As we bring another year to a close at the School of Theology, I have been reflecting on both the privileges and challenges of being involved in the education of the next generation. The privileges are considerable what with the interaction we have with young minds that are finding their way to adulthood and also to service. The challenges are also considerable. There is the challenge of technological change. We have to keep up with this change, part of which is that the immediacy of technology is changing the way we experience life and relationships. More challenging is societal change. In times past, almost all of life was referenced to points derived from the Bible. That is no longer the case. The secular viewpoint is advancing robustly, putting great pressure on those who are “religious,” casting them in a very bad light.

There is also the shift away from external reference points to internal ones. It used to be that people saw themselves as noble beings made in the image of God whose primary path to thriving lay in identifying the design of God and adjusting life to fit that design. Under this rubric, people valued self-discipline, self-sacrifice, and they distrusted their feelings. The current idea is quite different — that reference points are not external but internal. The perceived path to thriving involves looking inside oneself to see what inclinations are present there, those discovered impulses then to be honored and unbridled. A person is supposed to follow their feelings and inclinations wherever they lead.

Lastly, people have largely abandoned the idea of moral absolutes, with the current thinking being that all things are relative, that we cannot know for sure so we must treat all ideas as equal.

These dynamics present educators with a huge challenge, because most of these changes run contrary to the way Christianity has been. How do we live and minister in such a climate? These are the issues we face that warrant both careful attention and much prayer.

David Thomas
Dean of the School of Theology
Fawn Fahrer | Religion and History
Future plans: Chaplain/ Bible teacher at Auburn Adventist Academy
Most meaningful experience: My student missionary year in the Philippines where I worked at the local church and in the community of Pagudpud as a Bible worker.

Rob Folkenberg | Theology and Business
Future plans: To work in Walla Walla for a year and then apply to graduate school for museum studies.
Most meaningful experience: Downtown Outreach. Seeing how happy people were to receive a kind word or a cup of hot chocolate.

Adan Rodarte | Theology
Future plans: To be a pastor.
Most meaningful experience: Working with local pastors and watching God work in my life and the lives of those around me.

Holly Sturges | Religion and Social Work
Future plans: Starting the Masters in Social Work program at WWU
Most meaningful experience: For several summers being a part of the VBS programs at a local church where I enjoyed interacting with the children & sharing Jesus with them.

Brandon Torkelsen | Religion
Future plans: Law School
Most meaningful experience: Working at Big Lake Youth Camp.

Antonia Vujcic | Religion and History
Future plans: As a student missionary for a year and then to the Seminary at Andrews.
Most meaningful experience: This worship and meaningful discussions I had while leading my small group.

Carl P. Cosaert
"Leadership and Gender in the Ephesian Church: An Examination of 1 Timothy 3:1-13" Presentation given on 1 Timothy 3 at the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee, January 2014.

"Paul, Women, and the Ephesian Church: An Examination of 1 Timothy 2:8-15" Presentation given on 1 Timothy 2 at the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee, June 2013.

"Paul, Idol Meat, and Church Unity" Presidential address at the UNES/STE Annual Meeting. (The paper proposed a solution to the debate regarding the ordination of women.)

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

"Stopping the Revolving Door of Members Leaving the Church." Presentation at North Bros Church Elders' Retreat, Camp Berkshire, N.Y., February 8, 2014.


CARL P. COSAERT

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

The study group is working to define how to do theology sola scriptura from the macro hermeneutical level up.

"Macro hermeneutics is a developing area of theology that focuses on the broad ideological principles that lie behind the hermeneutical principles that we use to produce doctrine that ends up informing the way we live," Thomas says. "It is increasingly understood that this most foundational of levels of human thought often determines what the rest will be like. Because of its foundational nature, the field is now growing significantly with the Seminary at Andrews University being a center of that activity."

Because of his ability to popularize the highly philosophical subject matter, Thomas was invited to return to speak to all doctoral students about this growing topic. Thomas teaches this important topic to Walla Walla University undergraduates in the class "Issues of God and Faith."

The Center for Bible, Faith, and Mission is an outreach ministry of the School of Theology to churches in the Northwest. Most notable this year was a seminar in Portland, Oregon, where host female theologians from the US and New Zealand taught on "Evangelism for the 21st century."

Televised seminars were 70 baptisms as a result of the evangelism efforts.

The WWU School of Theology participated in the first mission trip with university students to Fiji, facilitated by ShareHim. There were 70 baptisms as a result of the evangelism efforts.

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

Featured Faculty

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

"Needed: A Walla Walla Martin Luther King, Jr."
"Doing Evangelism in a Changing World."
"Diverse Worship and Social Transformation."
"Wholistic Spirituality."

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

Featured Faculty

Pedrito Maynard-Reid

Featured Faculty

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