



# Kingswood

“UNITING KNOWLEDGE AND VITAL PIETY”

## CHRONICLE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



### Featured Event

#### School of Theology Alumni Breakfast

Saturday, January 22, 9:30 a.m.  
Collegium (SUB)

An opportunity for our School of Theology undergraduate alumni and graduate students (and spouses) to fellowship over a complimentary breakfast with Dean Strong and SOT faculty. RSVP to Raoul Perez at [raoulp@spu.edu](mailto:raoulp@spu.edu) by January 14.

### Other Events

#### Palmer Lecture: J. Kameron Carter

Thursday, January 27, 7 p.m.  
SPU Campus  
Cost: Free

#### Discernment Weekend for Prospective Graduate Students

Friday–Saturday, February 25–26  
11 a.m. Friday–12 p.m. Saturday  
Library and Kingswood House  
Cost: \$20

For more information and to register, contact Raoul Perez at 206-281-2342 or [raoulp@spu.edu](mailto:raoulp@spu.edu).

### Alumni Spotlight



Since graduating from SPU in 1999, Joy Ireland has pursued the call to full-time vocational

ministry she received from the Lord as an SPU sophomore. She spent the 1999–2000 year as a campus ministry intern with the Wesley Foundation at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. In August 2000, she moved to Wilmore, Kentucky, to begin master of divinity studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. Upon graduation from ATS, she says, “God’s sense of humor was demonstrated when I was hired for my first full-time ministry role: campus ministry at Asbury University,” where she has served as assistant chaplain since July 2005. In April 2010 she was ordained an elder in the Free Methodist Church.

### The Long-Awaited Launch of Lectio: Guided Bible Reading

September 27 was a banner day for SPU’s Center for Biblical and Theological Education (CBTE) and School of Theology — not just because it was the first day of Autumn Quarter theology classes in a year of record enrollment, but because it marked the much-anticipated launch of a weekly online Scripture-reading program we are calling Lectio: Guided Bible Reading.

Made possible by a generous grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust, Lectio allows students, faculty, staff, and the outside community anywhere in the world to explore the Christian Scriptures under the guidance of SPU School of Theology professors. According to SPU President Philip Eaton, “Lectio is intended to soak us in the reading and understanding of Scripture, because — as N.T. Wright has so eloquently stated — this is central to the formation of Christian character and community.” Each quarter focuses on a particular book or section of Scripture. Over the course of four years, Lectio will cover the majority of the Bible.

Lectio offers expert commentary available nowhere else: the CBTE commissioned SOT professors to write the weekly commentaries — professors who are not only outstanding biblical scholars with particular expertise in the Scripture they cover, but also devoted Christians. In addition, readers who wish to engage with the text on a deeper level can sign

up to receive free access to “Going Deeper” resources — including Oxford Biblical Studies Online — which provide access to further commentaries; scholarly, authoritative texts; and reference tools that facilitate research into Scriptural background, context, and issues. Recordings of each week’s reading, read by the author, are also available for free download.

To date, more than 2,500 people have signed up to receive weekly notifications of new readings — by email, RSS, and podcast. Response to Autumn Quarter’s Lectio, led by Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology Frank Spina, has been overwhelmingly positive. “Frank’s writing style is so delightful,” writes Lectio reader Joy Hammersla. “He pulls us in — makes us feel we are right there watching Abram roll on the ground in laughter or Noah gather food for the ark — being astonished at the turns of the tale, or pondering who the mysterious visitors are.”

“We are beginning to see the fruit of our prayers,” says CBTE Director Celeste Cranston, “and we continue to pray in faith that Lectio will be a valuable tool to draw people into the biblical story and into a deeper walk with God.” For more information, including the 2010–11 schedule of readings, and to sign up for free weekly notifications via email, visit [www.spu.edu/lectio](http://www.spu.edu/lectio) (you can jump in anytime).



2010–11 Lectio: Guided Reading Bible Reading faculty guides (left to right): Dr. Frank Spina, professor of Old Testament and biblical theology (autumn); Dr. David Nienhuis, associate professor of New Testament studies (winter); Dr. Daniel Castelo, associate professor of theology (spring); and Dr. Sara Koenig, assistant professor of biblical studies (summer).

### Seattle Presbytery Meets on the SPU Campus

On July 20, 2010, the Seattle Presbytery, which comprises 65 congregations and fellowships in the Greater Seattle area, engaged in its first-ever meeting on the Seattle Pacific University campus. Nearly 70 ministers and elders from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. — known as PC(USA) — were present, representing nearly 50 PC(USA) churches.

The meeting was significant not only because it contributed to the continued building up of a relationship between the Methodist traditions of Seattle Pacific University and the PC(USA), but also because it marked a special occasion for the SOT’s very own Sara Koenig, assistant professor of biblical studies. During the meeting, the Seattle Presbytery affirmed that Dr. Koenig would be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in fulfillment of her calling as a professor at Seattle Pacific. (Her ordination took place on September 25.) The SOT looks forward to future collaborations with the Seattle Presbytery.



The Rev. Carol Kirkpatrick (right), member of the Committee for Preparation for Ministry, examines Dr. Sara Koenig.

**About the name:** 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, with this 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, meaningful faith in Jesus Christ — one that grows deeper every day.





## From The Dean

One of the blessings of being the dean of the School of Theology (SOT) is that, in addition to my administrative responsibilities, I am a faculty colleague who instructs both undergraduate and graduate students. For our undergrads, I co-teach the Christian Theology Capstone, a small, seminar-style course that SOT majors take in their senior year. What an amazing group of young men and women — eager to graduate, yet anxious about

the future; thoughtful and confident about their recently acquired knowledge, yet appropriately humbled by all that they don't yet know; prayerfully trusting in God's grace that they've experienced so bountifully at SPU, while also cognizant of the enormous, seemingly intractable social and spiritual challenges that face them in the world.

Meanwhile, I'm also privileged to teach our graduate students in their first seminary-level class — a five-day retreat-based, intensive course held at beautiful Casey Conference Center on Whidbey Island. There, together in community, students study and practice historic spiritual disciplines as a grounding for their graduate school experience. The change that takes place

over our five days together is remarkable: 25 strangers become a close-knit group of Christian brothers and sisters; feelings of anticipation and nervousness about beginning a graduate program are transformed into the first insights of theological learning; and their unfamiliarity with ancient Christian patterns of spirituality is changed into a deep appreciation for the ways these patterns are able to assist them in being renewed more and more into the image of Christ.

By the grace of God, both our undergraduate and our graduate students are learning and growing to be devoted disciples of Jesus — loving God with all their minds and hearts, and their neighbors as themselves. What an honor we have as faculty to be allowed to be a part of that process of sanctification.

Together in Christ's service,

Doug Strong  
Dean, School of Theology

## Gender and Christianity: Lilly Fellows Faculty Seminar

After their finals were given and papers graded, 13 professors from around the U.S. gathered for a summer class of their own at SPU.

In the monthlong "Gender and Christianity" seminar, sponsored by the Lilly Fellows Program in the Arts and Humanities, professors discussed a range of perspectives about gender in Christian traditions.

"It was a meeting of the minds and hearts of people who are trying to do more to promote discussion of gender issues on their respective campuses," says Priscilla Pope-Levison, SPU professor of theology and assistant director of women's studies, who co-led the program with Jack Levison, SPU professor of New Testament.

Professors from disciplines including English, Sociology, Theology, and Psychology read and discussed four books on the topic of gender and Christianity. They also listened to guest presentations by scholars from around the Northwest, including Tina Schermer Sellers, director of Seattle Pacific's Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

During the month, seminar participants also worked on scholarly articles in their disciplines. The articles will ultimately be collected in a book that Pope-Levison and Levison are currently editing, to be published by Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Caryn Riswold, associate professor of religion and chair of gender and women's studies at Illinois College, says that, in leading the seminar, the two SPU professors showed "radical hospitality" to her and the other professors who traveled from across the U.S. to participate. "They created an atmosphere that

facilitated honest, challenging, and exciting conversation, as well as produced some top-notch scholarship," she says.

But, Pope-Levison adds, the results of the seminar are not just for conversation among scholars. "It's pedagogical and community and campus formation," she says. "There's a lot of mentoring going on between generations of faculty."

She's also enthusiastic about resources that seminar participants developed — a video and PowerPoint presentation — that could be used as a basis for

discussions on gender and Christianity in settings ranging from residence halls to classrooms. "These issues are so highly debated," she says. "Are there biblical gender roles?" She hopes faculty will help create an environment in which students will consider important questions such as this in an environment where knowledgeable faculty can support them.



Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison with husband Dr. Jack Levison

## The Asian-American Ministry Program: A Vision for Church Partnership



Asian-American Ministry Program Director Billy Vo

Central to the heart and vision of the Asian-American Ministry Program (AAMP) in the School of Theology are church partnerships, rooted in the belief that both the graduate program and local churches will be strengthened by the gifts and wisdom they can offer one another. Asian-American churches are filled with highly educated laypersons seriously interested in learning about their faith, and SOT faculty members are already helping to support these needs. Likewise, local churches are filled with seasoned Asian-American pastors innovatively leading their congregations, and our graduate students are already benefiting from their wisdom and experience, while also cultivating the multicultural sensitivities essential for ministry in the 21st century.

This fall, the AAMP took another step toward this vision by organizing — together with Lighthouse Christian Church, a prominent Asian-American church in Bellevue — a five-week course on Christian Formation and Mission. The course included reflections from biblical studies, church history, and missiology. Drs. Bo Lim, Doug Strong, and David Leong lectured on the Mission of God (*Missio Dei*), offering practical strategies on how the Church can engage in mission in today's complex world.

The class included a tour of Rainier Avenue Church and Urban Impact, a nonprofit organization in the Rainier Valley dedicated to Christian community development. Thirty-five lay-leaders, elders, and pastors from six local churches gathered weekly

and were challenged to consider the implications of the Incarnation as a model for ministry, and how the Church could once again be at the forefront of social reform like many of the outstanding 18th- and 19th-century evangelical leaders.

Dr. David Leong and AAMP Director Billy Vo concluded the course by providing an opportunity for Q&A and engaging in a pastoral discussion with participants. Both spoke from their personal experiences of living and engaging in ministry in the culturally diverse, mixed-income Rainier Valley community, and provided an opportunity for attendees to reflect on personal application.

Fruit is already being born in the lives of many who attended, and we look forward to more.