



Kingswood CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Upcoming Events

Wesleyan Theological Society
and Society for Pentecostal Studies
Present

"Holiness"



Plenary speakers:
Walter Brueggemann
Daniela C. Augustine
Thomas B. Dozeman
Bruce D. Marshall

Thursday–Saturday,
March 21–23, 2013
SPU campus

Discernment Weekend For Prospective Seminarians



Friday–Saturday, November 2–3
1 p.m.–1 p.m.
SPU campus and beyond
Cost: \$25

Homecoming Alumni Breakfast With SOT Faculty

Gather with Dean Doug Strong,
theology faculty members, and other
theology alumni.

Saturday, January 26, 2013
9:30 a.m.
Kingswood House, 303 W. Dravus
Cost: Free

For more information about these and other
events, email theology@spu.edu.

A Theology of Belonging and the Church

At this year's Alfred S. Palmer Lecture in Wesleyan studies on January 12, the Rev. Dr. John Swinton spoke on "From Inclusion to Belonging: A Practical Theology of Disability and Humanness."

In his talk, Swinton raised the question of what it means to belong and not just be included — especially for those we label "different":

Think of it this way: Human beings are not simply included within creation; they *belong* to God's creation. When you belong, people long for your presence in the same way the Prodigal Son's father longed for the presence of the wayward son, in the same way that God longs for us to return to God's heart.

To be included you just need to be present. To belong you need to be *missed*. And that's the fundamental principal that lies behind authentic Christian community for all people.

Swinton, who holds B.D. (bachelor of divinity), Ph.D., R.M.N. (registered mental nurse), and R.N.M.D. (registered nurse for people with learning disabilities) degrees, is chair in Divinity and Religious Studies, professor in practical theology and pastoral care, and director of the Centre for Spirituality, Health, and Disability at King's College, University of Aberdeen. Ordained in the Church of Scotland, he has a strong commitment to supporting the work of the church around the world. His research and writing, including a dozen books, focus on practical theology, pastoral care, mental health studies, disability

theology, and the question of humanness.

Swinton's visit to SPU, during which he gave eight presentations, was sponsored by the School of Theology; School of Psychology, Family, and Community; and School of Health Sciences. "To miss one another means to learn what it means to love with the passion of Jesus," he told his audience. "And perhaps that is a good definition of the calling of the church."

"We were thrilled to have him here," said Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology and Culture Jeff Keuss, a longtime friend of Swinton's. "What he offered was a way for us to embrace who we are at SPU — a university that sees God working through all its disciplines — and to come together around a common question: 'What does it mean to belong?' And he did that in droves."



John Swinton

"To be included you just need to be present. To belong you need to be *missed*."

— John Swinton

Pizza and Politics; Called and Gifted

Two recent panel discussions co-sponsored by SOT and CBTE sought to help the SPU community engage with contemporary issues facing the church. On April 26, students, faculty, staff, and members of First Free Methodist Church gathered for "Pizza and Politics," an event focusing on hot-button election issues for Christians, including the national debt and foreign affairs. Spanning the political spectrum, panelists included SPU political science professors Ruth Ediger and Caleb Henry, and Shaun Casey, professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary. With more than 85 people in attendance, the event engendered rigorous, animated, and respectful civil discourse, along with a good dose of laughter.

On May 10, another panel discussion — "Called and Gifted: A Conversation in Support of Women in Ministry" — drew more than 100. CBTE Director Celeste Cranston moderated the discussion, which featured Seattle pastors Gail Song Bantum (Quest Church) and Scott Gronholz (Bethany Presbyterian Church), SOT professors Sara Koenig and Dave Nienhuis, and Caenisha Warren from SPU's Perkins Center. The result of new SOT initiatives aimed at supporting and encouraging young women who are discerning calls into vocational ministry or further theological study, the event offered wisdom, candor, and an exhortation to the church to do more to level the gender playing field.



Left to right: Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sara Koenig, Perkins Center Coordinator for Events and Student Clubs Caenisha Warren, and Associate Professor of New Testament Studies David Nienhuis. (Photo courtesy of Haley Stokes.)

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 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.

Reading and Teaching Isaiah for the Church

The week of July 9, Associate Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim taught a course on campus titled “Reading and Teaching Isaiah for the Church.” Sponsored by SPU’s Center for Biblical and Theological Education and Seattle Pacific Seminary, the class was especially targeted to pastors, other church leaders, and theology students, and was available for continuing education credit, Seattle Pacific Seminary credit, or no credit. Lim led the 14 students in the interpretive practice of a close reading of Isaiah, exploring how this powerful and prophetic text can speak to today’s church. “Isaiah is a Jewish book,” says Lim:

Christians are not to read the Old Testament exclusively for how it prophecies of Jesus or the church. Certainly the early church didn’t do so; for them the Old Testament was assumed to be sacred scripture for the church, and they didn’t feel the need to “Christianize” it at every turn. The point to be made is that part of the task of reading Isaiah as Christian gospel is to understand it as Israelite prophecy.

One objective of the class was to prepare church leaders to lead their congregations in a study of Isaiah in the fall, when the Center for Biblical and Theological Education offers a Lectio series on Isaiah, led by Lim. For more information on the class and Lectio, a free online resource, visit spu.edu/cbte.



Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim

“It may be the case that the mystical element of Christianity is now flourishing within its global forms. If so, then those of us in the academy who are sympathetic to seeing these divisions healed have cause to celebrate and rejoice.”

— Daniel Castelo, *“Pentecostalism as a Christian Mystical Tradition”*



Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo

mystical element of Christianity is now flourishing within its global forms. If so, then those of us in the academy who are sympathetic to seeing these divisions healed have cause to celebrate and rejoice.”

On March 22, he lectured on the same topic at the London School of Theology. On April 23, as part of a Systematic Theology Seminar facilitated by John Webster, one of today’s most prominent English-speaking theologians, Castelo spoke at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, on “Canon and Creed as Creaturely and Pneumatological Prompts of the Christian Imagination.”

On May 25, he spoke at Durham University, whose Department of Theology and Religion is ranked first in the U.K. Castelo again lectured on Pentecostalism as a mystical tradition, relating both constructively and critically the Pentecostal notion of “subsequence” — the belief that baptism in the Holy Spirit usually follows the experience of conversion, or “new birth” — to the broader account of mystical progression in the Christian spiritual life.

In addition to the U.K. lectures, on May 17 Castelo lectured in Dayton, Ohio, at a “Theology, Eucharist, and Ministry” conference sponsored by United Theological Seminary. Speaking to Wesleyan/Methodist theologians from around the country, Daniel addressed the dogmatic interplay of the Christian doctrine of creation and the theology of the Lord’s Supper “in a Wesleyan key.”

Castelo Lectures in the UK and Ohio

Thanks to funding from the Templeton Award for Theological Promise he received last December, Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo recently presented four lectures in the U.K. On March 20, he lectured on “Pentecostalism as a Christian Mystical Tradition: Some Preliminary and Constructive Considerations,” at the Research Institute in Systematic Theology (RIST) at King’s College London. In the lecture, he argued for considering Pentecostalism as a branch of the mystical tradition, “as a way of negotiating Pentecostalism’s Christian identity in a fashion that can grant it more internal and external coherence.” He concluded his lecture with these words: “It may be the case that the

Alumnus Spotlight

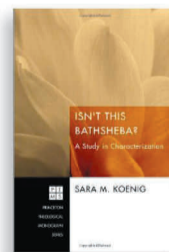
Don Jaques graduated from SPU in 1991 with a B.A. in Christian Education. In 1998, he earned an M.A. in Theological Studies from George Fox Evangelical Seminary. Don is both the pastor for Christ the King Community Church in Oak Harbor, Washington, and the director of Network Resources, which supports worship centers in Washington and internationally.

A careful reading of Scripture and keeping Jesus at the center of faith have been central to Don’s pastoral ministry from his days at SPU. Don has been married for 20 years to his wife, Anne, and loves to cycle, run, or hike the beaches around his home on Whidbey Island.



Don Jaques ’91

Recent SOT Faculty Books



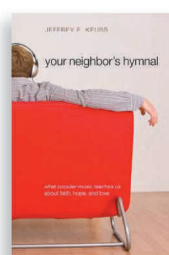
Isn't This Bathsheba?
A Study in Characterization
By Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sara Koenig
(Pickwick, 2011)

“Koenig brings Bathsheba to life in all her depth and complexity.”
— Jeremy Schipper, Temple University



Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life
By Professor of New Testament Studies John (Jack) Levison
(Paraclete Press, 2012)

“[Levison] sets little-known biblical passages on fire and drills down to unimagined depths in well-known ones.”
— N.T. Wright



Your Neighbor's Hymnal: What Popular Music Teaches Us About Faith, Hope, and Love
By Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeffrey Keuss (Wipf and Stock, 2011)

“A fantastic example of how pop culture can serve as a deep source of theological reflection.”
— Michael W. DeLashmutt, Co-Chair,
Network for Religion and Popular Culture

To see all School of Theology faculty books, visit spu.edu/SOTbooks.

“The Salvation of a ‘Sinister Kid’”

On May 2, Rob Wall, SPU’s Paul T. Walls professor of Scripture and Wesleyan studies, presented the annual Walls Lecture in Wesleyan Theology to a gathering of church leaders and other community members, faculty, staff, and students. Wall took the title of his lecture — “The Salvation of a ‘Sinister Kid’: Romans 7:14–25” — from a 2010 song by the Black Keys.

Wall discussed the identity of the “wretched man” of Romans 7:7–24, a difficult and much-disputed passage. This tortured soul is overpowered by sin, unable to resist temptation. “I am doing the very thing I hate” (7:15). That man, Wall told his audience, is like the Black Keys’ “Sinister Kid”:

That’s me, that’s me
The boy with the broken halo
That’s me, that’s me
The devil won’t let me be.

But who is this wretched man, asked Wall? Luther and Calvin claimed it was the post-conversion Paul, whose sin had been forgiven,

who had through Jesus’ atoning death and resurrection been justified, but who nevertheless continued to be caught in an ever-repeating cycle of sin, repentance, and forgiveness.

That reading, however, “is at odds with [Roman 7’s] plain sense,” Wall asserted:

There are good reasons for thinking that the first person of this passage is neither Paul nor even a Christian. In the first place, the big-ticket idea of Romans 5–8 is that the believer is no longer an old self but a new one, freed from sin’s power and raised with Christ to live a Spirit-filled life. Moreover, Paul’s prior story in Acts makes it clear that he never experiences what Romans 7 describes — a point he repeatedly makes in his letters, where he describes himself as having a clear conscience, blameless under the law (2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:2; Philippians 3:6).

Yet Paul uses the first-person pronoun throughout Romans 7:7–14 — e.g., “For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing

what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate (7:15).” Why would Paul use the first person if he is not referring to himself? “Wall’s answer:

Paul writes in the first person as a rhetorical device to impersonate the old self, Adam’s child, whose futile attempt to use Scripture without the Spirit results in sin’s triumph and a deep sense of spiritual failure contrary to life with the risen Christ.

This is both an Arminian and a Wesleyan argument, Wall explained, concurring with James Arminius’ and, a century later, John Wesley’s claim that the Luther/Calvin reading is actually a barrier to the Holy Spirit’s work of sanctification.

For Wesley, salvation is cooperative and always participatory. As Paul reminds Titus and us, the grace of God has appeared to educate us about salvation so that we might choose to live godly lives.

This is the theological rubric Wesley wraps around Romans 7.



Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall

To listen to a podcast of “The Salvation of a ‘Sinister Kid,’” along with a response from the Rev. Tony Robinson, visit spu.edu/itunes.

Podcasts of Walls Lectures from previous years — with titles that range from “Empire, Church, Missio Dei: Praying for Our Kings” to “Ride the Wooden Horse: Wesleyan advice for the Day” — are also available at spu.edu/itunes.



Brenda Salter McNeil

Reconciliation Studies in the School of Theology

Radical reconciliation is a signature commitment at Seattle Pacific University. First embodied in the establishment of the John Perkins center in 2003, this commitment continues in the School of Theology with the creation of a Reconciliation Studies Minor for undergraduates in 2010 and, beginning Autumn Quarter 2012, Seattle Pacific University’s new M.A. in Theology — Reconciliation and Intercultural Studies Track. Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies Brenda Salter McNeil, one of the leading experts on reconciliation in the country, is the coordinator of both the undergraduate minor and the Seminary track. “I am excited to teach at SPU,” says Salter McNeil, “because interacting with students in the classroom creates a living laboratory to develop the next generation of reconciliation leaders.”

SPU’s approach begins with the belief that reconciliation work is fundamentally a participation in the reconciling work of God, “who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). SOT’s programs view practicing radical reconciliation as an integral part of what it means to be followers of Jesus.

While the programs are housed in the School of Theology, both are also interdisciplinary. The Reconciliation Studies Minor is designed to benefit students from any major, and includes courses from Sociology, Women’s Studies, English, Communications, and History.

Students minoring in Reconciliation Studies are modeled reconciliation work through courses that are co-taught, and students take an off-campus capstone course to practice their skills in an internship.

A student who graduated this spring reflected on the Reconciliation Studies Minor:

I have learned a new perspective on God’s heart for the nations and have become more aware of the ignorance I had concerning the deep hurts of individuals, and the importance of addressing historical hurts and cultural tendencies.

Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn, former chair of SPU’s Diversity Committee, was foundational in creating the minor and M.A. track. According to Dearborn,

Reconciliation is not an optional extra that only some Christians might find compelling. Reconciliation is the heart of what God has accomplished in Christ, and what God mandates for followers of Jesus to pursue by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A course on reconciliation and intercultural studies was offered this fall to Seminary students. Taught by Salter McNeil, the course served as an introduction to reconciliation studies, focusing on the theology of reconciliation as well as on practical applications. For more information about the Reconciliation Studies Minor, visit spu.edu/reconciliationstudies. For more information about the M.A. in Theology — Reconciliation and Intercultural Studies Track, visit spu.edu/seminary. You can also email Salter McNeil at mcneilb@spu.edu.

AAMP’s Second Annual Ministry Symposium Recap; Upcoming Seoul Trip

The Asian American Ministry Program (AAMP) held its second annual ministry symposium June 15–16. Titled “Reimagining Ministry for the Next Generation,” this year’s symposium featured guest speaker James Choung, national director of InterVarsity’s Asian American Ministries. Choung is the author of *True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In* (IVP Books 2008) and the upcoming *Real Life: A Christianity Worth Living Out* (IVP Books December, 2012). This year’s symposium, said AAMP Director Billy Vo, “examined the gospel message in light of the resurrection and reign of Jesus Christ, and reimagined the ministry of preaching, evangelism, and leadership development for postmodern generations of emerging adults.”

In September, AAMP will be partnering with Seattle Pacific Seminary to take seven Seminary students to Seoul, South Korea. This 15-day cross-cultural immersion will allow students to see Christianity in the Korean context through the lenses of history, culture, and theology. The program will focus on enabling students not only to begin to understand Korean Christianity, but also to participate in it through prayer, ministry, and connections with Korean seminary students and pastors.

Please keep these students in prayer as they study abroad this fall.



James Choung, national director of InterVarsity’s Asian American Ministries, addresses conference attendees at the AAMP’s second annual ministry symposium.



Dean Doug Strong with his students in Kyrgyzstan.

Dean's Message

On occasion, I've had the opportunity to lecture in international settings. This past May, I traveled to the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan to teach theology to central Asian house church pastors. These pastors already have profound testimonies of faith in Jesus and a passion to share that faith with others. But they have little biblical or theological training, which they know leaves them open to heterodoxy, schism, and the inroads of various cults. They also want to receive further education so they can be better-informed preachers of the Gospel.

What struck me was the eagerness with which the central Asians approach their learning. We often forget what an advantage it is in the U.S. to have top-tier higher education so readily available. We take for granted our access to prominent scholars and practitioners. What is especially noteworthy is that many of those leading scholar/teachers are on our own School of Theology faculty. I thank God for these remarkable women and men, who teach our students so persuasively and who write the books that are making a difference in our world for Christ.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology

Historic Win in SOT's Annual Softball Game

For the past four years, Annie Mae Platter, who graduated in June with a minor in Christian Scripture, has participated in the annual School of Theology softball game, in which SOT faculty and staff play against SOT undergraduates and Seminary students. "This is one event at Seattle Pacific University that I refuse to miss," she said. Her sentiments were echoed by others. When asked why the game — a highlight of the year for SOT since the first game in 1995 — was so popular,

Professor of Educational Ministry Ed Smyth said, "We can let all of our feelings out and yell at each other." This year, even the threat of rain couldn't suppress the enthusiasm for the May 31 game.

Although throughout the years the faculty and staff have always seemed to win, during warm-up Christian Theology major Desi Friesen ('13) confidently asserted, "This is gonna be the year!" Time would tell. Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology Frank Spina, an avid baseball fan, wore his game face while earnestly discussing positions and batting order with Professor of Christian Ministries and Education Bob Drov Dahl and Instructor of Historical Theology Kevin Watson.

Tim Dearborn, Director of Faith and Development at World Vision International and husband to Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn, gave an object lesson on the depravity of man as he tripped on his way to first and literally bit the dust. Next up, wife Kerry Dearborn arrived safe at first.

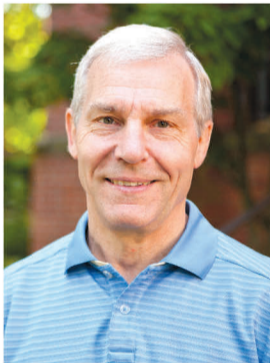
By the bottom of the second inning, Drov Dahl had scored the only two runs for the faculty. Kerry Dearborn, representing the women on the SOT faculty, scored run number three.

Halfway through the game, when the outlook appeared grim for the faculty and staff, some of them began shouting, "Whoever goes out next, your tenure will be up for review!" The laughter increased when next up to bat was Dean Doug Strong, and he "fled out" in center field. Becky Jo Tuell ('12), Educational Ministry major, sent a line drive out to left field and made it home — barefoot.

In the end, Friesen was right. This was the students' year; the students won the game 10-6. Forgetting about papers, tests, and grading for the afternoon, a good time was had by all as SOT students, faculty, and staff enjoyed the camaraderie of youth and wisdom, with competition, conversation, and laughter as abundant as the post-game meal of fried chicken, chips, and cookies.



Postgame feast: Professor of Christian Ministries and Education Bob Drov Dahl (foreground) makes off with a handful of chips while Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology Frank Spina, plate in hand, peruses the offerings, and 2012 graduate Annie Mae Platter enjoys a well-earned plateful.



Professor of Christian Ministries and Education Bob Drov Dahl



Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeff Kuess



Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim

Lectio Update: 1 Corinthians, Selections From the Prophets; Isaiah

Lectio: Guided Bible Reading now has more than 3,000 subscribers, with 207,379 "hits" from 53 countries. Winding up the second year of this four-year Bible-reading program, during Spring Quarter we studied 1 Corinthians with Professor of Christian Ministries and Education Bob Drov Dahl, and on June 11 began "Selections From the Prophets" with Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeff Kuess. This 14-week series will carry us through the summer, with weekly Lectios covering selections from Isaiah, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Zechariah, Daniel, Zephania, and Malachi. Then, on September 24, we will begin year three of the Lectio with an Autumn Quarter series on Isaiah, led by Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim. "I hope you sincerely ask," Lim writes, "In what way does the word of the LORD spoken to Israel continue to speak to me?" Because the Spirit that inspired the prophet Isaiah now dwells in you and me, we can confidently read this book in expectation of God's word to go forth and accomplish its purposes."

For a free subscription to Lectio readings and podcasts, as well as to read and download current and previous Lectios, visit spu.edu/lectio.