

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2016-2017



The Seattle School  
OF THEOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY



# Investing in *a Legacy of Becoming*

The Seattle School was started twenty years ago in the living rooms, kitchens, classrooms, and offices of people whose vision was pointed to the future. Did they imagine the legacy of more than 1,160 alumni? Of pastors, therapists, artists and leaders whose lives have been formed by classes, curriculum, mentoring, and the drama of learning? Did they believe their decisions made in 1997 would start a school, a center for trauma and abuse, and, truthfully, a movement?

Funny thing about legacy, it creeps up while you're doing other things:

- ordinary things
- repetitious things
- faithful things
- wise things
- flawed things
- surprising things
- failed things
- successful things

What you hold in your hand is a statement that is honest and hopeful. It is our report on how hundreds of people have invested in the mission of The Seattle School Theology & Psychology, The Allender Center at The Seattle School, The Other Journal, and the Forum. It is our report on all those ordinary, repetitious, faithful, wise, flawed, surprising, failed, and successful things we've been doing for the past year.

Always we say thank you as we tell you about our stewardship of investments made in the legacy of becoming.



President Keith Anderson, DMin



# GRADUATE SCHOOL & SEMINARY



We began the 2016-17 academic year with the warm welcome of a new core faculty member, Dr. Doug Shirley, as Assistant Professor of Counseling.

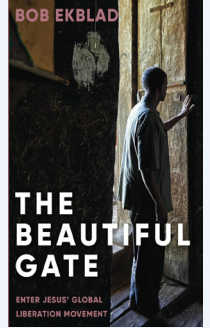
“Doug brings a deep curiosity and hunger for the integration of counseling and theology and an earnest desire to work across disciplinary boundaries. I am looking forward to seeing how he and his family will partner with us to serve the mission of the school and strengthen our ability to serve God and neighbor.”

– Dr. J. Derek McNeil, Senior Vice President of Academics

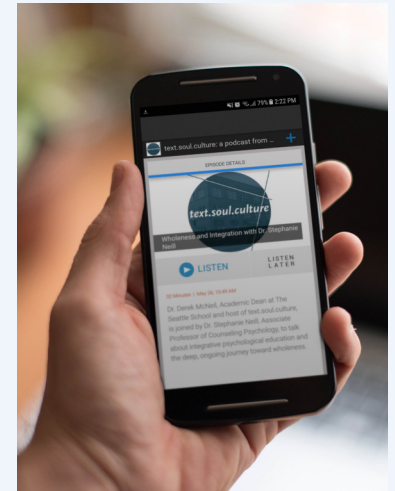
Read more at [theseattleschool.edu/blog/doug-shirley-hire/](http://theseattleschool.edu/blog/doug-shirley-hire/)



Dr. Bob Ekblad, Associate Professor of Old Testament Studies, published a new book in February 2017. *The Beautiful Gate: Enter Jesus' Global Liberation Movement* reflects on the site of the first healing Jesus' disciples facilitated after Pentecost and engages what it looks like for us to respond to our calling to join Jesus in a global liberation movement now.



*text.soul.culture*, a podcast from The Seattle School launched in April 2017. Hosted and curated by Dr. J. Derek McNeil, Academic Dean, *text.soul.culture* is guided by a commitment to understanding narrative, wrestling with intersections, resisting reactivity, and fostering radical hospitality. Every other week, Derek is joined by faculty members, alumni, visiting thought leaders, and other conversation partners to explore what it means to foster wisdom and imagination for a world in need of complex thinkers and healers.



8 EPISODES

6,600+ DOWNLOADS



# GRADUATE SCHOOL & SEMINARY

President Keith Anderson announced his retirement in March 2017. Serving as The Seattle School's second President for 7 years (following 5 years of service as Academic Dean), Dr. Anderson led our institution through full accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools, the birth of The Allender Center, a new name, seven years of sustained enrollment growth, and numerous new faculty and staff hires and curricular iterations.



"We've grown from a start-up organization to an institution that is well-respected for our work in educating and equipping people. We have worked hard together, created well, innovated boldly, argued heatedly, disagreed loudly, discerned deeply, grieved together, laughed and cried together, and grown. I believe we are poised for something extraordinary in our future. We will stand on tiptoes together to see whom God has for us as the next president of this school which I love and in whose mission I passionately believe."

- President Keith Anderson

Read more at [theseattleschool.edu/blog/keith-anderson-retirement/](https://theseattleschool.edu/blog/keith-anderson-retirement/)



Under the creative direction of Dr. Angela Parker, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, our students performed portions of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Mark for our first annual "Telling the Story: A Maundy Thursday Experience."

Our year culminated with our 19th Commencement at Town Hall where we sent 85 graduates out into the world to embody their unique callings and our mission of transformation through text. soul.culture. President Keith Anderson's legacy was honored with a medal of Distinguished Service.



# ALUMNI

## Symposia: An Intersection of Conversation and Innovation

- 2nd annual Symposia
- 22 alumni presenters
- 200 attendees
- Increased accessibility through simulcasting



Dynamic 20-minute talks engaging topics from “The Surprisingly Intimate Relationship Between Marriage Equality and Purity Culture” (Randall Ajimine, MDiv ‘13) to “All Means All: The Exquisite Beauty and Excruciating Cost of Living and Leading God’s Welcome of All People” (Rebecca Joy Sumner, MDiv ‘08) and more.

Experience Symposia at [vimeo.com/theseattleschool/symposia-16/](https://vimeo.com/theseattleschool/symposia-16/)



## Alumni Lecture Series

Renowned writer, scholar, and activist Dr. Cornel West was the featured artist for our 4th annual Alumni Lecture Series. The Office of Students and Alumni partnered with The Well to curate an intimate

workshop with Dr. West on “Love as Prophetic Witness.” Alumnus Tom Ryan, MDiv ‘07 joined Dr. West for “Art as Resistance,” an evening exploring the music that both roots and ignites his work in the world. Dr. West says, “I’m a blues man in the life of the mind. I’m a jazz man in the world of ideas.” More than 375 were in attendance.

Watch part of the conversation at [theseattleschool.edu/blog/cornel-west-alumni-lecture-series](https://theseattleschool.edu/blog/cornel-west-alumni-lecture-series)

Our alumni are those who embody and extend text, soul, and culture far beyond the walls of 2501 Elliott Avenue. Our hope at The Seattle School is to be led by our alumni and the ways they live out their callings among the people and communities they serve.

**1160** | Total alumni

**85** | in Class of 2017

**16%** | of alumni are active donors

**9** | Alumni Chapters. 5 added in 2016-17: Mid-Atlantic, Carolinas, Oregon, North Sound, and Tennessee





# THE ALLENDER CENTER

Over the past seven years, we have moved The Allender Center from an idea to a flourishing reality resulting in 16,500 people participating in life changing experiences, 785,000 downloads of our podcast, and a team of 45 people working to steward and extend the mission of The Allender Center in communities across the nation and around the globe. We believe this has been possible due to our mission of linking the story of God with our stories, our expertise in addressing trauma and abuse, and our unique theory on how healing takes place in the human heart.



With the goal of increasing accessibility to the healing work we are so committed to, we launched our very first online course, Healing the Wounded Heart. More than 600 women and men participated in our self-paced course and 200 joined our semester tribe for a more intimate, community experience. What an incredible privilege it has been for the Allender Center to create space for this sacred work of engaging the impact of harm for the purpose of healing and restoration.



- 32,000** | Podcast downloads per month
- 1,581** | Reached through conferences
- 59** | Recovery Week participants
- 160** | Story Workshop participants
- 44** | Marriage Retreat participants
- 121** | Involved in Training Programs  
(Training Certificates Level I, Level II, and Externship)



# FORUM & THE OTHER JOURNAL

Our Forum invites individuals from the Pacific Northwest, across the country, and around the globe to the table for thoughtful engagement and meaningful dialogue. In 2016-17 we curated 11 offerings with more than 110 presenters and conversation partners for more than 1,200 participants.



## 2016-2017 Season Highlights



### Relational Perspective Series

Dr. Curt Thompson, a psychiatrist, founder of Being Known, and author of *Anatomy of the Soul* and *The Soul of Shame* was our keynote. He lectured on “Loving God with All Your Mind: Interpersonal Neurobiology and Relational Flourishing” and facilitated a seminar on “The Soul of Shame: Retelling the Stories We Believe About Ourselves.”



### The Very Good Gospel: Theological Forum on the Biblical Concept of Shalom in a World of Unrest

Responding to a culture steeped in unrest, from protests to shootings, we invited Lisa Sharon Harper to join us in wrestling with what is happening in our culture and what we as Christian leaders are called to do in the midst of it.



### Stanley Grenz Lecture Series

Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger, professor and prolific author in the realms of theology, ecology, and environmental studies joined us as the keynote in our 4th annual series in honor of Dr. Stanley Grenz. He lectured on “The Ecological Crisis and the Defilement of Home” and facilitated a conversation on “Shalom and the Character of Earthkeeping.”



### Humanity Through Community

Jimmy McGee joined us as keynote for this annual gathering designed to empower us to live, work, and lead in culturally responsive ways. With *The Myth of the Single Story* as a shared theme, Jimmy was joined by faculty, community leaders, and alumni for a panel discussion.

Read more from Jimmy at [theseattleschool.edu/blog/jimmy-mcgee-interview/](http://theseattleschool.edu/blog/jimmy-mcgee-interview/)

# FORUM & THE OTHER JOURNAL



## Inhabit 2017: The Great Local Convergence

The 6th annual Inhabit conference, co-produced with the Parish Collective, gathered more than 400 mission practitioners for encouragement and imagination as they go about practicing the way of Jesus in place.

### Highlights:

- 75 presenters, including: Jonathan Brooks, Christina Rice, Randy Woodley, and Bernadette Arthur.
- 5 new pre-day conferences, including: “Rural Church Presence” and “Everyday Peacemaking: Contending for reconciliation within local conflicts”
- A new content-rich mobile app
- More than 20K reached online via “Inhabit Live”

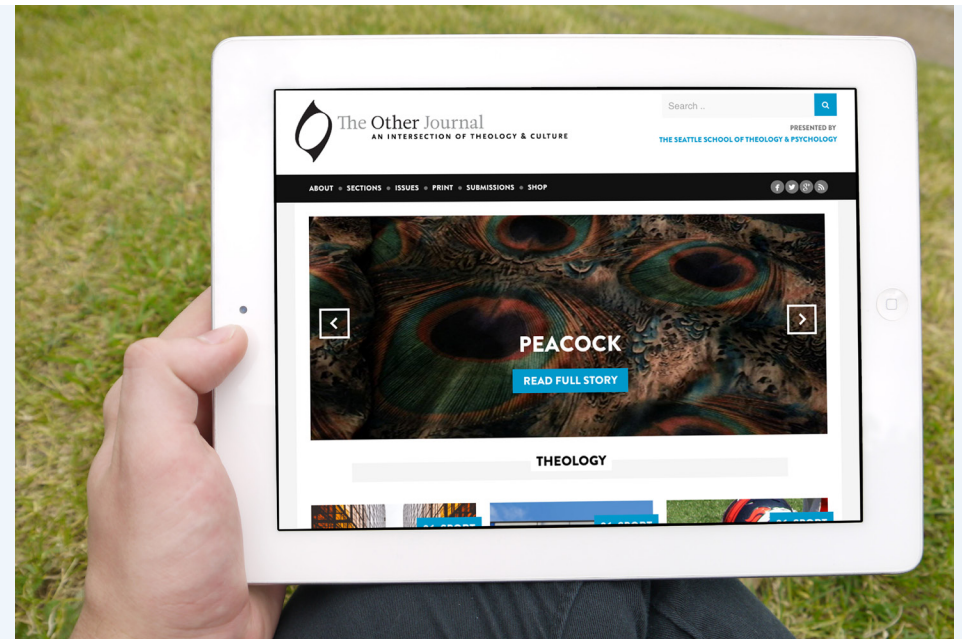
Begin anticipating Inhabit 2018 at [inhabitconference.com](http://inhabitconference.com)

## The Other Journal

Housed within The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology, The Other Journal is a digital journal with twice-yearly print editions that aims to create space for Christian interdisciplinary reflection, exploration, and expression at the intersection of theology and culture.

The Other Journal had more than 141,000 visitors in 2016-17 and 185,730 page views. “We Are Worldless Without One Another: An Interview with Judith Butler” by Stephanie Berbec was the most viewed article.

Read more at [theotherjournal.com](http://theotherjournal.com)





# FINANCIALS

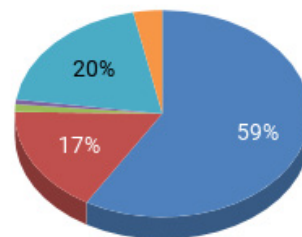
## A Sacred Mission

We live at the intersection of theology, psychology, and culture, training artists, pastors, therapists, counselors, and change-makers to join God — Father, Son, and Spirit — in the restoration of their communities. We are activated practitioners, responding to an activated society—continually pushing towards the reign of God in the world. We respond to what is happening in culture and equip students to engage effectively. When the world is complacent, we are a voice of disruption, and when the world is fragmented and upended, we are a steady anchor.



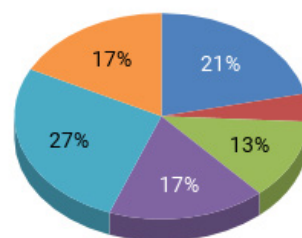
Our faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and partners collectively respond to the call to be light-bringers and truth-tellers, to defend wholeness and foster healing connections in a broken culture.

## Sources



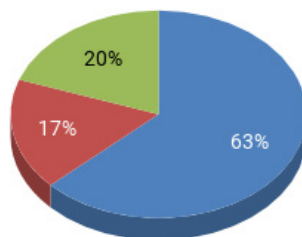
Student Tuition & Fees, Net of Scholarships	\$3,741,521
Private Gifts	\$1,065,542
Grants	\$74,990
Federal Student Workstudy Grants	\$47,360
Allender Center & Forum	\$1,254,065
Other revenue	\$202,584

## Uses of Funds



Instructional Services	\$1,352,265
Academic Support	\$275,840
Student Services	\$789,910
Conferences & Bookstore	\$1,093,970
Institutional Support	\$1,686,626
Facilities & Depreciation	\$1,099,945

## Uses by Object



Salaries & Benefits	\$3,970,160
Facility, including utilities & depreciation	\$1,095,068
All Other Expenses	\$1,233,327

An investment in The Seattle School goes far beyond the walls of our building and into the communities in which our alumni are living and serving — empowering a generation of therapists, pastors, leaders, and artists to serve God and neighbor.

The generosity of our donors and partners fuels our mission. We are deeply grateful.

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