

## Plenary Panels Will Address Interfaith Dialogue; Deep Divisions

### INSIDE

**2**  
*Editorial*

---

**3**  
*Plenary Panels cont'd*

---

**4**  
*Europe Region*

---

**6**  
*Asia-Oceania Region*

---

**8**  
*Africa Region*

---

**10**  
*Latin America Region*

---

**12**  
*North America Region*

---

**14**  
*Books*

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN-- Two exciting plenary panels have been added to the program of the third biennial North American Regional Conference, sponsored by IAPCHE and the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). The panels will delve into challenges very relevant to Christian higher education in the North American context and internationally. The first plenary panel, sponsored by the IDEA Fund, will address the challenge of interfaith collaboration and dialogue.

3RD BIENNIAL NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**INTERNATIONALIZING CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*"Learning to Listen, Listening to Learn"*  
JUNE 4 - JUNE 6, 2017 | GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



### *"From A Dialogue of Words to a Dialogue of Action"*



#### Description

Both Christianity and Islam place a high value on learning and the pursuit of truth. Is there space for this to happen in partnership? If so, what shape might that take on a Christian campus? The IDEA Fund panel will include Muslim and Christian faculty and students, who will share what they have learned and how they have grown as they have come together to learn from one another through conversation and work.

#### Panelists

(Pictured left to right above)

- **Saeed Kahn**, Lecturer, Department of History and Near & East Asian Studies, Wayne State University
- **John Barton**, Director of the Center for Faith & Learning and Professor of Religion, Pepperdine University
- **Muhammad Ozair Shareef**, Student, Wayne State University
- **Janey Berends**, Student, Union University
- **Kurt Berends**, Moderator, President of the Issachar Fund and Board Member of the IDEA Fund

Read full plenary bios on IAPCHE's website:  
[www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-panels/idea-fund-bios](http://www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-panels/idea-fund-bios)

*Claiming the Academic Arena*



Harry Fernhout, *Interim Executive Director*

*Secularization* was one of the ongoing seismic shifts in global higher education explored at last year's IAPCHE International Conference at Baekseok University in Korea. Our conference theme noted that national governments, faced

with both religious diversity and burgeoning demand for higher education, often "insist on 'secular' standards for program and institutional accreditation." Keynote speaker Dr Musa Gaiya explained how this pressure to conform plays out in African contexts.

I know from personal experience that dealing with government accrediting agencies can be exasperating. Once, upon hearing my tale of woe about the demands of a review process, a friend suggested that perhaps Christian institutions should simply 'opt out' of processes that have the potential to force them into a secular mold. Perhaps we should just create our own alternative credentialing processes and forego the benefits of mainstream accreditation.

No doubt there are circumstances in which such withdrawal from the academic arena would be warranted. But I believe that institutions that claim a Christian identity should do so only as a last resort.

The first reason why Christian institutions should not opt out institutional and program recognition processes has to do with our starting point as Christian educators: the belief that everything was created and redeemed by God through Jesus Christ, and that he is the key to wisdom and knowledge. Christian higher education exists because we believe that Christ is the Lord of learning – not just learning at Christian institutions, but learning, period. This comprehensive confession requires that we not allow ourselves to be relegated to an educational backwater. Christian higher education should not pursue a strategy that leads to isolation and irrelevance in the wider academic arena. Our calling is witness to Christ as Lord in the center of the academic arena by letting the gospel's redemptive message shine through in our teaching, research and administrative practices.

Ours is a creation-affirming faith. We believe that God's

assessment that the created world was "very good" still holds true, despite the brokenness and pain present everywhere in life. This means the academic arena, though far from perfect, is not all bad either. The academic arena is part of the world God loves, and our calling is to discern a Christian path amid the brokenness and distortion of this area of life. Leaving the arena, or doing our Christian thing in an isolated corner, is not consistent with the confession that Christ is Lord of "all things."

Another reason why Christian institutions should not opt out of accreditation processes (unless absolutely necessary) has to do with our commitment to justice and fairness. If our world (including the academy) belongs to God, and if Christians are legitimate participants in the academic arena, then our students, professors and institutions should be entitled to a level playing field as they carry out their academic calling. Justice and fairness require that our students, faculty and institution have access to the same resources, and be eligible for the same credentials, as other players in the academic arena. While this ideal is seldom realized in our world, it is important that Christians advocate for justice and fairness to the greatest degree possible.

Public review and accreditation processes also present a great opportunity for institutional self-examination and reflection. I recall participating in a review process in which the first assessment standard required the institution to show that the academic character and aspirations of the organization were consistent with the mission statement approved by its governing body. This assessment standard 'forced' our institution not only to reflect on how its mission was embodied in the academic programs, but also to explain this as clearly and winsomely as possible to assessors who did not share our convictions. This is a healthy exercise for any Christian institution. It not only provides an opportunity to reflect on what the institution stands for, but can become an integral part of the institution's Christian witness in the academic arena.

Christians engaged in higher education need to discern continually where God's call to faithfulness leads. In some contexts public accreditation processes may make it impossible to maintain a robust sense of Christian identity. In such circumstances it may be necessary to step out of the mainstream. But Christians should not cede the academic arena to secular principalities and powers without a fight.

The second plenary panel of the conference will address another challenge to Christians in higher education in North America and beyond. The panelists all have experience in dealing with divisive issues and in helping people listen better despite deeply ingrained views and habits.

### ***“Listening and Learning Across Deep Divisions”***



#### **Description**

This panel will explore how Christian campuses can learn to deal with potentially explosive topics that often seem too polarizing to address, or that generate fear and intimidation that shuts down dialogue. Examples are issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, abortion/right to life, and, especially more recently, politics. Panelists will explore where and why genuine discussion stops and what professors, students, and leaders need to know in order to stimulate dialogue and generate a deep sense of community.

#### **Panelists**

(Pictured from left to right above)

- **Skot Welch**, Global Diversity & Inclusion Strategist, Founder of Global Bridgebuilders
- **Ron Kraybill**, Peacebuilding Consultant, Publisher at Riverhouse ePress
- **Claudia Beversluis**, Professor of Psychology and Former Provost at Calvin College
- **Jim Vanden Bosch**, Moderator, Professor of English at Calvin College

Read full plenary bios on IAPCHE's website:  
[www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-panels/deep-divisions-bios](http://www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-panels/deep-divisions-bios)

In addition to these plenary panel sessions, IAPCHE and the CCCU are pleased that Dr. Ruth Padilla-DeBorst and Dr. Faith W. Ngunjiri will be speaking at the conference. You can read more about them in the December 2016 *Contact* newsletter and on [www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-speakers](http://www.iapche.org/naconference/plenary-speakers).

Further, IAPCHE has received 38 proposals for papers, round tables, and panels from 40 different institutions in 12 different countries. Those interested in registering may do so at [www.iapche.org/naconference/register](http://www.iapche.org/naconference/register).

## LCC International University Welcomes New Academic Vice President

KLAIPEDA, LITHUANIA—In January 2017, Dr. J. D. Mininger entered into the role of Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty at LCC International University. Dr. Mininger has had a long relationship with LCC, starting when his parents taught for thirteen years at LCC beginning in 1995. Dr. Mininger began teaching literature and philosophy at LCC in 2007. He also served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2013-16. In addition to his time at LCC, he served as Professor of Philosophy at Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) and Recurrent Visiting Professor at the University of Bologna-Forlì campus in Italy.



Dr. Mininger received a Bachelors in Arts in History and German Language & Literature from Goshen College in Indiana, U.S.A. He completed his PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota in 2006. His scholarly work and teaching engages the intersections of philosophy, literature, and politics. Mininger has published on philosophy and style in the works of Søren Kierkegaard, Immanuel Kant, and the poet Paul Celan; he has made contributions to the fields of political philosophy, in areas such as sovereignty and human rights, and aesthetic theory, focused on such topics as late style, irony, and allegory; he is editor (with Jason Michael Peck) of *German Aesthetics: Fundamental Concepts from Baumgarten to Adorno* (Bloomsbury, 2016) and editor (with Leonidas Donskis) of *Politics Otherwise: Shakespeare as Social and Political Critique* (Rodopi, 2012). He is a senior editor at the *Baltic Journal of Law and Politics*, managing editor of the philosophy-focused *Value Inquiry Book Series* (VIBS) at Brill (Leiden/Boston), and editor of the VIBS subseries *Philosophy, Literature, and Politics*.

Dr. Mininger is a strong advocate of the liberal arts model of education in Lithuania, Europe, and beyond. He has given

numerous public lectures on liberal arts education and participated in public debates about the importance and benefits of this model for students and society. He has given interviews for print and television journalists in the region, raising the visibility of liberal arts ideas and practices for academics as well as the general public in the Baltics.

When asked about the strengths of LCC International University's Christian liberal arts education model, Dr. Mininger explains: "Like any university worthy of the liberal arts identity, LCC provides students with multiple knowledges gained from a broad general education platform combined with expertise in a major field and we amplify the usefulness of all our degree programs through the development of particularly strong skills in communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. But at LCC liberal arts is not merely a curricular model, it's an institutional ethos—one which extends from active classroom pedagogy to developing student leadership skills to the deeply held beliefs that students are not numbers and our university does not exist to simply manufacture graduates. LCC's highly diverse international student body thrives within our Christian liberal arts environment because every LCC student is valued and respected as a unique individual and singular voice. We train students to be socially committed, self-reflective, active citizens and professionals. It is this liberal arts ethos, this commitment to critical thinking and self-awareness of one's values and cultural assumptions, that I think sets LCC apart from many other universities in the region and in Europe; it's certainly one of the most significant reasons that I am pleased and proud to contribute to both academic leadership and classroom teaching at LCC."

Dr. Mininger follows Dr. Kirk Kauffeldt (*pictured below*), who



served as Academic Vice President from 2013-2016. Dr. Kauffeldt has taken a new position external to LCC, but he

and his wife Shelley continue to reside in Klaipeda and remain closely connected to LCC.

Image and original story from:

<https://www.lcc.lt/new-academic-vice-president-j-d-mininger/>

**Papers from 2016 IAPCHE European Regional Conference Featured in Vocation Theme Issue of *Christian Higher Education Journal***

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A.-*Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory and Practice* recently published a Special Issue on the theme "A Distinctive of Christian Higher Education: Educating for Vocation." This issue consists of papers presented at an April 12-16, 2016, conference hosted by



the European region of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE). The conference was held at a former convent in Biezenmortel in the Netherlands. Drawing together more than 70 participants (pictured below), the conference was titled "Challenging Vocation in Higher Education."

Four scholars from the Netherlands served as Guest Editors of the special journal issue: Bram de Muijnck (Driestar Christian University); Pieter Vos (Protestant Theological University); Jan Hoogland (VIAA University); and Jan van der Stoep (Ede Christian University).



IAPCHE Board member Karen Longman (Azusa Pacific University, pictured above right), co-editor-in-chief of the journal, highlighted the importance of the theme of vocation in her editorial. She wrote as follows:

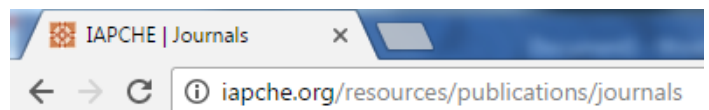
At a time when many young people are adrift and asking the big questions of life, scholars have noted the importance of using the "critical years" of higher education to help students address issues of purpose and calling. Within the context of the

United States, for example, a major study determined that more than 80% of college students identified finding their purpose in life as an important desired outcome of their college years. In fact, questions about meaning and purpose became gradually more pressing over the course of undergraduate education. (Astin, A. W., Astin, H. S., & Lindholm, J. A. (2011). *Cultivating the spirit: How college can enhance students' lives*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2011)



Across the variety of postsecondary institutions worldwide, Christian higher education represents the most natural setting to support students in understanding their gifts and discerning their calling. Our hope is that this "vocation" theme issue of CHE not only continues to expand the international reach of the journal by drawing upon European expertise, but also that Christian institutions worldwide will gain insights from these articles to serve our students more effectively. Buechner summarized the concept of vocation as "the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." (Buechner, F. *Wishful thinking: A theological ABC*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1973. P.95) May our institutions increasingly become places where students are encouraged and equipped to more deeply understand their "deep gladness" and through receiving a Christ-centered education to meet the "deep hunger" of the world in transformative ways.

IAPCHE is grateful to have played a role is assisting with the European conference and delighted that the fruit of this event can now be shared with Christians in higher education globally. Members of IAPCHE in good standing have full access to the contents of *Christian Higher Education* on the Resources section of the website.



## IAPCHE Asia-Oceania Hosts Faculty Enrichment Program in Kolkatta, India



KOLKATTA, INDIA—A challenging and meaningful training was held for 34 registrants at the Faculty Enrichment Program (FEP) in Kolkatta held February 5-8, 2017, in SCEPTRE, Schrachi Centre, Kolkatta, India. This highly successful program of the IAPCHE Asia-Oceania Region with the theme “Being a Christian Teacher: Prospects and Challenges” was co-sponsored by Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI)

The four-day training was inaugurated by Dr. Joseph Dunston (pictured below left, in center), Vice Chancellor, St. Joseph's University, Nagaland, India. In his inaugural address he stressed the importance of curriculum design and the significant role of educators in this process. Further, he showed that dedication and commitment of teachers was vital.



Dr. Geoff Beech (pictured left, third from right) gave the Keynote address as well as two lectures which stimulated discussions and were regularly referred back to during the program. Dr. Beech's lectures helped the participants to realize that they are all part of God's story. The focus of the keynote session was transforma-tive andragogy for transformational learning. This topic was related to the conference theme of the prospects and chal-enges faced by Christian teachers in higher education. The first session provided a Biblical foundation for teaching; in particular the positioning of teachers, students, and curricula, within God's Grand Narrative or Drama. He stressed the importance of engaging with the entire narrative of Scripture in order to do this. In this, Dr. Beech emphasized, the Biblical foundation provides the origin, value, and purpose for education and also underscores God's ownership of all truth.



The second and third sessions focused on theoretical perspectives on reclaiming truth within a relational epistemology framework. In these sessions, references were made to transformative andragogy literature. In a discussion, the transformation of world pictures and worldviews on assumptions, beliefs, and practices was explored. These world pictures and wordviews, they argued, can be influenced in education by the lifeworlds of students—including in the curriculum and hidden curriculum. Further, the power of world picture and worldview filters were credited with having power to create and conserve misconceptions; thus, they argued, educators have an important role in identifying and resolving misconceptions.

# FACULTY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM REPORT

Finally, the participants discussed how all education is transformational in one way or another, though many factors contribute to the final outcome.

Dr. Andrew Smith's (pictured right, in center) session ensured the active involvement of all participants and kindled their creative thinking. Dr. Smith expressed happiness that he could address the group which came from a wide range of institution and disciplines. He said it was encouraging to be a part of rich conversation and Christ-centred worship. Again following the FEP theme of transformational education, the afternoon workshop on February 6 focused on the aspects of work that either facilitate or hinder transformation. The conference speakers sought to go beyond discussing theory and into practical application.

Three areas of focus were present in the conversations: institutional and contextual issues; student-related aspects; and faculty matters. In considering responses to the theme, one conversation point seemed to strike a chord: the difference between a goal and a desire. The conference participants considered that a goal is something one wants to happen and for which one can take responsibility. In comparison, a desire is something one wants to happen but it is outside of one's ability to make it happen. The participants agreed that when they make what is really only a desire into a goal then they easily become stressed and anxious, perhaps even manipulative and controlling of others. It was clear in the conversation that transformation starts with the participants themselves – and that is something they can do something about!

Mr. Arun Gladwin conducted a session in which he demonstrated how games can be used as invigorating teaching methods which can bring students out of monotony. Some games he facilitated as examples with all the participants were: T Game, Balloon Game and also 7 Up.

The participants were fortunate to attend two highly stimulating Bible Studies conducted by Rev. Dr. Philip Peacock and Rev. Dr. V.J. John on Day 2 and Day 4. There was time for singing and the group sang songs in different languages. A highlight of the morning worship sessions was on Day 4 when a team of students from Bishop's College, Kolkatta, led the worship. Also on Day 4, the participants had the opportunity to visit Mother Teresa Home and Serampore University.

In the concluding session conducted by Dr. Andrew Smith, the participants were asked to share feedback and observations. The feedback was quite encouraging as participants made with highly positive observations. Many of them shared in the group how they would make use of what they learned from the FEP in their journey as Christian educators.

The program was organized by Mr. Inbaraj Jayakumar, General Secretary of Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI); Ms. Jessica Chakraborty, Program Secretary, SCMI; and Dr. J. Dinakaral (pictured right), Regional Director, IAPCHE, Asia-Oceania Region.

*Article and photos provided by Dr. J. Dinakaral, Regional Director, IAPCHE, Asia Oceania Region.*



## North-West University Holds Fifth Enterprising Women Program at Vaal Triangle Campus

VANDERBIJLPARK, SOUTH AFRICA--For the fifth year in a row, North-West University's (NWU's) Enterprising Women Program (EWP) will be held. The program has positively impacted more than 50 female entrepreneurs - who in turn have gone on to impact the lives of countless others.

This entrepreneurship-focused short learning program represents a dynamic collaboration between the bhive Enterprise Development Centre (bhive EDC) on the Vaal Triangle Campus of the NWU and Aequis Consulting South Africa.

For the duration of the next eight months a diverse group of sixteen women will set out on a journey of entrepreneurial exploration and business success. The aim of the learning program is to empower female entrepreneurs to overcome challenges and to develop their business ideas into relevant, sustainable and income generating enterprises.



The eight month programme is geared to provide business support services to women who wish to establish their own businesses. During the course of the program, participants will be able to explore ideas, develop business models and subsequently initiate their businesses with confidence and entrepreneurial know-how.

Since its inception in 2013 the program has grown significantly and has also been extended to Sasolburg and Pretoria. The program coordinator is Leonie Greyling, an entrepreneurship development professional. Contributing further to the program are a team of experienced presenters representing both academia and the business sector.

*Original story and image from: <http://news.nwu.ac.za/ewp-2017-%E2%80%93-inspiring-and-empowering-female-entrepreneurs>*

## Uganda Christian University and Mengo Hospital to Launch Medical School in May 2017

MUKONO, UGANDA--Uganda Christian University (UCU) in partnership with Mengo Hospital signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the so called Medical School



Project on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. The MOU was signed at the Church of Uganda Provincial Offices in presence of the The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali, the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda and Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, and also Patron of Mengo Hospital.

Also present was Rt. Rev. Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira, the Bishop of Namirembe Diocese. Others were the Mengo Hospital Board members and its Senior Management, UCU Senior Management, Members of the Provincial Secretariat of the Church of Uganda, and the Press.

The UCU Vice Chancellor, Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi,



informed members that the Medical School will start admitting students in the Trinity (May) Semester with not more than 50 students for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) programme and 20 for Bachelor of Dental Science program.

His Grace Stanley Ntagali congratulated both institutions for the milestone achieved. "We thank the Lord for this great thing He has done for both UCU, "a Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa", and Mengo Hospital, the oldest hospital in Uganda, both of which are Church founded institutions".

Mr. James Serufusa, the Chair of the Mengo Hospital Board was gratified that a Medical School was to start at Mengo Hospital, which was the dream of the Founder, Sir Albert Cook.

*Original story and image from: <http://ucu.ac.ug/news-and-events/230-the-medical-school-may-2017>*



## Two Uganda Christian University Programs Receive National Attention

MUKONO, UGANDA--Recently two of Uganda Christian University's (UCU's) degree programs received global recognition. The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), a global accounting body of accountants and Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) accredited its Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program.



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

*A Complete Education for A Complete Person*

This happened at a time when UCU law degree holders were officially accredited to apply for the bar course in England and Wales. This means that UCU law graduates possess the required standards to apply for a bar course in the United Kingdom (UK) and become barristers (equivalent to an advocate in Uganda) in UK.

The accreditation of UCU's BBA program came with an exemption of six papers for UCU BBA graduates interested in becoming ACCA members according to Patrick Mubangizi, the coordinator ACCA & CPA at UCU.

"This means that a person who graduated with a bachelor's degree of Business Administration majoring in Accounting will only do 8 papers out of 14," he said adding, "For those intending to do CPA, the accreditation team from Uganda exempted us five papers."



Commenting on the certification, Mr. Godfrey Sempungu (*pictured left*), the Associate Dean Faculty of Business and Administration said, "This stamp of approval is a testament to the rigor of the program and the readiness of our graduates to join the accounting profession."

The exemption followed a review of the UCU faculty of business curriculum and examination by the ACCA examination & accreditation team from UK that found it solid.

The faculty of Business & Administration recently introduced a center for professional programs, which will enable students to continue studying at UCU main campus in Mukono,

and get requirements of joining the professions (CPA and ACCA) after their degree program.

The development has been well received by UCU BBA students majoring in accounting such as Prossy Natukunda who described it as a blessing, "Those professional courses are expensive, but when you are exempted some, the burden of paying is reduced." "It is easier for someone to continue after her/his degree and finish the professional course. With ACCA and CPA, you can work anywhere as a certified accountant."

The accreditation comes on the heels of yet another recognition of UCU law graduates who can now apply for a bar course in England and Wales.

Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Anthony Kakooza (*pictured right*), the Dean of the Faculty of Law at UCU said the global recognition widens the market for UCU law graduates. Graduates will no longer be constrained if the Uganda Law Development Centre (LDC) shuts the door on them. "They should know that there are other places to practice as long as it is a common world vetting."



Similarly, Francis Gimara (*pictured below left*), the President of Uganda Law Society said in a phone conversation with The Standard, a UCU community newspaper run by students at UCU's Mass Communications department: "That is a confirmation of the high standards of the UCU law degree. I would like to congratulate the staff and leadership of the



faculty for this important milestone. It means more opportunities for the graduates to be part of the British barristers. We look forward to working with more lawyers that can practice both in Uganda and in the UK."

*Original story and images from: <http://ucu.ac.ug/news-and-events/256-two-ucu-degree-programs-get-global-recognition>*

## Universidad Evangélica Argentina (UNEVA) in Process of Formation

MAR DEL PLANTA, ARGENTINA--The creation of the Evangelical University of Argentina was approved on August 26, 2016, at the 88th National Assembly of the Evangelical Baptist Confederation (CEB) of Argentina held in Mar del Plata. The CEB, which represents most of the Argentinian Baptist churches, constituted on March 10, 2017, in Buenos Aires, a civil association destined to create the "Universidad Evangélica Argentina" (UNEVA). An extraordinary assembly of about 150 delegates from 46 Baptist churches in different parts of the country approved by absolute majority the statute and the new legal entity that will aim to "serve the community by promoting higher education."



This is the first legal step "under whose legal status the university should function," explained the promoters of what is now known as the Asociación Universidad Evangélica Argentina (ACUNEVA).



The approved regulation will be submitted to the General Inspectorate of Justice (IGJ), which can promote such changes as deemed necessary. Such changes must, in turn, be accepted by the three representatives appointed by the assembly for that purpose.

This university will be formed based on the experience and infrastructure of the International Theological Baptist Seminary (pictured above). In Argentina, at present, there is only one Protestant Evangelical university: the Universidad del Centro Educativo Latinoamericano (UCEL), in the city of Santa Fe, Rosario, which originated in the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina.

## Two Christian Universities in Brazil Plan Joint Celebration Marking the 500 Years Since the Reformation

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL--In the same year that we celebrate 500 years since the Reformation, the Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA), in partnership with the Mackenzie Presbyterian University of São Paulo, will hold an International Seminar, "Reformation 500 Years: Education, Science and Culture". The event will take place on April 24 and 25 in Mackenzie University in the city of São Paulo, as well as on the ULBRA Canoas campus, between the 25th and 27th of April. There will be conference presentations, thematic panels, oral presentations, and cultural activities. These are all aimed at multi and interdisciplinary debate on the movement that caused a social and political revolution, spreading throughout the world through art, culture, education, science, but mainly in the process of individual consciousness and the construction of the so-called modernity.

"We want to discuss not only the strictly religious aspects, but to broaden this approach. The Reformation had social, economic, cultural and also educational impacts, as is our case, because it was born inside a university, through a university professor" explained the Rector Fernando Ziemer.

"ULBRA and Mackenzie understand that they are heirs of the Reformation in education, science and culture in the 21st century and want to propose mediations so that this legacy can be permanently updated and can contribute to the dynamism of the Brazilian academic context", he added.

The Seminar will be held simultaneously in the two universities, and there will be an interchange between the members of the conferences and the thematic panels.



**Universidad Evangélica de El Salvador (UEES): Inauguration of the Integrated Center for Mediation and Legal Aid**

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR--On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, the Universidad Evangélica de El Salvador (UEE) through its Faculty of Legal Sciences, officially inaugurated the new "Integrated Center for Mediation and Legal Aid of



the UEES " (CIMSJ). This effort exemplified UEE's commitment to promote solutions to the needs and problems of the Salvadorian society. The center seeks to be a space for the solution of conflicts through a voluntary and impartial process in the areas of family, patrimony, among others.

The opening of this center represents a contribution of great relevance for the population, becoming the first Center for Mediation in Higher Education Institutions in El Salvador, to promote the solution of conflicts at personal or collective level, without the need of resorting to violence or judicial instances, generating an atmosphere of harmony and a culture of peace.



As part of the development of the event, Sonia Elizabeth Cortez de Madriz, Attorney General of the Republic of El Salvador was present at the event, as well as Cesar Emilio Quinteros, Rector UEES, Mario Juarez, Dean of the Faculty of Legal Sciences, Manuel González, Director of CIMSJ, university authorities, special guests and media representatives.

**Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua Recognized for 50 Years of Service to the Community**

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA--The Baptist Convention of Nicaragua (CBN), presented the Universidad Polytécnica de Nicaragua (UPOLI) a diploma of recognition for the work done in 50 years since the foundation of the university. The distinction was received by the Rector of UPOLI, Dr. Lidya Ruth Zamora, and Vice Rector Tomás Téllez Ruiz (pictured below), in a ceremony held on March 26 in the Baptist College of Managua.



A high distinction named after Dr. Arturo Parajón Domínguez, the first fully-trained national Baptist minister in Nicaragua, was given to the governing authorities of UPOLI. The President of CBN, Roberto López Duarte, explained, "This is a medal which is given to the men and women who have made merits in the Baptist work in these 100 years."



## The King's University Professor Honored by Geographic Society

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA--Dr. Harry Spaling, founder of the Environmental Studies Program at The King's University, received the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction from the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) at its annual awards banquet March 4, 2017.

Spaling's academic work has centred on international development and conservation agriculture in Kenya.

According to his nomination, "Building on practical experience working as an agriculturist and country director for World Renew in Sierra Leone, Dr. Spaling has devoted his academic career to building meaningful relationships with African scholars, development organizations, and environmental initiatives and to applying the tools of environmental assessment to evaluate and improve development activities."



Spaling is the director of the Environmental Studies Program and has also served in other roles at The King's University, including as Vice President Academic.

Vice President for Student Life Dr. Michael Ferber said Spaling "has enhanced the scholarly life of The King's University in countless ways and inspired many students to pursue the field of International Development." Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography Dr. Joanne Moyer wrote in Spaling's nomination that he has worked closely with numerous students over the years. "Many undergrad and graduate students have joined him in Kenya, researching and working within rural communities, coming back inspired and passionate about international development," she said.

Spaling has been published in journals such as *Environmental Assessment, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, Development in Practice, EIA Review, International Journal of Educational Development, Conservation and Society* and others.

The King's University is northern Alberta's only Christian liberal arts university, with fully accredited programs and a diversity of degrees. The university's mission is to provide an education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King. Learn more at [www.kingsu.ca](http://www.kingsu.ca)

The William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction recognizes both lifetime and single major contributions to the discipline of geography, and is named after a former and distinguished long-time member of the Department of Geography at the University of Alberta.

Original story and images from: <https://www.kingsu.ca/about-us/news/post/king-s-professor-dr-harry-spaling-honoured-by-geographic-society>

## Calvin College Hosts 11th Annual Student-Run Faith and International Development Conference

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, USA--The 11th Annual Faith and International Development Conference (FIDC) was held at Calvin College

from February 9-11, 2017. As with the past 10 conferences, this conference was planned and organized



entirely by students with the support of faculty advisors. This year's theme, "The Power of Hope" sought to "take an honest look at brokenness, both in the United States and around the world, and discuss the hope that can be found in its midst."

Speakers at the conference were Jason Fileta, Director of the Micah Challenge U.S.A.; Bruce Wydick, Professor of Economics and International Studies at University of San Francisco; Phionah Bogere and Joy Kaufman, Founders and Trainers at FARM STEW International; Jenny Yang, Vice President of Advocacy and Policy at World Relief; Daniel Jean-Louis, Co-author of *From Aid to Trade: How Aid Organizations, Businesses, and Governments Can Work Together*; and Rick Burnette, Director of Agriculture at ECHO International.

Original story and images from: <https://calvin.edu/news/archive/conference-educates-inspires-equips-students-for-international-development>

**Kuyers Institute Conference Announcement and Call for Papers**



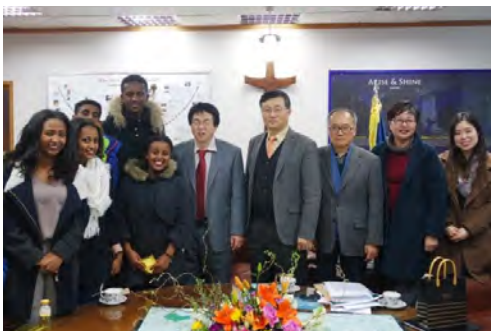
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.--The Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce its upcoming 2017 conference, *Christian Teaching and Learning: Pathways and Possibilities*, to be held October 5-7, at the Prince Center, Calvin College. The conference invites paper submissions that deepen and extend conversations about themes such as justice, spirituality, virtues, practice, and imagination. How can these approaches help us understand the connection between "Christian" and "teaching and learning"? Scholarly papers are welcome from any discipline or area of educational activity and should focus on some aspect of pedagogy; theoretical and historical studies as well as accounts of practice are acceptable.

Paper proposals of 1-2 pages, including 100-word abstracts, should be sent via e-mail to [kuyers@calvin.edu](mailto:kuyers@calvin.edu) no later than May 12, 2017. For the full call for papers and registration information, visit [www.calvin.edu/kuyers/](http://www.calvin.edu/kuyers/).

**Handong Global University Hosts Ethiopian Students in Program to Nurture Global Talent**

POHANG, SOUTH KOREA--Handong Global University (HGU) created a specialized project called the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Global Creative and Innovative Human Talents Nurturing Foundation in July 2014. It was selected by the Ministry of Education with a goal to nurture

creative and innovative global talents using ICT; to bring together students in various majors to recognize on-site prob-



lems and create solutions; to host visiting global enterprises; and to operate research with international organizations and in regional studies.

From February 18-25, the ICT based Global Creative and Innovative Human Talents Nurturing Foundation hosted an invitational program for Ethiopian university students. The event was intended to raise the interest in the project in African regions as well as revitalize mutual exchange between the two countries. The program had originally been inspired by a meeting in September 2016, in which President Soon-Heung Chang met with Abdula Gameda Dago of the House of Representatives in Ethiopia in Korea and granted him an honorary doctoral degree.

For this event, which came to fruition five months later, the House of Representatives in Ethiopia recommended five students to the program. They arrived on Saturday, February 18, and spend the next days meeting with professors and students at HGU as well as visiting significant industrial and economic sites in the area.

During one of the visits, one member of the group, Ms.

Luhama Abebe, whose father is the Mayor of Adama, Ethiopia, met the Mayor of Pohang, Kangduk Lee (pictured right). She delivered personally



hand-written letter from her father, hoping for mutual exchange between the two cities. In response, the Mayor of Pohang said, "Future development potentials are high. I hope that both cities will begin various exchanges in the future."

About the program, one of the participants from Ethiopia, Bernavas Fossil said, "I really appreciate joining this program at Handong Global University. It was very impressive to visit wider and focused facilities that are unlike Ethiopia." A Korean participant, Seungkyu Jin, said, "I was so proud of my country, Korea, when I looked around at the major industrial facilities and cultural heritage sites with my new Ethiopian friends. I guess that both the students from Ethiopia and Handong stimulated each other during this period."

Original story and images from:

<https://www.handong.edu/eng/news/news/?mode=view&id=28545&group=0>

Perry Glanzer (Baylor University, USA), a keynote speaker at IAPCHE's Eighth International Conference at Baekseok University in Korea, is the co-author of a major new book on *Restoring the Soul of the University*. Glanzer's co-authors are Nathan Alleman (Baylor University, USA) and Todd Ream (Taylor University, USA).



IAPCHE congratulates Perry Glanzer and his colleagues on the completion of this major publication. A review of the book will be included in a future issue of *Contact*.



## **Restoring the Soul of the University: Unifying Christian Higher Education in a Fragmented Age**

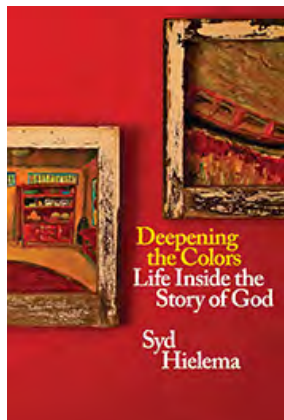
By Perry Glanzer, Nathan E. Alleman, & Todd C. Ream

InterVarsity Press, March 2017

Has the American university gained the whole world but lost its soul? In terms of money, prestige, power, and freedom, American universities appear to have gained the academic world. But at what cost? We live in the age of the

fragmented multiversity that has no unifying soul or mission. The multiversity in a post-Christian culture is characterized instead by curricular division, the professionalization of the disciplines, the expansion of administration, the loss of community, and the idolization of athletics. The situation is not hopeless. According to Perry Glanzer, Nathan Alleman, and Todd Ream, Christian universities can recover their soul—but to do so will require reimagining excellence in a time of exile, placing the liberating arts before the liberal arts, and focusing on the worship, love, and knowledge of God as central to the university. *Restoring the Soul of the University* is a pioneering work that charts the history of the university and casts an inspiring vision for the future of higher education.

Dordt College is an institutional member of IAPCHE and was one of its founding members in 1975. The next two books were published by Dordt College Press.



## **Deepening the Colors: Life Inside the Story of God**

By Syd Hielema

Dordt Press, September 2014

The purpose of this book is to explore questions like, "What is my place in God's world?" and "What am I called to do and be, and how do I know?" These questions often take us through fogs of confusion, and they also drive us to our knees.

But Jesus does not usually answer our prayers with a great light that instantly melts away our fog. His way tends to respond to our questions with more questions, deeper questions, questions that expand our range of vision as though he is taking us up in an airplane to help us see the bigger picture, the bigger questions. The question, "What is my place in God's world?" is a bit like asking, "How does the one piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is my life fit into this multi-million piece picture?" To process that question, we need to know the shape and color of our particular piece, and we need some sense of the entire picture.

*Deepening the Colors* describes that bigger picture before arriving at the "What am I called to do?" question in its last chapter. Along the way, Hielema explores what it means to grow to maturity in Christ, how this maturity relates to God's original intentions for humankind (before the fall into sin) as creatures made in his image, and how our callings fit inside the coming of the kingdom of God.



## **Exercising Our Worldview: A Collection of Essays**

By Charles Adams

Dordt Press, December 2014

These 139 brief essays originated as five-minute radio commentaries. Soon after coming to Dordt College in 1979, Charles Adams established a habit of writing for the "Plumbline" program on the college's radio station (KDCR 88.5 FM)—the last of which was broadcast early on in 2008. He saw these pieces

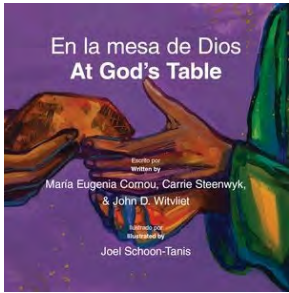
as an opportunity to refine and articulate his own perspective on technology as much as a way of stimulating thinking, discussion, and right living in the broader community.

In 1991 he recognized the opportunity to use the essays as fodder for classroom discussion, distributing them under a pen name so that students would feel free to openly express their reactions and responses. These essays may at times inspire you, anger you, surprise and delight you, ultimately they have been written to push you beyond "the crowd" by enabling you to see with Holy Spirit-filled eyes what faithfulness to God's Word might look like. Adams' goal is that you too, by God's grace, may be delivered from the crowd and into the light of Christ, to fully become who you have been created to be! In Dr. Adams' words, these essays "make no claim to doctrinal purity, absolute truth, inerrancy, infallibility, or orthodoxy. They represent rather a humble attempt to wrestle with some of the problems faced by Christians as they try to live in faithfulness to the Word of God."

---

**\*Please note that the reviews shown here are taken directly from the publishers' promotional materials and should not be considered a review of the books by IAPCHE.**

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) is an affiliate member of IAPCHE and will be participating in the upcoming Internationalizing Christian Higher Education Conference in June 2017. IAPCHE congratulates CICW on this publication!

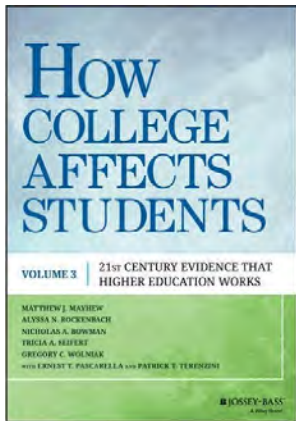


**En la Mesa de Dios/At God's Table**

By María Eugenia Cornou, Carrie Steenwyk, & John Witvliet  
Calvin College Press, April 2017

*En la mesa de Dios/At God's Table* is a bilingual (Spanish-English) children's book that explores the richly symbolic practice of the Lord's Supper in

Christian worshipping communities. In this vividly illustrated book, the celebration of the Lord's Supper unfolds as a multi-faceted event that nourishes our faith and stirs our imagination to see the gifts of grace and signs of God's ongoing work in our lives and God's world.



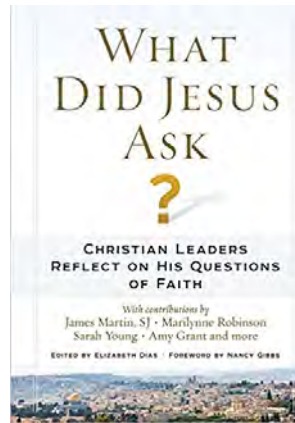
**How College Affects Students: 21st Century Evidence That Higher Education Works**

By Matthew J. Mayhew, Alyssa N. Rockenback, Nicholas A. Bowman, Tricia A. SD. Seifert, Gregory C. Wolniak, Pascarella, and Ernest T. Patrick T. Terenzini  
Jossey-Bass, September 2016

*How College Affects Students* synthesizes over 1,800 individual research investigations to provide a deeper

understanding of how the undergraduate experience affects student populations. Volume 3 contains the findings accumulated between 2002 and 2013, covering diverse aspects of college impact, including cognitive and moral development, attitudes and values, psychosocial change, educational attainment, and the economic, career, and quality of life outcomes after college. Each chapter compares current findings with those of Volumes 1 and 2 (covering 1967 to 2001) and highlights the extent of agreement and disagreement in research findings over the past 45 years. The structure of each chapter allows readers to understand if and how college works and, of equal importance, for whom does it work. This book is an invaluable resource for administrators, faculty, policy-makers, and student affairs practitioners, and provides key insight into the impact of their work.

Amidst the current introspection and skepticism surrounding higher education, there is a massive body of research that must be synthesized to enhance understanding of college's effects. *How College Affects Students* compiles, organizes, and distills this information in one place, and makes it available to research and practitioner audiences; Volume 3 provides insight on the past decade, with the expert analysis characteristic of this seminal work.



**What Did Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith**

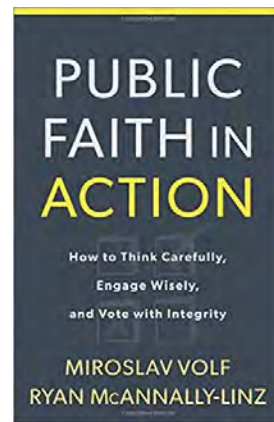
Edited by Elizabeth Dias  
Time Inc. Books, October 2015

In *What Did Jesus Ask?*, more than 70 of today's most prominent spiritual writers, religious leaders and artists offer modern meditations on the questions Jesus asks in the Bible. Their contemplations provide telling context, with both contemporary and traditional interpretations to lead readers on an

exploration of their own faith and to shape their own meaningful answers.

As a teacher, Jesus Christ put many of his lessons in the form of questions. The gospels recorded some 100 others. Some are rhetorical, needing no answer, but most were real questions posed to real people. Many of Jesus' questions are familiar to readers today, yet the context and the potential interpretations of such phrases will offer enlightenment to many.

Contributors include bestselling singer/songwriters Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, Christian leaders Barbara Taylor and Cardinal Wuerl of Washington, and bestselling authors James Martin and Sarah Young, and many more. Including a foreword by Nancy Gibbs, bestselling author and managing editor of TIME magazine, *What Did Jesus Ask?* is a thought-provoking volume for both readers interested in religious thought and understanding the teachings of Jesus better.



**Public Faith in Action: How to Think Carefully, Engage Wisely, and Vote with Integrity**

By Miroslav Volv and Ryan McAnnally-Linz  
Brazos Press, June 2016

Christian citizens have a responsibility to make political and ethical judgments in light of their faith and to participate in the public lives of their communities--from their local neighborhoods to the national scene. But it can be difficult to

discern who to vote for, which policies to support, and how to respond to the social and cultural trends of our time.

This nonpartisan handbook offers Christians practical guidance for thinking through complicated public issues and faithfully following Jesus as citizens of their countries. The book focuses on enduring Christian commitments that should guide readers in their judgments and encourages legitimate debate among Christians over how to live out core values. The book also includes lists of resources for further reflection in each chapter and "room for debate" questions to consider.

# CONTACT

Contact is the official newsletter of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE). It is published quarterly as a way of informing its members about news from across the many world regions in which IAPCHE operates. If you have any news items you would like to share with IAPCHE's members worldwide, please contact IAPCHE at

3201 Burton Street SE,  
Raybrook Bldg. Suite 204,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546, USA  
office@iapche.edu  
www.iapche.org  
616-526-7906



## ABOUT IAPCHE

IAPCHE is a network of institutions and individuals worldwide committed to advancing Christian education through training, capacity building, scholarship, and networking in ways that reflect both the universal (shared view of Christ's centrality in our identity and work) and the local (attending to the specific realities and practices of where and who we serve).

**IAPCHE's Mission** is to develop a network that facilitates contact and mutual assistance, acts as a catalyst for research and training, and encourages biblical and contextual responses to the critical issues in contemporary society, so as to help people serve the Lord Jesus Christ in an integral way.

---



### **Have news you would like to share with other IAPCHE members?**

Members may email articles to [office@iapche.org](mailto:office@iapche.org).

We suggest articles contain 400 words or less.

Thank you for your membership!