



Kingswood

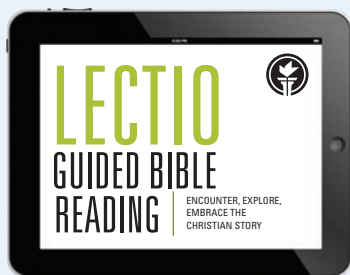
Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SUMMER 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



NEW! FALL 2016
Jeremiah
with Dr. Steve Fowl

WINTER 2017
Gospel of Luke
with Dr. Mark Abbott

SPRING 2017
Acts of the Apostles
with Dr. Jack Levison

SUMMER 2017
Wisdom Literature & James
with Dr. Rick Steele &
Dr. Dave Nienhuis

SEATTLE PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY

GRAND REUNION

SAVE
THE
DATE **October 7–8, 2016**

All class reunions and
Theology Affinity Reunion
Alumni Breakfast
Saturday, October 8
9–11 a.m.
Kingswood House
303 West Dravus
SPU campus

MORE INFORMATION:
SPU.EDU/GRANDREUNION

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This is the last *print* edition of *Kingswood Chronicle*. We need your email address so you can receive our newly designed e-newsletter.

Please send your first and last name (and any previous/maiden name(s) tied to your email) and email address to theology@spu.edu. Be assured we will never sell or share your contact information.



Professors Kerry Dearborn and C. Edward Smyth Retire

In conversations with past and present students of both Dr. Kerry Dearborn and Dr. Ed Smyth, it is immediately apparent that SPU retires two professors who each leave a profound legacy. As the Apostle Paul reflects, the results of their ministry are “living letters” written on human hearts and the School of Theology celebrates each remarkable career.

Dearborn's 22 years at SPU include numerous awards and accomplishments, notably the 2016 Professor of the Year Award, reflecting a deep appreciation for her teaching, which has transformed and inspired many young women and men. Recognized for her warmth and hospitality, Dearborn and her husband, Tim, have welcomed countless students in their home and cultivated mentoring relationships modeling God's love. She has been a tireless advocate for the voiceless and marginalized, inspiring many toward global awareness, missions, and cross-cultural ministry.

Dearborn's academic work reflects her strong voice for reconciliation, the Holy Spirit, women in ministry, and the power of the imagination, notable by numerous articles and her recent

book, *Drinking from the Wells of New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Imagination in Reconciliation*.

She has expanded the capacity of many to perceive God through various art forms and literature. Within SPU and beyond, she has served on numerous boards and leaves a particular mark by developing the reconciliation studies minor. Additionally, her reach has



extended SPU's reputation through numerous lectures around the world. Her celebrated SPU career is acknowledged with the status of emerita professor of theology.

Smyth's legacy at SPU covers four decades, including two seasons of

teaching (1975–1992 and 2000–present) and shaping the educational ministry programs. His passion for discipling is significantly evidenced by having led 29 yearlong covenant small groups of young men meeting weekly in his home. Smyth's mentoring, gifted teaching, and love for students earned him the 2003 Professor of the Year Award and the 2010 Faculty Servant Award.

Smyth's reach extends beyond SPU as a conference preacher and workshop leader both in the United States and abroad, particularly in China and Eastern Europe. On campus, his roles included director of church relations (1985–1992) and the chair and/or member of numerous boards and committees. His unique blend of direct questioning matched with infectious laughter and fervent love have made a lasting impact on students and colleagues. Smyth's career is also honored with the status of emeritus

professor of educational ministry.

As the “Spirit has given life” (2 Corinthians 3:6) to many through these two professors, the SOT gives glory to God for their remarkable work among us.

UNDERGRADUATE

Amy Underwood, '17

When **Amy Underwood** arrived at SPU, she knew she wanted to train for a job where she could help people. Closing in on graduation after Winter Quarter 2017, that's still her goal, but the route changed along the way.

Underwood originally planned on a psychology major and a counseling career, but found she wasn't passionate about her coursework. In the midst of "a bit of a life crisis," she met an SPU student majoring in Christian theology with an educational ministry concentration. After learning more about the major, Underwood thought it might be for her: "This path had the same end goal — helping people — but it was just a different avenue that was more suited to who I am and what my passions are. I joined a couple of classes that winter quarter and have never looked back."

Underwood has thrived in the School of Theology, under the tutelage of professors she calls "extremely knowledgeable" and "genuinely caring."

"I think the [Christian theology] major is very well rounded and practical," she said. "It compiles key elements to create thoughtful and intentional individuals who are well equipped for ministry."

A first-generation college student from White Salmon, a small south-central Washington town on the Columbia River, Underwood's parents encouraged her to follow her heart in her educational pursuits but insisted, for practical reasons, that she minor in business administration. "Originally, this was just tedious for me, but after a couple of classes, I really saw the benefit," she said.

"I am very interested in the overlap between business and the church," she said. "The church operates in this tension between being an organism — the living body of Christ — and an organization that functions in the world and needs to pay its pastors and bills."

Underwood is considering a career in church administration and management, given her behind-the-scenes strengths and desire to enable others to do frontline work. She's particularly interested in working in smaller, rural churches, where her training might be especially helpful.

She's excited to intern this summer at North Cascades Christian Fellowship, a Free Methodist congregation in Sedro-Woolley, Wash. "It's a great opportunity to explore the denomination as well as to better get to know myself and where I fit into churches," she said.

After graduation, Underwood is content to go where God leads. "I believe I am called to do ministry,"

she said. "I have ideas about what that may look like, but I do not know for sure yet. It is a long process that I just get to experience and enjoy, but it is all God's decision."



SEMINARY ALUMNUS

Keith Snavelly, '14



For **Keith Snavelly '14**, living vocationally as a teacher is about creating a place where kids can flourish — and being a person they can trust.

"I try to make the classroom an 'abbey' where it's safe," he said, "where they can explore and discover in an emotionally safe environment."

Snavelly, who teaches health and physical education at North Whidbey Middle School in Oak Harbor, Wash., said a "two thumbs-up" day happens when students invite him to hear about what's going on in their lives.

"There's a connection there and a trust factor," he said, and a degree of honesty that goes beyond the everyday mechanisms of assignments,

papers, and grades. When students talk about their lives and struggles as middle schoolers, those are profound moments of vocation, Snavelly said.

"It's when we're talking about more than the subject matter — that's a good day for me," he said. When students open up about the ups and downs of life, Snavelly finds a simple school-day conversation can become a space where students can speak honestly and safely — and where he can be an example of a trustworthy adult.

His role also involves helping students to develop a positive vocabulary of expectations for themselves, counteracting some of the negative messages that middle schoolers often hear from peers.

A simple language change, like turning "don't be late" into "be on time," can help students toward thinking graciously about who they are and what their next steps can be, he said.

"For me, being in a frame of mind to deal with expectations in a positive way is really helpful with students."

Snavelly said Seattle Pacific Seminary's "apostolate" component has helped in approaching his work as a calling. "Being sent is really key for me," he said of his teaching. "I have to rely on knowing that there is something transformative happening on a deeper level in kids' lives that I can't see. I get to be a part of that. That's huge."

In addition to teaching, Snavelly coaches wrestling, track, and girls' basketball. He likes to play golf, go hiking, and cook, and is a Seattle Mariners fan.

Along with his master of divinity degree, Snavelly has two bachelor's degrees from the University of Washington — in economics and history — and is an ordination candidate in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He lives in Oak Harbor.

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Shannon Smythe Joins Faculty

Dr. Shannon Smythe joins the School of Theology faculty in Autumn Quarter 2016 as an assistant professor of theological studies. Smythe received her bachelor's degree from SPU in Christian theology and educational ministry, and she earned her master of divinity and doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary.

An ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Smythe is a candidate for ordination as a teaching elder, and she preaches and teaches regularly. As a scholar, she authored *Women in Ministry: Questions and Answers in the Exploration of a Calling and Forensic Apocalyptic Theology of a Reformed Order: Karl Barth and the Doctrine of Justification*, as well as other publications.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Smythe join the School of Theology faculty," said Dr. Daniel Castelo, professor of dogmatic and constructive theology and chair of the faculty search committee. "The process took almost a year and involved the assessment of scores of applicants from around the nation. We believe she brings a number of gifts to us, including her voice in addressing matters related to gender and women's studies from a theological point of view."

Smythe will teach in each of the major divisions of curricular instruction offered by the SOT (i.e., the University Foundations sequence, the theology major, and the Seminary). She is no stranger to SPU: In addition to being an alumna, she has taught some SOT courses as an adjunct. Her teaching experience, expertise, and overall sense of call and vocation make her a welcome addition to the SOT collegium.



CONFERENCE INVITES CHURCH LEADERS TO

Engage Congregations in Racial Reconciliation



Speaking to the Seattle Pacific University community and church leaders gathered at First Free Methodist Church, Dr. Soong-Chan Rah used a bowl of marbles as an analogy for a person's surroundings. He asked how people who surround themselves only with similar people plan to engage a changing world.

"You become what you surround yourself with," Rah said. "In this very diverse world that we live in, how are we going to listen to each other, learn from each other, and be in community together?"

As the keynote speakers for SPU's two-part Church Leaders Forum in February, Rah, who is serving as an adjunct professor in Seattle Pacific Seminary's Asian American Ministry Program, and Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, associate professor of reconciliation studies, challenged church leaders to connect God's concern for justice and reconciliation to the ministry of discipleship and worship in their churches.

Rah invited listeners to step out of their walls of familiarity, to surround themselves with people unlike themselves, and to confront hard topics.

Reading from the book of Lamentations, Rah urged Christians today to focus on problems of racial division rather than running away from them, just as Jeremiah was forced to lament and face his problems. "We change the narrative by engaging with the other in such a deep and profound way that our lives are completely changed," he said.

In her address, Salter McNeil focused on the idea of deserved justice. Teaching from the story of Jonah, Salter McNeil urged the crowd to seriously question if they deserve to be blessed. While many would say, "Well, yes we do," Salter McNeil challenged audience members to reflect on their own lives and determine who their Ninevites are — the hated, oppressed, and marginalized people in their lives.

"God is testing our justice," she said. "Who are our Ninevites? God says, 'Just what I want for you, I want for them.'"

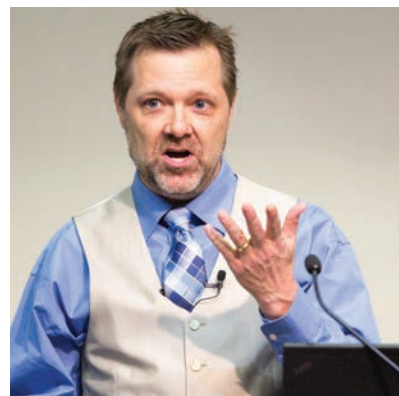
Continuing the focus on racial reconciliation in SPU's weekly chapel services, the Church Leaders Forum aimed to provide next steps for church leaders with a luncheon and follow-up forum with the speakers after each chapel service. The Asian American Ministry Program hosted the forum in partnership with SPU's John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development, and the Office of University Ministries. The event was designed to help Seattle area church leaders, staff, and congregations think about racial justice and reconciliation in practical terms.

"Too often, these conversations remain theoretical," said Billy Vo, director of the Asian American Ministry Program. "So we wanted to engage in conversation around the pastoral implications of racial reconciliation. This includes helping pastors name where they are on the reconciliation journey, and to capture a vision for what it would mean for their congregations to mobilize for racial justice."

Weter Lecture Features Dr. Michael Langford

Reconciliation is a word often used in Christian circles but, almost as often, it is not defined, said Dr. Michael Langford, associate professor of theology, discipleship, and ministry. Sometimes reconciliation is used to indicate intimacy with God, sometimes it merely means being nice to other people, and sometimes it refers to an ambiguous concept of justice, said Langford at the 2016 Winifred E. Weter Lecture held on campus on April 12. The annual lecture is presented by an SPU faculty member chosen through a competitive proposal process.

To avoid conceptual reductionism of reconciliation, Langford urged attendees to look to the work of 20th-century theologian Karl Barth, who wrote exhaustively on the concept of reconciliation as an ecology of multidimensional salvation — personal, communal, and societal. He emphasized this ecology of transformation as a framework for thinking about reconciliation in a theological sense.



Dr. Estrela Alexander to Serve as Guest Seminary Professor

Seattle Pacific Seminary welcomes Dr. Estrela Y. Alexander as a guest professor for an intensive course on the integration of spirituality and justice during Autumn Quarter 2016. Alexander is the founder and president of William Seymour College in the Washington, D.C., area. She previously taught at Wesley Theological Seminary and at Regent University.

Alexander is a prominent authority on African American Pentecostalism and women's leadership in Pentecostalism. An author of six books (including *Black Fire: One Hundred Years of African American Pentecostalism*; *The Women of Azusa Street*; and *Philip's Daughters: Women in Pentecostal-Charismatic Leadership*), she brings scholarly depth and expertise to these topics.

She will teach "Social Holiness in Context," a class that combines the "abbey" (spiritual formation) and "apostolate" (mission and reconciliation) emphases of the Seminary. The course will be held September 30–October 2 (Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon); non-matriculated guests are invited to attend the course with the seminarians by paying a \$50 fee, reading the pre-class books, and registering with Carina Fung (fungc@spu.edu).



Walls Lecture Connects Science and Theology

The School of Theology's annual Paul T. Walls Lecture, "The Evolution of God's New Creation," took place on May 4. Dr. Rob Wall, the Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture, and Dr. Cara Wall-Scheffler, associate professor of biology, presented. Dr. Randy Maddox, the William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Duke Divinity School, provided a response.

Wall presented the case for a broader engagement between theology and the natural sciences. In the current cultural climate, he argued, popular scientific figures succeed at portraying Christians as irrelevant and dangerous. Former Christians may believe the Church has an anti-science bias, a thin theology of creation, or a lack of scientific literacy. Wall said ideas in evolutionary biology are points of contact with theology, like the notion that species in the same kind of environment will develop the same traits, revealing an evolutionary picture can also be a purposive one. Wall introduced Wall-Scheffler's question: How might Christians conceive of the evolution of the human body beyond death into the new creation?

From her biological standpoint, Wall-Scheffler argued the bodies of species adapt to fit in the species' niche, the factors like food, water, and shelter that make life possible. By analyzing Biblical witnesses to new creation, she said God's new world would be a place of abundant food, procreation, and longevity. Wall-Scheffler identified attributes of human life that need to be changed to sustain the long life of the new creation. Changes in the environment would provide some resistance to these problems, along with biological changes. She asserted in the new creation, all bodies would find a niche for life.

Maddox praised the speakers' tentative, dialogical approach. He noted that John Wesley produced five volumes of commentary on natural sciences, equal to his five volumes on Scripture. This research prompted Wesley to reflect on his view of the end-times redemption of the whole created order.

The three lecturers responded to questions from students and guests at a separate event the following day.



PROGRAM IN Christian Social Entrepreneurship

The city of Seattle evokes a number of strong and diverse images: bustling docks, posh tech headquarters, and the logos of native brands like Starbucks and REI. Intricately linked to the city's spirit and identity, many of these images convey a sense of commerce, culture, and innovation concepts that have been applied broadly by businesses, nonprofits, and church ministries.

This summer and next, the School of Theology, in collaboration with SPU's School of Business, Government, and Economics, and the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, launches the Program for Christian Social Entrepreneurship. Designed for church leaders who want to combine business skills with meaningful theology, the program offers an accessible, experiential, and practical option for professional development and community transformation.

Common church-based social entrepreneurship ventures include pay-as-you-can coffee shops that train homeless or troubled youth as baristas, but Program Director Dr. Matthew Sigler, assistant professor of Wesleyan theology, hopes the new program will encourage the churches to think outside the coffee shop box.

"We're hoping to meet a need for those in the church who realize that the way we do church needs to change, and to give them a comprehensive vision for what a holistic approach to 'business as mission' might look like," Sigler said.

Local partners include organizations like Urban Impact, a church-connected nonprofit organization that runs a thriving gym and manages affordable housing units. Students will explore sites like 415 Westlake, an event and wedding venue that also serves

as a storefront and church building, and Seattle's Union Gospel Mission's 118 Designs, which salvages building materials to provide job training and discipleship opportunities through a furniture shop. These and many other Seattle-based organizations offer social change models that generate revenue while simultaneously providing economic opportunity for the local community.

"The church must go outside its walls. If we only bring people into our bubble, it's not good ecclesiology, and we are missing the point of the Gospel," said CBTE Director Celeste Cranston.

Following a 10-day period of instruction on campus, participants receive ongoing support from peers and coaches as they attempt to begin social ventures, or shift the direction of existing programs and ministries. This support will help students take hold of opportunities and overcome the challenges that can arise when launching a social venture.

LEARN MORE AT SPU.EDU/CSE, AND CONTACT PROGRAM ASSISTANT JEREMIAH HINTON (JHINTON@SPU.EDU) TO REFER POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS.



Matt Sigler

SoulCare

WESLEYAN SMALL GROUPS

Beginning Autumn Quarter 2016, all SPU undergraduates in required UFDN 1000 courses (Christian Faith) will participate in a Wesleyan Small Group.

Derived from SPU's Wesleyan/holiness heritage, these "SoulCare" small groups embody a practice in Christian formation that exposes students to Christian community.

The groups facilitate growth in awareness and love of self, neighbor, and God. Participants gather weekly to ask and answer the question, "How goes it with your soul?"

SoulCare is SPU's adapted version of these historical groups. They're not Bible studies, prayer groups, or groups guided by a curriculum. Rather, their main content is the state of one's soul — the deepest self, which lies underneath surface experiences and emotions, the self that is present to God.

Each one-hour, weekly meeting is led by a trained facilitator under the supervision of Seattle Pacific Seminary interns and SPU staff. This new program will have a significant impact on the spiritual climate of our campus on three levels:

1 First-Year Students: Incoming freshmen (approximately 600 per year) enroll in the first of SPU's three "Foundations" courses, UFDN 1000, taught by School of Theology faculty. SOT faculty have revised the curriculum for this course to focus on reconciliation, vocation, and spiritual formation. The required small groups are in many ways the glue that seeks to hold all three of these curricular objectives together as:

- Students become the curriculum;
- Participants learn to listen to "the other" in their midst; and
- Participants practice articulating the state of one's soul, which partners with an in-class autobiography project to help the students clarify their identity and missional purpose in life.

2 Leaders: Undergraduate juniors and seniors step into these volunteer Christian leadership positions to lead the small groups. Each leader receives significant mentoring and ongoing training on a broad range of topics via a one-credit course. They also benefit from the weekly interaction of being in a mentoring group led by their seminary intern. To meet the expected demand of this broad-scale program, we anticipate 56 small-group leaders per quarter — a significant opportunity for discipleship training and development at SPU.

3 Seminary Interns: A team of Seattle Pacific Seminary students will provide essential leadership to this program by recruiting and vetting group leaders, planning and implementing training for leaders, and providing ongoing mentoring to their cohort of leaders through weekly small groups and regular one-on-one interactions. These interns also receive extensive training in listening, reflecting, and asking appropriate questions, group dynamics, creating and maintaining a sacred and safe space, handling follow-up concerns, the history and theology of Wesleyan Small Groups and their connection to SPU's mission, cultural competence, and program management and implementation.

We believe this program will bear significant kingdom fruit, and we invite you to pray with us for it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: SPU.EDU/SOULCARE.



Newsletter for School of Theology Alumni and Friends

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