

Alabama Centers

The Gatekeeper



New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
www.nobts.edu
September 30, 2013

Special Points of Interest:

- **Preview Weekend**—Visit the main campus in New Orleans for Preview Weekend, October 24-26, 2013. Cost: \$25, all inclusive.
- **Defend the Faith Conference**—Apologetics Conference January 5-11, 2014 in New Orleans. For more info visit <http://nobtsapologetics.com/defendthefait>
- **Greer-Heard Forum**—February 21-22, 2014 in New Orleans. For more info visit www.greerheard.com.

**Dr. Ron Pate, Director
Birmingham Center**
The Church at Brook Hills
3145 Brook Highland Pkwy.
Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone: (205) 313-7800
Cell: 205-516-4535
E-mail: rpate@nobts.edu

**Zach Kendrick, Assistant & Library
Birmingham Center**
Email: bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

**Dr. Teman Knight, Director
Montgomery Center**
Heritage Baptist Church
1849 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36106

Phone: (334) 279-9976
E-mail: Teman@HBCM.net

**Rev. Zach Richards, Director
Rainsville Center**
First Baptist Church, Rainsville
223 Church Ave
Rainsville, AL 35986

Phone: (256) 706-2478
Email: nealnobts@gmail.com

If you have any ideas for articles, interviews, or news that you would like to include in the newsletter please contact Zach Kendrick at bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com



NOBTS EXTENSION IN NORTHEAST ALABAMA

By Gary Hardin

A morning devotional time in summer 2012 opened Zach Richards' eyes to a ministry need — the equipping of those called to ministry. God took his burden and gave him a vision for a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) extension center in his area.

Thanks to his pursuit of that vision, Richards, pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church, Crossville, saw a certificate extension center begin offering classes in his community in January. And soon he may see the expansion of that center to include undergraduate and graduate degree programs. A group of 60 area pastors, ministry staff and directors of missions gathered July 18 at First Baptist Church, Rainsville, to talk about the possibility.

Currently the northeast Alabama extension center offers

two fully accredited certificate programs. The first is an undergrad certificate, ideal for those who might not have attended college but who want to study the Bible in a deeper way, said Richards, who serves as director of the

credit hours of classes taken in the graduate certificate program transfer directly into a master's degree.

If sufficient interest is expressed, NOBTS will add two more programs to the center — an undergraduate degree program through Leavell College and a graduate degree program through NOBTS.

"Many pastors can't pack up and move to New Orleans to attend seminary, but they can come to Rainsville, study and then go home to their families,"

Richards said.

For the Fall semester, three new classes will be offered at the extension center. For more information about the classes offered at the northeast Alabama extension center, email nealnobts@gmail.com.

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Photo courtesy of *The Alabama Baptist*
Dr. Rick Lance (right), ALSBOM Executive Director, shares about the new Rainsville Extension with director Zach Richards (left).

extension center. This certificate program also is for those who would like to begin work on a bachelor's degree. Up to 18 credit hours earned in the certificate program can transfer into a bachelor's degree through Leavell College, the undergraduate school of NOBTS. The second program is a graduate certificate. Up to 18

BIRMINGHAM CENTER

Student ID: If you **DO NOT** have a student ID please see Zach to get one made. Also if you have a current ID please see Zach to have yours validated for the 2013-2014 academic year.

VA Students: Please see Dr. Pate to confirm that you are taking classes.

Snack Table: Please remember that all snacks and drinks are 50 cents. Coffee is now \$.50 per day.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook (NOBTS Birmingham) we post announcements and available ministry positions. Also follow us on Twitter @nobtsbirmingham.

Unlimited Partnerships: If you would like to get ministry experience please see Dr. Pate for more details.

WEBSITE: Visit our Extension Center website <http://www.nobts.edu/Extensions/Birmingham.html>. You will find important dates, class schedules, etc.

MONTGOMERY CENTER

Schedule: For Spring 2014 class schedules at the Montgomery Center, please visit the extension center website <http://www.nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama.html>

RAINSVILLE CENTER

Fall 2013: Classes are now in session at the Northeast Alabama Center in Rainsville.

MINISTRY POSITIONS

Youth Pastor: Grace Baptist Church in Fayette, AL is currently seeking a Part-Time Youth Pastor. If you are interested please contact Dr. Brad Doss at preacherdoss@msn.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 14-18—FALL BREAK

Oct 24-26—Preview Weekend

Nov 25-29—THANKSGIVING

Dec 5—Last Day of Classes/Finals for Thursday Classes

Dec 9—Last Day of Classes/Finals for Monday Classes

Dec 10—Last Day of Classes/Finals for Tuesday Classes

Dec 14—Graduation

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for a good semester of ministry training.

Pray for fellow students and professors who are leaders of churches. May they lead well.

Pray for our churches, associations, state, and nation.

If you have a prayer request please send it to bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

MEET BIRMINGHAM GRADUATE STUDENT: JORDAN NORRIS

In this inaugural edition of the new *Alabama Centers Gatekeeper*, we would like to introduce you to Birmingham Graduate student, Jordan Norris. Jordan has a heart for his Lord Jesus Christ. His desire is to see Christ glorified in all that he does.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Huntsville, really west of Huntsville in the Harvest/Toney area. Currently I live in Adger, AL.

Briefly share your testimony

I grew up in church as a kid and prayed when I was young, but I didn't know God. After years of spiritual confusion thinking that I was safe, God led me to a church and to his love. So I let him have all of me.

Briefly tell me about your call to ministry.

God in his sovereignty put together the right people, the right place, and the right time to make it clear that he wanted me to give my life to his ministry. It happened in a little retirement trailer park in Cherokee, NC through a simple devotion and some very special words spoken by a friend.

Are you married? Kids?

Nope and nope, but hopefully one day!



Where do you serve in ministry?

I am helping with a new church plant in Helena. It's called Karis Church, currently we are meeting at the Donut Chef in Helena. I've been praying through it. Well, I'm kind of the of the Prayer and Outreach guy.

What is your favorite hobby?

I like to write rap songs. Woot Woot!!

What is your favorite sport to watch and/or play?

Football is pretty much it, unless I'm at a game live. Everything else might as well be golf!

What is your favorite class?

Call me strange, but I'm kind of fond of Greek! Shout out to Dr. Aernie!

Besides the Bible what was the last book you read?

I am currently reading *Who Do You Think You Are?* By Mark Driscoll for our Bible Study at church. In the book he walks through the book of Ephesians and reminds us who we are in Christ.

What is one piece of advice you would give students about their years in seminary?

Study and pray!