intrigued that some have gone into law, some into administrative roles of various kinds including an academy principal. A goodly number are now chaplains, and others Bible teachers. Several have gone as missionaries to other lands where they have established records of credible service. It is these kinds of realities that make being a college teacher very rewarding.

A third joy comes to mind when I reflect on the fact that I came to the School of Theology during a time where there were serious tensions between various church administrators and the school. I am profoundly grateful to be able to say those tensions are now all gone and we are enjoying very good relationships and high levels of trust with church administrators. In so many ways this is a great blessing.

There is one item that does concern me and that is the decreasing number of young people who are electing to enter the religious professions. At present, the School of Theology is graduating about half as many students as it did 17 years ago. In talking with colleagues at other schools, this is clearly a national trend. This decline is driven by a lot of factors, such as the perception that the pay in religious professions is low when compared with other professions. In addition, there is a perception of fixedness in churches and church organizations that resist the kinds of changes young people long for, and there is also some conflict that comes to those who lead in religious arenas. Another factor is the developing reality that many younger people are opting out of organized religion altogether. How to address these factors is the subject of a lot of ongoing discussion and deliberation. Certainly, the church is not ours and we are confident that the God who has been always active in history will remain so and that He will bring to completion the work begun now a very long time ago.

August 31, 2018, will be my last day as dean. I will step down with a sense of gratitude for what has been a very good run.

David Thomas

WWU School of Theology faculty

David Thomas, dean
Practical theology/apologetics

Brant Berglin
New Testament/Greek

Susan Bungard
New Testament teaching

Carl Cosaert
Early Christianity/New Testament

Pedrito Maynard-Reid
Biblical studies/missiology

Alden Thompson
Old Testament/Adventist history

Mathilde Frey
Old Testament/Hebrew

Jody Washburn
Old Testament/Hebrew

Paul Dybdahl
Mission/New Testament

Words from Scripture

“Aim to live quietly, mind your own business, and earn your own living, just as I told you. That way you’ll behave appropriately toward outsiders, and you won’t be in need.”

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, CEB
Dave Thomas, professor of practical theology and apologetics, will step down as dean of the Walla Walla University School of Theology (SOT) at the end of August and will teach full time in the classroom.

Thomas joined the SOT faculty as dean in the summer of 2001. His breadth of experience and the respect of his colleagues made him the ideal candidate for the position.

Thomas is an ordained minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church with pastoral experience ranging from multiple-church districts to large, multi-staff churches. He has a bachelor’s degree from Atlantic Union College, a master of divinity degree from Andrews University, and a doctorate in pastoral ministry from Andrews University.

“I was quite surprised when I was asked to be the dean. I made the man repeat himself to make sure I had heard correctly,” says Thomas.

Thomas came to the SOT during a time of turmoil and is leaving at a time of calm. “Trust levels were very low, and so when I came here it was fairly difficult to navigate,” he says. “Thankfully over the last 17 years that has changed.”

Thomas was dean for 17 years, two years longer than any other dean of the school. “That is not a goal I set out to achieve,” Thomas says. “But I have enjoyed my work and it is nice to know my colleagues did not want me to step down.”

Carl Cosaert, professor of biblical studies, will succeed Thomas. “He is very entrepreneurial, so I am hoping he will build enrollment,” says Thomas. “The advice I would give him is to rely on the collective wisdom of his colleagues.”

Thomas will teach full time next fall and do what brings him the greatest joy—direct interaction with students. “I’ve always liked classroom teaching. I like my personal interaction with students,” Thomas says. “I’m a happy Adventist and I would like to graduate happy Adventists.”

“No one knew how to address the issues, but Dave managed to assemble a team that was solidly theistic and committed to Adventism,” says Alden Thompson, professor of biblical studies. “His collegial approach to everything he does follows the model of Jesus.”

“I tried to bring peace and a sense of community,” Thomas says. “I describe myself as someone who creates a lot of shade that other people like to sit under.”

“Dave brought a special unity to the School of Theology and made it accessible again to the institution of the church,” says Brant Berglin, assistant professor of New Testament studies and Greek.
The pastor/student mentoring program at Walla Walla University provides theology students an opportunity for community and accountability with local Seventh-day Adventist pastors.

This program, funded by the Upper Columbia Conference, provides 10 spots per year and has been run for the past 20 years. The pastor/student mentoring program, a graduation requirement for all theology majors, allows students to work with pastors for 10 months out of the year.

Dave Thomas, dean of the School of Theology, says, “The mentoring program is a plan that involves junior-level students in local churches for seven hours per week, for which they get paid. This exposes them to the full spectrum of church life and function. There is a specific requirement that one of the weekly hours be spent in direct contact and dialogue with the pastor they work with.”

Enrique Vado, a current theology senior, says that some of his favorite aspects of the program include “the organization, time with the pastors, the connections that you make with the members, and exposure to church leadership.” Enrique adds, “This program was definitely a blessing for my life because it restored my confidence in God’s calling for my life.”

Students participate in mentoring program with local pastors

Theology students share the gospel in Guatemala

A group of theology students from Walla Walla University spent spring break ministering to the people of South Guatemala on a 10-day trip organized by the North Pacific Union Conference. The group of 21 people, composed of 75 percent young adults, included both pastors and students from the Idaho and Washington Conferences.

“The goal of the trip was evangelism. We were sent to preach a series of sermons and to build relations in order to grow the kingdom,” says Kisa McCloskey. “There was a point in the middle of the week where I hit rock bottom. My sermon that day was not good, and I embarrassed myself singing children’s songs. The next day instead of sermon prep, I prayed a lot that God would send his Holy Spirit. God transformed my sermon that night, and he transformed my heart as well. The rest of the week went by with the Spirit involved. I learned that my ministry is absolutely pointless unless God is literally dwelling in it.”

Over the course of the trip, students were given opportunities to share the gospel with the people who came to listen. For some of the students, this was the first time they had shared God’s message in front of a crowd. Students spoke in several locations, with audiences ranging from 50 to 3,000. Hundreds of people responded to calls to give their lives to Christ.

Cosaert named dean of School of Theology

Carl Cosaert, professor of biblical studies, will be the new dean of the School of Theology beginning September 1.

Cosaert’s experience as an ordained minister and his diverse academic background bring a rich perspective to his classes. He has a passion for helping others understand the wonderful news of what God has done for the human race in Christ. He enjoys preaching and has authored a number of published works, including his most recent book, *Galatians: A Fiery Response to a Struggling Church*.

Cosaert served as a pastor for 10 years in the Midwest. He has a bachelor’s degree from Union College, a master of divinity degree from Andrews University, a master’s degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary, and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined the WWU theology faculty in 2005.
A Good Word

Homecoming Weekend 2018 directed the attention of more than 900 alumni who returned to campus in April toward the Walla Walla University core theme of Generosity in Service. The School of Theology (SOT) was at the heart of this emphasis as one of three academic departments featured during the weekend.

“Each department at WWU trains students for lives of service, but in a very special way our School of Theology alumni touch lives and minister to families on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis as pastors, teachers, and chaplains,” says Claudia Santellano, WWU alumni and parent relations director.


Alumni spoke for the two church services at the University Church: Paul Dybdahl ’92, WWU professor of mission and New Testament, spoke for First Serve, and John Cress ’78, executive secretary for the Southern California Conference, spoke for Second Service.

The 50th anniversary of the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) was the focus of several presentations by SOT alumni and faculty. The MPP is one of the most long-lived, continuously running archaeological projects in the Middle East and was set in motion by Siegfried Horn ’47. Archaeological presentations during homecoming included “The Life of a Pot” by Monique Vincent ’07, WWU assistant professor of history, and Jody Washburn ’05, WWU assistant professor of biblical studies. Vincent and Washburn also partnered with Clark ’70 and Kent Bramlett ’94 to present two additional seminars.

Throughout the weekend, the blessings of God were evident in the successful fulfillment of the mission of the School of Theology to prepare students for ministry and to foster thoughtful and active engagement in the Christian faith from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.

Heart and soul
Maynard-Reid leads lecture series on worship styles

Pedrito Maynard-Reid, professor of biblical studies and missiology, led a session in January for The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (IWS) in Jacksonville, Florida.

Maynard-Reid’s lectures for the session closely tracked the focus of his book Diverse Worship in which he explores the multiethnic dimensions of worship by looking at specific cultural contexts for worship.

“Scripture says, ‘Love the lord your God with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength,’” says Maynard-Reid. “Some cultures use their whole beings to worship—you’re not only preached to your mind but preached to your heart and your soul. I want to see us recapture something of light and holism to revitalize our worship. I am convinced that this is where church growth is going to be.”

Maynard-Reid is professor of cross-cultural worship for IWS. The organization brings together students, faculty, and staff from around the globe for eight days twice each year, in January and June, for intensive learning sessions on its campus in Jacksonville.

Cosaert advises on film project for Hope Channel

Carl Cosaert, professor of biblical studies, spent three weeks in Israel filming a short TV series to be aired on the Hope Channel next fall.

The program looks at the unique aspects of Jesus that we learn from the book of Mark, the first gospel written. Mark reveals some aspects of Jesus we might not learn from the other gospels.

Cosaert designed all of the content and gathered the resources to fund the production. This is his first time working on a project like this.

He reached out to Lynelle Ellis, associate professor for WWU’s Center for Media Ministry, and was assisted by Rachel Scribner, production coordinator for the Center for Media Ministry at WWU and full time Cinema, Religion, and Worldview master’s student, to produce the six-episode series.

Cosaert’s previous experience leading and talking to groups in Israel sparked his interest in the project, and the Hope Channel is anticipating great results.
A Good Word

School of Theology

2018 graduates

We are pleased to introduce the 2018 graduates of the WWU School of Theology.

Joel Barajas, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the religion professors and Heather (administrative assistant) and my friends, but I know they will always be there for me, and that I’ll see them at the mansion party in heaven with special guest Jesus.

Plans after graduation: I will be pastoring in the Upper Columbia Conference, but will first go to the Amazon for a mission trip.

Matthew Cosaert, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the friends I have made here. Through all of the classes and activities at WWU, I have made friends for life.

Plans after graduation: I will be getting married to Miranda Roberts! Then in August, we will be moving to Andrews University where I will pursue my master of divinity.

Peter Flores, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: What I will miss most are the friendships. I’m sure I will have good friends in the future, but not like this. WWU is a special place full of blessed people who have impacted my life for the better.

Plans after graduation: To find a position in ministry and to gain further education at Andrews Theological Seminary.

Derek Glatts, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the academic atmosphere and the dedication to critical thinking.

Plans after graduation: I am planning on getting a master’s degree in clinical chaplaincy at Loma Linda University.

Austin Greer, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the people. I have connected with the theology crew on both a mind and heart level. I will miss WWU’s unique way of launching students into new thought territory. Professors have fantastic intellectual depth and expansion in their classes.

Plans after graduation: I will be serving as an associate pastor in the Upper Columbia Conference in the fall. In the summer, I will lead a three-week camp meeting youth program.

Kisa McCloskey, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the teachers in theology. They have been extremely supportive, patient, and understanding.

Plans after graduation: I am planning on finding a pastoral position and would like to go to Andrews Seminary for further education and training that focuses on mission and pastoral work.

Ashley Lee, religion major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the relationships most—friends and professors who have inspired me and helped me grow closer to Christ. WWU has provided a safe place to be challenged academically and spiritually. It is a place full of people who look like Jesus.

Plans after graduation: I will be going to the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

Matthew Cosaert, theology major

What will you miss about WWU: I will miss the friends I have made here. Through all of the classes and activities at WWU, I have made friends for life.

Plans after graduation: I will be getting married to Miranda Roberts! Then in August, we will be moving to Andrews University where I will pursue my master of divinity.

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What is Good Word? Good Word is a weekly radio program that serves as a supplement to the Seventh-day Adventist adult Sabbath School quarterly. The content of the program is provided by professors in the WWU School of Theology and it is recorded and produced by Positive Life Radio (KGTS 91.3).

The Global Reach of the ‘Good Word’ Broadcast
The 2017–18 Walla Walla University Distinguished Faculty Lecture (DFL) was presented by Pedrito Maynard-Reid, professor of biblical studies and missiology and assistant to the president for diversity. His lecture, “Justice: A Radical, Prophetic Call to the Academy and the Pew,” spoke to the challenge the millennial generation is posing to Christian institutions of higher learning and the institution of the church.

“This generation desires that the church and its institutions become prophetic places of power that actively address issues of injustice,” said Maynard-Reid in his lecture. “We need a radical, biblical, prophetic voice in the halls of academia and in the pulpits of the worshipping community.”

The DFL is an annual presentation held at WWU since 1993. The speaker is selected from the WWU faculty and is invited to speak on a topic related to her or his discipline. Speakers must have a reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to the community and the church.

Maynard-Reid’s DFL presentation asked, “Where are the pastoral and professorial prophets of today?” He suggested that issues of justice dominate scripture and that the prophets of biblical times and early Adventism addressed them with vigor.

“They brought hope to the hopeless and provoked the powerful,” said Maynard-Reid. “They confronted the comfortable and ministered to the marginal.”

“A prophet is someone who speaks forth for God, always challenging the nation and the people towards justice and righteousness,” said Maynard-Reid. “We are sending kids out into a world filled with injustice, and we need to say something—those of us who are strong, those of us who are professors and pastors.”

Maynard-Reid’s lecture topic was inspired by his students from almost 50 years of teaching. He finds that the current generation is not interested in the technicalities of theology but in helping others.

“They say to be Christian is to be like Jesus, and that is what Jesus was interested in,” Maynard-Reid says. “I hoped that people would recapture the vision of the prophets who spoke out against injustice and do something.”

Maynard-Reid joined the School of Theology in 1990. He has a bachelor’s degree from West Indies College, master of arts and master of divinity degrees and a doctor of divinity degree from Andrews University, as well as a master of theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

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**2018 graduates, continued**

**Alissa Simons**, religion major

*What will you miss about WWU*: I will miss skiing at Bluewood, all the great places to eat, and all of the wonderful people.

*Plans after graduation*: I will be moving to Germany with my incredible husband and seeing what God plans for us there.

**Enrique Vado**, theology major

*What will you miss about WWU*: I am going to miss taking classes from my theology professors! I will also miss the other theology majors and simply enjoying the campus culture of WWU.

*Plans after graduation*: I will be working for the Washington conference and likely first pursuing a master of divinity degree at Andrews University.

**Troy Wallace**, theology and biblical languages major

*What will you miss about WWU*: I will miss the accessibility of my professors. When I have a pressing or troubling spiritual dilemma or question, I am always able to pop my head into a professor’s office and share my concerns.

*Plans after graduation*: I will be serving in Portland as a pastor in two churches. I can’t wait to see the Gospel go out in the PNW!

**David Werner**, theology and biblical languages major

*What will you miss about WWU*: I will miss the amazing environment that the faculty and students create at WWU. This place has helped me grow in so many ways, and it pains me to leave. I will deeply miss all the people who have profoundly touched my life.

*Plans after graduation*: I will be working as a district pastor in the Dakota conference.

**Maynard-Reid lecture speaks against injustice**

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“A prophet is someone who speaks forth for God, always challenging the nation and the people towards justice and righteousness,” said Maynard-Reid. “We are sending kids out into a world filled with injustice, and we need to say something—those of us who are strong, those of us who are professors and pastors.”

Maynard-Reid’s lecture topic was inspired by his students from almost 50 years of teaching. He finds that the current generation is not interested in the technicalities of theology but in helping others.

“They say to be Christian is to be like Jesus, and that is what Jesus was interested in,” Maynard-Reid says. “I hoped that people would recapture the vision of the prophets who spoke out against injustice and do something.”

Maynard-Reid joined the School of Theology in 1990. He has a bachelor’s degree from West Indies College, master of arts and master of divinity degrees and a doctor of divinity degree from Andrews University, as well as a master of theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.
Senior theology major Derek Glatts has wanted to study theology since childhood. “I couldn’t see myself doing anything else,” he says.

During winter quarter in Systematic Theology class, Glatts was challenged by Dave Thomas, professor of practical theology and apologetics and dean of the School of Theology, to study and evaluate the Adventist doctrine that was the most obscure to him. Glatts chose the doctrine concerning the remnant and its mission.

Glatts had many questions, including: “Does this doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church teach arrogance? Or exclusivity? Does the doctrine of the remnant have biblical foundations? And if so, does the remnant refer to a specific group or denomination, or does it refer to a state of being?”

“When I look at this doctrine, I am left with a feeling of exclusivity,” says Glatts. “I wonder if this is an attempt to state that somehow Adventists are more sincere in their faith or that we possess some superior religious experience. This does not sit well with me. I have traveled the world and have met many Catholics and Protestants, Baptists and Muslims who worship God with equal devotion and humility to the best Adventists I’ve seen.”

“Derek actually has become quite excited about his new understanding and that is the piece that jazzes me. I like it when people grow from perhaps a narrow, preconceived idea into a much broader one. That brings some joy,” says Thomas.

“If we desire to be a part of God’s remnant, then we ought to proactively take part in its mission. We need to preach the gospel in its true light, full of grace, hope, and power,” writes Glatts.

“Jesus taught us to have faith and believe in him, and so this church should really be about keeping God’s commandments,” says Glatts. “His commandments are about more than just the Sabbath. They are also about doing unto others as you would want done to you. The greatest commandment is love.”

After graduation in June, Glatts has plans to take his newfound understanding of the remnant doctrine and its connection to the gospel into his work as a hospital chaplain.