Louisiana: People of Faith



Louisiana State University

Ashlyn and Madison (*left to right*) are interns with Cru at the University of Oklahoma. They were part of 50 Cru new staff and interns who met in Louisiana to gain additional training in sharing their faith. By visiting two different universities they learned more about sharing Christ with students from a variety of backgrounds.

They also learned how Christian professors can help them reach students back on their own campuses. Some new staff interviewed Christian professors whom I knew on the LSU campus to understand the world of faculty.

Nicholls State

Dr. Chad Young (left) and his wife Kaisa are physics professors at Nicholls State, which is an hour west of New Orleans. Both meet students on Fridays at lunch in the student union to answer questions about faith and science. The idea for this sprang from attending a Faculty Commons conference last year.

When I visited them in March, Chad and Kaisa also talked about helping colleagues engage in ministry. We sent copies of *Surprised by Meaning* by Alistair McGrath as a way to build community among Christians in the sciences. Next week Chad accompanies Christian students to Boston to present lectures and help them share their faith.



Louisiana-Lafayette

Dr. Mark Honegger (left) is a professor of English at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette. We met with him to talk about starting a Cru student ministry on campus. "I really believe that years ago God led my wife and me here to the University of Louisiana," Mark explained.

His wife is the director of international students. Members of local churches take the initiative to befriend those students, including them in family events – something that most international students never get to experience. Their hospitality opens doors to explain God's love for people from every nation.

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Passing It On





Molly (*left*) is a senior education major at TWU that Sarah has discipled. "One of my connections with Molly is that Kayla, one of the TWU students whom I discipled in the past, discipled Molly when she first came to campus. Now I get to disciple Molly; it's become a high value to her. Every time she meets with me she is prepared for whatever topics we are going to cover."

This year Molly has discipled two other students who are younger Christians, and led a Bible study about the Holy Spirit with young believers.

"Through being involved in Cru, I have become much more comfortable in sharing my faith, and learned how to spend consistent time with the Lord," Molly said. "And I love being able to disciple other women; the two I am working with are from very different backgrounds and it's been a time of growth for me."

John Boudreaux

John (*left*) is a graduate of the University of North Texas; I remember meeting John his freshman year. Over his four years of college he went from being a new Christian to a student leader and discipler. Soon after graduation he was on Cru staff, both at Stephen F Austin and LSU.

"For 16 years I worked fulltime with college students and it was an incredible time of being involved in evangelism and discipleship," John said. "Then, for the last 7 years I have been in the business world. Recently as I started looking at how I might best use the gifts and passion God has given me. So ... I know it seems crazy, but I'm rejoining Cru staff.

"In the process l have seen what a critical role professors play influencing students. I am excited to join Steve and Sarah and the staff of Faculty Commons in reaching professors."

John went with me last week to the University of Oklahoma and to Oklahoma State. He told many of the faculty we met: "When I was in college, I never knew of a Christian professor; I wish there had been someone like you who made their faith known. You have such a great, positive influence for Christ... thanks for being here!"



Thanks!

Steve and Sarah

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