

“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

Kingswood

CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Upcoming Events

2012 Palmer Lecture: “From Inclusion to Belonging”



John Swinton, professor of practical theology and pastoral care at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, headlines the 2012 Palmer Lecture. He will speak on a practical theology of disability and humanness. This year's event is presented by the School of Theology in partnership with the SPU School of Psychology, Family, and Community and School of Health Sciences.

Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m.

First Free Methodist Church,
3200 Third Ave. W.
(adjacent to campus)

Cost: Free. Wheelchair accessible.

For more information, email
theology@spu.edu.

Homecoming Alumni Breakfast With SOT Faculty

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

Saturday, January 28, 9:30 a.m.

Kingswood House, 303 W. Dravus
Cost: Free. RSVP to Kelsie Job at
206-281-2136 or jobk@spu.edu
by January 25.

Paul T. Walls Lecture in Wesleyan theology

With **Robert W. Wall**, SPU's Paul T.
Walls Professor of Scripture and
Wesleyan Studies

Thursday, April 12, 9:30–11 a.m.

Demaray Hall 150 (SPU campus)
Cost: Free. Wheelchair accessible.

For more information, email
theology@spu.edu.

Eugene Peterson Headlines “Scripture as Formation” Conference

On Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21, the Center for Biblical and Theological Education at Seattle Pacific University and the SPU School of Theology, along with North American Professors of Christian Education (NAPCE), presented “Scripture as Formation.”

The conference featured the Rev. Eugene Peterson, author of nearly 30 books, including Gold Medallion Award winner and international bestseller *The Message*.

Peterson, a 1954 graduate of Seattle Pacific College, holds a bachelor of sacred theology degree from New York Theological Seminary and a master's degree in Semitic languages from Johns Hopkins University. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he was a founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland, where he served for 29 years. From 1992 until his retirement in 1998, he was professor of spiritual theology at Regent College in Vancouver, B.C. He is now professor emeritus at Regent.

Thursday evening, Peterson spoke to approximately 1,400 church leaders, faculty, staff, and students in Royal Brougham Pavilion on “St. Mark: The Basic Text for Christian Spirituality.” Here is an excerpt from his talk:

True spirituality, Christian spirituality, takes attention off ourselves and focuses on another, on Jesus. ... Spirituality and the attention we give to our souls turns out in practice — when we let St. Mark shape our practice — to be the attention we give to God revealed in Jesus. The text trains us in such perception and practice. Line after line. Page after page. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! None of us provides the content for our own spirituality. It is given to us. Jesus gives it to us. The text allows for no exceptions.

Earlier in the day, Peterson taught a group of Seminary students in a session of Professor of Christian Ministries and Education Bob Drov Dahl's “Scripture as Formation” class.

On Friday, he spoke to conference attendees on “Back to Square One: God Said.”

SPU Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology Frank Spina also spoke at the conference. Author of *The*



Faith of the Outsider: Exclusion and Inclusion in the Biblical Story, Spina spoke on “A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Exposing the Bible to Rediscover Christian Scripture.” He asked the question, “What is it about the Bible that we have to be urged to make it an essential part of our spiritual diet?”

We have in the modern period layered the Bible with assorted garments that actually prevent the church from reading it as Christian Scripture. These garments must be stripped and discarded. That gives us access to a Bible which is authentically Scripture. Then, by stressing Scripture's origins in actual communities of faith, taking seriously the whole biblical witness, viewing the text as theologically charged and revelatory, attending to all the linguistic wonders of the text, and no longer covering at figuration — which is already prevalent throughout — we are in for a Spirit-led surprise.

The conference included breakout sessions led by SPU faculty and area church leaders.

You can listen to Peterson's and Spina's messages on spu.edu/itunes.

AAMP Inaugural Conference

On June 13–15, the Asian American Ministry Program hosted its inaugural conference. The conference — attended by nearly 200 pastors and other church leaders, professors, and seminary students — marked the first time that any seminary in the Pacific Northwest has hosted a national, inter-denominational conference of this scale focused on Asian American ministry. Billy Vo, the director for the Asian American Ministry Program, stated that the conference's success “reaffirmed the importance of the Asian American Ministry Program for our region, our seminary, and our churches.”

With a focus on Asian American churches' “Past, Present, and Future,” the conference featured such prestigious Asian American speakers as Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, author of *The Next Evangelicalism*; Ken Fong, lead pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles; and Eugene Cho, pastor of the Seattle's multiethnic Quest Church and founder of One Day's Wages. Several SPU professors, including Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim, Assistant Professor of Missiology David Leong, and Assistant Professor of Theology Brian Bantum, were among the seminar leaders for the conference.



Asian American Ministry Program Director Billy Vo addresses attendees at AAMP's inaugural conference.

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 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.



Front row (left to right): 2011 Seattle Pacific Seminary graduates Bill Horst, Christal M.N. Jenkins, Donovan Richards, and Jim Fox. Back row (left to right): Instructor and Theology Librarian Steve Perisho; Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn; Assistant Professor of Theology Mike Langford; Associate Professor of Theology Doug Koskela; Associate Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo; Dean and Professor of the History of Christianity Doug Strong; Seminary Associate Dean and Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele; Seminary Associate Dean and Professor of Christian Ministry, Theology, and Culture Jeff Keuss; and Professor of New Testament Studies Jack Levison.

Seattle Pacific Seminary's First Graduates

Last June, Seattle Pacific Seminary was proud to hand four students their diplomas. This is not only the first year that students graduated from Seattle Pacific Seminary, but also the first year that Seminary faculty and students have been able to participate in such ceremonies as the Graduate Hooding and Commissioning Service. Congratulations to the four graduates:

- Bill Horst was awarded an M.A. in Theology: Christian Scripture Track. Bill wrote a thesis for his degree titled "Paul, Athenians, and the Breath of Life" and is currently working in the technology field as he prepares to pursue a doctorate in the field of New Testament Studies.
- Jim Fox received an M.A. in Theology: Christian Studies Track. His thesis was titled "Catechesis for a Practicing Church." A Vineyard pastor for several years, he has "reticently" resigned that position and is "listening" for a new pastoral call.
- Christal M.N. Jenkins earned an M.A. in Theology: Business and Applied Theology Track. She has chosen to continue on at SPU and will graduate again this June with an MBA. In addition to studying, Christal owns a marketing and social media consulting firm, and contemplates how business can be transformative rather than transactional.
- Donovan Richards received a M.A. in Theology: Business and Applied Theology Track. While working toward his degree, Donovan co-wrote and presented an article with Dr. Kenman Wong titled "Usury or Just Price?: A Christian Ethical Evaluation of Interest Rates in Commercialized Microfinance." Donovan hopes to earn a Ph.D. in the future.

"My hope is that Connect will help alumni feel empowered to employ their faith in the workplace, because they are part of a supportive community in which they can work out the hard questions."

—Tyler Gorsline,
Class of 2008,
Alumni Coordinator
for SPU Connect

SPU Connect: Faith in the Workplace

SPU Connect is a program for young SPU alumni who wish to gather with other young alumni and focus on the theme of faith and work. Connect fosters community groups specifically designed for young professionals currently working in a variety of secular and Christian positions. These groups help facilitate a community centered on nurturing faith in the workplace, wrestling with themes such as discipleship, grace-filled community, vocation, and God's call on our lives, and helping young alumni discover how these themes can fit in with their current jobs. "Connect helps alumni navigate questions of faith in the workplace by keeping them connected to the SPU community, says Connect coordinator Tyler Gorsline. "My hope is that Connect will help alumni feel empowered to employ their faith in the workplace, because they are part of a supportive community in which they can work out the hard questions."

SPU Connect meets on the first Wednesday and last Thursday of every month. Though started by School of Theology and School of Business and Economics graduates, Connect is open to any SPU alumni who would like to join.



School of Theology and other alumni, and Associate Professor of Theology Doug Koskela (lower right), listen to a speaker at a spring 2011 SPU Connect event.

Parachurch Organization Tuition Discount

The Parachurch Tuition Discount program offers a 50 percent tuition discount for full- and part-time staff actively employed with these organizations: InterVarsity, Navigators, Young Life, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade, and World Vision.

Eligible staff will receive this benefit on their first 40 credits of Seminary courses while enrolled in the M.Div., M.A. in Theology, or Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (GCCS) program.

This discount is extended to the first 10 students who apply each year. For more information, email seminary@spu.edu.

New School of Theology Website Launched

On December 8, we launched our new website (spu.edu/theology). We invite you to explore the site and let us know what you think.



Alumna Spotlight



School of Theology graduate Natalie Sweberg ('09) cares deeply about ministry and education for children and adolescents. When she started at SPU, she was certain she wanted to be an elementary school teacher. Through the course of her studies, though, she felt led to pursue theology, changing her major to Educational Ministries with a minor in Youth Ministries.

While attending SPU, Natalie was involved in SPU's Sharpen ministry, which focuses on providing hospitality

for undergraduates living off campus. She also worked in the children's ministry program at Bethany Community Church and sang in the Gospel Choir. Her senior year, Natalie participated in a Young Life youth ministry internship.

After graduation, Natalie earned her Washington state teaching certification and elementary education endorsement at Central Washington University. But for the last several years she has found God leading her into Youth Ministry.

Natalie is currently on staff in the Youth Mission and Ministries Department at University Presbyterian Church (UPC), worshipping and learning alongside middle and high school students, and traveling with them as far as Scotland.

Amid youth group games, conversations with students over coffee, and times of worship, Natalie is discerning whether seminary could be the next step in her journey. For now, though, she counts it a privilege and a blessing to serve the youth at UPC, and "guide them in discerning where God is at work in their lives."

Seattle Pacific Seminary's Program Offerings

Operating under the School of Theology's unique model of theological education that we call "Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate," Seattle Pacific Seminary is equipping students for ministry in the 21st century. The Seminary's rich and varied programs offer something for just about anyone desiring to pursue graduate studies in theology or Christian Scriptures.

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology

The M.A. in Theology degree at SPU combines a core study of general theology with specialized study in one of four tracks:

- Christian Scripture
- Christian Studies
- Student Ministry and Culture
- Business and Applied Theology

The program focuses on the classical theological disciplines of Scripture, church history, theology, and ethics.

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Also built on the classical theological disciplines of Scripture, church history, theology, and ethics, the Master of

Divinity degree is the normative degree to prepare students for ordained ministry and for general pastoral leadership responsibilities. It is also the recommended first degree for students who plan to pursue admission to doctoral study in theology.

Dual Degrees

In partnership with SPU's School of Business and Economics and School of Psychology, Family, and Community, SPS offers five dual degree programs:

- M.B.A./M.A. in Theology
- M.B.A./M.Div.
- M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy/M.A. in Theology
- M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy/M.Div.
- Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology/M.A. in Theology

These programs enable students to earn two advanced degrees in less time than it would take to earn the same two degrees separately.

By pursuing dual degrees, students bring together skills and knowledge in

both disciplines, enriching both their graduate education and their career opportunities.

Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (GCCS) program is designed to equip students with an understanding of Christian formation and vocation,

and the practices that nurture an ongoing life of discipleship and mission in the 21st century. Students are challenged to apply this understanding personally through reflection and discernment both in the classroom and in the community.

For more information about Seminary programs, visit spu.edu/seminary.



Seattle Pacific Seminary students in Kingswood House.

Discernment Weekend

Date: Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, 2012

Place: SPU campus and beyond

Cost: \$25

Have you ever wondered what seminary is all about? Or whether seminary is for you? Many who begin to feel a call to ministry have similar questions about seminary but are not sure where to go for answers. This is why Seattle Pacific Seminary (SPS) created "Discernment Weekend." We intentionally didn't call it "Prospective Student Weekend" or "Discovery Weekend," because we weren't focusing on recruiting students. Instead, we are focusing on partnering with students to help them discern whether they are being called to attend seminary.

We believe this so strongly that, if students attend Discernment Weekend and as a result discern that they are to attend a seminary across town or across the country, this is still a "win" in our eyes, because the students ultimately enter a community that will best support them in what they are being called to do.

Through attending sessions led by SPS faculty, through worshipping in various settings, through prayer, and through sharing of stories, students grow in their ability to discern God's call on their lives. We hope that by partnering with all our inquiring students, even ones who end up attending other seminaries, we are being Kingdom-minded and helping students discern what the Lord would have for them regarding seminary.

Whether you end up at Seattle Pacific Seminary or elsewhere, we want to partner with you in this discernment process. For more information about Discernment Weekend, please contact Raoul Perez, Seminary Program Coordinator, at seminary@spu.edu.

"Through attending sessions led by SPS faculty, through worshipping in various settings, through prayer, and through sharing of stories, students grow in their ability to discern God's call on their lives."



Join Us for the Second Annual Alumni Breakfast



Left to right: Theology alumni Kelsie Job ('09), Lee Staman ('08), and Megan McDonald ('08).

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2012
 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 second annual School of Theology Alumni Breakfast on Saturday, January 22, at 9:30 a.m. The complimentary breakfast will be held in the Kingswood House, adjacent to the SPU campus. 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 to Kelsie Job at jobk@spu.edu by January 10.

A Message From the Theology Librarian



Steve Perisho

To Graduate Alumni of the SPU School of Religion/Theology and Alumni of Seattle Pacific Seminary:
 With thanks to the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and the Lilly Endowment, the School of Theology is pleased to offer its seminary alumni free remote access to the ATLA Religion Database with Serials (the ATLA Religion Database plus all electronic full text in ATLAS) through April 2013. To get the information you need to log in, email Steve Perisho at sperisho@spu.edu with your full name (including maiden name, if applicable) and the year you earned your graduate degree.

how the Seminary can best be serving them. On behalf of Dean Strong and all of us at SPS, we want to say thank you to the Advisory Council for the many ways in which the Advisory Council members have given of themselves. We are blessed by their commitment and service.



Left to right: Advisory Council members Scott Dudley, senior pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue; Les Steele, SPU senior vice president for academic affairs; and Blake Wood, lead pastor, First Free Methodist Church, at the May 2011 Advisory Council meeting.

Thank You to the Advisory Council

In October 2011, Seattle Pacific Seminary had its second Advisory Council meeting, welcoming to campus more than 20 external partners of SPS. The Advisory Council was formed by Dean Doug Strong to gather insight from respected community leaders in the Seattle area and abroad.

These leaders have offered invaluable feedback on the current state of the Seminary, and have offered proposals for next steps. They have even gone above and beyond to invite current students to their home in order to understand better

Lectio Update: Joshua/Judges and Mark

Lectio: Guided Bible Reading is now in its second year. To date, 2,856 people have subscribed to the weekly guided readings, with "hits" coming from 53 countries. Last year, the Lectio covered Genesis 1–Exodus 19 with Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina, the Gospel of Matthew with Associate Professor of Theology David Nienhuis, Romans with Assistant Professor of Theology Daniel Castelo, and Old Testament Selections from Israel's Story with Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sara Koenig.

This last Autumn Quarter, Nijay Gupta, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, led us through Joshua/Judges, perhaps two of the least-read books in the Bible, yet two of the most theologically rich. Winter Quarter, beginning January 9, Laura Sweat, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, will lead us through the Gospel of Mark, a gospel that is historically important, says Dr. Sweat, "because it was likely the first gospel written, thus serving as a framework for others."

For a free subscription to Lectio readings and podcasts, and to read and download previous Lectios, visit spu.edu/lectio. You can also comment on the readings and "go deeper" with links to commentaries and other resources.



Dr. Nijay Gupta



Dr. Laura Sweat