



Spring 2017

The College of Bible and Ministry of Harding University seeks to lead all students to know, live and share God's Word and to understand, love and serve God's world through and beyond their chosen vocation.

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THEOLOGICAL TABLE TALK

Every Wednesday during the Fall and Spring semesters, the College of Bible and Ministry sets aside the lunch hour for something we call "Theological Table Talk" (TTT). It's a time when we gather as a faculty, often with visitors from other colleges on campus, to discuss and to learn about a host of topics relevant to our college. In the past year, we've had discussions ranging from atonement theories (yes, there are several!), tectonic shifts in how scholars have understood Paul over the past four decades, "The American Faith of Donald Trump," and a series regarding the authority of Scripture. We've also been known to discuss movies like Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper," recent points of intersection between scholarship and popular culture (like the so-called "Gospel of Jesus' Wife"), and ancient vices like sloth. We often invite colleagues from other colleges on campus to participate in the discussion.

Theological Table Talk is organized by the college of Bible's Faculty Development Committee. One member of that committee is charged with organizing the weekly meetings. While there is no strict format for meetings, a typical meeting might run like this: after an opening prayer, the organizer introduces the week's topic and speaker; the speaker kicks off the meeting with about 20 minutes of introduction to the day's topic, with the remaining time used for discussion.

TTT began six years ago under the leadership of Keith Stanglin (now at Austin Grad School) and is, many of us feel, an important part of our development as faculty. Not only does it help to keep us informed about a host of recent developments in biblical and theological studies as well as regarding important cultural trends, but its also an important time for interdisciplinary collaboration. In the past four years alone, TTT has hosted speakers from many of Harding's colleges--Nursing, Business, English, Science, to name a few. If there is substantial truth in the old saying that "theology is queen of the sciences"--that, in other words, all truth is ultimately God's truth and therefore a college of Bible ought to be a place for synthesizing our ever-advancing knowledge of God's good creation--then TTT serves as a small, but significant, moment as we seek to fulfill our charge as a Christian university.

-Peter Rice

FACULTY PROFILE: PROFESSOR JORDAN GUY

Welcome to Harding University! Could you tell SLL what motivated you to come to Harding?

I have always wanted to teach at a Christian University. Undergraduate students are deciding if and whom they are going to marry, what career path they are going to pursue, and what role, if any, God will play in their lives. When I was in college, teachers like Kevin Youngblood and Jesse Robertson helped me make wise decisions. If I can help students in the way these teachers helped me, then I will begin to repay the debt I owe my mentors.

Additionally, while I was at Harding School of Theology, I became enamored with Harding's mission, faculty, and student body. Like Harding, I want to invest in the spiritual and academic training of world leaders.

Where did you complete your undergraduate and graduate degrees, and what did you study?

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible with minors in Counseling and Public Speaking from Freed-Hardeman University (2004-2007), a Master of Arts in Old Testament (2007-2009) and a Master of Divinity (2009-2011) from Harding School of Theology, and I am currently completing my PhD in Biblical Studies with an emphasis in Old Testament from Asbury Theological Seminary (2012-2017). I have always desired to know God through deep and careful study of his Word. The institutions I attended and degrees I pursued have enabled me to focus on the Biblical text, original languages, ancient contexts, and modern methods for interpreting and communicating God's Word today. Although I am finishing my terminal degree, I am committed to lifelong learning through reading, studying, and observing God's word, world, and church.



Jordan, Taylor, Abigail and Ezra Guy

What is the greatest motivation for you as a teacher? What kindles your passion in the classroom?

When I was twelve years old, I walked to the front of the Leoma church of Christ auditorium and told the preacher, my father, that I wanted to become a Christian. After my baptism, I told God that I wanted to become a minister. Since then, I have served as a preacher, youth leader, and now professor. Knowing that I am fulfilling my vow to God and seeing in it the fulfillment of my gifts and passions is all the reward that I need. But when I see a student's face light up after hearing something new about God, Jesus, and the Bible, my calling and election become all the more certain. I have come to realize that by obeying my calling, I am helping others find their own. I do not think that this current ministry is greater than any of my past ministries. Instead, I consider today and ask, "Right here, right now, am I doing what God has called me to do?" If I can say "yes," then it has been a good day!

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Tell us about your family.

Taylor and I have been married for eleven years. We were high school sweethearts in Florence, Alabama. I saw her at church and asked her to accompany me to Chick-Fil-A and a basketball game. To my surprise, she said "Yes." Later, we worked side-by-side to transform an old union hall into a benevolence house. I knew then and there that she was the woman for me.

God has blessed us with three wonderful children: Abigail (age 6.5), Ezra (age 3.5), and Iris (due April 30th). Taylor taught third grade in Medina, Tennessee prior to becoming a full-time mother and homemaker. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Freed-Hardeman University (2008). Abigail loves to draw and read. Ezra loves to ride his scooter and climb. And we can't wait to find out what Iris' gifts and passions will be. On Saturdays, we alternate between exploring the big city of Searcy and playing active games around the house.

Was there a teacher and/or preacher who made a significant impact on your life? If so, how did he influence you?

For most of my life, my father, Steven Guy, has been my preacher and teacher. He taught all four of us boys to lead songs, prayers, and devotionals at church. My goal has always been to become like my father. I watched him do it all: preach to the masses, counsel the hurting, equip the saints, evangelize the lost, and attend every one of our baseball games. Now to be fair, he had to attend since he was our coach. I still do not know how my father found the energy to do all of this. With fewer children and responsibilities, I often fall short. My brother, Nathan, was the first to follow in my father's footsteps. His decision to be a teacher/preacher amplified my commitment. My father instilled in both of us a passion for people. Few ministers are asked to return to a previous congregation, but my father is once again the preacher at the Myrtle Beach church of Christ where we grew up. Even though my father is 850 miles away, I can still hear him say, "Preach the word, son, and make it practical!"

Can you tell us about your ministry experience and how it influences your classroom teaching?

When I was seventeen, a small country church in Tuscumbia, Alabama asked my youth minister to preach for them. He had laryngitis so he called upon me to take his place. After just one Sunday sermon, the congregation revealed how desperate they were for a full-time preacher. They asked me, an unseasoned teen, to fill this role. I will always be grateful to the wonderful people at the Chapel Hill church of Christ for giving me a chance. Not only was I able to share with them what I had learned from my dad's sermons, but they were able to share with me life lessons about gardening, working on cars, and hunting squirrel. They gave me a fresh perspective on the world and the Bible. Because of them, the door opened for more interviews and ministry positions in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Most recently, I preached for the wonderful people in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Together, we installed elders and deacons, balanced the budget, and transitioned slowly to the new ministers who are now continuing this great work. The Harding students are my new teammates. And I cannot wait to see what are going to learn today!

Finally, what is it like teaching at the same school and in the same department with your brother, Nathan?

It is a dream come true! Nathan and I are seven years apart, so our interests rarely synced as children. When they finally aligned as adults, we found ourselves hundreds of miles apart. Now that we are both at Harding, just two office doors removed, we get to spend every day discussing theology, sports, the good old days, and the future. Maybe one day we will co-teach a class that merges his specialty in the New Testament with my specialty in the Old Testament.



Nathan and Jordan Guy

WINGS CONFERENCE ATTRACTS RECORD ATTENDANCE

The College of Bible and Ministry once again hosted the Women in God's Service (WINGS) Conference, serving 218 women from six states and students from around the country. The 24th annual event, themed "You Are Here," aimed to help women identify how they can serve God from whatever life situation in which they currently find themselves.

Our keynote this year was Dr. Elaine Denman of Wichita, KS. Breakout





speakers were Michelle Goff (Iron Rose Sister Ministries), Suzanne Casey (therapist), Stephanie Jones (Cabot Church of Christ/MOPS), Courtney Steed (21st Century Christian author), Shirley Rowan (John 3:17 Ministries), and Kay Gowen (Abundant Living).

Next year's event is scheduled for February 9-10, 2018 and will again be held in the American Heritage Center. Planning updates will be posted on our website (www.harding.edu/wings) and on our Facebook page "[Women in God's Service \(WINGS\)](#)."



FACULTY NOTES

Our Bible faculty are serving the kingdom all over the world. Here are some examples:

-  Dr. Peter Rice published a book entitled "Behold, Your House Is Left to You": The Theological and Narrative Place of the Jerusalem Temple in Luke's Gospel with Pickwick Publications (Eugene, 2016).
-  Dr. Jesse Robertson and Dr. Dan Williams each wrote two articles for the One Word study guide. Dr. Robertson provided the entries on the words "Hope" and "Justification," and Dr. Williams submitted the articles on "Christ" and "Crucify." For more on the year-long congregational reading project, go to www.onewordstudy.com
-  Dr. Tim Westbrook published a study in the Routledge Research in Education series on race, faith, and adult higher education. The book title is *Spirituality, Community, and Race Consciousness in Adult Higher Education: Breaking the Cycle of Racialization*. It is available on Amazon.com. Dr. Westbrook will present his research on race and adult higher education at the Association of American Colleges and Universities conference on Diversity, Learning, and Student Access (March 16-18, 2017, in Jacksonville, FL). The title of the presentation is "Spirituality, Community, and Race Consciousness: Breaking the Cycle of Racialization in Adult Higher Education." Cana Moore, (HST graduate student) will present research conducted by Dr. Tim Westbrook, Jordan McDonald, and Morgan Miller (COBAM majors) at the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference (April 7-8, 2017, at Johnson University in Knoxville, TN). The title of the presentation is "An investigation into the implications of Dewey's 'learning situation' for online education."
-  Dr. Dan Williams conducted a small group workshop for the Webb Chapel Church of Christ in Dallas on February 10-12.

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