The members of the Department of Church Ministries enjoyed being able to participate in College for A Weekend. The members of the Youth Ministries team assisted in hosting the Youth Pastor’s Breakfast Friday morning, where they were able to interact with many alumni who brought their youth groups to check out LU. Friday afternoon, they participated in “Getting to Know” at the Schilling Center and had the opportunity to converse with many prospective students. Several of those students were so thoroughly interested in learning more, that they attended the newest CFAW event, “Open House” in the School of Religion. Our professors look forward to possibly seeing these prospective students in their classrooms in the future.

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. DONALD FOWLER

Dr. Donald Fowler, Professor of Biblical Studies, has been a part of the School of Religion team since 1998. Dr. Fowler is married and proudly boasts one daughter, Renee, and two granddaughters, Katie and Natalie. Not only is Dr. Fowler a professor, but also a highly regarded pastor. He has spoken multiple times in convocation, performs 5-13 weddings annually and was at one time a Sunday morning campus pastor at Liberty. Sarah Zieger, an alumni of Liberty and former student of Dr. Fowler remarked that, “Dr. Fowler taught me something that changed the course of my life. That lesson was the value of a relationship.” Dr. Fowler finds the relationships he is able to form with his students “joyous,” and seeks to keep his office door open at all times.

BIBLICAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

The Biblical Studies Department will be hosting Dr. Larry Pettigrew, Executive Vice President, Dean, and Professor of Theology of Shepherd’s Theological Seminary in Cary, North Carolina. Dr. Pettigrew completed his M.R.E., M.Div. and Th.D at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Pettigrew specializes in American Fundamentalism, Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and Dispensationalism. Dr. Pettigrew has published many articles in publications such as Bibliotheca Sacra, The Master’s Seminary Journal, and Central Bible Quarterly. He has also written and published The New Covenant Ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Biblical Studies Symposium Chapel will take place November 16 at 10am. The Biblical Studies Symposium will be held November 16, from 7-9pm. Both will take place in the Towns-Alumni Lecture Hall. Dr. Donald Fowler will also be joining Dr. Pettigrew to discuss the Old and New Covenant of the Holy Spirit, followed by a question and answer session.
Dr. Elmer Towns will be visiting FuDan University in Shanghai, China October 12-17, 2009. He will be speaking on The Church: The Body of Christ. The Liberty University School of Religion is not interested in the institutional church because of its western influence, rather they have asked Dr. Towns to speak on the spiritual nature of the church, i.e., the body of Christ. Dr. Towns will be delivering four lectures, meeting with the faculty in a separate discussion, and having dinner with the president. This is the second largest university in all of China with over 54,000 students. One of the main reasons for Towns’s visit to China is to prepare the way for his theology textbook, entitled Concise Bible Doctrines, to be distributed to the underground churches in China.

Dr. David Baggett, Associate Professor of Philosophy, recently received word from his co-author and former Professor Jerry Walls that his book Good God: the Theistic Foundations of Morality, will be published by the Oxford University Press. This comes as a great accomplishment for Dr. Baggett who has worked on this publication for almost 23 years, beginning with a paper he wrote at Asbury Theological Seminary in 1989. Jerry Walls and Dr. Baggett, “weaved together various strands of moral apologetics together into a cumulative case, then attempted to take on various objections to theistic ethics. In the process of answering those objections, we did more than play defense, we strengthened the case that morality depends on God.” Dr Baggett explains Oxford as his favorite place in the world, as it is the place he read his first paper at a professional philosophy conference, as well as the place he found the start to his career at Liberty after meeting Dr. Gary Habermas. Oxford University Press is one of the most prestigious academic presses in the world. Dr. Baggett explains why being published by the Oxford Press is such an honor. “What a contract from them means is this: We’re going to be part of the conversation. We are going to have a voice in an important debate about God and morality at the highest levels, and our ideas will find a place in the public square in dialogue with folks from a wide variety of perspectives. As academics we couldn’t ask for anything more.” The book will be made available by 2011.