



Kingswood

“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



A Seminary Is (Re)Born (details inside)

Upcoming Events

Paul T. Walls Lecture in Wesleyan Theology

With Robert W. Wall, SPU's Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies

Thursday, April 7, 2011
Demaray Hall 150 (SPU campus)

Details at spu.edu/walls2011.

Embracing the (W)hole Gospel

A one-day conference at SPU with Richard Stearns, president, World Vision U.S., and Steve Haas, vice president/chief catalyst, World Vision U.S.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
SPU campus
Cost: \$25 (includes lunch and dinner)

For more information, email cbte@spu.edu.

Alumnus Spotlight



When 1998 SPU School of Theology graduate Clay Ryan declared his major in educational ministry, he didn't yet

understand how God would use it following graduation. What he did know was that God had planted in him a passion for adult education in Christian ministry. He has used the Christian education training he received at SPU not only in a broad array of volunteer capacities, but also in his current position at Amazon.com. As a business development representative at Amazon, he seeks to ensure that his business practices and interactions flow from the principles and Christ-centered life in which he was rooted during his time at SPU. "Students need to realize," he says, "that for some their theological education will lead to a related vocational calling and career path, while for others it will lead to an equally valid avocation, akin to Paul's supporting himself as a tentmaker while spreading the Word of God."

The Family of God in a Post-racial World: The Palmer Lecture Series

It was fitting that SPU Assistant Professor of Theology Brian Bantum should introduce the speaker for the 34th annual Alfred S. Palmer Lecture on January 27. The speaker was J. Kameron Carter, Ph.D., associate professor of theology and black church studies at Duke Divinity School. Nine years before, Bantum had been a student of Carter's in a class called "Race and Modernity." Carter also sat on Bantum's dissertation committee. "What Dr. J. Kameron Carter taught me," Bantum said in his introduction of Carter, "was that theology was not merely about the creativity of lifting words off the page, not just about the gut-ripping truth that it can give to us, but that at its heart theology is a communal activity, something that not only transforms the words but transforms the people with whom you do it."

Carter, author of the much acclaimed *Race: A Theological Account* (Oxford University Press, 2008), titled his lecture "Matthew's Melancholy, or The Scriptural Economy of Post-racial Identity According to Matthew Arnold." Taking as his text Arnold's poem "Dover Beach," his collection of essays titled *Culture and Anarchy*, and Daniel Defoe's poem "The True Born Englishman," Carter spoke of the meaning of "race" in a "post-racial" world — "a world of racism without races," where, he explained, the target of racism is not *bios*, or biological life, but *zoe*, the "totality of the cultural body politic." "Part of my work," he said, "has been to meditate on the procedures by which Christianity gets melded to a kind of western sensibility and establishes the normal — the normal that is the beautiful, the aesthetically right." The way Christianity does this, he says, is "by deeming the other, 'other.'"

We counteract this "normalizing Christianity" by the witness of Jesus in the world. Carter explained that in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), we must see ourselves not as the one showing mercy, but as the one in the ditch. "It's a different kind of missionary orientation — an orientation rooted in the blessings that are resident in



Kameron Carter

those that I'm meeting — because God has already reached them, even before I showed up." We should not ask how we can improve our Christianity, says Carter. "We need to take that question off the table and press the other question: what does it mean to follow the God who has embraced the world in Jesus Christ?"

Earlier that day, Carter spoke in Chapel on "Disruptive Redemption," centering on a book by Columbia University Professor Saidiya Hartman called *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*, which identifies the legacies of modern slavery as "the legacies of estrangement, of the stranger, the interruptions of kith and kin and family connections." "Even in our multicultural and our cosmopolitan moment and world," Carter explained, "slavery has made us all *obruni*, a Ghanaian term meaning 'strangers.'"

We are being called into a new family of belonging. "Jesus is telling us we are now woven inside a new structure of kith and kin, inside new bonds of who we take our people to be. He reorients the bloodlines." This is the Good News, Carter explains. "We now belong to God."

An annual event at SPU since 1978, the Palmer Lecture Series "seeks to bring the best minds and hearts in Wesleyan Theology and biblical studies to campus to discuss the Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective." The lectureship is held in honor of Alfred Palmer, a pastoral leader in Western Washington for over half a century.



Lectio Update: Matthew and Romans

After journeying through Genesis 1–Exodus 19 Autumn Quarter under the guidance of Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina, the SPU community and beyond explored the Gospel of Matthew during Winter Quarter. Associate Professor of Theology David Nienhuis, Ph.D., served as faculty guide for the 11-week series. Nienhuis is author of *Not by Paul Alone: The Formation of the Catholic Epistle Collection and the Christian Canon* (Baylor University Press, 2007).

Beginning March 28, Assistant Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo, Ph.D., will be leading us through a 12-week Spring Quarter study of Romans. In December 2010, Castelo was named a recipient of the prestigious Templeton Award for Theological Promise for his book *The Apathetic God: Exploring the Contemporary Relevance of Divine Impassibility* (Wipf and Stock, 2009).

To date, more than 2,600 people have subscribed to Lectio: Guided Bible Reading, and readers and podcast listeners come from 29 countries. For a free subscription to Lectio readings and podcasts, and information about the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, visit spu.edu/cbte.

On the left: David Nienhuis and Daniel Castelo

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 for the occasion that included this line: "Unite the pair so long disjointed, 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.



Alexander Hall, built in 1891

A Seminary Is (Re)Born

"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." — T.S. Eliot

One hundred twenty years ago, a tiny school was established on the north slope of Seattle's Queen Anne Hill by members of the Free Methodist Church. Its mission was to prepare students for Christian service around the world, and it was named Seattle Seminary. As Seattle Seminary grew over the years into a thriving institution of higher learning, it had several names, but in 1977 it became Seattle Pacific University. On February 16, 2011, the Seattle Pacific University Graduate Theology Program was officially renamed Seattle Pacific Seminary. As part of the School of Theology, Seattle Pacific Seminary is housed in Alexander Hall, the building that originally housed what is now Seattle Pacific University.

School of Theology Dean Doug Strong serves as dean of Seattle Pacific Seminary. Jeff Keuss, professor of Christian ministry, theology, and culture, serves as associate dean for recruitment, and Rick Steele, professor of moral and historical theology, serves as associate dean for curriculum.

Discipleship in the School of Theology

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," Jesus told the 11 in Matthew 28:19. Two millennia later, the Church still places primary importance on this command. The School of Theology actively participates in multiple facets of discipleship — including faculty-led discipleship groups, Wesleyan class meetings, and one-on-one mentorships.

Focusing particularly on discipleship groups, SOT faculty — including professors Daniel Castelo, Kerry Dearborn, Robert Drovda, Jeff Keuss, Sara Koenig, Doug Koskela, Mike Langford, David Nienhuis, Ed Smyth, Doug Strong, and others — fulfill SPU's mission to engage the culture and change the world. SOT faculty members believe that their personal investment in students in small-group settings maximizes students' growth and development so that they are best able to engage the world. "Who should be engaging the culture?" asks Professor of Educational Ministry Ed Smyth, who has disciplesd groups of men for 27 years. "Christians who happen to be academically trained in some professional way in their life," he replies, answering his own question. "I believe Christians who happen to be dentists, teachers, pastors (yes, pastors), biologists, etc., will have the greatest opportunity to change the world."

Not only do discipleship groups provide students an opportunity for growth in community, but they also shape the lives of teachers. "Small-group involvement deepens my awareness of the real issues with which students struggle," says Professor of Theological Studies Kerry Dearborn, "which enriches my prayer life and my ability to make more-helpful contextual connections when teaching in the classroom."

"Small-group involvement deepens my awareness of the real issues with which students struggle."

— Professor of Theological Studies Kerry Dearborn

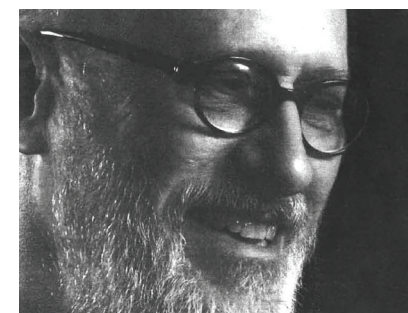
TSU Lectures: A Faithful Interpretation of Scripture; God's Role in Conversion

In February the SPU Theology Student Union (TSU) hosted two free public lectures on intriguing and important topics. Both drew large audiences. The first, on February 2, was titled "Reading Scripture in a Divided Church," and featured one of the world's leading scholars on the theological interpretation of the Bible — Stephen Fowl, Ph.D., professor of New Testament at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore. Fowl is co-author of *Reading in Communion* (Wipf & Stock, 1998), and author of *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture* (Cascade Books, 2004); *Philippians (Two Horizons New*

Testament Commentary) (Eerdmans, 2005); and *Engaging Scripture: A Model for Theological Interpretation* (Wipf & Stock, 2008).

Fowl spoke of the practices of forgiveness and reconciliation as "essential for engaging Scripture without dividing the Body of Christ" — a body that has been divided for more than 500 years.

Church division, he says, is the result, fundamentally, of a failure of love, and "is much more closely tied to a failure to maintain a certain form of common life rather than to irresolvable disputes over how to interpret this or that scriptural text."



Left to right: William J. Abraham, D.D., D.Phil., is professor of Wesley Studies in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Stephen Fowl, Ph.D., is professor of New Testament at Loyola University Maryland.

The second lecture was a look at "Divine and Human Action in Conversion" on February 14, featuring William J. Abraham, D.D., D.Phil. Abraham is the Albert C. Outler Professor of Wesley Studies in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He is the author of *Crossing the Threshold of Divine Revelation* (Eerdmans, 2007); *Canon and Criterion in Christian Theology* (Clarendon Press, 1998); and *The Logic of Evangelism* (Eerdmans, 1989).

In the light of John Wesley's systematic rejection of Calvinism as set forth in an essay titled "Predestination Calmly Reconsidered," Abraham focused on the conversion narrative of Tatiana Goricheva, a young student of philosophy in Leningrad who had had a live-transforming encounter with the living God while chanting the Lord's Prayer and doing yoga.

Abraham explained that Goricheva in describing her conversion used conventional "evangelical conversion" terminology, including "the wind of the Spirit blows where it wills," "being

born again," "second birth," "my heart was opened," and "new creation through grace alone."

Yet, he noted, "Tatiana Goricheva knew absolutely nothing of the world of conventional evangelical piety." In examining her "exclusivist causal language," Abraham then examined from a Wesleyan standpoint the question, "How might we begin to unravel ascriptions in which God and God alone is said to be the cause of our salvation?"

Created by SPU School of Theology students, the Theology Student Union is a student-run organization of undergraduate theology majors and minors who are "interested in reflecting and acting upon God's self-revelation to humanity, particularly as it relates to, critiques, and envelops our culture."

The TSU seeks to create a bond among School of Theology students through discussion and participation in events and forums inside and outside the classroom. SPU Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim serves as TSU advisor.

"A movement has started to bring alumni together to discuss the integration of faith into the workplace."



SBE/SOT Connect: Faith in Work

Husband and wife Tyler and Kimberlee Gorsline graduated from SPU in 2008. Kim works at a real estate office, and Tyler works in Admissions at SPU. They love to have fellow graduates over to their tiny condo for dinner and conversation.

One way or another, the conversation tends toward a discussion of lives as young professionals. A common trend in these conversations centers on how difficult it can be to apply the ethical truths learned at SPU to the circumstantial questions that arise in the workplace. Many of the Gorslines' friends who are School of Theology alums are currently employed in the business world, and many who studied in the School of Business are serving in ministry. Most, however, lie somewhere in between. Ultimately, these alumni long for the help of Christian community as they address day-to-day challenges.

A movement has started to bring young alumni together to discuss the integration of faith into the workplace. Many students took Christian Ethics or Business Ethics at SPU, and have a thirst for further perspective on these topics. SPU's School of Theology and School of Business and Economics hope to encourage their graduates (and others) to join together in groups for the purpose of refocusing through the help of community. They are calling this venture "SBE/SOT Connect."

Gatherings will consist of once-a-month small-group cadres for young alumni to network, reconnect with the university, and continue to refine how to live like Christ in the workplace. The community time will be guided by a short reading from theology or the business world.

If you are interested in becoming a part of SBE/SOT Connect or would like more information, email Jason Williams at jasonwilliams.seattle@gmail.com.



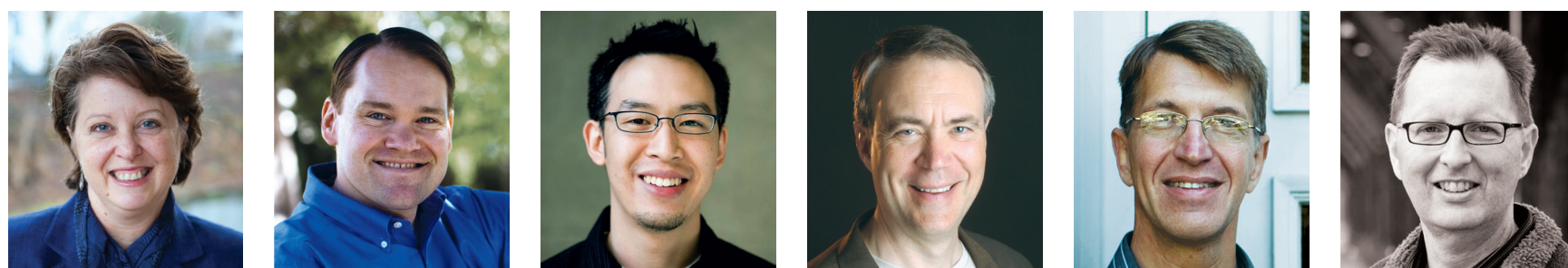
Kimberlee and Tyler Gorsline

Discernment Weekend

Is God calling me to a seminary education? If so, where should I go? What program is right for me? On February 25–26, the School of Theology facilitated a new event called "Discernment Weekend" for prospective students who were asking themselves these very questions. The goal for the weekend was to create an environment that would help them discern their vocation. Meeting faculty, staff, current students, ministry partners, and Dean of Theology Doug Strong, students encountered the educational community they would be joining at Seattle Pacific University.

Naming the event "Discernment Weekend" rather than "Interview Weekend" or "Experience Weekend" was intentional. While "interview" or "experience" implies that one must either interview well to earn entrance or simply perceive the benefits of the program, "discernment" points toward the will of God, both individually and corporately. The event was named "Discernment Weekend" to encourage this kind of reflection when prospective students consider entering the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Theology Program at Seattle Pacific. By the end of the weekend, 18 prospective students and their spouses had received information, interaction, prayer, and commissioning to discern God's will for their lives — in this program or otherwise. It was a blessed weekend for all.

By the end of the weekend, 18 prospective students and their spouses had received information, interaction, prayer, and commissioning to discern God's will for their lives



2011 Ministry in the Wesleyan Spirit speakers: The Rev. Celeste Cranston, Assistant Professor of Theology Doug Koskela, Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong, the Rev. Paul Olver, School of Theology Dean Doug Strong, and the Rev. Kevin Austin

Ministry in the Wesleyan Spirit

On February 3, more than 30 Free Methodist pastors attended the School of Theology's Sixth Annual Ministry in the Wesleyan Spirit Conference. An event designed to further John Wesley's distinctive, Spirit-led reformation of the 18th century in Free Methodist churches today, the conference addresses important and timely topics from a Wesleyan perspective. One of its primary purposes is to empower pastors to help their congregations navigate the spiritual challenges all congregations face. This year's conference included three sessions, each led by both a School of Theology professor and a local Free Methodist pastor.

In the first session, Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong and the Rev. Paul Olver of Rainier Avenue Free Methodist Church discussed "The Wesleyan call to Develop Multiethnic Ministry." Leong and Olver spoke in challenging ways about the racial division in our city today. Even though this division makes multiethnic ministry difficult, they said, it is a topic Christians must be willing to engage as a part of mission.

The second session was "The Wesleyan Mandate to Care for God's Creation," with Assistant Professor of Theology Doug Koskela and the Rev. Celeste Cranston, Director of SPU's Center of Biblical and Theological Education, and Pacific Northwest Conference Spokesperson for the Eden Reforestation Projects. Presenting a cogent biblical and theological case for creation care as an integral part of the Christian mission, Koskela and Cranston explained that those who pay the cost for the abuse of the earth's resources are not the wealthy or the middle class, but the poor. To care for creation, therefore, is to care for the poor.

In the final session, Doug Strong, Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of the History of Christianity; and the Rev. Kevin Austin, Director of Abolitionist Faith Community's Not for Sale Campaign and pastor of Lakeside Community Fellowship, presented "The Wesleyan Summons to Challenge Human Trafficking." Citing the fact that there are more slaves in the world today — an astounding 30 million — than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade, Strong and Austin invited pastors to partner with the Not for Sale Campaign so that we might re-abolish slavery in our time.



From The Dean

During SPU's 2011 Homecoming celebration in January, the School of Theology hosted its second annual complimentary alumni breakfast. What a great opportunity for alumni from different classes to come together in order to catch up with old friends, to reconnect with School of Theology faculty, to meet with people they hadn't known previously, and to find out about many of the happenings in the School. After eating, all the alumni had a time to share what they were doing and bring everyone up to date on their current activities. Tyler Gorsline (class of 2008) and Brooke Willis (class of 2009) made a presentation on the "SBE/SOT Connect" program (see the article about the program in this issue) — inviting all young alumni (classes 2001–10) to attend a monthly Connect group, where alumni will gather to network with one another for fellowship and to talk about the integration of faith and work in their lives.

The faculty and I enjoyed the chance to see so many of our alums. We're now planning the School of Theology alumni breakfast for the Saturday morning of next year's Homecoming in January 2012, and we hope that you'll join us!

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology



Sara Koenig

Undergraduate Major Capstone Course

A distinctive of the graduate program in theology at SPU is its threefold emphasis on Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate. While we believe that a graduate program needs to be academically rigorous, we also believe that our students need to be sent out into the surrounding community (as part of the apostolate), and to be formed and transformed in relationships with one another (as happens within a monastic abbey). These three

things are important for our undergraduate students. The academy is a given, and with SPU's motto of "Engaging the culture, changing the world," it seems natural to think about being sent out as apostles. But what is it about our undergraduate program that resembles an abbey? This past fall, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies Sara Koenig found the answer in a Capstone class she team-taught with Dean Doug Strong. Here is her report:

"Every student with a major in the School of Theology is required to take a 'Capstone' class at the end of his or her undergraduate education. This class asks the students to look back on what they have learned during their entire undergraduate career, and also look forward to their future vocation. The 10 seniors in this fall's class were amazing individuals. Their life experiences — both painful and joyful — had shaped them in profound ways. They felt called to different ministries: serving as a pastor in a church, being a light for God in the often dark and dangerous world of the military, working to increase dialogue between Christianity and other faiths, pursuing a doctorate in biblical studies, and becoming a marriage and therapy counselor.

"As the quarter progressed, they shared more and more of their life story with one another. One week, everyone confessed a particular fear or sin in their lives, and the rest of the class responded by saying, 'In Jesus' name, you are forgiven.' In another class session each person identified a specific prayer request, and another person in the class volunteered to pray for that request during the following week. One student began the quarter by observing that the assignments seemed much more personal than those in his other classes. The same student wrote later in the quarter that his spiritual disciplines included participating in 'the Capstone community of worship.' Throughout the quarter, we were transformed from a class into a community, where the different members grew to appreciate one another and see one another as sisters and brothers in Christ."

Parachurch Tuition Benefit Program

While many local congregations heed the call of serving local communities and sending missionaries to the ends of the earth, parachurch organizations seek similar ends outside church walls. Typically crossing denominational lines, these organizations engage in both social welfare and evangelism. Providing further opportunity to connect with local Christian organizations, the School of Theology is pleased to announce the Parachurch Tuition Benefit Program. The program offers a 50 percent discount on tuition for full-time and part-time staff employed at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, The Navigators, Young Life, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade for Christ, and World Vision, allowing Seattle Pacific University to become a competitive destination for parachurch employees seeking further education. This attractive proposal presents new opportunities for local parachurch organizations to allow employees access to a seminary education, simultaneously allowing SPU to become an affordable destination for parachurch employees seeking further education.

School of Theology Dean and Associate Professor Receive Tenure

The granting of tenure is a significant event for both a university and a professor. Whenever a university grants tenure to a professor, it indicates a mutual commitment: the university's long-term commitment to encourage the instruction and research of the professor, and the professor's commitment to further the mission of the university. Thus, the School of Theology is pleased to announce that David Nienhuis, SPU associate professor of New Testament studies; and Doug Strong, SPU School of Theology dean and professor of the history of Christianity, have been granted tenure. Dr. Strong, an ordained United Methodist pastor who has served as dean of the School of Theology since 2007, earned his master of divinity and doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Nienhuis earned his master of divinity from Duke University Divinity School and his doctorate from the University of Aberdeen.



David Nienhuis



Doug Strong