

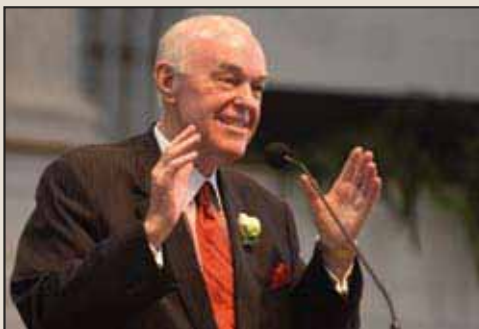
Giving Updates

NOBTS honors Sanders with new study Center

New Orleans Seminary honored the life and ministry of Perry R. Sanders, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La., with the dedication of the new ministry center at NOBTS.

The Perry R. Sanders Center for Ministry Excellence, located on the west side of the seminary's Leavell Chapel, will house the seminary's Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry degree programs.

"By far and away, the best-known religious leader in [Lafayette] is a Baptist," Seminary President Chuck Kelley said of Sanders.



Dr. Perry R. Sanders

In all, Sanders enjoyed 63 years of faithful ministry and preaching God's Word. During those 63 years, Sanders averaged about one sermon a day, he said. His simple reflection: "I've had a wonderful time."

In light of those ministry successes, the seminary community is honored to

have the professional doctoral programs bear Sanders' name.

Now on the horizon with regard to Sanders and New Orleans Seminary is the creation of an endowed faculty chair named in his honor.

Kelley said the seminary has committed to matching every dollar given toward that endowed chair up to \$500,000.

Doctoral fellowship honors Robert S. Magee

The Robert S. Magee Doctoral Fellowship was recently established in honor of the late Robert S. Magee. He served 50 years in ministry, including 34 years as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Ruston, La.

The fund will award fellowships to students in the institution's research doctoral program. Awards will be based upon the student's academic achievement and potential.

Magee earned the Bachelor of Divinity (1957) and the Doctor of Theology (1962) degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served four churches in Mississippi prior to his time at Temple.

The initial awards from the Robert S. Magee Doctoral Fellowship will begin as soon as funds are available.

To make a contribution to the Magee Fellowship contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3252.

Island Chapel makes gift in pastor's name

When The Island Chapel in Tierra Verde, Fla. paid off their building, the congregation knew just how to use their extra financial resources. They have put the money toward a variety of mission projects. One of those projects is a scholarship for NOBTS students. The church is giving \$1,000 a month to establish the Dr. Michael Wetzel Scholarship Fund,

named in honor of their pastor.

Mike Wetzel, who founded the church 15 years ago, earned two degrees at NOBTS and serves as the director of the school's Tampa extension center. Several church members church, including current NOBTS Foundation Board president, Gordon Campbell and his wife, Pat, are very involved in the work of the seminary.

Wetzel said that he is deeply honored that the church named the scholarship after him.

You are cordially invited to the
NOBTS NATIONAL
ALUMNI & FRIENDS REUNION
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007
 NOON TO 2 P.M.
 HENRY B. GONZALEZ
 CONVENTION CENTER
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
 Tickets available at NOBTS Booth

TICKETS ARE \$15

Giving Updates

Jim Tatum keeps Seminary family well-dressed

By Michael McCormack

New Orleans Seminary students were seeing pinstripes and solids April 16-18, when they browsed through a selection of new suits, care of Jim Tatum's "Suits for Servants" ministry.

Tatum, a clothier from Jacksonville, Fla., was in New Orleans to fit students for new suits and to share his story of how God led him to this unique ministry. For Tatum, "Suits for Servants" is simply the result of faithfully following God's lead.

Dr. Jerry Barlow, dean of graduate studies at NOBTS, was charged with introducing Tatum to the crowd gathered for Tuesday's chapel service. He pointed to the suit he was wearing as the best introduction for Tatum.

"You're looking at my introduction," Barlow said. "I'm wearing a coat here that means a lot to me. I got it after Hurricane Katrina. It says 'Jim Tatum,' and that means a lot."

For about 47 years, Tatum has been outfitting ministers with new suits. Tatum said God gave him the idea for "Suits for Servants" at a conference in Chattanooga, Tenn., when the speaker asked every minister of the gospel to stand up.

"I looked down and there were probably 800 or 900 people who stood to their feet," Tatum said. "As real as I'm looking you in the face this morning, [God



Jim Tatum's unique service helps ministers and missionaries purchase quality suits at a low price.

said] that I was to go home and go into the clothing business to help preachers and missionaries and full-time workers for the Lord dress well, because a lot of them didn't make much money."

Not long after that, Tatum started his clothing business in his garage in Jacksonville. Eventually, the business grew to several stores in the Jacksonville area. Now, Tatum spends most of his time speaking to groups and gathering resources to underwrite much of the cost for new suits.

In recent years, Tatum has been a particular help to ministers who are victims of hurricanes like Ivan and Katrina. Many of the ministers who receive suits from Tatum lost everything in the devastating storms.

Tatum, though, is always careful to point all praise and glory to God. In chapel, he quoted Romans 11:36 as the theme of his ministry – "For from him and through him and to him are all things."

During Tatum's three days at New Orleans Seminary, 285 students ordered 520 suits at a cost of only \$50 each.

For students who qualified, the cost was even lower than that. NOBTS trustees, who held their spring meeting the same week, collected money that provided suits free of charge to students in particular need.

For many students, Tatum's "Suits for Servants" was the only way to afford a quality suit for ministry. For Tatum, though, it continues to be a ministry through suits. ☐

Suits for Servants

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spring meeting the same week, collected money that provided suits free of charge to students in particular need.

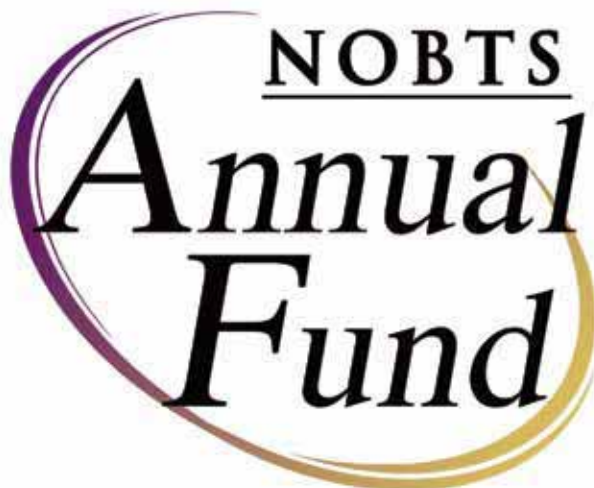
For many students, Tatum's "Suits for Servants" was the only way to afford a quality suit for ministry. For Tatum, though, it continues to be a ministry through suits. ☐

What does it cost to operate NOBTS for a day?

\$49,315.07*



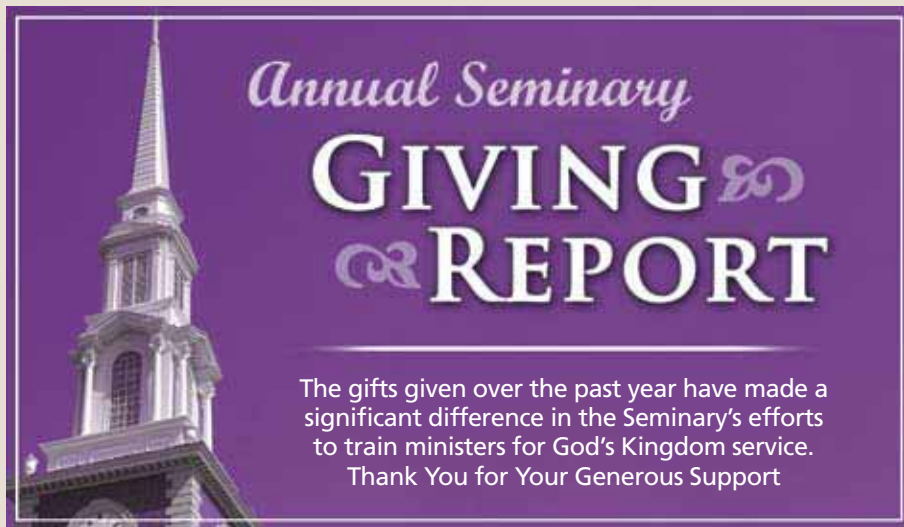
Your gifts to the Annual Fund help cover these costs so students don't have to.



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 Dr. and Mrs. Leroy P. Stringfield
 Dr. and Mrs. L. Thomas Strong III
 Rev. John F. Sumner, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sumrall
 Mr. Mark Sutton
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swearingen
 Ms. Dianne M. Tabb
 Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary
 Taylor University
 Miss Beth Taylor
 Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Taylor, Jr.
 Ms. B. J. Teague
 The Teasley Foundation Inc
 Technical Controls, Inc.
 Tees In Time
 Temple Baptist Church, Moss Point, MS
 Terrell G. Tidwell, CPA, LLC
 Mrs. Marilyn R. Thayer
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Theis
 Mrs. Barbara E. Theriot
 Ms. Bunny Thomas
 Mrs. Carolyn C. Thomas
 Mr. David S. Thomas
 Mr. and Mrs. John R. Thomas
 Rev. George A. Thompson, Jr.
 Dr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson
 Ms. Mary E. Thompson
 Mr. Owen S. Thompson
 Mrs. Pam Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Thompson
 Rev. and Mrs. Gregory M. Thrower
 Mrs. William C. Thurmon
 Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Tice
 Mr. and Mrs. James Tilley
 Rev. and Mrs. L. Dean Timbes
 Timothy F. Ireland Home Improvement

Ms. Mary Jane Tipper
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Tippitt
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory T. Titus
 Dr. Shelley R. Todd
 Tom Harrison Sunday School Class,
 Shreveport, LA
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Townsend, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Byron Townsend
 Dr. and Mrs. John H. Traylor, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Trembley
 Trinity Heights Baptist Church,
 Shreveport, LA
 Mrs. Thelma L. Trout
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Tudor
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Tyler III
 Rev. and Mrs. Elwood L. Ulmer
 Mrs. Mary H. Ulmer
 Union Ridge Baptist Church, Noxapater, MS
 Mr. and Mrs. Luis A. Velasquez
 Veterans Investment
 Mrs. Renee G. Vice
 Dr. Nancy and Mr. Jeffrey Victory
 Mrs. Judy Villa
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Vinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason R. Wade
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Wade, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Wakefield
 Rev. and Mrs. Ernest L. Walker
 Rev. and Mrs. Max T. Walker
 Mr. and Mrs. William H. Wallace
 Mrs. Carolyn E. Wangle
 Mr. and Mrs. Lance Warren
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Washington, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wasmund
 Mrs. Betty C. Watson
 Dr. Laurie and Mr. Stan Watts
 Mr. and Mrs. Season Weaver
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Webb
 Dr. Debra Weber
 Rev. and Mrs. James R. Weber
 Rev. and Mrs. Robert H. Wellner, Sr.
 Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Wells
 Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Wells
 Mrs. Mary-Ellen S. Wentling
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Werline
 Wesley Educational Services
 Mrs. Edyth R. West
 Mrs. Wilma Whaley
 Ms. Diane C. White

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Whitlock
 Mrs. Marjorie Whittekin
 Mr. Walter A. Whittle, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Wiggins
 Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Wilkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilkins
 Mr. James D. Wilkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wilkinson
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. David J. Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Williams
 Ms. Patricia A. Williams
 Mrs. Selma C. Williams
 Willing Workers Sunday School Class,
 Battle Creek, MI
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Willingham
 Ms. Imogene P. Willis
 Rev. and Mrs. Lamar A. Willis
 Ms. Laura Willis
 Mrs. Jeanne C. Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. Clell Wills
 Mrs. Jerry Ann Wilson
 Dr. and Mrs. John E. Wilson
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Wilson
 Rev. and Mrs. Tommy Winders
 Mrs. June R. Windham
 Mrs. Edwina M. Wise
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven L. Wise
 Mr. Herschel Wisebram
 WMU Foundation
 Dr. and Mrs. Jay Wolf
 Dr. and Mrs. Bill Wood
 Rev. and Mrs. Paul W. Woodford
 Woodmont Baptist Church, Florence, AL
 Dr. and Mrs. Alan Woodward
 Rev. T. Alfred Woolbright
 Mr. and Mrs. David A. Worthington
 Mrs. Jennifer E. Woulard
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Wray
 Dr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Wright
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wright
 Mrs. Frankie Wyatt
 Youman's International, Inc.
 Dr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Young
 Dr. Terry Young
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Young, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Zalenski
 Dr. and Mrs. Harry L. Zengel, Jr.
 Zion Hill Baptist Church, Liberty, MS



Trustees approve plans for new apartments and library pending the availability of funds; N. Georgia site sold

By Gary D. Myers

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved an \$18.8 million budget, authorized the construction of a new apartment complex, heard reports of better than expected enrollment and authorized the administration to proceed with planning for a new campus library during their April 11 meeting.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley also announced the sale of the seminary's Decatur, Ga., property for \$8.4 million. The property served as the NOBTS North Georgia Extension Center from 1995 until 2006 and the seminary's main office during the eight months following Hurricane Katrina.

"As a result of the conditions of the sale, the seminary will not receive the bulk of the money from the sale for several years," Kelley said. "But we are rejoicing that the property sold so quickly and for such a good price."

The property was deeded to the seminary by Columbia Drive Baptist Church in 1995, representing the largest one time gift in NOBTS history. The extension center moved to Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., before the 2006 fall semester.

Kelley said some of the proceeds from the sale will be used to continue improving the main campus. The sale will mainly benefit the extension centers.

"Much of it we hope to put in an endowment to underwrite the costs of Atlanta and our whole extension center system," Kelley said. "The trustees will create the Columbia Drive Baptist Church Education Fund to honor forever the congregation who gave us this property."

Trustees approved the construction of a new 36-unit, two-bedroom apartment complex. Kelley told trustees that the facility is needed to begin replacing the 96 apartments lost due to Hurricane Katrina.

"I think it is going to be the first great theological library constructed in the 21st Century."

- Dr. Chuck Kelley

The facility will be very similar to the seminary's newest housing complex – the Oaks – completed in June 2006. The seminary will not begin building the new complex until the entire \$5 million cost has been raised, Kelley said.

The trustees also considered their first post-Katrina capital project unrelated to storm repair

– a new state-of-the-art theological library. Trustees voted to authorize the NOBTS administration to begin raising funds for the 70,000-square-foot library and to finalize the building's design. The facility will cost close to \$25 million to construct.

"I love what the architect has done, tying this in with the rest of our campus," Kelley said. "I think it is going to be the first great theological library constructed in the 21st Century."

The three-story facility, slated for the west side of Leavell Chapel, will include additional space for books, exhibits and research centers. The first floor will house the reference room, library offices, classrooms and a lecture hall. A museum explaining the history of the Bible and research centers for New Testament textual studies and archaeology are also planned. The building will include a special collections area to house the seminary's important rare books which are not currently displayed due to space constraints.

Kelley reported stronger than expected enrollment. Main campus student enrollment is 1,590. Enrollment numbers remain strong in the seminary's extension centers as well. ☐



ABOVE: Artist rendering of the proposed library.
RIGHT: Artist rendering of planned student housing unit.



Signs of Hope

NOBTS staffer helps neighbors find direction, one street at a time

By Gary D. Myers

Even the smallest acts of kindness can make a significant difference in post-Katrina New Orleans. Simple ideas provide signs of hope for hurting communities.

Vernon Worley had a simple idea designed to meet a real need in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. A New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary alumnus and current seminary employee, Worley is designing and installing temporary, cardboard street signs throughout the neighborhood during his free time. Not only do the signs help recovery volunteers find their way, but the signs are also providing hope in the Upper Ninth Ward.

“I can’t take the credit for the idea. God put a burden on my heart that we needed street signs. God showed me what to do.”

– Vernon Worley

“I can’t take the credit for [the idea]. God put a burden on my heart that we needed street signs,” Worley said. “God showed me what to do.”

The signs are a welcome sight as volunteer groups try to reach the many worksites in the city.

Worley encountered the problem near Habitat for Humanity’s Baptist Crossroads Project in the Upper Ninth Ward, where he has volunteered on most weekends and vacation days during the past eight months.

The Habitat staffers often gave directions using landmarks because so many signs were down in the area. Groups would easily get lost or arrive late at the worksite.

Worley developed an intense burden about the lack of signs in the Upper Ninth Ward.

With a New Orleans city map in hand, Worley visited 166 intersections in the Upper Ninth Ward. If the intersection had no signs, Worley marked streets without signs on the map. Over half of the intersections needed at least one sign.

Worley began fashioning make-shift signs with cardboard and a laser printer. He prints street names on three-inch-wide strips of cardboard. To protect the paper from the elements, Worley wraps each sign with clear packing tape.

Worley took on the task one street at a time, beginning with North Roman, which passes the site of the Baptist Crossroads Project. He often goes out around 6:30 a.m. to install the signs.

Wearing an orange reflective vest and carrying a small ladder in his truck, Worley tacks the signs to telephone poles at intersections as needed.



Photo by Boyd Guy

Some days he returns to the Upper Ninth Ward during his lunch break to continue the work. Now he has installed more than 100 temporary signs.

The signs are small but, effective and many Ninth Ward residents have noticed his work.

One morning while Worley nailed up a sign, he encountered a boy and his mother waiting at a bus stop. No words were exchanged, but Worley and the boy traded smiles. Another resident helped Worley get the signs at his intersection just right. Moments like these make the project worthwhile, he said.

“I hope it’s encouraging to the residents around, not only useful for those of us who need [the signs],” Worley said. ☐

Listen Up 

Chapel podcasts & downloads available at www.nobts.edu/chapel

News in Brief

Online series offers glimpse at New Orleans recovery efforts

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Public Relations Office has developed an online series tracking recovery process in the city of New Orleans.



Named "Restoring Hope," stories will highlight Christian groups and individual believers participating in the city's rebuilding and sharing the gospel in the process. The city faces a long recovery process. Hopefully these stories will inspire others to find unique ways to make a difference and share the gospel in the "new" New Orleans.

The series is available on the Seminary website at www.nobts.edu/Publications/RestoringHope.html

Baptist Center at NOBTS launches 'Baptist Blog' and free podcasts

What does it mean to be Baptist? Why be a Baptist? Several new initiatives launched recently by the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary bring pastoral experience and academic scholarship together to answer these questions.



The new initiatives include a "blog" (a web-based, interactive forum) for conversations regarding the identity and direction of Southern Baptists and the "download of the week" (free MP3s and podcast downloads of presentations by outstanding Baptist speakers).

"The Baptist Blog," which provides conversational exchange with prominent Southern Baptist leaders, coupled with the academic presentations of Baptist theology, is intended to give every Baptist the opportunity to examine why being a Baptist is a sound biblical choice.

SBC President Frank Page served as the inaugural blogger. Other bloggers include SBC Executive Committee President and CEO Morris Chapman and Ed Stetzer of NAMB.

To access these resources, visit the Baptist Center website at www.baptistcenter.com.

PR office receives writing awards

The Public Relations staff at NOBTS recently received two Baptist Communicators Association awards for news writing.

Michael McCormack and Gary Myers, along with contributors Astasha Baker and Katie Nalls, won first place in the online publication category for "NOBTS Family Puts 'Hands and Feet to the Gospel' on Katrina Anniversary" – an article about the seminary's ministry on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Myers also received a second place award in the newspaper or newsletter category for "Building Homes; Preaching Christ; Changing Lives" – an article focusing on Habitat for Humanity's Baptist Crossroads Project.



Seminary award recognizes healthy, growing churches

The "Healthy Church of the Month," a joint initiative of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health and the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, highlights growing churches at a time when 89 percent of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining.

"We not only believe revitalization and church growth is possible, but we are showing examples of churches that prove it can happen," Leavell Center director David Meacham said. "Our intent is to inspire and encourage churches to grow again."

The criteria for consideration as a "healthy" church includes a membership increase of 10 percent over five years, one or more baptisms per year for five years, a member-to-baptism ratio of no more than 35-to-1 with conversions representing at least 25 percent of total additions. Mission giving and discipleship enrollment are also considered.

Churches that receive the Health Church Award are highlighted on the Baptist Center website at www.baptistcenter.com.

New Trustee-Elected Faculty Members

Dr. Mark Tolbert

Associate Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

Tolbert, who earned a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has served in ministry for 33 years. He pastored churches in Alabama, Arkansas and Texas.

While Tolbert will teach both graduate and doctoral level courses, directing the doctor of ministry program at the seminary is his primary role. He began his duties as director of the Doctor of Ministry program in January.



Dr. Tony Merida

Assistant Professor of Preaching and Dean of the Chapel

Tony Merida comes to NOBTS after serving two years as senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Kenner, La. During his time at First Kenner, Merida was involved in denominational work, serving as a board member of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, the executive committee of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the NOBTS Foundation.

Merida earned a Master of Divinity degree with specialization in Biblical Studies, a Master of Theology degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Preaching at NOBTS.

A frequent speaker to youth and college students, Merida served as camp pastor for Centrifuge four summers and X-Fuge one summer. He also writes training materials for LifeWay Christian Resources and Student Life Publishing.



Dr. Dennis Phelps

Professor of Preaching and Director of Church Relations and Alumni

Dennis Phelps served for a decade as associate professor of preaching on the faculty of Bethel Theological Seminary. A pastor and evangelist for more than 20 years, Phelps served churches and ministries in

Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas.

Phelps earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana College and a Master of Divinity degree from NOBTS. In 1990, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in preaching at Southwestern Seminary.

Dr. Rex Butler

Associate Professor of Church History and Patristics

Rex Butler brings a wealth of teaching experience to New Orleans Seminary. Since 2004 he has served as an adjunct professor at NOBTS. He has also taught as an adjunct at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Tarrant County College in Fort Worth and Wayland Baptist University.

Butler's position represents an expansion of the church history faculty in response to increased student enrollment and to allow for greater scholarly specialization. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Religion from Wayland Baptist University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Southwestern.

In Memory

Dr. Mark Stephens

NOBTS Professor and Director of the Seminary's Orlando Extension Center

Dr. Mark Stephens, 41, director of New Orleans Seminary's Orlando Extension Center and director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Theological Education and Distance Learning Department, died unexpectedly March 4 of an apparent heart attack.

Stephens served as assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministry at NOBTS. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree at NOBTS in 2003.

"Mark was like one of my own kids," said Jimmy Dukes, associate provost at NOBTS. "That was the way he related to people. He was a friend, had a brilliant mind and was a joy to be around."

Stephens is survived by his wife, Natalie, and three daughters, Rachel, 15; Sarah, 13; and Hannah, 10.



McKenzie's study years marked by perseverance



Photo by Jimmy Cole

Alumni Spotlight

By Gary D. Myers

Most people would have quit. Elizabeth McKenzie didn't start her bachelor's study at the seminary's Leavell College until she was 54-years-old. After a few years of part-time study, Elizabeth suffered a brain aneurism.

But Elizabeth didn't quit. She worked hard to recover and at 64 years of age, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Ministry from Leavell College. Her journey has been marked by determination and perseverance.

Elizabeth's story is also proof that God offers second chances to His servants. God called her into ministry long before she came to Leavell College. And for a short period she worked for the North American Mission Board (Home Mission Board at the time).

"I knew that God had called me to Christian service back as a teenager," Elizabeth said. But her job and other commitments kept her from fully exploring that call.

"[God] does forgive us for negligence," Elizabeth said as she explained her second chance at ministry.

In 1997 after retiring from BellSouth, Elizabeth began serving as minister to senior adults and outreach at Riverview Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga. Caring for her mother and mother-in-law had prepared her to serve with the elderly. She knew Leavell College training would help her ministry.

It was an exciting time. Elizabeth applied the things she learned in the classroom to her ministry to senior adults.

But the events of May 26, 2000, threatened Elizabeth's studies, her ministry and even her life. Elizabeth developed a severe headache near the end of a workshop class at the North Georgia Extension Center. She knew this was no ordinary headache.

A paramedic and a doctor who were there on the scene quickly realized that her symptoms were that of a brain aneurism. Elizabeth was immediately taken to Dekalb General Hospital where the initial diagnosis was confirmed.

After a two-day wait, doctors operated for six hours to repair the damage.

"God made it possible for me to go on back to school," Elizabeth said. "I started back in the fall without ever having to miss time because of the illness. God has been so wonderful to me."

Elizabeth worked hard and completed her degree and graduated last December. It was a glorious day for her and her family.

"I thank God for the great blessing of being able to get training at NOBTS."

- Elizabeth McKenzie

"I thank God for the great blessing of being able to get training at NOBTS and to be taught by such dedicated Christian men and women," Elizabeth said. "Thanks also go to my loving family and to my church for the love and encouragement given during such an extended period."

She continues to serve as a volunteer at Riverview Baptist Church, leading all the senior adult activities. In her ministry to senior adults, Elizabeth often uses art classes as an outreach tool.

One of the classes meets three Tuesdays a month at her church, another class meets once a month at the Stone Mountain Estates assisted living center. The classes have introduced several new seniors to her church and helped others work through debilitating health issues.

A skilled artist herself, Elizabeth uses the creative process of painting to point to the Creator. Each class begins with prayer and devotion to God. The group also gives away some of the art they create as a way to point to God's grace and mercy.

In other words, Elizabeth's art imitates her life. Elizabeth has experienced the grace only Jesus can bring and she is making the most of her second chance. ☑

ALUMNI UPDATES

Class Updates

1950s

Edwin Quattlebaum (BDIV '53) retired for a second time in Sept. 2006. He served 57 years in the ministry and last served as pastor of Bethabara Baptist Church in Cross Hill, S.C. He currently lives at Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Center in Laurens, S.C.

1960s

Douglas M. Chatham (MRE '68) has been appointed as Director of Graduate Studies at Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, Ga., effective Jan. 1, 2007.

C. Ferris Jordan (BDIV '58; ThD '65) was awarded the 2007 Adkins-Kerr Award by the Association of Baptist Ministries with the Aging in recognition of contributions to ministry with senior adults in the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Jordan is Professor Emeritus of Adult Education.

Jerry D. Keeney (ThM '69) is in his seventh intentional interim ministry situation at St. Lucas United Church of Christ, St. Louis, MO. He has been serving interims in American Baptist, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and UCC for the past eight-plus years, after completing 14 years as Pastor of Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis.

Lonnie Shull (ThB '61) retired after 50 years of pastoral service.

Roy Simpson (ThM '69) has recently retired again from First Baptist Church, Gracewood, Ga. He has moved back to Abbeville, S.C., where he serves as pastor of Midway Baptist Church. He has also remarried after the death of his wife Lora to Mageleen Weaver.

John B. Upchurch (BDiv '60, exchanged MDiv '67) received the 2006 First Humanitarian Award for Volunteer Service from StoneCrest Medical Center, Smyrna, Tenn., March 30, 2007. Upchurch serves as the volunteer chaplain coordinator at the facility.

1970s

Edith Bleckley Burney (MRE '57, EdD '71) taught at Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary from January to June 2005. She was selected for Who's Who Among American Teachers in 2006. She was a volunteer IMB child care missionary in Singapore during September 2006.

David Burgher (MRE '79) is serving as president of Bridge the Gap Ministries in Snellville, Ga.

Woodrow Busch (ThM '71) retired in 2005 from First Baptist Church, Murphy, N.C. after 18½ years.

Floyd Hughes (ThM '71) retired from the pastoral ministry in June 2001 after 42 years of active service. He and his wife of 46 years, Wana, are the parents of five children and have 20 grandchildren. They reside in Hastings, Mich.

1980s

Gary Creech (MDIV '89) serves as lead chaplain/pastoral care director at Immanuel St. Joseph's-Mayo Health System. He is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and an adjunct professor in Contextualized Leadership Development at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was also awarded a Certificate from the University of Maryland in the field of spiritual care in crisis intervention in 2006.

Israel Galindo (EdD '87) has published two new books: *How To Be The Best Christian Study Group Leader* (Judson Press), and *A Family Genogram Workbook* (Educational Consultants). His book *The Hidden Lives of Congregations* (Alban) was named one of the "Ten Best Books of 2005" by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

Dr. Edward Gray (Ed.D '81) has recently released a new series of programs - *Marriage Mentoring: 12 Conversations for Building Strong Marriages*. It is available in church, military and engaged couples versions. He

serves as Professor of Counseling at Harding University Graduate School of Religion.

Ken Klun (ADRE '86) is serving as Assistant Program Director of Penfield Christian Home in Union Point, Ga. This is a residential ministry for men addicted to alcohol and other drugs.

Tom McManus (ADIV '86) assumed the pastorate of Mt. Pleasant B.C., Pembroke, Wales, U.K., in September 2006. His wife, Kathleen (Dossman) attended NOBTS from 1991-92.

Philip Wade (MDIV '82) has released *The M.G. Rhyming Revue*, a collection of songs based on the most beloved nursery rhymes.

1990s

David W. Bailey (PhD '94) published *Speaking the Truth in Love: The Life and Legacy of Roger Nicole* (Solid Ground Christian Books) in November 2006.

John Baker (MDIV '98) was called on Jan. 1, 2007, as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Holley, N.Y.

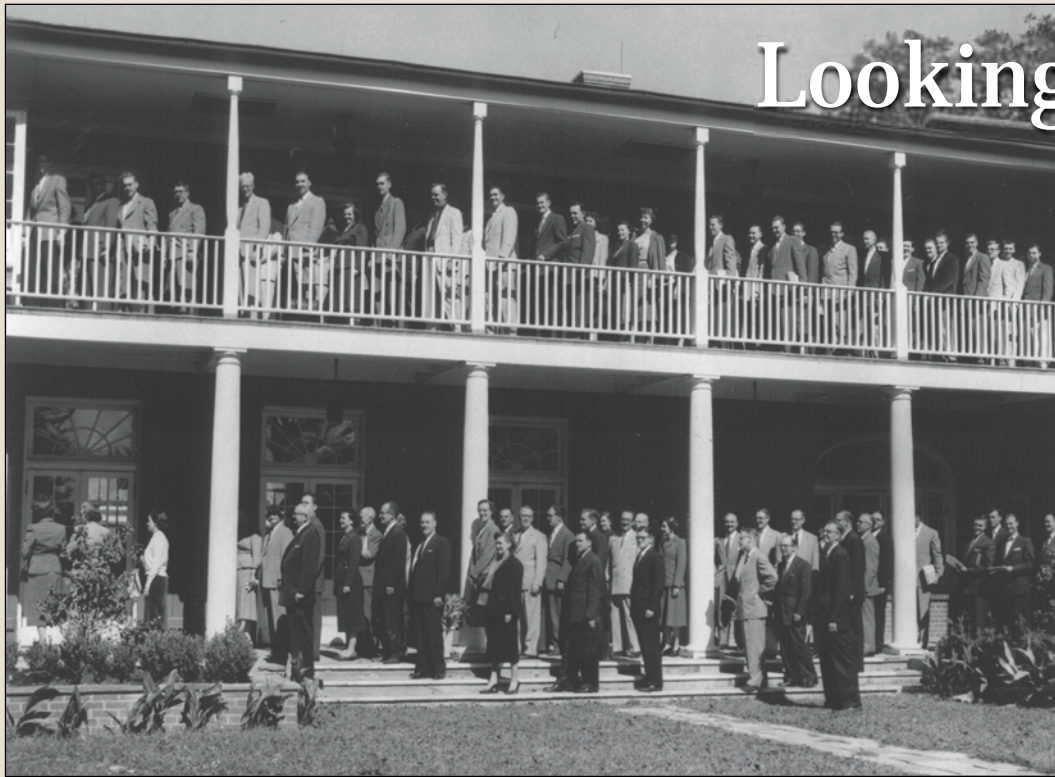
George "Buddy" Hammil (MDIV '97) was commissioned as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1997. He served two tours in SW Asia and is now assigned in Italy where he is pastor of a contemporary worship service at Caserma Ederle Army Chapel. He and his wife Linda celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in March 2006.

Keith Jones (MDIV '93) recently became Pastor at Morganton Baptist in Fannin County, Ga., where he grew up. Jones most recently served 4½ years on the Mission Education Team at the North American Mission Board. He and his wife, Debbie, have three adult sons, a daughter-in-law and one granddaughter.

Daniel Lee (BGS '99) became pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., in January 2006.

Dennis Lorenzini (APM '97, BA '98) recently accepted a call to Pastor Coventry Estates Baptist Church (SBC) in Independence, Mo. He previously served 3½ years as Director of Evangelism & Assimilation at Grace Church of Napa Valley, Calif. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters.

Looking Back



Lining Up

Faculty members and students wait in line before a chapel service in the Bunyan Building.

The photo was taken in the late 1950s before the completion of Leavell Chapel.

Seeking Information

Kevin Jennings is writing a book about his family and would like to talk with anyone who knew his father, Henry Jennings, who graduated from NOBTS in 1966. Please call (917) 767-8987 if you knew Henry Jennings.

Tim Miller (MDIV '87, DMIN '93) and his wife, Lane Ann, are in Hopkinsville, Ky., where Tim serves as president of Disciple the Nations, Inc., an international disciple-making ministry involved in 20 nations. He will publish *Disciple the Nations* in 2007.

Bayne Pounds' (MRE '79, EdD '93, PhD '99) daughter Rebecca and son-in-law Christian George will graduate from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., in May 2007. Her son, Jerry, is a first-year medical student at Medical College of Georgia.

William E. Rice (MDIV '92, DDIV '96) was recently elected president of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Kurt Wesolowski (MDIV '90) is serving as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Shirley, N.Y., and as Program Coordinator for Concern for Independent Living in Medford, N.Y.

2000s

Beth Watkins Cape (MRE '89, EdD '05) was called to the First Baptist Church of Cullman, Ala., in September 2006 where she is serving as the Minister to Children and Families. She and her husband, Jim, have three children.

Wayne E. Hunt (BACM '02) has been called to serve as pastor at Coteau Baptist Church in Houma, La. Hunt asks for prayer as God leads him on this new adventure.

Barry Jimmerson (DMIN '02) has accepted God's call to pastor at Northgate Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C.

Births

Dave (MDiv '05) and **Mandy** (MACE '02) **Dowdy** celebrated the birth of Elizabeth Kemper Dowdy on Aug. 15, 2006. The Dowdys live in Walnut Grove, Miss., where Dave is a pastor.

Dallas (MDIV '02) and **Amy** (MACE '04) **Dykes** welcomed a baby girl, Grace Noelle, on Dec. 27, 2005. She weight 7.9 pounds and was 20 inches long.

Carrie Hand (MAMFC '98) and husband **Wendell** now have 3 children: Abigail (1996), Joel (2004), and the most recent addition Stephen on Jan. 3, 2007. Carrie is a Licensed Professional Counselor and serves a case supervisor of First Step Counseling Services in Cobb County, Ga.

J.D. Simpson (DEdMIN '04) and his wife **Carol** announce the birth of a daughter, Anne Walker, on Jan. 18, 2007. Also welcoming their sister are James Robert (9), Caroline (7), and Kemp (4).

Deaths

Joseph Harold Coggins (BDIV '53) passed away at his home in Rocky Mount, N.C., on Jan. 5, 2007. After retiring from 24 years of service as a Chaplain in the Air Force, he was active in various ministries across the state of North Carolina.

Calvin "Cal" Hodges (NOBTS Donor), a member of the Foundation Board of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, passed away March 14, 2007. He was 81.

Jean T. Jackson, wife of Carey Jackson (NOBTS Donor) of Hope Hull, Ala. passed away December 25, 2006. She and her husband supported the Seminary for many years.

Charles S. Kelley Sr. (NOBTS Donor), a prominent Baptist layman and father of NOBTS President Chuck Kelley, passed away Dec. 9, 2006. He was 86.

Dale Kemp (NOBTS Donor), a member of the Foundation Board of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, passed away March 17, 2007. He was 73.

Dr. Eddie S. Lieberman (NOBTS Donor), 93, died Nov. 25, 2006. Lieberman grew up in a Jewish family. As a young adult, he converted from Judaism to Christianity. Shortly after accepting Christ, he attended NOBTS. During the 1940s, Lieberman helped establish a counseling department at NOBTS.

Russell L. Locke (BDIV '54 & MDIV '81) died Aug. 11, 2005, in Springfield, Mo. Russell was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Luling, La., before beginning his 36-year career as a SBC missionary in Nigeria, where he worked in evangelism, church development and pastoral training. Russell is survived by his wife, **Veda** (BRD '54), five children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert W. Stagg (ThD '60) died on July 12, 2006.

Carver S. Tinsley (BDIV '53) passed away on July 5, 2006.

Ruth Jarrell Tuten (AG '47) passed away on Jan. 18, 2007. She was the widow of **Joe** (ThD '54) and was living in Brandon, Miss., at the time of her death.

Jimmy (James) Murray Walker (BDiv '54; ThD '60) died March 7, 2007, in Lexington, Ky. He was Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Eastern Kentucky University. He was an Army veteran, serving six years in the Army Air Corps Weather Service in England, what is now the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Palestine. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joann.

Mission Appointments

North American Mission Board

Joseph "Joe" (ADPM '91) and Cindy (ADPM '90) Boney are serving in Grangeville, Idaho, where Joe has been named associational director of missions and church starter strategist for the Whispering Pines and Silver Lakes Baptist Associations in the panhandle of Idaho.



Jason Duckett (MDIV '05) is a church planting missionary pastor in Dubois, Pa. A native of Alabama, Duckett most recently served as associate pastor at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. Serving with him in Pennsylvania will be his wife, Genevieve, also an Alabama native.

Keith (MDIV '90, ThM '00) and **Amy (MDiv '93, PhD '00) Ivey** are serving in Cleveland, Ga., where Keith is serving as a resort missionary. Before his new position, Keith served as pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Perry, Ga. The Iveys have four children: Jacob 8; Jamye, 6; Laura, 2; and John Mark, 11 months.



Will (MDIV '89, PhD '92) and **Sandra McRaney** are serving in Jacksonville, Fla., where Will has been appointed associate state director of evangelism. Prior to his appointment, he was co-founder and senior consultant with Ministry Enhancement Group, Mandeville, La., and Associate Professor of Evangelism at NOBTS. The McRaneys have three daughters: Blakeney, 17; Hadley, 14; and Macy, 12.



Lawrence (MDIV '96) and **Barbara Robertson III** are serving as national church planting missionaries for the North American Mission Board. Prior to his new post, Lawrence worked as a contact representative for the Social Security Administration in Nashville, Tenn. A native of Thibodaux, La., Lawrence is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree at NOBTS.



Let us know about the important events in your life so we can share them with the Seminary family.

Give the Alumni Office your updates by phone at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3331, or by email at alumni@nobts.edu

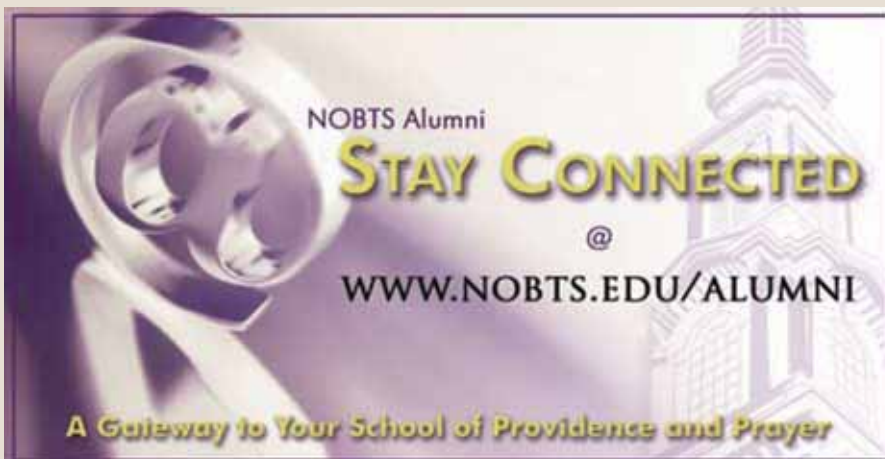




Photo by Gary D. Myers

beacon *of* **Hope**

The newly-returned steeple atop Leavell Chapel symbolizes a turning point to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's campus restoration after Hurricane Katrina. But much of the city the steeple overlooks is still reeling from the storm. May NOBTS students be beacons of hope to this community much like the steeple continues to be. For more photographs of the steeple's return see page 4.



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