“Perkins in the News,” distributed by the Office of Public Affairs and Alumni/ae Relations, provides an overview of recent local, regional, and national media coverage of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Links to media/web items, new content posted to the Perkins website (www.smu.edu/perkins), and upcoming events are listed below.

**Announcement from Interim Provost Harold Stanley: Retirement of Dean William B. Lawrence**

SMU Office of the Provost

William B. Lawrence has informed me that he will retire as dean of the Perkins School of Theology, effective May 31, 2016. During a well-earned leave of absence for the academic year 2016-17, he will make a decision on returning to campus as professor of American church history in fall 2017.

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**Perkins in the News**

**August 25, 2015**

**GBHEM Board works on new call focus, General Conference legislation**

The United Methodist Reporter

In other action, the Board: . . . Approved new directors for Course of Study schools at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The Course of Study is the educational path for licensed local pastors in the UMC.

**Dean Lawrence steps down as Perkins steps up nationally**

SMU Daily Campus

After more than 13 years as dean of the Perkins School of Theology, William B. Lawrence announced that he will retire on May 31, 2016. Dean Lawrence also decided to take a leave of absence for the 2016-17 academic year while considering to accept the role of professor of American church history in the fall of 2017.

**Perkins names Susanna Wesley chair**

United Methodist News Service

Evelyn Parker has been named the inaugural holder of the Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology at Perkins School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary and part of Southern Methodist University. Parker has been on the Perkins faculty since 1998.

**Chris Thompson: Seminars offer religious training to leaders and laity alike**

Alaska Dispatch News

Alaska School of Theology: SMU and Alaska United Methodist Conference, Sept. 18-19 will mark the 19th year that the Alaska United Methodist Conference has teamed with the prestigious Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology to present short but in-depth excursions into the Bible.

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**Faculty in the News**

**Churches hope to heal through togetherness**

Denton Record-Chronicle

As the service continued, the Rev. Tamara Lewis, a professor at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology, reiterated Rice’s thoughts and provided clarity.
Bay View welcomes guest speaker Michael Hawn
Petoskey News, Petoskey, MI
(Michael) Hawn is the university distinguished professor of church music and director of the sacred music program at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

Parkland Board named recipient of Star Trustee Award
The Dallas Weekly
Board members include Debbie Dudley Branson, chair; Patricia Gorman, vice chair; L. Gerald “Jerry” Bryant; Paula Dobbs-Wiggins, MD; Scherry Johnson, EdD; Winfred Parnell, MD; and Stephanie Woods, PhD, RN.

Progressive Christianity: Imagine a Future Like the Kingdom of God
Patheos
By Alyce McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Director of the Center for Preaching Excellence at Perkins School of Theology.

City’s oldest eatery found, sorta, kinda
Dallas Morning News
Does that count? “They were all ‘Bryan’s Smokehouses,’” argues the Rev. William Jennings “Bill” Bryan III of SMU’s Perkins School of Theology. (He decided to save souls instead of smoking meats.)

2015 Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist News Service
The Wisconsin Annual Conference celebrated our theme of “Cultivate and Nurture” June 12-15 at the Madison Marriott West. Guest speakers included the Rev. Elaine Heath, McCreless Associate Professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology.

Caitlyn Jenner, Transgender Justice, and Religion
Feminist Studies in Religion
By Susanne Scholz, Professor of Old Testament at Perkins School of Theology.

This is What a Minister Looks Like: Isabel N. Docampo
Baptist Women in Ministry
Profile of Dr. Isabel DoCampo, Professor of Supervised Ministry at Perkins School of Theology.

Muhammad at the mixer
Beeville Bee-Picayune
Dr. Robert Hunt of SMU Perkins School of Theology lists Christianity and Muslim similarities. But the differences always may preclude anything but superficial ecumenical cooperation.

McKinney mom also faces transition while finding help for transgender daughter
The Dallas Morning News
Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, an SMU professor of theology and pastoral care and ordained Presbyterian minister, re-evaluated her views on gender dysphoria after learning about Kammie.

Ongoing Faculty Contributions

History of Hymns: “Leave It There”
General Board of Discipleship website
By C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music; Director, Master of Sacred Music Program, Perkins School of Theology.
Additional History of Hymns Articles:
“Let Us With a Joyful Mind”
“O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread”
And others, on the History of Hymns archive page
The Prayer of a Dangerous King: Reflections on 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Patheos
By John C. Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor Emeritus of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology.
Additional Opening the Old Testament Articles:
Avoiding the Truth: Reflections on 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
What Goes Around: Reflections on 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
And others, on the Opening the Old Testament archive page

Rodeo Season in America
Patheos
By Robert A. Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education at Perkins School of Theology.
Additional Interfaith Encounters Articles:
The Religion of Business
Wouldn’t I, Wooden Eye, Hairlip Hairlip
And others, on the Interfaith Encounters archive page

Sanity About the Spirit: Not in 1 Corinthians!
Huffington Post Religion
By Jack Levison, W. J. A. Power Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew at Perkins School of Theology.
And others, on the archive page

Alumni/ae in the News

Connections with Renee Shaw
Kentucky Educational Television
Renee and her guests, Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper and Rev. D. Anthony Everett (M.Div.’08), talk about the role of religion in politics and public policy decision-making.

50 years on, churches still fight for voting rights
United Methodist News Service
The Rev. D. Anthony Everett (M.Div.’08), pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky, is a longtime supporter of voting rights.

Weekend
BBC World Service
Each week the programme welcomes two guests for the entire hour to discuss and comment on themes and ideas of the week’s news, from the realms of politics, science, music and the arts. This week’s guests include Rev. Dr. Michael Waters (M.Div.’06, D.Min.’12).

Deep in the Heart of Texas
Huffington Post Black Voices
By Rev. Dr. Michael Waters (M.Div.’06, D.Min.’12), founder and Senior Pastor of Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Dallas, Texas.

Special Needs Parenting
Huff Publishing
Special Needs Parenting: From Coping to Thriving, by Rev. Dr. Lorna Bradley (M.Div.’07, D.Min.’13), offers emotional and spiritual resources for the journey of special needs parenting.

The Director of The Center for Congregational Song
The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada
The Hymn Society is pleased to announce that Brian Hehn (M.S.M.’12) has been selected to be the first Director of The Center for Congregational Song (CCS).
New on the Website:  www.smu.edu/perkins

- Perkins Invites 2016 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award Nominations

- SMU Announces Appointment of Dr. Evelyn Parker to Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology

Upcoming Events

- Doctor of Ministry Information Session: August 26, 2015

- Feast of Beginnings, Chapel Service of Word and Table: August 26, 2015

- First Day of Classes: Houston-Galveston Program: August 27, 2015

- Alaska Lay School of Theology: September 18-19, 2015, in Anchorage, AK

- Master of Sacred Music Reunion: September 27-29, 2015

Continuing Events


View current or archived editions of “Perkins in the News” online