

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# CYNTHIA A. WELLS, PH.D.

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## SCHOLARSHIP INTERESTS

- General Education/Core Curriculum
- Inclusive Excellence and Reconciliation
- Faith and Vocational Formation

## EDUCATION

- 2003 Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
Doctor of Philosophy, College of Education, Higher Education  
Dissertation: *Epiphanies of Faith within the Academy: A Narrative Study of the Dynamics of Faith with Undergraduate Students Involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.*
- 1992 Wright State University, Dayton, OH  
Masters of Science, College of Education/Human Services, Student Affairs in Higher Education
- 1988 Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA  
Bachelor of Arts, Majors: Psychology and Religious Studies

## EXPERIENCE

- 2011-present **Assistant Professor of Higher Education/Program Director, Master of Arts in Higher Education.** Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Ranked Faculty appointment. Program leadership includes student and faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and assessment.
- 2012-present **Director, The Ernest L. Boyer Center,** Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Provide leadership to advance legacy of Ernest L Boyer Sr; Initiatives include oversight of digitization and cataloging of Boyer archives; coordination of Symposia.
- 2003-2014 **Fellow, The Ernest L. Boyer Center,** Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Coordinated scholarship and related projects that advance mission of The Ernest L. Boyer Center.
- 2008-2012 **Director of the Core Course,** Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Provided academic leadership for common content course (IDCR 151: Created and Called for Community) required of all first year students.
- 1998-2003 **Vice Provost and Dean of Students,** Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Served as senior student affairs officer for undergraduate residential college enrolling 2,900 students.

## TEACHING

### GRADUATE COURSES (Master of Arts in Higher Education, Messiah College)

**HIED 511: Foundations of Higher Education** This course provides an integrated overview of the philosophical, theological, cultural, and historical contexts that influence higher education institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**HIED 514: Equity Issues in Higher Education.** This course examines the intersection of excellence, equity and belonging in institutions of higher education. Students examine the educational needs of diverse learners as well as explore various theories and practices utilized to achieve and sustain higher education institutions that effectively serve the diverse society of which the academy is a part.

**HIED 551: College and University Environments.** This course examines college and university cultures and explores strategies for enhancing educational environments. Students explore higher education environments and their impact on various student populations, including underrepresented students.

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (Interdisciplinary Studies, Messiah College)

**IDFY 101: Spiritual Autobiography: The Art and Practice of Remembrance, Representation, and Revelation.** Interdisciplinary Studies, Writing-Intensive First Year Seminar. This seminar explores the genre and elements of autobiography. Students examine historical and contemporary spiritual autobiographies and craft a narrative essay addressing their own spiritual formation.

**IDCR 151: Created and Called for Community.** Interdisciplinary Studies, First Year Common Curriculum . This course considers the central question: “What is my vocation as a faithful steward of God's creation?” Through examining literary, historical, artistic, philosophical, and theological works, students engage the biblical themes of forgiveness, compassion, nonviolence, peacemaking, justice, and racial and gender reconciliation.

**IDPL 300: Personal Narrative in a Pluralist World.** Interdisciplinary Studies. Honors, Writing-Intensive Course. Fulfills Upperclass Pluralism Requirement for General Education. Students examine personal narratives from diverse perspectives that address the intersection of personal formation and relationship to American society, with special attention to the influence of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, and culture.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Scholarly Audience*

Wells, C. (in process). *Reconsidering common learning: The purpose and significance of general education in higher education*. ASHE Higher Education Report Series. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.

Wells, C. (forthcoming, 2015). Holding a Center as Things Fly Apart: Vocation and the Common Good. In D. Cunningham [Ed]. *At This Time and In This Place: Vocation and Higher Education*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Wells, C. (forthcoming, January 2015). "General Education and the Quest for Purpose". In J. Braxton and T. Ream (Eds) *Ernest L. Boyer: Hope for Today's University*. New York: SUNY Press.

Wells, C. (2014). "Renewing our shared purpose: Considering Boyer's general education vision for Christian colleges". *International Journal of Christian Higher Education*. 13(1): 43-60.

Whitt, Elizabeth J., Becki Elkins Neshiem, Melanie J. Guentzel, Angela H. Kellogg, William M. McDonald, Cynthia A. Wells (2008). "Principles of Good Practice" for Academic and Student Affairs Partnership Programs. *Journal of College Student Development*. Vol. 49 (2). 235-249.

Elkins Neshiem, Becki, Melanie J. Guentzel, Angela H. Kellogg, William M. McDonald, Cynthia A. Wells, Elizabeth J. Whitt (2007). Outcomes for Students of Student Affairs-Academic Affairs Partnership Programs. *Journal of College Student Development*. Vol. 48(4). 1-20.

Wells, C. (2002). Beyond Rhetoric: Composing a Common Community Experience. In McDonald, B. [Ed.]. *Creating Campus Community: In Search of Ernest Boyer's Legacy*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

#### *General Audience*

Wells, C. (forthcoming, 2015) "No boundaries: Christ's call to limitless love of God and neighbor. *InPart Magazine*.

Wells, C. "Imprinting a Mark Through Being", President's Report, Volume 100, October 2009.

Wells, C. "King's Mission Isn't Finished". Review Essay. *Patriot News*. Harrisburg, PA. Sunday, January 20, 2008.

Wells, C. (2002). Experiencing the Incarnation. R. Knott [Ed.] *College Faith: 150 College Leaders and Educators Share their Faith Stories from their College Years*. Berrien Spring, MI: Andrews University Press.

#### *Book Reviews*

Wells, C. (forthcoming, 2015). Book Review of *Living Faith: Embracing God's Callings*. *Brethren in Christ History and Life*.

Wells, C. (2014) Book Review of *Spirituality in College Students' Lives: Translating Research into Practice* *Journal of College Student Development*, 55(1), p. 97-99.

Wells, C. Book Review of *Educating Clergy: Teaching Practices and Pastoral Imagination*, *Teachers College Record*, (December 07, 2006) <http://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 12881

Wells, C. (2006) Book Review of *Higher Education for the Public Good: Emerging Voices from a National Movement*, *Journal of College & Character*, Vol. VII, NO. 3, April 2006

#### **PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

"Renewing our Shared Purpose", Association for Christians in Student Development, Minneapolis, MN. June 2014.

“*Catalyst for Innovation, Compound for Confusion: A Critical Synthesis of General Education’s Significance in the Historical Debate of Higher Education’s Purpose*. Association for the Study of Higher Education. St. Louis, MI. November 2013.

Co-presenter with Richard Hughes and Christy Hanson. *Shaping an Ethos of Vocational Engagement: First Year Experience Programs*. Network for Vocational Exploration in Undergraduate Education. Council of Independent Colleges, Indianapolis, IN: March 2013.

Co-presenter with John Braxton, Todd Ream, Vasti Torres, Bob Reason “Crisis on Campus? Hopeful Responses from Ernest L. Boyer Sr.” Association for the Study of Higher Education. Las Vegas, NV: November 2012.

Panel Respondent, “*Transforming Colleges and Universities for Moral Development*”, Respondent to Dr. Perry Glanzer, *Classrooms, Curricula, and Contexts: Vocation, Higher Education, and the Formation of Religious and Moral Identities, NetVUE Regional Conference, Calvin College, October 2011*.

Co-presenter with Sue Hasseler, “Inclusive Excellence, Expansive Vision: Honoring the Past While Shaping the Future”, Association of American Colleges and Universities, Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility Network for Academic Renewal Conference, Long Beach, CA, 2011.

“Renewing Learning: Academic and Student Affairs Partnership Programs”. Association of Christians in Student Development, Preconference Workshop, Annual Conference, Grantham, PA. June 2010.

“Friendship Conversion(s): Augustine's Confessions as Formation of the Common Good”. Association of Core Texts and Courses, New Jersey. New Brunswick, NJ. April 2010.

“A Confession” and a Classic Question: Tolstoy’s A Confession. Association of Core Texts and Courses, Tennessee, April 2009.

Co-presenter with Richard Hughes, “The Vocation-Oriented CORE Course”, Vocation in Undergraduate Education: Extending the Theological Exploration of Vocation, Council of Independent Colleges, Indianapolis, IN, March 2009.

“Renewing Ourselves, Our Students, and Our Institutions: Principles of Good Practice for Academic and Student Affairs Partnerships”, Professional Development Luncheon Keynote Speaker, National Association of Campus Activities, Nashville, TN, February 2009.

“Manifestations for the Common Good”, Commencement Address, Graduate and Adult Graduation Ceremony, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, May 15, 2008.

“Renewing Learning through Academic Affairs–Student Affairs Partnership Programs”, Institute for Chief Academic Officers, Council for Independent Colleges, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, November, 2006.

Co-presenter with Melanie J. Guentzel. “Outcomes for Educators involved in Student Affairs-Academic Affairs Partnership Programs”. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Anaheim, CA. November 2006.

Co-presenter with Angela H. Kellogg, Becki Elkins Neshiem, and Elizabeth J. Whitt. “Outcomes for Students of Student Affairs-Academic Affairs Partnership Programs”. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.

Co-presenter with Angela Kellogg, Becki Elkins Neshiem, and Elizabeth J. Whitt. "Good Practices for Student Affairs-Academic Affairs Partnership Programs". Association for the Study of Higher Education, Philadelphia, PA. November 2005.

"Education for the Common Good: Reimagining the Connection between Individual and Community". Presidential Lecture Series, Messiah College, November 3, 2005.

"Mapping the Impact of Academic Affairs-Student Affairs Partnerships", Middle States Commission on Higher Education Student Learning Assessment Conference, Baltimore, MD, September 2005.

"The Promise of Partnership Programs for the New Academy", Association of American Colleges and Universities, National Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2005.

"Rethinking the Fortress: Reengaging Christian Faith Communities within the Academy". Faith in the Academy Conference. Messiah College. Grantham, PA, 2004

"Epiphanies of Faith in the "Secular" Academy". Institute on College Student Values, Tallahassee, FL, 2004; American College Personnel Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2004.

Co-Presenter with William McDonald et. al "Creating Campus Community: Partnerships for Student Learning". American Association of Colleges and Universities, Chicago, IL, April 2004

Co-Presenter with William McDonald, "Creating Campus Community". Association for Christians in Student Development, Pre-Conference Workshop, Lee University, TN, 2002.

Co-presenter with Kim S. Phipps, "Building Educational Community: A Case Study Analysis". Council for Independent Colleges Institute for Chief Academic Officers, Palm Springs, CA, 2001.

"Is the Academy Friendly to Faith Development?" American College Personnel Association, Boston, MA, 2001.

"The Faith Audit: Assessing the College Environment for Faith Development", Association for Christians in Student Development, Orange City, IA, 2001.

"Empty Rhetoric or Faithful Vision: Campus Life and the Quest for Community". Presidential Lecture Series, Messiah College, January 20, 2000.

## **RESEARCH/EXTERNAL FUNDING ACTIVITIES**

Boyer Partnership Assessment Project (Research Team, 2003-2008; Project Director, 2006-08)  
FIPSE-funded research grant (\$411,000) examining educational outcomes of academic and student affairs partnership programs in higher education, seven member research team representing three higher education institutions. (2003-2008)

Scholarship Grant, Office of Faculty Development, Messiah College, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

Reviewer, Annual Conference Program Proposals (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

*Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory, and Practice*

Manuscript Reviewer (2011, 2012)

Association of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC)

Conference Paper Reviewer (2009, 2010, 2011); Proceedings Reviewer (2010)

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Invited Participant, Research Roundtable, November, 2011, Azusa Pacific University, CA.

Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU)

Planning Committee, General Education, Assessment, and the Learning Students  
Need Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, February 26-28, 2009

Reviewer, Program Proposals, Educating Intentional Learners: New Connections for  
Academic and Student Affairs, Philadelphia, PA, 2004

Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSD)

Program Committee, Annual Conference 2010

Peer Review Panel, *Growth: The Journal of the Association for Christians in Student  
Development*, 2001-2003

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

### *Messiah College*

Term Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2014-present

Curriculum Committee, 2013-present

Teaching Mentor, Office of Faculty Development, 2011-12

Ranked Faculty Search Committees, Assistant Professor of Sport Management, 2011-12; Assistant  
Professor of Theology, 2004-05.

Diversity Strategic Planning Task Force, Writing Sub-committee, 2008-2011; Diversity Educational  
Program Task Force, 2011-2013

Theatre Department Season Selection Committee, 2011-2013

General Education Committee, 2009-2012

First Year Experience Committee, 2008-2012

Master of Arts in Higher Education Proposal Task Force, Primary Proposal Author, 2009-2011

Micah Partnership for Racial Justice and Multicultural Education, 1998-2002; 2008-2009

Community of Educators Senate, 2006-2009

Educational Program Review Task Force, Served on design team for successfully proposed core  
curriculum, member of first year experience sub-committee, chaired sub-committee on Senior Year  
Experience, 2002-2004

Lilly Endowment Grant for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (\$2 million), Steering Committee;  
Co-chair, Campus Culture Initiative, 2001-2006

Participant, Mission and Vocation Seminar for Academic Leaders, Lilly Grant, Spring 2003

Middle States Accreditation Self-Study Committee; 2002-2003

*Wright State University*

Servant Leadership Program, Advisory Committee, 1996-1998

North Central Accreditation Self-Study, Criterion V: Integrity Subcommittee, 1995

**HONORS**

Outstanding Alumni Award, College of Education and Human Services, Wright State University, 2003  
Outstanding New Professional, Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers,  
1992

Chi Sigma Iota, Psychology Honor Society, 1987

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Association for the Study of Higher Education (2001-present)

Association of Core Texts and Courses (2008-2012)

Association of American Colleges and Universities (2003-present)

American College Personnel Association (1990- present)

Association of Christians in Student Development (1997-2006; 2009-present)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Grantham Church, Worship Commission, 2012-13; Worship Team, 2012-present.

Brethren Housing Association, Harrisburg, PA, Board of Directors, 2007-2012; Executive Committee  
and Secretary, 2009-2010; Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, 2010- 2012., Vision 20/20 Steering  
Committee, 2010-2012.

Theatre Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA. *Annie*, Principal Cast Member as “Miss Hannigan”, 2009;  
Broadway Cabaret, 2010; *The Best of Broadway* Musical Revue, Ensemble, 2011; The Best of  
Broadway Musical Revue, Ensemble and Duet, 2013.

Oyster Mill Playhouse, Camp Hill, PA, *Company*, Cast member as “Sarah”, 2014.