

# FRONTLINES

§1

A WINDOW INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES

FEBRUARY 2012

FACULTY COMMONS-CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

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## On a Mission

Rick Hove, Faculty Commons Executive Director



Ask a student "Why are you in this particular class?"

"It was required for my major."

"There is no final exam."

If truth be told it is likely:  
"It was the easiest class I could find that fulfilled my course requirements, met in the afternoon, and didn't meet on Friday."

Students rarely think they are in a classroom because God has them there on a mission.

This weekend I spoke at a large conference of Christian students and challenged them with this thought: "What if God has specifically put you in each class to be an 'aroma of Christ' to your professor?" (2 Corinthians 2:15)

This is something they have never considered.

"Me? You think God can use ME to point my professor to Christ?"

After the shock I discover that most students warm to the idea. "What if," I ask, "at the start of every class, as the professor opens his or her notes and begins the lecture, you silently pray for him or her? Something like this:

Almighty God of the universe, in your mercy open the closed door in this professor's life. Help them see your beauty and your kindness to them in Christ. Please draw them to yourself, for your glory. Use me in any way. Amen."

What might God do if every student in Campus Crusade prayed for each of their professors, at the start of every class, during every semester, for their entire college experience?

It is quite possible that the greatest legacy of these students at their alma mater might be their prayers for their professors.

It was the Apostle Paul who wrote, asking "Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door... to declare the mystery of Christ." (Colossians 4:2) Paul knew that doors were closed, but he knew the One who could open them.

At the conference I enjoyed lunch with a talented student who shared with me his ongoing experience with a particular professor. This class was on gender, and each student was required to write a description of someone who was the archetypal male. The student chose to write about Jesus, which made sense to both of us, but the

professor was not pleased. In the end he received a bad grade for "failure to follow the assignment."

We talked about the professor and her hostility. We pondered various ways to respond that would respect her position and her as an individual, yet enable him to deal with this situation.

By the end of our conversation he felt quite encouraged and sensed that he could actually move their relationship forward by responding in a respectful manner. It helped him to think of his professor as a "real person" and to recognize that God had placed him in her class as a "sent one," as one who could point her to Christ.

The Scriptures are honest about how hardened each of our hearts can become towards God. They do not mince words concerning the hatred that exists in many towards the God who has created them. Some of the most difficult, hardened hearts in the world teach in our universities, though higher education hardly has a corner on hard hearts.

But the Scriptures also plead with us to ask God to open doors for the gospel, to open hearts to him. This is impossible for us to do, a task for which only God is sufficient. Yet how exciting is it to think that God, in response to our prayers, will somehow work in hostile people to open doors?

It's one of our great dreams to unleash tens of thousands of students in Campus Crusade to be "salt and light" in the lives of their professors: to be the generation that fiercely and faithfully asks



"That talk changed my life!" That's what a Clemson student said after hearing Christian professor Heather Holleman speak on the first morning of the Campus Crusade Regional Winter Conference. When professors speak, students listen. And it is not often (if ever!) students hear a professor like Dr. Holleman (English lecturer, Penn State) plead with them to offer their lives fully to the Lord. It was a powerful experience for the 1,000 students who attended.

God to open the closed doors in their professors' lives so that they, too, may know the God who made them.

We invite you to pray with us as Paul modeled, "Almighty God who made everything: Open the doors for the gospel in America's professors and universities, for your glory." †

Executive Director of Faculty Commons since 2005, Rick has also directed the Rice and Duke ministries. 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.

## §2 Visiting Scholars Find Christ

Ministry Profile: Howie and Nance Kauffman, University of Florida



God is at work and He leads His people to those who are eager to know Him personally," say Faculty Commons staff Howie and Nance Kauffman. They find that God is leading visiting scholars and graduate students to the University of Florida from all over the world to hear the gospel.

The Kauffmans lead a Christian faculty group of more than 100 professors at Florida, and they enlist these professors' help in reaching out to the international scholars. For example, Christian professors will host dinners in their homes for the scholars, during which an American professor will share his or her faith story. "They get to enjoy American food and interact with a

handful of American professors about spiritual matters," Nance explains.

Howie and Nance also lead a weekly investigative Bible study where visiting scholars and international graduate students come to learn about Jesus. They invite them over for dinner during the

*Visiting Scholar: A professor on leave who is invited to serve as a member of the faculty of another college or university for a limited period of time, often an academic year.*

year. Nance tells us, "Knowing we care for them and seeing God's love for them are major factors in softening their hearts towards the gospel."

In the last several years, the Kauffmans have shared the gospel with more than 40 visiting scholars. In the past year alone, three professors have trusted Christ!

One was a scholar named Rachel. When Nance first explained the gospel to Rachel, she was not ready to receive Christ but was eager to learn more.

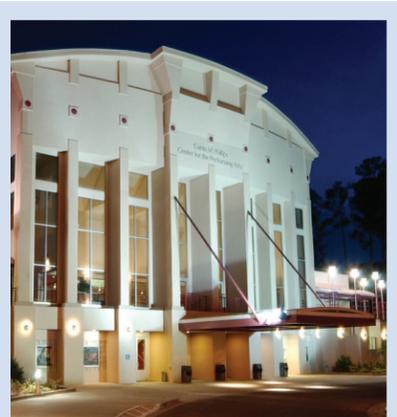
Nance connected Rachel with her friend Doreen who met regularly with Rachel for eight months to help her practice her English, using Scriptures as the text. Two weeks before Rachel returned to her country, she told Doreen that she now was ready to trust Christ.

Rachel called her parents to tell them what she had done. And they were elated! In fact, her father's first words were, "I want to become a Christian, too!"

After she arrived home, Rachel wrote to Nance, "I am so lucky to know you all and accept Christ as my Savior. I think that is my greatest gift of my one year in the U.S." †



Nance with visiting scholars at an evangelistic Easter brunch.



Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

### University of Florida

With an enrollment of more than 50,000 students, UF is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes. It opened its doors in Gainesville in 1906 with 102 students. Ranked No. 3 in the *Princeton Review Best Value Public Colleges* (2011) and No. 17 in *U.S. News & World Report* "Top Public Universities" (August 2010).

• 5,434 faculty members and 35 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Faculty awards include two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA's top award for research, and Smithsonian Institution's conservation award.

• Famous alumni include John Atanasoff (digital computer inventor), Michael Connelly (best-selling mystery novelist), actress Faye Dunaway, actor Buddy Ebsen, and Bob Graham (former US Senator and Florida Governor). UF alumni include nine prior governors of the state of Florida, two Nobel Prize winners, three NASA astronauts and dozens of athletes on both the professional and amateur level.

• Gatorade® is one of hundreds of commercial products resulting from UF research.

• Go Gators!

Photo: University of Florida Photographic Services ©2012

# A Positive Face to Christianity

Faculty Profile: Dr. Susan Siaw, Professor of Developmental Psychology, California State Polytechnic University



A humble follower of Christ. A powerful influence on a secular university campus.

These are colleagues' descriptions of Dr. Susan Siaw, Professor of Developmental Psychology at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She recently won the Erick Nilson Award, which Faculty Commons awards annually to an outstanding Christian professor.

Susan reaches out to both students and colleagues at Cal Poly Pomona with the love of Christ. She organizes the Christian faculty and staff to print ads in the student newspaper that identify them as Christians and link to every-student.com, a website that tells students about Jesus. Susan and some of the other faculty cut out the ads and post them outside their offices—a great conversation starter about spiritual topics with students.

When her university sponsored a lunchtime study of *The God Delusion* by atheist profes-

sor Richard Dawkins, Susan and several other Christian professors joined the discussion. This gave them a chance to dialogue with faculty colleagues about the weaknesses in Dawkins' arguments. But more importantly, Susan and her friends provided a positive "face" to Christianity among their colleagues who are exploring spiritual issues.

True to form, Susan used the \$1000 that accompanies the Nilson Award to host a Favorite Faculty Luncheon at Cal Poly Pomona. The Christian faculty group, along with Christian students from four different student clubs, invited their favorite professors to lunch and to hear Dr. Mary Poplin of Claremont Graduate University speak about her experience serving

with Mother Teresa in Calcutta.

The luncheon opened dialogues about the gospel for Susan with some of her colleagues that continue today.

The Nilson Award is named for agronomy professor Erick Nilson, who offered a similar humble service for Christ as he led the faculty-staff ministry at Kansas State University in the 1980's. Following his home-going in 1990, Dr. Nilson's family set aside funds for Faculty Commons to annually recognize "the men and women of God that He is raising up to forward His cause at the university." Like her fellow award winners, Dr. Susan Siaw is a truly outstanding example of what it means to be a Christian professor. †



Dr. Siaw interacting with students at a recent Pacific Southwest Cru conference.

## Join with us in Prayer

"Is it possible that we do not see God working in mighty ways because we don't ask him to work in mighty ways?" – Collin Hansen and John Woodbridge, forward to *A God-Sized Vision*

1. Pray God would open doors all over the country for students to be a gospel influence in the lives of their professors.
2. Pray for Vanderbilt University, where the administration seeks to mandate that Christian groups cannot "discriminate" by requiring that someone "be a Christian" to be an officer in their groups.
3. Pray we would be able to send professors and students together on mission trips all over the world.

## High-Tech Connection

Like professors at Cal Poly, Christian faculty groups around the country are publishing ads in their campus newspapers that proclaim their faith in Christ. These ads let spiritually-hungry students know who on campus they can seek out for a dialogue about spiritual topics.



languages as well as other information on Christ's identity and claims. So it reaches most international students as well as English-speakers.

"It's a simple strategy to use students' tech compulsiveness to overcome resistance to gospel exposure," WKU communications professor Larry Caillouet explains. He added, "The next venue for the QR code ads? On campus buses. Unlike a campus newspaper that lasts just a few days before it's thrown out, the bus ads can run for weeks or months. And students don't have a lot to occupy themselves with while riding the bus, so I think they will read the ads and follow the QR codes." †

The Christian faculty group at Western Kentucky University recently used this QR code to connect college students with the gospel. They included one in an ad they ran in the campus newspaper in early December.

This QR code links to "Who Is Jesus... Really?" ([www.whoisjesus-really.com](http://www.whoisjesus-really.com)), which offers information about Jesus in 40 different

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# The Meaning of Marriage

Review by Dr. Jay Lorenzen, Faculty Commons Leadership Team and retired Professor of Political Science, Air Force Academy

Laurie and I needed help. You'd think we would have figured this marriage thing out. It's been over 36 years since we said "I do." We've got four married kids, 11 grandkids, and a desire to walk with God. But we had grown lazy over the years. The river of years was carrying us downstream to a port where an "ok" marriage seemed all we could hope for.

Tim and Kathy Keller helped turn us around. Their book, *The Meaning of Marriage*, pointed us

back upstream and put oars in our hands. Why float down to some kind of "qualified lesser" marriage? Marriage is "hard, it's also glorious" the Kellers write. And God intends it to be an adventure worth all our blood, sweat, and tears. This book reminded us that God actually planned to take both the humbling defeats and the exhausting victories of our lives lived together and *mysteriously* display his glory and his Kingdom to the world.

One simple point, in particular, grabbed us.

When God brought the first man his spouse, he brought him not just a lover but the friend his heart had been seeking.

Marriage-as-friendship miraculously combines natural and supernatural elements for the Christ-follower. When our spouse becomes not just our lover and financial partner but our best friend, we move toward adventure and fulfillment—a journey where we help each other become our glory-selves, the new creations that God will eventually make us.

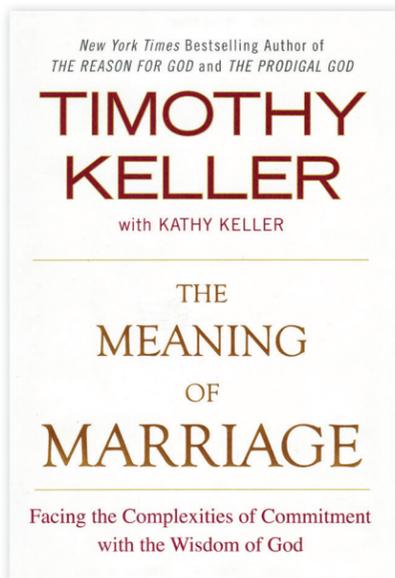
Here are some more of their "friendship" insights:

- Actions of love lead to feelings of love.
- Marriage is a friendship to be nurtured with constancy, transparency, and a common passion. It cannot be merely about itself; but something both friends are committed to and passionate about besides one another. For Christians, that commitment and passion is for Christ.

•Each spouse should commit to being a vehicle for the great work that Jesus is doing in the life of their mate.

•Your spouse IS the "someone better" you're looking for! This is true if you see him or her in terms of the glory God intends for them, a work to which you are called.

Laurie and I wished we had understood more of this. The years of floating downstream might have been fewer. But we're thankful now to take the oar in hand and by God's enabling to work upstream toward both a better and more fulfilling marriage. †



## 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 in this great endeavor? All contributions to Faculty Commons are income tax deductible.

### Cash donations

Make check to Campus Crusade for Christ and mail to Faculty Commons; 2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 2700; Plano, Texas 75075. Or invest online: [give.ccci.org/give/View/2271527](http://give.ccci.org/give/View/2271527)

### Maximize your giving to help reach the world for Christ

Stocks, bonds and mutual funds held for at least a year, which have increased in value since the time purchased, will receive extra tax savings when used as a donation.

### Estate Design

At no charge, professionals at the Great Commission Foundation can help you develop a strategy to meet your financial goals minimizing taxes and maximizing Kingdom impact.



If you need assistance, please contact our Director of Ministry Development, Rich McGee at 214-727-6084 or [rich.mcgee@facultycommons.org](mailto:rich.mcgee@facultycommons.org).

### Support Faculty Commons Staff

Campus Crusade staff trust God for their salary and ministry expenses. You can contribute to individual staff at [www.give.ccci.org/give](http://www.give.ccci.org/give) by typing their name in the search box.

## Fast Facts:

A Christian professor at Western Washington University recently spoke to a large group of students at an outreach, inviting them to put their trust in Christ as their Savior.

Students at the University of Pennsylvania are inviting their professors this month to attend a Veritas Forum Christian outreach with Oxford professor John Lennox.

The faculty ministry at Purdue is sponsoring a February 17th symposium on science and faith, problem of evil, homosexuality, faith and politics, rise of Islam, and the New Atheism.

At UNC-Wilmington four professors will share their testimonies with students and faculty during the *What I Can't Say in the Classroom* event March 1st.



Frontlines is published by Faculty Commons, the faculty ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

- Editor: Bonnie McGee
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- Design: Rich Bostwick

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