



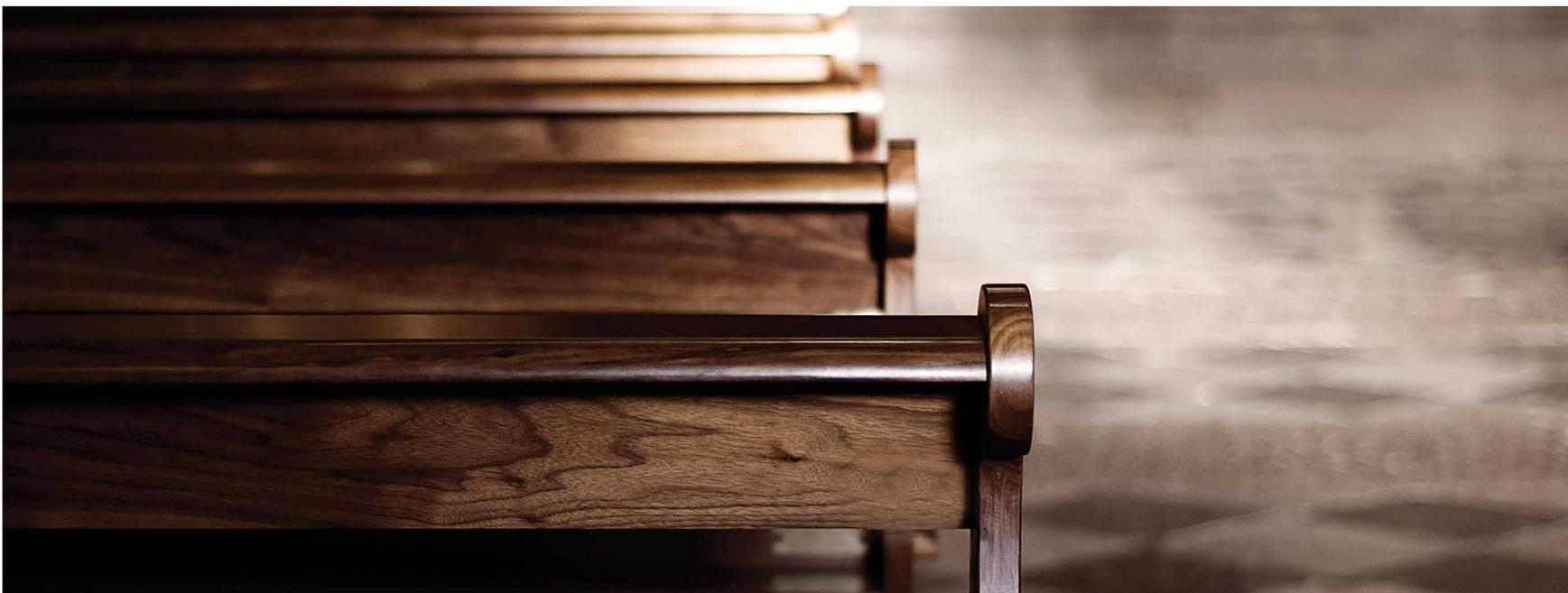
# Kingswood

“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

## CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



### Announcements

#### THE CENTER FOR BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

AT SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

#### **Lectio: Guided Bible Reading**

Sign up to receive weekly emails for CBTE's "Lectio: Guided Bible Reading" program. Beginning Autumn Quarter 2010, SPU School of Theology faculty will lead us through the Bible with weekly readings:

**Autumn 2010: Dr. Frank Spina**  
Genesis 1 – Exodus 19

**Winter 2011: Dr. Dave Nienhuis**  
Gospel of Matthew

**Spring 2011: Dr. Daniel Castelo**  
Epistle to the Romans

**Summer 2011: Dr. Sara Koenig**  
Old Testament Selections

For more information and to sign up to receive the readings, email Kathryn Widell at [kwidell@spu.edu](mailto:kwidell@spu.edu).

### Alumni Spotlight



After graduation, Gary Hale ('06) spent a year interning with high school and college students at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, California. He returned to the Northwest in August 2007 to start a youth ministry at Eastlake Church in Bothell, which grew to more than 100 students under his leadership. From there he moved to his current position as student ministries director at High Pointe Church in Puyallup, where he works alongside current School of Theology student David Day helping more than 100 students "get an accurate picture of God." "The SOT program at SPU helped me see the importance of growing people in spiritual maturity rather than growing spectators," he says, "and showed me how to equip others for ministry both inside and outside the church."

### CBTE Is Up and Running

On January 21, the newly launched Center for Biblical and Theological Education officially opened its doors with a campus-wide open house and dedication service. At this inaugural event, School of Theology Dean Doug Strong emceed the program; President Phil Eaton shared the history of the CBTE's inception and a vision for its future; and Vice President for Academic Affairs Les Steele led attendees in a brief commissioning service. The Rev. Celeste Cranston, CBTE director, expressed thanks to those whose tireless efforts in laying the foundation are now bearing fruit. At least 85 faculty and staff shared in the celebration, proclaiming with one voice, "We dedicate this Center and its staff to the service of God."

Since opening, the Center has been introducing its purposes and plans across campus and beyond. This has included meeting with its Advisory Council; hosting a staff forum and a mentoring collegium; planning the CBTE website (scheduled to launch July 1); working with School of Theology Professor Frank Spina on the Autumn Quarter rollout of *Lectio: Guided Bible Reading* (see the schedule on the left); planning policies and procedures for faculty grants for further biblical and theological education; setting up procedures and policies for faculty and staff training; hosting lunches with local pastors; hosting outside speakers on campus; meeting with student groups; and hosting "Passionate Faith: A Bible, Youth, and Culture Conference."

"Passionate Faith," a conference designed especially for local youth ministers, youth workers, and church leaders, took place on campus Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7. The conference featured keynote speaker Kenda Creasy Dean,



Left to right: CBTE Director Celeste Cranston, Vice President for Academic Affairs Les Steele, School of Theology Dean Doug Strong, and President Philip Eaton commission the Center for Biblical and Theological Education on the occasion of its grand opening.

Founding Director of the Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry. Jeff Johnson of Selah Service led contemplative worship Thursday evening; and Romanita Hairston, Vice President for U.S. Programs for World Vision, presented the plenary address Friday morning. In addition, School of Theology faculty presented eight breakout sessions on topics from "But Isn't God Mean? Teaching Youth to Love Jesus Through the Old Testament" to "The Problem of Biblical Illiteracy" and "Racial Identity and Christian Discipleship." On Friday, local parachurch organizations presented breakout sessions on topics from "Creativity Builds Community: Worship and the Arts" to "Contemplative Prayer with Junior Highers."

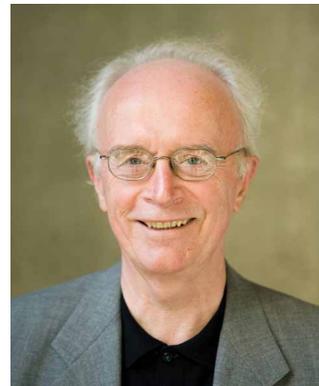
We look forward to seeing how God will continue to use the Center for Biblical and Theological Education to equip and empower lives to embrace the Christian story.

### Farewell to Eugene Lemcio

It was in 1974 — the year "The Godfather: Part II" won best picture, the Rolling Stones debuted "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll," first-class postage was raised to 10 cents, and Richard Nixon left office in disgrace — that Gene Lemcio took up an office in Alexander Hall and began a grace-filled run as Professor of New Testament and Greek at Seattle Pacific University. After 36 years, Gene brings his teaching career to a close this summer.

Dr. Lemcio's vocational journey originated in a mostly Ukrainian immigrant church in Pennsylvania. His pastor was a final translator and editor for a modern Ukrainian language Bible produced by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The pastor brought corrected proof pages to church every Sunday to update the congregation on the week's progress. Dr. Lemcio's desire to emulate that pastor motivated his journey to Asbury Seminary and Trinity College, Cambridge University, where he earned his advanced degrees.

After a year of teaching Greek at Asbury Seminary, Dr. Lemcio headed west to join his seminary friend, Frank Spina, on the faculty at SPU. For 36 years Dr. Lemcio



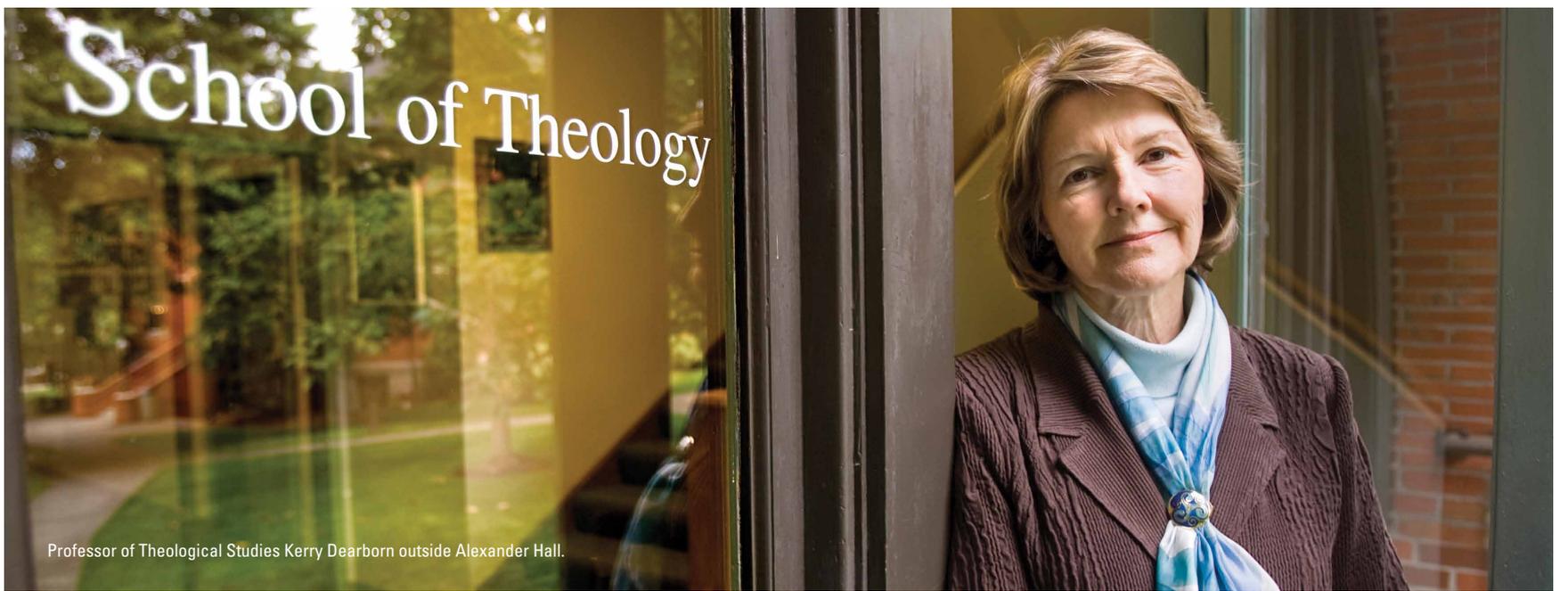
has faithfully taught students to love God with their minds through engagement with Scripture and, when life has been good to him, through studying Greek.

Gene's scholarly work focuses on the theological claims of the biblical witness. An elected member of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas,

Dr. Lemcio has published two books and numerous articles on topics such as the unifying kerygma (proclamation or preaching) of the New Testament, canonical criticism, and intertextuality in biblical texts.

We will miss Dr. Lemcio's gracious spirit and his probing questions, but we congratulate him on his faithful service to students and colleagues. Former students and friends who wish to send congratulations or other greetings may email [theology@spu.edu](mailto:theology@spu.edu).

**About the name:** *Kingswood Chronicle* is named after the first school established by John Wesley, in Bristol, England, in 1742. For the dedication of the school, John's brother, Charles, wrote a hymn for the occasion, which contained this famous 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 graduate programs, the entire School of Theology, and this publication will unite our academic study of theology with a profound and meaningful faith in Jesus Christ — one that grows deeper every day.



Professor of Theological Studies Kerry Dearborn outside Alexander Hall.

## Reconciliation Studies Minor: A Major Addition for the School of Theology

In September 2010, the School of Theology will launch a first-of-its kind minor in Reconciliation Studies. Conceived, planned, and implemented in partnership with SPU's John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development, the Reconciliation Studies Minor was inspired by one of SPU's signature commitments — “to model grace-filled community and practice radical reconciliation.”

The Reconciliation Studies Minor was made possible in part by a three-year grant from the Stewardship Fellowship. It is available for students seeking the tools to answer the biblical call to be reconcilers in a multitude of callings — including church and community leadership, advocacy and relief work, medicine, business, community development, and public education.

Biblical reconciliation lies at the heart of Seattle Pacific University's mission and its Wesleyan heritage, because reconciliation lies at the heart of the gospel. In Jesus we are reconciled to God, to one another, and to all of creation. Paul tells us in Colossians 1:19–29, “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood,

shed on the cross.” In 2 Corinthians 5:18–19, he writes that God “reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,” and is “entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” It is these concepts, and many more permeating the Christian Scriptures, that inspire and fuel the Reconciliation Studies Minor.

Students who choose the Reconciliation Studies Minor will begin with an “Introduction to Reconciliation” course, continue with core classes in theology and sociology, be involved in interdisciplinary courses related to both theory and practice, and end with a capstone course on reconciliation. Along the way they will participate in a service-learning requirement designed to complement the reconciliation coursework.

“Reconciliation is a central need within all cultures,” explains Kerry Dearborn, SPU professor of theological studies, who directs the program. “And equipping students to participate in what God is doing to reconcile people to himself and to one another is a profound way to change the world in ways that reflect the reign of God.”

“Other universities offer programs on peace studies and reconciliation,” Dr. Dearborn continues. “But our minor will be distinctive in its being rooted in our School of Theology, its inclusion of interdisciplinary courses, and its partnership with the John Perkins Center to produce a holistic, biblical, theological, interdisciplinary, and applied approach to training in reconciliation.”

**“[E]quipping students to participate in what God is doing to reconcile people to himself and to one another is a profound way to change the world in ways that reflect the reign of God.”**

— Dr. Kerry Dearborn

## Transforming the City and the World: Global and Urban Ministry Minor

The Global and Urban Ministry (GUM) minor has a uniquely interdisciplinary emphasis under the leadership of David Leong, SPU instructor of missional theology, and Miriam Adeney, SPU associate professor of world Christian studies. Rooted in missiology (theology of mission), the GUM minor seeks to educate students to be effective communicators and change-agents in intercultural contexts. “The hope is that they will have a deep cultural and theological understanding of the rich diversity of whatever context in which they work,” says Dr. Leong.

Despite the fact that the GUM minor is under the School of Theology umbrella, students in the program may major in fields across the educational spectrum. This diversity within the GUM minor creates a distinctive learning environment. Dr. Leong elaborates, “We do spend a lot of time in the social sciences, but the purpose of thinking about social realities is not to understand them as cultural phenomena alone. Rather, the objective is to facilitate critical reflection about culture, both theologically and missiologically.”

The goal of the GUM minor is for students to understand God's larger mission in the rich cultural contexts of a world undergoing dramatic globalization and urbanization. GUM students have been able to work or study in many diverse global and local contexts — from Uganda, Romania, and Bolivia, to Camden, New Jersey, or urban Seattle. Through an emphasis on cultural and theological transformation, students are equipped to engage a variety of settings. The GUM minor examines macro issues of development and mission as well as micro issues of community building and spiritual formation, so GUM students go on to become international aid workers, medical missionaries, inner-city teachers, social entrepreneurs, community organizers, church planters, and everything in between. Dr. Leong summarizes the GUM minor well when he says, “It gives students another lens to see the world. The more lenses you have, the better you're able to — as we say here so often — ‘engage the culture and change the world.’”



SPU senior David Lippold is a communications major and GUM minor. Last summer, he spent six weeks in Bolivia with World Concern for his GUM internship, helping to gather and translate research for microfinance projects. While there, he worked closely with the Bolivian staff at World Concern (top photo; David is on the far left in the top row), and visited local churches. He is pictured in the bottom photos with Bolivian children connected with the microfinance projects.



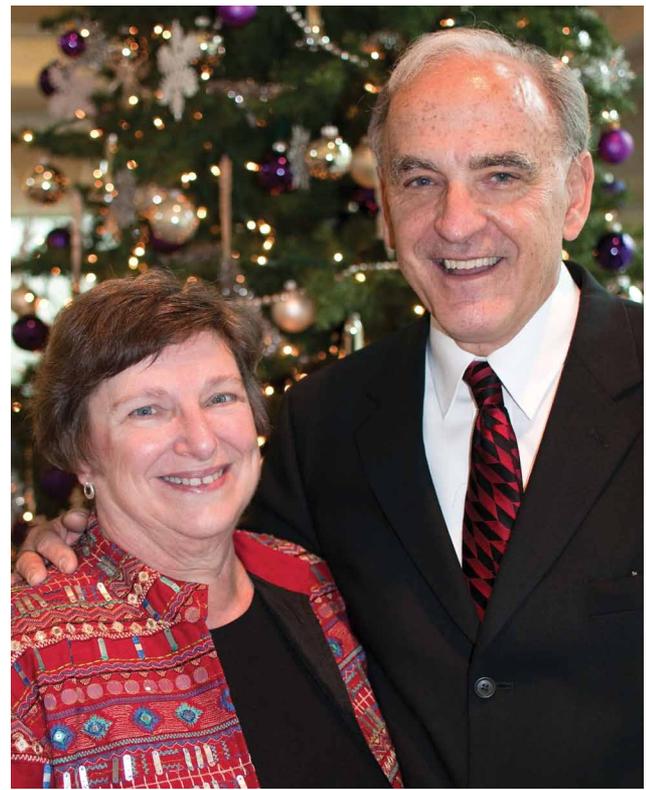
Randy Maddox, the William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Duke University's Divinity School, and the former Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies at SPU.

## Exploring Darwin and Evolutionary Theory in the 21st Century

On April 20 and 22, the School of Theology, in conjunction with SPU's School of Psychology, Family, and Community, presented the third in a series of quarterly symposia entitled "Exploring Darwin and Evolutionary Theory in the 21st Century." The Spring Quarter symposium examined Darwin's influence in a variety of fields and the application for today's world of contemporary theories of evolution.

On the afternoon of April 20, Professor of Moral and Historical Theology Rick Steele and Assistant Professor of Philosophy Patrick McDonald presented a faculty panel on "Doctrine of Creation and Natural Theology." Then, on April 22 in the

afternoon, School of Theology Dean Doug Strong and Lilly-SERVE Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow Tamara Van Dyken presented "Darwin's Influence in Church History." The respondent was Randy Maddox, the William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Duke University's Divinity School, and the former Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies at SPU. That evening, Maddox spoke on "Darwin's Challenge to Christian Faith: A Wesleyan Perspective." The three events were well attended and included a lively time of questions and answers. You can listen to them on iTunes U at [spu.edu/itunes](http://spu.edu/itunes).



We would like to recognize Mark and Mary Ann Abbott for nearly 30 years of service at Seattle's First Free Methodist Church, and to express our deep gratitude for their spiritual leadership in the SPU community, on the occasion of Pastor Abbott's retirement.



New tenured professors in the School of Theology: Doug Koskela (left), associate professor of theology, and Jeff Keuss, associate professor of Christian ministry.

## Two School of Theology Professors Receive Tenure

Whenever a professor is tenured at his or her university, it's a significant event for both the professor and the institution. The granting of tenure indicates a mutual commitment: the college's long-term commitment to encourage the instruction and research of the professor, and the professor's commitment to further the mission of the college. So it's especially noteworthy that two School of Theology faculty have received tenure this year at SPU: Dr. Doug Koskela and Dr. Jeff Keuss. Doug Koskela, who received his master of divinity degree at Duke Divinity School and his doctoral degree at Southern Methodist University, has been teaching Christian theology and doctrine at SPU since 2001. Jeff Keuss, a professor in the Educational Ministries Department of the School of Theology since 2005, received his master of divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary and his doctoral degree at the University of Glasgow. We are so pleased that Doug and Jeff are serving among us as colleagues, teachers, and friends.

## John's John: The Tenor of Scripture in a Wesleyan Key, Part Three

On April 8, Rob Wall, SPU's Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies, presented the Paul T. Walls Annual Lecture to an ecumenical gathering of pastors and other church leaders, faculty, staff, students, and the outside community. Titled "John's John: The Tenor of Scripture in a Wesleyan Key, Part Three," the public lecture was the keynote address for the School of Theology's fifth annual Ministry in the Wesleyan Spirit conference.

This year's Walls lecture concluded a trilogy of lectures in which Dr. Wall explored John Wesley's "theological appropriation of 1 John." In the 2008 lecture, he explored the cultural and pastoral reasons for Wesley's use of 1 John as his "canon within the Canon." In 2009, Wall examined 1 John 2:28-3:10, a passage known both for its exegetical difficulty and for its importance in underwriting Wesley's doctrine of Christian perfection. In his concluding lecture, Wall led the audience in a study of how Wesley's *via salutis* — or "way of salvation" — elaborates and clarifies 1 John's powerful vision of Christian discipleship set out in 1 John 2:28-3:10.

Here are excerpts from the lecture, which Dr. Wall subtitled "New Birth: God's Plan and John's Vision.":

*Scripture sets before us a word about God. Not ancient history, not modern science. God. Yes, the biblical criticisms of the modern academy have made it clear that Scripture is a collection of human productions that reflect an ancient community's struggle to understand its covenant with God in social and political worlds very different from our own. But faithful Christians approach these same texts with meekness as indispensable for life and faith today. We do so not because*

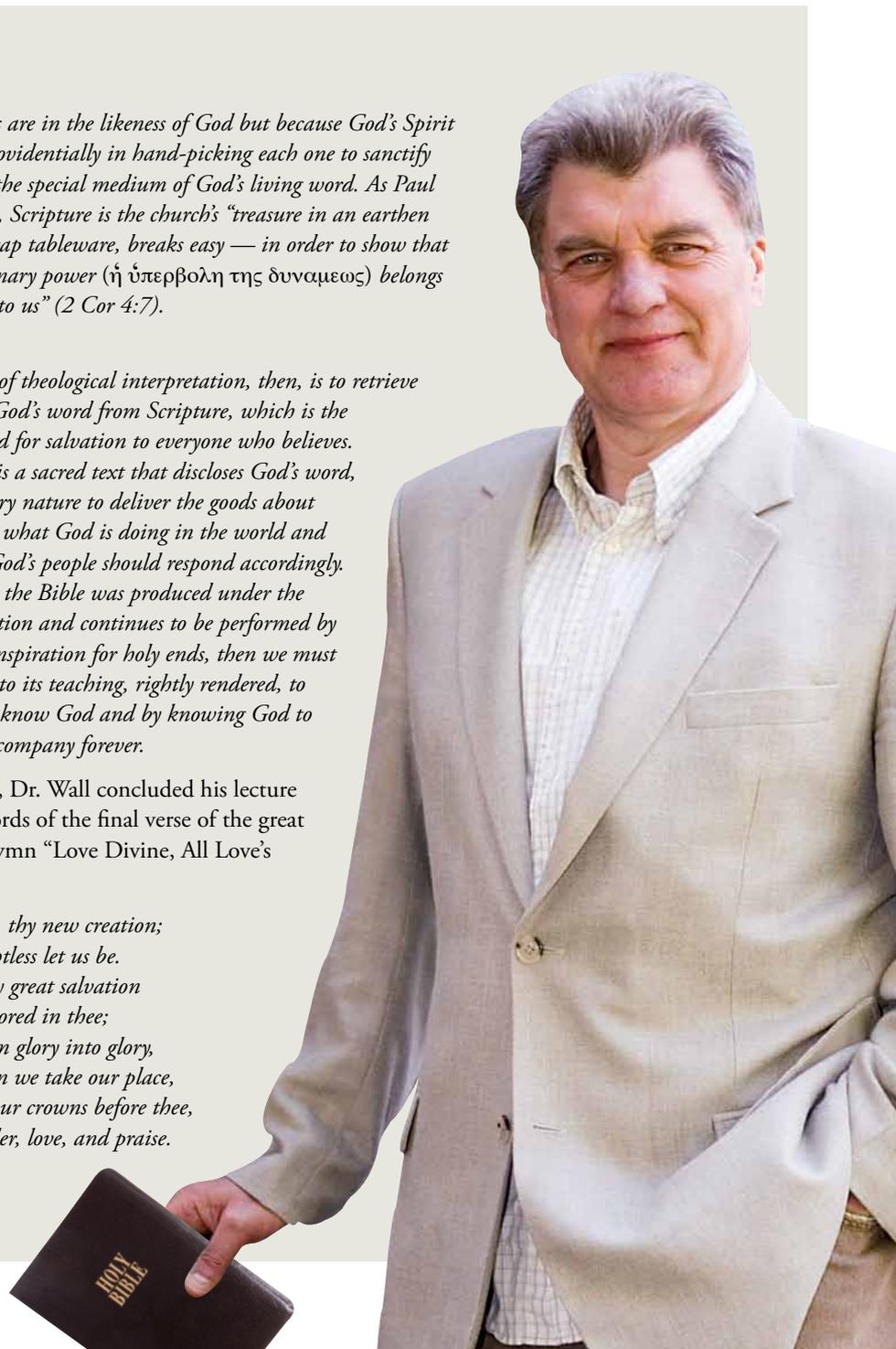
*biblical texts are in the likeness of God but because God's Spirit has acted providentially in hand-picking each one to sanctify each one as the special medium of God's living word. As Paul might put it, Scripture is the church's "treasure in an earthen vessel — cheap tableware, breaks easy — in order to show that its extraordinary power (ἡ ὑπερβολὴ τῆς δυνάμεως) belongs to God, not to us" (2 Cor 4:7).*

....

*The purpose of theological interpretation, then, is to retrieve and clarify God's word from Scripture, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. If Scripture is a sacred text that discloses God's word, it is in its very nature to deliver the goods about who God is, what God is doing in the world and how we as God's people should respond accordingly. If we believe the Bible was produced under the Spirit's direction and continues to be performed by the Spirit's inspiration for holy ends, then we must be attentive to its teaching, rightly rendered, to enable us to know God and by knowing God to enjoy God's company forever.*

Fittingly, Dr. Wall concluded his lecture with the words of the final verse of the great Wesleyan hymn "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling":

*Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*





## From the Dean

Welcome to the second edition of *Kingswood Chronicle*. You are receiving this newsletter because of your connection to (or interest in) the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific. It's exciting for us to be able to share with you all that God is doing here at SPU. In our first issue, we told you about how we had received a sizeable grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust that is helping us to fund our Center for Biblical and Theological Education (CBTE). Recently, we heard the good news that the Murdock Trust has given the School of Theology a second generous grant — this time to support our recently inaugurated graduate program offering M.Div. and M.A. in Theology degrees. This second Murdock grant is being used in three ways: (1) to pay for the cost of upgrading and refurbishing the School of Theology house — used by both graduate students and the CBTE; (2) to assist with the salary of a new associate dean for graduate studies; and (3) to help us to begin an Asian-American Ministry Program. This last item is a fresh and distinctive emphasis of the School of

Theology. As part of our desire to be agents of God's mission in the world, we hope to reach out to the large and vibrant Asian-American Christian community in Seattle and beyond — by recruiting Asian-American students, by providing programming for area pastors and laypeople, and by developing curricular resources that grow out of the Asian-American context. All of these efforts will help us to embody the "apostolate" aspect of our graduate curriculum. We are very grateful for these two grants, which, along with your support, will move the School of Theology closer to the development of a full-fledged graduate program in tandem with our already excellent undergraduate program.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong  
Dean, School of Theology

## Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate: The Triple-A Model of SPU's Graduate Program

A popular critique of graduate-level theological education is that it operates almost exclusively in the mind. The argument is that students learn about God but they do not put their education into practice, either spiritually or pastorally. In response to this critique, the uniting of a student's mind, heart, and hands has been made the foundational principle of SPU's Theology Program. The School of Theology's "Academy, Abbey, and Apostolate" program actively integrates these concepts into graduate theological education.

To begin with, the professors in the School of Theology stress the value of academic excellence, research, and teaching. The academic aspect of the program is distinctive in that its purpose is the edification of the church. Students are not educated for the sake of education; they are educated for the sake of the community of believers whom they serve.

But the experience of the SPU graduate theological student does not stop with academics. The 'Abbey' component of the program exists in order to foster true community among students and faculty. The program begins with an intensive course at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island that is constructed to

develop a sense of community and fellowship by students' living together for a week. The relationships built during that course carry over into the academic year with Wesleyan-style class meetings. Students meet weekly in these groups to be accountable to one another, to encourage one another in their academic struggles, and to pray together. In this way, the graduate program develops a deep sense of community outside the classroom walls.

Additionally, the program fosters the growth of the student beyond the grounds of SPU by the implementation of the 'Apostolate' principle. The School of Theology not only trains students to act missionally, but also provides a place for them to apply these missional concepts. At the beginning of the program, students are involved in an intensive course that places them in the heart of urban ministry. Students spend the week visiting local Seattle nonprofits and get a feel for what it is like to devote a lifetime of service to Jesus Christ through acts of mercy and justice.

They also have the opportunity to study abroad and be culturally integrated into the mission of Christ in a particular cultural context. The SPU School of Theology desires to educate the mind through robust scholarship, strengthen the heart through community and fellowship, and inspire the hands to act in just and merciful ways.

## Celebrating a Leader of the Christian Faith

On January 28, in celebration of the 500th birthday of theologian and pastor John Calvin, the SPU School of Theology and the Theology Student Union honored one of the most important figures in Christian history with a symposium presenting four facets of his life and ministry. The presenters included Instructor of Theology Michael Langford, the symposium's organizer and facilitator, on "Calvin the Reformer"; Assistant Professor of Old Testament Bo Lim on "Calvin the Biblical Exegete"; Associate Professor of Christian Ministry Jeffrey Keuss on "Calvin the Theologian"; and, tag-teaming on "Calvin the Pastor," Associate Director of University Ministries Matthew Koenig and Professor of Old Testament Sara Koenig. The colleagues complemented one another's presentations through a shared appreciation for this important person of faith.

Langford laid the historical foundation necessary to give context and relevance to Calvin's seminal work,

*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, along with his Scripture commentaries and other works. Calvin exhorted the church to be active participants in their relationships with the holy triune God. Lay people and academics appreciate the brevity and simplicity Calvin uses to help people understand the Christian Scriptures and find joy in a life focused on adoring God. "Calvin was deeply concerned about moral integrity and brotherly love," said Keuss, "and he wanted us to be released into a life of freedom so that we could love others, and give away our generosity because we have nothing to lose."

Though some may disagree with parts of Calvin's theology, his desire for the church was for people to pursue a deep relationship with God by asking often daunting questions on issues such as justification, sanctification, predestination, election, and grace. Through this process we are meant to find comfort in the truth of Jesus, the reality of the power of the Holy Spirit in and through us, and the awesome mystery that is our sovereign God.



Clockwise, from top left: (1) Theology graduate students Jason Katsanis and Christal Jenkins participate in an outdoor class at Camp Casey; (2) the Rev. Denise Roberts serves communion to Dean Strong at Seattle's Queen Anne United Methodist Church; (3) Dean Strong teaches students during an intensive course at Camp Casey; (4) Ron Ruthruff, director of ministry and program development at New Horizons Ministries, speaks to theology students about ministry to innercity youth.

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**For more information:** if you would like to receive information on the School of Theology, or if you are interested, or know of someone else who is interested, in pursuing a graduate-level theology degree, please email Donovan Richards at [richardz@spu](mailto:richardz@spu), or visit [www.spu.edu/theology](http://www.spu.edu/theology)

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