



The Flame

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from the president

As we approach the close of a semester, I'm struck by how different this past academic year has been from any before—in a good way! It's not only been two semesters with classes and credits, it's been a complete experience—of relationships, of mentoring, of building a community of people who pursue Christ through studies, of an outstanding crop of students who share a heart for service and ministry. And you've been a part of it—even as you read this newsletter you're participating. **Thank you for caring about the new generation of leaders for the church!**

In Christ,

Ken

**"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:105**

karen kieser



Karen Kieser
Master of Arts Program

Seeing how God works through history and how He's the same through both Testaments was a big discovery for me.

I took Perspectives [in Christian World Missions] last fall, and it was amazing. It really opened my eyes to the broader world of missions. The course allowed me to see how God works through the church through various events in History and how he's raising up people for his work all over the world. It was so convicting to learn about the nonwestern world—how they are much more passionate about Christ, how much they endure, how much more they send missionaries out than the western world does. And all this was transforming in light of many areas of my life and just in general for understanding what Christianity is. It gave me a lot of impetus in my life for service abroad, for reaching unreached people, and for giving me a passion to glorify God in everything I do.

I'm starting in the Fall as a graduate student in the Master of Arts (Religion) program and I am so excited just to continue learning about the word and also get a lot of practical applications for ministry and apologetics and relationship, learning how to study the Bible and everything else. I know these are tools I will use throughout my entire life. I'm really excited and I'm thankful for the opportunity I have to study here.

Hi, my name is Karen. I've taken a couple courses at the Seminary as an Undergraduate, and currently I'm a Graduate Student in the New Testament course. The Seminary has been phenomenal in my life - just teaching me about the word, who God is, and answering the tough questions I had about pieces of scripture, especially about the Old Testament, and in general. The Old Testament has always seemed a complex and intriguing book for me. The Old Testament course was really amazing - just to be able to go through all the pieces of information that always seemed somewhat contradictory and figuring out how it all fits together. It seemed so hard to understand who God was and why he ordained the things he did.

brett wendle



Brett Wendle
Master of Divinity Program

I'm 22 years old and a recent graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I really desire to minister the word of God to God's people and I'm not quite sure how I get from where I am to there.

I started to take classes at Urbana Seminary to learn first, if this is something God called me to, if I really can handle the word of God vocationally, if I enjoy it, if I enjoy studying it, if I enjoy teaching it, if I enjoy taking classes in it, and to decide my path. This semester I'm taking my first class at Urbana Seminary. The class so far is great. I think I understand the New Testament so much more. I understand the writers of the NT, the context of the NT; I understand, well not perfectly, the theme of the NT. It has helped me to handle the NT better. It is really showing me a lot more about Christ, his character, his life, his death, his resurrection, and what it means for his people. In addition to the lectures, we have discussion/seminar classes on Wednesday mornings, which I love - about 8 or 10 people and we have 2 hour discussions about the word, and about Christ. It doesn't feel like a traditional class when we as students get so engaged with the learning process. It has been a really great class so far, and I'm looking forward to taking more classes at Urbana.

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

tom boyce



Tom Boyce
Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies

My name is Tom Boyce and I went to the University of Illinois graduating with a degree in Psychology. I did some undergrad classes with Urbana Seminary and then decided to come here because I believe God is calling me into missions, long-term. I hope to do some type of missions overseas and thought it was good to get some more equipping. What this looks like I don't really know for sure. As for now, this is what I feel God is calling me to do. I'm enjoying my classes. This semester I'm taking Theology 2, Hermeneutics, Church History 2, and New Testament. Theology has been neat - learning more about the Holy Spirit has been cool. He's someone I feel that I don't give as much credit to or focus on in my walk.

pray with us:

7 "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples".

John 15:7

- Pray for the students God has given us, our most precious investment for the future—that they would remain in Christ at all times and learn to let His word remain in them; that they would glorify God by bearing fruit in service to the Lord and growth of character.
- Pray that our ministry as a school would bear fruit in touching many lives.



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

todd daly arrives!



In the beginning of January, Todd Daly and his family arrived in Champaign and finished their move from Scotland. Now settled in, Todd has assumed his teaching duties as Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, this semester responsible for two courses, *Systematic Theology 2* (covering the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, Church, and the End Times) and *Christian Ethics*. Before leaving Edinburgh, Todd turned in his dissertation for the committee to review. He will travel back to Scotland in mid-May for his defense immediately after the finish of classes for the semester. Though he misses hearing "Amazing Grace" played on bagpipes, he is looking forward to the new challenges of living in America after four years in Europe. For the moment "lecture preparation is taking up a lot of my time," Todd said, "but I enjoy it because it's always fresh. I enjoy interacting with the students and the questions they bring." Todd and his wife, Ann, have found Dos Reales Mexican Restaurant's quality dishes to be a bright spot since arriving, as the Mexican food in Scotland was so expensive.

welcome carrie



Starting January 13th, we have a new Finance Officer/Registrar! Carrie Blount has jumped right into her position and for the past two months has been busy setting up a computer software program and database. In this new position, Carrie is responsible for maintaining the finances for Urbana Seminary as well as receiving tuition and registration. She has incorporated all the finances of the school onto a program called QuickBooks Non-Profit, which has significantly sped up procedures such as student billing and tracking donations. Her background allowed her to provide a final review from our end of the financial audit of our books done by Martin, Hood, Friese and Associates last fall. According to Carrie, "God has blessed me with this position. I'm very comfortable in the work environment; I enjoy my co-workers, and get to use my math skills. I've appreciated working in a Christian ministry." Hailing from Houston, Texas, Carrie is still adjusting to the Midwest winter weather. She and her family are enjoying exploring the Midwest. Carrie is a graduate of Texas A & M University, with her degree in Finance—"I'm happy the Aggies made it to the NCAA tournament this year! Oh, and go Astros!"

senior seminar ties it all together

For the first time, Urbana Seminary is offering its capstone course, which provides a synthesis and integration of an entire program. There are two students who are close to completing all the requirements for their degree programs—John Heaton for the Master of Divinity and Mary Long for the Master of Arts. The Senior Seminar is designed to be taken in the final year of a student's enrollment with Urbana Seminary in order to sum up all that the student has studied over the past semesters. It gives opportunity to reflect on how all the segments of the curriculum, fit together and interconnect. The semester also provides a forum which allows students to prepare for candidating for ministry positions and think through their calling from God.

semester in full swing

The spring semester is almost over. The enrollment has held steady with the explosive growth between the spring of last year and the fall. Besides the two courses Todd Daly is teaching, we have added the talent of new adjuncts in Randy Boltinghouse (*Pastoral Ministry: Duties and Issues and Preaching Laboratory*), Susan Minyard (*Relationships*), Philip Nelson (*Evangelism*), and Paul Thomason (*Spiritual and Personal Formation*). Mike Shea continues to teach *Hebrew 2*, joining Adrian Lamkin with *History of Christianity 2* and *American Church History* and Ken Cuffey with *New Testament* and *Hermeneutics: Bible Interpretation*.

"I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise."

Psalm 119:58

announcing the *fan the flame* pledge campaign

By God's grace and your generosity, Urbana Seminary needs to secure the future finances of the ministry here. A generous anonymous gift given in 2002 was God's way of allowing the launch of a new Seminary and our impact on student's lives. Now it is time for us to expand our funding in several ways.

- We need more people involved in supporting the school financially. This will enable us to show the accreditation agencies that our base of support is broad, expanding and reflects a wide sense of ownership of our mission.
- We need to raise more funds for operations for the annual fund.
- We need to be able to plan for the future and grow—by knowing people's commitment, by expanding what we offer, by protecting our affordable tuition rates and not becoming tuition-driven.

Hence, by action of the Board, Urbana Seminary Development is beginning a capital campaign to gather pledges to support and make possible the accomplishment of our mission of *building the Kingdom of Christ by equipping people to love, know, and serve God*. We seek pledges for a five year period. This will allow us to project and plan for the future. It will also make it possible to demonstrate our financial viability in a tangible way to accreditation agencies.

You will receive a mailing about this pledge campaign at sometime in the next several months. *Would you begin to pray about giving?* Whether donating annually or monthly, whether small or large in size—all are a vital part in building the work that God is calling us to carry out in training a new generation of leadership. *Read the student testimonies in this issue of the Flame and dream about the impact seminary training can have on lives.* Think of how strategic the investment will be. Help us impact one life, and that person may impact thousands or even tens of thousands of others through their life work.

new opportunity: direct deposit donation now available

Many prefer to give through direct deposit from their account. We completed arrangements early in March to offer donors the option to contribute through transfer of funds. We are seeking more who would like to donate in this way. Enclosed with this newsletter is a direct donation form with instructions as to what you need to provide to be able to give electronically to the Seminary's ministry. If you currently give, you can begin to give in this way and save the stamps and the effort of writing the check. If you would join our giving support team this is an excellent juncture to begin and a convenient way to give.

a big "thank you!" to all our giving partners in 2005

Individual Donors 2005

Anonymous (3)

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