Graduate Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary
— An Invitation from Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz

Concordia Theological Seminary was founded in 1846 to serve and educate the Lutheran Churches in the United States. Today, however, the seminary is supported by the 2.6 million member worldwide Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Through its various graduate and post-graduate programs (Ph.D., D.Min., S.T.M., and M.Div.), the seminary provides churches with well-educated teachers, pastors, and missionaries to assume leadership positions, not only in the Lutheran Church, but also for its worldwide partner churches of various denominations that find the excellence of its academic program appealing.

If you are considering graduate or post-graduate studies, you will want to explore the possibility of Concordia Theological Seminary.

In this inaugural edition of Sola, you will read about the seminary’s various academic programs, the courses each program offers, and about some of the students currently enrolled. Our hope is that this publication will become a regular vehicle for communication so that you may be informed of what is happening in the graduate studies programs at CTS, and that those who are currently enrolled in the programs may gain a sense of community to encourage and stimulate one another.

For More Information

If you are interested in finding out more about the degree programs offered at Concordia Theological Seminary, contact the Graduate Studies Office at: (260) 452-2203 or visit us online at: www.ctsfw.edu

Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz
Dean of Graduate Studies
The Ph.D. in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary
Study of the Word & Study of the World
— Jim Vermilya

“I survived my first year of Ph.D. studies...and I’m still smiling!”

Those were the words I shared recently with some friends who were asking me about the recent transition my family and I made across country in order for me to begin my Ph.D. studies at Concordia Theological Seminary. This past year of studies has been incredible! I have learned so much already—about God, about the field of missiology, about the Lutheran tradition, and about myself as I have been welcomed into a beautifully diverse group of individuals, hailing from countries all around the world, who, like me, desire to know God better by studying His word and studying His world. That is how CTS’s Ph.D. program is designed—the study of God’s word (i.e. biblical, historical, and theological studies) and the study of God’s world (i.e. cultural, ecclesial, and missional studies). Students and professors work together to discover what God has been doing throughout the course of human history, what He is currently doing, and how we as His body may join in Him in the work of making disciples of all nations.

If you are reading this newsletter and you are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Missiology, then I highly recommend you consider Concordia Theological Seminary—you will not be disappointed!
Raised on the mission field of Haiti, where his parents were missionaries for seven years with the Wesleyan Church, Jim grew up seeing the world from a different perspective than most American boys—his passion for lost people and his compassion for the poor and the marginalized of society were birthed out of these early cross-cultural ministry years of his life. But it was in the months of training and preparation leading up to his first short-term mission trip, at the age of sixteen, that Jim surrendered his life and future vocational ministry calling to the Lord after reading the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:1-2. Not knowing where, when, how, or what this ministry calling might eventually look like in the future, his first step was to attend Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, IN) where he studied Christian Ministries for four years while also serving as a Jr. High youth pastor at a local church. It was at IWU that Jim and Emily met, and the two were married on April 26, 1997. Two weeks later they moved to Denver, CO where they served as missionaries with Kingdom Building Ministries (a Christian parachurch ministry organization) for the next nine years as the directors of a discipleship training school for youth, young adults, and adults that incorporated biblically-based discipleship education with cross-cultural ministry education through the avenue of short-term missions. During this time in Denver, Jim was ordained in the Wesleyan Church (1999), graduated with a Master of Theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary (2005), and he and Emily had two children—Silas and Aynsley.

In 2006, Jim and his family moved to Indiana where he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary, while also teaching as an adjunct professor at his alma mater (IWU).

Jim believes that God has called him and gifted him to be a mobilizer (i.e. one who inspires, encourages, and equips) of students (i.e. of different ages, backgrounds, and cultural upbringings) for the cause of Christ in the world (i.e. the fulfillment of their role in the Great Commandment and The Great Commission); and he believes that the Ph.D. in Missiology program at Concordia Theological Seminary will better equip him to pursue this calling on this life.

The focus of Jim’s research and forthcoming Ph.D. dissertation is in the area of short-term missions. More specifically, he is studying the attitudes of long-term career missionaries towards short-term missions in an attempt to explore the possibility of mutually benefiting partnerships between short-termers and long-termers.

If you would like to talk with Jim about the Ph.D. in Missiology program at Concordia Theological Seminary, or his dissertation research area, you can contact him at: jimvermilya@gmail.com
Ph.D. Courses (May 28—June 6)
- Urban Church Planting—Dr. John Nunes
  (MTWRF 12:30—3:40 PM)

Ph.D. Courses (June 11—22)
- New Testament Paradigms for Mission—Dr. David Coles
  (MTWRF 8:00—11:30 AM)
- Mission Communication: Language & Meaning—Dr. Eric Moeller
  (MTWRF 1:00—4:10 PM)

Ph.D. Courses (July 23—August 3)
- Communicating Christ: Barriers & Bridges—Dr. Eugene Bunkowske
  (MTWRF 8:00—11:30 AM)
- Theological Education Across Cultures—Dr. Douglas Rutt
  (MTWRF 1:00—4:10 PM)

D.Min. Courses (June 11—22)
- Christ & Syncretism—Dr. Alvin Schmidt
  (MTWRF 8:00—11:30 AM)
- Church & Culture—Dr. Detlev Schulz
  (MTWRF 1:00—4:10 PM)
Ph.D. Courses (September 10—November 16)
- Missiology Today—Dr. Detlev Schulz (MF 11:00—12:25)

Ph.D. Fall Intensive Courses (October 1—12)
- Revelation, Koran, and Muslim Tradition—Dr. Adam Francisco
  (MTWRF 7:15—9:55 AM)
- The Planting & Growth of Churches—Dr. John Nunes
  (MTWRF 1:00—4:10 PM)

S.T.M. Courses (September 10—November 16)
- James—Dr. David Scaer (MWF 2:00—2:55 PM)
- Pastoral Epistles—Dr. Walter Maier III (MWF 1:00—1:55 PM)
- Theology of English Reformation—Dr. Cameron MacKenzie
  (TR 1:00—2:25 PM)
- Preaching Law & Gospel—Dr. Carl Fickenscher II
  (MF 11:00—12:25 PM)
- Premarital Pastoral Care—Dr. Randall Schroeder (TR 8:30—9:55 AM)
- Marital & Family Pastoral Care—Dr. Randall Schroeder
  (TR 11:00—12:25 PM)
- Luther on Lord’s Supper—Dr. Naomichi Masaki (MWF 9:00—9:55 AM)

S.T.M. Fall Intensive Courses (October 1—12)
- Jewish Literature Second Temple Period—Dr. Charles Gieschen
  (MTWRF 8:00—11:30 AM)
- Lutheran Hymnody—Prof. Richard Resch
  (MTWRF 1:00—4:10 PM)
The **D.Min. Program** at Concordia Theological Seminary

The Highest Office

If you are a pastor, you already hold the highest office in the church. There is nothing greater than to serve Christ and His people in His name and stead. Daily you are at work feeding, guarding, and guiding the lambs and sheep of Jesus. It just does not get any better than that!

At the same time, conscientious pastors realize that the times in which we live present extraordinary challenges and opportunities for Christ’s church on earth. If you are beginning to feel like your well has run dry, you may want to consider the D.Min. program at Concordia Theological Seminary.

In distinction from our other graduate programs, the D.Min. is explicitly oriented toward the practice of pastoral ministry. All of the courses are offered in two-week intensives, making it possible for pastors to remain connected in “hands on” ministry while they are enriching their knowledge and practice of pastoral theology. In fact, many of the courses include assignments geared toward the practice of ministry. And the final project dissertation originates and is directed toward the local parish served by the pastor/student.

Learning in the D.Min. program comes from three sources:

1. excellent scholars and pastors of the church who are the instructors for the courses;
2. interaction with peers who are actively engaged in pastoral ministry; and
3. involvement with members of the student’s own congregation or ministry where he currently serves.

It is “hands on” learning, and you are invited!

For enrollment information, contact the Graduate Studies Office at:
(260) 452-2203 or visit us online at:
www.ctsfw.edu

Supervisor of the D.Min. Program
Concordia Theological Seminary
SenkbeilHL@ctsfw.edu
The S.T.M. Program at Concordia Theological Seminary

The Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree program provides the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in a chosen field of theological study and to gain and use the skills necessary for scholarly work and research in theology on an advanced level. The S.T.M. degree program is suitable both for those who wish to advance their theological knowledge and understanding beyond the Master of Divinity degree and for those who wish to equip themselves for theological leadership in the Church. The Graduate Studies Office is currently reviewing the status of all who are currently enrolled in the S.T.M. program. It is our hope that everyone completes the program and receives the degree within the prescribed time of six years. However, if you have passed the six-year marker, reinstatement is possible, and we would love to assist you in any way that we can toward the completion of your S.T.M. degree.

If you are interested in finding out more about Concordia Theological Seminary’s S.T.M. program, contact Dr. Naomichi Masaki by email at: masakin@ctsfw.edu or visit us online at: www.ctsfw.edu.

The S.T.M. office is proud to announce that Dr. Norman Nagel, Professor Emeritus of Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) was this year’s guest lecturer. He led a graduate seminar during the Spring Intensive from April 16–27, 2007 entitled, The Office of the Holy Ministry. The course description read:

“From our Lord’s mandate, through the New Testament, into the church, through Reformation and the Confessions, to Perry County, and beyond.”

Dr. Nagel helped to provide an evangelical and insightful two-weeks on the confession of Christ for those who attended this course. He was assisted in the class by Dr. Naomichi Masaki.
Concordia Faculty News — Islamic Expert to Join Staff

Concordia Theological Seminary is looking forward to the arrival of Dr. Adam Francisco—Fall 2007.

Adam S. Francisco is an alumnus of Concordia University (Irvine, CA). After matriculating in 1997, following four years of military service, he earned his B.A. in Theological Studies and Biblical Languages (2000) and a M.A. in Reformation Theology (2001). He then went on to the University of Oxford and was awarded the MSt in Ecclesiastical History (2003) and, focusing on the intellectual history of Christian-Muslim dialogue, the DPhil (2006). He was the Albin Salton Research Fellow in sixteenth-century Ottoman and European relations (2005) at London University’s Warburg Institute and Assistant Professor of History at Concordia College (Bronxville, NY) from 2005 to 2007. He recently published a festschrift in honor of Dr. Rod Rosenbladt entitled Theologia et Apologia: Essays in Reformation Theology and Its Defense, which he co-edited with faculty from Concordia University Irvine, and his book, Martin Luther and Islam, is due to be released the summer of 2007.

Adam and his wife, Rachel, have a three-year-old son named Timothy Roderick, and they are expecting their second child later this summer.

Sola

is the quarterly published Graduate School newsletter of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

For additional copies of this newsletter, please contact the CTS Graduate Studies Office at: (260) 452-2203.

Any comments, questions, articles, or ideas can be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office by mail or by email at: graduatestudies@ctsfw.edu