



Kingswood

Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
WINTER 2016

Kingswood Chronicle is named after the first school established by John Wesley, in Bristol, England, in 1742. For its dedication, John's brother, Charles, wrote a hymn that included this line: "Unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety." Our hope is that the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, the undergraduate and Seminary programs, the entire School of Theology, and this publication will unite our academic study of theology with a profound, meaningful faith in Jesus Christ — one that grows deeper every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Palmer Lecture

"The Dialogue of Faith and Culture: Why the Arts Remain Essential"
Fr. Eduardo Hernandez, SJ,
Professor of Pastoral Theology and
Ministry, Jesuit School of Theology of
Santa Clara University
Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Upper Gwinn, SPU campus

Discernment Weekend

Seattle Pacific Seminary invites you to explore your calling and vocation — in the company of seminary faculty and students, along with others who are considering seminary. Discernment Weekend is a day and a half of teaching, prayer, discussion, thoughtful challenge, worship, fellowship and food.
Friday and Saturday, February 19–20
SPU campus

MORE INFORMATION:
SPU.EDU/SEMINARY

Weter Lecture

"Reconciliation as Transformation"
Dr. Michael Langford
SPU Associate Professor of Theology,
Discipleship, and Ministry
Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Upper Gwinn, SPU campus

Seattle Pacific Seminary Immersion

Thursday, April 14, 1 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION:
SPU.EDU/SEMINARY

Walls Lecture

"The Evolution of God's New Creation"
Dr. Rob Wall
SPU Paul T. Walls Professor of
Scripture & Wesleyan Studies
Dr. Cara Wall-Scheffler
SPU Associate Professor of Biology
Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
First Free Methodist Church Sanctuary
3200 Third Avenue West
(adjacent to campus)

School of Theology Book Celebration

Thursday, May 19, 3 p.m.
First Free Methodist Church
Fine Center
3200 Third Avenue West
(adjacent to campus)

Dearborn/Smyth Retirement Reception

Dr. Kerry Dearborn
SPU Professor of Theology
Dr. Ed Smyth
SPU Professor of Educational Ministry
Monday, May 23, 4:30 p.m.
Upper Gwinn, SPU campus



PROGRAM IN Christian Social Entrepreneurship

New Training Program Begins in June

SPU recently received a three-year grant from the Kern Family Foundation to launch the Program in Christian Social Entrepreneurship, a new offering from the School of Theology and the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, in cooperation with professors from the School of Business, Government, and Economics. The program will welcome its first cohort in June 2016.

The CSE program empowers church and parachurch leaders to develop and combine business skills with a robust theological foundation. Participants receive non-credit bearing classroom instruction and engage in a two-week residency of experiential learning opportunities, including case studies and site visits. The following year, the participants receive one-on-one coaching from a trained professional as they return to their communities and apply what they learned to their ministries. The program leverages the artistic and entrepreneurial culture of Seattle and creates a community of peer support.

"This program is not about trying to find creative ways to make the gospel more hip or compelling — the good news of Jesus Christ could not be more compelling. Instead, it's about prayerfully exploring fresh ways to live out the gospel in the midst of a rapidly changing culture," says Program Director Dr. Matt Sigler. "I'm very excited to be a part of this initiative at Seattle Pacific University. The message of the gospel continues to be for all people of all times. This program seeks to equip church leaders with the tools to live out their faith in their surrounding communities."

MORE INFORMATION: SPU.EDU/CSE

Dr. Soong-Chan Rah Leads Upcoming Class, Forum

Seattle Pacific Seminary's Asian American Ministry Program welcomes North Park Seminary's Dr. Soong-Chan Rah this winter to teach the first course of the newly launched Master of Arts in Asian American Ministry degree and to speak at the initial gathering of this year's AAMP Church Leaders Forum.

Rah will teach "Asian American Experience, Identity, and Theology," one of two required courses unique to the MA-AAM. This course will help participants to understand the contextual realities of Asian American communities (e.g. history, cultural heritage, immigration, racialization, contemporary issues, etc.) and to reflect critically on the dominant theological paradigms that have been historically influential in Asian American churches (e.g.,

evangelicalism). The course will also help students cultivate a theological framework to engage in multiethnic ministry and in ministry from an Asian American perspective. The class will be offered to SPS students and to local church leaders on February 5–6 and March 4–5.

Part one of the AAMP Church Leader's Forum, held in partnership with SPU's Office of University Ministries, takes place February 9. Rah will speak at SPU's chapel service on the theme of reconciliation, followed by a discussion on the "Pastoral Implications of Racial Reconciliation" for local pastors and Christian leaders.

Rah is the Milton B. Engebretson professor of church growth and evangelism at North Park and is an



ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church. He is one of today's leading evangelical voices and is the author of several books, including *The Next Evangelicalism*, *Many Colors* and his most recent publication, *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*.

VISIT SPU.EDU/SEMINARY TO REGISTER FOR THE FORUM OR CLASS.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNUS

Haydon Truitt, '14



Seattle Pacific alum **Haydon Truitt** just can't seem to leave college.

Since his graduation from SPU in 2014, he has mentored university students through an on-campus ministry at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

Under the international college and university ministry organization, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, Campus Christian Fellowship has been an active community at WWU for more than 40 years.

Currently made up of over 300 university students in 23 small groups, the relational and discipleship-based ministry is committed to seeking out

the students rather than waiting for them to seek out fellowship, according to Truitt.

A theology major with a focus in educational ministry, Truitt says he is following a calling to ministry that he has always felt led to, but with a newly discovered emphasis.

"Teaching people the tenets of the faith and why Christianity is the way that it is today has intrigued me for about five years," he says.

As a second-year intern for Chi Alpha, Truitt is responsible for attending Monday morning staff meetings and planning weekly one-on-ones with his three assigned students (though he tends to also meet with others).

In addition, every Tuesday night he leads a weekly small group session with those students and participates in the ministry's weekly large-group session, Friday Night Fellowship.

"I get to watch people transform as they step into owning their faith and begin to understand what that will look like for the rest of their lives," Truitt says.

Though he calls himself a natural academic, Truitt is thankful for his SPU theology professors who pushed him to see the different degrees of knowledge and says his experience is teaching him to value knowledge of the heart.

"I usually stay in my mind and think theoretically about things including theology, doctrine, and the way life is to be lived in pursuit of Christ," he says. "But going into this ministry, I have had to throw out the safe areas of life — staying in my own mind — and really plunge headfirst into the adventure of having the heart know or believe what the brain thinks."

SEMINARY ALUMNUS

Dave Sim, '12

Chatting with a parishioner one-on-one about life provides some of the best moments in ministry, says **Dave Sim '12**, founding pastor of Renew Covenant Church in North Seattle.

Renew, which started as a home group in Sim's living room in 2010, joined the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2012. It averages about 40 people at worship, many of them young adults and families.

The church meets at a community center in North Seattle, a location more comfortable for those who might not gravitate toward a traditional church facility. "It's a space that everyone in this community is familiar with," he says.

For young adults, who comprise the largest age group at Renew, the

concepts of shared life, testimony, and community are very important, he says, and preaching is best when done as storytelling or image.

"It's a part of my calling," says Sim of preaching, and it's a helpful tool for fostering a common life at his church. "I've learned to cherish those times, and seeing the pulpit or music stand as a kind of a launching pad of stepping out." Preaching is "casting vision and sending people out in courage to the missional life," he says.

Sim says that his vocation involves knowing his limitations, so to be faithful in every area of life.

"There's always something to be done, there's always someone to meet," he says. "Even though I am Pastor — it's part of my identity — it's also

not completely my identity. I'm also Father, I'm also Husband, I'm also Friend." He finds keeping regular Sabbath and developing a "rule of life" that involves spiritual disciplines like journaling, reading Scripture, and prayer helps him to stay fresh for ministry.

The importance of community and common life — the "Abbey" — was vital during his pastoral training at Seattle Pacific Seminary, Sim says. "Through the groups, the class meetings, and then having the small class sizes and the discussion-oriented learning, I was allowed to be shaped and allow other people's voices [to] shape me — different perspectives, different backgrounds, different cultures, different voices [to] shape me and have input on my developing theology," he says.

Sim was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Whitman College. He and his wife, Janice, live in Seattle

with their son and daughter, Isaiah and Cameron. In his free time, Sim likes to watch Netflix, play volleyball and ultimate Frisbee, and spend time with his family.



Seminarians Explore Social Justice in Mississippi

Last summer, seven seminarians spent a week at the Spencer Perkins Center in Jackson, Mississippi, examining paths to social justice pursued by various Christian ministries.

The group learned about patterns of racial injustice in and around Jackson by visiting key historical sites. Students read Michael Emerson and Christian Smith's

Divided by Faith to understand how historical patterns perpetuate their damaging effects through a racialized society.

The students visited contemporary Christian ministries representing different strategies for addressing social justice and racial reconciliation including Mission Mississippi, Voice of Calvary Ministries, and the Cary Christian Center.

The highlight of these field experiences was a day spent "in pilgrimage" with civil rights leader John Perkins, visiting significant sites chronicled in his autobiography.

The value of this course was studying and seeing ministry contextualized within a particular culture and social setting. To help see the possibilities upon returning to Seattle, the group spent a day visiting The Coffee Oasis, a youth outreach ministry based in Bremerton, Wash., led by current Seattle Pacific seminarian Daniel Frederick. Students saw how a coffee shop underwrites a ministry with youth by providing financial support and training opportunities.

One student summed up the benefit of this course: "It was very heartening to be with people who have been struggling to figure out what God is doing and yet who know God is certainly working something out."

The SPS cadre traveling to Mississippi to study racial injustice and reconciliation included (front, left to right) Scott Moore, Sarah Henthorn, SPU Professor of Educational Ministry Dr. Bob Drov Dahl, Judy Naegeli, (back row, left to right) Christian Chin, Teylar Greer, and Carrie Bland.



Dr. Willie Jennings Challenges the Church on Ideas About Beauty

Christians need a better theology of ugliness, theologian Dr. Willie Jennings told the SPU community at an October conference on art, theology, and the body.

Jennings, associate professor of systematic theology and Africana studies at Yale University, joined a panel with SPU art professor Dr. Laura Lasworth and Seattle

School of Theology and Psychology theology professor Dr. Chelle Stearns to discuss the topic in a packed Demaray Hall classroom.

In the evening, Jennings delivered a lecture at the University of Washington's campus on "embodying the artistic spirit and the prophetic arts."

The conference theme was chosen to encompass issues of racism, sexism, patriarchy, economic exploitation, and misogyny — all "manifestations of people's beliefs about themselves and the world," says Associate Professor of Theology Dr. Brian Bantum, who helped organize the conference in conjunction with the journal *Literature and Theology* and the University of Washington Comparative Religion Program.

"Theology is not about philosophical ideas about who God is," Bantum says. "It arises from our experience of the world. We can only speak of God from the limitations of our bodies and the experiences of those who have come before us."

During the panel, Stearns discussed her study of composer Arnold Schoenberg, known for his innovative, atonal music. Lasworth shared artwork she had created and a story of the ways childhood discord shaped her artistic interests.

Jennings said that one place a better theology of ugliness would serve the church is in discussions of race. Because physical beauty in the West is often defined by white standards, many people of color find themselves constantly trying to prove that they are beautiful enough to belong.

And Christians tend to forget the importance of looking for the socially unacceptable or aesthetically undesirable, and instead focus on the "beautiful."

"What is made ugly is often precisely the thing that God wants us to see as the site of beauty and the remaking of the world," Jennings said. "A Christ-formed life is a life that opens people to the very thing they do not desire."



Seminary Hosts November Discernment Weekend

Each fall and winter, Seminary Pacific Seminary hosts Discernment Weekend, an event for prospective students. Featuring a day and a half of discussion, fellowship, prayer, teaching, and worship with SPS faculty and students, it offers a time for participants to engage in thoughtful and prayerful discernment about their personal calling. For those considering seminary, the weekend also provides an opportunity to learn more about the theological vision and programs at SPS.

Held in early November, Discernment Weekend began with a vibrant time of fellowship with 10 prospective students, SPS faculty, and current students at SPU's Kingswood House. Professor of Theology Dr. Doug Koskela kicked off the events by speaking on the nature of vocation and discernment, giving attendees a theological framework to reflect on their own callings.

Next, Dr. Rick Steele, associate dean of the Seminary, provided an introduction to SPS's vision to be an Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate and facilitated a time of questions and answers. Seminary students Sarah Keough, Dae Shik Kim, Brady Rector, and Lindsey Thrower shared their personal discernment experiences as well as what it's like to be an SPS student. Dean Doug Strong led an introduction to St. Ignatius' rules of discernment in Alexander Chapel. After a full day of information and fellowship, SPS faculty and students and the prospective students shared a meal and reflected on the day.

Saturday morning, prospective students met for breakfast with Dean Strong. Celeste Cranston, director of SPU's Center for Biblical and Theological Education, led the group in a *Lectio Divina* on 1 Samuel 2:1-10, "Hannah's Song." A prospective student described this as an enriching time to "get out of the head space and into the heart space." To conclude the weekend, SPS Director Billy Vo exhorted and commissioned the group to go forth and engage in discernment with boldness and faith.

One participant wrote that Discernment Weekend was "so much more than an 'info session.'" Another said, "I was embraced by students and faculty throughout the weekend. [Because of Discernment Weekend,] I was able to experience a taste of what life would be like here at SPS." Another participant shared, "It completely exceeded my expectations. There was a great mix of information, personal interaction, and spiritual discernment."

The Seminary regularly hosts events like Discernment Weekend for prospective students that combine faith, theology, and opportunities for meaningful connection with faculty and students, in addition to information about SPS programs.

The next Discernment Weekend is February 19-20, 2016.

Visit spu.edu/seminary for more details.

NEW FACULTY



Dr. R. Matthew Sigler Joins Theology Faculty

Dr. Matt Sigler joined the School of Theology faculty this fall as an assistant professor of Wesleyan theology and United Methodist Liaison. He holds a doctorate in liturgical studies from Boston University, where his work focused on Methodist identity and liturgical praxis. He comes to SPU, along with his wife and son, from Southwestern College in Kansas, where he taught as a visiting scholar in the religion department.

Prior to becoming a professor, Sigler served as a music minister for 12 years and has written on contemporary worship as well as lyrical theology. He is particularly interested in how the faith practices of past communities can serve as resources for renewal in the church today.

At SPU, he teaches Wesleyan theology and history, liturgical studies, and University Foundations courses in Christian doctrine and Christian formation.

"I love teaching at a school where the entire person is valued; where formation encompasses the intellect, the affections, and embodied action," Sigler says.



SEMINARY FEEDBACK SOUGHT

Seattle Pacific Seminary is hosting an initial accreditation visit on February 29 to March 3, 2016, by the ATS Commission on Accrediting. We invite any interested parties to comment on any areas of strength or concern that they observe in our school. Comments should be limited to areas related to the ATS Commission Standards of Accreditation (spu.edu/ats) and sent at least one week prior to the visit either to Dr. Richard Steele, associate dean for Graduate Theological Studies at Seattle Pacific University (rsteale@spu.edu; 3307 Third Avenue West, Suite 204, Seattle, WA 98119), or to the ATS director of Accreditation Services (neff@ats.edu).

**Discernment
Weekend 2016**
EXPLORE YOUR CALLING



From the Dean

Religiously inspired violence frequently dominates our daily news reports. These headlines remind those of us who follow the Prince of Peace that we have our work cut out for us, if we are to offer an alternative vision of a good and just society. A university-based school of theology is exactly the sort of place where such a Christ-centered vision can be cast. But there are no easy solutions to the problems and challenges of our global society. The SPU School of Theology faculty wrestles with these difficult conversations day after day, in course after course, with undergraduate and seminary students — all of whom will soon become decision-makers in our society. I've been convinced anew about the significance of our job: God has given Christian universities such as ours the responsibility and privilege to help students see that Christian discipleship doesn't result in easy platitudes or simple answers to complex theological and political questions. Rather, faithful adherence to Christ today implies prayerful devotion, hard thinking, careful reasoning, faithful Biblical exposition, and a nuanced knowledge of history and culture. That's what we teach here, and that's why our graduates are making a difference in this (often troubled) world. I thank God that we can be engaged in this task.

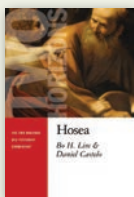
Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology

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School of Theology Faculty Books



Hosea

By Associate Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim and Professor of Dogmatic and Constructive Theology Daniel Castelo

(Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2015)



Roadmap to Reconciliation: Moving Communities into Unity, Wholeness and Justice

By Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies Brenda Salter McNeil

(IVP Books, 2016)

VISIT SPU.EDU/SOTBOOKS TO SEE ALL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FACULTY BOOKS.

FAITHFUL INNOVATION: Raising Up Millennial Leaders

Scholars, pastors, and entrepreneurs came together at SPU in late October to brainstorm ways to transform theological education to appeal to today's church.

Through presentations and panels, invited attendees at the *Equipping Faithful Leaders* conference discussed ways theological education can renew churches and adjust to changing cultural dynamics.

"Many millennials have expressed disillusion, disappointment, and frustration with the church," says Dr. Doug Strong, School of Theology dean. "Those of us who are running theological institutions better open up, get aware, and figure out how to change if we want to have a future for the church."

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, a United Methodist pastor and professor of youth, church, and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, delivered a keynote address on the spiritual needs of millennials to those gathered for the invitation-only conference. About 75 professors and pastors from churches and schools in the Pacific Northwest and around the country attended the event.

Dr. L. Gregory Jones, professor of theology and Christian ministry at Duke Divinity School and a conference coordinator, said theological education needs to be reimaged to incorporate technological and social innovations.

"There is a need for new kinds of institutions, for new patterns of relationships, for new expressions of community," Jones says. "We can retrieve the best from our past for the sake of faithful innovation into the future."

Grant Funds Youth Discipleship

The School of Theology received a four-year, \$600,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to establish the Seattle Pacific University Youth Discipleship School, a one-week summer intensive to encourage high school students to grow in their Christian discipleship. Participants will experience components of identity formation through classroom instruction from theology faculty, the practice of worship and other spiritual disciplines, on-site contextual application of faith to contemporary real-world issues, small and large group community building, and recreational opportunities unique to the Pacific Northwest. It will also feature a weekend follow-up retreat at Camp Casey in the fall.

SPU is one of a number of schools across the country that are participating in Lilly's High School Youth Theology Institutes initiative which funds programs at a select group of private four-year colleges and universities. The grants are part of the endowment's commitment to identify and cultivate a cadre of theologically minded youth who will become leaders in church and society.

Associate Professor of Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry Dr. Mike Langford is the principal investigator of the grant and serves as the executive director of the project. The program is expected to launch in summer 2016.

SOT Homecoming Breakfast Joins October Grand Reunion

SPU's Homecoming and Parents Weekend will be held January 29–30, 2016, but with a big change: All class reunions and academic breakfast reunions (like the annual School of Theology alumni breakfast) are moving to a new October alumni event, the Grand Reunion.

The 2016 inaugural event occurs October 7–9. We hope you'll join us!

LEARN MORE:
SPU.EDU/GRANDREUNION

SPU125

GRAND REUNION

October 7–9, 2016

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