

CALLED TO THE UNIVERSITY

JULY 2024

You allow us to come alongside and (hopefully) encourage and equip Christian academics who are living out their calling and see themselves as Christians who “just happen to be professors.” Here are a few professors and their Christian faculty groups we connect with.



University of North Texas Denton, TX Home to 47,000 students
Dan is a professor in UNT’s College of Engineering. Once a month he offers students “life lunches.” He provides pizza and tells students they can ask any questions they like - *except about the upcoming exam*. One of the questions that often arises after they ask about his family is his Christian faith. Because it’s outside class time, Dan is able to discuss the issues they raise and provide answers – as well as giving them more questions for them to consider.



Texas A&M University College Station, TX Home to 77,000 students
The Christian Faculty-Staff group invited Molly Worthen, professor of history at the University of North Carolina, to speak on campus. An agnostic and skeptic through grad school, she became a Christian after dialoguing for months with a pastor. “He helped me to see that it all stands or falls with the resurrection,” she says, “and pointed me to books by CS Lewis, Tim Keller and NT Wright.” Today she helps former skeptics like her to consider Christ.



East Central University Ada, OK Home to 3,400 students
Christian faculty invited Michael Strauss, professor of particle physics at the University of Oklahoma, to campus. This spring he lectured three times about scientific evidence for the existence of God. Strauss is a pastor’s son who felt that academia could be a way to honor and serve God. Because ECU is a small university, professors are on a first name basis with many students and conversations about life and faith occur often.



Faculty Commons connects with Christian professors in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Since the FC staff I coach are scattered across the western half of the US, this spring I began to think “*What is happening north of us?*”

Through emails to national and local Cru Canada staff, followed by Zoom calls, I connected with Canadian profs:



Simon Fraser University Vancouver, BC Home to 37,000 students
Four professors began praying more than 15 years ago for their witness as a group. They developed an 8-week series for students interested in considering Christianity and include Q&A and lunch. Former atheists have come to Christ; some return and encourage others to consider the claims of Christ.

I spoke by Zoom with one of those four professors, Martin Ester, while he was visiting family in Germany. He looks forward to helping campuses in the U.S. use these same presentations to help others know Him.

Later this summer I will also be talking with Christian professors at the University of Saskatchewan. I have shipped Christian faculty groups at both universities copies of *A Grand Story* which Faculty Commons developed to encourage Christians – who just happen to be professors.

---THANKS SO VERY MUCH!