

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017

*Where  
Theology  
Comes  
Alive!*

Saint Paul  School of  
Theology



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Friends of Saint Paul,

*Saint Paul School of Theology is where theology comes alive! I've heard from students on both of our campuses how our faculty share in every class how to apply their new learnings in their ministry settings. Saint Paul faculty have been integrating theory and practice in the DNA of the seminary educational process from the beginning.*

*97% of our students serve in some type of ministry setting while taking classes. They then meet in small groups to process their situations that they have encountered with an experienced pastor, professor and classmates.*

*I like to think of Saint Paul School of Theology as a seminary that prepares students beyond the seminary walls. Our practicums give students the tools they need to serve both during and after seminary. They learn things such as budgeting and finance, fundraising, pastoral care and hospital visits, church technology, and leadership. Saint Paul students are not taught what to think but they are taught how to think which will help them as they pastor in the real world.*

*As you read through this Annual Report you will see that when Saint Paul students graduate they know how to teach, how to preach, and how to share the gospel. They have a concern for those that are marginalized and they live out the gospel with a true sense of social justice for all.*

*Saint Paul School of Theology will celebrate 60 years next year. We have had families who have supported the seminary for over three generations. We are thankful for all of our constituent populations that make seminary education possible for our students who are called to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers, financial gifts, and student referrals.*

Rev. Neil B. Blair, '80  
President

## AWARDS

### SAINT PAUL PRESIDENT NEIL BLAIR PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD TO **BISHOP KIM AND MRS. PARK**



Saint Paul President Neil Blair presented the 2017 President's Award to Bishop Kim Sundo and Mrs. Park Kwan-Soon

#### SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The Saint Paul School of Theology President's Award was given to Bishop Kim Sundo in recognition of his outstanding ministry and contribution to global mission and evangelism. It is virtually impossible to enumerate the churches, mission centers, and



Saint Paul Board Chair Dr. Michael Parmely presents a recognition plaque to honor Bishop Kim and his wife Mrs. Park Kwan-Soon for the Sun-Kwan Scholarship at Saint Paul.

social outreach posts that he and his church, Kwanglim Methodist Church, have established in five continents. Many of them were built in the midst of unfriendly and even hostile regions where Christians were discriminated against and even persecuted. Bishop Kim Sundo is known for synthesizing clinical psychological insights and church growth approaches.

#### SUN-KWAN SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Saint Paul Board of Trustee Chair, Dr. Michael Parmely, presented Mrs. Park Kwan-Soon with a commemorative plaque at the 2017 Spring Banquet. Mrs. Park Kwan-Soon studied theology and pastoral care/counseling and became a very efficient pastoral care provider. She has a fantastic memory capacity-remembering the names of every member and their children at Kwanglim Methodist Church, the largest Methodist Church in the world. The *Sun-Kwan Scholarship* honors her and recognizes her contribution to the congregational life of the church. ■



## AWARDS

### 2017 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD: **BISHOP MANDE MUYOMBO**



According to Dr. Angela Sims, his DMin academic advisor, "Bishop Muyombo's praxis thesis exemplified the value of collaborative relationships."

**BISHOP MANDE MUYOMBO**, MDiv '10 and DMin '15 received the 2017 Saint Paul Distinguished Graduate Award during the seminary's commencement ceremony. Muyombo was elected to the North Katanga Episcopacy in March of 2016. At 44, he is the youngest bishop in the Congo Central Conference.

Muyombo, has always been a person passionate about renewing the church and transforming the world. He served as president of Kamina Methodist University, executive secretary for

Africa and executive director for Global Mission Connections as part of United Methodist Board of Global Ministries before becoming a United Methodist bishop. According to Dr. Angela Sims, his DMin academic advisor, "Bishop Muyombo's praxis thesis exemplified the value of collaborative relationships." ■



### GBHEM EXEMPLARY TEACHER AWARD: **DR. AMY ODEN**

**DR. ANGELA SIMS** (left) presented the 2017 GBHEM Exemplary Teacher Award to Dr. Amy Oden, (right) Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality at Saint Paul at OCU this past spring. She is a lead faculty member for the Prophetic Witness and Service Doctor of Ministry program that Saint Paul and The Academy for Spiritual Formation are partnering to offer. Dr. Oden also designed

and led a Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation sponsored by Saint Paul this past spring. She received grants from the Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska United Methodist Area Foundations that provided registration for young adults. Dr. Oden's most recent book came out in August entitled, *Right Here, Right Now, The Practice of Christian Mindfulness*. ■



### ROBERT E. HAYES, JR. AWARD: **KAY ADAIR**

**OKLAHOMA CITY RESIDENT, KAY ADAIR**, received the Robert E. Hayes, Jr. Award for her continuous support of the overall mission of Saint Paul School of Theology and theological education in



Oklahoma. Kay asked that her pastor Rev. Scott Spencer of Mosaic UMC receive the award on her behalf. ■

### OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY: **CLASSROOM DEDICATION**



Former OCU President Robert Henry, Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. and Saint Paul at OCU Faculty Dr. Elaine Robinson.

Oklahoma City University dedicated a classroom in the W. Angie Smith Chapel building to honor retired Oklahoma UM Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. A plaque on the classroom door recognizes Bishop Hayes for his many years of service to Saint Paul at OCU and the university. He returned this year to serve as Saint Paul Bishop-in-Residence. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SPRING NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Monday, January 22, 2018  
Both Campuses

### EXPLORE SAINT PAUL - PROSPECTIVE STUDENT EVENT

Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
Both Campuses

### EVANGELICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

Dr. Randy L. Maddox  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
Kansas Campus

### COMMENCEMENT-KANSAS CAMPUS

Friday, May 18, 2018  
Church of the Resurrection, Wesley Chapel  
Kansas Campus

### COMMENCEMENT-OKLAHOMA CAMPUS

Saturday, May 19, 2018  
OCU, Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel  
Oklahoma Campus

For a full listing of events, [www.spst.edu](http://www.spst.edu)

## STORIES

*“You have made  
us for yourself,  
O Lord, and our  
heart is restless  
until it rests  
in you.”*

— Saint Augustine



### FREDRICK KILLIAN FINDS PEACE IN DEDICATING ALL TO CHRIST

**IOWA STUDENT FREDRICK KILLIAN** exemplified American success. But he was restless—and it showed. Killian served in a number of different professions, including law enforcement, hotel management and hospitality, and then, executive management for nursing homes. Though he won awards and accolades with each change of profession, he knew he hadn’t found his true vocation.

One day, a woman—a complete stranger—approached him and said, “Is your name Fredrick? I want you to know, you need to

be a pastor. You need to dedicate your life or you’ll never be satisfied.”

After praying and talking with his pastor, he started realizing this could be his calling. All his professional experiences thus far seemed to give him skills that could aid him in ministry. “Looking back, God was doing a tremendous amount of preparation in my life,” Killian explained.

Providence led Killian to Saint Paul, where he felt everything in his life fell into place. He now works at Ames First UMC and is in his second year at



the seminary, serving on the Student Council leadership team. He is also ministering to prisoners;

one of whom—an atheist man—asked to be baptized. “God is so powerful,” Killian said.

He attributes much of his progress in ministry to his high-quality professors at Saint Paul and looks forward to his inclusive, “God’s Got Your Back” pastorate that shows forth Christ’s love: “I want everything I do, every pore in my body, to scream Christ in me.” ■



### FELLOWS PROGRAM PROVIDES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OKLAHOMA STUDENT

**MICHAEL CARPENTER HAD MUCH ON HIS MIND** after graduating with his civil engineering degree from Oklahoma State University. How did he envision his future? Recently married, his wife had applied and been accepted to medical school. The young couple also hoped to start a family. If he followed his heart to go to seminary and become a pastor, could they afford it?

According to a recent article in The Atlantic, the average Master of Divinity graduate

accrued more than \$40,000 in educational debt and five percent accumulated more than \$80,000 in debt. Meanwhile the U.S. department of labor states that the median wage for a pastor is \$43,800 — not a salary that lends itself to paying off high-end loans.

Carpenter was especially drawn to Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University after hearing an announcement about a newly established Oklahoma Fellows program. Recipients would receive tuition, a church placement, and ministry mentor. Carpenter was elated to later receive the news that he would begin seminary in 2015 as a Fellow. He was also welcomed into the fold at Oklahoma City based, United Methodist Church of the Servant.

Michael began his internship by simply observing ministry and later took on more leadership roles. “I view all of the clergy here as mentors,” he said. Carpenter has enjoyed planning worship for the early-morning chapel service and preaching in both traditional and modern worship settings. He currently leads the young adult ministry and focuses on the church’s hospitality and follow-up ministry with guests.

Carpenter continues to learn from the congregation and his church leadership

mentors — all while keeping up with his seminary studies.



“Saint Paul has been incredible in readying me for real-life ministry. In every class the professors discuss how we can use what we learned not just for our own edification, but also for building God’s kingdom on earth through our ministries.”

Randy Shrauner, Church of the Servant Executive Pastor and clergy mentor sees the collaborative program as a win-win situation. Together the church and seminary are raising up young, high-caliber clergy for the state.

“I have no doubt that Michael’s acumen in the classroom will make the short jump to the local parish intact and energized. We are grateful for his ministry among us and look forward to a life invested as clergy colleagues.” ■



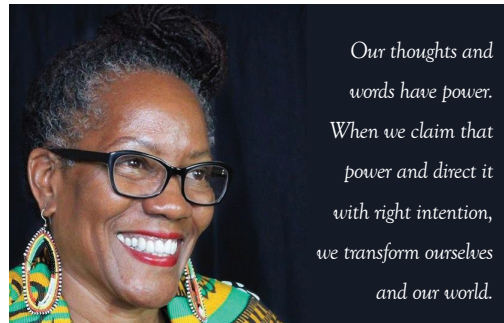
## STORIES

.....  
“Every day,  
in every way,  
I am getting  
better and  
better.”

— Rev. Denise Graves.

## USING SEMINARY DEGREES OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH

### DENISE GRAVES CULTIVATES PEACE THROUGH THE STORM



**SAINT PAUL GRADUATE DENISE GRAVES**, MASM '06, was born with a hole in her heart. Finding wholeness and healing—both for herself and for others—became a lifelong passion for her.

The founder of Peace Ministry - [www.peaceministry2day.com](http://www.peaceministry2day.com) - Graves began her ministry as a Vacation Bible School class for teens experiencing drive-by shootings and other acts of violence in their neighborhood: “The teens were terrified, knowing more about violence than peace,” she said. “They needed another narrative, another alternative.”

Throughout this time working with the teens, Graves realized that true peace depends on cultivating healthy relationships in one’s communities. Helping individuals effectively relate to others and themselves became her ministerial focus—offering life coaching, spiritual counseling, and integrative healthcare to those in need.

Graves, living and working out of New Orleans, encountered this need in a particularly strong way again during the recent flooding and its effects on people in the area. Helping others gain access to quality and affordable healthcare has been a priority for Graves. Yet throughout the literal and metaphorical storms in our lives, she also believes in effecting foundational cognitive change—in our internal dialogue and self-image: “Our thoughts and words have power. When we claim that power and direct it with right intention, we transform ourselves and our world.”

This transformative, communal optimism anchors her ministry. “My time at Saint Paul opened doors to new resources that help me serve the diverse people of God,” she said. ■

### CALLED TO DREAM: THEOLOGY COMES ALIVE FOR GRADUATE WHILE WORKING IN SCHOOLS

**JUSTIN ZEIGLER**, MDiv '07, came to seminary right after obtaining his undergraduate degree. He considers faculty and fellow seminary graduates to be mentors and family. Zeigler gives a first-hand account of his new position—explaining the transferable skills he’s using from his seminary degree.

My current job title is Dream Director at a high school in Naugatuck, Connecticut where over half of the students are below the poverty line. I work with an educational nonprofit, The Future Project ([thefutureproject.org](http://thefutureproject.org)), to coach teens--helping them discover their passions/ambitions and from that create projects that help them live into those passions. (i.e. organizing art shows, publishing writings, learning how to code.) I journey with them as they dream for themselves and their community.

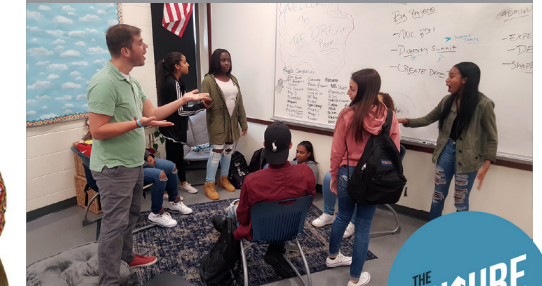
In seminary I learned how to create spaces where people feel loved, heard, seen, and directed to living deeper more meaningful lives. In my office students



Dr. Jim Brandt (center) with Justin Zeigler (far right) and seminary friends.

tell me of their struggles and I provide a listening ear (thanks pastoral care classes), I teach and lead large events (thanks preaching and Christian education classes) and I lead (leadership classes through and through).

If a seminarian is considering exploring work outside of the church I would say “We need you out here!” I’ve found that I can create community in schools, giving me a creative freedom that I never dreamt possible. As I see the young people each day at school, I have the ability to really walk alongside them in the way that God has called me, and for that I’ll be forever thankful.” ■



**THE FUTURE PROJECT** has found that 70 percent of young people say they are uninspired and unmotivated, and half say they are not hopeful about their futures.

Zeigler said his mission is to “help students build lives that they love and a world to match” through mentorship, workshops and by creating a “culture of joy” at the school.

He said he wants students to view Naugatuck High as a place where they’re safe, welcome and cared for, no matter what else is going on in their lives. ■

## STORIES

.....  
“Our graduates  
need to have insights  
and exposure with  
religions other  
than Christianity  
to be prepared for  
Christian ministry  
in the 21st century”

.....  
– Dr. Kris Kvam  
.....



Librarian Maggi Mueller helps Brian Rezen research.

### ENGAGING WORLD RELIGIONS: PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

**TEN YEARS AGO** a new class was added to the Master of Divinity curriculum. Social media was making the world smaller. People could follow discussions and post their opinions at any time of the day or night. How would our future ministry leaders engage with other religious groups?

In the course *Engaging World Religions: People of the Book* seminary students study the historical and theological relations among the three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. “We wanted our students to have understandings of scripture, scriptural authority, and scriptural interpretation as well as comparative work on particular figures and themes of the

respective scriptures,” said Dr. Kris Kvam. “Our graduates need to have insights and exposure with religions other than Christianity to be prepared for Christian ministry in the 21st century.”

Students must converse with a person of another religion or attend an event of another religion. An interfaith panel that includes a Jew, Muslim and Christian comes to Saint Paul to talk about their work on interfaith issues at the end of the semester.

“There’s a lot to think through. Over the years there’s been more and more hunger for this type of learning, though,” said Dr. Kvam. She enjoys teaching the class as she knows that these are the people who will lead the church—both local and universal. They will be the leaders that have the real, interfaith conversations.

“Dr. Kvam has given me a broader view of Christianity and the community at large. Her class helped me to broaden my perspective and focus on the similarities that these faiths share,” said Brian Rezen, current student and North Oak Campus Pastor at Good Shepherd UMC. “I’m able to interact with people who have a different perspective than me and know how to create a hospitable space for conversation.” ■



### SAINT PAUL INVESTS IN FUTURE PROFESSOR

**LAST FALL, SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY** welcomed Rev. Casey Sigmon as Visiting Professor. As a Ph.D. student in the Vanderbilt program in Theology and Practice, Sigmon needed to establish a year-long professorship. Ms. Sigmon attended faculty meetings, serving on committees, preached in worship, and taught classes. “From day one, I felt welcomed by staff, students, and faculty. Saint Paul opened doors for me to live into my call as a theological educator and in so doing, they have given me a vision for my life,” she explained.

Sigmon co-taught a preaching class with Saint Paul preaching professor Dr. Mike Graves and a course entitled, Preaching in the Digital Age based on her dissertation research. Ginger Rothhaas, MDiv ’17, took the digital class as a senior. “Dr. Sigmon opened our minds and hearts to the power of social media ministry. Dr. Sigmon’s experiential teaching methods helped us to use the social media platform as an instrument of God’s love.” ■



### EXPANDING ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS IN LIBERIA DR. YATTA YOUNG ADVOCATES FOR E-READER PROJECT

**SAINT PAUL DMIN ‘13 ALUMNA, DR. YATTA YOUNG**, believes that expanding access to theological resources in remote locations enhances teaching and learning. She was the first person to launch the E-Reader Project under the African Association of United Methodist Theological Institutions in 2013. Dr. Young is the dean of the Graduate School of Theology at United Methodist University (UMU)—a seminary which open its doors in August 2015.

This past summer, 2017, the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Discipleship Ministries, and the African Association of United Methodist Theological Institutions (AAUMTI) led an e-reader training in the area. Students and faculty from the Graduate School of Theology, United Methodist University (UMU) in Monrovia, Liberia attended.

Dr. Yatta Young shared her experience with the project at the training. She highlighted the importance of books and partners who have helped provide theological texts to Liberia. Through the E-Reader Project, students now have access to an electronic library with hundreds of publications. This expansion of resources includes African authors/ academics as well as scholars writing textbooks and books from across the globe.

“We have a good champion and advocate for this program in Dr. Yatta Young. She inspired the whole group with her praise for reading and education,” said Robin Pippin, director of Contextual Resource Development and Distribution, Discipleship Resources International (DRI). ■



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*An asterisk (\*) indicates  
donations given to both the  
seminary fund and to specific  
scholarships and grants.*



*This Saint Paul Annual Report  
contains a list of gifts received from  
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017*

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YEAR	TUITION	TOTAL	
1	\$618	\$16,068	(13 Hours Fall 2017, and 13 Hours Spring 2018)
2	\$638	\$16,588	(13 Hours Fall 2018, and 13 Hours Spring 2019)
3	\$638	\$17,766	(13 Hours Fall 2019, and 14 Hours Spring 2020)
		TOTAL	\$50,422

YEAR	AVERAGE COST OF BOOKS AND FEES FOR 3 YR PLAN
1	\$1,200 (BOOKS) \$1,200 FEES
2	\$1,200 (BOOKS) \$1,200 FEES
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