Faith Integration April-May Update

April 18, 2012

"Falth Integration is informed reflection on and discovery of Christian faith within the academic disciples, professional programs, and lived practice, resulting in the articulation of Christian perspectives on truth and life in order to advance the work of God in the world."

Faith Integration EER Questions Summary

What is the Impact of University Faith Integration Efforts on Faculty and Student Learning?

Specific Research Questions:

1. How effectively does **Azusa Pacific University Faith Integration efforts** equip faculty to integrate faith and learning into their faculty roles? 2. How effectively do Faculty integrate faith and learning into their academic work? 3. How effectively do academic programs prepare students to integrate their faith into their academic learning? 4. How effectively do co-curricular programs equip students to integrate their faith into their daily living?

New Faith Integration Faculty Guidebook-

Coming Fall 2012

Azusa Pacific University

Volume 4 Issue 2

Faith Integration Newsletter Introductory Article Vol. 4 #2; Creativity

Creativity pertains to the nature of God. Since we are the off-springs of God and bear the *imago dei*, we are imbued with the creative ability of God. Creativity is a function of our ability to think outside the box. As someone has very correctly pointed out, our creative Genius is greatly limited by our choosing to see only what we have been conditioned to see. Creativity is the ability to know how to see what others are not seeing, and to then represent it in innovative ways. Creativity and creative acts are topics

that are of interest to every discipline. It is fitting, therefore, that we should focus on Creativity as the theme of this valedictory edition of the Faith Integration Newsletter for the 2011-2012 school year. As William Hasker aptly reminds us, and as our current APU Faith Integration definition rightly points out, academic Faith Integration deals with reflecting on, discovering and articulating those integral relationships which inherently exist between the content of the faith and the subject-matter of any discipline.

We hope through the articles in this issue, and through this year's Faith Integration Summer Seminar which will be devoted to studying and discussing creativity, to spur our faculty to aspire to this God-given ability. Read, enjoy and share this very rich Newsletter!



-Ben Nworie, Ph.D.,M.Div., LPC Professor, Director of Office of Faith Integration, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

Coming Soon to an APU Bookstore Near You!

We are pleased to announce the publication of *Faith Integration and Schools of Education*, a collected work with contributions by Education faculty from six Universities, including several of our own APU Education faculty. The book moves from chapters that discuss definitions and models of faith integration; whether the focus of faith integration is within the student, the curriculum, or the community; and how to develop a program of faith integration. Subsequent chapters address knotty questions about faith integration, discuss issues in the implementation of faith integration, and provide examples of faith integration scholarship. Its ten chapters are rich with definition, discussion, implications, application, and examples — that are applicable to a wide range of disciplines. The book will be available in the University Bookstore and for Summer and Fall course textbook adoption.

- Chapter 1: Faith Learning Integration: An Overview by William Hasker (reprinted with permission; from Christian Scholar's Review)
- Chapter 2: Models of Faith and Reason: Marginalization, Coexistence, or Integration by Steve Wilkens
- Chapter 3: Getting to a Comprehensive, Coherent, Academically Rigorous & Theologically Sound
 - Program of Faith-Learning Integration by Marsha Fowler
- Chapter 4: Where Does Faith-Learning Integration Happen? by Ken Badley
- Chapter 5: Social Justice in Christian Teacher Education by Jillian N.
 - Lederhouse
- Chapter 6: Faith Integration and the Educator's Responsibility to Equity and Justice by Susan Warren and Maria A. Pacino
- Chapter 7: Weaving Faith and Literacy: Creating Meaning for 21st Century Schooling by Maria A. Pacino and James Noftle
- Chapter 8: And a Little Child Shall Lead Them: Faith Integration and a Course in Children's Literature by Sheryl O'Sullivan
- Chapter 9: Faith Integration in the Adult Classroom: Sustaining Growth and Conversation by Ruth Anna Abigail and Sarah Visser
- Chapter 10: Walling In or Walling Out: Recognizing the Use of Personal Boundaries for Christian Educators by Ruth Givens



-Marsha Fowler, Ph D., M.Div., M.S. Faith Integration Senior Fellow

Faith Integration and Christian History

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Christian history is a rich resource for academic faith integration. Yet many Christian academics stop short of accessing this treasure for various reasons. First of all, its massive scope can be intimidating. On the other hand, when it is more narrowly described as "church history", its value for non-ministry related disciplines appears limited.

I'd like to say something brief about three books that may provide an entrée for using Christian history for faith integration in your academic venue.

The first book is Mark Noll's (1997) Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity. Noll, a professor of history at Wheaton, provides nutshell accounts of those somewhat familiar events that have shaped the Christian story since Acts 28. Each chapter is like a documentary film that will help faculty readers to understand the pivotal struggles, decisions, and actions of the Christian movement over the last two millennia. A book such as this will acquaint you with your Christian heritage while preparing and inspiring you to do deeper exploration into faith integration links embedded within Christian history.

Diana Butler Bass' (2009) *People's History of Christianity* is the flip side of Noll.

Taking a que from Howard Zinn, Bass passes over "The usual story of...'Big-C' Christianity - Christ, Constantine, Christendom, Calvin, and Christian America" (p. 4) and points her readers to "a different story...of folks.. who struggled to live as Jesus told them to, loving God and doing right....lived Christianity....less a magisterial narrative and more like a collection of campfire talks – discrete stories that embody Christian character, virtue, suffering and commitment as people 'go and do likewise' generative Christianity" (p. 11,12). I believe that Christian faculty will find surprising connections here that can be linked to their teaching and doorways for further study. If Noll's book is a collection of documentary films covering big events, Bass's book is an album of snapshots - like those curious yellowed photos you find in antique stories - of normal folks simply living their lives. Bass reveals the life of faith that is richly textured - albeit flawed and failing via ordinary Christian women and men.

John Stott (2001), a conservative Bible expositor, is more centered on Christ and the Bible than Bass' focus on the post-New Testament Christian narrative. In *The Incomparable Christ* Scott first reviews the New Testament's elucidation of the "original" Jesus. This is followed by 12 historic perspectives on Jesus from individuals such as St.Benetict, Bernard of Clairvaux and Gustavo Gutierrez.

In Part III he looks at the Jesus who inspired 12 others. Stott's approach illustrates his cosmopolitan appreciation for thinking Christians dotted across history and geography. Yet, his appreciation is not indiscriminate; he can't help asking penetrating questions or offering up a critique that emerges from his foundation in the New Testament.

In terms of faith integration, these books, and books like them, share a common limitation. Their aim is not to make direct connections to the academic disciplines that are the focus of attention for faculty members at APU. But they can build bridges from faith to academics; they do offer doorways for deeper research and study. To read books like this will introduce us to the people whose shoulders we stand upon as we seek to root our teaching and scholarship today in the historic heritage of God's people.



-Paul Kaak Ph.D., Faith Integration Faculty Development Fellow

Summer Seminar in Faith Integration and Creativity

The Office of Faith Integration through the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CTLA) is pleased to sponsor a "Summer Seminar in Faith Integration and Creativity" this summer, May 21-24, 2012.

The sessions will run from 9:00-11:30 AM on four consecutive mornings, and will be conducted seminar style, centered on assigned readings and guided explorations. Bill Catling and Paul Kaak will be the seminar facilitators. Each participant will receive free books and materials for the seminar and a \$200 stipend for participation.

The focus of the 2012 Summer Seminar in Faith Integration will be on how we can give concrete articulation of the transcendent God through our disciplines. Scripture begins with creation, and in its first lines we learn that God creatively shapes that which was formless and void into a world that reflects the divine goodness. No matter what we teach, we are called to emulate our God by using all our resources creatively to express the true, the good, and the beautiful in new ways.

Faculty accepted into the Summer Seminar on Faith Integration must identify a research project that can be coordinated with the seminar topic or a course in which they plan to integrate seminar contents with classroom instruction. Participants will be expected to submit a report by Oct. 1, 2012 outlining progress on their research or syllabus development. Enrollment is limited to the first 12 full-time faculty members who submit the application materials.

To apply, provide a short (one-paragraph or two) description of the research project or course-syllabus for which you intend to integrate this material and send to Connie Johnson (conniejohnson@apu.edu) in the Office of Faith Integration by May 6, 2012.

Upcoming Events: May 17th Faculty Development Day

June Adjunct Seminar - Date TBD