

Urbana Theological Seminary:

THE FLAME

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URBANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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IBHE Accords Urbana Seminary Degree-Granting Authority

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Colossians 4:2

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

At approximately 11:30 AM on December 4th, 2007, the Illinois Board of Higher Education voted unanimously to give Urbana Seminary Degree-Granting Authority. DGA is the second and highest level of approval accorded to an institution of higher learning in the state of Illinois. This means that the whole process of an education at UTS - from applying, to the first day of class, to walking the stage to receive a degree at graduation - is fully approved by the state. It is a legal requirement that all schools in this state must go through the process to ensure the quality of what is offered. Praise God with us! We are so delighted to have attained this milestone.

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Illinois Board of Higher Education

Jenny Heaton and Michael Heiniger

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”
 Psalm 119:105

STUDENT SUPPORT AND PRAYER PARTNERSHIP

Would you give to the ministry of the Seminary if there were a more personal connection with a student? To keep donating from being merely to an institution, we have designed a Student Support and Prayer Partnership. In this you commit to give a monthly amount to the Annual Fund of the Seminary (by electronic funds transfer or by sending a check). We will then match you with a student who will periodically e-mail you prayer requests so that you can pray for his or her needs, and watch God’s working. We will also send you a card with the student’s picture and a brief description of who they are and where they are in life. Does this spark your interest? Let us know on the response card and we will send you a descriptive brochure.

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



Mary Um (Alumni), Ariel and friends



Ariel Khy: GSSC student

ARIEL KHY

I decided to move back to the Champaign/ Urbana area to get more spiritual training to prepare for missions. My plans were to go to Urbana Seminary to get the one year graduate certificate and get a degree in either nursing or teaching English as an international language as I work. Currently, I work as a benefits administrator for a business company in Champaign. Because I also work, school seems more challenging. But it's worth it. God is worth the time I spend to try to understand Him and to know Him. I pray before class or on my way to class or before I study that I would have hunger and desire to know God more. He has given me the focus and strength to be able to study.

Initially, I just saw a seminary program as a means of training in the Word to help me to be more useful and effective for discipleship and teaching overseas. But seminary has been more than an intellectual academic program. I am learning more than knowledge or facts from my professors. I get very blessed from them as they share their lives and faith lived out as they teach us the subject. In all the classes that I have taken, the professors want us to

grow and to become better men and women of God. It's more than academic; it is about our relationship with God. They don't want seminary time to be dry. It is definitely not dry for me. It's been an exciting adventure.

In theology class, we emphasized at the beginning that there are no such things as big theologians, only little ones like the children to whom God reveals the secrets of the kingdom. No matter how much we have learned or how old we get or how long we studied, we will always be like the little children because God is great and infinite. More knowledge of God should lead to greater humility and obedience. The Old Testament is exciting. It's awesome to learn about God and how He is working in the history of the Israelites to bring the nations to salvation. As I was studying the theme of Leviticus and flipping through the book, I caught a vision of His holiness and wanted to cry and repent. It's all about God! How do we approach our holy God? We need to approach Him with holy worship and holy living. He is gracious and merciful to us. Listening to the stories of the early church from Acts to the Middle Ages is fascinating. I see God

working through men and nations to protect and spread the Gospel.

These classes have deepened my faith and helped me to know and understand God more. It affirms and deepens my conviction that there is no other way to live except to totally give it all to God to walk the narrow path. I know that I am not much. Although I may not be written in the history texts of man, God has given me the privilege to be written in His story book. He is including my little story in His big story. This is more than I can ask for. I am thankful for the privilege to be in seminary and UTS is helping me along my journey of God's little story for me. In spite of being busier and sleeping less, I am repenting more and praying more. At work, I am more gracious with others and want to do my best more often even when it's not personally rewarding and circumstances are not favorable. I tell everyone about my seminary classes – Christians and non-Christians. I think all the Christians, whether they are committed to full time ministry or not, should do the one year program. Well, maybe take one class at a time for credit. It keeps you accountable to do the work and dig deeper. It truly strengthens our faith.

Thank you to our donors of 2007!

CHURCH/CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

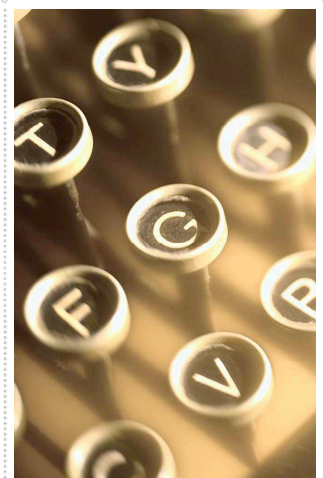
Baptist Student Foundation
 Community Evangelical Free Church
 Covenant Fellowship Church
 Crossroads Church of Monticello
 Evangelical Community Church
 Grace Church of Mahomet
 Hessell Park Christian Reformed Church
 Illini Life
 New Covenant Fellowship
 Twin City Bible Church

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (4)
 Ron & Nancy Angerer
 David & Carol Archer
 Allen & Jeannette Bean
 Thelma & Marlyn Clark
 Herb Corten
 Gene & Lois Crum
 Ken & Lori Cuffey
 David & Lisa Dunn
 MD & Lois Flaming

Marcel Fontijin
 LeRoy & Donna Franklin
 Michael & Irene Franklin
 Robert & Alice Fryling
 Mark & Sarah Fugate
 Pamela & George Garrison
 James Geisendorfer
 Roger & Janis Grace
 William & Pamela Griswold
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 Carol McCarty
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 Michael & Gwynne McQueen
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 Derick & Teresa Miller
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Matthew Mooberry
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 Marilyn Parkhill
 Michael & Kathy Penrod
 Karl & Crystal Radnitzer
 Jeanne Rey
 Morris & Esther Robertson
 John & Nancy Roeckeman
 Amy Rofail
 Anne Schaefer
 Lisa & Eric Sink
 Paul & Ruth Smith
 Peter Spychalla
 Ann Steffen
 Wayne & Sally Teschon
 Samuel & Winnie To
 Frank & Barbara Tuck
 Lillian & Steve Van Vleet
 David & Judy Webb
 David and Chris Whippo
 Geraldine Witkovsky
 Daniel Wong



Seeing Clearly

In the November Flame, we had mentioned completing our re-examination of our Mission and Vision. A series of mini-retreats from winter through summer of 2007 resulted in our working through all the components of how we desired to express what God has called the Seminary to accomplish. We had shared the new and more precise wording of the Mission Statement: that Urbana Seminary provides graduate theological education which prepares people for Christian ministry and leadership, equipping them to love, know, and serve God.

The Mission expresses who we are and what we do. The Vision is to capture the essence of where we are heading and what we dream of being known for. The new statement of Vision we chose is that Urbana Seminary will seek to serve God and His eternal purposes by providing an education that will be academically excellent,

faithful to Scripture, missional, and student-focused.

This contains a number of exciting facets! One of the immediate benefits of the discussion and resolution is that it has allowed us to better clarify our target audience and goals—that we are here not to reassure people of what they have always thought, but to drive them back to Scripture, to give them the tools to dig in and understand the text, and to think as Christians on their own to face unforeseen issues that will arise in the years of ministry and serving Christ ahead.



President's Pen...

I have one deep burden on my heart as I write for *The Flame* in this month of February: Prayer! I've struggled with how we can create a solid base of prayer support for the ministry of Urbana Seminary. The Seminary is a ministry for God's glory. There is a real spiritual war that goes on behind the scenes of life (Ephesians 6:10-20). This Seminary, along with each of our lives, is caught up in that spiritual warfare, whether we acknowledge it or not.

All I want to focus on this time is prayer. How do we build a base of support in prayer for the ministry of Urbana Seminary?

- Take the enclosed **Prayer Guide** seriously, put it in your Bible, and pray for us.
- If you're in the area in Illinois (I realize that many of you are elsewhere in the US and the world) come and participate in one of our **Concerts of Prayer**. We just had one on Feb. 8th. If you'd like to be apprised of their occurrence, send us your e-mail and let us know of your willingness.
- **Let us pray for you!** E-mail us and let us know how you would like people at the

Seminary, and on the Seminary Prayer Team, to intercede for you.

- For those who sense God leading them to this: Join our **Seminary Prayer Team**. This is a group of people who are willing to make a firm commitment to pray for the Seminary and its ministry in all aspects - There are two ways that those who feel God's call to involvement in this manner can take part:
 - Be a regular in a **once a month time of intense group prayer** for the Seminary. Obviously this will work best for those who live in the immediate area in Central Illinois. If you would like to be included, please let us know of your interest on the response card.
 - Receive **regular e-mail prayer requests** for which you pray. If you would be willing to make this commitment, please let us know on the response card. You must include your e-mail.

Please pray for us! Share with us how to pray for you!

Thank you!

Ken

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”.

Philippians 4:6

