

# The Flame



Spring 2007 • Volume 13 • Issue 1

## FROM THE PRESIDENT!

As you receive this the spring semester is winding down and preparations for graduation and summer gearing up. Against the backdrop of a nation shocked once more with the vulnerability of students in a school, this time a university, it is clear that what we deal with in Seminary theological education are issues of life and eternity. I know that I am privileged to be able to teach and work in a place that equips people to respond to a culture in crisis. Such a focused community of students—ardent to serve Christ and impact society, hearts given to Him, and sharp to learn His Word and communicate that truth. Such a quality team of those who teach and carry out the administration of the Seminary. I wish each one who receives the *Flame* could be here on location to experience what God is doing. Please take this brief newsletter and absorb what's happening, pray for us, and consider any other ways you might be involved in helping this vision of equipping a new spiritual generation to lead the church come to reality. Thank you!

In Him,  
*Ken*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS

- On December 20, we sent in our application for the next level of approval to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
- The entire team of those who work at Urbana Seminary have met each month this year in a series of mini-retreats to sharpen our understanding of vision and calling as a school. Our hope is that we will be able to publish a strategic plan for the next several years as a result of these times of recommitment and rethinking. The discussions may also lead to some fine-tuning of the curriculum to make what we do more effective in training leaders who can study, hear, use, and share the Word of God.
- A whole new line of brochures about the school, as well as the new catalog, have been designed by a professional graphic designer, Carolyn Zimmer. The first piece, a card which introduces the Seminary and its degrees, is already in print. It looks sharp and reflects what we desire to be a pervasive commitment to quality in all that we do. Work is also underway on revamping the website.
- On April 20 the Seminary held the Spring Concert of Prayer, this time with a focus on praying for students and their lives and ministries.

## HAVE YOU NAMED URBANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN YOUR WILL?

A note from one of our students mentioned that he had included Urbana Seminary as a beneficiary of his will. This is so appreciated, and a great way to keep building the ministry of the school for the future. Are there any others of you who have



included the school in your will? It would help us to know that you have done so. Please indicate this on the card which is enclosed and return it to us with that information. If you do not have the Seminary as a beneficiary, would you be interested in doing so? On that same card, you can let us know of your interest in receiving information about how to go about doing so.

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... to build the kingdom of Christ through higher education by equipping people to love and serve God...

## THANK YOU !

### Honor roll of donors to the seminary's annual fund !

#### Individual Donors 2006

Anonymous (3)  
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#### Church/Organization Donors 2006

Baptist Student Foundation  
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Evangelical Community Church (IN)  
First Baptist Church of Champaign  
Grace Church of Mahomet  
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Twin City Bible Church

#### Donations given in kind 2006

University Baptist Church  
Twin City Bible Church  
First Baptist Church of Champaign  
Judah Christian School  
Stratford Park Bible Church  
Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church  
Windsor Road  
Illini Life

**For the word of God is  
living and  
active .**

Hebrews 4:12a

## A NEW WAY TO HELP OUT URBANA SEMINARY THROUGH GROCERY SHOPPING!

Many of our local IGA grocery stores offer a Charitable Rebate program. Urbana Theological Seminary has become a member. How does it work?

All you have to do is sign Urbana Seminary up as your organization with IGA. Once you designate UTS as your organization, every time you shop at IGA and scan your IGA HVC card, Urbana Seminary is eligible to receive cash donations. Bring the enclosed IGA enrollment form into any of the 10 IGAs listed. They will sign Urbana Seminary up as your organization. We thank you for taking advantage of this program.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

On January 26, the Seminary community gathered together to worship our Lord God and commit the semester over to Him. The event was entirely planned and led by students, with Mike McQueen, as the speaker. The testimonies, songs, music, and sermon all challenged us to redouble our efforts to pray faithfully. A big thank you needs to be given to our Student Representative, Elaine Carovilla, for organizing the service! Other program students, Melvin Leach and Kelly Marshall, provided the music and Mark French, Joel Gehrig and MiRyung Kim all gave special testimonies. Our new Academic Dean, Mike McQueen, ended our evening of worship with an exceptional message. The worship service represented an excellent start to a new semester, and a way of committing all we do to the Lord as a learning community. It was a privilege and a delight to be part of this circle of Christ's people.



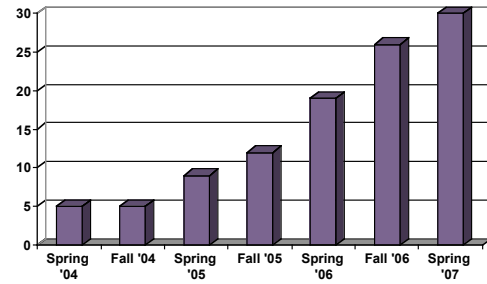
## From sound bites to understanding: BRUCE VOJAK

I often have felt that my understanding of scripture is as if it were a series of moderately-considered sound bites. While there are many quite meaningful key verses, stories and concepts that I carry around with me, I simultaneously sense that I lack both a broader and more in-depth understanding of scripture. My participation in a Seminary class on Ephesians, taught by Peter Spychalla this spring, has helped me to gain a richer and more synthesized understanding of this important New Testament book. Since this class is structured as a guided and interactive study of the text, being enrolled has provided me with both the challenge to dig into the text on my own throughout the week, a time to practice and learn Bible study skills on my own. There is also the safety net of having Peter there as a mentor, providing additional insight and directing discussion, as well as my fellow students there to discuss the text each Wednesday night. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the class so far has been to see the powerful and broad recurring themes and messages that Paul has woven throughout this book and how these themes and messages are so often inextricably linked with each other. They do not stand on their own as I would have envisioned them with my sound bite perspective. This has been at various times both compelling and convicting. For where I am coming from, I can not recommend a better way to move to a next level in personal Bible study skill or to a deeper and broader understanding of scripture.



Bruce Vojak  
(Bruce is newly accepted into our Graduate Certificate program. Besides being our student, he is also a husband and father, and an Associate Dean in the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois.)

## PROGRAM STUDENTS come grow with us



The chart above shows the number of students enrolled in Urbana Seminary's three programs (Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religion, and the Graduate Certificate) semester by semester.

## APRIL 14: SEMINARY DAY

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to study Bible and theology in a seminary? Wouldn't it be great to have a chance to sample advanced theological education at a Seminary? On Saturday, April 14, from 12 noon to 4 PM, Urbana Seminary made that possible for interested potential students who wanted to sample the life and classes of the school's programs. At lunch there was an opportunity to interact with students who are currently enrolled in the programs of the school. Following the meal, there was a presentation of the school, its mission and vision, along with an explanation of the programs. Then there was an opportunity to sample two short seminary class sessions, taught by Todd Daly (on the problem of evil) and Adrian Lamkin (What's unique about the church in America?), to gain a feel for typical classroom styles and topics in theological higher education. If you'd like to attend Seminary Day in 2008, contact us at 217-365-9005 or at [office@urbanaseminary.org](mailto:office@urbanaseminary.org) to be put on the list for notices when we get closer to the event. If you don't want to wait that long to find out more about the school, contact us and we'll send you information right away.



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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Building Bridges, Raising Awareness

Urbana Seminary is committed to the local church, to parachurch ministries, and to being a resource in their mission to train and equip laypeople. We desire to bridge what we perceive as an unnecessary and harmful gap between traditional theological education on the graduate level and the person in the pew. To bridge that gap and



encourage people to take steps toward deepening their spiritual lives, Urbana Seminary has created the Community Outreach program to offer training in lay settings. Since the semester began the Community Outreach program has presented seminars to serve churches and other ministries, entitled *On the Road with the Apostle Paul: A Visual Tour of the Missionary Journeys*, *How to Interpret the Bible*, and *Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts* (Community Bible Study leaders, Chinese Christian Church, Illini Chinese Christian Fellowship) and a seminar called *What's He Saying? Finding God's Will for Your Life* for the broader Christian community of this area. Todd Daly addressed the Bioethics Seminar Series at Carle Hospital on the topic *Methuselah Pills, Frozen Fruit Flies, and the p53 Gene: Aims and Ethics of Anti-Aging Science*. Seminary faculty and staff have ministered in the pulpits of a number of local churches, as well as offered training for Bible Study leaders on *John 15: Staying Connected* (Windsor Road Christian), and taught a semester long *Panorama of the Old Testament* (Covenant Fellowship).

## A CROSS SECTION OF LIFE IN SEMINARY CLASSES

### What would you study the second week of April?

Have you ever wondered what students at Urbana Seminary are studying? What exactly do theological students invest their time in pursuing? We asked everyone who teaches for us this semester if they could give a brief summary of what they covered in classes the week of April 9-13, right after Easter, to give you a taste of the specifics (and maybe to whet your appetite for some of the most exciting teaching going on anywhere).

- **Theology 2:** The doctrine of the church, with specific emphasis on the role of women in the church (Todd Daly)
- **Ephesians:** The exhortations in Eph 4:17-5:21 -- walking in new life, love, and wisdom (Peter Spychalla)
- **Senior Integrative Seminar:** exploring questions of calling and placement, and preparing final statements on doctrine, philosophy of ministry, and personal calling. (Brett Smith)
- **Preaching:** How to write for the ear, not the eye, when you write your sermon. Skills for oral clarity: restatement; preview; key words; transition phrases; Scripture reading; gestures; & effective delivery. (Randy Boltinghouse)
- **Gateway to Missions:** Christian Community Development, transformation with regard to world need, hope and holism, and urban ministry. We will also deal with the controversial claim that missionaries destroy cultures. (Mike McQueen)
- **New Testament:** The epistles of Paul from his early career, especially Galatians, Thessalonians, Corinthians, Romans. (Ken Cuffey)
- **History of Christianity 2:** Developments in 19th century Protestant and Catholic life and theology, the rise of the modern missionary movement in 1792 and its impact on world Christianity in the 19th century. (Adrian Lamkin)
- **Greek 2:** The imperative mood and its use in select NT sentences (Peter Spychalla)
- **Apologetics:** the problem which evil poses for belief in an all-powerful, benevolent God; why should anyone believe in a God who allows innocent children to be abused or to suffer from terminal illnesses, or allows tsunamis to wipe thousands of people off the face of the earth? (Todd Daly)
- **OT Wisdom Books:** The end of Job and its theology, God's speech from the whirlwind, how Job addresses the question of innocent suffering. (Ken Cuffey)
- **Field Education:** students are working in a variety of placements--from preaching and teaching to facility maintenance--and reflecting on their experiences together during class reflections. (Brett Smith)
- **Advanced Counseling:** We covered a biblical overview of the nature of conflicts in relationships and considered the biblical perspective of and practical suggestions for conflict resolution. We also analyzed the nature of words and their impact on us, on those around us, and on those we counsel. (Min Chung)
- **Classics of Christian Devotion:** A student-led presentation will look at the classic work of John Bunyan, *Pilgrims Progress*. (Adrian Lamkin)

## WE CALLED!

If you were a donor in 2006, you should by now have received a call, or at least a message if you weren't there (or picking up). We called! That is, our Board members called each person or family who was part of our ministry through giving. The Board wanted to do this of their own accord. Their goals were simply 1) to say "Thank you for giving!" and 2) to ask if you had any needs for which we could pray. There was no additional agenda in making these calls. Board members have been praying for your requests since their call.



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