

Telling Their Stories

November

This fall a panel of Christian professors told a packed room of students "what they *don't* say in the classroom."

Each of them shared how they became Christians and how their faith has affected their decisions and values:

- the priorities of family;
- excellence in their work as a way of honoring Christ;
- loving students was part of why they became professors;
- how being open and bold about their faith can be risky in academia, yet necessary as a Christ-follower;
- their worth and identity is in Christ, not in the accolades of their careers.

Here is an excerpt from one of their stories:

"I grew up in Chicago, in a Christian home, but when I went off to college, I decided to leave my Christian faith behind. I spent many years away from the Lord, and it was not until after college that I began to walk with Christ again. I had to hit bottom in order for God to get my attention.

"I look at you students who are Christians, and I think of my own wasted years back then. I am so glad that you are making choices to pursue your faith, to be part of a Christian group on campus, to be involved in a church. It will make such a difference in your life down the road.

"Students stop by my office sometimes for a cup of coffee and to chat. I find they are often most in need of someone to listen to them. It can lead to opportunities for them to talk about what matters most in their lives and to the reality of Christ when they ask me about my own life. It's easier not to talk about Christ, but I know God wants me to have those conversations, so I press on."



Dr. Chris Lam, Technical Communications, University of North Texas



"Many educators now believe that religion and spirituality are neglected aspects of the whole student and that more attention needs to be given to these dimensions of student development in college."

Dr. Michael Waggoner Journal of College and Character

Please Pray:

With 20,000,000 students in college today, most do not know Christ. Please pray that Christian professors will know the balance of word and deed in representing Jesus each day on campus.



Ministering Beyond Denton

We keep in contact with many Christian professors. Locally it means organizing events on campus, conversations over coffee or hosting dinners at our home. For the majority of professors on other campuses, it means video calls, phone calls and emails.

Here are a few of the schools that your financial giving allows us to connect with on a regular basis!



Austin College – 1300 students; oldest college in Texas

- Brad has had a wonderful ministry in his department over the years; each time I talk with him, it's encouraging.
- He meets with students struggling with the truth of Christianity. Many opportunities: Please pray for him!



Texas A&M – 69000 students; a "Howdy, y'all" atmosphere

- So many Christian professors open about their faith.
- Yet some profs keep their faith only for time at church.
- Please pray that all will consider the platform God gives them to help searching students know Christ.



Palo Alto College - 9300 Students: 80% part time

- San Antonio community college; constant student turnover.
- Students juggle classes and working fulltime.
- Nate and Jessica are Cru staff there.
- Some professors have led small group Bible studies.
- Please pray that more professors will lead these groups.



University of Arkansas – 27,500 students; overlooks Ozarks

- Many Christian students involved in Cru, other groups.
- Christian professors have had longtime presence.
- Please pray for new leadership within the group of Christian faculty on campus.



University of New Mexico – 26, 200 students, Albuquerque

- Newest campus we are working with.
- Professor said "I'm only Christian I know of on campus."
- There are a few other known believers.
- Please pray for the Christian professors to meet together for encouragement and God's direction.

