

Alabama Centers

The Gatekeeper



New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
www.nobts.edu

January 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Graduation Application Deadline**—If you plan to graduate this semester please note that the deadline for the application is due February 17. Apply online at nobts.edu
- **Birmingham Library**—The library and office will be open on Mondays (8am-7pm), Tuesdays (9am-2pm), and Thursdays (10am-2pm).
- **NOBTS eLibrary**—Starting this semester NOBTS has access to eLibrary through Ebsco Host, with access to more than 500 publishers. Visit nobts.edu/library for more information.

NOBTS WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

If you have not noticed, the NOBTS website has gotten a facelift recently. The revamp is an attempt to make the site more user friendly. As new students learn the website it will be easier to navigate. For current students, however, the site may take some getting use to as features have been moved. The new site takes advantage the use of graphics and icons for links. General information about the seminary can be found below the slideshow. Three major audiences are catered to on the site, (1) Future Stu-

dents, (2) Current Students, (3) Alumni. For current students one major difference is where to find Self-Serve. On the old site one could find Self-Serve on the left-hand side of the screen. Now Self-Serve is located at the very top of the page on right-hand side beside the Blackboard link. Information about course schedules and catalogs can be found in the same place as the old site, at the bottom of the page. For Alabama Students, the Extension Center pages have not changed. You can find the

Birmingham and Montgomery pages by clicking on the Extension Centers icon below the slideshow on the main page. All of the information regarding class schedules and important dates are current. NOBTS Student Enlistment posted on Twitter asking students and faculty to be patient because, "Some of the site is still in progress." We encourage you to spend some time to get familiar with the new site. If you have difficulty finding information or questions about the new site please call the main campus 504-282-4455

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NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ABOUT

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The Alabama Centers Gatekeeper is a publication of the NOBTS Birmingham Center. Any ideas for articles, interviews, or news can be sent to:

bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com

MEET BIRMINGHAM STUDENT, BLAKE EVANS

In our first *Alabama Centers Gatekeeper* of the new year we would like for you to meet Blake Evans, who is a graduate student here at the Birmingham Center. He is also an alumnus of Leavell College.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Birmingham and raised in Mt. Olive. We moved for a short time while I was a kid down in Talledega where my dad was the pastor of a church but then we moved right back to Mt. Olive.

Briefly share your testimony.

As I just said my dad was a pastor and I was raised in church all of my life. So I had heard the gospel told to me through church and my dad living as Christ centered as he could. Yet I still wasn't saved. I can't remember how old I was at the time of my conversion but I distinctly remember the circumstances that God used to draw me to himself. My great-grandmother had just recently passed away and there was no certainty as to whether or not she knew Christ and this sparked a thought in me, "What if I'm not saved?" Well this plagued me for days after that and it caused me to ask my dad about being saved. My dad did not want to push salvation on me so he cautioned me to wait. One night, however I couldn't wait any more because I knew that if it died that night I would go to Hell without Christ. And I stormed downstairs and "forced" my dad to lead me to salvation. He then lead me through a prayer that then led me to Christ.

Briefly share about your call to ministry.

My call came after high school and into college. I fought with God for a time because I didn't think I was ready but also God used certain circumstances to realign my theology because quite honestly it wasn't biblical theology. I also struggled with what type of pastor God was calling me to be. I wasn't sure whether that was youth pastor,



college or Senior and for a time I was sure that I was called to senior pastor but I am not quite sure that wasn't just what I wanted and not what God wanted. I do feel that God has called me to be a seminary of bible college professor and I am open to any possibility God could use me in the local church whether that is senior pastor or some other type of preaching/teaching role within

the church. What I truly know for sure is that God has called me to be a full time minister of the gospel both for unbelievers and believers alike.

Are you married? Do you have any kids?

I am married to my beautiful wife Erin and unfortunately no we do not have kids. We are praying that God will bless us with children some day.

I generally only watch Alabama Football (ROLL TIDE!) and I do like to play football and basketball even though I think I'm better at football.

What is your favorite class to teach or when you were a student?

My favorite subject growing up was history. I think that's why I'm drawn to being a professor. I love understanding the historical background of the books of Scripture and I want others to understand the history behind these sacred texts especially if they're wanting to preach them to their people.

Besides the Bible what was the last book you read?

Still haven't finished it but the last book I was reading *A Case for Amillennialism* by Kim Riddlebarger.

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

I would say a couple of things 1) Don't let any study we do here be a substitute for studying God's Word on your own. I know it seems cliché but I truly believe that we can let the studying that we're doing to prepare us for ministry can get in the way of our relationship with God if we let it. 2) Do not think that just because you're a seminary student that you have all of the answers to your peoples problems. Again we study theology all day here at school and we can pontificate all day long why God allows suffering but our people need us to be real and true to them and sometimes a simple "I don't know" can go a long way to helping them through a crisis. We are not all knowing, God alone is.

Where do you serve in ministry?

I am a Sunday school teacher for my church Shades Mountain Baptist

What is your favorite hobby?

Reading when I get the chance and hanging out with friends.

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



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BIRMINGHAM CENTER

Student ID: If you need a student ID, please see Zach to get one made.

Snack Table: Please remember that all snacks and drinks are 50 cents.

Greek Flashcard App: Zondervan has released a new Greek flashcard app for the *Basics of Biblical Greek* curriculum. Cost: \$19.99 on the App Store.

MONTGOMERY CENTER

Website: Visit our website to state updated on what is happening at the Montgomery Center. <http://www.nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama>

RAINSVILLE CENTER

Please see Zach Richards for any announcements at the North East Alabama Center.

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 preacher-doss@msn.com

Youth Pastor: Whorton Bend Baptist Church in Gadsden is looking for a new youth pastor. If you are interested, please send your resume to Scott Mayo at smay@farmersagent.com or mail it to 2820 Whorton Bend Road, Gadsden, AL 35901

Youth Pastor: Bellview Baptist Church in McCalla is looking for a Part-time Student Minister to be responsible for leading the youth ministry. Send Resume to pastor@bellviewbc.org or mail to: 6674 Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, AL 35111

Youth Pastor: Bay Springs Baptist in Shelby, AL is looking for a bi-vocational youth pastor. They must be musically gifted and able to work with youth on contemporary music, able to fill the pulpit when needed, enjoying hunting, fishing, and not be afraid of mud. Send resumes to: pastor@bayspringsonline.com

TUSCALOOSA CENTER

Graduate: Classes to be offered on the graduate (Masters) track are: Proclaiming the Bible, Spiritual Formation I, Introductory Hebrew Grammar, and Pastoral Ministry.

Undergrad: Classes to be offered on the undergraduate track are: Old Testament Survey, Introduction to Counseling, New Testament Interpretation, Personal Spiritual Disciplines, and English Composition.

Interested potential students or professors can contact Billy Austin at [334.312.0843](tel:334.312.0843) or bibbybama@gmail.com.

Meet 'n Greet: There will be a meeting at Nehemiah's Coffee House, 101 18th Street, Tuscaloosa (adjacent to Forest Lake Baptist Church) on February 16, 2014, from 3-4 pm. Interested potential students are invited to come and meet with seminary representatives regarding possible enrollment and participation with the West Alabama Regional Extension of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 31—Drop/Add Deadline

February 17—Graduation Application Deadline

March 1—Registration for Summer Courses

March 24-28—Spring Break and Workshops

April 1-30—Current Student Scholarships

April 18—Good Friday (Office/Library Closed)

May 17—Graduation (Main Campus)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the directors of our new centers in Rainsville, South Roebuck, and Tuscaloosa.

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

NOBTS BIRMINGHAM GOING TO QUITO

Birmingham—On August 1-8 a group of students from the Birmingham Center will be taking a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador. Under the leadership of Birmingham Center undergraduate professor Dr. Stephen Hall students will assist in church planting, discipleship, and evangelism. After staying a day at an orphanage in Quito, students will travel to the jungle near Puyo. There the group will work with a local church to plant a church in an unreached area. Students will offered 3 hour graduate and 3 hour undergraduate course around this trip. The approximate cost of the trip is \$2,000 per student, plus the cost of tuition. For more information, please contact Dr. Stephen Hall at stephenhall5@gmail.com



GOD AND COSMOLOGY

The Existence of God in Light of Contemporary Cosmology

February 21-22, 2014