

# EmeriTimes Newsletter

June 2025, Number 34

**President: Ruby Englund**

**Editor: Dick Sleight**

**Members: Emeriti Faculty  
of Seattle Pacific University**

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## **Purpose for the *EmeriTimes***

newsletter is "to edify, encourage, and connect emeriti faculty; to profile emeriti achievements (past and present); to provide news and information about members and SPU; to encourage emeriti to continue to be involved in world change."



## **President's Corner**

Martin Luther wrote several hymns and is said to have believed that singing hymns is a good weapon against Satan. He is reported to have said, "The devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God." Hymns have always been my favorite way to worship, and I have spoken and written about my love of hymns.

Recently Doug Strong taught the Sunday School class that I attend and reminded us to look for the theological truths found in hymns. The words are often based on Scripture passages or use the actual words from certain verses. He also advised us to consider the time in history when the hymn was written. Some of the words bring to mind actual historical events that are implied or woven into the wording. We then looked at hymns written in the 16th through the 19th centuries exploring the theological truths while also identifying historical context. It was a rich musical experience. I also experienced rich musical experiences on the SPU campus recently.

As I attended two events this week on the Seattle Pacific campus I was mindful of these truths found in music. The first event was "Styles Guide" presented by Candace Vance of the Theater department in the Bach Theater in McKinley auditorium. In addition to creative staging and acting by the participants, there was a lot of singing. The voices were splendid and demonstrated the versatility and talent of the SPU students. The second event was the Spring Concert held at First Free Methodist Church. The Treble Choir and the Concert Choir performed along with the Orchestra. An incredible amount of talent was displayed. Musical selections from around the world were included. A Zambian song declared "All who sing have the right to be called children of God." The tempos and skill of all of the musicians was evident. The vocal performances and instrumental skills were remarkable, culminating in competition winners. Production winners as well as solo winners performed.

Luther's quotation resonated in my mind as I listened to the voices and the instruments. Surely Satan is chased away when musical sounds ascend into the air. The words of Scripture came alive and reminded me of the Scripture that President Porterfield selected this year from Jeremiah 17:7-8.

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<sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord <sup>8</sup> For he will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream and does not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit.

This year continues to be a year of change, bringing with it difficult decisions, hard choices, and sad good-byes, but the words of Scripture, the development of character to serve others, and the achievements of our SPU students and leadership of faculty remind me that the purpose and vision of SPU are solid and the future must stay grounded in our vision.

*Ruby Englund*

SPU Emeriti Faculty President



## Orientation Welcomes New Emeriti Faculty

The transition from faculty to emeriti can be smooth but is often surprising. Even some of us who retired after over a year of teaching from home during the “stay home, stay healthy” season of COVID found the sudden arrival of retirement jarring. To address issues experienced as faculty transition to new emeriti roles, we held another of our New Emeriti Orientation gatherings on May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Ames Library Seminar Room.

Emeriti officers Ruby Englund (President), Mike Macdonald (Historian/Futurist), and Dick Sleight (*EmeriTimes* editor), were joined by Drs. Joyce Erickson, Professor Emerita of English, and Bob Drov Dahl, Professor Emeritus of Educational Ministry. The presentations were as varied as the speakers, yet they all touched on continuing to pursue one’s calling. (If one has a calling there is One who calls.)

Mike Macdonald reviewed the history of our emeriti organization. Bob Drov Dahl spoke about continuity and change. He expanded on these five areas of continuity: 1) mobility, 2) staying useful, 3) opportunities to express one’s calling, 4) sustaining relationships, and 5) being held dear — inspired by the song *Hold You Dear* by the Secret Sisters. Joyce Erickson chronicled her retirement experience, including membership in four book clubs, maintaining connections with friends and family, continuing education, and part-time teaching and/or visiting faculty service.

Ruby Englund concluded the orientation with a benediction often shared by our beloved Past Emeriti President George Scranton.



*Dr. Bob Drov Dahl*

“And now may the wondrous Peace of Christ be with us all, in all our going out and coming in, until we all come at last to our good Father’s house to hear “well done good and faithful servant” and to go no more out forever.”



## The Emeriti Class of 2025

The following eight faculty members were honored with emeritus status by the Board of Trustees at its February meeting.

**Michelle Beauclair**, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1994. At SPU since 2004.

**Rebecca Hughes**, Associate Professor of History, PhD, University of Washington 2010. At SPU since 2012.

**Gary Karns**, Professor of Marketing, PhD, University of Washington, 1987. At SPU since 1979.

**Charlotte Pratt**, Associate Professor of Biology, PhD, Duke University, 1987. At SPU since 2004.

**Jaeil Lee Rogers**, Professor of Apparel Design and Merchandising, PhD, Ohio State University, 2000. At SPU since 2001.

**Brenda Salter McNeil**, Associate Professor of Reconciliation Studies, DMin, Palmer Theological Seminary, 2000. At SPU since 2011.

**Ross Stewart**, Professor of Accounting, PhD, University of Glasgow, 1987. At SPU since 1986.

**Candace Vance**, Associate Professor of Theatre, MA, Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance (London), 2005. At SPU since 2006.

## Praises, Prayers, Cares, and Concerns

First, a big THANK YOU to Marilyn Severson for her excellent work as our Prayers, Cares and Concerns “hub.” Marilyn — my prayer request is that I can follow well in your footsteps.

I’m excited and humbled to take on this role as Prayers, Cares and Concerns Coordinator. I have often been encouraged by my colleagues who have rejoiced with me and prayed for me over the years. As we emeriti are scattered all over the country (the world), the ability to keep in touch and share our cares, concerns AND our praises is important. We are a community of believers, and as such have the privilege of being a part of each other’s lives as we support one another. Praise God for the tools that make this possible!



Historically, Prayers, Cares, and Concerns has been how we’ve kept informed about illnesses and the passing of our fellow-emeriti and their spouses. That is important, and I want to continue to play that vital role as the receiver-who-passes-along such information. If you have a care or concern to pass along (or hear of someone who does) PLEASE send me a quick note at [eweltz@spu.edu](mailto:eweltz@spu.edu). I will also be in touch with our Administration contacts for such news.

That said, we are not just people who are sitting at home waiting to go to glory. I know this from what I read in the *EmeriTimes*. And I would love to be able to include messages about times when we can “Rejoice with those who rejoice.” To that end, I have suggested a slight tweaking of this role, to “Praises, Prayers, Cares and Concerns” Coordinator. Got a new grand or great-grand child? Finished chemo? Moved to your dream locale? Been blessed by (you tell me)? No need to write an epistle; a sentence or two can suffice. Again, the address is [eweltz@spu.edu](mailto:eweltz@spu.edu). As I collect your praises, cares, and concerns, I’ll send them out so we can all pray and praise together!

Looking forward to hearing from you,

—Elaine

**SPU Library borrowing and research services**  
**for emeriti faculty.**



## Emeriti Faculty Updates

### Kathleen Braden

*Professor Emerita of Geography*

Kathleen is happy to report that the University of Washington Department of Geography faculty have voted to continue her affiliate faculty appointment through next June.



This winter, she enjoyed snowshoe trips in the Cascades with Lorelle Jabs and Cindy Strong.



### Emily Hitchens

*Professor Emerita of Nursing*

Two years ago, I was elected president of the [American Association of University Women](#) for Washington State. We have 24 branches and 1500 members. One of our programs this year has been the first in-

person conference at Renton Technical College, "Telling Our Story," which featured Jimi Okubanjo, a producer of the [Arise Firebird](#) documentary, out of London. It focuses on stories of professional women and their struggles for equity in the corporate world.

We also have an active Public Policy team and sponsor a Lobby Day Conference and a legislative advocate, attorney Nancy Sapiro who supports our Senate and House bills that reflect our mission, "Equity for all," in areas of education, health, and economic security. We have had the Seattle Times accept two Op Eds, one on the Washington Cares Act and the other on Pay Transparency. A third

effort, Senate Bill 5355 which provides safety in institutions of higher education for student survivors of sexual assault, was signed by the Governor on April 22nd.

We hosted a Great Decisions presentation and discussion with members from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington with Dr. Jeffery Morton, Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University and Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association on "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict."

Besides these state-wide programs, we also support a STEM Summer Camp (Tech Trek) for 110 girls going into 8th grade, held at PLU. AAUW national research shows that girls at this age are open to exploring opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. The girls choose from several core classes, have choices for laboratories in the afternoon, have field trips, and interact with women representing these fields. Branches select girls based on recommendations from their science/math teachers. [AAUW-WA](#) has an excellent web site where you can access our programs, view the legislative issues, and see what happened at last year's Tech Trek Camp.



### Michael Macdonald

*Professor Emeritus of European Studies and Philosophy*

Karen and I count our blessings, which seem to us abundant. Grateful for family nearby, wonderful friends, and church. We spent all of April in Puerto Vallarta, for me almost a spiritual

retreat. I swam most days and read much. I particularly recommend Francis S. Collins' [The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith and Trust](#) (2024). My observation of Karen — she improves everything around her — plants, animals, her husband, whomever and whatever she encounters, and whatever she does.

The **EmeriTimes** newsletter, Number 35, is due out in January. Be sure to send your own **Emeriti Faculty Update** news to [SL8@spu.edu](mailto:SL8@spu.edu).



## Bill Rowley

*Professor Emeritus of  
Counselor Education*

I have always loved to teach. My wife asked me one day what part of the teaching process I enjoyed the most. I told her it's when I am right in the middle of teaching a class, and I can sense everyone is with me! What was her answer? When the lesson is over! Following retirement in 2008, I was able to teach adult classes at my church. But as I have grown older, my voice isn't what it used to be. So, teaching in person is a thing of the past. To compensate, I recently turned to writing daily meditations. I have completed [Meditations for Daily Living](#), [Meditations from the Psalms](#), and [Meditations from Proverbs](#). Each one includes 30 meditations, and each meditation begins with a scripture reference, followed by a relevant story, and closes with an application. I print enough for family and friends. Writing these meditations has kept me in the Word and my mind active.



## Rick Steele

*Professor Emeritus of Moral and  
Historical Theology*

Rick Steele continues to serve as a peer evaluator for the Association of Theological Schools. In 2024-25, he chaired comprehensive evaluation committees to seminaries in southern California, British Columbia, and east Texas, and he has another visit scheduled for spring 2026 in Manitoba.



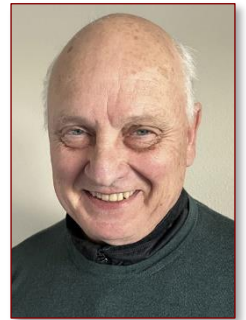
During the winter 2025 quarter, he taught a course on pastoral care and counseling at Seattle Pacific Seminary. This spring, his new book, [Ambassadors in Chains: Four Christian Prisoners of Conscience](#), was published by the Cascade Books imprint of Wipf & Stock Publishers. (See article on page 6.)

Rick also hopes that by the end of this year he will earn his "200 Donations Leaf" on the Tree of Life wall exhibit at [Bloodworks Northwest](#). (With that milestone, he will have given the equivalent of 25 gallons of whole blood, platelets, and plasma.)

## Tom Trzyna

*Professor Emeritus of English*

King County has an urgent need for more CASAs—court appointed special advocates for children in court dependency. I have been doing this work for over six years, and I have met many saints — people who have made extraordinary sacrifices to take in children and give them permanency. The work of the CASA is simple. You visit the children monthly at their current location, read all reports, do research as needed, write reports to the court, and appear in court zoom hearings and trials. Training is one week of introduction to the legal and social work aspects. My cases are all over King County, with some extending into Snohomish and Pierce counties. I currently have two cases coming toward conclusion and plan to take on some of the urgent need for CASAs to represent cases in trial. Support is excellent. Please [email me](#) if you have questions. This is one of the most impactful and frankly rewarding volunteer jobs I have ever done. I also serve on the board of Friends of CASA of King County, a 501c3 that raises money and funds the emergency needs of these kids.



## Bob Weathers

*Professor Emeritus of Physical  
Education and Exercise Science*

In early July 2023, Judy and I put our names on a waiting list to reside at [The Samarkand](#), a faith-based continuing care retirement community in Santa Barbara, California — thinking that the wait would be just 6-8 months. Having no notification of an apartment that was available to us, but expecting that to be received any time soon, we sold and vacated our home in Anacortes on June 21, 2024. We put in storage most of the belongings we hadn't given away and went cruising for five weeks since we had no place to live while awaiting encouraging words from The Samarkand. Returning to Anacortes, we received the desired news and rented a furnished apartment for

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two months while waiting for our Samarkand apartment to be refurbished to our specifications. We moved in on October 29, 2024 and are now feeling settled and enjoying ourselves.

The book that has most impressed me since moving to Santa Barbara is [\*The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust\*](#) by Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD — former head of the Human Genome Project and Director of the National Institutes of Health as well as recipient of the 2020 Templeton Prize.

(Editor's Note: It must be good if Drs. Macdonald and Weathers both praise the same book.) Written by a human, it's not perfect, but it's a book I think worthy of consideration by all. Some of you may have read his 2006 book, [\*The Language of God\*](#), which is in the SPU Library.

Our residential and mailing address is:  
2661 Tallant Road, C-897, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.  
I continue to use my SPU email address, [weathers@spu.edu](mailto:weathers@spu.edu) and the cell number (206) 234-8931. (See [Bob's great photo.](#))

## Elaine Weltz

*Assistant Professor Emerita  
of Computer Sciences*

Elaine Weltz realized a long-time goal when the Everett Chamber Ensemble performed Franz Schubert's "Trout" Quintet on April 27th. "I have wanted to perform this since grad school... whew!" She is enjoying the life of a part-time musician, making music with her friends in the Everett Philharmonic and at Rose Hill Church. Elaine and husband Tim are settled in their Mount Vernon home (email [eweltz@spu.edu](mailto:eweltz@spu.edu), then drop by for a visit), with Thursday and Sunday trips to Kirkland for church. A European cruise will highlight summer 2025.



## Emeriti in Print

**From the April 7, 2025 Faculty/Staff Bulletin**

### Steele's New Book Published

A new book by Rick Steele, professor emeritus of moral & historical theology, titled [\*Ambassadors in Chains: Four Christian Prisoners of Conscience\*](#), was just published. Rick shares insights into the book. "The book examines the surviving prison writings of four Christians from different eras who were imprisoned for taking stands against the policies and practices of their respective governments:

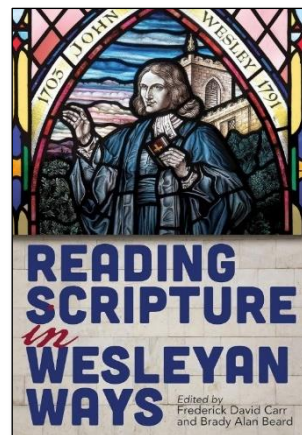
- Vibia Perpetua (181-203), a young Roman noblewoman from North Africa and recent convert to Christianity, who refused to worship the imperial deities
- Maximus the Confessor (580-662), a Byzantine monk and theologian, who opposed a newly hatched imperial heresy
- Thomas More (1478-1535), an English statesman, whose conscience forbade him to approve of King Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage, and of the schism of the Church of England from the papacy
- Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), the great leader of the Civil Rights Movement

Just in case you're interested, the book is available [from the publisher in paperback and ebook format](#) and from [Amazon in paperback and Kindle format.](#)"



### Wall's Essay Published

A new study on Wesleyan biblical hermeneutics by Rob Wall, Paul T. Walls Professor Emeritus of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies, was just published. Rob's essay, "The Way of Full Salvation: An Introduction to Wesleyan Biblical Interpretation" (pp. 1-22), stages a new collection of studies by the



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next generation of exceptional biblical scholars who seek to demonstrate a way of reading scripture shaped by and intended for Wesleyan ecclesial settings — congregational (e.g., FFMC), denominational (e.g., FMC), academic classrooms (e.g., SPU/SPS), faculty scholarship, clergy alliances, Bible studies, and even personal devotions. This collection, [Reading Scripture in Wesleyan Ways](#) (Abingdon Press), is edited by Professors F. David Carr (Roberts Wesleyan) and Brady Beard (Emory). Rob says the publisher promises that it will help readers of all kinds, including faculty, students, staff, and administrators, "delve deeper into how Wesleyans approach their primary source for moral and theological reflection in today's challenging global landscape."

## **Presentations by Emeriti**

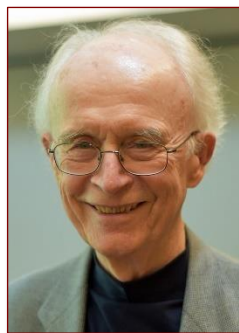
**From the June 9, 2025 Faculty/Staff Bulletin**

### **Hughes Gives Presentation**

On May 29, Becky Hughes, associate professor and chair of history (and one of our new emerita), gave a paper at the Yale-Edinburgh Group in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the "History of the Missionary Movement and World Christianity."

### **Lemico Gives Keynote Address**

On May 24, Gene Lemcio, professor emeritus of New Testament, gave the main address during the 25th anniversary celebration of the Ivan Ohienko Ukrainian Saturday School in Renton. The school was named after the renowned 20th century scholar who headed the team that translated the Bible into modern Ukrainian for the British and Foreign Bible Society. He and Gene's late pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lev Zhabko-Potapovych, directed the final editorial process.



The [Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures](#) at the University of Washington renewed Gene's affiliate professor status for another year.

**I got myself a senior's GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.**

## **The Passing of Keith Phillips (1934-2025)**

While Keith Phillips was not numbered among the emeriti faculty, his impact on SPU was significant, and he was a great friend to many faculty and students.

The following is just a portion of what has been published at [Legacy.com](#).

**After a full life dedicated to faith, family, and service, Keith Phillips passed away at the age of 90 on March 20th, 2025.**



Keith returned to Seattle Pacific University in 1990 as Athletic Director and professor.

His achievements at Seattle Pacific included rebuilding numerous athletic programs, including several that became national champions. He led the design, fundraising and construction of a renovation of the Royal Brougham Pavilion, SPU's gymnasium. Keith had the vision and built the relationships that resulted in an innovative and unique partnership with SPU and Seattle Parks to develop Interbay Stadium.

An equally impressive and mission-aligned commitment was the support Keith gave to a vigorous intramural program; most college athletic directors are prone to seeing Intramurals as a distraction, or a competitor for resources. Keith saw intramurals as mission-aligned, and as an opportunity for students to make connections, encourage an active lifestyle, and build community. And throughout his time at Seattle Pacific, Keith focused on building and strengthening relationships with students, colleagues and faculty, the athletic and academic departments, alumni and the wider community. He mentored countless student athletes and coaches, opening doors that led to lifelong opportunities and lessons. Keith retired from Seattle Pacific in 1993 and remained active in the alumni association and in the wider community.

**Some call it multi-tasking. I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place.**