

## Moody Distance Learning Offers Master's Degree

*Fully Online Master of Arts in Applied Biblical Studies is First in Moody's History*

Beginning this past Oct., Moody Distance Learning (MDL) began offering a fully online, 36-hour Master of Arts in Applied Biblical Studies (MAABS) degree, the first in its history. This innovative program brings Moody's graduate-level education to students in a convenient and accelerated format, giving them the opportunity to earn an advanced ministry degree online in less than two years.



"It was designed in direct response to feedback from distance learning students who were looking for a master's program with a manageable workload in the midst of family, work and ministry responsibilities," said Dr. James Spencer, vice president and dean of MDL. "Students will enhance their ability to interpret the Bible and the world around them, as well as be prepared to serve in various positions in the church or para-church organizations. Those in a

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**Get to Know the  
New Vice President  
and Dean of  
Moody Distance  
Learning**

While new to the position, Dr. James Spencer is not new to the Moody community. In addition to earning his M.Div. from Moody Theological Seminary in 2004, he served as the assistant dean of online and non-traditional education for MDL since 2007. He first came on staff in 2005 as an extension studies adjunct professor. "I've always been interested in distance education," said Dr. Spencer. "When the opportunity to teach here became available, it connected my passion for distance education and for Moody. While in seminary the faculty built into my life and I wanted to be associated with an institution that values relationships."

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## Stories Accounts of God at work through Moody

### Creatively Reaching Chicago Teens

*Moody Student Focuses on Music and Mentoring*

Anyone who meets CW Allen will hear about his heart for God and for the youth of Chicago. During his three years at Moody, he has invested time and energy with Sunshine Gospel Ministries, located in the Woodlawn community of Chicago, showing the love of Christ to urban teens. CW is also helping to start a recording studio in an abandoned building as a part of the ministry. He believes that this new outreach opportunity will draw more kids into the center to hear about Jesus.

Raised in Cleveland, Ohio, by parents who were addicted to drugs, CW did not know God or the Bible, let alone that he would have a future in ministry. It was only when an older cousin began spending time with him

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secular setting will find great benefit to their personal ministry as well."

Each student in the MAABS degree program is part of an approximately 20-member, online cohort that takes one course every seven weeks (12 courses total), with one-week reflection periods. No campus visits are required.

A unique aspect of the program is the level of faculty involvement with students. Two faculty members will be assigned to each cohort. The first faculty member will regularly interact with the students, coach them through the program and provide spiritual encouragement. "My hope is that this approach will help foster a stronger relationship between the faculty and students, something not traditionally found in online education," added Dr. Spencer.

The other faculty member will assist students with a cross-program project. Each student is required to construct a problem statement at the beginning of the program for a case study that will be drawn directly from their personal

context. Students will work with their assigned cohort faculty member throughout their program on various steps of the case study, with the goal of their ongoing biblical interpretation shaping it and providing a solution to the problem in question.

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Dr. James Spencer

"The case study really gets to the heart of this program because the Word of God will be directly applied to a particular area of student life, such as how to develop biblical small groups in their church," stressed Dr. Spencer. "Moody is setting a trend in online education by leveraging the learner's personal context while they are being trained to interpret and apply God's Word."

The next MAABS cohort will begin in March 2013, and subsequent groups will be formed every August and March. Applications are currently being accepted for the spring cohort.

For more information about the MAABS program, please visit the Distance Learning Web page on [www.moody.edu](http://www.moody.edu).



## InSight

by Steve Mogck, Chief Operating Officer

2012 has been quite a year for me both professionally and personally. On the personal side, I spent the first six months of the year commuting between Chicago and a suburb of Minneapolis, where my children were finishing up their school year. This June, my family moved from Minnesota to a home in the northern suburbs of Chicago. My two daughters (3rd and 8th grade) are attending a Christian school that is close to our new home, and so far they love it. My wife, Heidi, has done an amazing job of taking care of the endless details of reestablishing our family in a new community and getting our new house in order. Finally, our son entered Moody this fall as a freshman.

Being a parent of a Moody student has given me a deep appreciation for the excellence of our faculty and residence life teams. They go out of their way to make new students feel welcome. It was great to sit back and watch the process through the eyes of a parent and see the Moody community come together to wrap its arms around the new students

and their families. Going through this process made me even more excited to be part of this amazing organization.

My immersion into the role of Moody's chief operating officer has been hectic, but fun and rewarding. In a nutshell, my job is to lead the central functions of Moody (i.e. Human Resources; Marketing and Public Relations; Information Systems; Facilities and Security; Legal; and Stewardship) and also work as a member of the executive leadership team to help set and execute the overall strategy. I have spent a lot of time listening to executives, faculty and staff explain what is working and also where we have room for improvement. I am very encouraged by the Moody employees that I have met and their strong devotion to its mission.

Please continue to pray for Moody's leadership as we seek to carry out our mission of taking the truth of God's Word across the globe, cultures and generations.

playing a video game that the subject of his eternal future came up. His cousin shared the gospel with him, and from that simple beginning, he grew in his love for God and also developed his talent in music. Since that time, both of his parents have also trusted Christ as Savior.

Early on at Moody, CW realized that God had blessed him with a creative visual imagination, which led him to major in communications. Grateful for the practical, hands-on experience at Moody, he says his theology and Bible classes have fundamentally altered his ideas about church and leadership and have deepened his grasp of doctrine. He's most grateful, though, for his close relationship with professors.

"Once, a professor pulled me aside and asked if everything



was okay," CW recalls. "I had been working 30 hours per week and was falling behind. I appreciated it a lot, so I tried my hardest to go over the top for that class." He added, "I feel like I'm learning from friends. It makes it so much easier to go to class with teachers like that."

Outside the classroom, he is focusing on bridging gaps between students from various ethnic groups. As a former leader of the student group, Embrace, CW had the opportunity to share with the Moody community about African-American culture and the issues students of color face. "I have the ability to cross bridges," he says, "so I appreciate

having time to spend with brothers and sisters that aren't like me, because I'm not just always going to be in an urban context. Moody has allowed me to meet different people and get to know them."

## Benefits Human Resources Connection

### Accessing Time Benefit Allotment Information

Annual reports indicating Vacation, Personal, Sick and Short Term Disability (STD) Bank, along with Personal, Vacation and Sick Carryover, are no longer available. To access your Time Benefit allotment information, please visit the following websites.

#### Vacation and Personal

To access your Vacation and Personal Carryover as well as the Vacation and Personal Time you are accruing for the period of July–Dec. 2012, please click on the "My Account" link after logging on to my.moody.edu (the link is located in the "Employee Self-Service" box of the "Staff" homepage).

- Use your Vacation Carryover by Dec. 31 or you will lose it.
- Up to two days of Personal Time not used by Dec. 31 will carry over to 2013.

#### Sick and Short Term Disability Bank

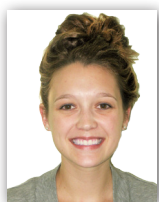
Please visit moody.attendanceondemand.com and click on the "Worksheet" tab to locate this year's allotment for Sick time, STD Bank and STD Carryover (which represents up to five days of unused Sick Time carried over to the Bank each year).

For more information please contact Jean Jacobsen, benefits administrator, at 312-329-4233 or [jean.jacobsen@moody.edu](mailto:jean.jacobsen@moody.edu).

### Benefit Open Enrollment: Nov. 2012

- A mailing in early Nov. will provide further information about Open Enrollment—your once-a-year opportunity to make changes in your benefits to go into effect Jan. 1, 2013.
- Visit the Commons during lunch hour Nov. 6 to talk with representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield (PPO, Dental Plan, Blue Advantage, HMO Illinois) and CIGNA (HMO and PPO), and Nov. 8 with our Principal Wellness representative. Also, visit the Human Resources Conference Room on Crowell 1 during Nov. to pick up forms needed to drop/add family members from/to medical, dental, life insurance, turn in new PayFlex form for 2013 (health spending account and child care), etc.
- Plan to complete the online Wellness Assessment and take part in the Annual Screening again in Jan. 2013.

# New Employees



**Anna-Marie Adams**  
**Financial Aid Assistant,**  
**Financial Aid**

Previously served as a nanny in Chicago, Ill.



**Jason Floyd**  
**Support Center Lead Tech,**  
**MBI-Spokane ETS**

Previously served as an English teacher at a local church training center in China.



**Joseph Lee**  
**Cook,**  
**Food Service**

Previously served as an installer at SpringRock Gutters in Indian Head Park, Ill.



**Berk Arslan**  
**Israel Trip Coordinator,**  
**Moody Distance Learning**

Previously served as a broker at Colliers International in Rosemont, Ill.



**Katharine Hultquist**  
**Office Coordinator,**  
**Alumni Association**

Previously served as a substitute teacher at Paw Paw Public Schools in Paw Paw, Mich.



**Carlos Perez**  
**Cook,**  
**Food Service**

Previously served as a cook at Chipotle Mexican Grill in Chicago, Ill.



**Theodore Stephen Asare**  
**Marketing and Development**  
**Project Coordinator,**  
**Moody Radio**

Previously served as the training and radio network manager at Theovision International in Accra, Ghana, West Africa.



**Ryan Jenkins**  
**Security Guard,**  
**Public Safety and Security**

Previously served as a part-time patrolman at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill.



**Jordan Raikes**  
**Assistant Event**  
**Coordinator,**  
**Music Department**

Previously served as a barista at Starbucks in Deerfield, Ill.



**Catherine Cates**  
**Registered Nurse,**  
**Health Service**

Previously served as a school nurse at Latin School of Chicago in Chicago, Ill.



**R. Gregory Jenks**  
**Associate Professor**  
**of Bible**

Previously served as an adjunct professor at Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, Texas.



**Traci Wapps**  
**Event Logistics Coordinator,**  
**Event and Guest Services**

Previously served as an assistant show director at The Merchandise Center in Schiller Park, Ill.



**Cody Fraser**  
**Gary Chapman Radio**  
**Program Representative,**  
**Moody Publishers**

Previously served as a security officer at Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Pa.



**Spencer Jones**  
**Audience Development**  
**Assistant,**  
**Moody Publishers**

Previously served as a patrolman at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill.



**Camille Ward**  
**Director of Accreditation and**  
**Assessment,**  
**Office of Institutional**  
**Effectiveness**

Previously served as assessment of accreditation associate at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Ill.

## James Spencer <<<<< Continued from page 1

In this position, Dr. Spencer oversees MDL and Education Technology Services (ETS) and will focus on forging global alliances with other ministry organizations to distribute distance learning courses worldwide. Other key priorities include hiring faculty as MDL seeks to become a distinct, fully-functioning school within Moody. "As we look across the landscape of world Christianity, I see a growing need for men and women around the world who think biblically, live Christianly and serve the church effectively," added Dr. Spencer. "MDL and ETS have the potential to create and

support innovative educational programs that will set the standard for online biblical higher education and impact the world for Christ."

Dr. Spencer earned a Ph.D. in Theological Studies with an Old Testament emphasis from Trinity International University this spring, and an M.A. in Biblical Exegesis from Wheaton in 2005. He and his wife, Kim, celebrated 13 years of marriage this August and have one son and identical twin daughters. As a former personal trainer, Dr. Spencer enjoys weight training, boxing and swimming.