INTEGRATING FAITH, LIVING AND LEARNING

In recent years, the College of Bible and Ministry has stepped up our efforts to “integrate faith, learning and living” by increasing the number of interdisciplinary courses that are co-taught by a colleague from a different college on campus and a Bible professor. Our latest offering is ART 375: Visual Aesthetics and the Biblical Perspective. Daniel Adams, Professor of Art, teamed with our own Dr. Kevin Youngblood, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, to redesign the current Visual Aesthetics course to emphasize a biblical theology of art. In their own words, “We will be looking at the work of significant thinkers throughout the centuries and critiquing their ideas in the light of biblical principles. Upon this foundation, we will then construct a biblical approach to aesthetics consistent with our Christian worldview.” The course is available only to Art Majors.

Likewise, senior Communication majors can now take COMM 401: Christian View of Media Ethics, co-taught by Dr. Jim Miller in the Department of Communication and our own Dr. Andrew Baker. Dr. Pat Garner (also of the Department of Communication and the Honors College) partners with Nathan Guy, Instructor of Bible and Ethics, to teach HNRS 459: Seminar in Ethics which addresses the Christian response to injustice.

These newer courses are part of a growing menu of interdisciplinary courses that already included NURS 413: Health Care Missions (co-taught by Nursing Professors Janice Bingham, Jerry Myhan and Missionary-in-Residence, Oneal Tankersley) and PHS 410: Christian View of Science and Scripture; Dr. Monte Cox, Dean of the College of Bible and Ministry, Lee Edwards, Assistant Professor of Bible, Dr. Duane Warden, retired Professor of New Testament, Dr. Dale Manor, Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament, and several faculty members from the College of Sciences team-teach the course. Ultimately, we would like to craft courses like these for every academic college at Harding.

There are four criteria that guide us as we propose these courses:
1. The course must be crafted from the beginning by colleagues in both colleges.
2. The course must be team-taught by teachers with interest and expertise in the subject matter.
3. The Biblical/Textual foundation must be made explicit in the syllabus and in the class.
4. The course is a capstone course in the major.

Our aim is to help equip students in these fields of study, other than Bible, to engage their future colleagues in their chosen vocations thoughtfully and Biblically.

- Monte Cox, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Bible and Ministry
KEEPING UP WITH......Oneal Tankersley

Our Harding Bible faculty are making an impact for good and for God all over the world. We asked Oneal Tankersley, Missionary-in-Residence lecturer in our Missions Department, to tell us what he’s been up to lately.

As missions teachers, it is vital for our students to see the fresh dust of the field on our shoes from time to time. Over the past three months, I got to dust up my shoes a bit in both east Africa and the Caribbean nation of Haiti. In both places, my assistant, James Rucker, and I have worked with local Christians to produce culturally appropriate Christian teaching dramas.

Our first trip was to Kenya in November where we finished shooting a movie we had started the previous year. The movie is entitled "Timothy" and is an evangelistic video in the Swahili language about a disadvantaged village boy/young man desperately in need of a mentor and an older Christian mentor desperately in need of a "Timothy." Since TV stations in Africa are starved for quality local content, we expect this film to be shown often all over east Africa where Swahili is used.

The New Year saw us making our next trip to Haiti, accompanied by four other Harding students. Our goals were to shoot a handful of Kreyol language projects for the whole church and some others especially for the youth. The first drama was episode 18 of a basic health series we have been building over the last decade. This series uses a hybrid style with a dramatic setup paired with illustrated teaching sections in order to present preventative health education. The episode we shot was on "Vaccinations" and is intended to inform parents of the value of taking advantage of vaccination initiatives whenever they come available in their areas.

Secondly, we began a teaching project on "Servant Leadership" which interviews the elders and other ministry leaders of a thriving Haitian church. The plan is to use their thoughts on Biblical principles of leadership in the Haitian context and combine them with Scripture readings and several illustrative skits. Our hope is to make the project engaging enough that it will be used widely and frequently by the Haitian churches. In this way, it will reinforce the Biblical principles of church leadership, that it is servant hearted and shared.

Lastly, our team shot teaching skits for the youth. One is a silly game show setup where three watchers are asked to consider the three important questions of life: "Where did I come from?" "Why am I here?" And "Where am I going after death?" In addition we also shot the first of a series of quick Bible lesson starters for the youth using a punchy, off-the-wall style to get and hold their attention. I think this format has a lot of potential and we expect to do more of these next year and also for the youth in Kenya.

It is wonderful to be able integrate my ongoing mission field projects in video production and in development ministry with my teaching at Harding. For this privilege I am very grateful.
NEW DOCS

Two of our Bible faculty recently completed their doctoral programs. *Salt, Light and Leaven* caught up with Andrew Baker and Peter Rice to ask them about that process.

**What schools have you attended and what did you study at them?**

**Peter Rice:** I received a B.S. in Psychology and Vocational Ministry from Oklahoma Christian University, then earned my M.Div. from Abilene Christian University, and just finished my Ph.D. at Baylor University.

**Andrew Baker:** I began here at Harding University and earned a B.A. in Youth and Family Ministry, then went on to Harding Graduate School of Religion (now Harding School of Theology) in Memphis where I received an M.A., also in Youth and Family Ministry. I just completed my Ph.D. in Leadership and Ministry at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**What were the areas of study that you concentrated on at each phase of your education?**

**Andrew Baker:** For my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees I focused on youth & family ministry. At the doctoral level, my emphasis was leadership, ministry, and higher education.

**Peter Rice:** In my undergraduate studies I focused on psychology and Bible. The emphasis of my Master’s degree program was on the New Testament. At the doctoral level, I was looking at the New Testament and, to a lesser degree, the ancient Roman world.

**What was the topic of title of your doctoral thesis?**

**Andrew Baker:** My thesis is entitled *Adolescent Aggression in a Church-Based Context: Bully in the Pew.*

**Peter Rice:** The title of my doctoral dissertation is *“Behold Your House Is Left to You”: The Theological and Narrative Place of the Jerusalem Temple in Luke’s Gospel (and Beyond).*

**Congratulations on completing your doctoral program! What are some of your goals with your newly earned degree?**

**Peter Rice:** I want to hone my skills as an educator—to become an excellent teacher. I also want to remain up-to-date in my field, by publishing articles, reviews, etc., and by continued study. There are also a number of other fields in which I would like to improve my knowledge—economics (I’m interested in how Christian ethics and economics intersect and interact), foreign languages, and technology. In short, I hope to be a life-long learner.

**Andrew Baker:** I want to use the insights and knowledge gained for the benefit of the Kingdom. That this is simply the beginning of a long journey of learning and growth.

**Give me one major “take-away” from your doctoral experience – something you learned about yourself or something you learned about God or something else!**

**Andrew Baker:** While I learned a lot of significant things from my experience, the major thing I learned and was shown is the message of 1 Corinthians 10:13 - that “God is faithful.”

**Peter Rice:** I learned that the hardest part of doing a doctoral program is the mental toughness that’s required. Sure, it’s intellectually demanding, but the real challenge is enduring the years and years of rigorous, usually solitary, work; the sometimes crushing expectations of your professors (and yourself); and the challenges that arise along the way, from feeling isolated from the rest of humanity to sometimes seeing intelligent and competent colleagues fall by the wayside.

It is a hard road, though it has been thoroughly worth it in the end. On a more positive note, I’ve learned so much more about the richness of Scripture and of the Christian faith. I’m so thankful for those who have gone before us in the faith and am very grateful to find my “cloud of witnesses” ever expanding as I continue this walk of faith.
MARK THE DATE!

The 91st annual Harding Bible Lectureship will be held on September 28 – October 1. The theme of this fall’s program will be “RETURN! Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.” Those books describe how God made it possible for the exiles to return to their home to worship Him and rebuild their community. Through His power, providence, and the guidance of His word, the Lord calls us back today to rebuild our communities, restore the practice of undenominational Christianity, and revive our faith.

The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther describe a decisive period in Bible history, and we are assembling a lineup of dynamic speakers to lead us in these studies. Last year’s Bible lectureship was our best attended in over five years, and we are anticipating another great program this fall!

KERUSSO EXPERIENCE: Our first-ever “Kerusso Experience” was held last summer, and it was an outstanding success. There were 30 young men who were introduced to the joys and challenges of preaching by participating in an intensive, week-long symposium on the campus of Harding University.

The theme of the next Kerusso Experience is “The Scandalous Love of God” and it is scheduled for July 5-12. It is open to young men in grades nine through twelve. If you know a young man who is thinking of preaching, please encourage him to participate this summer! For more information, contact Devin Swindle, Assistant Professor of Bible & Preaching, at 501.279.4146 or dswindle@harding.edu.

FACULTY NOTES

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

Dr. Scott Adair (Associate Professor) will conduct a seminar on Christology in Malawi during Spring Break, March 10-14.

Dr. Monte Cox (Dean, COBAM) will be speaking at the East Africa Men's Retreat in Rondo, Kenya February 17-21. On May 24-31, he and Dr. Evertt Huffard (Dean, HST) and their wives will be consulting with the mission team in Montepuez, Mozambique as that group marks ten years on the field.

Tom Hook (Director of HULA) conducted a seminar in Gonaives, Haiti on December 14-19 that was attended by over 100 Haitian preachers.

Dr. Daniel Stockstill (Associate Dean) preached for the church in Peterhead, Scotland on January 6.

Dr. Kevin Youngblood preached twice for the church in Glyfada, Greece and once in the church in Nazareth, Israel.

PUBLICATIONS:


Dr. Dale W. Manor, "The Emergence of Israel: The Bible and Archaeology." Pneumatika 1, no. 1 (Fall 2013): 90-110. (this is the premier issue of this journal out of Faulkner University).

Dr. Kevin Youngblood’s new book, Jonah: God's Scandalous Mercy, will be available in February. It is part of the new Hearing the Message of Scripture commentary series on the Old Testament published by Zondervan.