4th Annual *Faith Integration in the Academy* Conference

Friday, August 2, 2024
Note: All times listed below are in Pacific Standard Time

Time	Topic	
7:00-7:15 a.m.	**Welcome & Introductions**	Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes
7:15-8 a.m.	**Breakout Session 1**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B
8:05 a.m. -8:50 a.m.	**Breakout Session 2**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B
8:55 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.	**Breakout Session 3**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B
9:40-10:00 a.m.	**Break**	Coffee and Chat Room (Optional)
10:00-10:45 a.m.	**Keynote - Michelle Hughes**	Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes
10:50-11:35 a.m.	**Breakout Session 4**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B, FIA Room C
11:35-12:00 p.m.	**Break**	Coffee and Chat Room (Optional)
12:00-12:45 p.m.	**Keynote - Kenneth Nehrbass**	Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes
12:45-1:30 p.m.	**Breakout Session 5**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B, FIA Room C
1:35 - 2:20 p.m.	**Breakout Session 6**	FIA Room A, FIA Room B, FIA Room C
2:20 - 3:00 p.m.	**Meet the Editors**	FIA Room A

Opening Session: 7:00-7:15 a.m.
Location: Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes

Breakout 1 Sessions: 7:15-8 a.m.

Building Kingdom Professionals
Tracy Ward, Associate Provost for Administration
California Baptist University
FIA Conference Room A
This session will present findings from a study using the Kingdom Professional Model as a reflective tool to debrief student experiences with faith, learning, and service while serving in a global context. The author will present practical lessons from using the model as a reflective tool.

Applying a Christian Ethic of Care in Instructional Technology Decisions
Tyler Watts, Assistant Professor of Education
Mercer University

Amy Flagler
Assistant Professor
[FIA Conference Room B](#)
This session presents Christian ethic of care as a framework for classroom decision-making with regard to new technologies. The framework allows us to consider the impact of instructional technology use on students, teachers, and the broader community. Scenarios using the framework and practical considerations will be presented including generative AI, plagiarism detection tools, and other emerging technologies. The aim of the session is to consider how we can emulate Jesus' example of grace and truth when dealing with technology innovations.

Breakout 2 Sessions: 8:05 a.m. -8:50 a.m.

To Win as Many as Possible: Utilizing Cultural Intelligence to Teach and Reach an Increasingly Diverse World
Samantha Chao
Adjunct Dissertation Committee Member
California Baptist University
[FIA Conference Room A](#)
Studying cross-cultural relations is more imperative than ever in an increasingly diverse world. Examples from Scripture show that it is biblical to submit to others' cultural preferences for God's glory. In academic literature, David Livermore has described the skill of learning and adapting to other cultures as the principle of developing and utilizing cultural intelligence. Discover how to apply the principles of cultural intelligence shown in Scripture in the Christian classroom.

Faith Integration in Online Programs: The Role of Self-Efficacy in Fostering Confidence Among Adjunct Faculty
Lori Doyle
Director, MA in Educational Leadership
Concordia University Irvine

Tanya Tarbutton
Senior Director of MA programs
Concordia University Irvine
[FIA Conference Room B](#)
The impact of adjunct faculty on the student experience cannot be overstated and faith-based institutions are not immune to this reality. Most adjunct faculty are practitioners in the field and many accept adjunct contracts while simultaneously working in secular workplaces. Faith integration, even if fully embraced, is not typically a skill with which adjunct faculty feel confident. A theoretical foundation based on self-efficacy theory will be used to address and discuss best practices for preparing and supporting adjunct instructors, specifically those teaching in online programs, regarding confident faith integration.

Breakout 3 Sessions: 8:55 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

Rhythms of Rest: Teaching and Practicing Sabbath
Kerry Moore
Chair of Undergraduate Psychology
Vanguard University
[FIA Conference Room A](#)
In an increasingly busy and stressful educational context, students and faculty alike can experience exhaustion and disconnection. Drawing upon both psychological research and Scriptural teachings, this session explores the meaning and practice of rest. We'll think creatively about how faculty from a variety of academic disciplines can teach this topic in the classroom and support healthy practices through their course structures and policies. There will be an opportunity to discuss organizational health and how university communities can work together to create a culture that values rest.

The Christian Commitment Index: Conceptualization, Development, and Implementation

Adele Harrison
Program Director, BS-Finance
California Baptist University

Wendy L. Martin
Professor Emeritus of Business
Trinity International University
[FIA Conference Room B](#)

Faith integration is essential to the mission of all programs at Christian colleges and universities. As educators, we are not only challenged to equip our students with a Christian worldview, but also a view of our discipline that is distinctly Christian. As an academy, we have written numerous articles on styles of Biblical integration, methods and tools to achieve integration, and case studies on results of integration (Dupree, 2015; Kaak, 2016). Yet despite a wealth of research on faith integration, faculty lack validated scales to help in our assessment (Smith, 2005; Holder, 2006; Kaak, 2016). As part of this, our current means of assessment do not consider all of the aspects of the attitudes related to the Christian commitment of the individual.

In this session, participants learn about a research study focused on undergraduate business majors resulting in the development of the Christian Commitment Index which measures students' commitment level to the Christian faith while attending a Christian college or university. The study was conducted with 705 participants across 12 CCCU institutions. Findings indicate that higher scores on the CCI corresponded to more appreciation of faith instruction in their major and integration of their faith in their work after graduation.

Session participants will also engage with authors related to these, and additional, significant findings of the study and explore their various faith integration methods relative to those expressed by institutions engaged in the research study.

Finally, since biblical integration efforts aim toward helping students grow in their faith, should not their individual faith commitments be considered our work? Join us as we explore this critical aspect of our teaching.

Keynote Presentation: 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Michelle Hughes

[Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes](#)

Breakout 4 Sessions: 10:50-11:35 a.m.

Can we digitize a Soul? A study of AI and Spirituality
Debby Espinor
Associate Professor of Education
George Fox University
[FIA Conference Room A](#)

Advancing computing technologies and machine intelligence are bringing rapid and fundamental changes to our lives and the educational enterprise. Some view this with great anticipation, and others with great concern. In this presentation, I examine the changes in society, demographics, and technology that will continue to impact the existence and form of higher education institutions. There are a lot of conversations about what AI can do, yet there are many areas in which AI cannot replace human attributes. Many of those areas involve matters of the heart and caring.

Forming the Head, Hands, and Hearts of Students: A Pedagogical Model for Spiritual Formation in Christian Higher Education
Michael Osadchuk
Director, University Tutoring Center/Adjunct Professor
California Baptist University
[FIA Conference Room B](#)

Spiritual formation is foundational to the purpose of Christian Higher Education. However, spiritual formation is often practiced rationally, as the passing on of ideas or information, and fails to be holistically formative. This session will feature the Conditions for Spiritual Model (CSF), a holistic pedagogical spiritual formation model derived from a grounded theory study.

Intense Conversations and Emerging Convictions: Inside a Faculty Task Force Charged with Building a Program of Academic Faith Integration

Paul Kaak
Senior Consultant
TheoMetrics
(representing Vanguard University)

Jim Darlack (Senior Library Director and Associate Professor), Renee Rose (Assistant Professor), Brenda Gesell (Director and Associate Professor of Graduate Clinical Psychology Program), Michael Jimenez (Department Chair of History & Political Science, Associate)
FIA Conference Room C

Though Vanguard University has valued academic faith integration (AFI) from its founding, a task force began meeting in fall '23 to discuss and define AFI in Vanguard's unique setting. The group examined AFI conceptually, worked on developing a shared definition, had meaningful interactions with faculty, considered faculty development, anticipated places of openness and resistance, and empathized with realities faced by various disciplines. We anticipate that these steps will offer powerful leverage for ongoing institutional transformation. In our session we offer key insights from year 1 of our process.

Keynote Presentation: 12:00-12:45 p.m.

Kenneth Nehrbass
 Faith Integration in the Academy Opening Session and Keynotes

Breakout 5 Sessions: 12:45-1:30 p.m.

AI in a Christian School - Year Zero

Eugene Kim
Professor
Concordia University Irvine

Michelle Zimmerman
Researcher
FIA Conference Room A

In this session, we examine the intersection of faithfulness and artificial intelligence at the locus of a Christian school in order to challenge widely held assumptions about ethics, technology, and pedagogy. Our conversation on Artificial Intelligence integration will begin with a clear and cogent grounding in theological and missiological frameworks. We will provide insights into the case study of Year Zero for Renton Prep's radical and visionary mid-year AI organizational shift. We explore what this case study could mean for the future of Christian education and our role as stewards of this amazing world and all of the wonders in it (Genesis 1:28).

A study in progress: The impact of centering prayer in classroom settings on academic persistence, emotional well-being, and spiritual development

Antonio Mejico
Associate Dean for Academic Services, Associate Dean of the Division of Social Work, Associate Professor of Social Work
California Baptist University
FIA Conference Room B

Mindfulness, grounding, and meditative practices have been found to have positive effects on student well-being and academic persistence such as stress reduction, increased focus, and increased feelings of relaxation (Chiang & Sumell, 2019; Strait, et al., 2020). However, Christian contemplative prayer practices in a faith-based classroom have not been explored. This project seeks to close that gap by investigating the impact of centering prayer as a contemplative practice, rooted in the Christian faith tradition on students. This qualitative research project will gather data via semi structured interviews, conducted during focus groups with students who have practiced centering prayer which has been integrated into their classroom lessons.

Since January of 2019, I have implemented the practice of centering prayer into each of my classes as a central component of my teaching pedagogy.   Over the past 5 years, students have anecdotally reported increased rates of relaxation and focus, as well as overall stress reduction. Students have also reported a positive impact on their overall spiritual development in a Christian context, and some have continued the practice of centering outside of the classroom environment. Focus groups were conducted with students during the Fall semester of 2023 to gather the experiences of the impact of centering prayer during class. This presentation will provide an overview of the implementation of this project and initial observations gained as a result of conducting the focus groups.

Integrating Christian Ethical Principles in Healthcare Education
Kelly Donovan
Founding Program Director, Dental Hygiene
California Baptist University
FIA Conference Room C
Theoretical foundations of ethics guide healthcare professionals in making morally sound decisions, ensuring the well-being and safety of their patients. One significant aspect involves the integration of faith and ethics in the healthcare setting. Healthcare workers often face the challenge of aligning Christian ethical beliefs with the demands of modern society. This juxtaposition requires careful reflection and decision-making to navigate potential conflicts that may arise. By aligning medical interventions with ethical standards rooted in Christian beliefs, healthcare professionals can navigate moral dilemmas and uphold a commitment to serve with love and conscientiousness.

Breakout 6 Sessions: 1:35 - 2:20 p.m.

Ethical Use of AI in Education
Lynn Wolfe
English Instructor
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
FIA Conference Room A
There are many questions about the ethical use of generative AI in teaching and learning. Though AI is undoubtedly a powerful tool, as Christians we are called to "test everything" and "hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). For instructors and students alike, this process involves evaluating the practical, social, and spiritual value of the technologies we use. In this workshop we will discuss how instructors can familiarize themselves with generative AI and decide how to uphold the ethical use of these tools in their courses.

The complementary connection between social work values and Christ-centered values
Yakiciwey Mitchell
Assistant Professor, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
California Baptist University
FIA Conference Room B
The discipline of social work is rooted in core values that most would agree are laudable. For Christ-centered social workers, the values of service, human dignity, the importance of human relationships, social justice, integrity, and competency are also fundamental values of the faith. Social work core values were literally taught and lived out by the author and finisher of our Christian faith, Jesus Christ. The social work curriculum is built on core values and competencies that students must demonstrate to complete successfully. Social work is a social science that depends on relationships and evidence-based, effective interventions. Social work began with private Christian organizations serving people experiencing hardships. Over time, social work practice was incorporated into government institutions that did not allow faith-focused service delivery. The field has become increasingly secularized, leaving many uncertain about how to integrate their faith into their practice. This workshop explores the connection between social work's core values and Christ-centered values. It offers guidance on integrating faith into social work practice by connecting social work core values and Christ-centered values. Ethical faith integration in social work practice strengthens the practitioner and the client/consumer. Uncertainty about ethical faith integration in social work can undermine intervention efforts. Social work faculty who emphasize social work and Christian value connectedness can effectively support students exploring their faith while learning the foundations of social work and developing their professional identity. Social work students who learn to ethically integrate faith into practice can provide social work services more confidently.

Sharing the Gospel with Christian [and Non-Christian] Students in the Faith-based University Classroom
Paul Kaak
Senior Consultant
TheoMetrics
FIA Conference Room C
The Great Commission directs the church's work in the world and the gospel contains the message that is central to our essence. These also inform the pedagogical task of faith-based colleges and universities. As such, the gospel is significant in the education of non/nominal Christians who we have accepted into our classrooms and who deserve the same opportunities to learn as our churched Christian students. The

session demonstrates the gospel's presence across the disciplines with a particular focus on "gospel teaching" in classes where the subject is not explicitly religious and when students are present who do not share our Christian convictions. Practical recommendations offered throughout.

Meet the Editors: 2:20 - 3:00 p.m.
Meet the Editors for the *Journal of Faith in the Academic Profession*
FIA Conference Room A
Come meet the editors of the *Journal of Faith in the Academic Profession* and chat about upcoming projects you have. Editors hope to guide interested faculty through the process of getting work published, and to support faculty in understanding the niche that JFAP serves.