

# Staff Members of the Month

Nominated by their peers and selected by Staff Council, the staff members below exemplify service to the University, showing leadership in their staff role and elsewhere. Below is a list of current and past Staff Members of the Month. Click on each staff member's name to learn more about them!

Do you know someone who should be the Staff Member of the Month? **Nominate him or her today !**

## 2019 Staff Members of the Month

June 2019



May 2019



### Dorothy Doyle

**Stewardship and Donor Relations Manager  
University Advancement**  
**Hometown:** The Dalles, Oregon

**How long have you been at SPU?**

Two years and eight months.

**Tell us about a memorable good day at work.**

Having the opportunity to participate in Ivy Cutting the past two years and Graduation last year have each been a highlight and a true privilege. I loved the

interaction with graduates, their families and staff – celebrating long-standing traditions that mean so much to the SPU community.

**How does your faith impact your work?**

Honestly? In my work I feel like I have so many details to coordinate without any actual control over the outcome that I find myself praying over many of the projects I work on!

**Tell us the piece of your life journey that brought you to Seattle Pacific?**

I earned my undergraduate degree from Judson Baptist College, which closed shortly after I graduated due to financial difficulties. Several of my friends had transferred to SPU and when I earned an MEd in higher education/student personnel a few years later, I had hoped to someday work at SPU.

Years passed as I worked in fundraising and marketing for nonprofit orgs. I was feeling God's nudge to shift my career. This led me to apply for my current role. In the busyness of life as I supported and raised my family, I had actually forgotten about my dream to work at SPU but God hadn't!

**What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?**

I love hiking and, since moving to Seattle from Bainbridge Island three years ago, have enjoyed "urban hiking" with my best friend and husband, Al, as a way to get to know different neighborhoods. A perfect day for us would involve "hiking" to a coffee spot where the barista does not ask "what size?" when we order our cappuccinos, lingering over a good book, lunch in a scenic spot with lots of walking to, from and between destinations.

**What's something that few people know about you?**

I'm good with animals ... one example is that I taught my cat, Pelly, to walk on a treadmill.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

Interacting with SPU students is my favorite part of my job. I love hearing about the great things they are doing and planning to do. I am inspired and energized by conversations with them.

In connecting SPU supporters with the students who receive the scholarships they support, I routinely ask students to write thank you letters, share about their lives, and attend gatherings with donors. I am astounded by the gracious response of students as they agree to add more to their already overflowing schedules. The quality of students at SPU is remarkable.

**What's the most important thing that you'd want people to know about you?**

I am fascinated by how God has made each of us with different passions, gifts, and directions. One of my goals for 2019 has been to learn about the [Enneagram](#) (Richard Rohr style through Suzanne Stabile) and through this journey, I am discovering so much about how God has made me and how I can become a better person. I love talking about this with friends who also are interested in learning about their motivations. Yet another way to encourage one another to grow toward what God wants for our lives!

**Anything else you'd like to share?**

I'm grateful for SPU and continually impressed by the students. I love the passionate pursuit for Christ in their lives and the courage exhibited as they ask tough questions. God is big enough for all our questions!

*Please join Staff Council in congratulating Dorothy Doyle as the May 2019 Staff of the Month!*

April 2019



**Renee  
Corcoran**

**Administrative Assistant  
History and Sociology  
Hometown:** Port Orchard,  
Washington

**How long have you been at SPU?**

One year in May.

**Tell us about a memorable good day at work.**

Not to be cheesy, but every day in the office is a good day! I immensely enjoy working with everyone here at SPU; it truly is a "grace-filled community." The faculty in both my departments have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, and my fellow staff members have been graciously patient and encouraging as I learned the ropes at SPU. I did not have admin experience before I came to this job, and it has been fun learning new skill sets and knowledge.

**How does your faith impact your work?**

My faith is the reason I applied to SPU. I had wanted to work in an authentic Christian community and SPU is exactly that! I wholeheartedly believe in our mission of providing a Christian liberal arts education; it was during my college years on a Christian campus that I encountered Christ, both in the classroom and in the professors and students. It radically changed my life. My university experience gives me an understanding of how crucial a Christian education are for college people. This appreciation imbues meaning into day-to-day tasks of my work.

**Tell us the piece of your life journey that brought you to Seattle Pacific?**

Before I came to SPU I was in the food industry and I desired to leave it. A friend saw the ad on the SPU website and encouraged me to apply – and I'm very glad I did!

**What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?**

I am a reader, and I love discussing and chewing on ideas and having (most often impassioned) discussions with my friends and family. Being in the mountains is my other favorite thing.

**What's something that few people know about you?**

I have four sisters who are my dearest friends and the joy of my life. Three of them live on Bainbridge Island, and I feel like I won the lottery in having such a close family.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job is being in an academic environment. My college experience was highly enjoyable, and it's interesting to see what makes a university run.

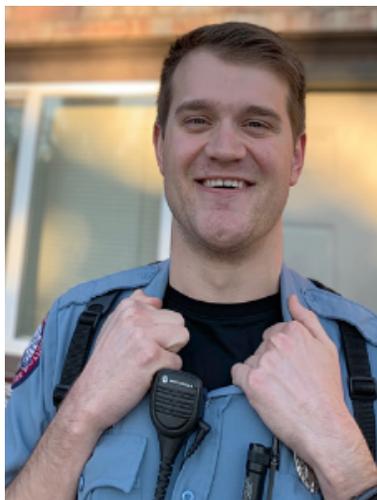
And it has been highly enjoyable learning so many new things (from generic admin duties to SPU's internal workings) in this position.

**What's the most important thing that you'd want people to know about you?**

In an ideal world, I would be a student for life. I would love to go back to school and continue studying the humanities.

*Please join Staff Council in congratulating Renee Corcoran as the April 2019 Staff of the Month!*

**March 2019**



**Jonathan Faddis**

**Security Officer II  
Office of Safety and Security  
Hometown:** Corvallis, Oregon

**How long have you been at SPU?**

About two years.

**Tell us about a memorable good day at work.**

Really any day that I get to assist people that are in a difficult situation.

The recent arson fire in November and other events that happened that night are memories that I will hold for a long time.

**How does your faith impact your work?**

My faith impacts my job by helping to keep my priorities aligned and my interactions positive throughout my daily work, which can include interacting with difficult/mentally ill people.

**Tell us the piece of your life journey that brought you to Seattle Pacific?**

I am the third of my siblings to attend and graduate SPU, so I have been able to be a part of the community here for many years. After finishing the majority of my degree and walking at graduation in 2016, I worked at C.C. Filson in Sodo, and chose to come back to SPU and work with OSS in order to get experience for my future career plans.

**What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?**

Some of my favorite things to do when I'm not at work are to spend time with my amazing girlfriend and my friends/family.

**What's something that few people know about you?**

I'm allergic to most fresh fruit.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part about my job is that every day has the possibility to be different than the day before. I'm often times not confined to a desk and am out and about on campus.

**What's the most important thing that you'd want people to know about you?**

I am someone that tries to see the world and the realities of daily life from many different points of view and I like being around multiple different types of people.

*Please join Staff Council in congratulating Jonathan Faddis as the March 2019 Staff of the Month!*

**February 2019**

**Brenda Baker**



**Assistant to the Dean and  
Office Manager  
School of Psychology,  
Family, and Community  
Hometown:** Olympia,  
Washington

January 2019



## Daniel Wright

**Biology Laboratory  
Coordinator and Adjunct  
Professor  
College of Arts and  
Sciences/Biology  
Hometown:** Paradise,  
California

**How long have you been at  
SPU?**

1.5 years.

**Tell us about a memorable  
good day at work.**

I think the most memorable day for me was my first time going to the Blakely Island Research Station. The

opportunity to work there for the weekend was an amazing experience. It was a lot of fun taking students into the outdoors and for some it was their first time leaving the city streets and taking on dirt trails.

**How does your faith impact your work?**

For me the ability to work with people that have the same core beliefs and are working towards the same goals is fulfilling.

**Tell us the piece of your life journey that brought you to  
Seattle Pacific?**

God has opened and closed many doors for me to direct me to where I am today. I'm just now am in the part of my story where you don't know how its going to end up.

**What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?**

When I'm not at SPU I'm working a second job. When I'm not working I'm taking my dog on a hike or walk. I really enjoy the outdoors and try to spend as much time as possible exploring new areas.

**What's something that few people know about you?**

I enjoy cooking.

**What's your favorite part of your job?**

The day to day interactions with fellow employees and students.

**What's the most important thing that you'd want people to  
know about you?**

If you want to get to know more, come talk to me, Eaton Hall 212.

*Please join Staff Council in congratulating Daniel Wright as  
the January 2019 Staff of the Month!*

**How long have you been at SPU?**

Since November 1, 2016.

**Tell us about a memorable day at work.**

My work days are all “good days” filled with laughter, camaraderie, and productivity. Beyond the day-to-day office routine, I cherish the times when our entire campus gathers together for learning and fellowship. The day we spent with social justice activist Bryan Stevenson was a deeply enriching experience that continues to influence and enhance how I conduct myself.

**How does your faith impact your work?**

“God grant that I may never live to be useless!” — John Wesley

Growing up in the Methodist church, I observed our large congregation’s generous and consistent gifting of talent and time. This fully informed my work ethic. We’re created to be useful, and God wants us to realize and engage our unique gifts. My role at SPU is satisfying because it exercises a wide range of strengths God created in me as I work side by side with hard-working, faithful, and talented people.

**Tell us the piece of your life journey that brought you to Seattle Pacific?**

In 2011, we moved from a sweet 1930s’ farmhouse on 20+ acres to a tiny condo in a modern building so our daughter could pursue a career in ballet. I took a job in admissions and communications for a small, private high school, and quickly transformed from Country Mouse to City Mouse. (My friends were astounded.) Seattle’s independent school scene is fiercely competitive so — after devoting several years to admissions efforts that depleted me — I decided to seek more nourishing work. I was disciplined and determined in my job search, and it took me a very long time to find the right fit. The *moment* I read the posting for the School of Psychology, Family, and Community position — I knew it was the one. I feel so fortunate to spend my days in this positive, purposeful, Christ-centered work environment.

**What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not at work?**

If I’m not at work, I’m probably playing with paint, paper, scissors, and glue, or exploring Seattle like a tourist..

**What’s something that few people know about you?**

I majored in Broadcast Production and have a master’s in Media Management. I occasionally blog at [brendabakerproductions.blogspot.com](http://brendabakerproductions.blogspot.com). I’m really inconsistent about posting things, and my mom may be the only one who reads it, but it’s still fun! My fantasy jobs would be doing stand-up comedy or taking over Martha Stewart’s homemaking empire when she retires.

**What’s your favorite part of your job?**

My job entails a wide range of tasks and responsibilities so every new day is interesting. Variety keeps things lively, fresh, and requires skill. I do like a challenge!

**What’s the most important thing that you’d want people to know about you?**

I want to be helpful. If there is a piano to be moved, I’m not just going to pick up the bench.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

In my previous job, on a particularly discouraging day, I remember saying, “I just want to work with people who love each other!” I feel *loved* at SPU, and I’m deeply grateful for the opportunity to be here.

***Please join Staff Council in congratulating Brenda Baker as the February 2019 Staff of the Month!***

