



SMU | PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

“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.

Perkins in the News

December 18, 2015

[#BlackAtSMU: A lack of racial diversity and understanding is still an issue at SMU more than 60 years after the first black student enrolled.](#)

Dallas Morning News

This is hardly the first time racial tensions have been an issue at SMU. It's come up repeatedly since the first black students were admitted to **Perkins School of Theology** in 1952.

[Offended by party theme, SMU students march for racial understanding](#)

The United Methodist Church of North Texas News

On Tuesday, SMU students will gather again — this time on the steps of Perkins Chapel — for a prayer vigil and march for a united SMU. That event is sponsored by student groups at **Perkins School of Theology**.

Also: [SMU community members march for justice](#)
[SMU students, staff march in solidarity](#)

[SMU students call for campus to address racial issues at ‘blackout’ rally](#)

The Dallas Morning News

On Tuesday, SMU students will gather again — this time on the steps of Perkins Chapel — for a prayer vigil and march for a united SMU. That event is sponsored by student groups at **Perkins School of Theology**.

Also: [Black SMU students plan #BlackOut in support for Missouri peers](#)
[SMU Student Blackout](#)

Faculty/Staff in the News

[In wake of armed protests at local mosques, Dallas pastors, rabbis and imams join forces](#)

The Dallas Morning News

Robert Hunt, the Director of Global Theological Education at SMU's **Perkins School of Theology**, says the task force's name may change and its membership should grow.

[OIT Shared Services creates Academic Technology Governance Council](#)

SMU Daily Campus

The members of the council include Amit Basu, Cox; Katherine Engel, Tom Fomby and Elfi Kraka, Dedman; Mark Nausha, Guildhall; Nathan Cortez, Dedman Law; Halit Uster, Lyle; David Sedman, Meadows; Anthony Cuevas, Simmons; **Theodore Walker, Perkins Theology**; Sreekumar Bhaskaran, Faculty Senate; Mary Boyd, libraries; and James Quick, provost's office.

[Dallas pastor criticized for sermon denouncing Islam](#)

Fox 4 News

Jeffress' comments sparked a scathing blog post by Dr. **Robert Hunt** at SMU's **Perkins School of Theology**, entitled "The Darkness in the Heart of Dallas."

Also: [SMU religion prof calls Baptist pastor ignorant, fear monger for comments on Islam](#)
[SMU religion professor: 'Hate speech' coming from First Baptist's Jeffress will hurt Dallas](#)
[Despite concern from SMU professor, Jeffress is no longer a media darling](#)
[Dallas Pastor Defends Inflammatory Sermon](#)

[Christian leaders take issue with GOP stance on resettlement](#)

Houston Chronicle

"Every person who is a (presidential) candidate is a leader of this country," said **Rebekah Miles**, ethics and practical theology professor at Southern Methodist University's **Perkins School of Theology**. "You would think one of their responsibilities would be to talk sense, to be moderate in a helpful way when everyone else is losing their heads. But instead of calming, they're inciting. . ."

[Survey: Christian Americans view Muslim values 'at odds' with those of America](#)

Houston Chronicle

Reviewing the findings, **Robert Hunt**, director of global theological education at Southern Methodist University's **Perkins School of Theology**, said the study likely "read anxiety about Islam, not knowledge."

Ongoing Faculty Contributions

[History of Hymns: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"](#)

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:

["Angels, We Have Heard on High"](#)

["Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"](#)

And others, on the [History of Hymns archive page](#)

[Who Is This Peaceful One? Advent Reflections on Micah 5:2-5a](#)

Patheos

By **John C. Holbert**, Professor Emeritus of Homiletics at **Perkins School of Theology**.

Additional *Opening the Old Testament* Articles:

[Advent as a Gathering In: Reflections on Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

[A Future with Hope: Advent Reflections on Baruch 5:1-9](#)

And others, on the [Opening the Old Testament archive page](#)

[At Wheaton: No God but Our God](#)

Patheos

By **Robert A. Hunt**, Director of Global Theological Education at **Perkins School of Theology**.

Additional *Interfaith Encounters* Articles:

[Concerning Armed Demonstrations at Mosques](#)

[How to Disempower ISIS and Why We Are Failing](#)

And others, on the [Interfaith Encounters archive page](#)

[Catching Our Breath: Life After Beirut and Paris](#)

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](#)

[From Charity to Advocacy and Deep Solidarity](#)

Patheos

By **Joerg Rieger**, Wendland-Cook Professor of Constructive Theology at **Perkins School of Theology**.

Additional Articles:

[Why Consumerism Is Not the Problem: Reshaping Desire from the Bottom Up](#)

And others, on the [archive page](#)

Alumni/ae in the News

[We Gon' Be Alright](#)

Huffington Post Black Voices

By The Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters (M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12), founder and Senior Pastor of Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Dallas, Texas.

[Dallas: We are not afraid to stand up to fascism](#)

Liberation News

See this video by Liberation News of Rev. **Dr. Michael Waters** (M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12) of Joy Tabernacle AME Church (in long robe) and **Eric Folkerth** (M.Div.'90) of Northaven United Methodist Church (in stole) at the demonstration.

[Armed bigots again terrorize Texas Muslims — this time met by an anti-hate movement](#)

Raw Story

“We reject the discrimination against our Muslim brothers and sisters, we reject racial profiling by anyone, and we stand together and say we are better united,” said Pastor Eric Folkerth (M.Div.'90) of Northaven United Methodist Church.

[Dallas Voice honors our LGBT Texans of the Year](#)

Dallas Voice

Because the ban on same-sex marriage in the Methodist Church remains in place, Northaven United Methodist Church's minister, the Rev. **Eric Folkerth** (M.Div.'90), could again only look on as his wife, State District Court Judge Dennise Garcia, presided over the nuptials.

[Turning the Tables at Christmas](#)

Crossmap

“The goodwill we celebrate at Christmas extends to everyone,” said **Samira Izadi Page** (M.Div.'10), founder and executive director of Gateway of Grace. “This Christmas, refugees in our communities can give us the gift of meals from their homelands, even as we reach out to them with gifts and an explanation of what Christmas is about.”

[If done right, the second half of life is about wisdom and understanding](#)

Houston Chronicle

After the “incredible blessing” of a buyout from the law firm, **Pamela Stockton** (M.T.S.'06) began a personal, spiritual quest that may never end.

[Dallas pastors organize rally against gun violence](#)

WFAA ABC

At the Martin Luther King Center in South Dallas, a place named after a man who preached non-violence, the Rev. Sharon Risher and the Rev. Dr. **Michael W. Waters** (M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12) sat devastated over the latest mass shooting in California.

[White supremacist group plans rally at Irving mosque](#)

WFAA ABC

“It's deeply disturbing to think that anyone in this day and age would be protested in such a way,” said Pastor **Michael Waters** (M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12) of Joy Tabernacle AME Church in Dallas.

Also: [Groups Collide around Texas Mosque Protests as KKK Enters the Fray](#)
[Texas Pro-Muslim Rally's Unexpected Last Minute Venue Could Be about Posturing for TV](#)

[American Terrorist](#)

Huffington Post Black Voices

By The **Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters** (M.Div.'06, D.Min.'12), founder and Senior Pastor of Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Dallas, Texas.

[United Theological Seminary to Hold Advent Commencement](#)

PR Web

Rev. Dr. **Kim Cape** (M.Div.'79, D.Min.'03) of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to speak at Dayton, OH seminary's Dec. 18 ceremony.

[\\$30,000 Grant Awarded To Shenandoah University's Religion Department](#)

Shenandoah University News

Assistant Professor of Religion **Meredith Minister** (Ph.D.'11) has been awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion for fostering religious understanding in the Going Global: First-Year Seminar (FYS) program.

[Humanitarian worker shares heartbreaking refugee stories](#)

WFAA ABC

Wes Magruder (M.Div.'96), with Refugee Services of Texas, said the president decides what happens to refugees, not the governor.

Also: [Syrian Refugees Already In North Texas](#)
[Amid Tensions, Christians Show Support for Syrian Refugees in Dallas](#)

[Raising foot soldiers for an imaginary holy war](#)

WFAA ABC

By **David R. Brockman** (Ph.D.'06), a religious studies scholar and Christian theologian who serves as Adjunct Lecturer in Religion at Texas Christian University.

New on the Website: www.smu.edu/perkins

- [Perkins Accepting Seals Laity Award Nominations Through Jan. 4, 2016](#)
- [Watch the 2015 Perkins Christmas Worship Service: The Journey . . . Home](#)
- [Perkins School of Theology – Mexico Immersion Trip \(Fall 2015\)](#)
- [Rally at Perkins: A March Toward Wholeness and Solidarity on Campus](#)
- [Perkins School of Theology-SMU to Offer Spanish-Language Th.M. Degree](#)

Upcoming Events

- [United Methodist Certification in Christian Education, Children's and Older Adult Ministry:](#) Jan. 8-15, 2016
- [United Methodist Certification in Youth Ministry:](#) Jan. 9-15, 2016
- [Perkins School of Youth Ministry:](#) Jan. 11-14, 2016
- [Ministers Week:](#) Feb. 1-2, 2016

Continuing Events

- Bridwell Library Exhibition: [*The Shape of Content in Christian Books, Broadsides, and Devotional Objects*](#): through December 18, 2015
- Bridwell Library Exhibition: [*Francis Asbury \(1745–1816\)*](#): through May 14, 2016

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