

# EmeriTimes Newsletter

January 2024, Number 31



**President: Ruby Englund**

**Editor: Dick Sleight**

**Members: Emeriti Faculty  
of Seattle Pacific University**

**President's Corner..... 1**

**2023 Emeriti Luncheon..... 2**

**Dr. Ken Tollefson**

**Friendship Bench..... 4**

**Emeriti Updates..... 5**

**Farewell to George..... 7**

**New 2023 Emeriti Faculty..... 9**

**Events Calendar..... 9**

**"Forgetfulness," a poem..... 10**

## **Purpose for the *EmeriTimes***

newsletter is "to edify, encourage, and connect emeriti faculty; to profile emeriti achievements (past and present); to provide news and information about members and SPU; to encourage emeriti to continue to be involved in world change." [The \*EmeriTimes\* newsletter archives](#) are maintained by the Office of the Provost.



## **President's Corner**

As I begin serving as President of the SPU Emeriti Faculty group, I would like to share some thoughts. Many of my favorite memories of being a faculty member at SPU were the times the faculty sang together. Sometimes it was at Camp Casey during a worship service or an evening hymn sing at the annual Faculty Retreat. There were also times when Vernon Wicker or others led us in song in Demaray Hall 150. Soon four-part harmony would be filling the space as another faculty member accompanied us on the piano. When Joyce Erickson retired, she selected a number of her favorite hymns and everyone present got to sing those hymns with her. Hymns capture spiritual truths and Bible texts that reside in our hearts and spring forth at times when they burst into our memory and we find them repeating and repeating in our minds.

Martin Luther once wrote, "the devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God." As the challenges of higher education continue perhaps a new tradition of singing hymns at faculty and other University gatherings could permeate the spirit of the discussions that follow. During these seasons of change it is reassuring to do some familiar things that redirect our minds and spirits with the singing of hymns that feed our soul and redirect our energies to eternal truths.

For many years I have used various devotional books but I always return to "The One Year Book of Hymns" compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton with devotions written by William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. Each day a Scripture verse is listed, a hymn is chosen, and information is written about the person who wrote the hymn and the story of why the hymn was written. The verses, which are really poetry, are put to music by a different composer and take on an enhanced meaning for me. The next time that hymn is sung at my church, the Scripture verse and the story come flooding back to my mind and make the words indelible in my heart.

Charles Wesley left a rich legacy of six thousand hymns. As he traveled on horseback he would scribble notes on little cards that he kept in his pocket and upon arrival at an inn he would ask for a pen and ink to transcribe the hymn he had written. On one occasion the horse threw him, causing bruising of his leg and spraining of his hand. His concern was that those injuries would spoil his making of hymns the next day.

(continued)

As we face our complicated world, we might use the example of another hymn writer Frances Ridley Havergal who it is said would write one line of a hymn, stop and look upward, and ask what she should say next. She attributed that each word and rhyme came from God. A glorious reminder for us in our writings and conversations.

It has been said that the only constant in Life is Change. While our lives surely reflect this saying, Christians could reply that our Lord and Creator stays faithfully the same. As we continue to encounter inevitable and continual change, may we keep our eyes on the Constant and live the life of the Beatitudes as Jesus directed.

*Ruby*



## **Emeriti Luncheon Introduces New Leadership**

The annual Emeriti Luncheon was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. This was the first event presided over by our new Emeriti President, Ruby Englund, Professor Emerita of Nursing. Emeriti faculty and their spouses enjoyed lunch followed by an informative program. The delicious Thanksgiving-style lunch included salad, rolls, stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, turkey (of course), and pumpkin pie for dessert.



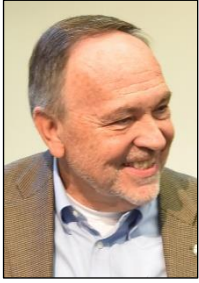
Ruby Englund's fellow 2007 retiree Mike Macdonald, our Historian/Futurist, began the program. Mike introduced Dick Sleight, Instructor Emeritus and former Manager of Information Systems in the business school, as our new *EmeriTimes* newsletter editor. Dick follows outgoing editor Evette Hackman, Professor Emerita of Family and Consumer Sciences, who served faithfully from 2011 to 2022, publishing twenty-three issues.

Mike formally introduced Ruby Englund as our new Emeriti President. He followed this with an update on our Past Emeriti President George Scranton who served from 2016 until this past year. In turn, Ruby read a note from George's wife Claire. She then introduced Dr. Deana Porterfield, SPU's 12th president and the University's first female president.

President Porterfield described joining SPU on July 1<sup>st</sup> following her nine years as president of Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, NY. She spoke about her 31 "listening sessions" with 200 SPU constituents. As one might expect, the two most asked questions of her were, "Do you know what's happening at SPU?" and "Why did you come?"



She shared the theme for the school year, "God is doing a new thing," based on Isaiah 43:15-19. She concluded by asking for our prayers for SPU, and then introduced someone quite familiar to us all.



Dr. Les Steele, an SPU emeritus faculty member in his own right, has returned to serve this academic year as the Interim Chief Academic Officer. Les described the emeriti faculty as being among SPU's own "great cloud of witnesses." He spoke briefly about the pending reductions at SPU. One example of this was the need for the currently published student-faculty ratio of 11:1 to move up near 16:1. He introduced Bob Drov Dahl, Professor Emeritus of Educational Ministry, who described how the input from the emeriti faculty was sought by the University's leadership.

Assistant Professor Emerita of Computer Science Elaine Weltz led us on the piano as we sang our closing hymn, *Now Thank We All Our God*.

Departed friends and colleagues were remembered.



Gordon Cochrane, Professor and Chair of Sociology, at SPU 1965-1988.

Chester Hausken, Professor of Education, at SPU 1982-1997.

Ivanelle "Kay" Foreman, wife of Mel Foreman.

Don Snow, husband of Lilyan Snow.

Phillip Oakes, husband of Annalee Oakes.

Kerry Dearborn, Professor Emerita of Theology, led us in prayer, especially remembering George Scranton.

---

**Looking ahead, our annual Emeriti Tea is planned for Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in Upper Gwinn Commons.**

"When you retire, every day is Saturday except Sunday."

— J.B. Bonds

"I enjoy waking up and not having to go to work. So, I do it three or four times a day."

— Gene Perret



## **Emeriti Input into the Chief Academic Officer Search**

*by Bob Drov Dahl*

The search for a Chief Academic Officer (CAO) at SPU is currently underway, with the goal of having a new Vice-President of Academic

Affairs in place by July 2024. Until then, Les Steele is serving in an interim role. The CAO position is the last of three cabinet-level appointments President Porterfield will make.

A consulting firm, led by Andy Westmoreland, has been secured to conduct the search.

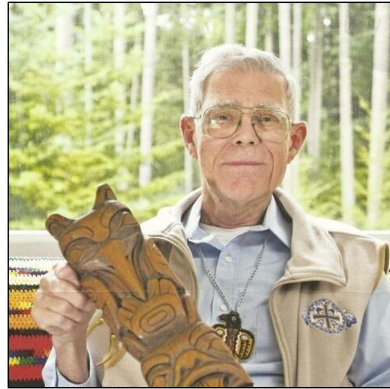
President Porterfield requested that emeriti faculty provide input for the search. She asked Interim CAO Steele to secure three emeriti faculty who could meet with the search firm.

At Dr. Steele's invitation, Bill Rowley, Ruby Englund, and I met with Andy Westmoreland on September 26th. The hour-long conversation focused on desired characteristics/skills of a CAO and the major achievements needed in the first two years of the person's tenure. Hopefully, our responses reflect emeriti faculty perspectives well.

Obviously, this appointment will significantly influence the academic health of the university, which is central to its overall stability and success. While the search process is already underway, critical decision-making will ramp up in January. Please keep the entire process in your prayers for the university.

## Dedication of the Dr. Ken Tollefson "Friendship Bench"

The life and teaching of the late [Rev. Dr. Ken Tollefson](#) exhibited a deep love and care for our indigenous neighbors in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Tollefson, emeritus anthropology professor, received the name *Hiyash*, the "foundation floor of the beaver house." This name was given to him by the Tlingit tribe, Raven Beaver Clan, of Alaska who adopted him into their clan. "I am dedicated to championing native subcultures," said Ken. He passed away on November 20, 2018.



Funds were donated by many to honor Ken with a "friendship bench," which was dedicated on October 31st. It was placed just east of the totem pole between Alexander and McKinley Halls. Ken assisted the class of 1971 in acquiring their class gift, the Tlingit-carved traditional story pole. It was erected in 1979.



The dedication ceremony was well attended by SPU leadership, emeriti faculty, members of the Snoqualmie Tribe including Chief Nathan "Pat" Barker, Tollefson family members, and many others.

A Christian prayer of thanks and dedication was given by representatives of the Snoqualmie Tribe in their native language.



President Porterfield welcomed those in attendance. After the prayer of dedication,



she introduced Dr. Les Steele who described to those present the research colleague, mentor, and friend Ken had been to him.

Plaques on the bench in both English and [Lushootseed](#) read:

### Friendship Bench

In honor of the friendships Professor Ken Tollefson fostered with the Alaskan and Coast Salish Tribes, we commit to cultivating true friendships on this land.



A brief passage from *The Guernseyman* (p. 30) by C. Northcote Parkinson (1973)

"...As a Guernseyman, you speak French?"

"Why, yes, sir."

"So you and your neighbours should sympathize with the Frenchmen who brought about their monarchy's downfall!"

"Folks in Guernsey have no liking, sir, for French atheists. Many Guernseymen are followers, you see, of Mr. John Wesley."

"Are you a Wesleyan, then?"

"Not me, sir, I'm a gentleman."

## Emeriti Faculty Updates

### **Kathleen Braden,**

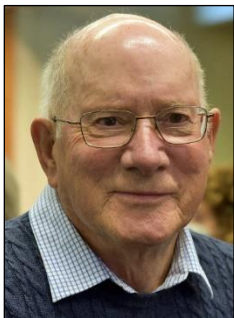
*Professor Emerita of Geography*



- was reappointed as Affiliate Professor of Geography by the University of Washington
- "Myth-Making Journeys on the Trans-Siberian Railway" will be published in 2024 in book *Time Journeys*, [Stanley Brunn](#) editor, Springer Press.
- continues free labor service as Secretary-Treasurer of [CatVideoFest](#), a social purpose corporation registered in Washington State. As reported in the industry news source, [Deadline](#), we have raised with our distributing company, Oscilloscope, over \$50,000 to support animal shelters around the United States and abroad.
- enjoys providing grandma child-care four days a week for ten-month-old Holly and three-year-old Elliott (thank the Lord not on the same days)

### **Mike Macdonald,**

*Professor Emeritus of European Studies and Philosophy*



I've loved books ever since I learned to read, and now that I'm old and retired from more and more past activities, I read a lot. So, I'll begin with my continuing love of books. Significantly, for

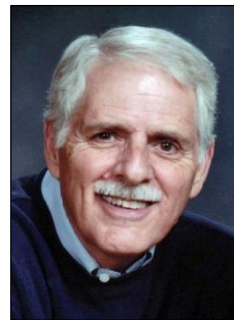
Christmas in 1979, my mother gave me a beautifully inscribed Bible which led me to promise to read Scripture every day. I still do that, with very few exceptions. Among my favorites rereads: C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*, and Blaise Pascal's *Pensées*. I am currently involved in two book groups and also love the opportunity to still be involved in emeriti matters.

Karen, ever the more practical one, volunteers in the coffee shop and helps lead a knitting group of ladies at Emerald Heights in Redmond where we live. To add balance, Karen and I watch a lot of TV in the evening. A couple of our favorites this year: "Call the Midwife" and some of the best from the Hallmark Channel, like "When Calls the Heart." I'm dealing

with AFib and we are not exempt from other health issues related to reaching our 80s, but certainly grateful for God's blessings on so many other things too numerous to mention.

And aren't the Huskies getting a lot of wonderful attention with their appearance in the national championship football game and the 2013 Daniel Brown book *The Boys in the Boat* and the George Clooney directed film about the University of Washington's achievement of Olympic Gold in the 1936 Olympics in Germany!

### **Bill Rowley,** *Professor Emeritus of Counselor Education*



I have had two articles on the impact of the pandemic on higher education published in the peer-reviewed online journal *International Dialogues on Education*. The first article is titled "[Higher Education in the](#)

[Midst of a Pandemic: A Dean's Perspective.](#)"

Published in 2020 as the pandemic was just beginning to spread across the country, the article includes my predicted changes to higher education that would occur as a result of COVID-19. The second article is titled "[Higher Education in the Midst of a Pandemic: A Dean's Perspective ~ Revisited.](#)" Published in 2022, the article is a follow-up to the previous article to determine the accuracy of my predictions.

### **Dick Sleight,** *Instructor Emeritus of Spreadsheets and Business Statistics*

When I realized that our *EmeriTimes* newsletter was in need of a new editor, I was quick to offer my services, likely due to my ISTJ personality. That same bent saw me chairing the successful West Seattle class of '73 [50th high school reunion](#) this past summer.



Since 2012, I've been invited to give Bible lectures at the Emerald Heights Retirement Community in Redmond. In 2023, I taught through *Jeremiah* and *Lamentations*. This March, we'll be working our way through *Galatians*.

**Rick Steele**, *Professor Emeritus of Moral and Historical Theology*

I retired on June 30, 2023, having been the grateful beneficiary of four wonderful farewell celebrations (the University retirement dinner, a School of Theology retirement party, a Seminary student surprise party, and an impromptu potluck supper organized by the students in my NUR 6301 *Faith Values and Ethics* class), and the invited speaker at three yearly campus events (a public “farewell lecture,” the Seminary commissioning service, and Ivy Cutting). I am still doing a good bit of work for the Association of Theological Schools, serving as a consultant for one school that needed coaching in the latter stages of its self-study pursuant to initial accreditation and the chair or member of several evaluation committees for schools applying for initial accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. I am reading (or rereading) a lot of old books; trying to resurrect my long-lost competency in Greek, German, and French; singing in the Lake Washington UMC choir; making regular donations of whole blood and platelets at [Bloodworks Northwest](#); and trying to get in a daily workout.



**Cynthia (Cindy) Strong**  
*Education and Business Librarian, 2009-2016; Education Librarian, 2009-2023*



Plagiarizing from Steve Perisho's retirement tribute, Cindy was for several years the inaugural steward of the Library's Work and Faith

Collection. She also delivered so much more than just her share of the standard sessions in “information literacy,” having co-taught courses for the Schools of Business and Education, as well as, with John Robertson, the Information Studies course, “Digital Literacy and Life.” She mentored at least three new members of the faculty in a

formal fashion, and was a persistent advocate for the integrity of the transfer experience.

She was also a tenacious advocate for diversity, chairing and then continuing to advance the work of the Library's Diversity Committee, as well as serving on the equivalent body within the School of Education, and as a Search Advocate.

She shepherded a number of the SOE's graduate students through to a credential in school librarianship and helped found just such a library in Tanzania. More significant still might be the fact that there doesn't seem to have been a year in her fourteen when she was not serving on a major University-wide committee.

In the midst of all of that she made time to publish in the Educational Research journal; the book *The Faithful Librarian: Essays on Christianity in the Profession*, and (with colleagues) in the *Middle School Journal*. In retirement she will serve as a prestigious Fulbright Specialist in yet another library of her choice overseas.

Cindy is grounded in a strong faith which she freely shares, whether it be praying with an overwhelmed student or leading a Wesleyan Small Group.

### **Library Services for Emeriti Faculty**

[spu.edu/library/services/emeriti-faculty](http://spu.edu/library/services/emeriti-faculty)

**Also . . .**

**Ken Moore**, *Professor Emeritus of Biology*

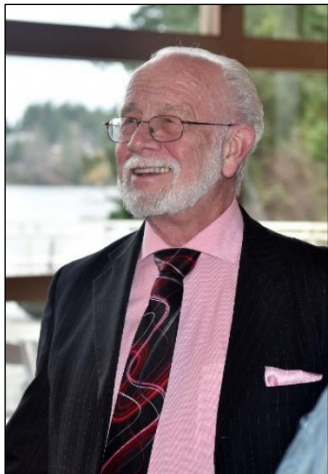
Voy and I have sold our Shoreline home and have moved to an over-55 community in the Summerlin suburb (Sun City) of Las Vegas.

**Michael Ziemann**, *Associate Professor Emeritus of European Studies/German and Linguistics*

Dr. Ziemann sent along his full family Christmas letter. [Enjoy it here.](#)

**Dr. George Scranton,**  
*Professor Emeritus of Theatre*  
(1944-2023)

In his own words, here is how our friend and colleague answered the question, "Why I Taught at SPU."



"I have been blessed with a long series of mentors, without whom I would not have been at SPU in any capacity. Just as they lovingly invested in my nurture and growth both in theatre and in theology, I wanted to 'pay it forward' with my students. As we collaborated in the classroom and on the stage, I hoped to become a mentor to them, as we sought to grow both as artists and as persons, who are made in the image of God and who strive to become more and more conformed to the 'mind of Christ.'"

Our recently passed Past President of SPU's Emeriti Faculty knew that he was genuinely loved by those he taught and by his faculty colleagues. The esteem of one's academic peers is sincerely appreciated, but for a professor, praise from one's students speaks louder.



**"Ay, every inch a king."**

*King Lear, Act 4, Scene 6*

Jean (Sleight) Sitte, SPU class of '16, was directed by Professor Scranton in *The Miracle Worker* in 2014 and acted opposite him in *King Lear* in 2015. She collected these special memories from her SPU Theatre classmates.

Rev. Dr. George Scranton, who always went by George, was much beloved by his theatre students. He officiated more than one wedding of theatre alumni. He was generous with his legendary cheesecake, an example of how he lived out his theology of a covenant table by bringing people together over food. He was always kind (and surprisingly agile as he taught aikido rolls and juggling by example!).

"It's hard to fully explain everything that George did for me during my time at SPU. He created and fostered a community with love for God and others at the center of it. His lessons about life, theatre, and theology healed a deep rift I had instilled in me from a young age, that theatre and God did not mix — that my passion wasn't a part of God's plan for me. He took that and made SURE I knew otherwise. He taught me that they go hand in hand — a lesson I hold dear to this day. Creative people reflect a creative God. The production process is deep and powerful when connected with our Creator. He was both a mentor and a friend who will always hold a very dear place in my heart."

— Jessica (Brown) Hibbs, class of '14

Saturday morning rehearsals always included food. That table was open to all and reflected God's graciousness and eagerness for our fellowship.

George is surely at God's table in the kingdom of Heaven.

See also these SPU online articles:

- ✓ ["The Story of My Life," with Professor Emeritus George Scranton](#)
- ✓ [Professor Emeritus of Theatre George Scranton](#)



George's memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 27, at First Covenant Church, Seattle. There will be a reception to follow. The service will be livestreamed at [firstcovenantseattle.org](http://firstcovenantseattle.org) for those who can't make it in person.

## Crossing the Bar

BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

## Parkinson's Law

It is a commonplace observation that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. Thus, an elderly lady of leisure can spend the entire day in writing and despatching a postcard to her niece at Bognor Regis. An hour will be spent in finding the postcard, another in hunting for spectacles, half-an-hour in a search for the address, an hour and a quarter in composition, and twenty minutes in deciding whether or not to take an umbrella when going to the pillar-box in the next street. The total effort which would occupy a busy man for three minutes all told may in this fashion leave another person prostrate after a day of doubt, anxiety and toil.

Introduction to C. Northcote Parkinson's article in *The Economist*, 1955.

The **EmeriTimes** Newsletter, Number 32, will be due out after Commencement in June. Be sure to send your own **Emeriti Faculty Update** news to [SL8@spu.edu](mailto:SL8@spu.edu).

Expecting life to treat you fairly because you're a nice person is like expecting a bull not to charge you because you're a vegetarian. Good luck.

The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

*Editor's Note:* I've been collecting odd and interesting quotes monthly since 2005.



## Our SPU Emeriti “Class of ‘23”

Our most recent class of emeriti faculty were lauded by the University this past spring. Here are our newest eight gifted emeriti colleagues.

Dr. Cindy Bishop, Biology, 22 years

Dr. Dan Bishop, Education, 21 years

Dr. Sandra Hartje, Family and Consumer Sciences, 34 years

Dr. Steven Johnson, Mathematics, 41 years

Dr. Richard Steele, Theology, 28 years

Dr. Gerhard Steinke, Management and Information Systems, 31 years

Cynthia (Cindy) Strong, MLS, Education Librarian Emerita, (Education and Business Librarian, 2009-2016; Education Librarian, 2009-2023), 14 years

Dr. Beverly Wilson, Clinical Psychology, 25 years

## Past *EmeriTimes* Newsletters

[June 2022](#)

[January 2022](#)

[June 2021](#)

[January 2021](#)

[June 2020](#)

[January 2020](#)

[June 2019](#)

[January 2019](#)

[June 2018](#)

[January 2018](#)

[June 2017](#)

[June 2016](#)

[January 2016](#)

[June 2015](#)

[January 2015](#)

[June 2014](#)

[January 2014](#)

[June 2013](#)

[December 2012](#)

[June 2012](#)

[December 2011](#)

[June 2011](#)

## Winter and Spring Events

### Marston Lecture

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Upper Gwinn Commons

### Presidential Inauguration

Friday, February 23, 2024, 10:00 AM  
First Free Methodist Church

### Emeriti Tea

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Upper Gwinn Commons

### Weter Lecture

Thursday, April 11, 2024  
Upper Gwinn Commons

### Retirement Dinner

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Upper Gwinn Commons

### Graduate Commencement

Friday, June 7, 2024  
Tiffany Loop

### Ivy Cutting

Friday, June 7, 2024  
Tiffany Loop

### Undergraduate Commencement

Saturday, June 8, 2024

## Emeriti Afternoon at Falcons Basketball, February 3rd



Emeriti are invited to the SPU basketball games on **Saturday, February 3rd** at 2:00 PM (men) and 4:15 PM (women) against Northwest Nazarene.

During half time of each game there will be refreshments in the Falcon Lounge and an analysis of the games by a coach. Reserved seats may be requested by replying to [renglund@spu.edu](mailto:renglund@spu.edu) by January 29. Check in at the Will Call window where your name will be on the list. Come support our student athletes.

**As suggested by  
Dr. Joyce Erickson . . .**



## **Forgetfulness**

by Billy Collins

The name of the author is the first to go followed obediently by the title, the plot, the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel which suddenly becomes one you have never read, never even heard of,

as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain, to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine muses goodbye and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag, and even now as you memorize the order of the planets,

something else is slipping away, a state flower perhaps, the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember, it is not poised on the tip of your tongue or even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall

well on your own way to oblivion where you will join those who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.

No wonder you rise in the middle of the night to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war. No wonder the moon in the window seems to have drifted out of a love poem that you used to know by heart.

*"Forgetfulness" from Questions About Angels  
by Billy Collins, © 1995.*

Reprinted by permission of the University of Pittsburgh Press.



# Presidential INAUGURATION

Please Save the Date

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

for the Inauguration of  
Seattle Pacific University's 12th President



**Deana L. Porterfield, EdD**

10 a.m.  
First Free Methodist Church  
Seattle, Washington

