



Coaching Staff

October 2012

The five of us pictured above oversee all of the Faculty Commons ministries in the U.S. Together we coach 26 staff couples — who minister to some of the 770,000 professors on our nation’s universities.

Last month we spent time on the **University of North Carolina—Asheville** campus (*right*), as well as planning how to minister this year to the more than 770,000 fulltime professors on our nation’s campuses.

UNC –Asheville is adjacent to the Smoky Mountains. The campus has students from around the state, and the diversity has brought an amazing spiritual openness, the Cru staff told us. However, the campus lacks a faculty ministry, so we met with key Christian professors and local Cru staff to help them establish one.



Encouraged by their faith...



“I went to college at Auburn University,” Clay (*left*) said. He was one of the professors we made appointments to visit. “Several of my professors at Auburn were committed Christians, and they weren’t afraid to let their faith be known. They were also great teachers who gave me a passion to want to learn more.

“I decided that I wanted to follow their example, become a professor, be good at teaching and represent Christ well. I am not afraid of letting my students know that I am a follower of Christ. And I want my students to realize that I will still accept them and care about them even if they totally reject faith.”

Please pray for Clay, and many others like him, who are living out their faith before students, day in and day out. Pray that their actions and their words will reflect their love for Christ and for students.

“A good coach will make his players see what they can be, rather than what they are.”

- Ara Parseghian



Profs Coaching Profs

Last week Dr. Sam Matteson (*left*) accompanied me to the **University of Arkansas**. Sam is a physics professor at North Texas. Over his 25 years at UNT he has been chairman of three departments. And he has been a bold witness for Christ, so he has much to impart about speaking the truth in love.

He spoke to the Christian Faculty Fellowship at the U of A about what he calls “Cactus People.” It is those professors who are “often bristly people, you know, rough around the edges, people who do not fit well in, like jagged stones or cactus that poke and cut and hurt you whenever you bump up against them.”

How is that a Christian is to respond to them? A few principles from Sam’s talk:

- Pray for those who are adversarial; ask God to bless them, as He gives us wisdom (James 1:5).
- Remember — people are watching to see if our faith makes any difference in what we do (James 1:22).
- We won’t naturally do these things, but only as we seek God’s Kingdom first (Matt 6:33).



Profs Leading Students To Christ

We also met with faculty on individual appointments. Cindy (*left*) is a professor in the humanities. Early in the semester she had identified herself as a Christian as part of letting students know important things about her. Last week Tim, an undergraduate student, talked with her after class and explained that he was really struggling with life decisions.

Over coffee, Cindy explained to Tim the problem that is at our core — our self-centeredness, our sin — and the need for Christ. By the end of the conversation, Tim had received Christ and will be meeting with Cru staff members for followup — coaching on walking with Christ.

Thanks for making this possible!

Steve & Sarah

