

CURRICULUM VITAE

CYNTHIA A. WELLS, PH.D.

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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

Master 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

FACULTY/ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Master of Arts in Higher Education, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA

Associate Professor of Higher Education, 2015-present

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, 2011-2015

Fellow, The Ernest L. Boyer Center, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2003-2014

Conducted scholarship and related projects related to mission of The Ernest L. Boyer Center.

EXPERIENCE

Associate Director of Faculty Development for Teaching and Learning, Office of Faculty Development, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2018-present.

Provide collaborative leadership for faculty development initiatives, including planning weekly teaching and learning workshops and semester-long educator learning communities; coordinating new faculty mentoring program; coordinating bi-annual professional development programs for Community of Educators; developing and implementing programming to equip ranked faculty to fulfill Christian Faith and Academic Vocation requirements for Term-Tenure and Promotion.

Director, The Ernest L. Boyer Center, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA; 2012-present

Provide strategic leadership to Center with mission to advance legacy of Ernest L Boyer Sr.; responsibilities include oversight of Boyer archival collection; event coordination, and fund-raising; accomplishments include revising Center mission and signature programs to align with institutional priorities, oversight of digitization and cataloguing of Boyer archival collection, securing donor funding to endow an annual Boyer Legacy Award, and developing an internal scholarship grant related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Program Director, Master of Arts in Higher Education. Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2011-2016.

Served as founding program director for master of arts in higher education program; program leadership included student and faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and assessment; accomplishments include successfully navigating program proposal through external governance (Pennsylvania Department of Education) and internal governance (Community of Educators Senate, College Council), and establishing signature concentrations in academic support, college athletics leadership, and student affairs.

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.

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.

IDCR 102: First Year Seminar: The Art and Practice of Personal Narrative. Interdisciplinary Studies, Honors, Writing-Intensive Course, First Year Curriculum. This seminar explores personal narrative as a venue for both personal meaning and social change and investigates the ways in which personal narratives invite both reader and writer into deeper understanding of self, world, and God. Students learn the art of personal narrative, in part by reading exemplary writers but also by crafting and sharing personal narratives with one another.

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Audience

Wells, C. (2018). For Such a Time and Place as This: Christian Higher Education for the Common Good. *Christian Higher Education*, 17(1-2), 1-7.

Wells, C., Guthrie, D. & D. Custer (2017). “Degrees of Meaning: A More Expansive Narrative of the Value of Independent Higher Education”. In C. Morphew & J. Braxton (Eds), *The Challenge of Independent Colleges: Moving Research into Practice*. Baltimore, MD: John’s Hopkins University Press.

- Wells, C. (2017). Constructing a Prototype: Realizing a Scholarship of Practice in General Education (pp. 57-70). In J. Braxton [Ed], *Toward a Scholarship of Practice*. New Directions for Higher Education. San Francisco, CA: Wiley/Jossey-Bass.
- 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. (December 2016). Book Review of The Pietist Vision of Christian Higher Education: Forming Whole and Holy Persons. *Brethren in Christ History and Life*. 39(3), p. 292-295.

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

RESEARCH/EXTERNAL FUNDING ACTIVITIES

Bridging Theory to Practice, Campus Dialogue Grant: Realizing Higher Education's Greater Purposes, Coauthor; one of 31 institutions granted \$5000 from 230 submissions to support one-year projects based around thematically integrated gatherings involving a core group of diverse campus constituents

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)
Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (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

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Co-presenter with Daniel Kirkpatrick, *Thriving Over Time: Sustaining Vocational Exploration Programs*. Network for Vocational Exploration in Undergraduate Education. Council of Independent Colleges, Louisville, KY: March 23, 2019.

Co-presenter with Dottie Weigel and David Guthrie, *Campus Dialogues: Human Flourishing for the Common Good*, NASPA, Philadelphia, PA; March 6, 2018

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. (Luke 23:46), Homily for Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ" concert with Mendelssohn Trio, Mechanicsburg, PA: Messiah College, April 11, 2017

Co-presenter with Jennifer Fisler and Rodney Sauder, *Advancing SOTL through a Professional Learning Community*, Scholarship of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Conference, West Chester University, West Chester, PA; January 20, 2017

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.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
Reviewer, Annual Conference Program Proposals (2006-2015, 2019)
CIC-ASHE Research Collaborative, 2015 - present
- Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory, and Practice*
Guest Editor, Special Edition on Christian Higher Education for the Common Good (published
January 2018)
Manuscript Reviewer (2011-present)
- 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

- Presidential Lecture Series, "Promoting the Common Good", Co-organizer, 2018-2019.
NetVUE (Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education), Campus Coordinator, 2012-present
May Development Week Planning Task Force, Chair, 2018
Term Tenure and Promotion (TTP) Committee, 2014-2018; Chair, 2016-17
Acting Director of Teaching and Learning, Spring 2018
Teaching and Learning Fellow – Inclusive Excellence, 2016 - 2018
Chair, School of Graduate Studies Task Force, text selection for Christian Faith and Academic Vocation
requirements within TTP process, 2016-17
Educator's Day Planning Committee, Spring 2016
Community of Educator's Retreat Planning Committee, Fall 2016, Fall 2017
Core Course Steering Committee, 2008-2012; 2015-2018
Curriculum Committee, 2013-2014
Teaching Mentor, Office of Faculty Development, 2011-12
Ranked Faculty Search Committees, Assistant Professor of Higher Education/Program Director, 2016-17;
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 course,
first year experience sub-committee member, chaired senior year experience sub-committee, 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)
Association of Christians in Student Development (1997-2006; 2009-present)