



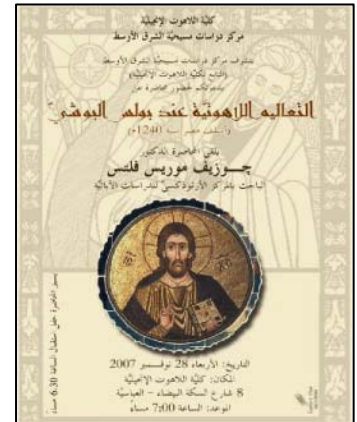
Top: Chaplain Efraim Yacoub prays for new students. **Left:** President Dr. Atef M. Gendy speaks at the celebration

A New Year Underway

On September 24, ETSC's 2007-2008 Academic year officially began with our annual kickoff celebration. We welcomed over 50 new students for the ordination and non-ordination degree programs. Our total student body is currently over 200 students in all programs, with more expected following the commencement of the Lay Pastor Training program later this Fall. We are very blessed by so many promising new students and pray for faithfulness in their studies, personal development, and future ministries.

Public Lecture Explores Coptic Heritage

On Wednesday, November 28th at 7pm ETSC's Center for Middle East Christianity will present a special lecture about the theology of Bishop Boulos al Bushi, a Coptic Orthodox bishop and theologian who lived in the 13th Century AD. The lecture will be given by Dr. Joseph Mourice Faltas, Researcher at the Orthodox Center for Patristic Studies. The lecture will be open to all who wish to attend. Special invited guests include leaders of Presbyterian, Catholic and Orthodox churches and key Muslim leaders as well.



East Meets West in Partnership

Dr. Jan Opsal, Professor of Science of Religion at the School of Mission and Theology (MHS) in Stavanger, Norway visited ETSC this month as part of a growing partnership agreement between the two schools. During his time with us, Dr. Opsal led a seminar and discussion on the significance of a recent overture from Muslim Leaders toward Western Christians entitled, "Come to a Common Word Between Us and You." Dr. Opsal plans to return several times over the next year to offer courses at ETSC, and our own faculty will reciprocate with visits to MHS.

Dr. Jan Opsal

Another aspect of the growing partnership is the exchange of students. Ms. Ingjerd Ropeid came to ETSC in September as the first MHS student to participate in this exchange. As part of her first year of Masters' study, she will spend the period from September to December 2007 learning about Middle East Christianity from our students and faculty. Regarding her experience so far at ETSC, she has the following comments: "I am happy to study Middle East Christianity here... there is a difference between reading books in Norway and coming to the actual sites. This is a good chance to talk to Egyptian students and those from other Middle Eastern countries about what it is like to be a Christian in Egypt and the Middle East. It is interesting to see how enthusiastic they are as Egyptian Christians about their history... it is not my heritage as a Norwegian, but it is their heritage, as so much of Christian history happened here. I will bring my experiences back to Norway and I think it will help me to listen to God's voice to know how I am supposed to serve him."



Ingjerd Ropeid

Guest Faculty Enrich M.A.T.S. Program

M.A.T.S. students are enjoying the presence of two guest faculty this term. The first is Dr. Julius Scott, Professor Emeritus of Wheaton College who taught a 6 week course on the Intertestamental Period. The course presented the history, political and religious situation in Israel from the end of the Old Testament to the coming of Jesus Christ to help ETSC's students better understand the setting of the New Testament. Dr. Scott's wife Florence supported his efforts and was an encouraging presence on campus. We also are enjoying the presence of Paul Dilley, who has studied at Harvard and Yale and is working on his Ph.D. in early Christian monasticism. Paul is teaching Advanced Greek and Middle East Christianity I this term, and will be with us throughout the academic year.



Dr. Julius Scott teaches M.A.T.S. students