

CURRICULUM VITAE

CYNTHIA A. WELLS, PH.D.

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SCHOLARSHIP INTERESTS

- General Education/Core Curriculum
- Inclusive Excellence and Reconciliation

EDUCATION

Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2003

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.*

Wright State University, Dayton, OH, 1992

Masters of Science, College of Education/Human Services, Student Affairs in Higher Education

Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, 1988

Bachelor of Arts, Majors: Psychology and Religious Studies

EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Higher Education. Master of Arts in Higher Education, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2015-present

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Master of Arts in Higher Education, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2011-2015

Director, The Ernest L. Boyer Center, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA; 2012-present
Provide leadership to advance legacy of Ernest L Boyer Sr; initiatives include oversight of digitization and cataloging of Boyer archival collection; event coordination, and fund-raising.

Program Director, Master of Arts in Higher Education. Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2011-2016.
Program leadership included student and faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and assessment.

Fellow, The Ernest L. Boyer Center, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2003-2014
Coordinated scholarship and related projects that advance mission of The Ernest L. Boyer Center.

Director of the Core Course, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2008-2012
Provided academic leadership for common content course (IDCR 151: Created and Called for Community) required of all first year students.

Vice Provost and Dean of Students, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 1998-2003
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 21st 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 525: Curriculum Development in Higher Education. This course examines the historical and contemporary factors that influence curriculum development in higher education. Models for designing, implementing, delivering, and assessing undergraduate curricula will be examined. Students will gain insight into the trends, tensions, challenges, and variations in curricular emphases of colleges and universities.

HIED 520: Academic Engagement and Learning in Higher Education. This course addresses the principles and practices associated with effective teaching and learning in the higher education context. Students will engage the bodies of scholarly knowledge appropriate for the examination and application of teaching and learning, including the educational needs of a diverse body of learners. The course will consider philosophical foundations, theories, and strategies associated with teaching and learning, including the connections between equity and excellence.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (Interdisciplinary Studies, Messiah College)

IDCR 151: Created and Called for Community. Interdisciplinary Studies, Honors, Writing-Intensive Course, 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.

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Audience

Wells, C. (in review). General Education: Prototype for a Scholarship of Practice. In J. Braxton [Ed], *Toward a Scholarship of Practice*. New Directions for Higher Education. San Francisco, CA: Wiley/Jossey-Bass.

Wells, C., Guthrie, D. & D. Custer (in review). “Degrees of Meaning: A More Expansive Narrative of the Value of Independent Higher Education”. In C. Morphew & J. Braxton (Eds), *Research to Practice in Independent Colleges: Challenges and Opportunities*

Wells, C. (2016). *Realizing General Education: Reconceptualizing purpose and renewing practice*. ASHE Higher Education Report. 42(2). San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.

Wells, C. (2016). “A Distinctive Vision for the Liberal Arts: General Education and the Flourishing of Christian Higher Education”. *Christian Higher Education*, 15(1-2), 84-94.

- Wells, C. (2016). "Enduring Influence and Untapped Potential: Advancing the Conversation around *Scholarship Reconsidered*". In D. Moser, T. Read, & J. Braxton (Eds). *Scholarship Reconsidered: 25th Anniversary edition*. (pp. 161-165). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Wells, C. (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. (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". *Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory, and Practice*. 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. (2014) "No boundaries: Christ's call to limitless love of God and neighbor. *In Part Magazine*, Winter. 128(1), p. 3.
- 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, December 2016). Book Review of The Pietist Vision of Christian Higher Education: Forming Whole and Holy Persons. *Brethren in Christ History and Life*.
- Wells, C. (August, 2015). Book Review of Living Faith: Embracing God's Callings. *Brethren in Christ History and Life*. 38(2), p. 315-318.

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. (2006). 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)

The Samaritan's Lead – Following God's Call to the "Good Life", Commencement Address, King's Christian High School, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, June 10, 2016

The Landscape of General Education, Educator's Day, Messiah College, May 2016

Beyond Research to Practice: Institutionalizing Collaboration between ASHE Researchers and Smaller Private Institutions (Presidential Session). Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO. November 2015.

25 Years of Scholarship Reconsidered: How Far Have We Come? Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO. November 2015.

Renewing our Shared Purpose: General Education Aims and the Student Affairs Educator, 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

Council for Independent Colleges, NetVUE Chaplaincy Renewal Grant, Coauthor, \$20,000 awarded for 2015-16 academic year; NetVUE Regional Gathering Grant, Sole Author, \$11, 217 awarded; NetVUE Vocational Exploration Renewal Grant, Sole Author, \$24,749.32 awarded

Scholarship Grant, Office of Faculty Development, Messiah College, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17

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

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
Reviewer, Annual Conference Program Proposals (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015); CIC-ASHE Research Collaborative, 2015

Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory, and Practice
Manuscript Reviewer (2011, 2012, 2015)

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, *Diversity, Learning, and Student Success* Conference, Philadelphia, PA
March 17-19, 2016
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 of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC)
Conference Paper Reviewer (2009, 2010, 2011); Proceedings Reviewer (2010)

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; Chair, 2016-17
Teaching and Learning Fellow, 2016-17
Community of Educators Development Day Planning Committee, Spring 2016; Fall 2016
NetVUE (Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education), Campus Coordinator, 2012-present
Core Course Steering Committee, 2008-2012; 2015-present
Curriculum Committee, 2013-2014
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; *The Best of Broadway Musical Revue*, Ensemble, 2016; 2016-17 Season Cabaret, October 2016

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

Choral Arts Society, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, *Handel’s Messiah*, 2000; *Brahm’s Requiem*, 2015

Reader, *Faure’s Requiem*. Brass Concert, Messiah College, 2015.

Northern Boys Soccer Boosters, 2015-present; Vice President, 2015-2016; President, 2016-present.