AUTUMN 2009

"Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety"

Kingswood Chronicle

Seattle Pacific University School of Theology

Featured Event

School of Theology Alumni Breakfast
Saturday, January 30, 9:30 a.m.
Collegium Room (SUB)

An opportunity for SOT undergraduate alumni and graduate students (and spouses) to fellowship over a complimentary breakfast with Dean Doug Strong and SOT faculty. RSVP to Raoul Perez at raoulp@spu.edu by January 22.

Upcoming Events

Graduate Program Open Houses
Tuesday, January 19, 5–6:30 p.m.
Library Seminar Room

Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m.–noon
Alexander Hall

Center for Biblical and Theological Education Open House
Thursday, January 21, 3–5 p.m.
Kingswood House

Walls Lecture: Dr. Rob Wall
Thursday, April 8, 9:30 a.m.
Upper Gwinn Commons

Bible, Youth, and Culture Conference on Youth Ministry
Keynote speaker: Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean
Thursday–Friday, May 6–7
SPU Campus

Alumni Spotlight

Since graduating from SPU in 2008 with a B.A. in Educational Ministries, **Sarah Reed** worked at Friends of Youth, a nonprofit organization, and now volunteers her time at ROOTS, a local shelter for young adults. Sarah plans to pursue a master's of social work beginning in the fall of 2010, because she has felt God equipping her and calling her to serve as a social worker. "It's not just about helping those around me," she says, "but also about putting my faith into action." Sarah adds, "I am continually moved and deeply thankful for the encouragement and thoughtful questions I received from the SOT faculty while attending SPU."

Introducing the SPU Center for Biblical and Theological Education

The School of Theology is proud to unveil the new Center for Biblical and Theological Education (CBTE), which officially launched in the autumn of 2009 under the direction of the Rev. Celeste Cranston, an ordained elder in the Free Methodist Church. The purpose of the Center, funded in part by a generous grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust, is to encourage the Seattle Pacific University community and others, including church groups and alumni, to deepen and develop their knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Christian theology.

In response to numerous studies demonstrating the depth of biblical illiteracy and theological inarticulacy among American Christians, President Philip Eaton established the university's second signature commitment: that SPU will be a place where people "embrace the Christian story, becoming biblically and theologically educated." The Center resulted from the efforts of a team of faculty and staff from the School of Theology tasked by President Eaton to design a program that reflects this signature commitment to biblical and theological education. The CBTE comprises five program areas: a website; guided readings of the Bible; educational courses; conferences; and research grants and scholarships. The website will host the CBTE guided readings, the School of Theology's University Foundations courses and graduate courses, and high-quality digital resources to aid biblical and theological education. The guided readings are a web-based, four-year cycle of Scripture readings for students, parents, faculty, staff, churches, and clergy, and are designed to permeate campus life at multiple levels. The CBTE will also offer educational opportunities to promote biblical and theological education for SPU faculty and staff, including quarter-length and summer intensive courses on biblical and theological topics. Yearly regional and national conferences will be hosted on themes of biblical and theological education. The first conference will be a two-day "Bible, Youth, and Culture Conference" for local and regional youth workers and church leaders in May 2010 with Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean.

School of Theology faculty and staff.

In addition, funds will be available in support of discipline-specific biblical and theological education for SPU faculty to consult with a School of Theology faculty member for their school or to engage in discipline-specific programs of their own.

Seattle Pacific University and the School of Theology are eager to move forward in setting these programs in motion. We hope to make a difference in the hearts and lives of the Seattle Pacific University community and beyond, as we facilitate and encourage the knowledge and study of God's Word.

The School of Theology House

Built in 1920, the newly acquired School of Theology house — informally known as "Kingswood House" — has been a Seattle Pacific University neighbor for a decade shy of a century. Over the course of those 90 years, the house has been home to many, including Horatio Ogden, a 1930 graduate of Seattle Pacific College who died in 2007 at the age of 100; and a host of recent students during the house's stint as student housing under the moniker "the Pink House on the Corner," thanks to a previous hue. The School of Theology is excited to have a multipurpose property that can be shared with students and faculty alike.

The guiding vision the School of Theology holds for this house is for the property to exemplify the SOT principle of an "abbey." The building exists as a place where students can easily have access to holistic spiritual formation in the form of fellowship, worship, and discipleship in intentional Christian community.

Autumn Quarter 2009 saw a successful application of this principle: the house is currently being used as a space for graduate students to engage in Wesleyan-style "class meetings" in order to stay accountable to their faith in the midst of the rigors of academic life.

In addition, the house has been an excellent source of fellowship; students have been using it as a place to hang out, relax, study together, and play board games. Students have also organized a compline service in the evenings as a time of prayer and fellowship. Multiple rooms are available for group studies or other events.

Beginning December 1, the SOT house also became home to the Center for Biblical and Theological Education. The house has a full kitchen for theology students, faculty, and CBTE staff to use whenever they need it. The upper floor of the house serves as a residence for three School of Theology graduate students.

The School of Theology and the Center for Biblical and Theological Education invite you to visit Kingswood House.

Come look around, and experience its welcoming and inspiring ambience.

From the Dean

Welcome to the first issue of "Kingswood Chronicle" — providing news and information about the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University. If you are receiving this publication, you have some connection to the School of Theology (SOT), either as an alum, as a current student, or as an interested friend. In whatever capacity, we are glad to have the opportunity to let you know about some of the exciting developments in the SOT and the ways in which God has blessed us.

And a lot has been happening! Our undergraduate majors and minors are thriving; our professors teach all of the more than 3,000 undergraduate SPU students on Christian formation, the Bible, and theology; and our exceptional faculty continue to be outstanding teachers, sought-after speakers, and highly published scholars. Several new programs also demand our attention. Our new graduate degrees (M.Div. and M.A. in Theology) are up and running, with 26 students in our first year's class. Also new is the Center for Biblical and Theological Education (CBTE), a multi-pronged opportunity for web-based learning, faculty development, and on-campus conferences. Additionally, the SOT remodeled a beautiful old home adjacent to the SPU campus as a place to house the CBTE and many of the grad programs.

So what about this name? "Kingswood" was the first school established by John Wesley, in Bristol, England, in 1742. At the dedication of the school, John's brother, Charles, wrote a hymn for the occasion, in which he famously stated: "Unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety." Our hope is that the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, the undergrad and grad programs, the entire School of Theology, and even this publication will lead all of us to unite our academic study of theology with a profound and meaningful faith in Jesus Christ — one that grows deeper every day.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology

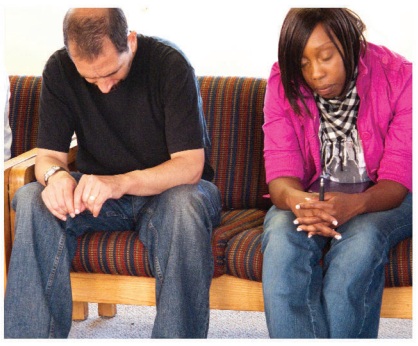
School of Theology Graduate Program

The School of Theology is thrilled to publicize its freshly appointed graduate program. Envisioned for decades, the School of Theology's graduate program in theology began to develop four years ago as serious planning began. The many practical components necessary for developing a graduate program fell into place, and the vision became reality when the first class of graduate students enrolled this Autumn Quarter.

The new graduate program has received primary accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. In terms of secondary accreditation, the Graduate Program is in line with the standards of the Association of Theological Schools. Currently, the 26 students enrolled in the graduate program come from a large variety of denominational and cultural backgrounds, with an even split between those pursuing a master of divinity and those pursuing a master of arts in theology. The newly formed class of graduate students spent the last week of August and the first week of September attending intensive courses based on "abbey" and "apostolate" principles. In those two weeks, students were able to solidify and fortify into a strong community of believers, resulting in a high degree of openness, particularly during discussions that had the potential for generating conflict.

While the intensive courses have assisted in creating community, Wesleyan-style "class meetings" have also contributed to the unification of this inaugural graduate class. In these weekly meetings, students and faculty discuss matters of faith and accountability in an encouraging manner of discipleship. These class meetings have also given students an opportunity to intercede for one another and to give faithfully to those in need.

The School of Theology is excited to see the continued growth and education of the new graduate students as well as to witness the results of the many years of planning which gave the graduate program a foundation.



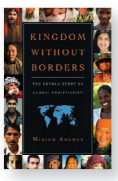
Clockwise, from top: (1) School of Theology Dean Doug Strong (far left), and theology graduate students gather outside New Horizons Ministries in downtown Seattle before a tour of the facility; (2) Theology graduate students Jason Katsanis and Christal Jenkins participate in a time of prayer during the "Acts of Piety" intensive course at Camp Casey; (3) Theology graduate student Janice Box, assistant pastor in senior adult ministries at First Free Methodist Church in Seattle, reacts during a visit to New Horizons Ministries.

"The graduate theology program at Seattle Pacific University is a tremendous joy to me! The first week of intensive study at Camp Casey was not only academically rigorous; it was spiritually enriching. We worshiped and prayed together daily, shared our personal testimonies, and the foot-washing service on our last night still brings a tear to my eye. Over the summer, I was pleased to be reading works by Bonhoeffer, Newbigin, and Thurman in preparation for this first intensive course. I had contemplated graduate theological education for quite some time and considered many programs throughout the United States. The intentional integration of academic pursuit and spiritual formation of this caliber is not to be found at any other university and I thank God for directing me here for such a time as this." — Anna M. Miller, M.Div. student

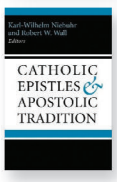
"I believe a master's of divinity will give theological backbone to bring strength and depth to my personal faith experiences and future ministry and leadership. I am excited about growing in the skill and artistry of Scripture exegesis, interpretation, and conveyance through the process of sitting at the feet of wise professors as well as studying alongside peers in community. It is important to be stretched by others, to absorb their voices and input, before expecting your own voice to go out and be received. I hope that SPU will be a place that God continues to unveil storehouses of jewels to enrich my ministry in the future." — David Sim, M.Div. student

Recent Books by SOT Faculty

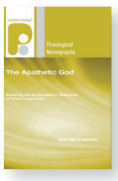
Filled with the Spirit
by Jack Levison (2009)



Kingdom Without Borders
by Miriam Adeney (2009)



Catholic Epistles and Apostolic Tradition
by Rob Wall (2009)



The Apathetic God
by Daniel Castelo (2009)

Kingswood E-Chronicle. If you would like to receive a digital version of *Kingswood Chronicle* in the future, please email Donovan Richards at richad2@spu.edu.

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Kingswood Chronicle
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