**Kingswood Chronicle**

**is named after the first school established by John Wesley, in Bristol, England, in 1742. For its dedication, John’s brother, Charles, wrote a hymn that included**

**Wisdom Literature & James**

**SPU campus**

**303 West Dravus**

**Theology Affinity Reunion**

**Dr. Dave Nienhuis**

**with Dr. Jack Levison**

**Gospel of Luke**

**with Dr. Steve Fowl**

**SPU.EDU/GRANDREUNION**

**NEW!**

**SAVE THE READING FOR ALL 2016 UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN STORY ENCOUNTER, EXPLORE,**

**Professors Kerry Dearborn and C. Edward Smyth Retire**

In conversations with past and present students of both Dr. Kerry Dearborn and Dr. Ed Smyth, it is immediately apparent that SPU retires two professors who each leave a profound legacy. As the Apostle Paul reflects, the results of their ministry are “living letters” written on human hearts and the School of Theology celebrates each remarkable career.

Dearborn’s 22 years at SPU include numerous awards and accomplishments, notably the 2016 Professor of the Year Award, reflecting a deep appreciation for her teaching, which has transformed and inspired many young women and men. Recognized for her warmth and hospitality, Dearborn and her husband, Tim, have welcomed countless students in their home and cultivated mentoring relationships modeling God’s love. She has been a tireless advocate for the voiceless and marginalized, inspiring many toward global awareness, missions, and cross-cultural ministry. Dearborn’s academic work reflects her strong voice for reconciliation, the Holy Spirit, women in ministry, and the power of the imagination, notable by numerous articles and her recent book, *Drinking from the Wells of New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Imagination in Reconciliation.*

She has expanded the capacity of many to perceive God through various art forms and literature. Within SPU and beyond, she has served on numerous boards and leaves a particular mark by developing the reconciliation studies minor. Additionally, her reach has extended SPU’s reputation through numerous lectures around the world. Her celebrated SPU career is acknowledged with the status of emeritus professor of theology.

Smyth’s legacy at SPU covers four decades, including two seasons of teaching (1975–1992 and 2000–present) and shaping the educational ministry programs. His passion for discipling is significantly evidenced by having led 29 yearlong covenant small groups of young men meeting weekly in his home. Smyth’s mentoring, gifted teaching, and love for students earned him the 2003 Professor of the Year Award and the 2010 Faculty Servant Award.

Smyth’s reach extends beyond SPU as a conference preacher and workshop leader both in the United States and abroad, particularly in China and Eastern Europe. On campus, his roles included director of church relations (1985–1992) and the chair and/or member of numerous boards and committees. His unique blend of direct questioning matched with infectious laughter and fervent love have made a lasting impact on students and colleagues. Smyth’s career is also honored with the status of emeritus professor of educational ministry. As the “Spirit has given life” (2 Corinthians 3:6) to many through these two professors, the STJ gives glory to God for their remarkable work among us.
When Amy Underwood arrived at SPU, she knew she wanted to train for a job where she could help people. Cizing in on graduation after Winter Quarter 2017, that’s still her goal, but the route changed along the way.

Underwood originally planned on a psychology major and a counseling career, but found she wasn’t passionate about her coursework. In the midst of “a bit of a life crisis,” she met an SPU student majoring in Christian theology with an educational ministry concentration. After learning more about the major, Underwood thought it might be for her: “This path had the same end goal — helping people — but it was just a different avenue that was more suited to who I am and what my passions are. I joined a couple of classes that winter quarter and have never looked back.”

Dr. Shannon Smythe Joins Faculty

Dr. Shannon Smythe joins the School of Theology faculty in Autumn Quarter 2016 as an assistant professor of theological studies. Smythe received her bachelor’s degree from SPU in Christian theology and educational ministry concentration. After earning a master of divinity degree from the University of Dubuque, she received her PhD in dogmatic and constructive theology and chair of the faculty search committee. "The process took almost a year and involved the assessment of scores of applicants from around the nation. We believe she brings a number of expertise, and overall sense of call and vocation make her a welcome addition to the SOT collegium. Smythe will teach in each of the major divisions of curricular instruction offered by the SOT (i.e., the University Foundations sequence, the theology major, and the Seminary). She is no stranger to SPU: In addition to being an alumna, she has taught some SOT courses as an adjunct. Her teaching experience, papers, and grades. When students talk about their lives and struggles as middle schoolers, those are profound moments of vocation, Smythe said. "It’s when we’re talking about more than the subject matter — that’s a good day for me," he said. When students open up about the ups and downs of life, Smythe finds a simple school-day conversation can become a space where students can speak honestly and safely — and where he can be an example of a trustworthy adult. His role also involves helping students to develop a positive vocabulary of expectations for themselves, countering some of the negative messages that middle schoolers often hear from peers. A simple language change, like turning "don’t be late" into "be on time," can help students toward thinking and acting graciously about who they are and what their next steps can be, he said. "For me, being in a frame of mind to deal with expectations in a positive way is really helpful with students.”

Smythe said Seattle Pacific Seminary’s “apostolate” component has helped in approaching his work as a calling. "Being sent is really key for me," he said of his teaching. "I have to rely on knowing that there is something transformative happening on a deeper level in kids’ lives that I can’t see. I get to be a part of that. That’s huge.

Dr. Shannon Smythe joins the School of Theology faculty in Autumn Quarter 2016 as an assistant professor of theological studies. Smythe received her bachelor’s degree from SPU in Christian theology and educational ministry concentration. After earning a master of divinity degree from the University of Dubuque, she received her PhD in dogmatic and constructive theology and chair of the faculty search committee. "The process took almost a year and involved the assessment of scores of applicants from around the nation. We believe she brings a number of expertise, and overall sense of call and vocation make her a welcome addition to the SOT collegium. Smythe will teach in each of the major divisions of curricular instruction offered by the SOT (i.e., the University Foundations sequence, the theology major, and the Seminary). She is no stranger to SPU: In addition to being an alumna, she has taught some SOT courses as an adjunct. Her teaching experience, expertise, and overall sense of call and vocation make her a welcome addition to the SOT collegium. "The church operates in this tension between being an organism — the living body of Christ — and an organization that functions in the world and needs to pay its pastors and bills. Underwood is considering a career in church administration and management, given her behind-the-scenes strengths and desire to enable others to do frontline work. She’s particularly interested in working in smaller, rural churches, where her training might be especially helpful. She’s excited to intern this summer at North Cascades Christian Fellowship, a Free Methodist congregation in Sedro-Woolley, Wash. "It’s a great opportunity to explore the denomination as well as to better get to know myself and where I fit into churches," she said. After graduation, Underwood is content to go where God leads. “I believe I am called to do ministry.”
Too often, these conversations remain theoretical," said Billy Vo, director of the Asian American Ministry Program. "So we
American Ministry Program hosted the forum in partnership with SPU's John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership
registering with Carina Fung (fungc@spu.edu).
Saturday, and Sunday afternoon); non-matriculated guests are invited to attend the
Seminary. The course will be held September 30 –October 2 (Friday evening, all day
(spiritual formation) and "apostolate" (mission and reconciliation) emphases of the

Philip's Daughters: Women in Pentecostal-Charismatic Leadership
and
One Hundred Years of African American Pentecostalism; The Women of Azusa Street;
women's leadership in Pentecostalism. An author of six books (including
Black Fire:
Alexander is a prominent authority on African American Pentecostalism and
Seminary and at Regent University.
Seattle Pacific Seminary welcomes Dr. Estrelda Y. Alexander as a guest professor
in the Washington, D.C., area. She previously taught at Wesley Theological

Rah invited listeners to step out of their walls of familiarity, to surround themselves with people unlike themselves, and to
Reading from the book of Lamentations, Rah urged Christians today to focus on problems of racial division rather than
running away from them, just as Jeremiah was forced to lament and face his problems. “We change the narrative by
engaging with the other in such a deep and profound way that our lives are completely changed,” he said.
In her address, Salter McNeil focused on the idea of deserved justice. Teaching from the story of Jonah, Salter McNeil
urged the crowd to seriously question if they deserve to be blessed. While many would say, “Well, yes we do,” Salter McNeil
challenged audience members to reflect on their own lives and determine who their Ninivees are — the hated, oppressed, and marginalized people in their lives.
“God is testing our justice,” she said. “Who are our Ninivees? God says, ‘Just what I want for you, I want for them.’
Continuing the focus on racial reconciliation in SPU’s weekly chapel services, the Church Leaders Forum aimed to provide
next steps for church leaders with a luncheon and follow-up forum with the speakers after each chapel service. The Asian
American Ministry Program hosted the forum in partnership with SPU’s John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership
Training, and Community Development, and the Office of University Ministries. The event was designed to help Seattle
area church leaders, staff, and congregations think about racial justice and reconciliation in practical terms.
“Too often, these conversations remain theoretical,” said Billy Vo, director of the Asian American Ministry Program. “So we
wanted to engage in conversation around the pastoral implications of racial reconciliation. This includes helping pastors
name where they are on the reconciliation journey, and to capture a vision for what it would mean for their congregations to
mobilitize for racial justice.”

Waler Lecture Features
Dr. Michael Langford
Reconciliation is a word often used in Christian circles but, almost as often, it is not defined, said Dr. Michael Langford, associate professor of theology, discipleship, and ministry. Sometimes reconciliation is used to indicate intimacy with God, sometimes it merely means being nice to other people, and sometimes it refers to an ambiguous concept of justice, said Langford at the 2016 Weter Lecture held on campus on April 12. The annual lecture is presented by an SPU faculty member chosen through a competitive proposal process.
To avoid conceptual reductionism of reconciliation, Langford urged attendees to look to the work of 20th-century theologian Karl Barth, who wrote exhaustively on the concept of reconciliation as an ecology of multidimensional salvation — personal, communal, and societal. He emphasized this ecology of transformation as a framework for thinking about reconciliation in a theological sense.

Dr. Estrelda Alexander to Serve as Guest Seminary Professor
Seattle Pacific Seminary welcomes Dr. Estrelda Y. Alexander as a guest professor for an intensive course on the integration of spirituality and justice during Autumn Quarter 2016. Alexander is the founder and president of William Seymour College in the Washington, D.C., area. She previously taught at Wesley Theological Seminary and at Regent University.
Alexander is a prominent authority on African American Pentecostalism and women's leadership in Pentecostalism. An author of six books (including Black Fire: One Hundred Years of African American Pentecostalism; The Women of Azusa Street; and Philip's Daughters: Women in Pentecostal-Charismatic Leadership), she brings scholarly depth and expertise to these topics.

She will teach “Social Holiness in Context,” a class that combines the “abbey” (spiritual formation) and “apostolate” (mission and reconciliation) emphases of the Seminary. The course will be held September 30–October 2 (Friday evening day, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon); non-matriculated guests are invited to attend the course with the seminarians by paying a $50 fee, reading the pre-class books, and registering with Carina Pung (funch@spa.edu).
The city of Seattle evokes a number of strong and diverse images: bustling docks, posh tech headquarters, and the logos of native brands like Starbucks and REI. Intricately linked to the city’s spirit and identity, many of these images convey a sense of commerce, culture, and innovation concepts that have been applied broadly by businesses, nonprofits, and church ministries.

This summer and next, the School of Theology, in collaboration with SPU’s School of Business, Government, and Economics, and the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, launches the Program for Christian Social Entrepreneurship. Designed for church leaders who want to combine business skills with meaningful theology, the program offers an accessible, experiential, and practical option for professional development and community transformation.

Common church-based social entrepreneurship ventures include pay-as-you-can coffee shops that train homeless or troubled youth as baristas, but Program Director Dr. Matthew Sigler, assistant professor of Wesleyan theology, hopes the new program will encourage the churches to think outside the coffee shop box. “We’re hoping to meet a need for those in the church who realize that the way we do church needs to change, and to give them a comprehensive vision for what a holistic approach to ‘business as mission’ might look like,” Sigler said.

Local partners include organizations like Urban Impact, a church-connected nonprofit organization that runs a thriving gym and manages affordable housing units. Students will explore sites like 415 Westlake, an event and wedding venue that also serves as a storefront and church building, and Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission’s 118 Designs, which salvages building materials to provide job training and discipleship opportunities through a furniture shop. These and many other Seattle-based organizations offer social change models that generate revenue while simultaneously providing economic opportunity for the local community.

“The church must go outside its walls. If we only bring people into our bubble, it’s not good ecclesiology, and we are missing the point that the way we do church needs to change, and to give them a comprehensive vision for what a holistic approach to ‘business as mission’ might look like,” Sigler said.

Beginning Autumn Quarter 2016, all SPU undergraduates in required UFDN 1000 courses (Christian Faith) will participate in a Wesleyan Small Group.

Derived from SPU’s Wesleyan/holiness heritage, these “SoulCare” small groups embody a practice in Christian formation that exposes students to Christian community. The groups facilitate growth in awareness and love of self, neighbor, and God. Participants gather weekly to ask and answer the question, “How goes it with your soul?” SoulCare is SPU’s adapted version of these historical groups. They’re not Bible studies, prayer groups, or groups guided by a curriculum. Rather, their main content is the state of one’s soul — the deepest self, which lies underneath surface experiences and emotions, the self that is present to God. Each one-hour, weekly meeting is led by a trained facilitator under the supervision of Seattle Pacific Seminary interns and SPU staff. This new program will have a significant impact on the spiritual climate of our campus on three levels:

1. **First-Year Students:** Incoming freshmen (approximately 600 per year) enroll in the first of SPU’s three “Foundations” courses, UFDN 1000, taught by School of Theology faculty. SOT faculty have revised the curriculum for this course to focus on reconciliation, vocation, and spiritual formation. The required small groups are in many ways the glue that seeks to hold all three of these curricular objectives together as:
   - Students become the curriculum;
   - Participants learn to listen to “the other” in their midst; and
   - Participants practice articulating the state of one’s soul, which partners with an in-class autobiography project to help the students clarify their identity and missional purpose in life.

2. **Leaders:** Undergraduate juniors and seniors step into these volunteer Christian leadership positions to lead the small groups. Each leader receives significant mentoring and ongoing training on a broad range of topics via a one-credit course. They also benefit from the weekly interaction of being in a mentoring group led by their seminary intern. To meet the expected demand of this broad-scale program, we anticipate 56 small-group leaders per quarter — a significant opportunity for discipleship training and development at SPU.

3. **Seminary Interns:** A team of Seattle Pacific Seminarians will provide essential leadership to this program by recruiting and vetting group leaders, planning and implementing training for leaders, and providing ongoing mentoring to their cohort of leaders through weekly small groups and regular one-on-one interactions. These interns also receive extensive training in listening, reflecting, and asking appropriate questions, group dynamics, creating and maintaining a sacred and safe space, handling follow-up concerns, the history and theology of Wesleyan Small Groups and their connection to SPU’s mission, cultural competence, and program management and implementation.

We believe this program will bear significant kingdom fruit, and we invite you to pray with us for it.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:** [SPU.EDU/SOULCARE](http://SPU.EDU/SOULCARE)