



Compass Points

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News from Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion

CUAC AND WHITELANDS COLLEGE LAUNCH A NEW GLOBAL JOURNAL

Whitelands College (University of Roehampton, London) has joined with Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) to launch a new scholarly journal, *Occasional Papers on Faith in Higher Education*, with the mission of bringing critical inquiry and critical reflection to the relationship between Christian belief and teaching. The new collaborative journal continues in the spirit of CUAC's earlier publication, *Prologue*.

The Rev'd Dr. Mark Garner, Head of College at Whitelands, writes that "the aim is to provide a forum for debate and discussion in all matters connected with faith and... higher education and the experience of those who teach it." While the journal will be of particular interest to Anglican educators, he added that the scope of the *Papers* is not limited to faith-based education or any particular denomination.

And while the first issue has a British focus – it was originally planned as a Whitelands publication – the collaboration with CUAC means future issues will express global concerns and reach a wide audience among CUAC's 140 member institutions. Garner predicts that the *Papers* "will become a genuinely international means of scholarly publication."

The inaugural essays include Stephen Heap (University of Winchester) on the role of Christian colleges in working for "the good society," the Rt. Rev'd Richard Cheetham (Bishop of Kingston) on faith in a multicultural society, Elaine Graham (University of Chester) on "apologetics without apology," Kristin Aune (Coventry University) on faith and the U.K. university experience, and Garner, Richard Burgess, and Daniel Eshun (Whitelands College) on submitting religious convictions to critical enquiry in higher education.

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Whitelands Head of College Mark Garner and Chaplain Daniel Eshun examine the first issue of *Occasional Papers* in front of three of the College's windows by Edward Burne-Jones.

HORIZONS



On my recent visit to India I met with Professor Valson Thampu, president of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, which had hosted the 1997 Indian Triennial. In fact Valson was the chaplain then and was responsible for planning the speakers. Speaking to CUAC's mission, he noted "the foremost issue for church colleges is learning a vision for education: 'Why are we in it?' Nobody knows why... the whole process of thinking about education has stopped."

From its founding globally in 1993, CUAC has been a learning organization networking Anglican colleges and universities so they might remain collectively authentic to their distinctive mission in our rapidly changing world.

In 1999 Preston Merchant edited the premier issue of *Prologue*, CUAC's theological journal, "as a forum for the exchange of ideas, so these institutions and others might learn more about the work and world they share. We are not interested in keeping secrets. *Prologue* is the first word, never the last."

Over the following six years four volumes were issued representing thirty-three authors' work. But after 2005 the bar became too high for supporting a print journal, and the ground became fallow. CUAC continued to sponsor papers on Christian higher education at the triennials, but without the support of a juried journal. When I became general secretary in 2011, I found the four proud, but lonely, issues on the shelf.

Networks are fueled by collecting the distributed energy of their members, which take new life when brought together. Thus in mid-2014, on my visit to Whitelands College, University of Roehampton, London, the Rev'd Dr. Mark Garner shared with me his dream of launching a new journal, *Occasional Papers on Faith in Higher Education*, to keep the Christian and, even more broadly, religious light in our schools burning bright. As they desired a global voice, Whitelands generously offered to partner with CUAC. Our trustees were delighted, and CUAC is represented on the editorial board by Dr. Jeremy Law, Dean of Chapel at Canterbury Christ Church University, and the inaugural issue contains Elaine Graham's presentation from the 2014 Seoul Triennial, "Apologetics without apology: Navigating our way in a globalized and multi-faith world."

As the editor writes in the inaugural issue, "In our globalized world, Christian foundation institutions confront many similar questions, and we hope that a great deal of what these authors have to say will be of interest and relevance to an international readership. We also hope that others, from many parts of the world, will be inspired to contribute to future issues, so that the *Papers* will become a genuinely international means of scholarly communication."

Because the forces of change are pressing on education so rapidly and relentlessly, we would let the process of thinking about higher education stop only at our peril.

The Rev. Canon James G. Callaway, D.D.

GENERAL SECRETARY

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HONORS CUAC'S FOUNDER LINDA CHISHOLM



Linda Armstrong Chisholm, Ph.D. – the founder and first General Secretary of CUAC – was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., on May 20, 2015. She is founder and president of the International Partnership for Service Learning.

A day earlier, while speaking at the Service for the Mission of the Church, she recalled her work as president of the Association of Episcopal Colleges in creating service-learning programs for thousands of college-age students, regardless of their religious backgrounds:

“As they returned from the Holy Cross Mission at Bolahun in Liberia, Mother Teresa’s Home for the Destitute and Dying in Calcutta, the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota, from inner city Glasgow or Guadalajara, they told stories that came to the same points – that they were the ones served, that they learned things they could have learned no other way, that they understood truths hitherto not perceived.

“One student, the daughter of a priest, told of her fears as she anticipated her service at a hospital for people with severe physical disabilities. But they, she reported, were focused on her needs. ‘Did I like the food? Was I lonely so far from family?’ Today she heads a residential treatment center in Pitts-

burgh. Another learned that the man who followed her each day from the bus stop to the school in Jamaica where she was teaching was not the stalker she imagined, but had volunteered to see that she was safe. From then on they walked side by side. Both students had encountered the holy.”

Dr. Chisholm also recalled the founding of CUAC. “Everywhere the British set their flag they also set their Church and their academic institutions, making opportunities available to women and to the Untouchables in India, for example, and to political refugees in the Philippines.” Today, she said, the students, faculty, and staff at the colleges of this Anglican-inspired network may be Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or Jewish. “Through CUAC, they share with each other how they see the face of God. More than once, they, gathered from the corners of the earth, have shown each other things previously unseen. In their service, they have encountered the holy.”

A CALL FOR PAPERS

The first volume of *Occasional Papers on Faith in Higher Education* is available at www.cuac.org, and print copies have been sent to each member college and university. Papers on topics relevant to the general theme are invited from any interested person or group and may be sent by post to the Editors at:

Whitelands College

Holybourne Avenue

London SW 15 4JD UK

Or by email to Whitelands.CUAC.papers@roehampton.ac.uk.

ESTABLISHING A CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE... AND HOW TO KEEP IT GOING

Michael Wood is Anglican Chaplain to the University of Western Australia (UWA) and its St. George's College. Here is an excerpt from his recent essay, "The Story of a Contemplative (and Active) Community of Practice at the University of Western Australia":

I'm interested in providing contemplative spaces in which teachers and others can reflect on what it is that brings wholeness and life rather than fragmentation and death and to trust their own deepest felt answers to that question — wholeness and life for one's self, and for one's students. This is a question which goes beyond technique and into identity and integrity.

How do retreats and Quiet Days work?

The staff retreats and Quiet Days I offer at UWA are largely based on very simple processes of reflection developed by Parker Palmer. What does a typical Quiet Day look like?

1. Morning check in, examining the process we're engaged in, how we are as we arrive, and what we're hoping from the day.
2. Discussion and agreement on boundaries of listening and trust – most notably the rules of “no fixing, saving, advising, or rescuing” (as outlined in Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness*).
3. Reflection on a short piece of poetry or a visual image as a way of slowing down and moving into some engagement with our inner life and to help move into silence. Palmer refers to these as “third things,” enabling the inner life to show up tangentially, since the soul is “shy” especially in the company of other people.
4. Afternoon of silence (walking, resting, reading, journaling).
5. Late afternoon check in, on what's been emerging during the day.

Practical outcomes

Although the primary focus is “inner work,” and we don't seek to measure the success of the retreat by way of specific outputs, participants commonly report the following in their feedback:

- 1) The experience helped them slow down sufficiently from the busyness of everyday working life to be able to get clearer on personal and working priorities....One person commented, “I came home and wrote a research paper that had been bugging me for some time.” Another credited the retreat as being instrumental in their success in gaining a national award in teaching practice. Several went on to design an action-learning unit across engineering, arts, and geography.



‘The experience helped them slow down from the busyness of everyday life’

2) The retreat experience helped them to listen better...This quality of listening flowed through to other professional and personal relationships.

However, the retreat process makes no promises to deliver particular outcomes. What emerges will be unique to each participant.

An ongoing community of practice

Participants inevitably ask about how they can keep some kind of contemplative practice, or spaciousness, going in their lives. This was the catalyst for the emergence of Quiet Day “alumni/ae.” The conceptual foundations are found in another book by Palmer (with Arthur Zajonc) – *The Heart of Higher Education: A Call to Renewal – Transforming the Academy through Collegial Conversations*.

The convening theme/question is drawn from that book. The way it works is simple. We gather for 1.5 hours once a month and sit in a circle. We spend a few minutes in silence. Then we contemplate a poem. Then we write our questions on paper and put them on the floor in the middle of the circle. For the next hour we simply pass around a talking piece, practicing respectful speaking and listening. The principles of safety and trust established on Quiet Day also apply in this community of practice.

How is this funded?

As chaplains, we have no budget. Everything described here is self-funding. Participants pay a registration fee (AU\$50 for a Quiet Day, AU\$250 for a two-day retreat). Some apply for professional development leave. If this is not approved, some have taken a day of their own annual leave.

For more information

Please contact: The Rev. Michael Wood at michael.wood@uwa.edu.au, or phone +61 435 065326.

Lessons of the Red Bandana



**CUAC's Asia Chapter's
Service Learning
Conference**

**Manila, Philippines
March 2015**

Japanese and Korean students (grades 9-12) and their Filipino hosts learned about “the man with the red bandana” as part of a CUAC-sponsored service-learning project. He was Welles Crowther, a young American who died on Sept. 11, 2001, after saving 12 or more people in the collapsing South Tower of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. “I played the segments about Welles from President Obama’s speech at the dedication of the September Eleventh Memorial,” writes Herbert Donovan, who directs service learning at Rikkyo University in Tokyo. “Many of the students have little proficiency in English, but I think it worked well: Obama speaks slowly and clearly and emphasizes the important points.” Then they went around their discussion circles telling stories of “selfless heroism that had happened in each of their own countries.” The visitors also participated in service projects around Manila.

Passages



Joseph Cassidy

1954-2015

The Rev'd Dr. Joseph Cassidy, Principal of St. Chad's College in the University of Durham (UK), died unexpectedly on March 28, 2015. He had been a keen supporter of CUAC for the past 18 years, regularly attending its Triennial Conferences, and a Canon of Durham Cathedral.

The Rt. Rev'd Martin Wharton, the retired Bishop of Newcastle and a CUAC trustee, worked with him for ten years as chairman of the college's Governing Board and wrote of him as follows:

Joe was born and brought up in Montreal, Canada, and after university spent 14 years as a Jesuit, continuing his academic studies (he was a noted Christian ethicist) while working in Jamaica and Nicaragua. He moved to England in 1992 and lectured at the University of Southampton, where he met and later married Gillian. Joe became an Anglican in 1996 and one year later was appointed Principal of St. Chad's.

Over the next 18 years, St. Chad's was transformed under his leadership, becoming one of the most sought after colleges at Durham, regularly achieving the best academic results of any college, with a strong and vibrant community life with the Anglican faith at its heart. Following one of the CUAC Triennials, Joe was the only person present to take up the challenge of one of the speakers to develop a link with St. Matthew's School in South Africa.

Joe was a man of prodigious energy and immense sociability. But he was also a private man who delighted in his family and was especially proud of his three children. He loved skiing and had recently returned from Austria (his students had invited him to go with them); he loved hiking in his beloved Adirondacks and in Teesdale; he regularly returned to Crystal Beach in Ontario. Joe had a delightful sense of humor, a light touch, and a steely determination to give of his best for everyone.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord —

let light perpetual shine upon him.

A NEW GLOBAL JOURNAL

Continued from Page One

The *Papers* will be “occasional,” Garner explained, to respond to the level of interest among potential contributors. “Ideally we’ll receive in the course of a year more papers than a single issue can hold.” Leading British educationalist Priscilla Chadwick has agreed to serve as editor, and the second issue is expected to appear in the first half of 2016. The first issue is being distributed free of charge, with a subscription rate planned in future. The *Papers* are published online at www.cuac.org. You can request a print copy from Whitelands at the address on page three. If your library did not receive *Prologue*, contact the CUAC office to request back issues.

Garner said that one motive for launching the *Papers* is that “while chaplains still do terrific work in the universities, the Church of England has since the 1980s pulled out of higher education.” Yet because Anglicanism has so much to offer, it was important to provide a forum “to start the discussion of the issues.” He anticipates “a happy marriage” with CUAC and “a much wider reach” in terms of contributing writers.

A convincing argument can be made, he writes in his introduction to the series, “that education in the twenty-first century has to include developing what is often called ‘religious literacy’.” What this means is rarely defined, he says, but would seem to require “an awareness of a human need for faith in something that lies behind or beyond the tangible” and “a working knowledge about and understanding of the major religious faiths.” The *Papers* aim to address such questions “within the accepted norms of scholarly discussion.”

SAVE THE DATE

CUAC International

Triennial Conference 2017

IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY:

CITIZENSHIP, VOCATION AND THE COMMON GOOD

January 4-10, 2017

Chaplains’ Post-Conference January 10-12, 2017

Madras Christian College

Chennai, INDIA

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