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Digital Wisdom Framework Summary

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"Developing a Theological Framework for Digital Wisdom"
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Project Summary

Marc Prensky, who popularized the term "digital natives" more than ten years ago, now emphasizes the need for "digital wisdom": using digital technologies wisely to become wiser. Recent research reveals that so-called digital natives are often "digital naïves"—familiarity with digital technologies does not translate into facility with them. Incoming college students report declining confidence in their computer skills and report very modest improvements by the time they graduate. Employers report deficiencies in the technological skills of college graduates and, perhaps most troubling, studies of youth and young adults show that ethical reasoning does not extend much beyond self-protection. The more we learn about future, current, and recent college students, the clearer it is that many are not equipped to use digital technologies wisely to become wiser people.

In support of the development of a "digital wisdom" component in SPU's new writing program and other initiatives that seek to prepare our students for engaging our technological culture, we are bringing three theologians to campus to help us develop theological principles, curricular approaches, and a research agenda around the concept and practice of digital wisdom. In addition to in-depth meetings with project team members, these individuals will interact with SPU administrators and faculty through meetings and public presentations. Following these visits, we will develop a paper outlining a theological framework for digital wisdom.

Project Team Members

- Michael J. Paulus, Jr., University Librarian and Associate Professor, University Library
- Bruce D. Baker, Assistant Professor of Business Ethics, School of Business, Government, and Economics
- Michael D. Langford, Associate Professor of Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry, School of Theology

Participating Scholars

- Brent Waters, Jerre and Mary Joy Stead Professor of Christian Social Ethics and Director of the Jerre L. and Mary Joy Center for Ethics and Values, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and author of *Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoloculture: From Posthuman Back to Human* (Ashgate, 2014).
- Jana Marguerite Bennett, Associate Professor of Theological Ethics, University of Dayton, and author of *Aquinas on the Web? Doing Theology in an Internet Age* (T&T Clark, 2012).
- Michael Burdett, Postdoctoral Fellow in Religion, Science and Technology at Wycliffe Hall and Associate Member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, and author of *Eschatology and the Technological Future* (Routledge, 2015).