

## Lillian's Story



Lillian Cain (*left*) was among many students who came to North Texas to pursue her dream of being a musician. Also like many others, she found being at one of the top music schools in the country incredibly competitive, discouraging, and lonely.

During her freshman year she was at one of the lowest points in her life. She thought things were only going to get worse when she took a class on musical acoustics taught by Dr. Sam Matteson (*below, left*).

### “I Rolled My Eyes And Thought...”

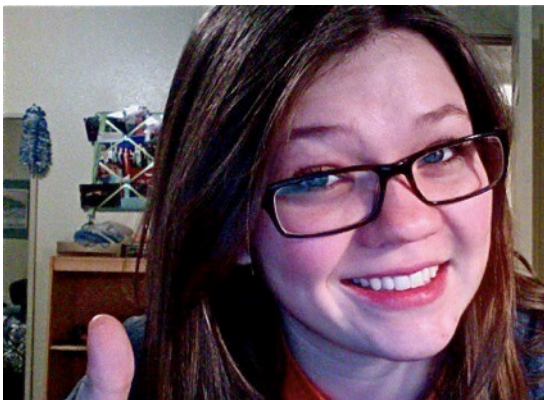


“The first day of class, Dr. Matteson announced that he was a Christian. I rolled my eyes and thought ‘This guy is gonna preach all semester.’ But he didn’t.

“He never said another word about God. But I was impressed by his excitement about the class, all the energy he brought to it, and how he cared about students.”

The next fall, Lillian began attending church with some Christian friends. Later that year, she accepted Christ while attending a Cru meeting on campus.

### “God Used A Christian Professor”



Now, since graduating, Lillian has joined the staff of Cru so she can share with other students how they can know Christ.

She is grateful that Dr. Matteson’s few words on that opening day of class changed her opinion of Christians: “God used a Christian professor to awaken me to the possibility of knowing Jesus when I was very opposed to anything about the Christian faith,” she explains.

## America's Spiritual Future



People sometimes ask us if we are pessimistic about the spiritual future of America. Actually we are very optimistic! Something has changed in the past 10 years:

**Students are now three times more likely to report their spiritual life as *strengthened* during college than *weakened*.**

Why are students finding that attending a secular state university is helpful to their spiritual life?



According to Dr. Christian Smith (*left*), professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, this improvement in spiritual lives is due to three factors:

- The presence of groups like Campus Crusade, InterVarsity and Young Life;
- An atmosphere more open to discussion of faith and spirituality;
- The presence of committed Christian professors, both Protestant and Catholic, who are open about their faith and serve as an encouragement to believing students.

## Fall Plans on Campus

This fall we will coach Christian professors and the Cru staff who work with them in a four state area called the “Red River Region.”

*Please pray for these upcoming trips to:*



*Baylor University  
Louisiana State University  
Louisiana Tech  
Oklahoma State University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
University of Arkansas  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Texas*

These trips involve meeting with key professors who either are leading faculty groups, or want to start them. And encouraging all of them to find their greatest joy in pursuing Christ every day.

*--- Steve & Sarah*