

Past Scholars

Matthew Sigler is the 2013-2015 Institute for Discipleship visiting scholar. He is finishing his dissertation which will complete his PhD in Religion from Boston University.

Kevin Minister was the visiting scholar for 2012-2013 and has a PhD in religion from SMU. Kevin is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA where he teaches courses in World Religions, Religion and Ecology, and Theology.

Meredith Minister held the position of visiting scholar for 2011-2012 and received her PhD from SMU. Meredith is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Shenandoah University, USA where she teaches courses intersecting religion and culture.

For the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, Stephen and Sarah Sours from Duke shared the position. Stephen and Sarah Sours serve as Assistant Professors of Religion at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama.

We did not have a visiting scholar in the 2008-09 school years.

Matt Thompson was the visiting scholar for the 2007-2008 school year. He is now on the humanities faculty of Trinity School at River Ridge in Eagan, MN.

The first visiting scholar was Kevin Carnahan who was with us for the 2006-2007 school year. He is now the Assistant Professor of Religion at Central Methodist University.

Institute for Discipleship

Chartered by Southwestern College on April 20, 2001, the Institute for Discipleship is dedicated to providing educational opportunities that nurture and enrich Christian leaders, lay and clergy, for effective living and ministry.

Other Institute Programs:

- BeADisciple.com - Provides an online location for workshops, trainings, bible studies, and other educational opportunities for Christian leaders, lay and clergy.
- BeADisciple Academy - Designed to be a global online faith-building fellowship for students who want to go deeper in their faith lives and leadership skills.
- Bishop Scholarship - A four year scholarship for undergraduates at Southwestern exploring church vocations and global church engagement.
- Campus Ministry Support - a wide range of activities which enhance campus ministries at the college



Institute for Discipleship
— Visiting Scholar —

A fellowship supporting religious scholars desiring to become future educators.

**The Richard and Julia Wilke
Institute for Discipleship
At Southwestern College**



Matthew Sigler

Stephen and Sarah Sours

Meredith Minister



Kevin Carnahan



Financial Underwriting

On June 30, 2013, the Institute successfully completed a campaign to raise \$400,000 for the endowment of the Visiting Scholar in Religion Program. This endowment and a generous donation of a three bedroom home near the campus underwrites the stability of the program. Additional funding will allow the Institute to support the visiting scholar travel and continuing education cost.

Overview

Each school year, a new or near completion PhD candidate in an area of religion is selected and is provided with a \$20,000 fellowship and housing.

During the school year, the visiting scholar teaches in the undergraduate program, participates in campus ministry, assists with the Discipleship program and preaches/teaches with the Worship Outreach groups.

Opportunities

- Provides a campus context for a new PhD in Religion to experience a college community which actively nurtures the call of its students exploring church vocation.
- Provides a practical experience in which to gain exposure to the holistic nature of religious education, immersed in a United Methodist College which is developing leaders for the Church.
- Provides experience with a model which supports students' spiritual, intellectual, and emotional preparedness for ministry.
- Provides a time and place to finish their dissertation or prepare their dissertation for publication.
- Provides a network for visiting scholars to collaborate with over the years.



Kevin Minister



Matt Thompson