



Kingswood

Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
WINTER 2015

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

2015 PALMER LECTURE:

"How to Eat Till We are Full: Idolatry and Ways to Avoid It"

Dr. Stephen Fowl
SPU Theologian in Residence
Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m.
Upper Gwinn, SPU Campus

HOMEcomings 2015 HIGHLIGHT:

Dave Nienhuis on Matthew
Saturday, February 7, 9:30 a.m.,
First Floor, Alexander Hall,
SPU campus

Join us for the School of Theology Alumni Breakfast. This will be an opportunity for undergraduate and Seminary alumni and spouses to fellowship over a complimentary breakfast with School of Theology faculty and to hear a brief presentation on the Gospel of Matthew by Associate Professor of New Testament Studies Dr. Dave Nienhuis.

Don't miss this opportunity! RSVP to Laurie Collins at theology@spu.edu or 206-281-2136 by January 17.

SERVING ALONGSIDE:

A Conversation on Homelessness (for Local Congregations)

Thursday, February 26,
12-1:30 p.m.
Fine Center
First Free Methodist Church
3200 Third Avenue West
(adjacent to campus)

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
EMAIL CBTE@SPU.EDU.

2015 Walls Lecture

Dr. Doug Koskela
SPU Associate Professor
of Theology
Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
First Free Methodist Church
3200 Third Avenue West
(adjacent to campus)

2015 School of Theology Book Celebration

Featuring book reviews of recent SOT publications
Thursday, May 21, 3 p.m.
First Free Methodist Church
3200 Third Avenue West
(adjacent to campus)

Alexander Hall: Restored and Reopened

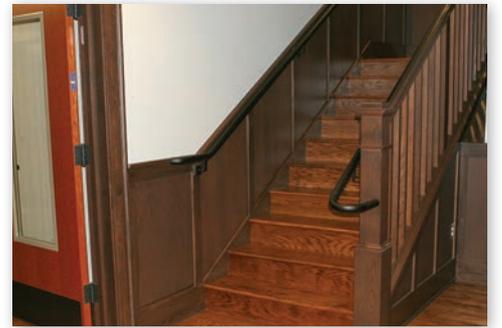
SPU's iconic Alexander Hall officially reopened October 29 — the 123rd anniversary of its original groundbreaking in 1891— following an exhaustive restoration, to the applause of faculty, staff, and students present for the opening celebration.

Alexander Hall is central to the story of Seattle Pacific University, a place begun in the hearts and minds of Pacific Northwest Free Methodists with a vision to establish a space for Christian education and influence for our world. As one of the oldest buildings on Queen Anne Hill, it was placed on the Washington State Register of Historic Places in 1972. The City of Seattle designated Alexander a historic landmark in 2014.

The restoration, an answer to the city's concerns about the structural integrity of brick-and-mortar facilities of this era, included a seismic retrofit; interior improvements such as upgraded heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; new restrooms; the installation of an elevator; and an interior aesthetic design that reflects the period of original construction. Alexander Chapel has undergone alterations to accommodate the building's new steel frame, but the stained glass windows remain and, where feasible, existing masonry is exposed.

The \$7 million campaign to restore Alexander Hall is well on its way to being funded, thanks to a \$2.5 million gift from SPU Board of Trustees member Becky Gilliam '80, whose family ties with SPU span more than a century, and other gifts from board members, alumni, friends, and those who recognize the importance of securing Alexander's presence and meaning for the SPU campus.

Alexander Hall presently houses 35 faculty offices for SPU's School of Theology, Seattle Pacific Seminary, and the departments of History and Sociology.



UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

Mike Zosel '10 and Rebekah Boettcher Zosel '11



Mike and Rebekah Zosel know what it's like to be people of the earth.

A 2010 theology graduate, Mike says his first encounter with poverty came during an Urban Plunge homeless experience at SPU — wandering the streets, panhandling, and looking for hot meals. Now he works at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, where he witnesses both the brokenness and the beauty of life on the street.

"When I got out of the comfortable environment I was so well-acclimated to, I was flabbergasted to discover just how messed up it is out there, even in my own city," he says. "But my many meaningful encounters with God's children have brought me closer to God's heart."

His wife, Rebekah, has had her own encounters. A 2011 educational ministry graduate, she spent a year as a naturalist in an outdoor science school program and now teaches pre-kindergarten at the Seattle Learning Center.

"I've learned some of the many effects a person's experiences in the first five years can have on their trajectory

and just how impactful work with this population can be," she says.

Now, the couple aims to put their feet-on-the-ground experience to work at Tierra Nueva ("New Earth"), a ministry in Skagit County, Washington, and Honduras. Started in 1982 by SPU alumni Bob and Gracie Ekblad '82, Tierra Nueva shares the freedom of the Gospel with those on the margins — immigrants, inmates, ex-offenders, and the homeless.

Mike and Rebekah prayed for over a year before committing to join Tierra Nueva in September 2015. They're currently learning Spanish, fundraising, and working toward certificates in transformational ministry at the margins.

"Tierra Nueva has gone far and wide to receive the spiritual treasures of the Church and put them to work on behalf of the poor," the Zosels say. "We've never experienced this holism...it's magnetic and near-impossible to resist."

Follow and support the Zosels in ministry, and learn more about Tierra Nueva at themzosels.com.

UNDERGRADUATE & SEMINARY ALUMNA

Jodi Gatlin, '14

For the **Rev. Jodi Gatlin**, the process of reconciliation is about relationships, not programs.

As senior associate pastor of Lakeview Free Methodist Church in Seattle, Gatlin's ministry includes helping her English-speaking fellowship to build a shared life with a Spanish-speaking church based in the same building.

"Programs do not bring people together," she says of potlucks and other church-based events designed to draw members of both congregations. "You may get those two groups to be at the same event in the same room, but they don't interact with one another."

Instead, says Gatlin, the two churches have found reconciled ground by focusing on relationships over events. "One of the things that I'm really using my reconciliation degree for," she says, "is learning...how important it is to establish relationships and shared

experiences that require us to depend on one another."

Traveling together, for example, or informal moments like sharing a meal in a private home rather than the church building, have been arenas for establishing mutuality across cultural lines, she says. For her part, studying Spanish and learning how to preach with interpretation have helped in bridge-building as well.

"It's incredibly challenging," she says of preaching with an interpreter. "I'm not good at it yet. It's one of those things that's going to take practice."

Gatlin earned her bachelor's degree in theology at SPU in 2006 and completed dual Seattle Pacific Seminary degrees in divinity and in reconciliation and intercultural studies in 2014. Of her graduate degrees, she says the interplay between the two curricula helped to prepare her for



leading the church in its cross-cultural conversations.

"My MDiv degree has really given me a solid theological and liturgical foundation," she says. But the reconciliation degree "helped me to understand better the relational aspects of working in the church and working with people of different cultures."

As to the two churches, "We're learning to live together," she says, "in this complicated, messy relationship" that comes with following God's lead into a shared life.

Gatlin and her husband, Tim, live in Lynnwood, Washington.

SPU Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina, PhD, led a September 5 seminar on Genesis.

More than 80 participants gathered on the SPU campus to explore these key texts, which are foundational to the rest of the Bible, speaking to creation and the election of Israel's ancestors when creation needs restoration.

Topics included the nature of creation; God's engaging of the created order; the nature and role of humanity; the themes of sin, judgment, and grace; and the rescuing of God's people.

DR. FRANK SPINA LEADS LECTIO SEMINAR:

"What It Means to Be God's People"



CBTE Grants: An Update

The Center for Biblical and Theological Education is administering two new grants in the 2014–15 academic year, both of which provide internship opportunities for Seattle Pacific Seminary students.



Vision & Call Grant: The Murdock Discipleship Fellows

To say that the inaugural cohort of the Murdock Discipleship Fellows jumped into ministry with both feet would be an understatement.

Following 30 hours of intensive training in September, Jake Carlson, Erica Cox, Dae Shik Kim, and Brady Rector began leading two small groups each, serving 40 undergraduate students in University Foundations 1000. The groups have met weekly to discuss the question, “How goes it with your soul?”— a Wesleyan prompt which encourages students to reflect on where God has been at work in their lives. By the end of this academic year, Fellows will serve up to 400 undergraduate students in similar small groups. These additional groups will be led by a team of 26 student leaders, who will be mentored and trained by the MDF cohort.

Fellows participate in weekly staff meetings for the purpose of mutual care, program planning, and additional training. Additionally, as part of a yearlong conversation about the nature of vocation, Fellows meet monthly with Christian leaders from a variety of settings in order to hear about their journeys of vocational discernment. Fall highlights included conversations with SPU President Dr. Dan Martin and Joan Mussa, senior vice president of World Vision U.S.



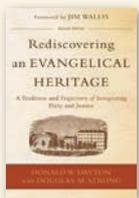
Business as a Holy Calling: Kern Family Foundation Grant

Most adults spend the majority of their waking hours at work. For some, work represents the most rewarding possible use of their time, while for others it is a significant source

of stress and worry. Many Christians struggle to connect the challenges of their work to the purpose inherent in the practice of their faith. As part of the University’s ongoing interest in issues relating to faith and work, Seattle Pacific Seminary has partnered with the Kern Family Foundation and SPU’s Center for Integrity in Business to create Communities of Practice. These groups, comprising church and business leaders, engage in conversations focused on how business can be conceived of and lived as a *holy calling*.

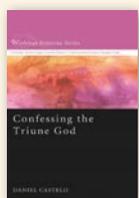
This fall, seminarians Cory Adam Baker, Kendrick Barnes, Judy Naegli, and Katie Stats joined with local pastors, business leaders, and program key leader Dr. Tim Dearborn to form the initial group. Those conversations will inform the seminarians as they prepare to take the conversation into the larger community and lead their own groups in 12 local churches in the winter and spring. SPU will also host quarterly community gatherings for participants to share stories and best practices. This multiplying model could have a significant impact on the Seattle community and will further demonstrate SPU’s ongoing commitment (thanks to the School of Business, Government, and Economics) to explore the intersections of faith, economics, and business, as well as lead others to do the same.

School of Theology Faculty Books



Rediscovering an Evangelical Heritage: A Tradition and Trajectory of Integrating Piety and Justice (2nd Edition)

By Donald Dayton and School of Theology Dean and Professor of the History of Christianity Douglas Strong
(Baker Publishing, 2014)



Confessing the Triune God

By Associate Professor of Dogmatic and Constructive Theology Daniel Castelo
(Wipf and Stock, 2014)

See all School of Theology faculty books at spu.edu/SOTbooks.

Seattle Pacific Seminary's Discernment Weekend 2015

The Seattle Pacific Seminary Discernment Weekend in November was a rich time of vocational exploration, spiritual discernment, and academic study.

The participants represented a variety of home towns, vocational backgrounds, and interests. Two nurses who came to the weekend asked very deep and thoughtful questions about the intersection of nursing and theology — especially poignant with Ebola in the news and the concerns for nurses who care for these patients in the U.S. Another participant recently lost a job and was considering a significant career change. One was a full-time nanny, another a building manager, and another a musician. Some participants were finishing up their undergraduate degrees, and all were involved in ministry.

Though each person came to the weekend with a unique background, the common thread uniting them was a love for God and hunger to serve God and God’s people. The way that God can take a group of strangers and knit them together is a miraculous and wonderful gift. It is amazing to see how God calls people from all sorts of journeys and places in life. Throughout the event, which was filled with dialogue, teaching, and reflection, the participants explored how God may be calling them, as well as whether Seattle Pacific Seminary is the place to further pursue that call.

Seminary studies can be a time of vigorous academic inquiry, as well as profound spiritual growth when nurtured in a caring community. Seattle Pacific Seminary offers an intentional balance of academics, spiritual formation, and opportunities for service. We call this our “Triple A” model: Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate. Each piece of this model is woven into our curriculum, identity, and community.

If you are considering seminary, we invite you to join us for our next Discernment Weekend, February 20–21, 2015. Check out spu.edu/seminary or email seminary@spu.edu for more information.



Guatemalan Journey

Twelve Seattle Pacific seminarians traveled throughout Guatemala in June for a cross-cultural immersion experience. They were accompanied by Celeste Cranton, director of the Center for Biblical and Theological Education; her husband, Gary; and Rich Rice, Nancy Melendez, and Nancy Utt of WIND of God, the sponsoring organization.

Two weeks of stretching, heart-rending encounters engaged the hearts, souls, minds, and strength of the group. It was a journey of contrasts: One day they visited megachurch *Fraternidad Cristiana de Guatemala* with its armed guards and 15,000-seat auditorium, and the next day, the sprawling, horrific city dump where thousands forage for anything to sell in order to live. They took in dozens of opportunities to learn from the culture. One highlight was the hospitality the group received in the high-mountain village of Cajixay, a rebuilt community previously devastated by the 30-year civil war.

Seminarians’ reflections on the experience demonstrated a deep solidarity with the suffering they witnessed and an earnest willingness to examine their lives and ministries in response.



Above: SPS students in Guatemala. Right: Seminarian Sarah Keough makes boxbol, a traditional Guatemalan dish with corn and güisquil leaves, with a local woman during the Cajixay visit. This photo, by seminarian Brian Gregory, won the Go Overseas study abroad “Faces in Places” photo contest.





From the Dean

In the School of Theology, we are always interested in increasing the prominence of theological engagement in the church. One way to enhance theological discussion in today's society is, of course, through social media. Consequently, we are excited to announce the development of a new online site called *SignPosts*, specifically devoted to dialogue on current issues through a theological perspective.

SignPosts represents the virtual community of Seattle Pacific Seminary. The space will be devoted to telling stories, sharing announcements, curating articles, and convening conversations on the intersection of faith, theology, church, and contemporary context. It is a space that we hope will expand horizons, inspire reflection, and provide glimpses of what N.T. Wright calls "signposts" of God's new creation, converging into our present, as seen through the lives of the students and faculty of Seattle Pacific Seminary. We hope you'll check out *SignPosts* at spu.edu/signposts.

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology

NEWS FROM SOT

Stephen Fowl Joins School of Theology



Dr. Stephen Fowl has joined the School of Theology faculty as the 2014–15 Theologian in Residence. Fowl began his academic career at Loyola University Maryland, a Jesuit institution, where he continues to serve as a professor of theology and where he chaired its highly regarded theology faculty for many years. Most recently, he chaired the entire Loyola faculty during a season of transition and turmoil — a role he happily stepped down from this summer — before beginning his sabbatical at SPU.

In 1998, he authored *Engaging Scripture: An Essay in Theological Interpretation*, which, according to SPU's Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall, "more than any other book signaled the 'official' beginning of an international movement in biblical studies called theological interpretation of scripture.

"Fifteen years later, the growing influence of Stephen's original treatise among theologians and scripture scholars has been stunning, not only upon how professional scholars study and teach the Bible, but in

turn how they prepare the church's clergy to teach and preach the Bible as God's word for God's people," Wall says. "All graduates of Seattle Pacific Seminary cut their teeth in biblical studies by working their way through Stephen's masterful little book *Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Conversion experiences follow."

Fowl is team-teaching courses with Wall and will deliver this year's Palmer Lecture on January 22. Fowl is a 1983 *summa cum laude* graduate of Wheaton College. He received his doctorate in biblical studies at the University of Sheffield in 1987.

Old Testament Professor Serving as Interim University Chaplain



For the next two to three years, Bo Lim, associate professor of Old Testament, has agreed to serve as SPU's interim university chaplain, giving leadership to the University Ministries team and the John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development, and serving as a member of the Deans' Cabinet.

"Bo brings to this position a deep appreciation for Scripture, a commitment to worship, a heart for ethnic and racial reconciliation, a pastor's heart and pastoral experience, and a passion for serving our students," says Provost Jeff Van Duzer. "I am very excited about Bo's willingness to serve in this way and am eager to see where God will take us as he gives leadership to this extremely important aspect of our campus life."

Lim has been at SPU since 2006 and is currently seeking ordination in the Evangelical Covenant Church. Before coming to SPU, he served as a pastor to Korean-American congregations in Northern California and taught at North Park University. At SPU, he has taught University Foundations courses and Bible electives and served as a faculty advisor to the Asian American Ministry Program.

Exploring the Role of Women in Ministry

On November 13, 100 undergraduate students, seminarians, and guests gathered on the SPU campus to discuss the important role women play in the Church at the event "Knowing Their Place: A Conversation in Support of Women in Ministry."

Sponsored by SPU's Center for Biblical and Theological Education and Theology Student Union, the seminar featured five panelists: Dr. Daniel Castelo, SPU associate professor of dogmatic and constructive theology; Rev. Erika Haub, associate pastor, Shoreline Covenant Church; Dr. Shannon Smythe, SPU alumna, adjunct professor, and author; Rev. Nancy Sugikawa, associate pastor, Lighthouse Christian Church; and Rev. Brian Wiele, lead pastor, River Ridge Covenant Church.

According to Kierstin Brown, a member of the Theology Student Union and co-moderator for the event, the evening aimed to keep the conversation on women's place in ministry at the forefront of theological discussion.

For Castelo, women being actively involved in the Church in a visible way is a taste of what the kingdom of heaven is like. "Visualization and embodiment of [women in leadership] are very important. It registers something if one has an experience of seeing women in those kinds of capacities," he says.

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