

FRONTLINES

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A WINDOW INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES

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Faculty: The Next Great Frontier

Rick Hove, Faculty Commons Executive Director



Six years ago the national director of Campus Crusade for Christ's student ministry asked me to lead Faculty Commons to transition our campus ministry from a "student only" enterprise to one that seeks to reach the whole campus—faculty and students—and send them out to change the world. After six years of working on this new adventure, I find it more compelling than ever.

So how are we doing? We are making encouraging progress. A few stories from this spring:

- Professors in the Upper Midwest volunteered to lead student ministries on their campuses and then traveled to participate in our staff training for local campus leaders.
- Professors and students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo joined together for a mission trip to El Salvador over their Spring Break.

• Faculty ran an exciting evangelistic outreach for over 500 students at the University of Akron, a key campus in the Great Lakes area.

Many of our student ministry staff are enjoying their new ministry to professors. They are finding that faculty are a difficult but highly strategic mission field:

- Professors have clout that our Campus Crusade for Christ staff don't have, both with the administration and students. When they speak, students—both Christian and seekers—listen.
- Professors are the long-term residents of the university, with many teaching 20-40 years. Long after Campus Crusade student leaders have graduated, Christian professors will still be serving as salt and light on that campus.
- Whenever Christian professors mention their faith in the classroom, Christian students are affirmed in their faith, skeptics view the gospel in a more credible light, and spiritually-needy students now know they can approach this professor with their spiritual questions.
- Professors open new ministry opportunities. A 30-year student ministry veteran at the University of Idaho—who now works with professors—says that professors open so many doors overseas that he'll never lead another student mission trip without bringing professors along.
- The Christian students we surveyed are very attracted to the idea of having professors involved in the mission.

One couple who took the plunge of ministering to faculty are old friends of mine. Mark and Brenda Brown worked with students for 20 years. They were fascinated by the opportunity to reach the whole campus for the gospel.

"What if I could influence not just the students who attend the university but the whole structure of the academy from the inside out? That means faculty and administration," Mark told me. "I was moved by the reality that students spend an average of 2,000 hours with professors. That is like an untapped natural resource lying just beneath the surface of the university landscape.

"So, after 20 years in undergrad ministry, with our love for students as real as ever, we recognized our longing to reach folks beyond the 18-22 age range. It was time for a new challenge, and we now minister with Faculty Commons.

"We have since found that students really reso-

nate with the need to reach professors as well as actively bridge the gap between Christian faculty and students. Brenda and I have found reaching faculty and joining hands with them to reach the whole campus to be needed and significant."

As we reach the whole campus—students and professors together—we find opportunities that we've never had before. Faculty are the next great frontier for our campus ministry, the opportunity to go where few have gone before, to see God work in ways beyond all we can imagine.

I am more convinced of this than ever. †

Executive Director of Faculty Commons since 2005, Rick Hove has also directed the student ministries of Campus Crusade at Rice University and Duke University. He is a summa cum laude graduate of both Georgia Tech and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Rick, his wife Sonya, and their three children live in Durham, NC.



visit www.cruprof.com



the whole campus



to the whole world

CruProf provides Campus Crusade for Christ's student ministry staff with ideas on how to work with professors and engage Christian professors with their students. When students and professors minister together, we harness greater opportunities to change the world.

§2

A Movement of Gratitude

Ministry Profile: Students at Duke University

Professors usually only hear from the whiners and complainers: the student who got a grade he didn't like, the one who needs a reference for grad school that she really doesn't deserve.

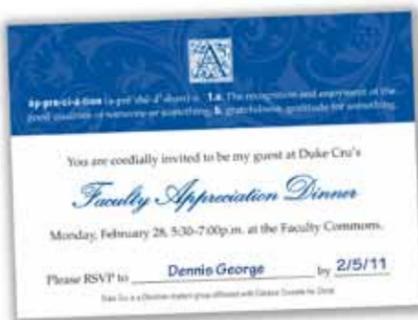
But this February, professors at Duke University received invitations from their students instead of complaints.

"You are cordially invited to be my guest at Duke Cru's Faculty Appreciation Dinner..." the card read; and explained, "Duke Cru is a Christian student group affiliated with Campus Crusade for Christ."

For many Cru students, it was a step of faith to invite a professor. "The professor I invited was one of the toughest I've had here at Duke," said one, "not only in terms of the work load, but also one who challenged my faith in class."

Thirty-five professors attended. Each was seated with the student who invited him or her, around a table of six. Over dinner, students told the other five at the table what they appreciated about their professor. Two students spoke to the whole group—explaining why they appreciate professors and the role that their faith in Christ plays in their lives.

Student Dennis George marveled at the opportunity he had to tell his professor about his faith in Christ. "Halfway through the dinner she just suddenly turned to me and says, 'I've always been meaning to ask you. How do you see your faith fitting into your life at Duke?' ... I knew at that



Thirty-five professors accepted a student invitation.

moment that God had made this opportunity and, for the next hour and a half, I got to share my faith and my testimony and she just listened...."

The professors were deeply touched. One told her student, "This is the nicest thing a student has ever done

for me." They learned a lot about Duke Cru and their students' faith.

For the students, sharing a meal and conversa-



Duke students and professors enjoy an evening together at the Duke Faculty Appreciation Dinner

tion taught them a lot about their professors:

"God showed me that there's a person with a story behind all of my professors."

"At the end of the night, as I was walking my professor to the parking lot, he invited me to his house for dinner with his family in April. The faculty appreciation dinner was not just an isolated event but an important stepping stone in the relationships that we're building with our professors."

Through these improved relationships, God reveals His love to these professors through their students. The students, already committed to sharing God's love with their fellow students, now see that their professors need to hear about His love and forgiveness, too. †



Duke Chapel, an iconic symbol of the university, is at the center of the Gothic West Campus. Built in 1932, the chapel is dominated by a 210-foot tower housing a 50-bell carillon.

Duke University

Duke University was created in 1924 by James Buchanan Duke with a vision to transform a regional liberal arts college into one of the world's top institutions of higher education. Younger than most other prestigious U.S. research universities, Duke University consistently ranks among the very best. Its graduate and professional schools—in business, divinity, engineering, the environment, law, medicine, nursing and public policy—are among the leaders in their fields. Duke maintains a historic affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

- Undergraduate enrollment 6,504
- Graduate and Professional (Fall 2010) 7,744
- Notable alumni: Richard Nixon, Elizabeth Dole, Melinda Gates
- Close to 200 students involved with Duke Cru
- Go Blue Devils!!

Students + Professors Head to El Salvador

Faculty Profile: Jaymie Noland, *California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo professor Jaymie Noland chose an unusual destination for her Spring Break trip this year. She joined a team of 29 students and another professor on a mission trip to El Salvador.

Faculty Commons staff member David Zag-Rodny recruited the two professors to minister with the Cal Poly students and local Salvadoran Campus Crusade for Christ staff at the most influential university in the country—Universidad Matias Delgado.

American professors always open doors for ministry on global campuses. “American university professors are tremendously respected internationally, and we were welcomed by top university officials,” David explains.

The two professors spoke in classrooms, at a noontime gathering of Christian students, and to a group of faculty, both Christian and non-Christian.

“Having Cal Poly professors speak really gave our student ministry credibility,” one of the Salvadoran staff told David later. “Professor Noland’s presentation was great. We made connections with 12 professors who now know more about Vida Estudiantil [the Latin American name for Campus Crusade] and are supportive.”

Equally valuable is the impact the two professors had in the lives of the Cal Poly students. “The students loved—loved—ministering alongside professors from their campus,” David reports. “I was reminded of the incredible influence professors can have in the lives of students, and it was really true on this trip.”

Student Anna Harris agrees: “It was so encouraging seeing Cal Poly professors live out their faith in front of us and to have them minister not only to the Salvadoran students, but to us as well.”

For Dr. Noland, that was the highlight of the trip: “I appreciated the opportunity we had to minister on campus and in the community, yet I believe our greatest influence was in the lives of the Cal Poly students. I’d highly recommend other Christian faculty consider participating on a future trip.”



When students were asked, “If you were to go on an international summer project, how would you feel about a group of professors from your school joining in on the project for a week or so to labor alongside of you overseas?” 88% answered, “I’d like that” or “Incredible.”

And they are. David has already recruited two different professors to join Cal Poly students on upcoming trips to El Salvador. When it comes to impacting their campus and their world for Christ, he finds that students and professors work better together! †



(Photos Left to Right): Professor Jaymie Noland with Salvadoran student; Speaking and ministering in El Salvador University classrooms; Professor Noland talking with Universidad Matias Delgado professors at a faculty lunch.

PROF 101: Insights into the World of Professors

Review by Rick Hove, *Helping campus staff reach beyond the student to professors*

Many professors love Jesus and want to be used by God to point others to Him. But the stereotype of “the absent-minded professor who hides in the ivory towers” prevents many people who aren’t as familiar with academia from reaching out to this influential group.

One such group is the over 3,000 Campus Crusade for Christ staff who minister to students on campuses across the U.S. and in other countries. Faculty Commons is encouraging and equipping these staff to reach out to professors and involve them in their ministries to students. Our dream is to send the whole campus—

students and professors together—to change the world. So it is important that staff who are experts in students learn about the world of professors.

Prof 101: Five Things You Need to Know About Professors was written to help Campus Crusade’s student ministry staff understand the world of professors and what makes them tick. The booklet would be valuable to anyone who is concerned about the university and wants to know how to relate to professors and minister to them.

Professors are unique. They work in a world of

ideas and have high I.Q.s and advanced degrees. They have unique positions of great influence, not only over the students they teach but also over the culture we live in.

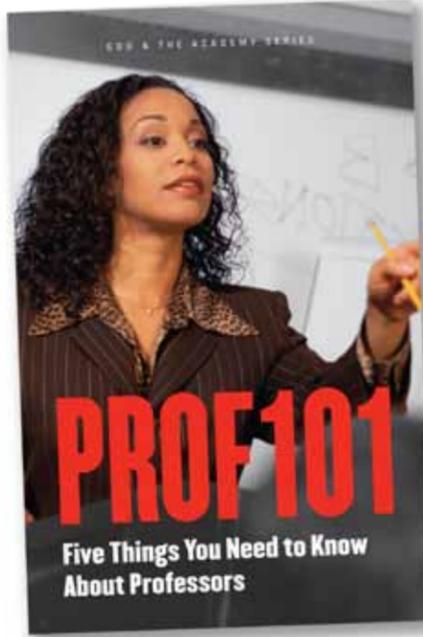
Yet, professors have the same emotional and spiritual needs as the rest of us. Because their work environment is stressful, isolating, and competitive, professors who are believers need the support they can find in a campus minister or Christian friend. They need fellowship and community.

Having recently earned his own Ph.D. in philosophy, author Paul Gould knows the academic world inside and out. He recommends books like C.S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity* or Tim Keller’s *The Reason for God* as books to give to professors. He also recommends taking the time to ask questions and listen. This is the best way to learn about a new environment and to communicate to someone in this new world that you care.

Prof 101 asks a few questions to help you get started and then encourages readers to “step out in faith into the wonderful, challenging, and influential world of professors.”

Visit cruprof.com/launch to read the booklet. †

Faculty Commons is committed to helping staff who work with students look beyond their traditional ministry target to work with professors.



Join with us in Prayer

As you consider the potential influence of professors please pray that God would...

1. Raise up godly, wise, talented Christian professors in the natural sciences, such as biology, chemistry and physics. Now, perhaps more than ever, there is a sweeping movement that attempts to use “science” to disprove God. So much is at stake in this battle.
2. Call a new generation of Christian professors out of the 50,000 students in our Campus Crusade for Christ student groups. This could change the tone in our universities for generations to come.
3. Raise up 2-3 pioneering Christian professors on every campus who can start a Faculty Commons group on their campus.

Investing in the Mission

Your financial investment will enable us to build movements of professors and students to take the hope of Jesus Christ to the world. Will you prayerfully consider partnering with us to help us in this great endeavor? All contributions to *Faculty Commons* are income tax deductible.

Cash donations

Please make your check payable to *Campus Crusade for Christ* and mail to our office:
Faculty Commons; 2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 2700; Plano, Texas 75075
You may give via check or credit card online at: give.ccci.org/give/View/2271527

Maximize your giving to help reach the world for Christ

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Gift and Estate Planning

Professionals at the *Great Commission Foundation* can help you identify your stewardship goals in light of Scripture and develop a strategy to meet those goals minimizing taxes and maximizing Kingdom impact. They are available at no charge to you: www.gcfccc.org



To assist you in any of these ways, please contact our Director of Fund Development, Rich McGee at 972-516-0516 ext. 125.

Fast Facts:

New Mexico State University campus staff helped launch a new faculty ministry this spring, finding professors who were ready to lead.

At the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire seven professors attended training with Campus Crusade for Christ staff focusing on building student ministries.

Students at North Carolina State University launched a strategy to give *Mere Christianity* to their professors.

At the University of Texas nine women professors have met every other week since January to pray for their students and their campus.



Frontlines

Faculty Commons is the faculty ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. We want to hear from you. Please contact us via email at frontlines@facultycommons.org. Faculty Commons, 2001 West Plano Parkway, Suite 2700, Plano, Texas 75075; Phone: 972.516.0516; Web: www.facultycommons.com