

Summer 2005

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Harding School of Theology

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# the Bridge

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OLIVER AND NORMA ROGERS

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## How Congregations Can Support Campus Ministry

When our campus minister came into the restaurant, I asked him, "So how is it going in 'As the World Turns' at the campus house?" When he shot his eyes to the heavens and took a deep breath, I knew it had been a wild week in the wonderful world of young adult ministry.

Campus ministry is more than soul-stirring singing at weekly devotionals or life-changing retreats. Sometimes it is just plain old hard work. It is hard relational work. The flexibility it requires can bend you to the breaking point. But for those willing to take on this rigorous task, the hard work yields the tremendous payoff of numerous changed lives.

Campus ministry, therefore, is one of the most vital works a congregation can support and nurture. The campus ministry ([www.ccsu.org](http://www.ccsu.org)) in Conway, Ark., the town where I preach, has already helped produce 35 marriages, two deacons, and seven men who

have served or are currently serving as ministers (including Tim Allison, our current campus minister) since its inception in 1989. Numerous students have been led to Christ as well.

Many young Christians and young families end up settling in Conway. They continue worshipping with the congregation for years. But whether their stay is short or long, the entire college group adds vibrancy to the congregation at large.

I would like to suggest four practical ideas for how congregations can bless campus ministers and the students they influence.

1. **Affirm the place of campus ministers and campus ministries.** I believe every minister should be a cheerleader of campus ministers. The work they are doing needs to be highlighted. It is very easy for campus students to feel like they
2. **Connect with the students in their own way.** Through various personalities and life stages, avenues of connection will take different forms. For me and my family, it has involved such things as learning their names and getting to know them, attending select events, playing music with them at their coffee houses, sitting beside some of them during worship, playing basketball with them, having some of them into our home for a meal, and taking some of them out to eat. Find those points of connection that fit you and who you are.
3. **Cooperate with campus ministers to bless students you are sending from your congregation.** Some students do not seek out the campus ministry when they hit town. Ministers

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»training *ministers* »enriching *faith* »strengthening *leaders*

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## Dean's Note

# Beware of Shortcuts

I recently wrote a book review that takes a few minutes to read, 15 minutes to reproduce, but 15 hours to write. I often remind students that there are no shortcuts in ministry.

Shortcuts, like mediocrity, suggest a value system that may not glorify God in the end. We will search in vain to find compelling examples of shortcuts in the Bible. In fact, the stories we read can agitate those who know there must be a shorter route from Goshen to Jericho, from Abraham to Jesus, or from the resurrection to the second coming.

From January through May, I spoke in 13 churches across the nation and four lectureships. After many discussions with church leaders about problems in churches, I am moved to reflect on the dangers of shortcuts in ministry. Young adults need examples of mature, wise leadership in the church. As Charles Sell observed in *Transitions Through Adult Life*, young adults are characterized by radical idealism, activism and altruism — all lethal ingredients for shortcuts. No one enjoys prolonged suffering, so we are constantly tempted to find a shortcut. If the road to glory calls for suffering and patient endurance (Romans 5:1-5, Colossians 1:11), shortcuts become a spiritual issue when they circumvent the development of character and hope. Here is my list of five shortcuts to avoid.

1. Avoid simple, immediate solutions to church conflict. For all the elders to resign to get rid of the one elder who really should resign is a shortcut that

leaves a church without any leadership at the time it desperately needs leadership. To suddenly dismiss the preacher because he seems to be in the middle of the conflict is an unwise shortcut. Ethical ways to dismiss a preacher or other staff take time and patience.

2. Beware of putting more into events than into ministries. A weekend evangelistic event will not make a church evangelistic, nor will a leadership seminar turn everything around. The most effective gospel meetings, VBSs or "Friend Days" were in churches that were already evangelistic, not in those that used the event as a shortcut to reaching the lost.
3. Avoid single-issue solutions to the complexity of church health. Paul cautioned Timothy to avoid the shortcut in leadership development of appointing elders who were new converts (1 Timothy 3:6). I could add to Paul's list. Avoid moving to another neighborhood because you think you can grow more quickly there. Avoid starting a new ministry (like small groups or planting a new church) because it was successful at another church without the process they went through to develop that ministry.
4. Avoid spending money for immediate results rather than investing in long-term ministries. The spirit leads us to commit to something bigger than ourselves; the flesh wants quick results. We get more excited about short-term



HUFFARD

mission trips than a 10-year commitment to a missionary to plant churches. We can construct more buildings for "outreach" than develop leaders and ministries for outreach. We can hire a preacher from another congregation rather than investing in the training of preachers, missionaries and teachers who will impact the growth of the kingdom.

5. Avoid temporary solutions to inadequate worship. There is compelling evidence that the spontaneous expansion of the early church had very little to do with the style of worship. There are no shortcuts today to full congregational participation in meaningful worship, because humility before our God is much more difficult to develop than professional musical experiences. There may be shortcuts for bringing a crowd together, but not for building a committed body of Christ.

Jesus interpreted the parable of the rocky soil for his disciples: quick growth with no roots lasts only a short time. "When trouble and persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away" (Matthew 13:20-21). Graduate education in ministry is more about deep roots than quick growth.

» Evertt W. Huffard  
(dean@hugsr.edu)

# Buxton Prepares New Campus Ministers

The Church of Christ Student Center (CCSC) at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Ark., has a two-pronged objective: to share the message of Jesus to those who do not know him, and to strengthen those who do.

The man charged with keeping the student center focused on that objective is Chris Buxton (cbuxton@ccsu-atu.org), the full-time campus minister and master of arts student at Harding Graduate School of Religion.

Buxton leads a team consisting of a full-time secretary and six student interns, four male and two female. In addition to supporting ministry events and being “on call” one night a week to assist students, interns help maintain the facility, attend staff meetings, and participate in weekly Bible studies.

The CCSC has begun the process of adding an apprenticeship as part of their ministry. In conjunction with the Graduate School of Religion, the apprentice will work approximately 25 hours at the center and participate in the distance learning program MinistryConnection, working toward the master of arts degree in Christian ministry.

Internships are designed to give undergraduate students an opportunity to

explore their ministry gifts. The new apprenticeships, however, prepare college graduates to be campus ministers themselves. “The goal is, at the end of the two-year apprenticeship, to have a new campus minister who can lead an established ministry,” Buxton explains. “Or, better yet, they can plant new campus ministries.”

The center itself serves as a gathering place for students, either casually for a game of pingpong or for Monday night devotionals. In addition, the CCSC serves a Wednesday lunch for any ATU student at no cost. The lunch is provided by various churches in the area as a way to support the ministry. “It’s one of the best outreach events we do,” Buxton says of the lunches. “Most weeks a large percentage of the students who come are non-Christians.”

Students have many opportunities to get involved with activities at the center. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, students lead evangelistic Bible studies in

dorms. On Sunday nights, the students meet again for small-group Bible study. The ministry sponsors weekend trips, service projects and fun activities. Mission trips at spring break and during the summer play an important role in exposing students to the many ministry opportunities around the world.

One key to the center’s success is the relationship with nearby West Side Church of Christ. The congregation not only serves to support the ministry, but welcomes the students into the church and provides Bible classes aimed at college students.

The center’s facility is 8,000 square feet and includes a living room, kitchen, library with computers, café, large meeting room that can accommodate up to 200 people, and an upstairs apartment to house four male interns. Located at the south end of the ATU football field, it is close enough for students to walk back and forth from campus.



BUXTON



Students from the Church of Christ Student Center in Russellville, Ark., pose during a campus trip to Florida. Harding Graduate School student Chris Buxton, far left in back, leads the ministry.

## Apprenticeships Provide Learning Experiences

Through apprenticeships like the new one at the Church of Christ Student Center at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, students can learn ministry in a real-life context anywhere in the world. While they are in ministry, they are also studying in the Graduate School of Religion’s global learning program, MinistryConnection. This hands-on experience and graduate-level training is a winning combination.

Apprenticeships have a long-standing tradition with the inner-city ministry in Memphis. As students work in an inner-city congregation, they are mentored by experienced ministers also in the congregation. By adding graduate-level training to the experience, students learn the big picture of ministry and theology, and they are able to apply it immediately.

Congregations and ministries around the world are able to develop apprenticeships by taking advantage of MinistryConnection.

Apprenticeships are currently operating for preaching, campus ministry and inner-city ministry. Programs can be developed, however, for any ministry where adequate supervision can be supplied.

## Kennedy Earns Award

Congratulations to John



KENNEDY

Kennedy has won the statewide competition.

Kennedy, who won the Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s student paper competition.

This is the second year that

## Faculty News

Dr. Dave Bland, professor of homiletics, and Dr. David Fleer served as editors for *Performing the Psalms*, a new book released May 1 by Chalice Press.

Dr. Carlus Gupton will teach three courses during the 2005-06 academic year. He has done post-graduate work in conflict management, organizational leadership, counseling and research, and he continues to take advantage of advanced training in areas such as consulting and facilitating.



GUPTON

Dr. Phil McMillion, professor of Old Testament, taught a seminar on Psalms in Szolnok, Hungary, as part of the Ministry for Theological Education.

## Faculty/Staff Update

# Granberg Joins Faculty

**B**eginning fall 2005, Stan Granberg will join the Harding Graduate School of Religion faculty as a half-time ministry professor. In addition to this work, Granberg is executive director of Kairos, a church-planting ministry based in Portland, Ore.

Granberg served as a missionary in Kenya during the 1980s, helping establish 35 successful, growing congregations. After returning to the United States, he taught

Bible at Cascade College and was moved to plant more churches in the Northwest.



GRANBERG

He is currently an elder at the Vancouver, Wash., Church of Christ as well as a member of a church plant in the Vancouver area.

After graduating from Harding University, Granberg earned a master of the-

ology degree from the Graduate School of Religion, another master's degree in missions from Fuller Seminary, and a doctorate of philosophy in intercultural studies from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

Granberg will offer "Church Planting" this fall at the Graduate School. The monthly course meets three times during the semester: Sept. 2-3, Oct. 7-8 and Nov. 18-19.

## New Adjunct Faculty Announced

**T**he Graduate School of Religion has recently added four new instructors as adjunct faculty. Dr. Bonnie Phillips will teach "Family Therapy" in fall 2005, Dr. Ileene Huffard and Brenda Curtis will co-teach "Women and Ministry" in fall 2005, and Dr. Edward J. Robinson will teach "History of the American Restoration Movement" in spring 2006.

Phillips is a licensed professional counselor in Arkansas. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and a master of science in marriage and family therapy degree from Harding University (1995 and 1997), and a doctorate of philosophy in marriage and family therapy from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (2004). She is the clinical director for Capstone Treatment Center in Judsonia, Ark. She and her husband, W. E., have one son.

Huffard holds a bachelor of arts degree in physical education and biology from Harding University (1971), a master of education degree in recreation and health from Memphis State University (1972), and a doctorate of education in leadership and policy studies from the University of Memphis (1998). She directs the Memphis Graduate Program in Education for Freed-Hardeman University and works with the missions committee, city missions committee, and the women's ministry at the Church of Christ at White Station. She is married to Dr. Evertt W. Huffard, and they have three children and five grandsons.

Curtis holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Harding University (1980) and a master of arts degree in counseling from the Graduate School of Religion (2001). She is the assistant to the dean/executive director for the Graduate School of

Religion and works with the women's ministry and youth ministry at Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis. She and her husband, Randy, have two daughters.

Robinson holds a bachelor of arts degree in Bible from Southwestern Christian College (1989), a master of arts in religion degree in church history and a master of divinity degree from Harding University Graduate School of Religion (1991 and 1993), a master of arts degree in classical Greek from the University of Illinois (1998), and a doctorate of philosophy in American history/African-American history from Mississippi State University (2003). He is assistant professor of Bible and assistant professor of American history at Abilene Christian University, and serves as assistant director of the Center for Restoration Studies at ACU. He and his wife, Toni, have three daughters.



PHILLIPS



HUFFARD



CURTIS



ROBINSON

# Ground Is Broken!

The ground was ceremonially broken March 31 for the library expansion. Approximately 100 people attended the reception, ceremony and chapel.

The expansion, named the Oliver and Norma Rogers Research Center, will add an additional 6,000 square feet to the L.M. Graves Memorial Library. The addition is named in honor of the ministry of Oliver and Norma Rogers, who spent their entire 40-year ministry serving two congregations. Their example of endurance and commitment to Christian service will encourage generations of ministers training at Harding Graduate School of Religion.

The research center will house a new "smart" classroom for teaching library and

Internet research tools, a reading area, and periodicals. This vital addition will free space for the library's holding of more than 124,000 books and more than 600 journal subscriptions. The \$1.2 million project will ensure that students have a state-of-the-art research facility and that

the library collection can continue to expand. In addition to the expansion, the existing structure will be refurbished.

The expansion was made possible by 495 individuals around the world who pledged or donated toward the project.



Ground is broken for the Rogers Research Center March 31. Participants included, from left, board member Harry Risinger, President David B. Burks, Julie Rogers, Sherman Rogers, Norma Rogers, Oliver Rogers, and Dean/Executive Director Evertt W. Huffard.

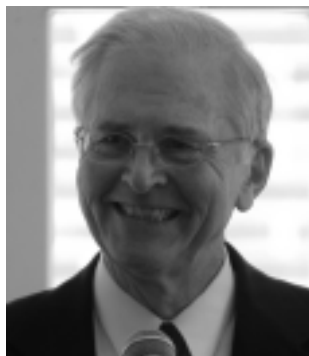
## Campus Ministry and Groundbreaking Intersect in Ministry of Oliver Rogers

As part of the groundbreaking ceremony, Oliver Rogers spoke in chapel about the impact campus ministry at the University of Indiana has had as an international mission site. Key points he made:

- ▶ Campus ministry is an ideal environment for foreign and domestic evangelism.
- ▶ Indiana University has 38,000 students, including more than 3,000 international students from 132 foreign countries and students from every state in the union.

- ▶ An article in the local *Herald Times*, March 9, 2005, stated that American universities and colleges enroll 215,000 international graduate students and 350,000 undergraduates for a total of 565,000.
- ▶ Here is a mission field for those committed to evangelism: You don't need to learn the language, culture, traditions, etc. This is the most cost-effective form of evangelism.
- ▶ We need churches and trained individuals with a passion for evangelism to demonstrate that we really

- do care for the lost.
- ▶ To be effective, a campus ministry must have church leaders and a pulpit evangelist who fully support the mission.



Rogers speaks in chapel.

## Donor Focuses On School's Mission



Sherman Rogers speaks on behalf of donors at the ground-breaking ceremony. The mission of the Rogers Research Center is to train those who will in turn train others. The library, then, is a testimony to the fundamental purpose of the Graduate School of Religion.

## Honorees



Barbara Taylor is recognized at the March 31 Advancement Council luncheon. Her work as president of the Associated Women for Harding's Memphis chapter plays a vital role in raising scholarship funds.



Luncheon speaker Jim Bill McInteer is recognized for his service to the Graduate School.

# BRIEFS

## Church Audit Courses Announced

Church audit courses are offered to members of congregations supporting Harding Graduate School of Religion. Students may audit the courses for \$25. The courses available in fall 2005 are "Historical Books of the Old Testament," Aug. 8-13, taught by Dr. Phil McMillion; "Faith and Reason," 1-3:45 p.m. Monday, taught by Mark Powell; and "Corinthian Letters," Aug. 26-27, Oct. 14-15, and Nov. 11-12, taught by Dr. Richard Oster. Other courses may be audited for \$100 per semester hour.

## Eighteen States Represented

During the March intensive course week, 70 students came from 18 states — from Idaho to Florida and Delaware to California — and Canada.

## Courses

# Courses Offer Quality, Diverse Formats

**H**arding Graduate School of Religion will offer 79 courses during the 2005-06 school year. Course formats include:

- ▶ traditional courses meeting one time per week
- ▶ intensive courses meeting

- one week during the semester
- ▶ monthly courses meeting three weekends (Friday-Saturday) during the semester
- ▶ CD courses meeting one weekend on campus
- ▶ online courses requiring no travel to campus

These diverse formats help meet the needs of our diverse student body and allow students from around the world to take advantage of the opportunities for spiritual growth at the Graduate School of Religion. Here are some key opportunities available this fall:

### Highlighted Fall Schedule

Dates	Title	Professor
Aug. 8-13	"Historical Books of the Old Testament"	Phil McMillion
	"Congregational Ministry"	Carlus Gupton
	"Transformational Teaching"	Jerry Bowling
Oct. 6-13	"Research in Ministry" (D.Min. only)	Dave Bland/Stan Granberg
Oct. 10-15	"Early and Medieval Church"	Mark Powell
	"Small Groups Ministry"	John Ellas
Monthly	"Church Planting"	Stan Granberg
	Sept. 2-3, Oct. 7-8, Nov. 18-19	
	"Corinthian Letters"	Rick Oster
	Aug. 26-27, Oct. 14-15, Nov. 11-12	
	"Old Testament Theology"	John Fortner
	Aug. 19-20, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Nov. 4-5	
	"Family Therapy"	Bonnie Phillips
	Aug. 26-27, Oct. 7-8, Nov. 11-12	

For a complete schedule of 2005-06 course offerings, please visit [www.hugsr.edu](http://www.hugsr.edu).

## Campus Ministry *continued from Page 1*

and members back home can provide contact information to the campus ministers so that they can follow up. This can make all the difference in the students' lives, but it cannot happen unless someone calls or contacts the campus ministers to give them the information.

### 4. Challenge this group to

**think about their place in the world and in God's plan.** Some can become vocational missionaries. Many will graduate, move away, and become a great strength to a church because of their time at the church where we serve. They are potential ministers, shepherds, deacons, ministry leaders,

teachers and influencers. Praise God for all of the good that campus ministries do in helping young adults find their way.

▶ *Clyde H. Slimp (cslimp@r-c.org). Slimp is the preaching minister at the Robinson & Center Church of Christ in Conway, Ark., and a master of divinity student at the Graduate School of Religion.*

# Carter Named Alumnus of the Year

**W**hen I first heard that Matt Carter was being named Alumnus of the Year, I was anything but surprised. I have watched Matt for several years. Not with the careful eyes of a fellow minister or colleague, but with the scrutinizing eyes of a student. To me and anyone else who ever stepped through the doors of the Cats for Christ Campus Ministry at Kansas State University, Matt is more than a campus minister, a Bible study leader and a mentor. Matt is our friend.

It was not long after I started attending Cats for Christ that I realized I wanted to pursue campus ministry to women as my full-time profession. I moved to Memphis to attend the Graduate School of Religion because I had heard from Matt that his training here was invaluable. Had it not been for Matt and for his desire to mold others for ministry, I would not be where I am today. Several other students from Cats for Christ are here as well. One student, Josh McVey, was at Kansas State when Matt was hired in 1998. He recalls, "When Matt arrived at the Manhattan Church of Christ,

the impact was immediate. His focus and vision engulfed the church and revitalized those already a part of Cats for Christ. Since that time the campus ministry has grown in size and depth. The church owns the ministry as a mission. Students take ownership of their spiritual growth and lead others. Future campus ministers are being trained. Students evangelize students. Men and women are coming to Christ."

Matt is a man of vision whose eyes are firmly planted on God. He used the skills he learned at the Graduate School of Religion to transform a ministry and help revitalize a church.

▶ Amy Hagedorn  
ahagedor@hugsr.edu



Matt Carter receives the 2005 Alumnus of the Year Award from Dr. Evertt W. Huffard.

## Church Planting Seminar

Nov. 18-19, 2005  
Harding University  
Graduate School  
of Religion  
Memphis, Tenn.

Designed for church-planting teams and the church leaders who send them, as well as individuals, elders, deacons and ministers interested in learning more about church planting.

For more information, contact  
Dr. Evertt W. Huffard  
(901) 761-1352 or  
dean@hugsr.edu



# At the Corner of Yesterday and Tomorrow

**T**he irony was profound. One week I was in a course on the history of the American Restoration Movement with Dr. Jerry Rushford bringing the stories of our past passionately to life.

A few days later we broke ground for the Rogers Research Center, the new addition to the Graves Memorial Library. At the groundbreaking, Sherman Rogers spoke of constructing the building to prepare future church leaders.

Those two events brought the past and the present together for me in a powerful way.

I should not have been surprised to find myself at

the juncture of those who have come and those who are to follow. Harding Graduate School of Religion has been built on a heritage of faithful men and women sacrificing so that students can have the best training possible. But we are also future-focused, preparing our students for ministries they may not even know about today.

Many people have given so much to make this unique school a place of excellence. And many students come and share their lives, their dreams and their gifts. So my office comfortably overlooks the intersection of yesterday and tomorrow.

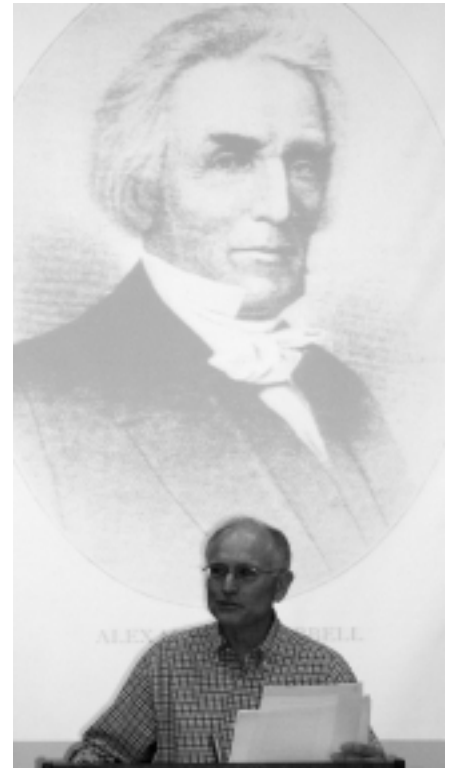
From my vantage point, I feel deep pride at those who have come before me, whose

dreams are coming to fruition in the present. I also feel great joy seeing the quality of our students and their commitment to kingdom business, because I know that these are leaders who will let God reign in their ministries. Great yesterdays yield great tomorrows.

What are you doing to build on what has been? How are you preparing for what can be?

▶ Mark Parker  
mparker@hugsr.edu

Dr. Jerry Rushford lectures on the ministry of Alexander Campbell.



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