

Associated Baptist Press

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Carver School students offered transfer options

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) -- Students who fear they may not be able to complete an accredited degree in the Carver School of Church Social Work may transfer to Louisiana State University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler announced March 21.

In a letter to Carver School students who will not complete the master of social work degree at Southern this May, Mohler outlined three options for consideration.

One of those options is to transfer to LSU, with Southern Seminary paying the difference between what the seminary charges for tuition and what LSU charges, he said. In addition, the seminary will provide a \$1,000 check for miscellaneous expenses to any student who transfers to LSU, Mohler said.

LSU offers an accredited master of social work program and recently has developed a partnership with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Another option for Carver School students is to transfer to any other approved school of their choosing, and Southern Seminary will pay the difference in tuition as with LSU, Mohler said.

The third option Mohler outlined is to remain in the Carver School, although the seminary "cannot unilaterally ensure" that the Carver School will remain accredited by the Council on Social Work Education through the 1996-97 academic year, he said.

The social work accreditation agency has said it will continue to accredit the Carver School through the 1996-97 academic year, so long as the seminary can meet accreditation standards. Although those standards are to be scaled back due to a "phase out" agreement, the seminary still would be required to provide a qualified dean and faculty for the school.

Mohler reminded students in his letter of his resolve "to do everything possible" to keep the Carver School functioning as an accredited program through the 1996-97 term.

Carver School student Wendy Bland said she didn't think Mohler's offer was especially well received by students. "I don't think it's realistic of the administration to think we can move on what they're offering," said Bland, who's husband also is a Carver School student.

Mohler and seminary trustees plan to close the Carver School or transfer it to another Baptist institution after the 1996-97 academic year. That decision was made after a crisis erupted last spring between Mohler and Diana Garland, then dean of the Carver School. Mohler fired Garland after she told a group of students Mohler's hiring policies were threatening the school's accreditation.

In other developments related to the Carver School:

-- A candidate for the dean's position was on campus March 25 and met with faculty and a group of Carver School students. The candidate reportedly is Paul Kim, a professor at Louisiana State University. No decision has been announced about whether Kim will be offered the position.

-- A portrait of Garland was unveiled in a ceremony March 27 on campus. The portrait is part of a traditional series of portraits of seminary deans.

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Review & Expositor journal leaving Southern Seminary

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) -- Review & Expositor, a scholarly theological journal associated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for 93 years, has broken its ties with the seminary in Louisville, Ky., due to turmoil there.

The Review & Expositor's editorial board announced March 26 that it was reorganizing and that the publication should no longer be considered the faculty journal of Southern Seminary.

"Events over the past couple of years have made it obvious that the Review & Expositor cannot survive long-term in its historic relationship as the faculty journal of Southern Seminary," said Joel Drinkard, a Southern professor and the journal's business manager.

In its new configuration, the Review & Expositor's 13-member board will include three faculty members from Southern Seminary but also will have seats for faculty from six new moderate seminaries and theology schools. In the past, the journal has been managed exclusively by Southern Seminary faculty, although faculty members from other schools have contributed articles and at times have served as associate editors.

New participants in Review & Expositor include Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond in Virginia, Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary in Texas, Mercer University School of Theology in Georgia, Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas, Gardner-Webb University's divinity school and Campbell University School of Divinity, both in North Carolina.

Richmond, Truett and Mercer each will make the largest financial commitments to the consortium and will have two seats on the editorial board. The other "patron" schools each will hold one seat.

The new arrangement is projected to bring much-needed money and readership back to the journal, which has suffered in both areas since Southern Seminary headed in a more conservative direction in 1993.

Alumni support for Southern Seminary has dropped significantly in recent years and that has caused a similar drop in financial support for the Review & Expositor, Drinkard said. From 1987 through 1995, subscriptions to the journal dropped 63.6 percent, from 4,583 to 1,668, he said.

Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler said he was "shocked and saddened" by the news about the Review & Expositor's changes. "This intention was announced without any consultation with the administration," he said.

Five years ago, shortly before Mohler succeeded Roy Honeycutt as seminary president, the Review & Expositor board was allowed to incorporate as an independent, self-perpetuating organization.

Mohler said the seminary will be "reviewing the situation in light of this recent development." However, any further comment would not be appropriate until that review is complete, he said.

"In any event, a theological journal of the highest quality and clearest conviction will be published in the name of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary," Mohler declared.

While the move snatches a reputable publication from Southern Seminary, it creates an instant reputation for the new, smaller seminaries now in the consortium, participants said.

"It provides an opportunity for a brand-new institution to have a scholarly publication very early in our life, said Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, who currently teaches at Truett Seminary. "There would be no way for a school 2 years old like ours to have an opportunity for a reputable publication."

Dilday and two other former presidents of Southern Baptist seminaries have been named honorary editors of the Review & Expositor. The other two are Honeycutt and Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Drinkard said the Review & Expositor will continue to maintain offices in Louisville for at least the next year. The journal's new board is scheduled to meet in June.

Current members of the Review & Expositor editorial board who made the decision to part company with Southern Seminary include James Blevins, Richard Cunningham, John Dever, Wade Rowatt, Douglas Smith, Marvin Tate, Frank Tupper, T. Vaughn Walker and John D.W. Watts. In addition to Drinkard serving as business manager, Dan Stiver serves as editor, David Stancil as associate editor, Carey Newman as book review editor and James Nogalski as recording secretary.

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Michael Duduit accepts Union University post

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP) -- Michael Duduit, public relations director and adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named executive vice president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Duduit, who was elected to the post by Union trustees March 28, was nominated by David Dockery, president-elect at the Tennessee Baptist Convention school. Dockery currently is vice president for academic administration and theology school dean at Southern Seminary.

Duduit also is editor of Preaching magazine and is executive director of the American Academy of Ministry. He came to Southern Seminary's staff in December 1993 from the staff of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

In his new role at Union, Duduit will manage the university's administrative divisions, including institutional advancement, business services and student services. He also will serve as an assistant professor of communication arts.

Another Southern Seminary faculty member, David Gushee, already has been named to Union's faculty since Dockery was named president-elect. Gushee teaches Christian ethics and is an authority on the Holocaust.

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House votes to repeal assault weapons ban

By Kenny Byrd

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- The U.S. House of Representatives voted March 22 to lift the 1994 ban on 19 assault weapons and ammunition devices that hold more than 10 rounds.

The 239-173 vote followed a heated debate and the issue threatened to spill over into presidential politics. President Clinton has vowed to veto any repeal of the ban, which was part of the 1994 crime bill, while Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has yet to say whether he plans to bring the bill up for a vote.

Supporters of the ban said it is supported by law enforcement officials and has reduced the number of assault-style firearms used in crimes.

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said ban opponents were "kissing the ring" of the National Rifle Association. A repeal of the ban would put "the lives of American men, women and children at risk," he said.

Ban opponents, however, said tougher penalties on criminals who use guns is the way to curb gun-related crimes. They argue that the ban infringes citizens' Second Amendment right to bear arms.

"Banning guns does not reduce violent crime. Prosecuting violent criminals and putting them behind bars is the only proven method for controlling violent crime," said Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y.

The repeal measure would require a 5-year sentence for having a firearm during a crime, a 10-year sentence for showing a firearm and a 20-year sentence for using a gun during a crime. These sentences would be in addition to the sentence for the crime itself.

Heated emotions surrounded the one-hour debate and peaked when Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., invoked the memory of his uncles, President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who were assassinated.

"Families like mine all across this country know all too well what damage weapons can do, and you want to arm our people even more. You want to add more magazines to the assault weapons so they can spray and kill even more people. Shame on you," Kennedy said.

"You will never know what it is like because you don't have someone in your family killed. It's not the person who's killed. It's the whole family that is affected," Kennedy added. "My God, all I have to say to you is play with the devil, die with the devil."

Kennedy's comments sparked an outburst from Solomon. "My wife lives alone five days a week in a rural area in upstate New York. She has the right to defend herself when I'm not there, son. And don't you ever forget it."

The White House released a statement that said repealing the ban would "weaken efforts to reduce violent crime and would expose law enforcement officials and the public to greater violence from criminals armed with high-powered, military-style weaponry."

The repeal measure received support from 56 Democrats and 183 Republicans while 42 Republicans joined 130 Democrats and one independent to oppose it.

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