President’s Message

In addition to its daily task of educating present and future ministers and church workers, Austin Graduate School of Theology offers learning opportunities to people who want to increase their knowledge and put it to use in strengthening the church.

Yes, the School offers a Bachelor of Ministry and Christian Studies degree. And, yes, the School offers a Masters of Arts in Theological Studies degree. But, there are other ways in which the School is active in preparing others for service. For example:

All Austin Grad courses are open to auditors. Not everyone interested in more Biblical or religious knowledge wants to pursue a degree. Those who just want to sit in the lectures and read the books without sitting for tests or receiving academic credit, may do so. In fact, we are fortunate to have many auditors in several of our classes.

Austin Grad’s Sermon Seminar offers a boost to ministers and church leaders in their preparation of sermons and Bible classes. This year’s event, to occur May 19-22, will be our 22nd Annual Sermon Seminar. At the seminar, six outstanding professors and teachers present Biblical material that can be used as a resource throughout the year. No, one does not have to be a minister to benefit from the seminar.

The Central Texas Bible Teachers Workshop, July 18-19, offers assistance to Bible School teachers and church leaders. Co-sponsored by Central Texas area Churches of Christ, the workshop will feature a Church Leadership Seminar. Of course, as last year, Bible school teachers will find much to help them in preparing their lessons.

Providing these and other resources is part of the mission and ministry of Austin Grad.

Carson Stephens

Walker Named to Board

Long time Austin resident, Roy Walker was recently named to the Board of Trustees. Walker was elected to complete the term of Tom Campbell who vacated the post in January.

“Roy has a sincere love for the School,” says Carson Stephens, president. “We will miss Tom’s wit and wisdom, so we are very happy to have someone of Roy’s calibre come on board.”

Walker is retired from ExxonMobil Corporation. His entire career was spent in Austin. He and his wife, Doris, are long time members of the University Avenue Church of Christ.

Austin Graduate School of Theology
Hosts Presidents’ Conference

In January, Presidents and Executive Directors of Ministry Training Schools met in Austin for fellowship and discussion. Austin Grad served as host for the Third Annual Conference, which included guests from Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, and California.

At this year’s meeting were Charles Stancil and David Turner of the California School of Evangelism, Truitt Adair of Sunset International Bible Institute, Edward Myers and Brad McAfee of Harding School of Biblical Studies, Dennis Jones of Heritage Christian University, and administration and faculty of Austin Grad.

The opening session was a dinner on Thursday evening, January 9. At that session, Allan McNicol presented a paper on the relationship of Churches of Christ with Evangelicalism.

The meetings allowed each of the representatives to report on the current work of his school as well as an opportunity to discuss topics of interest to all. The group toured the Austin Grad campus as well as part of the University of Texas campus in the immediate vicinity.

Austin Grad was honored to be the host this year and was glad to be able to introduce its faculty and staff to the leaders of these schools. The Fourth Annual Conference will be hosted by Charles Stancil of the California School of Evangelism in Los Angeles.

On the Cover
“Elements II”

Byron Fullerton is the former Associate Dean of the University of Texas School of Law. He is also the former Dean of the Texas Tech University School of Law. Since retiring in 1985, he has pursued his love of painting. His work is displayed in galleries in several states. He and his wife, Marilyn, are members of the Westover Hills Church of Christ in Austin.
The Power of the Word
Graduate, Mladen Jovanovic, Shares Gospel in Native Croatia

How did someone become a Christian in the communist-dominated country of Yugoslavia some thirty years ago? The Lord found a way.

Mladen Jovanovic was born in Zagreb, Croatia (formerly known as Yugoslavia). He was a curious boy who always loved books. At seventeen, he became one of the youngest teachers of Esperanto, a language created for international purposes. Love for languages became his passion.

He studied linguistics and graduated in 1969 from the University of Zagreb, one of the oldest universities in Europe. Under the leadership of two world-renowned linguists, Dr. Radoslav Katicic and Dr. Petar Guberine, the department of theoretical and applied linguistics was highly prestigious.

Soon after receiving his diploma, Mladen was offered a post as a lecturer at the University of Zagreb. His first class included students from Syria, Ghana, Sudan, Portugal and the United States.

Among his students were Bud Pickle and David Gatewood, graduates of Abilene Christian University, who had come to Yugoslavia to do mission work. Mladen liked these two Americans. Yet, he was puzzled by their religiousness. They appeared to be well educated, yet they believed in God. Mladen was intrigued and began reading the Bible in order to “help them out.”

Almost two years later, in December of 1971, Mladen was baptized by Bud Pickle. The Word was powerful and convincing. After teaching at the University of Zagreb for two years, he was invited to serve as visiting professor at the Institute for Slavic Languages at the University of Warsaw in Poland. There he served for eight years. While in Poland, he worked with the Church of Christ in Warsaw.

Married to Dragica, the Jovanovic’s were then the parents of two sons, Sasa and Kristijan.

In 1979, Mladen had a choice to make: continue teaching linguistics or enter full time work for the Lord. Under the sponsorship of the Northside Church of Christ in Santa Ana, California and with the assistance of the Crestview Church of Christ in Waco, Texas and the Friendswood Church of Christ in Friendswood, Texas, the Jovanovic’s decided that Mladen should enroll at the Institute for Christian Studies (now Austin Graduate School of Theology).

In September 1979, Mladen, Dragica, and their two sons moved to Austin. Mladen was impressed with the openness and friendliness of his new professors, Allan McNicol, Michael Weed, and Tony Ash. He found the libraries of the School and of the University of Texas to be hidden treasures for new knowledge. The University Avenue Church of Christ became the Jovanovic’s new spiritual family.

In 1980, the Jovanovic’s returned to Croatia, and their third child, daughter Andrea, was born. Though times were difficult, they were enthusiastic to establish new churches of Christ. That year, the moderate communist leader of Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito, died, and the future became uncertain.

In the following years, Mladen established the Christian radio program Radnosna Vjest (The Good News), presently broadcast over eight FM radio stations in Croatia. A small group of Christians registered the church with the government in 1985. Mladen was busy in translating and publishing Christian literature. In cooperation with Eastern European Mission, based in Vienna, Austria, 40,000 Croatian language Bibles were distributed throughout the former Yugoslavia. Mladen also authored two books: Who Are We Christians? and The Way to God, both in the Croatian language.

One of the main strategies in spreading the Word was to train new converts. Many Croatian Christian’s options were limited to attendance at American colleges or the International Christian University in Vienna, where Mladen was teaching. Most of the students never returned to Croatia.

In 1991, war broke out in the former Yugoslavia. Through a government-approved humanitarian relief effort, Mir Na Zemlji (Peace on Earth), Christians of Croatia collected and distributed food, clothing, and more than $3 million in medical supplies for war victims. In 1998, the Jovanovic’s received the Christian Service Award from 21st Century Christian.

During the war years, Mladen established a School of Biblical Studies to train leaders of the church inside the country. Eleven years later, the school is known as Institute for Biblical Studies, and is now associated with the University of Zagreb. Tom Sibley became director in 2002.

Mladen served as missionary-in-resident at Oklahoma Christian University for a semester in 1990 and 1994. Presently, he is a member of the Board of Global Christian University and a member of the Advisory Board of Eastern European Mission.
The Glory of God

Religious paintings, such as those of Renaissance artist Giotto, often show a circle of light around the heads of saints, prophets, apostles, and other holy people. This is intended to show the holiness of those persons, distinct from the common people who surround them. The artists are trying to show the awesome presence of the glory of God in human life and history, manifested in a few extraordinary people.

There have been many attempts to describe the glory of God as it intersects the world, but the glory of God is a mystery and defies description. Perhaps this is why artists and poets have struggled to tell us how the glory of God is manifested in holiness. It is darkness, it is light, it is the weight of God's presence, it is his abiding presence. One thing they have in common is they portray God as sovereign and holy, enthroned in majesty and separate in purity.

How do we understand the glory of God in our age? The prophet Ezekiel understands the glory of God in the language of kingship, mobile thrones, and winged sphinxes (Ezekiel 1). Strange to us, but perhaps some of his insights may help us as we try to live for His glory.

First, glory is a word that has to do with kingship. It is the sign and the weight of authority. The word occurs over 300 times in the Bible. It conveys God's royal authority, which comes from Himself, and is not given to Him by another. As kings are robed in robes of splendor, so God is clothed in kavod, the ineffable light of his royal splendor.

Second, the glory of the Lord is hidden and yet there is light and revelation even in His hiddenness. II Corinthians also tells us that the Jews, even knowing the Law of Moses and the traditions of God's glory, were veiled in their understanding, for the veil is taken away only in Christ. The hidden God, behind the veil of the cloudy, fiery pillar, is revealed only to those for whom, in Christ, the veil is removed. The purpose and presence of God is revealed to us in Christ.

Finally, the glory of God still demands our reverential fear and holy living. As ministers, we must remember that when we call our congregations to worship, we are calling them into the presence of the Holy One, the consuming fire, the cloud of the holy presence. As Ezekiel fell down on his face in the presence of the shadow of the shadow of the shadow of the vision of the presence of God, we too must first catch the vision of a holy, sovereign God, hidden in holiness yet revealed through the light of His Son. When we come together for worship, we come before the holy, consuming fire of Exodus 19 and Hebrews 12.

Giotto the painter was wrong. It was not only the holy ones who were bathed in the aura of glory. It belonged to poor shepherds who cuddled with the sheep at night. (Luke 2.8-9).

The good news is that God in his majesty, holiness, and hidden splendor has in Christ come down, not just to extraordinary people and patriarchs, but to humble shepherds, to those who languish in hospitals and prison cells, to all poor sinners, to you and even to me for whom the presence of God is available in Jesus Christ.

R. Mark Shipp is Pat. E. Harrell Associate Professor of Old Testament

Louisiana Student Learns Australian

He says that his goal at Austin Grad is simply to equip himself to be a minister of the Word, although he is also considering teaching someday, perhaps, at a Bible college.

Stephen says that his experience at Austin Grad has been "a very positive experience."

"I am comfortable with the faculty," he continues. "They are very personable, and that is very helpful."

Yet, he says that learning Greek has been an exercise in humility. On the other hand, he has already passed Australian.
A Texas Tradition Revived

In 1951, the Bible Chair Program Resumed

A first among churches of Christ in the nation, the Bible Chair at the University of Texas had a successful tenure from its beginning in 1918. Established with the prompting of G.H.P. Showalter and under the able leadership of A.B. Barret and Charles Roberson, the Bible Chair taught the Word to hundreds of University of Texas students. In 1928, however, the Chair fell silent, a victim of hard economic times. It remained dormant during The Depression and World War II.

Following the war, economic conditions began to improve, and the University Church of Christ commissioned a new church building to accommodate a growing congregation. Adjacent to its old building, the new facility was dedicated on September 25, 1949 with 1326 in attendance. It was renamed University Avenue Church of Christ.

With improving finances and a new facility, there came a growing desire to revive the Bible Chair.

The opportunity to do so arose when Ray McGlothlin, Jr., with support from his father, volunteered to serve as Administrator as well as Instructor of the revived Chair. At the time, McGlothlin was serving as song leader for the University Avenue church and director of a small chorus, for which he received a small stipend. Bible Chair classes met in the new building, and generous and foresighted University Avenue church members began to build a library.

In 1956, Ray’s father urgently needed him for the family business in Abilene, but the Church in Austin was financially unable to hire a replacement. He dedicated himself to both jobs, teaching classes MWF in Austin. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he would arise at 4 am, drive to Abilene, work 8 to 5, and drive back to Austin that night. He continued this schedule through the Fall semester, and Robert L. (Bob) Johnston completed the year, teaching the Spring semester.

In September 1957, Earle McMillan came to the University Avenue church as Associate Minister and Director of the Bible Chair. Shortly after his arrival, McMillan formed a choral group of college students. This group provided music for weddings, funerals and other occasions.

In the summer of 1958, McMillan traveled to the Northeast United States where he preached meetings for mission congregations that were being supported by the University Avenue church. This work caused a growing awareness of the opportunity to train university students for service in mission fields. Following his marriage to EuAlice, McMillan left the Bible Chair in 1959 to continue graduate studies at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland.

During these years, Bible Chair students were typically active as members of the University Avenue church, and there was little distinction between the UT Student Ministry and the Bible Chair. Students were involved in leading worship, teaching classes, and participating in several benevolence programs. Largely through the work of Roger McCown, smaller congregations in the Austin area were assisted by students who occasionally preached for them or taught classes. This, in turn, benefited a number of University students who were interested in preaching the Word by giving them experience and financial assistance. This tradition continues today at Austin Grad.

Gene Patterson came as Bible Chair Director in the fall of 1959. He was also named Development Director for the Chair as well as Campus Minister. During this time, in addition to making significant contributions to various church ministries, a number of University students began preparing themselves for the ministry, two as medical missionaries. In 1961, Patterson and University Avenue minister Harrison Mathews prepared a statement of goals and purposes for student ministry at the Church. Dr. A.B. Cox, an elder for the church, supported the report and submitted it to the church elders who approved it.

In 1962, Tom Loney, Associate Minister of the Church, was appointed to head a fund raising program for the Biblical Studies Center. Historically, both the student ministry and the Bible Chair were totally funded under the University Avenue Church budget. The new fund sought support from a broad number of Churches of Christ whose students were attending the University of Texas and receiving instruction at the Bible Chair.

The work continued to expand, and so did the need for additional space. In September 1962, the University Avenue Church purchased the old American Founders office building on 19th Street, just two blocks east of the church. The building was designated “The Biblical Studies Center,” which emphasized the focus on Biblical instruction.

The Bible Chair and Student Ministry continued to be staffed and managed by the University Avenue Church. The building as well as the organization were referred to as the BSC for brevity and the letterhead included the statement: “A ministry of Churches of Christ at the University of Texas under the oversight of the Elders of the University Avenue Church of Christ.” Teaching students was a significant part of the legacy of minister, Harrison Mathews. University Avenue Church mourned his untimely death in July 1963.

The School prospered and began to plan for an even broader vision. (To be continued.)
SUSTAINING GIFTS

Anonymous
Mary V. Adams
Mildred & Bill Barker
M/M Roland Beasley
Jim & Louise Beyer
Margaret L. Bruce
Bob & LaJuana Burgess
Thelma M. Burnett
Joseph Cavin, Jr.
Todd & Christa Copeland
Seth B. & Tommie Cowan
Paul Easley
Al & Carolyn Endsley
William & Mary Lou Free
B.C. & Mary Girdley
Ann Grey
Brent & Letha
Harshman
Neil & Marsha Haney
Judy Hocott
Frances O. Horn
Gene & Lois Inman
Jake & Jean Isaac
Chuck & Marilyn Jobe
Mrs. Lawrence Jones
Paul (B'87) & Cynthia
Jones
Terry & Beverly Koonce
Rodney & Lawanna Lloyd
Brooks & Mary Ann
Loveless
Jeb Loveless
Bill & Ann Martin
Jim & Dorothy McCall
Russell & Nancy
McCullough
Timothy & Judith McKee
Allan & Patricia McNicol
Jenny & Bill Millican
Hugh & Marianne
Morgan
Brian & Kimberly Rotto
Mary Shilcutt
Reuben & Oneta Sloane
Smithville Church of
Christ
Gregg & Allison Stephens
Jeanette & Carson
Bill & Becky Stewart
Fred & Sondra
Strietelmeier
Dorothy Summerlin
Jim & Frances Uzzell
Roy & Doris Walker
Newton & Twila Ward
Dan & Jeannette Watson
Karen S. Weber
Mike & Gwen White
Ward & Sarah Widener
Joyce Wiginton
J. McDonald Williams
Jack & Ruth Wright
Mike & Nancy Yanochik

LIGHTBEARERS

Mike & Sheila Dodson
Austin & Barbara Emery
Wilbert & Pat Hall
Robert (B'02) & Robyn
Iversen
Jerry & Beverly Martin
Rob & Mica McNicol
Ottie & Frank Olson
Matt (B'89) & Angela
Soper
D/M Robert White
Joyce Wiginton

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Darrell Bailey
Bob & Bobbie Burke
Pat Carswell
Jenny & Bill Millican
Claude Hocott
Jay and Lucille
Cunningham
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
Jay and Ann Hailey
Bill & Gail Hancock
Kip Jordan
Robert and Karen
Bluethman

Jane Nichols
Charles and Nora Nichols
Evelyn Quinn
Jack & Ruth Wright
Gwen Rambo
Lanita Anglin
Autie Doerr
Thelma Merrell
Billy Ramsey
Judy Hocott
Warren and Fran Ross
Chrystle Shields
Alma C. Garrett
Judy Hocott
Jo F. McDavid
Phil and Nell Walker
Roy & Doris Walker
Lula Watson
Jenny and Bill Millican
Ray Warren
Wanda Primrose
Jon Weber
Jay and Ann Hailey
Lou Williamson
Judy Hocott

LIVING HONORS

Austin Grad Faculty
Paul L. Watson
Burton Coffman
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
Barry & Jolene Curtis
Terry & Beverly Koonce
Ann Grey
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
Judy Hocott
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
Tim and Leslie Hughes
Terry & Beverly Koonce
Rodney and Lawanna
Lloyd
Cinco Ranch Church of
Christ
Marquita Moss
M/M Roland Beasley
Sean and Rochelle Palmer
Terry & Beverly Koonce

Katie Shilcutt
Mary Shilcutt
Tracy Shilcutt
Mary Shilcutt
Debra Shilcutt Sine
Mary Shilcutt
Karen Weber
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
O. J. and Ann Weber
Karen Weber
Maurice and Judy Weed
D/M Robert White
David Worley
Hugh & Elaine Gainey
Jack and Ruth Wright
Hugh & Elaine Gainey

CORPORATIONS/
FOUNDATIONS

Amerivision Communications
Anonymous Foundation
Chevron Texaco
ExxonMobil Foundation
Ferro Foundation
IBM Foundation
Lubrizol Foundation
SBC Foundation

SUPPORTING
CHURCHES

Bering Drive
Church of Christ, Houston
Brentwood Oaks
Church of Christ, Austin
Gatesville
Church of Christ
Kerrville
Church of Christ
Lockhart
Church of Christ
Sunset Ridge
Church of Christ
San Antonio
University Avenue
Church of Christ, Austin
Western Hills
Church of Christ, Austin
May You Be Remembered

IN THE LAST FEW ISSUES OF THEOLOGIA, I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT various kinds of “Planned Giving,” giving that typically benefits the School upon the death of the donor(s). Most, but not all, of our endowments were given in this way. We are indebted to the thoughtfulness and generosity of those visionary donors who have left a wonderful legacy. Names like Cox, Weber, Hocott, Harrell, Showalter, and many others will always be remembered here for the endowments that now bear their names.

Our ongoing success as an academic institution depends on meeting the rigorous, ever-changing requirements of higher education. These requirements are imposed by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which authorizes and certifies accreditation for most southern colleges and universities, including the University of Texas. Our costs will increase in 2003 as we comply with new requirements associated with our promotion to graduate school. We will depend even more on the generous gifts of our supporters to sustain the School.

Donors have told me that one of the effects of our 3-year stock market decline has been that they cannot give as much as they wanted to, or as much as they previously have done. We appreciate, so much, those who have continued to remember the School with their prayers and gifts in spite of the downturns. May God remember you as you have remembered others.

Hugh Gainey is Director of Planned Giving. He may be reached at 512/476-2772 or hgainey@austingrad.edu

Tell Me The Story

New this year:
Church Leaders Seminar

"Who is Wise and Understanding Among You?"
Wisdom as a Model for Church Leadership

Accommodations Available
Events@austingrad.edu

A Cooperative Effort of Central Texas Churches of Christ
And Austin Graduate School of Theology

Austin Graduate School of Theology

Name: __________________________
Address: _______________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

✓ I wish to become a member of Light Bearers by donating monthly at the following level:

☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ ________ Other

✓ I wish to: ☐ Pay for a Day ($300) ☐ Pay for a Week ($2100) ☐ Give a gift in the amount of $________

If in memory or honor of someone, please attach: Name of Honoree, Day to be Honored, Name and Address of Person to Notify.

Please charge to my card: ___________________________ (Card number)
Expiration date: __________ Signature: ___________________________
22nd Annual Sermon Seminar
May 19-22, 2003

Tony Ash
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, Texas

Virgil Fry
Lifeline Chaplaincy
Houston, Texas

Bob Hendren
University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama

Ira Jolivet
Pepperdine University
Malibu, California

James Thompson
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, Texas

Paul Watson
Durham Church of Christ
Durham, North Carolina