Texas A&M University

What Walter Taught Me

Dr. Nandika D'Souza (*right*) is associate dean of engineering at the **University of** North Texas. She has had a wonderful career professionally, and is one of the leaders of the Christian faculty group here. She credits Walter Bradley:

"In 1994 as a doctoral student at Texas A&M University, I had the privilege of having my office adjacent to Dr. Bradley's. He had been departmental chair, and sometimes he would come by and, in a swift conversation, impart wisdom to me!

Christ is #1:

"Walter organized small groups on Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. The most impactful moment was his declaration of priorities: Christ; family;

career; and then his 5-year and 10-year plan. I did not have these as my values at the time, but subsequently it was that open declaration that changed my life.

"Shortly after, in my first year in a tenure track position, I had a baby. Due to Walter's template of "decisions through priorities," I selected opportunities which would advance my career -- without costing all of the time with my husband and our new family.

Visibility for Christ on Campus

"Years later, I discovered that a colleague would go out to lunch with only the men in his research group. He left the only woman student behind -- to do chores in his lab. I was taken aback. A few weeks later I came to my office and found a student waiting for me.

As she told me her situation, I realized that this was that same young woman who had been ostracized by those men. But instead of showing anger, she had a big smile on her face. She had seen a note on my door. It was from Steve Pogue with his Faculty Commons information on it.



Christian faculty at the University of Minnesota.

"Dr. D'Souza, are you a Christian?" she asked.

"Why, yes I am," I told her. Then I literally thought What would *Walter do?* I told her that I brought my lunch each day; that I would sit in the open area of the building, and that I hoped she would join me. It opened a door for ministry.

"The choice of being known as a Christian brings an accompanying declaration of consternation -- or even smirks - from colleagues. But, I learned from Walter and his example of extensive service to faculty. This led me to become involved in the leadership of the Christian faculty group on campus.

"I am far from being the true witness to Christ I wish -- but because of watching Walter years ago, I am at least on a lifelong walk in that direction."

Thanks for allowing us to minister to and with professors like Nandika and Walter!

Stere and Janel



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