



Spring 2020

The College of Bible and Ministry of Harding University seeks to lead all students to know, live and share God's Word and to understand, love and serve God's world through and beyond their chosen vocation.

Monte Cox, Dean
College of Bible & Ministry

Daniel Stockstill, Assoc. Dean
College of Bible & Ministry

Scott Adair, Director
Center for Family Ministry

Andrew Baker, Director
Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry

Shawn Daggett, Director
Center for World Missions

Devin Swindle, Director
Center for Preaching

Tim Westbrook, Director
Center for Distance Education in Bible and Ministry

Randy Willingham, Director
Pure Heart Vision

Published by the Office for Church Relations

Dan Williams
Vice President for Church Relations

Sherrie McAleese
Event Coordinator, Assistant to VP

Box 12280 Searcy, AR 72149-2280
501.279.4449
churchrelations@harding.edu

College of Bible and Ministry Offers Dual-degree Program



The College of Bible and Ministry and Harding School of Theology have launched a dual-degree program for undergraduate students combining their B.A. in Bible and ministry with a Master of Divinity. The program will make it possible for qualified students to earn a B.A. and M.Div. in six years.

“Traditionally, both degrees would require seven years, four on the B.A. and three more for the M.Div.,” said Jesse Robertson, associate professor of Bible and ministry. “This accelerated program allows the student to begin taking graduate courses that count toward their undergraduate degree during their senior year, saving them time on the total for both degrees.”

The dual-degree program provides students with a foundation for a lifetime of ministry through a focus on spiritual growth, research tools and methodology. During the first three years, students will take specific courses to prepare for graduate studies including both Greek and Hebrew. In the fourth year, students will take 24 hours of graduate courses that apply to both degrees, reducing the time to complete both degrees by up to two years.



For more information contact:

Dr. Jesse Robertson
jesserobertson@harding.edu
501-279-4448.

2020 PREACHING CONFERENCE

SECOND ANNUAL PREACHING CONFERENCE

Last year the Office of Church Relations and the Center for Preaching joined forces to co-sponsor the first-ever Harding Preaching Conference, and the response was overwhelming, with a capacity crowd of over 100. This year's conference, which was held on February 18, was even more of a success, with over 110 in attendance. The attendees came from 9 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.



Dr. Bruce McLarty lectures on how to apply Philippians

Dr. Dan Williams, Vice-President for Church Relations, welcomed the participants and expressed our appreciation for their service in the kingdom, saying "It is our prayer that this conference will be a blessing to you, and that you in turn will be equipped to be an even greater blessing to your people."

The theme of this year's program was "The Mind of Christ: Preaching Philippians." Dr. Phil Thompson began the day with "A Tour of Philippi," as he explained the historical setting of the book. Dr. Jesse Robertson took the participants deeper into the text itself, in two sessions on "Understanding Philippians." Finally, Dr. Bruce McLarty, President of Harding University, led the group through a consideration of how to apply the text in two sessions on "Preaching Philippians."

After the conference, Ben Gray, preacher for the church in Ola, Arkansas, said "Thank you for the effort that went into the Preacher's Conference. It was a great blessing to be there. So much great information and fellowship!" Kent Jobe, senior minister for the College Avenue congregation in El Dorado, wrote: "Yesterday's Preachers Conference was a great mix of scholarship, fellowship, encouragement, and hospitality. It is one of the highlights of my year because I always leave with fresh ideas, great resources, renewed friendships, and new relationships with fellow-laborers. Already looking forward to Job next year!"



Dr. Dan Williams welcomes a record crowd.

At the end of the day, Dr. Devin Swindle, Director of Harding's Center for Preaching, announced that next year's theme will be "Preaching From Job." The Third Annual HU Preachers Conference will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, and Dr. Lance Hawley (Harding School of Theology, Memphis) will be the resource speaker.

FACULTY NOTES

Our Bible faculty are serving the kingdom all over the world. Here are examples:

- Nearly 600 Christians attended the Global Missions Conference in Austin, Texas on October 10-12, 2019. Harding University was well represented, with the following individuals featured on the program schedule: President Bruce McLarty, Dr. Shawn Daggett, Kay Gowen (retired), Alan & Rachel Howell, Dr. Evertt Huffard (HST), Dr. Howard Norton (retired), Oneal Tankersly, and Dr. Bill Richardson. Dr. Allen Diles served on the steering committee for the conference.
- Dr. Jerry Bowling presented a paper entitled, "Andragogy: Challenges, Contexts, Practices a Guiding Framework" at the Stone Campbell Journal Conference in Knoxville, TN, in 2019. He also presented a paper entitled, "Vocation and Adult Discipleship: Pedagogical Intersections for a Way Forward" at the Society of Professors of Christian Education. Minneapolis, MN. 2019.
- Dr. Bowling published a chapter entitled "Pedagogy and Andragogy: Intersections for Learning" in T. Rocco, et. al., (Eds), *Handbook of Adult & Continuing Education*. Sage Publications. 2020. He also published the following articles in the *2019-2020 Standard Lesson Commentary Deluxe Edition*, Colorado Springs, Colorado. David C. Cook Publishing:
 - "The Boy Jesus, Luke 2:39- 52, Involvement Learning & Activity Page."
 - "Revealed Love, Genesis 45:1-8, 10, 15, Involvement Learning & Activity Page."
 - "Love that Interceded, 1 Samuel 19:1-7, Involvement Learning & Activity Page."
 - "Love of Neighbor, Luke 10:25-37), Involvement Learning & Activity Page."
 - "Discussion Empowers Co-Learning." Teacher Tips
- Dr. Ross Cochran taught the Gospel of Luke for a week in January in Australia at the annual gathering at Camp Gidawarra near Brisbane.
- Dr. Shawn Daggett served as a visiting professor with the HULA 2020 program.
- Jason Darden was selected to attend the Chaplain advanced leadership course for the US Army Reserve. He was also admitted to the D.Min. program of the Harding School of Theology in Memphis. Darden was invited to present a lecture at Pepperdine University titled "The Theology of Kanye West."
- Dr. Allen Diles conducted two pre-departure missions training sessions with Avanti Italia missionary apprentices in December of 2019.
- Dr. Jordan Guy presented a mini-series at the Liberty Church of Christ (Arkansas) in January on "How We Got the Bible."
- Alan Howell recently published two projects: "The Last Word in Rhetoric: Ithele Traditional Singers/Storytellers, Meaningful Communication, and a Reading of 2 Timothy in Mozambique" with Sam Pflederer in *Missio Dei: A Journal of Missional Theology and Practice* 10, no. 2 (Summer–Fall 2019); and "God as Patron and Proprietor: God the Father and the Gospel of Matthew in an African Folk Islamic Context" with Robert Andrew Montgomery in *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*, vol. 36, no. 3 (Fall 2019), 129-136.

Continued on page 7

Faculty Notes Cont'd

- Dr. Dale Manor spoke in February at the Freed-Hardeman Bible Lectureship on "Interpreting the Old Testament – Law." In February, he was a guest speaker at the Church of Christ in Greenwood, Arkansas. In March, he gave three presentations at the Faulkner University Bible Lectureship on "Archaeology and the Prophets – Assyria, Daily Life, and Religion."
- In the past year Dr. Kraig Martin published three articles, all co-authored with J. Caleb Clanton: "William of Ockham, Andrew of Neufchateau, and the Origins of Divine Command Theory," accepted for publication in a forthcoming volume of *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*; "Understanding Aquinas on Natural Law," published in the Fall 2019 issue of *Journal of Faith and the Academy*; "Aquinas and Scotus on the Metaphysical Foundations of Morality," *Religions*, 2019.
- Dr. Philip Thompson presented his "Ethics Seminar" to the Liberty Church of Christ, Conway, Arkansas, covering the following topics: Ethics in a Brave New World, A Model for Ethical Decision-Making, Human Dignity, Beginning of Life Issues, and End of Life Issues. Thompson has presented this ethics seminar to churches in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
- Dr. Anessa Westbrook published two articles with *Mosaic*: "Tis the Season for Reflective Planning" (December 2019), and "Starting with a Clean Slate" (February 2020)



The College of Bible and Ministry relaunched our annual women's conference as "BLOOM" on February 21-22. This conference was formerly known as WINGS (Women in God's Service), and has been a part of Harding's ministry to encourage and equip women for twenty-seven years.

This year's conference was a success, drawing 218 women from Arkansas and many surrounding states. The theme was "Eyes Fixed on Jesus," and our keynote speakers were Dr. Cynthia Guy from South Carolina and Terri Mays from northern California. We also had breakout sessions covering a variety of topics by Sherry Pollard, Jana Rucker, Amy Smith, Alicia Williamson, Hailey Pruitt and Chantel Ceaser. On Friday night, after our keynote sessions, we had a special experience by Jo Ellis of the organization Make. Do. which appeared on the TV show "Small Business Revolution."



Next year's event is February 19-20, 2021, and work on the program has already begun. Please place these dates on your church and personal calendars. We hope to see you and a group from your congregation there!

INVINCIBLE!

COURAGEOUS FAITH IN TROUBLED TIMES



A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF DANIEL

HARDING UNIVERSITY'S 97TH
ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP
SEPTEMBER 27-30 2020

It was their darkest hour. God's covenant people were experiencing more than a crisis – it was a full-blown catastrophe. Their kingdom had been crushed by the mighty Babylonian army. Jerusalem was destroyed. Most galling of all, their holy temple, which symbolized the dwelling place of God Himself, was burned by Nebuchadnezzar. And when he took the sacred temple furnishings and triumphantly carted them off as trophies for the treasure house of his own god in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar was making an arrogant boast: "My god won, and yours lost!"

That's why, when the best and brightest of the young men of Judah were deported to far-away Babylon, it must have been spiritually disorienting. After all, they found themselves immersed in an alien culture: given Babylonian names, indoctrinated into a Babylonian worldview, expected to worship Babylonian gods. The promises of the Hebrew God suddenly seemed a distant memory, while the power of the Babylonian gods appeared overwhelming.

Yet out of that darkest of hours shines one of the brightest beams of hope – the story of Daniel and his companions provides some of the greatest examples of courageous faith in troubled times. Their steadfastness was rewarded again and again, as God rescued them from the executioner's ax, from a fiery furnace, and from the lions' den. Not only that, the book of Daniel goes on to reveal a breathtaking prophetic message: "*The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed*" (2:44), an "*eternal kingdom*" (4:3, 5:34, 7:14, 7:18). The kingdoms of men rise and fall – great empires go from rule to ruin – but God's kingdom is invincible!

God's people today likewise live in troubled times, as we find ourselves in an increasingly alien culture. Headlines proclaim the decline of faith. Enemies of Christianity are growing more and more aggressive. Our government is unsettled, and our culture is in a downward spiral. In these darkening days we need to hear anew the message of the book of Daniel:

"There is a God in heaven" (2:28)

"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men" (4:17, 4:32, 5:21)

With the 2020 Harding Bible Lectureship we affirm that our God is still in heaven, He is still sovereign over history, and his kingdom is invincible! May that confidence enable us, like Daniel, to live faithfully and courageously in troubled times.

I invite you to plan to join us on September 27-30, 2020 for the 97th annual Harding Bible Lectureship.

-Dan Williams, Lectureship Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Spring Sing
Canceled

Uplift I, II and III
June 13-18, 20-25 and 27-July 2, 2020

Harding's 97th Annual Bible Lectureship
"INVINCIBLE! Courageous Faith in Troubled Times"
A Study of the book of Daniel
Sept. 27-30, 2020

Abundant Living Retreat
Branson, Missouri
Oct. 6-9 , 2020

Homecoming
October 29-31, 2020

3rd Annual Harding Preaching Conference
"Preaching the Book of Job"
Feb. 16, 2021

BLOOM Conference
(formerly W.I.N.G.S.)
Feb. 19-20, 2021

Website: www.harding.edu/lectureship

Email: lectureship@harding.edu

Phone: 501-279-4449

Follow the Harding University Lectureship online: <https://www.facebook.com/HULectureship/>