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## President's Corner: After Harboring in Place

### Psalm 31

In you, O LORD, I seek **refuge**; . . .

Be a rock of **refuge** for me,  
a strong fortress to save me . . .  
for you are my **refuge**.

**Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

### **David, Jesus, and . . .**

Since our last *Emeri-times* newsletter and my more recent diagnosis I have been re-reading and studying the Psalms (my one-a-day vitamins). I have been struck with the number of Psalms that use the word **refuge** to describe God's faithful care and protection of us. We have lost loved ones during this time without the ability to adequately celebrate their memories together as a collected body, and as a witness to their resurrections. We have sought **refuge** in God, while also harboring in place, social distancing, and mask wearing, (and getting our shots ASAP).

When we hear "To be, or not to be. . ." we automatically fill in the rest of the quotation, at least the rest of that sentence. The fuller context is thus brought into our memories and the person quoting the phrase means this to happen.

Jesus quoted two of David's prayers while he was hanging on the cross. In the tradition of the time, he was identifying the entire text for his hearers who would have them memorized. He started with the signature phrase in Psalm 22 "**My God, My God. Why have you forsaken me?**" He knew his hearers would finish the quotation of that Psalm, . . . and know that it finally ends in praise to God. Psalm 22 was designed as a model prayer to express our suffering and needs. In praying this Jesus completely identified with all the millions of us who have prayed thus and gives us permission to pray out our anguish before God.

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**Purpose for *The Emeri-Times* is** "to edify, encourage, and connect emeriti faculty; to profile emeriti achievements (past and present); to provide news and information about members and SPU; to encourage emeriti to continue to be involved in world change." *The Emeri-Times* newsletter is printed and distributed by the Office of the Provost.



Many thanks to the very capable Dr. Laura Hartley for not only joining the SPU faculty as new Provost in July 2020, but also transitioning to Executive-In-Charge after the departure of President Martin. And she came in the middle of a pandemic while most classes were remote! Thankfully, Emeriti were able to participate in two virtual events with Dr. Hartley. One was at the time when we would have had our fall 2020 luncheon and the other was in March this spring 2021. We could practice our Zoom muscles and visit with our colleagues. We are very much looking forward to in-person events, hopefully as soon as fall quarter. See the June 2020 *Emeri-Times Newsletter* for an introduction of Dr. Hartley posted online on the Provost page.

As many of you may know, Dr. Daniel Martin accepted a leadership role at a healthcare foundation for a national health system in another state.

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### Memorial to Paul Lee '17

Students in the class of 2017 raised funds to build a Memorial to Paul Lee who died in a tragic shooting on campus on June 5, 2017. The memorial is on the north side of Ashton Hall where Paul had lived.

**Julia Bennett '17**, a friend and art major, worked on the installation design along with **Professor Emeritus of Art Roger Feldman**, who had Paul as a student. The memorial's flowing design

incorporates Paul's love of dance, as well as a place to sit and reflect, and will eventually feature flowering plants as a sign of continuing life and hope.



Karen Macdonald continues to supply me with examples of her wonderful sense of humor. Here is one example.

Normally on this page we report upcoming theater and sports activities. That will resume in the next newsletter when dates and times are known. In the meantime, check online at [www.spu.edu](http://www.spu.edu).

## Emeriti updates June 2021

**JoAnn Atwell-Scrivner (Richard):** Associate Professor Department of Health and Human Performance, 2019—There is nothing really new for us, except the joy of seeing and being with our family and friends. Fortunately, the entire group is vaccinated, and we are very grateful to them. Our son is getting married May 29th, 2021, in Kansas City, so we are flying out for the ceremony. Our hope is that it will be a safe trip. We are also looking forward to outdoor activities in the Northwest during the summer, primarily kayaking and hiking.

**Kathleen Braden:** School of Business, Government, and Economics, Professor of Geography, 2016—I have been participating in the Novavax vaccine trial since December, 2020, and hope the product will soon receive FDA approval as an additional choice available to offer protection from the COVID-19 virus. The Novavax vaccine is derived by a different method than the mRNA-based ones and I am hopeful it will be a cheaper and more accessible vaccine for people in low-income countries. If you would like to read about it, the New York Times had a recent feature: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/health/novavax-covid-19-vaccine.html>.

**Gordon Cochrane (JoAnne):** Professor and Chair of Sociology 1988—Gordon sent a friendly greeting for the last newsletter but it arrived after we published. He said he was “attempting to finish a number of books which were begun a few years ago - (one of my wicked shortcomings). I am realizing that there may be fewer years remaining than I originally planned....Greetings to all, remembered colleagues, and not known Emeriti. ‘God Bless Us One And All.’”

**Bruce Congdon (Shari):** Interim Provost; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Biology, 2020—We are thankful for grandchildren, one local and one on the way in Montana. The garden is appreciating a full-time caretaker. I have done some consulting for Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO). Greetings and love to you all.

**Ruby Englund:** Professor of Nursing School of Health Sciences 2007—During this pandemic my life changed as it did for most people. I have found myself reading more, recently reading *The Doctors Mayo* and *To The Greatest Heights* by Vanessa O’Brien about climbing Mt. Everest and other mountains as well as reading (slowly) through the Old Testament. Calling other folks has been most interesting, keeping in touch with Arlo Tiede, Phil Oakes and Shirley Harlow among others. Signing up for Zoom classes has been educational, learning about the wax models in the museum collection at the Mayo Clinic and a lecture about the 1918 flu epidemic in Philadelphia. I am looking forward to returning to worship in the sanctuary at First Free Methodist Church but have been grateful for the Livestream on Sunday mornings and the Zoom class following the service.

**Doris Heritage (Ralph):** Physical Education and Athletics, 2002—God has given me this whole year from the last newsletter to learn more patience while having more surgeries and more time for physical therapy. Also, less opportunities to view SPU athletes running and jumping during pandemic times. We still cannot have another summer at Casey Running Camp. But God is still very good. We enjoy life here at the Warm Beach Retirement facility with several other retired SPU faculty and staff. I still expect to get better and able to read and write better, and walk (even jog?) better. So I still have time to pray and enjoy God’s blessings. The *Emeri-Times Newsletter* is certainly an inspirational part of our life. This year is bound to hold new opportunities and challenges for SPU and each of us. Blessings to all.



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## *Emeriti updates, continued*

**Emily Hitchens (Lowell):** Professor of Nursing, School of Health Sciences, 2008—Lowell and I had a very lovely week out at Clearwater on the Olympic Peninsula. It was the first week of April . . . perfect weather. We walked most of the beaches and Lowell's family came for an overnight. His daughter said it was the 'best'. She is in charge of the Thurston County Health Department COVID Rapid Response Team and has had virtually no respite working on-call etc. Other than that, we continue to Zoom everywhere!

**Ramona Holmes (Ron Bekey):** Music Department 2019—Ron and I are so happy to be vaccinated and traveling again. First priorities were to visit Ron's dad in Los Angeles and my sons in Seattle and Texas. We spent two weeks on the Big Island of Hawaii hiking, snorkeling, and kayaking. We are looking forward to going to Iceland for a few weeks in July to do the circle route and to spend some time watching the volcano erupting. The Fulbright office is now allowing us to do Fulbright Specialist program again, so I hope to do some workshops soon.

You can read my book "[Resilient Voices: Estonian Choirs and Song Festivals in World War II Displaced Person Camps](#)" as it is in the SPU library now. It is also available at Routledge Press and on Amazon. My next book "*The Four Pipe Piper: World War Two Newspaper on the USS John D Ford (DD228)*" is due from Hellgate Press in June. Looking forward to seeing all of you in person again!

**Dave LeShana (Becky):** President Emeritus 1991—Becky and I celebrate our seventy years of wonderful marriage. We will then move into a retirement home here in Phoenix later this summer.

**Mike Macdonald, (Karen):** Professor of European Studies, German and Philosophy, 2007—As I write this it looks like Karen and Mike will survive the once in a lifetime pandemic. We're grateful. Millions did not. I suspect some of the habits we've developed will abide: more staying home to work and completing daily tasks, for example. But not only are there the benefits of technology, like Zoom and streaming, but also there is the vision of wholeness from face-to-face meetings, which should also stay with us. Karen and Mike's immediate goals are to take advantage again of the wonders of meeting communally with family and friends, participate again in live church worship services and live theater, opera, symphony, and the abundance of sports in our area. We also are planning tent trailer trips in Washington and Oregon, and Canada. Our view is God is good, always.

**Phillip L. Oakes, spouse of Annalee R. Oakes:** Dean School of Nursing, 1998—Two daughters SPU grads, both live close: Alice Johnson and Anne Strand. Third daughter lives in Chicago area, Joyce Oakes. I live alone in a 675 square foot condo called Christwood Park. Great place but very expensive. A first class place. I soon hope to be 91 years old on August 29. Born 1930. Health quite good. No computer or email or typewriter. Email [iceMJ@frontier.com](mailto:iceMJ@frontier.com). Phone 206-542-  
my daughter via [Al-2652](tel:206-542-2652).



**Don Peter (JoAnn):** Associate Professor of Engineering, 2017—Though difficult at times, this past year has been full of blessings for which I thank the Lord. We chafed at the restrictions, but recognized the necessity of caution, especially early on in the pandemic. We have not been sick at all. Our international student ministry took a big hit, as many students went home from Everett Community College and we were left with spotty communications as they resumed their lives back home. We have very much missed these students, especially when clear progress was being made for the Gospel in their lives; but seeds were planted and in some cases they germinated. They have become dear to us, so we were loath to see them leave. The work has continued, but mostly via Zoom. The good news is that some are now going to be returning for autumn. We went with some students to a Mariners game in May and look forward to seeing the Mariners take on the LA Angels, with Japanese superstar player Otani, in July. A number of our students are Japanese and Otani is REALLY important to them!

We have had the joy of housing a student friend from Japan and she completes her degree at Everett CC this year. We have the privilege of patiently sharing the Lord Jesus with her. With very little previous Christian knowledge and input, it has been a process and a blessing to see her learn and grow in her understanding and faith in the God of the Bible.

We continue to thoroughly enjoy our six grandkids and have recently been inspired in our church's grandparents fellowship group to be more intentional in mentoring these precious young children in their faith and life journey. We are learning more ways to pass on our faith in Jesus Christ to their hearts. We are convinced that no matter the circumstances, they can be equipped to not just survive, but to thrive and fulfill their life mission with the unique gifts God has given them.

Last fall we were able to take a road trip to North Dakota. It was the last state west of the Mississippi that I had not yet visited. The weather was perfect and we met many interesting people along the way, visiting Little Bighorn Battlefield and Devil's Tower in Wyoming, Teddy Roosevelt National Park in N. Dakota, and Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota. The Crazy Horse Memorial has a fabulous North American Indian museum and, once completed, the mountain carving will be spectacular.

**William "Bill" Rowley, (Carol):** Dean for School of Education, 2008—Our Colorado days are over. We decided it was time to move closer to our son in San Diego. Upon our move from Fort Collins, Carol's home town, no member of her family is living in the city since 1947. We now live in Escondido, 30 miles north of San Diego. We thought it a good idea to keep a little distance from our son! Our home is in Meadowbrook Village Christian Retirement Center, and our new address is 2081 Garden Valley Glen, Apt. 204, Escondido, CA 92026-1355. My phone number remains the same.

**George Scranton (Claire):** Professor Theater Department, 2015—This note came from Marilyn Severson: George sends thanks for the many prayers on his behalf. Latest reports from the lab yesterday present good news. His PSA number has decreased significantly, showing good progress according to his oncologist. He started a new series of medications and continued with monthly Leuprolide injections. George also writes that he is coughing less and breathing a little bit better. His concluding sentence is one we all can appreciate: "Every day is a gift." I'm sure all of our colleagues will continue prayer support for George and Claire as they deal with this cancer, showing faith and endurance. Vicki McClurg says: I'm praying for healing for George, wisdom for his doctors, and peace for George and his family. As I have gone through a cancer journey this last year and a half I know that it is the prayers of friends and family that got me through.



**Tina Schermer Sellers (Gary Zak):** Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy 2019— Here is a quick update from my life since leaving SPU in 2019:

1. The Northwest Institute on Intimacy, which I launched, is going gang busters. We train physicians, psychotherapists, clergy, and teachers in post-graduate sexual health, sexual bias and understanding sexual dysfunction since this is routinely overlooked in graduate training. Research tells us that 40% of people have concerns in their intimate lives and go to these professionals for help. However, these professionals are routinely under-trained leaving them to rely on their biases. Prior to opening our institute the closest post-graduate training program on this topic was in Michigan.
2. I just released my second book which became an Amazon New Release Bestseller in 5 categories: Child Development, Parenting, Child Discipline, Grand parenting and Preschool/ Kindergarten. It is called: [\*\*Shameless Parenting – Everything You Need to Raise Shame-free, Confident Kids and Heal Your Shame Too!\*\*](#) It is available in Kindle, Audible, and Paperback. It is divided into age ranges (0-2, 2-4, 4-6 ... 18) and gives the emotional, behavioral tasks of that age, plus the sexual curiosities of each age and stage, then provides the shame triggers that parents usually feel, and ideas of how to heal and soothe them. Then provides the leading resources parents need to get for themselves and for their kids, plus websites. Each section has a place to keep notes at each age/stage. It is only 124 pages and is filled with pictures and quotes. Very user friendly. It is the parenting guide parents have long been asking me for!
3. I am also beyond grateful to be vaccinated and back to my schedule of spending every other week with my kids and grand-daughters (two now!! – 3 ½ and 6 months) in Portland!!! Because of media technology, the negative impacts of isolation have been mitigated to a tolerable level.

**Elaine Weltz (Tim):** Assistant Professor of Computer Science, 2019—Before retirement, I confidently stated my plan was to focus on being a musician and spend more time in church activities. I just had no idea what that was going to look like! When Rose Hill Church closed its doors due to COVID in March 2020, Tim and I became part of the team that moved worship online. Without missing a Sunday, we went from in-person only to “everyone join us for worship from our web site”. For several months, our 4-household team met on Thursdays to record a service for Sunday morning streaming. Then (thanks in part to a young techie who now majors in Computer Science at SPU!) we moved everything to live-online-on-Sunday-morning and by Labor Day we were officially back to regular modern and traditional services with at least a few (and increasingly more) in the pews.

At first, I supplied 12-15 minute preludes to help people get used to online worship, in addition to accompanying our song leaders. Now I’m the organist who also does check-in/contact gathering for our modern service and the elder making sure the offering gets into the safe at the end of the day. (I hope our ushers return soon!) And preludes are down to 5 minutes, which is good since I was beginning to run out of music! Tim and I both miss choir and hand bells and hope to get those restarted soon, maybe with an informal fully vaccinated summer choir in July!

If you’re missing your chamber music fix, I invite you to [News — Everett Philharmonic Orchestra](https://www.everettphil.org/news-1) (<https://www.everettphil.org/news-1>) for a recording of some Ernest Bloch a few friends and I made this spring.

Aside from all that, our schedule has centered around almost-daily walks, Zoom Bible study and choir socials, weekly grocery trips, and spending Fridays with Tim’s parents (still in their own home at 89 and 91!). I had a couple of medical tune-ups Spring 2020 and now, sans a potentially dangerous thyroid and plus a nifty embedded pacemaker, I feel better than I have in a long time. Being battery-operated seems to suit me well! A week at a cabin in the Oregon Cascades with friends in May finally got us on the road again, and we look forward to a longer road trip in August. It’s definitely time to break out of the routine!

**Vernon Wicker (Jutta):** Professor of Music, 2002—Vernon says hello and all the best to you.

**Dick Wood (Priscilla):** Professor of Math and Computer Science, 2003—The fourteen months of COVID shutdown changed everything at Cristwood Park in Shoreline where we live. Dinners are delivered to our door (our dining room is slowly opening with limited seating). All group activities were shut down and just now have started opening with social distancing and masks required.

We did not travel much except for a wonderful trip to Ocean Shores. We met up with Dick's cousins from Michigan for a lovely time of sharing with them our favorites such as wild mountain blackberry pie from Duffy's in Aberdeen, Mike's Seafood in Ocean Shores, lovely ocean views along the coast, kite flying on the beach, and lots of visiting. We have already booked a return trip for the two of us in the fall. In June we will spend a few days in Lynden. Our trips have all been "in state."

**Bill Woodward (Tina):** Professor of History 2017—Vaccinations in January allowed Tina and me to travel to see family in California and Indiana. The highlight was attending our first in-person worship service in over a year: on Easter! We have rarely been part of so raucously joyful a gathering, and never so demonstrative an Anglican liturgy. He is risen indeed!

**Sharon Young (Randy):** Mathematics Department and SOE Elementary Education, 2015—Current Events: We are enjoying the retired life in Gig Harbor. I think golf sustained us during much of the pandemic, as we were able to get outdoors in a setting that allowed us to be with friends. We are excited that Washington once again can be the home of our entire family. Our daughter Courtney recently moved to Tacoma from Orlando and daughter Gillian and son-in-law Michael will move to the Everett area this summer.

You can't make this up:





## MEMORIALS

**Donald J. MacDonald, PhD**, Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy | 42 years



**Retired Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)** Don MacDonald grew up in a rural town where, he said, academic work was not prioritized. He became the only one of his siblings to graduate from college, completing his doctoral work in 1984. MacDonald went on to lead a 39-year career as a beloved professor at Seattle Pacific, also teaching psychology courses at universities in China, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom.

“I stand on the shoulders of many,” he said, giving credit for much of his success to his wife, three sons, and grandchildren. During his years at Seattle Pacific, the MFT master’s program grew from a small, locally known program to a nationally recognized one. MacDonald studied and taught courses on worldviews, culture, relational philosophies, psychotherapy law and ethics, and family therapy.

At SPU, MacDonald experienced a Christian educational community for the first time. “It makes a difference: the company of colleagues and bright students who share a kinship in Christ,” he said. “I am a holistic, lifelong learner in that all of who I am — especially my relationship with the triune God — is involved. I get to invite my students on this journey of discovery.”

Paul Rivera, former student and now colleague, says “Don’s ability to balance humility with competence was what drew me to him when I was a student. I see this in him now as a colleague when he avoids privileging his own perspective so that others can be heard.”

Two of MacDonald’s sons and one of his granddaughters have graduated from SPU, and many of his students have become instructors, supervisors, and directors in the field of marriage and family therapy. “I feel somewhat like their dad as well,” MacDonald said.

*The faculty comments upon his passing are a testament to the greatness of this man. See the SPU Faculty Staff Bulletin for an invitation to a memorial celebration at their family home.*

**Grayson Capp**, August 11, 1936 to October 15, 2020. (Myrna)

Marilyn Severson sent this to Emeriti Faculty: We are saddened to report that our colleague Grayson Capp passed away October 15, 2020. He was an integral part of the chemistry faculty at Seattle Pacific from 1968 to 2003.



Grayson earned his SPU diploma and then a master’s degree from University of Oregon and PhD from University of Oregon Medical School in Portland followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University. At SPU he was instrumental in transforming the undergraduate biochemistry area with his focus on innovative coursework for students and ethical issues in medicine. He also played a significant role in establishing the undergraduate research tradition at SPU.

Grayson was honored to present the 1982 Winifred E. Weter Faculty Lecture, speaking on “Genesis 11: Man Becomes God.” He also taught undergraduate and medical students in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. We extend our prayer support to his family including his wife Myrna Capp, SPU 1959 and adjunct professor of music, their three children, and grandchildren.



**Professor Emerita of Education Annette Robinson 1977-2006, retired 2006.**



Professor Emerita of Education Annette Robinson passed away on Nov. 21, 2020. She served in the School of Education for 24 years, retiring in 2001. Bill Rowley, professor emeritus of counselor education, said, "I'm so saddened to receive the news of Annette's passing. She not only cared deeply about her students, but she had a wonderful sense of humor. She was a lifetime learner. I was serving as her dean when she retired, and I couldn't help but treasure the many years she contributed to the Special Education Program and the entire SOE. She helped contribute a wonderful, collegial atmosphere for those of us who had lunch in the 'attic' of Peterson Hall." Plans for a memorial service were pending.

**Dick Erickson, spouse of Emerita Joyce Quiring Erickson, 2003.**



Richard Carl "Dick" Erickson (age 83) died in his sleep in early morning February 5, 2021, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He was married to Joyce Quiring Erickson, our colleague and friend. Born in Seattle, he graduated from Lincoln High School and the University of Washington with a PhD in Psychology. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

Dick spent his career as a clinical psychologist in VA hospitals in Seattle, Portland, and Brockton, MA. As an ordained Presbyterian minister, Dick served as parish associate at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church in Seattle for 20 years. Many colleagues appreciated the gracious hospitality (and delicious food) of Dick and Joyce through the years. He enjoyed being with his children and their spouses and grandchildren; traveling with Joyce to Europe and throughout the US; making gourmet meals and wine; long conversations with friends and family over dinner, punctuated by his wit and hearty laugh. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Gary Ames** was a current Board of Trustees member, strong SPU supporter and generous donor when he passed away very suddenly on Thursday night May 13, 2021. The Ames library is named for him and his wife Barbara. Barbara and Gary Ames donated one million dollars in 2001 to fund a university-wide initiative to support students coming from the most underrepresented cultural and ethnic communities. At the time that was about 10% of SPU students. Twenty years later by spring 2021, the impact of that gift and others paved the way for a current undergraduate population with 50% of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.



According to Dr. Harley, "the Ames Scholarship and the Ames Leadership Program have supported more than 130 students through the years and alumni have gone on to complete medical school, law school, or graduate school." Gary predicted that one day an Ames Scholar would become a member of the SPU Board of Trustees. Indeed Dr. Denise Martinez and Kevin Johnson are now board members. Gary was former president and CEO of USWest Communications and MediaOne International.

Emeriti President George Scranton, continued from page one.

In his last prayer from the cross Jesus quoted from Psalm 31, also a model prayer for help from distress, one that is confident of being heard. Its theme is found in the sentence “In you, Lord, I take **refuge**.” This image of taking **refuge** is further emphasized in metaphors like “my rock, my stronghold, my fortress,” which are found throughout the rest of the Psalm. When hearing Jesus’ last prayer “**Into your hand I commit my spirit;**” (my Ruah = wind, breath, spirit = life) the crowd would automatically have added the rest of the phrase of this prayer: “**you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.**”

During this time of our lives, our losses, our afflictions, we may have prayed with David and Jesus: “**My God, My God, Why. . .?**” May we also be able to pray with David and Jesus: “**Into your hand I commit my Spirit (life).**” In this prayer **we also** affirm our belief that God is our “**refuge**” and will redeem our life, because of God’s faithfulness. In our prayerful journeys we are saying “**What becomes of me, God, is up to you, and I am willing to have it so.**”

May it be so as we look forward to the future with great hope because God is our **refuge**. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** via Provost newsletters—new appointments:

Dr. Brian Lugioyo, Dean for the School of Theology starting July 2021

Dr. Tyra Dean-Ousley, Dean for the School of Health Sciences starting July 2021

Dr. Margaret Watkins, Dean for College of Arts and Sciences starting July 2021

Dr. Jenney Elsey, Assistant Provost for Experiential Learning and Student Success starting July 1, 2021

Dr. Sheila Steiner, Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness started June 14, 2021

Alex Booker is the new Minister of Worship and Community Life

### **VACCINATION UPDATE**

All SPU students need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to return to campus this fall.

All SPU faculty and staff are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by August 19 unless they have applied for and obtained an exemption.

### **FALL OPENING EVENTS and LAST DAY OF CLASSES**

September 1, 2021, Opening Communion and State of the University Address followed by employee outdoor lunch.

September 13, 2021, First day of class Fall Quarter.

November 24, 2021, Last day of Fall Quarter classes.



## Newly Appointed Emeriti: WELCOME



### **Reed Davis, PhD, Professor of Political Science | 32 Years**

Dr. Reed Davis came to SPU in 1989 after serving for three years as chief of staff and research fellow at the Miller Center for Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. Shortly after his arrival at SPU, Reed launched the Augustinian Fellowship, a summer study abroad program in Honfleur and St. Maximin, France, which he directed for 22 years. The program was a logical extension of Reed's interest in French intellectual history: he is the author of *A Politics of Understanding: The International Thought of Raymond Aron*, and several peer-reviewed publications dedicated to the work of French philosopher Raymond Aron.

Reed was also active for a decade in state and local politics, serving as chair of the King County Republican Party from 1994 to 2002 and running for the United States Senate in 2004. In addition to his political interests, he served on the board of directors for American Financial Solutions, a debt consolidation company, from 2013 to 2020. He sits on the board of Solar Solutions, a nonprofit that installs solar power panels in central Peru.

Though Reed was department chair from 2006 to 2014, what drew him to higher education was the opportunity to teach. He was a four-time finalist for Teacher of the Year and was named Ivy Honorary Professor of the Year in 2011. He has been grateful for the opportunities SPU has afforded him to share his exploration of Christian political philosophy with so many students over the years, and for SPU's academic research support that allowed him to publish his studies of Christian political thinkers, most notably Kenneth W. Thompson and Reinhold Niebuhr. Reed was a member of Maple Valley Presbyterian Church.



### **Robert W. Wall, ThD Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies | 43 Years**

The Rev. Dr. Robert Wall began teaching in the School of Theology in 1978. He chaired the Department of Scripture, created the Community Bible Study course, wrote the School of Theology's standards for teaching and scholarship, helped write the University's Faith Statement, and served three three-year terms on the Faculty Status Committee. Rob was named Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies in 2006.

A Seattle native, Rob was educated at Valparaiso University (BA), Dallas Theological Seminary (ThM, ThD), and Perkins School of Theology. He is an ordained elder in the Free Methodist Church and enjoys an active ecumenical ministry of preaching and teaching adult Bible studies in congregations of various faith traditions.

Rob has worked out his calling through his four decades of teaching, research, and service at SPU. He centers his calling on teaching, which he describes as "introducing theological reading of the Bible as a sacred and holy text." His theological interpretation of scripture emanates through a distinctively Wesleyan lens. This ecclesial approach to theological interpretation animates his research agenda, his service to the University, and his detailed focus on student learning. A self-confessed "intuitive" teacher, Rob continually monitors and adjusts his lectures and assignments. He has mentored many undergraduate and seminary students, preparing them for further graduate studies.

The body of Rob's published work is extraordinary, not only in the range of subjects covered, but also in the depth of research devoted to each subject and in the principle that energizes all of it — namely, that biblical interpretation and theological reflection be in service of the classroom and the church, not only the professional guild. In fact, while Rob is a leading New Testament scholar (as evidenced by his membership in the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* and his presidency of the Wesleyan Theological Society), he is one of just a few biblical professors known for both their commitment to Christian faith and their contributions to the academy. He is the author of 15 books and dozens of articles.

As the Paul T. Walls chair holder, Rob's service extended to the larger community of Seattle, providing a rich resource of understanding of Wesleyan approaches to theology, the church, and the scripture, both through the annual Walls lectures and through his writing.



## New 2021 Emeriti continued...



### **Rod Stiling, ThM, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair of History | 20 Years**

Dr. Rod Stiling's deep care for the SPU community has shone through his achievements the past 20 years. His relational approach to teaching, service, and leadership demonstrates his commitment to love his neighbors as himself. Rod's innovative history courses on Christian theology and science have attracted students across campus, particularly Honors students, whom he has taught over most of his two decades at Seattle Pacific.

Rod was voted Professor of the Year in 2006 and has earned other awards, including "Top Professor." Not only has he diligently guided students through the sophisticated thought of such scientific giants as Galileo, Darwin, and Einstein, but he has done so in ways that encourage students to think deeply about their Christian faith. These efforts have been aided through Rod's own scholarship and publications in his field.

Outside the classroom, Rod has also devoted himself to students: he has genially advised the History Club for years and enthusiastically cheered on Falcon sports teams, musical productions, and theatrical performances. His gracious service has also extended throughout the broader SPU community. Rod has contributed to search committees and more, including the heralded and daunting task of serving as Faculty Senate chair. For the past five years, Rod has generously chaired the History Department. His tenure has been characterized by his warm pastoral demeanor and genuine encouragement for all.

Captain Rodney Stiling also deserves recognition for his years of service in the U.S. Navy, his countless hours of leadership and service at Bethany Community Church, and his enduring commitment to his beloved Ruth and their family.



### **Richard "Dick" L. Sleight, Instructor, Manager of Information Systems | 32 Years School of Business, Government, and Economics**

While this is Dr. Sleight's 32<sup>th</sup> year at SPU, it is actually his 42<sup>nd</sup> year of college teaching. His first twelve years in the academy were spent as a Lecturer in the College of Engineering at the University of Washington, where he was a founding faculty member of its Industrial Engineering program. His first course taught here in 1990 was also in Engineering. But since 1991, Dick has been a staff member in the business school, and also, since 2013, a faculty member by the gracious consent of the Faculty Senate. He is our Certiport Authorized Testing Center's Organization Administrator.

Along with his teaching responsibilities in spreadsheets and statistics, Dick wears many other hats in SBGE. These include technology and information manager, faculty advisor to all minors, building manager, webmaster, honors coordinator, photographer, and servant to all.

Dick is the sole Husky in a family of Falcons, all products of the University Scholars program, including wife Nancy '77, Annie '10 and Thomas Disher '10, Nathanael '13 and Cynthia (Eby) '16, and Jean '16. Away from SPU, Dick is a photographer, an artist in the Haida tradition, an avid reader of British Naval fiction, and for the past eight years, has been the summer Bible teacher at the Emerald Heights Retirement Community in Redmond. But he likes his newest title best of all, "Grandpa."