



# Kingswood

“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

## CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



### Upcoming Events

#### School of Theology Alumni Breakfast With Faculty

Undergraduate and Seminary alumni and spouses are invited to fellowship over a complimentary breakfast with SOT faculty and Dean Doug Strong:

**Saturday, January 26**

9:30 a.m.  
Kingswood House, 303 W. Dravus  
Cost: Free

RSVP by January 18 to [theology@spu.edu](mailto:theology@spu.edu) or 206-281-2136.

#### Discernment Weekend For Prospective Seminarians



**Friday–Saturday, February 22–23**

1 p.m. – 1 p.m.  
SPU campus and beyond  
Cost: \$25

Visit [spu.edu/discernmentweekend](http://spu.edu/discernmentweekend) for more information and to register.

The Wesleyan Theological Society, Society for Pentecostal Studies, and SPU Center for Biblical and Theological Education present

#### Holiness Conference



With **Walter Brueggemann, Daniela C. Augustine, Thomas B. Dozeman, and Bruce D. Marshall**

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

For more information, email [cbte@spu.edu](mailto:cbte@spu.edu).

### Ambassadors in Chains: Prison Literature Over the Centuries



Rick Steele

For the past decade and a half, Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele has immersed himself in literature written by Christian prisoners during or shortly after their incarceration. A few years ago, Steele wondered whether his fascination could be turned into a book. He contacted a publisher, who showed interest. “So I started poking along,” he says.

“The book is really, in many ways, a study in Christian moral theology, because it has to do with what it takes to resist the government as a believer whose convictions are at odds with those of the dominant culture or government.”

*Ambassadors in Chains* — the book’s working title, referring to the Apostle Paul’s description of himself in Ephesians 6:20 — spans nearly 16 centuries. Steele narrowed the field by selecting prison writers whose first language was one that he could read — not such a narrow field after all, because, besides English, he reads German, French, Latin, and Greek. He further narrowed the field to Western Christian writers.

So far, he has completed the introduction and chapters on Vibia Perpetua (182–203, early Christian noblewoman from North Africa), Maximus the Confessor (580–662, Orthodox

monastic theologian from Constantinople), and Martin Luther King (1929–68, American Baptist preacher and civil rights activist). The chapter on Thomas More (1478–1535, Roman Catholic jurist from England) is in the works.

Next up are chapters on Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–45, German Lutheran pastor and theologian) and Anicius Boethius (ca. 480–525, Catholic philosopher and theologian from the Ostrogothic Kingdom of Italy). The other writers Steele intends to cover are Michael Sattler (1490–1527, German Anabaptist preacher), John Bunyan (1628–88, English Baptist tinker and preacher), Jeanne-Marie Bouvier de la Motte-Guyon (1648–1717, Roman Catholic noblewoman from France), and Sophie Scholl (1921–43, German Lutheran student).

Prison literature takes different forms, says Steele. The earliest piece of prison writing we have penned by a Christian woman is Perpetua’s prison diary. Martin Luther King’s prison writings consist of jail diaries, sermons, press releases, letters of encouragement to fellow prisoners, and “open” letters, including his momentous 1963 *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

Bonhoeffer wrote cogent, insightful, eloquent letters to his family, his fiancée, and his best friend — along with poems, essays, and meditations.

As part of his research for the book, Steele taught a summer course on prison literature in both a men’s and a women’s prison. He also taught an Autumn Quarter undergraduate class on prison literature at SPU — complete with a 20-hour “solitary confinement” at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island.

### New Study Abroad Program

In September 2013, the School of Theology will launch a groundbreaking undergraduate study abroad program in Israel and Palestine, led and taught by SPU Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn and her husband, Tim Dearborn, director of faith and development programs for World Vision International. “The program will provide a unique opportunity for students to study Christian doctrine and Christian reconciliation,” says Kerry Dearborn, “in a context in which the very stones cry out regarding issues related to the Holy Land and contemporary realities.”

Traveling throughout Israel and Palestine, students will be exposed both to ancient biblical sites and to contemporary “living stones.” They will see where Jesus was born, grew up, taught and healed, died, and rose again — Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Jordan River, and Jerusalem. Students will also visit ancient landmarks described in the Old Testament, such as Jericho and Ramallah. Through home stays, meetings, and hearing from various perspectives in the region; through reading books such as *Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* and *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*; and through hearing from people — such as Archbishop Elias Chacour and



Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives

Salim Munayer — who have been working for peace, reconciliation, and justice in the region, students will be exposed to multiple perspectives on the current conflict.

The Dearborns will be working with Bethlehem Bible College and Aziz Abu Sarah — co-executive director of the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, and co-owner of MEJDI Tours — who has led trips for Fuller Theological Seminary, George Mason University, and other Christian colleges. *Forbes* recently said this of Aziz: “A young man dedicated to building deeper understanding and lasting friendships between Israelis and Palestinians, he has been named as one of National Geographic’s ‘Emerging Explorers.’ His startup company, MEDJI, is an innovative concept offering ‘dual narrative’ peace-building tours.”

For more information about the Israel/Palestine Study Abroad Program, email Professor Kerry Dearborn at [kdearbor@spu.edu](mailto:kdearbor@spu.edu).

*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 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.

## Seminary Receives PC(USA) Grant for New Pastors Program

Last spring, Seattle Pacific Seminary received a generous grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to form a cohort as part of the Company of New Pastors, a pastoral formation program whose goal is to deepen and sustain “the theological vocation of participants focusing on the critical period of vocational formation beginning in seminary and into the first years of ministry.”

As part of the program, SPS students in their final years of the program meet monthly throughout the year to focus on the ordination vows of a teaching elder in the PC(USA). Besides these meetings, they commit to daily prayer, daily Scripture reading, and theological reflection. Seattle Pacific Seminary is the first non-PC(USA)-sponsored seminary to receive this grant in over five years, and this gift represents the value the PC(USA) sees in our program and our students. The SPS cohort flew to Louisville, Kentucky, in October to meet with seminarians and faculty members from around the country to pray, worship, and discuss pastoral vocation in the 21st century.



Front row, left to right: Erin Rodenbiker, MDiv '13; Annie Vander Pol, MDiv '12. Back row, left to right: Keith Snavely, MDiv '13; Jordan Uomoto, MDiv '14; Aaron Willett, MDiv '13; Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sara Koenig; Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeff Keuss; Heather Juul, MDiv '12; Greg Williams (Fuller Theological Seminary student).



Brenda Salter McNeil

over the last 25 years, the author writes, “Her work has shaped the policies of Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country and the world” (p. 28).

## Advancing Reconciliation

On November 7, Brenda Salter McNeil, SPU associate professor and coordinator of reconciliation studies, was the keynote speaker on campus at a Church Leaders Forum titled “Catalytic Leadership for Challenging Times.” At the forum, Salter McNeil shared practical ideas with church leaders on how they could give perspective and guidance to the communities they serve during these difficult times.

On February 9, she returns to Upper Gwinn to headline a one-day conference for church leaders and laypeople on “Racial Reconciliation and the Church: Crossing the Credibility Divide.”

Salter McNeil was recently featured on the cover of *Christianity Today* as one of “50 Women to Watch” because of her work shaping the church and culture. In an article in the magazine about Salter McNeil’s work in reconciliation

## “Racial Reconciliation and the Church: Crossing the Credibility Divide”

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2013

Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Place: Upper Gwinn (SPU campus)

Cost: \$25 by January 22

\$40 beginning January 23

For more information and registration, contact the Center for Biblical and Theological Education at [cbte@spu.edu](mailto:cbte@spu.edu) or 206-378-5415.

## Seminary Alumnus Spotlight: John Harrell



John Harrell, MDiv '12

John Harrell moved from Maryland in the fall of 2009 to attend SPU’s brand-new Seminary program, and graduated in June 2012 in its first-ever class of MDiv students.

After graduation, he moved to Ellensburg, Washington, to serve as the program director at Lazy F (United Methodist) Camp and Retreat Center, where he now oversees the design, hiring, and day-to-day operations of the camp’s youth-discipleship programs, in addition to guiding the spiritual life of the summer staff.

John says his time at SPS prepared him for the demands of post-seminary life. “I’m grateful for having been immersed at Seattle Pacific Seminary in the intentional practice of Christian community,” he says, “and for the training I received in church history and the practice of spiritual disciplines such as Sabbath, creation care, and living a redeemed life.”

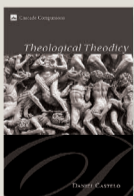
“I’m also grateful for how the faculty led us in wrestling theologically with hard issues in our hurting world,” he says, “particularly in the areas of race, privilege, adolescent development, and poverty. Our campers and staff come from diverse backgrounds, and so, as followers of Jesus, in our parachurch ministries we need to be able to think about those things critically, theologically, and missionally.”

John enjoys travel, deep-dish pizza, and seeing youth deepen in their walks with Christ. He is in the early stages of ordination candidacy in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

“I’m grateful for having been immersed at Seattle Pacific Seminary in the intentional practice of Christian community.”

— John Harrell

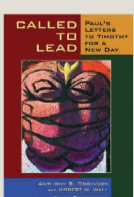
## Recent SOT Faculty Books



Daniel Castelo, PhD  
*Theological Theodicy*  
Wipf and Stock, 2012



David Leong, PhD  
*Street Signs: Toward a Missional Theology of Urban Cultural Engagement*  
Wipf and Stock, 2012



Robert W. Wall, ThD  
*Called to Lead: Paul's Letters to Timothy for a New Day*  
Eerdmans, 2012

See all School of Theology faculty books at [spu.edu/SOTbooks](http://spu.edu/SOTbooks).

## School of Theology Book Celebration



Left to right: Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall; Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo; SPU Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy Claudia Grauf-Grounds (presenter for *Street Signs*); Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong; Westgate Chapel (Edmonds, WA) Senior Pastor Alec Rowlands (presenter for *Fresh Air*); Mark Abbott, First Free Methodist Church (Seattle) Pastor Emeritus (presenter for *Called to Lead*); and Professor of New Testament Jack Levison.

and *Called to Lead: Paul's Letters to Timothy for a New Day*, by Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall (with Anthony Robinson).

The reviews, intended specifically to highlight each book’s usefulness for the church, were presented by area pastors and ministry practitioners. A brief Q&A concluded the event, giving those who attended the opportunity to interact with the authors. Each pastor in attendance received a free copy of one of the books.

“I am grateful for SPU’s commitment to serving and equipping local pastors like me with opportunities to hear about recent publications from SPU faculty,” said Pastor Erika Haub of Shoreline Covenant Church, “and to be able to bring that scholarship back to the people of my church.” The event was sponsored by the School of Theology and the Center for Biblical and Theological Education.

Theodicy. Missiology in an urban context. The Holy Spirit. Leadership in 1 Timothy. These seemingly unrelated topics were brought together October 18 at the first-ever School of Theology Book Celebration, an event honoring the recently published works of four School of Theology faculty members.

Seattle-area pastors, Seattle Pacific Seminary students, and SPU community members gathered in the Fine Center at First Free Methodist Church to hear brief reviews of *Theological Theodicy*, by Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo; *Street Signs: A New Direction in Urban Ministry*, by Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong; *Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life* (featured in the last *Kingswood Chronicle*), by Professor of New Testament Jack Levison;

## Seminary Students Travel to South Korea

One of Seattle Pacific Seminary's signature commitments is to be an "Apostolate" — a place that sends Christian leaders forth into mission and prepares them for ministry in intercultural and global settings. As an "Apostolate," all master of divinity students participate in a cross-cultural immersion experience hosted by the Seminary in strategic domestic or international environments where they can study, experience, and ultimately feel the Christian faith as it is embodied in another culture. The Asian American Ministry Program (AAMP) assists the Seminary in fulfilling this vision by designing courses that introduce students to the global Christian movement in the countries of Asia.

This past September, the AAMP led a group of six seminary students to participate in a two-week cross-cultural immersion experience in Korean Christianity. The course aimed to help students understand the complicated history of Christianity in Korea, study contemporary expressions of the church and Christian ministry, and actively participate in the spiritual practices of Korean Christianity. They stayed at Seoul Theological University in Bucheon City — a Holiness university located just minutes from Seoul, South Korea. Through assigned readings, lectures, site visits, and discussions, students learned about the history of Christianity in Korea. Through tours and weekend home stays with local Korean pastors, students were exposed to a variety of contemporary expressions of the Korean church. Most importantly, students engaged fully in the prayer practices of Korean Christianity — especially early-morning prayer, all-night prayer, and "mountain prayer."

"It has been exciting to see the fruit born in the lives of the students since our trip ended in mid-September," said Asian American Ministry Program director Billy Vo. "Some are continuing to meet for early-morning prayer during the week on campus; others are seeking to find opportunities to incorporate their experiences into the worship and ministry of their own churches."

The AAMP plans to offer this cross-cultural immersion experience in Korean Christianity again, says Vo, as well as to host a similar course in China in 2014.



AAMP Director Billy Vo (far left), Seattle Pacific Seminary students, and Seoul Theological University students in front of Seoul Theological University.



Dean Doug Strong (far left) and this year's incoming Seminary class at Camp Casey in August.

continue to grow closer still through these next years, the Lord will do through them the unexpected and unbelievable, just as the Lord did when this group of unlikely comrades was birthed at a weeklong retreat at Camp Casey last August.

## A Class Full of Character(s)

*Started a church with Elaine,  
Went hiking with Boon and Sunsh-Anh,  
My girl Elizabeth sang,  
We get closer each day.*

These words come from a song written by three of this year's incoming Seminary students — Chelsea Nazarian, Judy Naegeli, and Carly Delavan — after a weeklong intensive on Whidbey Island's Camp Casey, where they met 20 of their classmates for the first time. The song, performed on video, is called "Let's Pray Maybe" (spoofing the kitschy but catchy Carly Rae Jepsen song "Call Me Maybe") and highlights each of the incoming Seminary students (you can watch the video at [spu.edu/LetsPrayMaybe](http://spu.edu/LetsPrayMaybe)).

The video captures both the high level of trust and character inherent in the group, and the goofy side of the characters who make up this class, which comprises 60 percent women, 40 percent ethnic minorities, 50 percent students over 30, and an eclectic mix of Christian traditions and experiences — perhaps the most diverse yet tightly knit incoming Seminary class to date.

These seminarians did, as the song says, "get closer each day," and as they

## School of Theology Faculty and Staff, 2012–13



Front row: Associate Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim; Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies Brenda Salter McNeil; Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn; Assistant Professor of New Testament Laura Sweat; Center for Biblical and Theological Education Administrative Assistant Kelsey Rorem; Professor of Educational Ministry Bob Drov Dahl; Instructor of Christian Scripture J.J. Johnson Leese; Associate Professor of Theology Doug Koskela; Assistant Professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies Kevin Watson.

Middle row: Office Administrator Laurie Collins; Professor of Theology Priscilla Pope-Levison; Assistant Professor of Theology Mike Langford; Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong; Associate Professor of World Christian Studies Miriam Adeney; Professor of Educational Ministry Ed Smyth; Dean Douglas Strong; Office Manager and Seminary Program Coordinator Raoul Perez.

Top row: Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele; Professor of New Testament Jack Levison; Center for Biblical and Theological Education Director Celeste Cranston; Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo; Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina; Assistant Professor of Theology Brian Bantum; Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall; Philosophy and Theology Librarian Steve Perisho; Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sara Koenig, Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeff Keuss.

Not pictured: Asian American Ministry Program Director Billy Vo; Associate Professor of New Testament Studies David Nienhuis; Budget Manager Teresa Elenbaas; adjunct and emeriti faculty.



Doug Strong

## Dean's Message

Several exciting developments have occurred in the past few months related to our Seminary program. Chief among them: Due to the reputation of our excellent faculty and the hard work of Associate Dean Rick Steele, Seattle Pacific Seminary was approved in June 2012 as an Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the North American accrediting body for all seminaries. In turn, this ATS approval means that we have also received endorsement by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church to train men and women who are seeking ordination in that denomination — the only seminary to be added to their list of approved schools in several years. We are now officially accepted by the Free Methodist, United Methodist,

Presbyterian (USA), and several other denominations for the training of their pastors — as well as for people being trained for ministry in nondenominational and parachurch settings. We are thankful to the Lord for this support and encouragement, and are mindful that it is God alone who has allowed this program to prosper.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong  
Dean, School of Theology

## Latest on Lectio: Local Church Use, Isaiah Videos, Upcoming Series, and Facebook



Bo Lim (Isaiah, Autumn '12)



Mark Abbott (Luke, Winter '13)



Jack Levison (Acts, Spring '13)



Rick Steele (Wisdom Literature, Summer '13)



Dave Nienhuis (James, Summer '13)

Now in its third year, Lectio continues to grow in scope and popularity. With more than 3,000 subscribers, 68,603 podcast downloads, and "hits" from 59 countries, this free program has given thousands the opportunity to dig deeper into God's Word. Along with podcasts and readings, a new six-part video series from the Center for Biblical and Theological Education offers a thematic look at Isaiah, exploring topics relating to this fall's Lectio series, with Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim. You can watch the Isaiah videos at [spu.edu/IsaiahVideos](http://spu.edu/IsaiahVideos).

Several churches in the Puget Sound area have begun using Lectio for sermon series, small groups, and youth ministry. "It's a great resource," says Rev. Pat Vance of Warm Beach Free Methodist Church in Stanwood, Washington. "We encourage our people to use it." Vance, who participated in Lim's "Reading and Teaching Isaiah for the Church," a weeklong course offered by CBTE last July, has centered a sermon series on Isaiah that follows the Lectio. In September, to kick off the series, he invited Professor Lim to speak to the church.

Kurt Helmcke, associate pastor of North Creek Presbyterian Church in Mill

Creek, Washington, uses the Lectio in small-group settings to help focus on the depth of the biblical text. Their youth ministry is also using Lectio. "I could teach Isaiah on my own, but not as they really need it," says Helmcke. "Lectio is really meaningful to them." He recalls that a couple on a cruise in the Panama Canal listened to the Lectio online and remained updated with his blog. "It was extraordinary that they could do that."

Beginning January 7, Mark Abbott, pastor emeritus at First Free Methodist Church and SPU adjunct instructor of preaching, will lead the Winter Quarter Lectio on Luke. Spring Quarter, beginning March 13, is on Acts, with Professor of New Testament Jack Levison. During Summer Quarter, Lectio will offer a two-part series — Part 1 beginning June 10 on Hebrew Wisdom Literature, with Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele, and Part 2 beginning August 12 on James, with Associate Professor of New Testament Studies Dave Nienhuis.

And this just in: You can now join in the Lectio discussion and get Lectio updates on Facebook at [facebook.com/SPULectio](http://facebook.com/SPULectio).

## Join Us for the Third Annual Theology Alumni Breakfast With Faculty



Left to right: SOT alumni Tyler Gorsline '08, Brooke Willis '09, and Melanie Selfridge '97; and Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina enjoy fellowship at the 2012 School of Theology Alumni Breakfast.

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

### Alumni Breakfast

Attention, Undergraduate Theology Alumni and Current Seminary Students: You and a guest are invited to the third annual School of Theology Alumni Breakfast on Saturday, January 26, at 9:30 a.m.

The complimentary breakfast will be held in Kingswood House, home of the Center for Biblical and Theological Education and Seattle Pacific Seminary. It's a great way for seminary students and undergraduate theology alumni to reconnect with friends and faculty, as well as learn from others across generations who are interested in theology. You'll also hear from Dean Doug Strong and other faculty members about the new and exciting things happening in the School of Theology.

If you plan to attend, RSVP by January 18 to [theology@spu.edu](mailto:theology@spu.edu) or 206-281-2136.

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Triannual Newsletter for School of Theology Alumni and Friends

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