

The Flame



Year End 2007 • Volume 13 • Issue 3

presidents' pen...

Traditionally in the fall we look back, reflect, and gain perspective on the year past. God has worked in and through Urbana Seminary during 2007. Some of the milestones are enumerated in the Highlights Box. But so often what God does is in a quiet and behind the scenes manner. His Spirit is active in all sorts of nooks and crannies, often in the personal touch, the one-on-one conversation between a faculty/staff member and a student, or in a relationship forming between two students. God's Spirit may show His presence in the exhilaration of discovery or understanding an assignment for a class, or bringing resolution to a tough ministry quandary that a student is facing. Even when we as humans may miss His involvement in all that's happening, He is with us in ways that are tangible—both the obvious and the subtle.

As 2007 comes to a close, my thoughts are straightforward. First, thank you so much for being interested in the Seminary's ministry! Without your care, support, and prayers, we could not make this level and quality of academic training for ministry available. Second, please remember Urbana Seminary in your year end giving. Educational ministries need funding to operate. When you give, you become our partner in fulfilling the mission of *providing graduate theological education which prepares people for Christian ministry and leadership, equipping them to love, know, and serve God*. You join us in the ministry of training. In 2007, more than ever, we need more of you to join that support team of partners who give a financial donation to the Annual Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

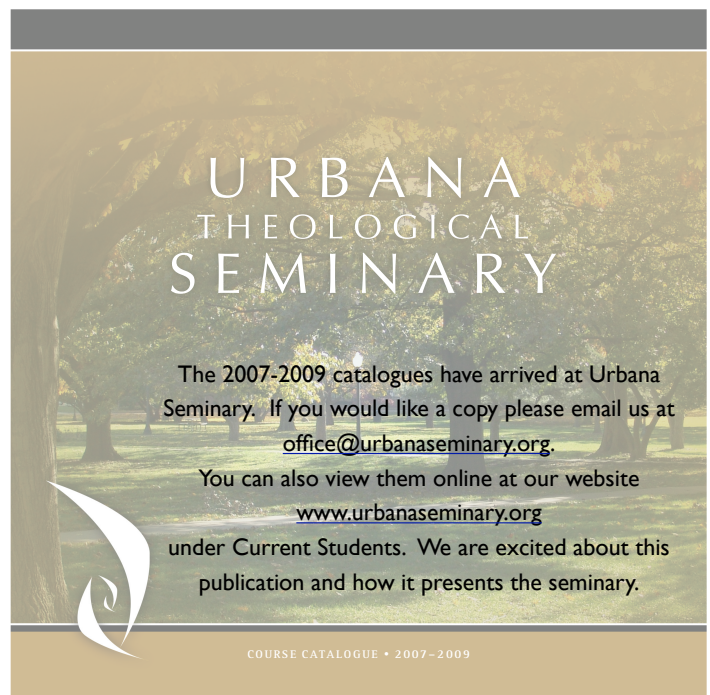
In Him,
Ken

highlights

God has enabled and empowered ministry to students here throughout the past year. Some of the big milestones have included:

- Examination and resolution of the mission and vision statements.
- Our first annual Seminary Day. An opportunity for future students to check out who we are.
- Publication of the first professional graphically designed catalogue
- Website redesign
- 10 new program students for 2007 year
- Three students graduated in May
- The second level of our applications with the Illinois Board of Higher Education processed by their staff in Springfield and coming up at their statewide meeting on December 4.
- Steady donations by the sacrificial givers who pledged in the Fan the Flame campaign.
- The appointment of two graduate assistants to work with development.
- Launch of an interdisciplinary and inter-institution (Urbana Seminary and University of Illinois!) effort to train and challenge church leaders in Christian responsibility towards the environment which God has created.

catalogues have arrived...!



The 2007-2009 catalogues have arrived at Urbana Seminary. If you would like a copy please email us at office@urbanaseminary.org.

You can also view them online at our website www.urbanaseminary.org under Current Students. We are excited about this publication and how it presents the seminary.

COURSE CATALOGUE • 2007-2009

... preparing people for Christian ministry and leadership, equipping them to love, know, and serve God...

an interview with joe...

What do you do for a living?

I work for T.I.S. College Bookstore's textbook department. I'm basically responsible for collecting and entering the information about the books each instructor would like to use, ordering those books, and, then, making sure our shelves are set up for when those books arrive.

What degree are you getting at Urbana Theological Seminary? What do you hope to do in the future?

I am a first year M.Div. student. For me, this is a stepping stone toward the ultimate goal of a Ph.D. in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. I would love to be on the faculty of a university or seminary at some point, but am certainly open to other calls. In the back of my head I have this wild notion of developing a one day seminar called "A Day with the Old Testament," and then traveling around the country in a Volkswagen bus doing the seminar from church to church. Twenty-first century Christianity is confronted with the ugly monster of Biblical illiteracy. This is particularly true with our handling of the Old Testament. Perhaps the hand of God, my VW bus, and I could help in a small way to confront this problem.

What made you decide to come to Urbana Theological Seminary?

Originally, it was convenience. My family has lived in Urbana for about 15 years and my wife works for the University of Illinois. But, in retrospect, Urbana Seminary has been an excellent decision because of its approach to theological education. Urbana Seminary tends to educate broadly, empowering the theological student to actually think and arrive at theologically sound conclusions. In my faith tradition, seminary is about indoctrination, not about faithful and rational inquiry. W.B. Yeats said that education is more about the lighting of a fire than the filling a pail. Urbana Seminary lights fires.

What, of any, impact are your classes having on your spiritual walk, work, life?

Seminary has had the very important effect of forcing me to open theological doors that, for me, had always remained closed. For instance, I had never really wrestled with the issues of the Doctrine of Revelation until Professor Daly's Theology I class, or the encounter between postmodernism and Christianity until Professor McQueen's Culture & Ministry class, or the New Perspective on Paul until Professor Cuffey's New Testament Seminar. On the flip side, it has drastically reduced the amount of time for devotional activities. Before seminary, I faithfully prayed the Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Hours, but have not been able to keep up this practice. In effect, studying Hebrew has replaced praying Matins. This remains a concern for me and it is often foremost in my prayers and thought. It seems that I am a living example of Henri Nouwen's critique of seminary education as found in his book "In the Name of Jesus." This is disconcerting.

Is there a group of students, instructor, or class that excites you?

T.I.S. has had the good fortune to employ a few other Urbana Seminary students (Mark French and Brian Sauder). Through them, I've really been able to form a better understanding of the faith of students a decade younger than myself.

Hebrew has the odd distinction of being both the most difficult class I've ever taken and the class I've loved the most. I am a horrible Hebrew student, but am also absolutely in love with the language. I guess this is just one of those weird seminary paradoxes that I am still trying to reconcile with and incorporate into my being.



transitions



A Goodbye . . .

To Dr. Adrian Lamkin, who will be leaving the Seminary with the New Year to pursue other opportunities. We are so grateful for his years of service with us. He will be remembered for his wonderful ability to communicate in a classroom lecture. So many students who had never expected to find history interesting, discovered under his teaching that the world of church history was fascinating and compelling.

A Search or Two . . .

And so we inaugurate two searches this winter. We will begin a search for a faculty member to fill the spot vacated by Dr. Lamkin. We will conduct a search for a New Testament professor with a secondary interest in Church History, rather than strictly a Church History position. By the way, do you know any people with a Ph.D. in New Testament who might be interested? Have them send us a resume!

In addition, we have been blessed with Esther Giezendanner's presence this fall a bit longer than she expected to be in town. But it is now time for us to launch a search for a librarian as she prepares to move to be closer to family. We're so grateful she could stay around this fall. She's done so much in the library.



seminary and university as a team: environment and church leaders

Some exciting recent developments have opened a bridge for faculty from Urbana Seminary and the University of Illinois to work together on a cooperative project. Scripture is clear that we need to take good care of the world that our Father created. In the summer to come, the Seminary and select programs in the University will join together to offer a seminar for training church leaders from Illinois. This will focus on:

- Christian responsibility for care of creation as stewards, which will be taught by the Seminary (Ken Cuffey on the Biblical foundations for concern with our environment and Todd Daly with a theological/ethical perspective on the issues).
- Scientific data about the state of the global environment and practical steps that church leaders can take in order to help, which will be presented by faculty from Natural Resources and Environmental areas of study at the University.

Several meetings have already occurred to chart a course and lay the groundwork. The conversations have been animated and constructive, with an air of genuine excitement at the potential from both collaborating parties. More info on this as it develops.



student support and prayer partnership

To make theological education available to everyone God calls, Urbana Seminary relies on your support. Through the Student Support and Prayer Partnership, we invite you to contribute an amount you determine on a monthly basis. These donations will go toward the Urbana Theological Fund, a general school fund which will help keep tuition low for our students. In response to your pledge, we offer to partner you with one of our students for mutual prayer as they train and prepare for future ministry. The Seminary faculty, staff, and students will all partner with you in this program. As a supporter, you commit to ongoing prayer for the student the Seminary has paired you with, and to sending your monthly contribution to Urbana Seminary on a regular basis. The students who have agreed to be part of this partnership will regularly send prayer requests and updates to those who have partnered with them. They will also pray for you if you should choose to share your prayer requests with them. Prayerfully think this partnership over and decide if this is a commitment you would like to make.



help recruit

Do you know someone interested in training for ministry? A future pastor? Or missionary? Or maybe a serious layperson who really wants to understand God's Word? Or someone heading into a so-called "secular" profession who wants to know how to integrate their vocation around their faith in Christ? Let them know about Urbana Seminary! Point them to our website. Let us know their address and we'll send a copy of the DVD and catalog. Or tell them about Seminary Day!

... preparing people for Christian ministry and leadership, equipping them to love, know, and serve God...

join us as partners! consider a year end gift! fight student debt!!

God calls us to provide theological training to students who will touch thousands of other people around the globe for Christ. Our goal is that we will be able to cover 75% of the cost of training for ministry through donations from our support base. The remainder of the cost of providing a theological education (25%) would then be covered by student tuition. Join us in keeping student debt of seminary graduates to a minimum. Your generosity makes it possible for this strategic ministry to go forward. Donors like you allow us to keep preparation for Christian leadership outstanding in quality and affordable at the same time. What a fantastic investment!

All this to say ... please include Urbana Seminary in your year end giving! We can make the 75/25 ratio a reality. It is an attainable goal, but needs your participation. A gift to the Annual Fund of the Seminary will go a long way to impact hearts and minds for the glory of God—today in the lives of our students, then for decades to come in the lives of those they will impact. *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Cor 9:12)*

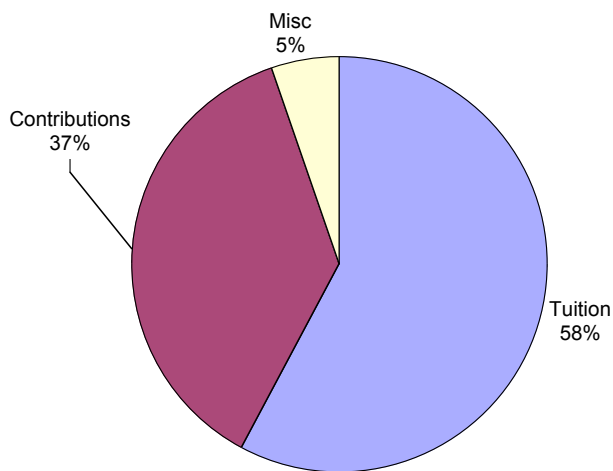
urbana theological seminary's 2006/2007 fiscal year end report

For the 2006/2007 school year, 135 men and women enrolled in one or more of our biblical studies, Christian history or thought, and practical ministry courses.

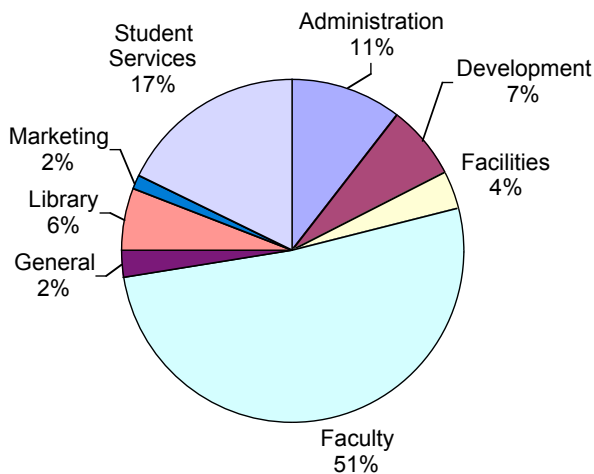
During the 2006/2007 fiscal year, we began the fall semester with 9 new program students. In the spring 3 more students joined our program bringing Urbana Theological Seminary's total program student enrollment to 27. Of these students, 10 are working toward their Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies, 8 are working toward a Master of Arts in Religion, and 9 are working toward their Master of Divinity. Fall 2007 has brought even more students to UTS

2006/2007 Income and Expense Summary

Income



Expense



**Now this is eternal life: that they may know
you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ,
whom you have sent.
John 17:3**