

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN . . .

Summer classes will be winding up shortly, while thoughts turn to the approaching school year ahead. So at this juncture in the year, the life of the school is busy as always, although with different focus and intensity.

The Summer launched with the 11th Annual Graduation for the class of 2016, which was another time to reflect and celebrate. That day also had a second highlight as I was able to attend the ordination of one of our alums, Brian Sauder, for his ministry with Faith in Place. An exciting day, and congratulations all around! The Seminary has hosted two special community events—in June a lecture entitled *Erasmus and the Bible Revolution*, along with a visit to a special exhibit at the University of Illinois' Library conducted by Dr. Joe Thomas. Then in July the annual *Ancient Israel in Chicago* tour of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute collection of ancient Near Eastern antiquities that correlate with the Old Testament and its events. Both were well-received and attended.

Also this summer Urbana Seminary was approved as a provider of CEU credit for the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), an agency that accredits Christian schools (K-12). Since there are many schools within an hour and a half radius seeking to attain or maintain ACSI accreditation, this will enable the Seminary to use its courses and programs to serve the church more broadly.

Thank you to those who gave to the *Life Happens* campaign in the Spring! This summer, I encourage you to pray for the school and give to the Founders Fund. If you've never participated in this ministry of forming lives and equipping God's people, now is a great time to make a first gift, or commit to begin donating on a regular basis. Will you join us in the way? We are grateful for your part in the Lord's work here.

Thank you!

*Ken*

Ken Cuffey,

President

## Donate while you shop at Amazon!

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## Students:

**Don't Forget to order your text books @**

<http://www.urbanaseminary.org/library/bookstore/>

## WOULD YOU CONSIDER A SPECIAL SUMMER GIFT TO THE MINISTRY?

God's Holy Spirit continues to form the character, knowledge, and wisdom of his people through Seminary classes and events. When you give, you make it possible for us to equip our students with the tools they need to think and act as Christ's servants in our world. When you give, you partner with us in ministry by enabling us to keep tuition affordable for God's servants.

Summer is frequently the tightest time of year in the flow of finances for the Seminary, and that is the case this year. Your gift will have an impact that is magnified through the Spirit's work in the lives of the students and of the people each of them will touch in the years to come.

Would you consider a gift? Or even coming on board as a monthly donor? We can't do it without you. And so we also say a hearty "Thank you!" in advance!

## PRAY FOR THE SEMINARY

We treasure your prayers for the ministry of the Seminary. Here's some ways you can pray for the school:

- For **students in summer sessions**—for fruitful work that equips them well.
- For **strong enrollment** for the Fall.
- For the **new students** who will begin work with us this Fall. For the Lord to connect us with **many more** of them.
- For serving the church through **lay training opportunities** and through the provision of **CEUs** and our brand new **Endorsement program**.
- For God to raise up many **new monthly and regular givers to the Founders Fund**.

✂ "cut and return"

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## Celebrating Our New Graduates | Graduation: May 21, 2016

On Saturday, May 21st Urbana Seminary celebrated its 11th annual Commencement. The accompanying pictures give some idea of the delightful day, and the variety of graduates who received the Graduate Certificate, the Master of Arts in Religion, or the Master of Divinity! All the graduates are of note—they have already engaged themselves in a diversity of ministries and are actively making use of their training. One to specially congratulate is Melvin Leach, whose M.Div. represents the culmination of 12 years of classes—he began in 2004 and steadily progressed with one class at a time. Thus the ranks of the Urbana Seminary Alumni Association swelled further this year, past 50, and we praise God for each of these alums—how they have grown as they studied, and how God will use them in the decades to come! Our own Dr. Mike McQueen delivered the Commencement Address.

Also at the Commencement ceremony we announced the winners of the major scholarships for 2016-2017. Steve Whited is the recipient of the Brotherton Scholarship, which provides a full-tuition scholarship for a year drawn from funds provided by the Brotherton Foundation. Steve has been both a full-time student this past year, along with his ministry on the staff of Bridges, working with international students who come here to study at the University (picture below, top right). The Lanter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Don Stout as he finishes studies preparatory to ministry overseas. This scholarship is in honor of George Lanter, a Seminary Board member, who was much loved for his involvement with the lives of others—family and students.



## Erasmus and the Bible Revolution

At noon on Wednesday, June eighth, Urbana Seminary held a lecture combined with a visit to the Rare Book room on U of I's campus that was attended by 55 people. M.Div student Merle Klein describes the experience from his perspective:

'Erasmus and the Bible Revolution' was a fun and informative event. Professor Joe Thomas spoke about the life and work of Erasmus, the man who compiled the Greek New Testament as we know it. His work impacted Luther and other Protestant Reformers. As a seminary student, I was pleased to learn that Erasmus did not learn Greek until he was about 30 years old. If he can learn Greek at 30, then maybe it's not too late for me to do something meaningful. Following the talk, we all walked over to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois to tour their Erasmus exhibit. There we had the chance to view some of Erasmus' works and hear more about them individually.

I attended the event on short notice: a friend invited me a couple hours beforehand, and I am glad I went. I enjoyed hearing about this historical figure that I knew little about, and his life and impact on Christian history. I also enjoyed seeing many friends from the community. This was a great lecture and an awesome exhibit made even better by the company of students and friends of the Seminary.

### Urbana Theological Seminary

Fall 2016 Courses | Classes start August 22, 2016

#### BIBLICAL STUDIES

<b>Old Testament Survey</b> Wednesday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	K. Cuffey 3 Hrs
<b>Hermeneutics: Bible Interpretation</b> Thursday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	K. Cuffey 3 Hrs
<b>Biblical Book Study: Hebrews</b> Wednesday 6:00PM - 8:30PM	P. Spychalla 3 Hrs
<b>New Testament Greek I</b> Monday and Wednesday 4:00PM - 5:45PM	P. Spychalla 3 Hrs
<b>Hebrew Exegesis: Micah</b> Tuesday 4:30PM - 7:30PM	K. Cuffey 3 Hrs

#### CHRISTIAN HISTORY & THOUGHT

<b>History of World Christianity I</b> Meets in Classrooms and Online Discussion Thursday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	J. Thomas 3 Hrs
<b>Theology I</b> Tuesday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	T. Daly 3 Hrs
<b>Apologetics</b> Modular: (Fri Aug 26, 6PM - 9PM) (Sat Aug 27, 9AM - 4PM) (Fri Sept 16, 6PM - 9PM) (Sat Sept 17, 9AM - 4PM) (Fri Oct 21, 6PM - 9PM) (Sat Oct 22, 9AM - 4PM) (Fri Dec 2, 6PM - 9PM) (Sat Dec 3, 9AM - 4PM)	T. Daly 3 Hrs
<b>There and Back Again: The Works of J.R.R. Tolkien</b> Monday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	M. Green 3 Hrs

#### PRACTICAL MINISTRY

<b>World Christian Movement: A Gateway to Mission</b> Monday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	M. McQueen 3 Hrs
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#### UNDERGRADUATE

<b>The Bible: The Hebrew Scriptures (The OT)</b> Wednesday 6:00PM - 9:00PM	K. Cuffey 3 Hrs
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#### REGISTRATION

To register for classes and for more info visit our website at:  
[www.urbanaseminary.org](http://www.urbanaseminary.org)  
... click on "ONLINE REGISTRATION"

Save • the • Date!

#### Back to School Picnic!

August 20, 2016 | Saturday | 5:30PM

#### Pastor's Spiritual Life Forum

October 24, 2016 | Monday

#### Tolkien Confernece

November 5, 2016 | Saturday

#### Antioch

Date and Location: TBD



#### Recent Faculty Speaking Engagements:

##### Ken Cuffey

June 26, 2016 | Phil 2:12-18 | TCBC Urbana  
Series on Ruth: "The Hidden Hand of God"  
Evangelical Free Church | Bloomington, IL  
July 10, 2016 | Ruth 1 - In Our Hard(est) Times  
July 17, 2016 | Ruth 2 - In Our Everyday Life  
July 24, 2016 | Ruth 3 - In Our Choices, Risks, and Gambles.  
July 31, 2016 | Ruth 4 - In the Light of Eternity.  
July 12, 2016 | Small group on reading Genesis | WRCC

##### Todd Daly

May 2016 | Preached | Hessel Park Reformed Church  
July 31, 2016 | Preached | Windsor Road Christian Church

##### Mike McQueen

May 8, 2016 | Peoria Chinese Christian Church (PCCC)  
May 29, 2016 | Venice-Santa Monica, CA Free Methodist Church  
June 5, 2016 | First Southern Baptist Church of Culver City (CA)  
June 12, 2016 | Peoria Chinese Christian Church (PCCC)  
June 19, 2016 | Temple Baptist Church  
July 3, 2016 | Temple Baptist Church  
July 10, 2016 | Peoria Chinese Christian Church (PCCC)  
July 17, 2016 | Seminar on Islam | Windsor Road Christian Church

##### Melody Green

July 3, 2016 | Imaginopolis at Audiofeed Christian Music Festival "Castles, Forests and Watchful Dragons: Christianity and Fairy Tales"

##### Joe Thomas

July 24, 2016 | "Interfaith Conversation" with Mandela Scholars from the Mandela Washington Fellowship Civic Leadership Institute  
Graduate School of Information and Library Science Building, Room 131

#### Recent Publications:

##### Smith, Brett

"Associations and Elders: Reconsidering Two Helpful American Baptist Practices" *American Baptist Quarterly* 32.3/4.  
Web address: <https://mmljournalfeed.wordpress.com/2015/09/07/american-baptist-quarterly-vol-32-no-3-4-fallwinter-2013>

## Oriental Institute Tour written by Pearce Durst.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in July, Dr. Ken Cuffey and Dr. Melody Green led a comprehensive, three-hour tour at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute—a museum dedicated to the study of the ancient Near East. With fifteen people participating in the tour, we started the afternoon in prayer, and received a handout with a chronological timeline of Israel—a historical outline of what we were about to witness in the flesh through the artifacts. While it's often easy for the Old Testament to feel like a distant recollection of a faraway time and place, Dr. Cuffey's initial comments, combined with the presence of the Old Testament artifacts that were yet to be seen, helped to bring the Old Testament stories to life. And that was just the beginning.

Looking at the first exhibit, the human-headed winged bull that once adorned the throne room of Sargon II loomed above us all. Standing an imposing sixteen-feet and weighing forty-tons, our expert guide explained the prowess and power the Assyrians asserted through their sculpture. We were transported back millennia to the capital of Assyria, where the old king, regally sculpted in tall stone, raised his hand in greeting. Depicted as wearing a spike-topped fez lined with a pair of ribbons, a long robe ornamented with rosettes and squares, fringes and beads, and holding a lotus flower, the details in the sculpture brought history to life. All in attendance saw these invading neighbors of the Israelites in a different light. To imagine being an Israelite, seeing these intimidating sculptures for the first time, it must have been terrifying.

Standing in another room, the pivotal geographic position and importance of "Har Megiddo" (Mount of Megiddo) became more fully understood. Dr. Cuffey contextualized its many artifacts, such as the "horns" of the Jewish altar, the modest triangle and palm leaf design of the Jewish column capital that contrasted with Xerxes' grandiose columns, and the idol of Baal. We gazed up at the Pharaoh who had a foreboding serpent protruding from his forehead, and then at full-sized replicas of the Rosetta Stone and Code of Hammurabi. To have seen these artifacts in person, knowing that many came straight from the Old Testament, was to feel the living presence of God. Dr. Cuffey suggested that we could use these tangible histories to reinvigorate familiar Sunday School narratives. We solemnly paused and contemplated this merging of past and present.

After ending the tour, the group grazed through the gift-shop, stopped by the Seminary Co-op bookstore, met for dinner in Hyde Park, and drove back. Upon reflection, I realize that the collection of monuments and artifacts was relatively small compared with what once had been. Just glimpsing what I had seen means that the Old Testament can never be read the same again.



## Urbana Theological Seminary **Founder's Fund**

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More information on back.