

mission

Saint Paul School of Theology
educates leaders
to make disciples for Jesus Christ,
renew the Church,
and transform
the world.



GREETINGS

Saint Paul School of Theology graduates are serving faithfully and effectively all over the world. We are pleased to share a few of their stories with you. As I travel, I cherish every conversation with graduates and friends of the seminary.

Most want to know how the collaborations are going. I am eager to talk about our two collaborations.

At Saint Paul: Oklahoma City University we are:

- entering our 7th year at the W. Angie Smith Chapel on the Oklahoma City University campus
- accredited by the Association for Theological Schools to offer all degrees including; masters, doctoral, and Course of Study
- supported by the UMC Oklahoma Conference with student appointments and financial donations
- thriving in community through worship, shared meals, and coffee and conversation between classes

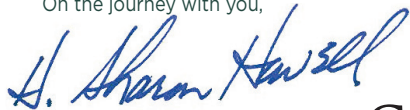
At Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection we are:

- entering year two in Building C where we have an office, reserve library and share six classrooms
- worshipping in Wesley Covenant Chapel and enjoying community meals at noon and in the evening
- relaxing and gathering in a new student lounge
- collaborating with the Avila University Hooley Bundschu Library to store the majority of the Saint Paul library collection and make it easily accessible
- working in faculty and staff offices at Fox Hill Office Park

In both collaborations the focus is on students and their theological education. At either location I can stand in a classroom, watch a professor via video in another location and begin to feel like it really is just one big classroom. Saint Paul has historically and is currently providing scholarship integrated with the practice of ministry. Clergy and professional staff from Oklahoma City University, the Oklahoma Conference, Church of the Resurrection and the Missouri and Great Plains Conferences serve as adjunct faculty, guest practitioners and lead practitioners in the classrooms at the invitation of the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul School of Theology has a storied tradition of preparing leaders for faithful and effective ministry and mission in the church and in the world. That tradition continues in two locations with an expansive network of collaborations. I hope you will enjoy the stories of our graduates and continue to provide support for our current students through your prayers, financial donations and estate planning.

On the journey with you,



Rev. H. Sharon Howell
President


Saint Paul School of
Theology



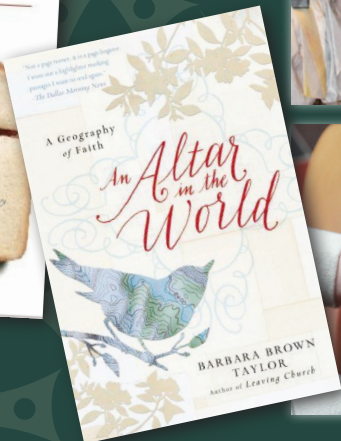
spiritual retreats

Saint Paul hosted its first Spiritual Formation Retreats for students and faculty alike.

The Kansas retreat was held at Saint Andrew Christian Church (feature photo and top inset) in Olathe, Kansas and the Oklahoma retreat was at Piedmont First UMC in Piedmont, Oklahoma.

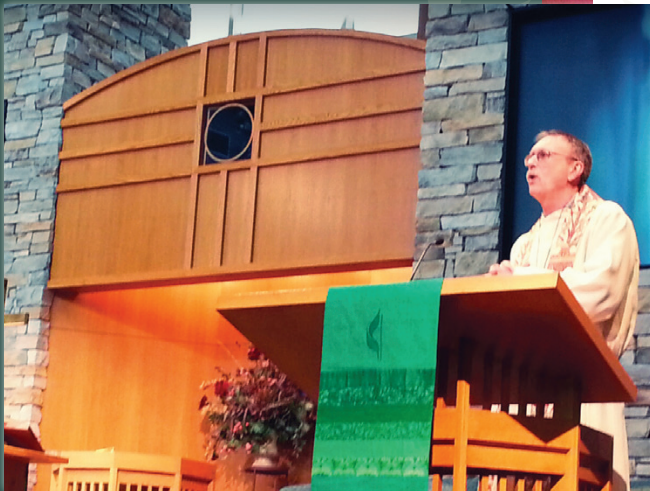
Drs. Kris Kvam and Mike Graves centered the Kansas retreat around "Take this Bread". The group explored spiritual hungering for God as well as the challenge of world hunger.

Bishop Steven Charleston (center inset) led the Oklahoma community with the book "An Altar in the World" focusing on attentiveness to the presence of God in the ordinary moments.



educating leaders to make disciples

EDUCATE LEADERS
MAKING DISCIPLES



"I'm very excited about what our graduates are doing. I think that Saint Paul alums leave here knowing how to lead worship, how to evangelize, and how to share the gospel. They have a concern for those that are marginalized and they live that out."

Dr. Hal Knight



"Saint Paul is moving out missionally into the world. I want to be part of this kind of theological education beyond the walls of the academy, something Saint Paul has always done. I'm excited to be part of the ancient-future model of church and seminary in partnership."

Church of the Resurrection has allowed several pastors on staff to be a part of the classroom experience. These teaching partners model theological reflection on the practice of ministry and raise questions from the local contexts as we engage class material. I teach via video from Oklahoma City, so having these practitioners on the Leawood campus has enhanced integrative learning in the classroom."

Dr. Amy Oden



"For me one of the great things about teaching at Saint Paul is the opportunity to walk with students as they are being formed for ministry."

Dr. Jim Brandt

Unexpected Experiences Shape Alaska Native's Ministry

It takes a total of two days by ferry boat and six days of driving for **Murray Crookes** to travel from Alaska to Oklahoma City. So how did this Alaska Native wind up at Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University for seminary? "I was working as a substance abuse counselor but felt a call to ministry. There wasn't a seminary in Alaska so I looked to the state where I got my undergraduate degree," said Crookes. Murray already had friends and connections in the Oklahoma area. What he is experiencing at Saint Paul he calls a blessing.

When Murray Crookes came to Saint Paul at OCU he found that the seminary had some very strong, unique connections that directly related to his interests including:

- a faculty member devoted to teaching prison ministry
- a Native American professor who was a former bishop in Alaska
- strong ties to the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

All of these connections were unexpected for Crookes and have strengthened his ministry. During his two years in seminary he has participated in the prison ministry immersion with Dr. Stan Basler, taken a class each semester and enjoyed a spiritual formation retreat led by Bishop Steven Charleston, and connected with District Superintendent David Wilson in the OIMC conference.

"What I've been learning at Saint Paul is absolutely applicable to my current ministry setting and other ministries I hope to do in the future," said Crookes. He now serves as Associate Pastor of St. John's UMC where he uses his knowledge of Sociology and Spanish from his undergraduate degree. Last January Crookes helped establish The Gallery, an after-school arts program for third-graders from two nearby schools. The program is a fusion of Spanish and English languages. St. John's has also established relationships with the parents to invite them to Wednesday community meals, Bible study groups, etc.

Upon graduation, Murray Crookes plans to return to Alaska with new knowledge and skill sets. "There is a great need for more diversity in the Methodist Church in Alaska," he said. "I witnessed and discussed the disconnect between the institutional church and Native American communities at annual conference two years ago. This is something that we, as a conference, are focusing on. My calling is to be an Alaska Native representative in the church in the hopes of rebuilding trust."



Murray Crookes



Saint Paul Student Takes Stand in Washington for Immigrant Families

Saint Paul School of Theology was built on the principles of social justice. That is something that first attracted Saint Paul at Resurrection student **Laurie Anderson** to the seminary. She has never been one to observe from the sidelines. If Anderson sees injustice or people in need of a voice she is at the forefront of the discussion. The issues that face immigrant families raise personal concerns for her.

This past February Laurie joined a group of faith leaders and undocumented immigrants at the White House committing the prophetic action of civil disobedience. Anderson, along with 32 other faith leaders, agreed to be arrested while discerning the call to prophetic action. There were hundreds of people holding a prayer vigil in the park across the street in solidarity. "We protested the 2 millionth deportation by the current Administration (that is 1,100 people per day) - saying NOT 1 MORE deportation until genuine immigration reform is passed," she said.

Laurie has witnessed and accompanied immigrant brothers and sisters in Kansas City during difficult times. She gave a few "Kodak moments" of what ripping families apart looks like. "Words cannot adequately describe the feelings of a five year old little sister hanging onto a policeman's arm as they take away her 16 year old brother in handcuffs or a mother breaking down into tears while fixing dinner because they will have one less plate at the table for dinner, possibly forever."

Anderson is Executive Director of IJAM (Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement) an interfaith group of prophets who are committed to the act of radical hospitality with immigrants. "I wore a stole with the names of those in our community that we have accompanied through the deportation process over the years," she said. "The number is shocking, but it is more important to remember the names."

Anderson acknowledges that her actions took personal risk. "I realize civil disobedience is not for everyone; but everyone can take action by listening to the uncomfortable truth of lives being ignored and crushed, by questioning their own values, and by considering their role in bringing the Beloved Community near."

Laurie Anderson is a Presbyterian Elder and cites Southminster Presbyterian Church as her home congregation. While in seminary she serves at Raymore Christian Church as Student Pastor of Children and Families.

Laurie Anderson

Arkansas District Superintendent Leads with New Model

The church and the needs of people are constantly changing. That reality demands changes in leadership strategy. Saint Paul graduate **Rev. Mark K. Norman** MDiv '03 is living into a new model of what it looks like to be a district superintendent. "It used to be that we were primarily pastors to the local church pastors. The new model emerging for superintendents in Arkansas is to be chief missional strategists," he said. District Superintendents do administrative paperwork on the metrics of each church in their area. They also provide insight on how to strengthen their churches for the mission field.

Norman enjoys being in this type of advisory role. He remembers receiving "humungous nuggets of wisdom" about field education from pastors and retired district superintendents while in seminary. He visited and served in several locations taking mental notes that he might use for the future. "I'm a proud alum because I was shaped by theological reflection and practical skills for ministry," said Norman.

Rev. Mark K. Norman looks at the areas he serves with a practical eye when making a mission plan for the district. "The reality of the southeast delta is that the demographic makeup of the area looks totally different from that inside the churches. There are 75% African Americans living in the community and the United Methodist churches have 100% Caucasian attendance." This means that new outreach initiatives may be slow and have their challenges. Norman assists congregations by articulating some of the data that is before them.

Some recent initiatives include opening Boys and Girls Clubs within their churches, doing neighborhood clean-ups, and serving water at a local blues festival. A few churches are using UM churches that have closed as their missional outposts within new neighborhoods. Norman applauds each new initiative saying, "Our ultimate goal is to make disciples for Jesus Christ."

Rev. Mark K. Norman



“The little church that could!”

It's a familiar story for many pastors—large building, small congregation, changing area. When **Dixie Junk**, MDiv '08 became the Priest-in-Charge in 2010 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Kansas, she realized that the people in the pews couldn't financially support the church. What was unusual about the congregation was their pride in their 155 year heritage and their commitment to outreach. “It's important for us to be forward looking,” said Junk. “We want to develop a new relevant model for the 21st century. We realize that we need others to help carry out our creative, visionary thinking and serve our neighbors as the hands and feet of Christ.”

With the largest food pantry and the second largest Saturday breakfast program in KCK, St. Paul's relies heavily on volunteers and strategic alliances/partnerships. Last year 4,190 volunteers gave 27,992 hours of their time to the missions of the church. Volunteers came from partnering and cross-denominational churches, scouting and school groups, neighbors, and civic leaders. They have helped to make St. Paul's a hub for multiple community events. Many volunteers describe their outreach work at St. Paul's as a “calling.”

Mthr. Dixie Junk was glad to have an entrepreneurial background as she began to envision with lay leaders what the church could be. One of the goals was to develop a financially sustainable model for urban ministry. “My goal is to make this an appointment where anyone will want this position because they see it as a great place to do ministry,” said Junk.

This past year she applied for several grants for ministry programs. St. Paul's received the Jubilee Ministry Program Development Grant (\$35,000) from The Episcopal Church and a State Heritage Trust Fund Grant (\$90,000) from the Kansas Historical Society.

The Youth in Transition program was developed with one grant in direct response to the early dismissal of KCK schools every Wednesday, and was chosen because it demonstrates a program with a strategy to make an impact both locally and beyond itself. “It gives the youth something meaningful to do,” said Junk. The church converted an under-utilized library and chapel into spaces where students can learn and study. Parish and business leaders will engage high school youth, teaching important job and life skills. The youth come from a poor, underserved urban environment. Their peers have been passed over for jobs because they do not have basic interpersonal skills. Through Youth in Transition students learn about community service through active participation and develop life skills such as personal finance, nutrition, interpersonal interaction and healthy eating. “We want to model ways to break the cycle of poverty,” said Junk.

A Hispanic ministry grew out of the goal to provide spiritual opportunities for their 60% Hispanic neighborhood. Although Mthr. Dixie was not Spanish-speaking, she did not wait until the situation was perfect to begin this ministry. Instead the church hosted its first Hispanic service with the help of bi-lingual members and neighbors attended. The church has been holding weekly Spanish services now since 2013. Looking for additional ideas, Dixie became involved in events sponsored by the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries of The Episcopal Church. She was even asked to chair a committee. “I am doing things now that I would never have imagined,” said Junk. Mthr. Dixie is now integrating her congregations so that sacred moments such as baptisms and confirmation are shared celebrations. Junk explained that it takes learning from both cultures but she's seen some wonderful interactions because of it. “Miracles happen every day,” she said. Though she is constantly on the go, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is what Dixie calls her “heart ministry”. “I feel so drawn to this place,” she said. Mthr. Dixie hopes that the church is no longer seen as a dying congregation, but rather as she sees it, “St. Paul's: the little church that could!”

Mthr. Dixie Junk

Educating leaders to make disciples....
Renew the Church....
Transform the World.....

Rev. Katya Zoubkova, MDiv '99, serves in Tyumen, Western Siberia, Russia. "I never thought to become a pastor as most pastors are big men that are Russian Orthodox priests; I knew very few women in the ministry," said Zoubkova who began seminary thinking that she wanted to teach. Katya was encouraged by Pastor Adam Hamilton as she interned at Church of the Resurrection while in seminary. She had much support from the seminary community as well as her bishop and realized that she wanted to become a pastoral leader. "Today I see people's lives change from being bitter and hopeless," she said. "I first met Christian families in the U.S. and I wanted my country to have Christian families too. When I see families in Western Siberia come to Christ, everything changes in their lives. Then their children go on to establish loving, Christian families. I know that my country is getting transformed. My congregation is not big, but I thank God for what we've done and what we will do."

Rev. Shannon Casey DeLaurel, MDiv '05, is currently serving four small, rural churches in Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland. This is her sixth year of ministry as a part of the Methodist Church in Ireland. "My family and I love it here. I am learning more about farming and its way of life. There is a strong ecumenical spirit where we do many activities and worship services with the Catholics and Anglicans. Methodists are a minority in Ireland but the people in this area greatly value the Methodist presence in community life and worship. I am the first female minister on this circuit and have been received graciously."

Rev. Dr. Ronald Kaluya, DMin '14, serves in Uganda, Africa. He first came to Saint Paul to learn how to reach people. "It was very enriching to be mentored and taught by the Saint Paul faculty," he said. Through his education, Kaluya was able to begin Uganda Counseling and Support Services with the aim to improve people's lives emotionally, physically, and spiritually. "During the last three years of my study I have been practically applying my learnings from Saint Paul to an African village where 5,000 people's lives have been touched. We have seen families that have not talked together, being reconciled. We have reached people by teaching them in Bible study groups. We have trained leaders and built water wells. A whole community that had no hope is regaining hope because of the knowledge I have acquired at Saint Paul. Saint Paul is a good place to learn how to practice ministry. I am so happy that I have graduated and I'm able to continue to transform people's lives one community at a time."

SHANNON
Ireland



RONALD
Uganda



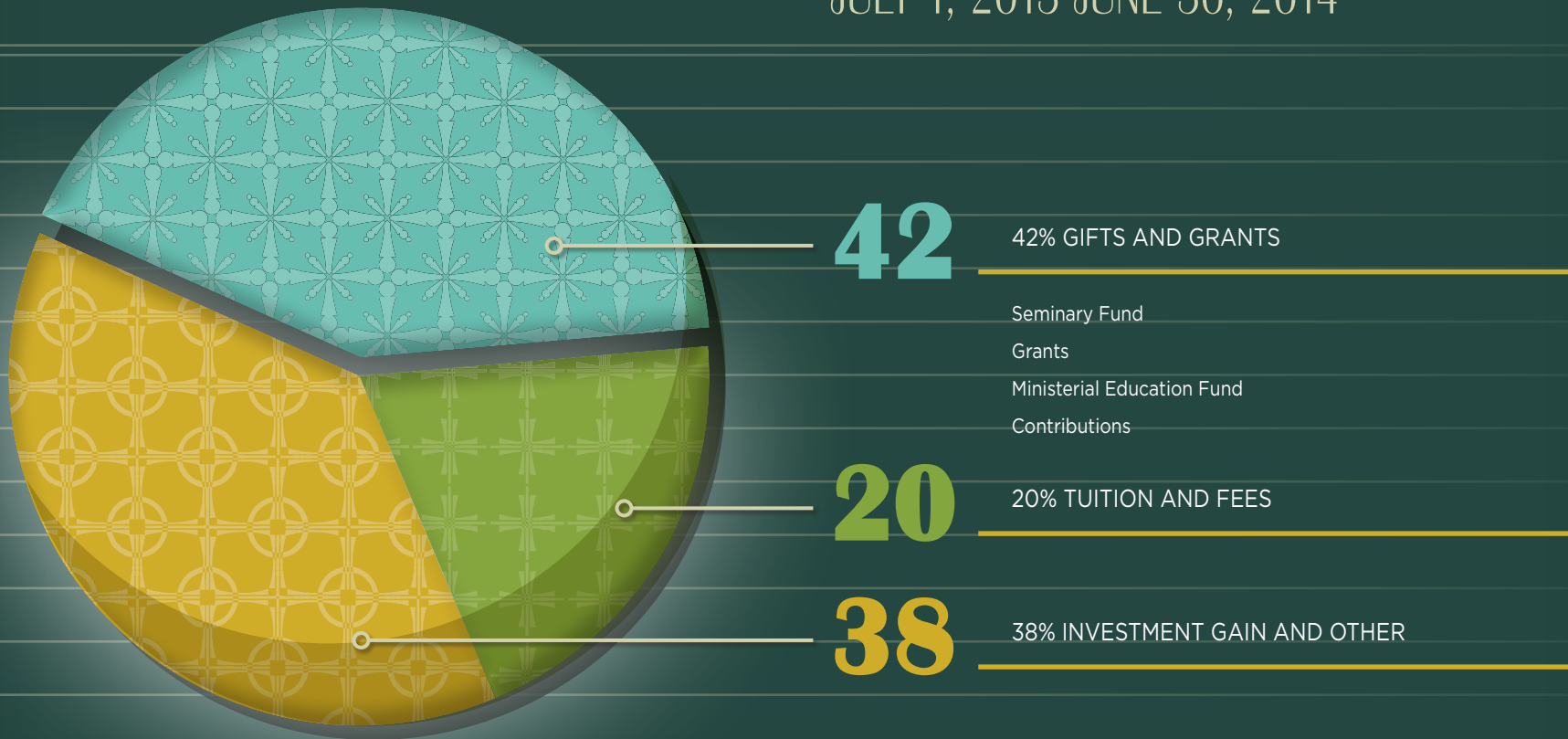
KATYA
Russia



"A whole community that had no hope is regaining hope because of the knowledge I have acquired at Saint Paul."

transforming
the world

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
BREAKDOWN OF REVENUES
 JULY 1, 2013-JUNE 30, 2014



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We are grateful for your support, prayers and financial giving.
Pages 11-16 contain a list of gifts received from
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

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Please remember Saint Paul in your will or estate plan.



Dr. Kris Kvam had especially enriching conversations during her 2014 *Women, Church, and Society Studies* class in January. Her class consisted of current student Kelly Hanson, Saint Paul alum Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes '87/'03, retired Bishop Ann B. Sherer-Simpson and prospective seminary student Jessie Light.

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Ginger Rothhaas "Through our collaborations, students have multiple opportunities to see ministry in action. We are able to observe the best practices, challenges, and messiness of ministry before we are completely responsible for it."



Stan Basler
Saint Paul at OCU faculty Stan Basler teaches about restorative justice and prison ministry.

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Tino Herrera "Saint Paul strengthens me to be the best leader that I can be. The faculty invest in all students and our future. Not only do they help you learn as a student but they also pastor you to be a better leader for the church."



Dr. Israel Kamudzandu teaches New Testament to students in Leawood and Oklahoma City simultaneously.

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Joy Gonzalez, MDiv Student

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Wendy Connelly "Saint Paul School of Theology's Spiritual Formation Retreat was an ambivert's dream of hearty fellowship commingled with peaceful solitude."

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Music Ministry Students Saint Paul students share their love of music during seminary chapel services. Humberto Gonzalez led worship songs in English and Spanish. He serves as pastor of First UM Churches in Shenandoah and Hamburg, Iowa. Matt Bisel sang a special worship song that he composed. He is the Associate Director of Worship Arts at Church of the Resurrection Downtown in Kansas City, Missouri.

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Mr. Norman R. and Mrs. Rose M. Simmons
Reverend Judith C. Slimmer '99
South Central Jurisdiction, UMC, Oklahoma City, OK
Sprint Foundation
Tri Community United Methodist Church, Omaha, NE
Reverend Kenneth Trickle, Jr. '91
Mrs. Fern M. Underwood
Mr. Fred Vahle
Mrs. Jennifer Vargo
Mr. Greg R. and Mrs. Amy Wartman
Dr. Ewart G. Watts
Dr. John F., Jr. '92 and Mrs. Joyce A. Walker
Reverend Linda M. Willey '92
Reverend David B. '66 and Mrs. Carolyn T. Wilson
Reverend Wilbur K. Zook '69

Student Council Presidents

Left: Oklahoma Student Council Co-Presidents
Lora Stiles and Melissa Pearce led the 2014 Saint Paul
at OCU graduates into Commencement.
Center: Lora Stiles Right: Casey Henry



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 & 11, 2015

Seminary Lite
St. Luke's UMC, OKC

February 5 & 12, 2015

Seminary Lite
UM Church of the Servant, OKC

April 15, 2015 | 11:00 am

Evangelical Society Lecture
Frank Macchia
Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection

May 21, 2015 | 6:00 pm

Dinner and Defining Lecture
By Dr. Young Ho Chun
Greater Kansas City Area



*Dr. Young Ho Chun with his Systematic Theology class at Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection.
Save the Date: Thursday, May 21st for event to honor Dr. Chun. Contact: kris.kvam@spst.edu*

Commencement

May 22, 2015

Commencement
Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection

May 29, 2015

Commencement
Saint Paul: Oklahoma City University

Worship

All are welcome to join us for worship.

Saint Paul: Oklahoma City University
Tuesdays, 11:00 am

Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection
Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 11:00 am

www.spst.edu

**Communications Department,
Heather Chamberlin, Director of Communications
913.253.5084, heatherc@spst.edu**

AWARDS



Reverend David Wiggs

2014 Outstanding Graduate Award

Reverend David Wiggs, MDiv '84, received the 2014 Outstanding Graduate Award from Saint Paul School of Theology at the seminary's Commencement in May. Reverend Wiggs currently serves as Senior Pastor of the 8,000 member Boston Avenue Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Upon entering the position, David assessed the needs of the Tulsa community, particularly the area surrounding downtown. A number of new ministries grew out of that research including spiritual formation and recovery groups, weeknight dinners, and worship experiences for those living with mental illness.

Before coming to Boston Avenue, David served as the Superintendent for the Stillwater District of the Oklahoma Conference for three years. He also played a key role in developing a new vision for the OSU Wesley Foundation, helping them launch a 15 million dollar capital campaign to change the face of United Methodist ministry and spiritual formation on campus.

Known as a positive force within Oklahoma Methodism, David Wiggs has served on a variety of boards and committees including the Saint Paul School of Theology/OCU Campus Advisory Board.



President's Award 2014 - John Ballard

Saint Paul Trustee **John W. Ballard III** was presented the President's Award for Outstanding Service by Saint Paul President H. Sharon Howell. Ballard was instrumental in the sale of the Saint Paul Truman Road campus to Guadalupe Centers, Inc. CEO Cris Medina proudly presented John Ballard an enlarged image of the campus with envisioned updates. As one of the nation's first Latino social service agencies, the Guadalupe Centers currently offers programming and services in the areas of education, social services, youth recreation, health, and workforce development. It is directly providing services for families in the Northeast Neighborhood.



Saint Paul School of Theology

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