



When Faith Shines Through

June 2017

"Four different professors introduced themselves as Christians on the first day of class. It has been so encouraging to know that I am not alone on campus as a believer."

-- University of North Texas student



Hers was one of many stories we have heard over the years of students who either found their faith strengthened, or found faith in Christ for the first time.

A Texas Woman's University student involved with Cru recently told Sarah "I could tell which of my professors were Christians – it was so obvious by how they treated their students."

It may have been a prof's remark in class; the jokes they didn't tell. Students seek out professors whose love for Christ and love for their students stands out. Profs we work with have told us of their conversations:



- A Univ of Oklahoma student stops by and says "Dr. T, I am not a student in your class, but I have heard that you are a Christian. I think you are the one who can help me" [dealing with a difficult family situation].
- A Univ of North Texas student meets for coffee with Dr. M for an entire semester and explores what it means to become a Christian.
- A Univ of North Texas student wrestles with the truthfulness of the Bible with "Dr. B" and eventually accepts Christ. He asked the professor to perform his baptismal service.

College students today are far more likely to see their faith grow in college than ever before – because of the presence of so many Christian student groups, more open discussion of spirituality and the visible presence of committed Christian professors.



According to Dr. Christian Smith (left) Sociology, University of Notre Dame.



Faith Continues....

For 30 years Faculty Commons staff members Gary & Gena Hellman (*left*) have led a vibrant faculty ministry at Oklahoma State: more than 100 are involved. This summer they retired from faculty ministry and turned the leadership over to the Christian faculty and staff.

Dave Engle (*below, left*) is helping provide leadership. He retired from Oklahoma State as a professor in rangeland management. Now his schedule permits time to fish with grandkids, accompany his wife on business trips – and mentor younger Christian faculty to become more effective.

“I think one of my strengths is relationships,” Dave explains, “and imparting to other faculty what I have learned. I love fly fishing; it’s a passion I picked up later in life. But as much as I love to fish, I want even more for people to know Christ and grow to maturity in Him.”

Please pray for this transition at Oklahoma State, and for those faculty who are now leading.



...In the Lives of Others

For the past two years Faculty Commons has hosted mini-conferences we call “A Common Call” across the nation. They provide ideas, encouragement and training. Next month in Ft. Collins, Colorado we are hosting such a conference for Christian faculty from Colorado and Wyoming.

Please pray for God to use this to encourage and equip these faculty for ministry back on their respective campuses, and that I can administrate it well.

A Common Call
 Christian Faculty Conference
 Saturday, July 15 9AM – 3PM
 Hilton Ft. Collins

Heather Holleman
Penn State

Phil Bishop
Alabama

John Walkup
Texas Tech



This fall, more than 50,000,000 children will attend public schools.

All of their teachers were taught by professors.

Thanks for caring.

Steve and Sarah