



“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

# Kingswood

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



## Upcoming Events

### The Book of James: An Introduction

Local church leaders, Lectio readers, and anyone else interested in learning more about the New Testament book of James are invited to a one-day introduction with Associate Professor of New Testament Dave Nienhuis, PhD. The James Lectio begins August 12, 2013, and the course is geared for anyone who is interested in teaching, preaching, or studying James.

#### Wednesday, June 19

9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Upper Gwinn, SPU campus  
Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

For more information about the class or about Dr. Nienhuis, or to register for the class, visit [spu.edu/jamesclass](http://spu.edu/jamesclass).

### Summer Courses for Church and Marketplace Leaders

SPU's Center for Integrity in Business and Center for Biblical and Theological Education are offering two summer courses for church and marketplace leaders, theology students, and seminarians.

#### Spiritual Capital June 17–20

4–9 p.m.

#### Instructor:

Bruce Baker, PhD, SPU Assistant Professor of Business Ethics and Adjunct Instructor of Church Administration

#### A Theology of Business June 24–28

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

#### Instructors:

Jeff Van Duzer, JD, SPU Provost; Former Dean of the School of Business and Economics

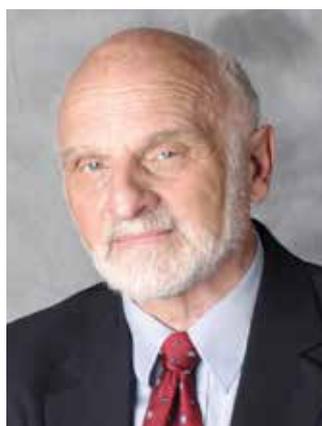
Daniel Castelo, PhD, SPU Associate Professor of Theology

#### Cost for each class:

\$125 (includes 3 CEUs if desired; also available for Seminary credit)

More information and registration:  
[spu.edu/theologyandconomics](http://spu.edu/theologyandconomics)

## For the Lord Our God Is Holy



Walter Brueggemann

Seattle Pacific's and the theme was Holiness. Attendees came from across the US, as well as from the UK, Canada, South Africa, and Japan.

The meeting's ambitious agenda included worship services, breakout sessions led by SPU and visiting theologians, exhibits, working breakfasts, lunch colloquia, and dinner banquets. But by far the biggest draw was a keynote address by Walter Brueggemann — one of the world's foremost Old Testament theologians and author of more than 60 books. Dr. Brueggemann spoke in First Free Methodist Church Thursday evening to a standing-room-only crowd on “The Alternative World of the Psalms.” Why the Psalms? “With the possible exception of Mennonites,” he explained, “nobody sings as well as Wesleyans and Pentecostals, and the closest I could get to that was the book of Psalms.”

For three days in March, SPU's campus was bustling with more than 500 theologians, church leaders, and laity. The occasion was the fourth-ever joint meeting of Wesleyan Theological Society and Society for Pentecostal Studies. Every five years, the two societies hold their annual meetings together on a Christian college campus, focusing on a common theme. On March 21–23, the campus was

Dr. Brueggemann delivered a potent and thought-provoking message. He began by giving seven characteristics of our “closely held world”: anxiety that arises from a perception of scarcity; greed; self-sufficiency; denial; despair; amnesia; and “normlessness,” or “anything goes.” Then he listed seven characteristics of the “alternative” world that is mediated by the Psalms: a world of fidelity; abundance; ultimate dependence on God; “abrasive truth-telling”; hope; “lively remembering”; and what he calls “normed fidelity,” or a call for obedience to God's Torah.

Finally, Dr. Brueggemann explained what the Psalms reveal about God's character: that God is a God of abundance; who prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies; who is trustworthy; who tells the truth; who keeps his promises; whose mighty deeds we are called to remember; and whose law is “an easy burden and a light yoke.”

What the Psalter gives us, says Brueggemann, is “a world occupied by God.” “The work of the Psalter is to populate our world with this character who transforms.” When we let go of our closely held world and allow ourselves to enter the counter-world of the Psalms, we experience “buoyancy and risk, and are characteristically lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

Dr. Brueggemann's message was “a sharp critique to our post-modern age,” said Clifton Clarke, PhD, Regent University Associate Professor of Global Missions and World Christianity, after the lecture. “I don't know about you,” he quipped, “but I feel as if I've just gone 10 rounds with Mike Tyson at the top of his game.” Listen to Dr. Brueggemann's address and read an interview with him at [spu.edu/response](http://spu.edu/response).

## Race, Women, Sanctification

On May 1, the School of Theology and Center for Biblical and Theological Education hosted the sixth annual Paul T. Walls Lecture in Wesleyan Theology. For the past five years, the Walls lecturer has been Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall. This year, though, Dr. Wall invited SPU Professor of Theology Priscilla Pope-Levison, ordained United Methodist minister and author of *Turn the Pulpit Loose: Two Centuries of American Women Evangelists*, to present the lecture, titled “Holiness in Black and White: Race, Women, and Sanctification.” Drawing on her two decades of research on American women evangelists, Dr. Pope-Levison focused on three Wesleyan Holiness women in the early 20th century who experienced not only conversion, but sanctification — and a concomitant “holy boldness” that propelled them toward a life of preaching and evangelism.

For Emma Ray, a black Free Methodist preacher and evangelist; and Mary Lee Cagle, a white Nazarene pastor and church planter, the experience of sanctification led to unprecedented interracial cooperation in their ministry to the marginalized. For Alma White, though, the same experience of sanctification seemed to lead her to focus not on the marginalized but on those like her — white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant. She actively promoted white supremacy,



Mary Lee Cagle, 1864–1955

even writing three books promoting the Ku Klux Klan. Whence the difference? Dr. Pope-Levison explained that it likely stemmed at least in part from their very different answers to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Serving as respondent was Dr. Michael Hamilton, chair of SPU's History Department and author of the forthcoming *Calvin College and the Revival of Christian Learning in America*.

For the second year in a row, the Walls lecture took place in First Free Methodist Church — reflecting, explains Dr. Wall, a shift from a purely academic lecture aimed at faculty and students to one set in the church for a broad audience of believers. “From its inception,” he notes, “the Walls endowment has had this sort of working relationship in mind between academy and church.” Listen to the lecture at [spu.edu/iTunes](http://spu.edu/iTunes), or email [cbte@spu.edu](mailto:cbte@spu.edu) for an audio CD.

At next year's Walls Lecture on May 7, 2014, Dr. Rob Wall will speak on Revelation as Scripture's conclusion.

*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.

## What Does a Grace-Filled, Reconciling Community Look Like?



John Perkins talks to students during the Reconciliation Summit.

In partnership with the John Perkins Center and coinciding with John Perkins' annual visit to SPU campus, the School of Theology's Reconciliation Studies Program and the Associated Students of Seattle Pacific hosted a Reconciliation Summit April 14–17. The Summit included guest speakers; a multicultural night of worship celebrating the rich vision of "every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9); and student, faculty, staff, and community panel presentations. All the Summit events were well attended. "It's been overwhelming, and what this says to me is that we want to have this conversation," said Brenda Salter McNeil, associate professor and director of reconciliation studies.

In his annual lecture, renowned reconciliation advocate Dr. John Perkins encouraged

students to remember they are "taking a whole gospel on a whole mission to the whole world." Discussions focused on ways SPU can more effectively help students learn about and engage with cultures different from their own. Responding to an undergraduate student petition that requested a "cultural competency" requirement integrated into the common curriculum, faculty and staff members outlined steps they were taking to act on students' request.

"I applaud the campus for hearing a petition, for listening to students," said SPU President Dan Martin. "You are saying, 'This is what we feel we need in our preparation.' I value this conversation for what it says about students in this community."

A grant from the Stewardship Foundation helped fund the event.

**"Dr. John Perkins encouraged students to remember they are 'taking a whole gospel on a whole mission to the whole world.'"**

## Staff Spotlight: Teresa Elenbaas, Budget Manager

In her own words, Teresa Elenbaas' job is "primarily to keep tabs on the big picture for the School of Theology in terms of its budget." After joining the department in September 2007, she has worked with Dean Strong and program directors to provide budget updates, create contracts, allocate grant monies, and make sure everything is accurate and charged to the correct account.

Teresa and her husband, Mike, have been married for 10 years, and have a four-year-old son and six-month-old daughter. Teresa graduated with honors from Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, where she earned her BA in art education and fine arts. Painting, board games, outdoor activities, and spending quality time with family and friends are among her favorite pastimes.

In a job she finds "definitely not boring," Teresa appreciates the privilege of having joined the department before the launch of Seattle Pacific Seminary, the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, and the Asian American Ministry Program, giving her the opportunity to be part of the "behind the scenes" work of shaping these programs.

Teresa is a hard worker, a creative thinker, and a wonderful wife and mother. The School of Theology is deeply thankful to the Lord for her ministry of service.



Teresa and Mike Elenbaas

## Seminary Alumna Spotlight: Jessica Portwood Jaeger



Jessica Portwood Jaeger, MDiv '12

For Jessica Portwood Jaeger, a youth advocate and case manager at New Horizons Ministries in Seattle, it is through her homeless and street-involved youth clients that she comes to know Jesus more closely. She says that even while serving her clients, she herself receives Jesus' healing power through those same youth.

"In ministering to them, you start to realize that you have your own mess going on," she says. "If you're not willing to work through that stuff and let Jesus heal you, you're not going to be any good for the other person."

In her work with youth, Jessica says she is grateful for SPS's training in prayer, the person of the Holy Spirit, and the theology of mission. "I think those are things that are constantly playing out in my work," she says, "as I try to be a person of prayer, a person of humility, a person who asks what the Spirit is doing and how I might join."

Because of the nature of her work at New Horizons, Jessica says she is grateful to SPS for introducing her to liberation theology. "When we look at who are the people leading the church in this generation and who are the people being moved by the Spirit of God and who are the people experiencing growth and blessings, they are not the people of privilege and power," she says. "And I'm grateful that there was voice given to that at SPS."

A Tennessee native who received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina, Jessica graduated in 2012 as one of Seattle Pacific Seminary's first MDiv recipients. She first heard about SPU's seminary program at a Starbucks in South Carolina. "I heard from one of my regular customers that they were starting a program," she says.

Jessica enjoys running, backpacking, cooking, and spending time with her husband and friends, and is part of a church plant in Seattle.

**"When we look at who are the people ... experiencing growth and blessings, they are not the people of privilege and power."**

— Jessica Portwood Jaeger

## Theology and Economics in Creative Partnership

In April, Seattle Pacific's Center for Biblical and Theological Education (CBTE) and Center for Integrity in Business (CIB), in partnership with the Acton Institute, hosted a two-day conference looking at ways in which theology and economics can partner toward a more thriving society. The conference featured Sondra Wheeler, professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary and author of *Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions*; Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management; and David Wright, provost at Indiana Wesleyan University and author of *How God Makes the World a Better Place*, a Wesleyan primer on faith, work, and economic transformation.

Conference events included a breakfast for church and business leaders, with Sondra Wheeler as speaker; a breakout discussion of David Wright's book for church leaders and seminarians; a panel discussion targeted to students exploring career and vocation; opportunities for both seminarians and MBA students to interact with the speakers; and a breakfast for local business leaders featuring Bob Doll. "The opportunity to hear and interact with Dr. Sondra Wheeler, David Wright, and others, was not 'business as usual,'" said conference attendee Darlene Hartley, school board director for the Stanwood-Camano Island School District. "Please know that this experience engaged both our minds and hearts in ways that will result in Kingdom-building in myriad and far-reaching ways."

The conference was made possible by a grant from the Kern Family Foundation.



Sondra Wheeler

## Justice Conference

The Justice Conference is an annual gathering of students, scholars, nonprofit organizers, and professors who share a concern for the vulnerable and oppressed. Erika Hultz, a 2012 SPU School of Theology graduate in Educational Ministries, and Jeff Lam, a Seattle Pacific Seminary student, attended the 2013 conference in Philadelphia last February as student representatives of SPU's Reconciliation Studies Program. "It was an opportunity to share with others who are passionate and curious about issues of justice around our globe about the unique Reconciliation Program that Dr. Kerry Dearborn, Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, and many others have been creating here at SPU," says Erika. "The only other university that has a similar program is Bethel University in Minnesota, but their program is framed within the school of sociology, whereas ours is in the School of Theology. By intentionally rooting this program in the School of Theology, we are making a statement that reconciliation occurs through Christ. The Reconciliation Studies Program is also intentionally a *minor*, emphasizing that we can all be reconcilers, regardless of our major or the sphere of work in which we reside."

The Justice Conference was designed to be a space where people could come to learn about organizations and movements surrounding issues of justice from around the world. This year's conference speakers included Dr. John Perkins, Shane Claiborne, Sheryl WuDunn, Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, Leroy Barber, Eugene Cho, and many others. There were also representatives from more than 300 organizations that are working towards reconciliation in their own communities.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to attend such a conference — many thanks to the School of Theology and the Reconciliation Studies Program," says Erika.



Left to right: Jeff Lam, Erika Hultz, and Brenda Salter McNeil.



School of Theology faculty and staff stand at the New Majors Lunch.

## Theology Student Union New Majors Lunch

On March 6, the Theology Student Union (TSU) hosted a lunch in Upper Gwinn for newly declared Theology majors and minors. Pastors James B. and Renée Notkin of Union Church, a Presbyterian church in South Lake Union, spoke to the 80 or so in attendance about the creative ways in which the two pastors embody Christ in that Seattle neighborhood. In their inspiring and empowering presentation, they described Union's creative rhythm of worship, which reflects how they're reimagining church. Sometimes, James B. and Renée explained, church looks like "traditional" worship, at other times like small-group discussions. One Sunday a month, it looks like service in the community. At the end of the program, School of Theology faculty and staff laid hands on and prayed for more than 30 new Theology majors and minors, each of whom received autographed copies of *Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life*, written by SPU's Professor of New Testament Jack Levison. "Overall, the event had an intangible joy and energy," said TSU advisor and Assistant Professor of New Testament Laura Sweat. "We are grateful to claim the Spirit's blessing and commissioning on the lives of all who attended."

## Taking Learning Into Lives and Ministry

Creative writing. Confirmation programs. Art. Leadership training. Spiritual direction. Christian counseling. Teaching. Stations of the Cross. These are topics first-year seminarians explored in Professor of Educational Ministry Bob Drov Dahl's Winter Quarter Practicum course (THEO6930). This distinctive course invites students to connect academic work in their core courses (Scripture, church history, and theology/ethics) with their life and ministry.

Bekah Lindberg's story is exemplary. At her home church, Cascades Covenant Church, Bekah helps teach the weekly confirmation class, using a denominational curriculum resource called *The Journey* as a guide in preparing students for confirmation. Her interest in how other Covenant congregations use this curriculum sparked the design of her practicum learning project. Bekah prepared a survey and sent it to 34 Covenant churches across the country. She also conducted interviews with six leaders of confirmation programs. The interviews included questions related to the three core courses she was taking Winter Quarter.

Bekah used her findings to better understand the goals Covenant churches have for their confirmation programs and how they use denominational resources to achieve their goals. In turn, she will use those findings to evaluate and improve Cascade Covenant's confirmation program.

"Multiply Bekah's story 20-fold," says Dr. Drov Dahl, "and you will have a complete picture of the creative ways students are taking their core course learning into their lives and ministry."



## Seattle Pacific Seminary's Discernment Weekend

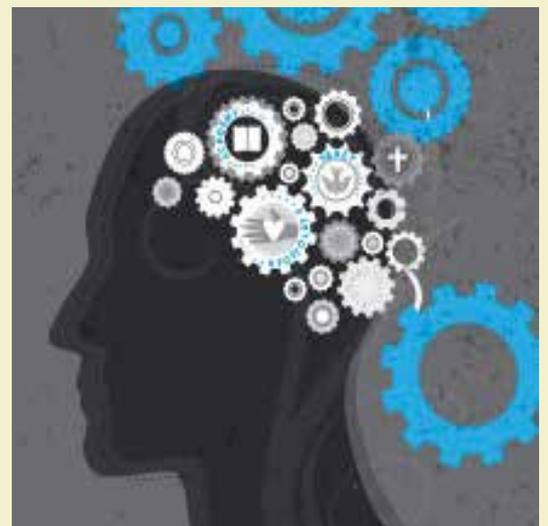
Every Autumn and Winter Quarter, Seattle Pacific Seminary hosts an event for prospective students called Discernment Weekend. This event offers a day and a half of teaching, fellowship, discussion, worship, and prayer in the company of Seattle Pacific Seminary faculty and students. Discernment Weekend seeks to facilitate a time for participants to engage in thoughtful and prayerful discernment about their personal calling and to learn more about Seattle Pacific Seminary's vision and programs. On Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, SPS hosted 17 prospective seminarians at Discernment Weekend.

The event began Friday afternoon at Kingswood House with a vibrant time of fellowship for prospective students, SPS faculty, and current students. Dr. Doug Koskela taught on the nature of vocation and discernment, giving attendees a theological framework to reflect on their own callings. A lively panel of Seminary students shared from their personal experiences of engaging in discernment and attending SPS. Dr. Rick Steele provided a moving introduction to SPS's vision of "Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate," and facilitated a time of Q&A about the Seminary. Dr. Jeff Keuss gave a brief yet passionate introduction to Taizé worship as the group rode together to St. James Cathedral in downtown Seattle to participate in a Taizé service. Afterward, SPS faculty and students gathered with the prospective students at First Presbyterian Church to share a meal and reflect on the day together.

The next morning, SPS Dean Dr. Doug Strong led a devotional in Alexander Chapel. Afterward, the students convened at Kingswood House for breakfast from Macrina Bakery, along with a biblical reflection led by Rev. Mark Abbott on the nature of calling in the Gospel of Luke. To conclude the time together, Dean Strong exhorted and commissioned the prospective students to go forth and engage in discernment with boldness and faith.

After the event, one participant wrote, "I truly felt [Discernment Weekend] was *all* meaningful ... it exceeded my expectations, in that I did not realize how spiritually enriching it would be." Another prospective student said, "Discernment Weekend was wonderful — it created a full experience. It met my expectations and beyond by allowing God to speak instead of only selling the Seminary."

The Seminary regularly hosts events for prospective students that combine faith, theology, and opportunities for meaningful connection with faculty and students, in addition to information about SPS programs. Most recently, the Seminary hosted a pre-lecture dinner for prospective students before the annual Walls Lecture on May 1 and Seattle Pacific University Immersion 2013 on May 21. Visit the Seminary website ([spu.edu/seminary](http://spu.edu/seminary)) for information about upcoming events.





Doug Strong

## Dean's Message

This spring has been a season of many special events in the School of Theology. In the space of just six weeks, we welcomed more than 500 professors and pastors to SPU for the joint meeting of Wesleyan Theological Society and Society of Pentecostal Studies on the topic of "Holiness"; we co-sponsored (with the School of Business and Economics) a conference on the intersection of faith and work; we held a "Reconciliation Summit" with John Perkins, Brenda Salter McNeil, and other leaders in the area of Christian racial reconciliation; and we hosted the annual Walls Lecture, delivered this year by Priscilla Pope-Levison. In addition to recognizing the great staff of the Center for Biblical and Theological Education (Celeste Cranston, Kelsey Rorem, and Stacy O'Farrell) for

their superb job in organizing all of these events, I think that this profusion of very diverse, but equally exciting theologically themed programs exemplifies the essential place of a theological school — both at the heart of a Christian university and for the benefit of the entire community. We're pleased to be able to be of service to the Kingdom in this way.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong  
Dean, School of Theology

## Upcoming Lectio Series: Wisdom Literature, James, Psalms, Gospel of John, and Revelation



Rick Steele (Wisdom Literature, Summer '13)



Dave Nienhuis (James, Summer '13)



Frank Spina (Psalms, Autumn '13)



Laura Sweat (Gospel of John, Winter '14)



Rob Wall (Revelation, Spring '14)

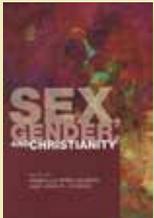
Following Lectio this summer just might make us a little wiser. Beginning June 10, Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele will lead us on a nine-week journey through Wisdom Literature found in the Old Testament and the Apocrypha.

August 12 begins Part 2 of Wisdom Literature, this time in the New Testament. Associate Professor of New Testament Studies David Nienhuis will lead us through a six-week study of the book of James — a challenging and fascinating New Testament text with a sometimes troubled history that includes Martin Luther's once quipping, "One day I'm going to throw little Jimmy into the stove!"

Beginning September 30, Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina — who served as our very first Lectio guide when he led us through Genesis 1–Exodus 19 during Autumn Quarter 2010 — will this time lead us through Psalms during Autumn Quarter 2013. After that follows another repeat performance: Assistant Professor of New Testament Laura Sweat, who led us through the Gospel of Mark during Winter Quarter 2012, will this Winter Quarter lead us through the Gospel of John. Finally, wrapping up our four-year journey through Scripture, in Spring Quarter 2014, Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall will lead us through the book of Revelation.

Lectio continues to gain popularity; this free online program has given thousands the opportunity to dig deeper into Scripture, and a number of churches have been using Lectio for sermon series and Bible studies. Sign up at [spu.edu/lectio](http://spu.edu/lectio) to receive weekly readings and podcasts.

## Recent SOT Faculty Books



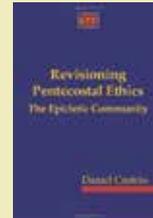
Priscilla Pope-Levison and John R. Levison, Eds.  
*Sex, Gender, and Christianity*  
(Wipf and Stock, 2012)

Should women be priests? Should women submit to their husbands? What about pre-marital sex? This unprecedented collection of articles from a variety of disciplines challenges college administrators, professors, and students to address, in an atmosphere of scholarly inquiry, these and other such questions that have splintered Christianity and polarized the church.



David R. Nienhuis and Robert W. Wall  
*Reading the Epistles of James, Peter, John, & Jude as Scripture: The Shaping & Shape of a Canonical Collection*  
(Eerdmans, Nov. 2013)

Through a detailed examination of the historical shaping and final canonical shape of the oft-neglected New Testament letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude, this book introduces readers to the historical, literary, and theological integrity of this indispensable apostolic witness, approaching these seven letters as an intentionally designed and theologically coherent canonical collection.



Daniel Castelo  
*Revisiting Pentecostal Ethics: The Epicletic Community*  
(CPT Press, 2012)

Early Pentecostals harbored impulses and intuitions that were diminished or reconfigured in light of pressures that arose over time. The practice-orientations of "abiding" and "waiting," drawn from the conceptual frameworks of the affections and virtues, offer a sustained critique and reconstruction of holiness/sanctification and eschatological expectancy within Pentecostalism.

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