



Friday @ the Center: January 19, 2007

What is a Theology of Reconciliation?

What does it mean for faculty that SPU is seriously committed to reconciliation? What are the theological roots of that commitment? Join your colleagues at a brown-bag lunch on Tuesday, January 23, from 1 to 1:50 in the Library Seminar Room, to discuss these issues. A panel made up of Kerry Dearborn, Dave Nienhuis, and Tali Hairston will discuss reconciliation theology and its impact on the classroom. Coffee and cookies will be provided. This will be a great follow-up to John Perkins' chapel address that morning. This event is co-sponsored by the Diversity Committee and the Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development.

Strange Quarter

Given the fact that we are already at the end of our third week of class, and we have yet to have a "normal" week of school, we all face atypical pedagogical challenges this quarter. With only seven weeks to go in our all-too-brief quarters, we face issues of readjusting our syllabi to make up for lost time as well as difficulties in helping our classes to bond, or form cohesive learning units. With respect to the first problem, you may need to drop some material from the course, however difficult that might be. Another alternative might be to try to make up time by using the resources of Blackboard or other on-line learning tools. Perhaps you could move an exam from a class period to online, thus giving yourself one more class session. With respect to the bonding problem, it's helpful to acknowledge this difficulty with the class and together discuss how you might overcome the "strangeness" of this quarter.

Faculty Research Grants Due Feb. 1

SPU has three grant programs designed to support research, scholarship, writing, and creative activity. The **Faculty Research Grant** is open to all applicants, but priority in awards is given to pre-tenured faculty; The **Senior Faculty Grant** requires that the applicant be a tenured faculty member; and the **Lilly SERVE Faculty Grant in Vocation** requires a project that is related to the concept of vocation. All three programs can provide funds for reduced teaching load, travel, equipment, student assistants, and other research-related activities. Applications for all internal SPU grants to support work during the 2007-08 academic year are due **Feb. 1, 2007**. Go to <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/scholarshipops.asp> for a complete description of each program and application forms.

Plagiarism Prevention: Tip #3

Require students to turn in different parts of a writing assignment as they move through the process. For example, you might require an initial paragraph description, a rough draft, and a final draft—turned in over two to three weeks. Part of the final evaluation of the writing project could be based on the degree of improvement and development through these stages. It's also useful to require students to submit brief abstracts or summaries of their secondary sources a week before a longer research paper might be due. Writing a concise summary is a useful skill to develop; students will need to have their secondary research finished ahead of time; summing up an article concentrates the mind wonderfully; and you can check later to see how the sources are incorporated into the paper.

Dreaming of sunny skies,

Susan

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