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.

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91st Annual Harding Bible Lectureship

The theme of this year’s program is "RETURN! Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther." Those books describe a decisive period in Bible history when God made it possible for the exiles to return to their home to reestablish the Temple worship and re-establish their community. In like manner, the Lord calls us back today through His power, providence, and the guidance of His Word to rebuild our communities, restore the practice of undenominational Christianity, and revitalize our faith.

We have assembled a lineup of dynamic speakers to lead us in these studies. My thanks to all of them for their willingness to share the fruits of their scholarship.

In addition, this year’s program will feature an expanded Women’s program, with more classes on Women’s Ministry, and the return of the popular Preachers’ Workshop on Monday.

Keynote speakers include Alan Robertson (West Monroe, Louisiana); Gary Smith (Houston, Texas); Jim Martin (Memphis, Tennessee); Wade Bower (Rolla, Missouri); David Young (Murfreesboro, Tennessee); Mike Tune (Falls Church, Virginia); and B. Chris Simpson (Memphis, Tennessee).

For more information, and a complete Lectureship schedule, go to www.harding.edu/lectureship.

- Dan Williams, Lectureship Director
Dr. Kraig Martin will be joining our Bible faculty this fall. He recently earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Baylor University. The focus of his doctoral thesis was “Justified Closure of Inquiry: A Non-Reductive Account.” Kraig also earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Abilene Christian University in 1996 and an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of South Carolina in 2009.

Salt, Leaven, and Light caught up with Dr. Martin recently and posed the following questions:

SLL: Kraig, what led you to accept the invitation to teach at Harding University?

The offer to join the faculty at Harding was one that I knew with great confidence that I should accept. During the course of the on-campus interview, it seemed to me that God, though I had not known it previously, had long been preparing me for the position here. There are a great many desires of mine (good desires – callings, I think, or maybe passions) that can be met at Harding: My desire to teach and research philosophy, my desire to learn more about the intersection of scripture, theology, and philosophy, my desire to take the tools I have gained while being trained as an analytic philosopher and use them to seriously engage scripture, and my desire to take an active role in the continued story of our church tradition. Further, I simply love teaching, and I love our church tradition, and I love beautiful places, and I love smaller towns. The decision to accept the invitation was an easy one!

It did not hurt that, during the course of the interview, it became apparent to me that there is an easy kind of fellowship among those in the COBAM. Not only is there a diverse group of experts from whom I have much to learn, but there is a shared sense of purpose and calling that obviously exists within the department. I am honored to join such a group!

SLL: Tell us about your family.

My wife, Susan, to whom I’ve been married for nearly nine years, is an occupational therapist. We have two kids, Lela Kate (five years old) and Jed (four years old). My wife grew up in Houston, Texas at the Jersey Village Church of Christ, and I grew up in Bryan, Texas at the A&M Church of Christ. We met while we were both attending the Impact Church of Christ in Houston. We love hiking and camping.

SLL: What were the areas of study that you concentrated on?

Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology, Ethics. I am interested in certain “intersections”; I am interested in Epistemology and Ethics because I am interested in the intersection of different domains of normativity. I am also interested in the intersection of philosophy, theology, and Bible.

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

About myself: I learned that I didn’t know nearly as much as I thought I did. There is far more mystery about our general human experience than I ever realized prior to my doctorate experience.

About God: I learned that God still presents Himself in simple, quiet ways. I do feel like my doctorate experience helped me to understand some things about God that I could not have prior to the experience, but God Himself still comes in simple ways.

SLL: What is the one thing you most want your students to take away from your classes?

That the abundant life that is found in God through Jesus comes to the degree that we allow Him to transform us into His image, from one degree of glory to the next.
From its 146 mentions in Scripture, we are all acquainted with significant events associated with the number 40. From periods of testing, trial, and proclamation to the years assigned an entire generation, this is a biblically important symbol. Here at Harding, we are blessed with a rich heritage of training men and women for ministry in God’s Kingdom. An integral part of our efforts to prepare and send out equipped workers is completing its first 40 years.

The Christian Communications Program (CCP) began in fall 1974 under the presidency of Dr. Clifton Ganus, Jr. with an enrollment of 33 students who would complete the curriculum in 22 months. Spouses took classes to help prepare them for their roles as ministers’ wives. During the first decade, 140 individuals graduated from the program.

In 1984, the CCP became the Harding School of Biblical Studies (HSBS) with a greater emphasis on biblical studies and a special focus on training older, nontraditional students. After being a certificate-granting program for its first 20 years, the School of Biblical Studies received accreditation in 1994, enabling it to offer the bachelor of ministry and bachelor of theology degrees.

Dr. David Burks organized a committee in 2003 to develop a graduate level degree program to train nontraditional students in ministry from the Searcy campus. The Master of Ministry began offering courses in residence in fall 2004 and at-a-distance training commenced in fall 2005.

Nearly 700 men and women had trained in the CCP and HSBS programs when it was merged administratively with the Master of Ministry in 2007 under a new umbrella organization, the Center for Advanced Ministry Training (CAMT). There are 66 men and women who are alumni of the Master of Ministry program, and 75 individuals have graduated since 2007 with the Bachelor of Ministry degree under the CAMT banner.

This 40-year legacy would not have been possible without the vision of Harding’s presidents of this era: Drs. Clifton Ganus, Jr., David Burks, and Bruce McLarty. Bible department chairs and Deans of the College of Bible and Religion have provided critical leadership: Drs. Jerry Jones, Neale Pryor, Allen Isom, C. Phillip Slate, Carl Mitchell, and Tom Alexander. Directors of the “program” in its various forms have organized curriculum, planned instruction, advised and served students beginning with Ed Sanders, and subsequently, L. V. Pfeifer, Joe Jones, Dr. Bill Lambert, and Dr. Ed Myers. Untold faculty have devoted time and energy to training this host of ministers over four decades.

Currently, the Center for Advanced Ministry Training is under the leadership of Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry and Dr. Daniel Stockstill, associate dean. Dr. Bill Richardson is the current director of CAMT and Gary Gregg serves as the associate director. Mrs. Amy Warren is the office manager.

(continued on page 4)
“Forty Years of Ministry Training” continued...

Today, full tuition scholarships are provided to qualified men and women who study in residence in the Bachelor of Ministry degree program. Master of Ministry students pursue the 36-hour degree program at-a-distance online and can receive up to a 40% tuition scholarship. The need for prepared, committed, faithful servants to preach and teach in multiple capacities domestically and abroad has never been greater. At the same time, Harding University has never been more prepared to meet the challenge of the next 40 years!

The Center for Advanced Ministry Training will celebrate its 40th anniversary on the Tuesday (September 30) of our fall Bible lectureship. Several of our alumni will speak throughout the day, and a special CAMT Celebration Dinner will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room of the College Church of Christ.

- Dr. Bill Richardson, CAMT Director

C-Harmony

The Harding University Career Center, in cooperation with the College of Bible and Ministry, would like to invite you to participate in our annual Youth Ministry Interview Fair

on Thursday, October 2, 2014 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

This event is also known as C-Harmony. "Church Harmony" is an afternoon devoted to interviews for Summer Youth Internships and full time Youth and Family Ministry positions. This interview day is unique because it is set up like speed dating. Each church has a table and they have 25 minutes with each student that signed up indicating interest in the congregation.

As a part of C-Harmony, you will have the opportunity to interview students. The first recruiter will be free of charge any additional recruiters will be charged a $10.00 fee. Please visit our website for more information or to register at: http://www.harding.edu/Career/Events_Calendar.html

If you are interested in participating in C-Harmony, please register on the Bison Career Search starting today through September. We encourage early registration because space is limited. You will click on Career Events, click on Search, then click on C-Harmony 2014 and Hit the button Register Now. Once you are registered, go to My Jobs and either make a copy of an old job description or click New and provide a job description. It is imperative you include this, or students will not see that you are coming and will not choose to interview with you. Please sign up as soon as possible, we hope to see you there!

Prior to the interview fair we will provide your lunch (12:00-12:50) while you review the resumes of the students that have requested an interview with you.

CHURCH JOB POSTINGS

In keeping with our goal of serving the Churches of Christ and their ministers, the Office of Church Relations now provides a Church Job Postings page on its website. Congregations may use this page to post ministry openings of all types. For more information, or to post a position in your church, go to www.harding.edu/churchrelations and click on the “Church Job Postings” link.

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