had an opportunity to sit with George Verwer, the founder of Operation Mobilization and one of the leading lights in the modern missions movement. Around 25 of our students came and dialogued in a question and answer session with George about the world, trends in missions and their individual parts in following God's will to bring the gospel of Christ to the nations. As always George was delightful and challenging. He is transparent about God's working in his own life, up to date on the latest from around the globe, and unafraid to speak his mind. George was in town to speak to All-Campus worship on the university campus, for which he also did an outstanding job. Operation Mobilization is one of the largest and most far-reaching missionary organizations, known especially for making short-term missions a feasible option for so many young people.



Meet our Students...

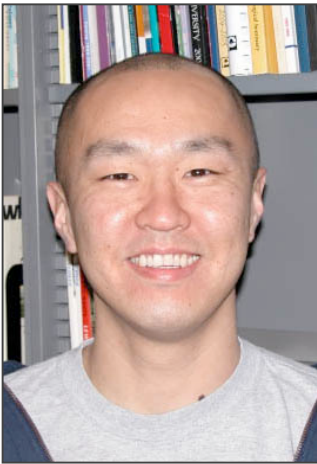
Rachel Poore

My name is Rachel Poore, and I'm a sophomore at the University of Illinois studying political science with support course work in comparative religious studies. I really wanted to take (a class at Urbana Theological Seminary) because my classes at the U of I are taught from a very liberal standpoint; one which does not really believe in God and just tries to tear down belief in God and the truth of Christianity. I wanted to take a class taught by someone who had some theology and really affirmed my beliefs instead of trying to convince me other ways. Because I am on a scholarship at the university and it wasn't really financially possible for me to take a class at Urbana a friend gave it to me as a Christmas gift. At UTS I'm studying the New Testament text and how to understand it. This class has really helped me in the class History of Judaism I'm taking at the university. A lot of (the History of Judaism class) is spending time on how the Bible is clearly not the word of God. So it's really cool to learn from a Christian perspective and just to be able to ask the professor about different questions I have that came up in my other class. I've also really enjoyed how there is an emphasis on not just gaining knowledge but also applying it and growing closer to God through what we learn from the Bible. I think it really helped me reaffirm a lot of doubts that have come up in other classes.



Kemy Kim

I like my relationship with the Professors...They are not just my teachers, but they are also my counselor, my friend, my tutor, my mentor. It's just a great relationship and accountability that I can have on my side as I go through these classes. They've helped me so much in my Christian walk, not only to grow in faith but also educating my self and learning different information, knowledge about the scripture, the history of Christianity and more. I think there are a lot of classes reaching from the Gospel of John to Perspectives in Christian World Missions, Old Testament Survey, and New Testament Survey. I'm planning to take more in the future. And I just can't think of a better place to (take classes) than here. Right now, I'm working fulltime, so usually during the day time I can't take any classes. But they allow us to take classes at night, which is very convenient for us. I hope my experience encourages you to invest your future by going to Urbana Seminary.



... to build the kingdom of Christ by equipping people to love, know
and serve God ...

Our Student on TV

Wherever you live, you can get a sense for one of the undergraduates who has taken classes with us by turning on ESPN (or whichever network happens to broadcast Illini basketball). The U of I basketball team has had quite a year, with a near perfect record and long-standing # 1 ranking nationally. Watch for one of the starting forwards, Roger Powell, Jr. Roger is not only an ace basketball player, but a devout Christian who senses that God is calling him to pastor (hence, his nickname, "The Rev," which you will hear from sportscasters). He took Judson College's *Old Testament Survey* to transfer into the University and is taking the *New Testament* class this semester.



Celebrating a Bridge to the University!

In February the last two of the Judson College undergraduate classes that we teach here in Urbana-Champaign were approved to transfer into the University of Illinois as Religious Studies credit! This widens the unique ministry we have to college students at a Big Ten school. They can take five classes and transfer them in as part of their Bachelor's degree. *Old Testament*, *New Testament*, *Church History 1*, *Church History 2*, and *American Church* all have successfully gone through the process for articulation! Praise God!

Development Doings

Our Associate Director of Development, Kevin McCandless, has begun a process of contacting people. We desire to find those who will partner with us in training Christian leaders by donating financially. The expanded budget for the coming year reflects our faith that God wants us to carry the work forward and expand its scope. We can not do this without people helping to make this a reality.

There are creative ways you can give. Have you considered the impact of investing for the long-term future through including Urbana Seminary in your estate planning? To mention the school in your will, or to create a charitable trust that will benefit both your family and the school ensures an ongoing influence through training leaders for the church of tomorrow. For assistance, tips, and references on planning lifetime and estate gifts that will move the Seminary to the next level of excellence contact Kevin McCandless in our Development Office (217-365-9005 or krmccand@urbanaseminary.org).

Searches Underway

We need God's wisdom as we seek to add to our staff team. We hope to hire a faculty member to teach Theology for the upcoming fall semester. 33 people from around the world applied for the position. Adrian and Ken are narrowing the field down to the finalists and aim to have candidates interview in April. We continue the search for a Director of Development to join Kevin in the Development Department. Ann and Ken are the search committee to fill this position.

2 Timothy 3:17

...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work...

Board Corner

The Board of Urbana Seminary appointed Derick Miller the new Chair. Derick is a pastor from Bradley, IL. We look forward to working with him. We also welcome a new Board member, Dr. Irene Koshik, from the University of Illinois. The Board met on February 2 and decided to change the fiscal year from a calendar year to an academic year (to run from August 1 to July 31). The board will also pursue a financial audit in preparation for going to accreditation agencies. In addition the Board raised the budget by over \$100,000 in a step of faith to ensure that we continue to grow.



Stirrings in Springfield! At last!

We are on the move with the IL Board of Higher Education once again! A gap in their work force left ours and other private institutions' applications all sitting on a table from August until late January. Now we have received and answered further questions from the newly hired person assigned to this department. We are on the agenda for approval at the next meeting (April 5th). This approval will launch the two degrees, the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts in Religion. So we're celebrating . . . and praying!
