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Former Talbot Phil Grad Becomes President of Ratio Christi

by Julie Miller
Board of Directors,
Chapter Director at Rutgers University

You have not already heard, Rick Schenker recently resigned from his position as the president of Ratio Christi. After helping RC make a smooth and harmonious transition, he is moving on to other things. We would like to thank Rick for his leadership as the organization’s first President and CEO. Everyone is extremely grateful for his leadership in the expansion of Ratio Christi’s network, both within and outside the apologetics community, from a handful of chapters on college campuses to over 150 chapters. The ministry would not be where it is today without his leadership over the last four years. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.
However, Ratio Christi has some exciting news to share with you!

With much prayer, the board initiated the search for a new president, and the Lord has graciously provided an answer far more quickly than we could have imagined. Ratio Christi is pleased to announce the appointment of its new president and CEO, Corey Miller, PhD.

Corey comes to us after five years of service with Faculty Commons, Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). He holds a PhD in philosophical theology from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Since 2009, Miller has directed the Christian Faculty, Grad, and Staff Network at Purdue University and he is an Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Religions at Indiana University-Kokomo. Among other publications, he is co-editor of “Is Faith in God Reasonable? Debates in Philosophy, Science, and Rhetoric” (Routledge, 2014).

A former Mormon from Utah, Miller now lives with his wife Melinda and three children in Indiana. He describes himself as a “kingdom coalition builder.”

“I AM HUMBLE AND ELATED TO SERVE CHRIST THROUGH SUCH A KINGDOM-ORIENTED ORGANIZATION AS RATIO CHRISTI. IT IS A MOVEMENT DEDICATED TO DEFENDING TRUTH AND BRINGING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL TO THE ACADEMY WHILE WORKING IN TANDEM WITH OTHER MINISTRIES IN A WINSOME MANNER. BY GOD’S GRACE, I CAN HELP TAKE RC BEYOND BEING A ‘STUDENT APOLOGISTICS ALLIANCE’ TO BEING A WHOLE CAMPUS APOLOGISTICS ALLIANCE AND EXPAND THIS INTO EUROPE, ASIA, AND BEYOND AS WELL AS INTO HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGH THE RC COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM.”

Miller has extensive experience as a communicator including teaching college-level public speaking. Since 2009 he has organized The Symposium Christi at Purdue University, a speaking and discussion outreach that brings in top-level thinkers to engage with the campus community on important topics from a Christian perspective. It’s the largest annual outreach event of the Purdue/Greater Lafayette area, bringing together a broad coalition of local professors, pastors, and campus ministers to an extended event that serves all levels of academia, while drawing the local, national, and international community.

Dr. Miller possesses the skills and experience to take Ratio Christi to new levels of effectiveness. He has been a youth and college pastor, a Bible college and university professor, campus minister, lecturer, and evangelist. His doctorate in theology and his graduate degrees in philosophy, philosophy of religion and ethics, and biblical studies provide an academic background suited to leadership in this growing student apologetics ministry. Corey is well-versed in both the academic and ministry strata of university life via both classroom and campus ministry. He understands worldview issues and how to communicate winsomely with evangelistic fervor. As an “academic insider” Miller brings unique insight into the faculty/grad culture and how to reach it.

TPS SPRING 2015 CONFERENCE
TALBOT PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY AND DR. ROBERT AUDI BRING THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR TO A CLOSE

This year the Talbot Philosophical Society was once again pleased to host its annual Spring Conference and we are pleased to report that it was a great success! We had just over forty people attend from all around Southern California as well as two paper presenters from across the country.

This year the Talbot Philosophical Society was honored to have as our keynote lecturer Dr. Robert Audi from the University of Notre Dame. In his lecture, entitled “Personhood, Embodiment, and Survival: Speculations on Life after (Biological) Death,” Dr. Audi considered how human beings might be said to survive death as persons wherein embodiment of the human type is not a necessary condition for personhood. Such an existence, whether it be with or without bodies, argued Dr. Audi, would still have to make sense of causal interactions, communication, and even communities of persons. With regard to these issues, we were asked to consider what an afterlife existence would be like and what would be some of the elements—such as existing in a community of other persons, exercising our capacities for creativity, and having a special relationship with God—that we might hope for in that realm. Two Talbot students, Jessie Reed and Zachary Taylor, responded to Dr. Audi’s keynote address, after which occurred a lively and robust discussion on some of the themes of the address. Of noted interest to a large portion of the audience gathered was the notion of “creativity” in the afterlife—particularly, what creativity might look like in such a state and whether or not forgetfulness might play a role in eternal creativity.

The Talbot Philosophical Society was also pleased to welcome back two of it’s own graduates to present graduate papers at the conference as well as a former Biola undergraduate alumnus. Talbot alumnus Mr. Wesley Chambers (University of Missouri at Columbia) returned to present a paper entitled “Retributivism and the Proportionality Problem” in which he critiqued an argument offered by Michael Zimmerman against the theory of retributive justice. Another Talbot alumnus, Mr. Isaiah Lin (Syracuse University), also
Doug Geivett co-authored two books with Biola alumna Holly Pivec that focus on the New Apostolic Reformation, or NAR (pronounced NAHR). One is a shorter book titled God’s Super-Apostles, and a longer one called A New Apostolic Reformation? A Biblical Response to a Worldwide Movement.

The NAR is a rapidly growing, worldwide movement whose teachings and practices have permeated churches around the world, and particularly have made significant inroads into classical Pentecostal and charismatic churches. Its distinctive teaching is that God has restored the governing church offices of apostle and prophet. They claim they have authority and functions akin to those of the Old Testament prophets and Christ’s apostles. All Christians are expected to submit to their leadership and receive their new revelations. In this way they plan to form the church into a miracle-working army. This army will transform society and prepare the way for God’s kingdom to be established on earth. Distinctive practices associated with the NAR include prayerwalking, the formation of “supernatural schools of ministry,” and the establishment of “24/7 prayer rooms.”

Well-known NAR leaders include Mike Bickle (International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri), Bill Johnson (Bethel Church in Redding, California), Lou Engle (TheCall), Randy Clark (Global Awakening), Cindy Jacobs (Generals International), Rick Joyner (MorningStar Ministries), Bill Hamon (Christian International Ministries), and C. Peter Wagner.

Geivett and Pivec wrote the books because they perceived a need for a carefully reasoned, biblical response to a movement that has flown under the radar and brought much confusion to the church. In their critique of the NAR, they do not argue for or against the continuation of the miraculous gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12, writing, “Whether the miraculous gifts are ongoing or not has no bearing on the arguments of our book.” The books’ endorsers include Pentecostal and charismatic scholars Craig Keener (Asbury), Amos Yong (Fuller), and Margaret Poloma (University of Akron).
Since their publication in December, the books have garnered attention from high-profile media outlets, including the Janet Mefford Show, Books at a Glance, and World Magazine. One of the most significant reviews came from George P. Wood, who serves as the executive editor of Assemblies of God publications at Assemblies of God USA, the world’s largest Pentecostal denomination. Wood’s review was published in a January 2015 newsletter, “Called to Serve,” which is sent to 36,000 credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God denomination. Wood wrote another review for the denomination’s Influence Magazine. In the latter, Wood writes:

"As a classical Pentecostal, I see brothers and sisters among leaders and followers of the New Apostolic Reformation. Chances are, you, your family, or your church has heard of NAR’s doctrines or have been influenced by them. With R. Douglas Geivett and Holly Pivec, however, I believe that NAR doctrines are not true because not biblical and unhelpful because untrue."

Both books can be purchased directly from the publisher (Weaver Book Company) or at Amazon.

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**FACULTY UPDATES**

**A BRIEF WORD FROM THE PROFESSORS**

Late June, I found out that I have prostate cancer. A bone scan showed that it is contained in the prostate gland, thank God, and by the time you see this, I will have had prostate surgery August 3 and will be wearing a diaper!!

I have done some speaking around the country. I spoke at the University of Pittsburgh to a group of scientists (it was a Christian group with some non-Christians there) on why neuroscience has very little to say about the central issues in the mind/body problem. Needless to say, it got pretty heated. I also spoke to a small group of Christian professors at Duquesne University and we had a spirited interaction. It is incredible to me how much physicalism has influenced Christian thinkers.

I have articles under review at the European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion and the Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care. I am also lead editor for a book that could be a game-changer. It brings together around 30 scientists, philosophers and theologians from the UK and US, and all argue against theistic evolution and for intelligent design. Finally, I am one of three editors of a book currently under review with Blackwell tentatively called Debating Dualism and its Chief Rivals (we have Kim, van Inwagen, Baker, Eric Olson, Rob Koons, Hasket, Cooper, Green, Murphy, Swinburne, Ravenscroft, Taliaferro and others. Pray that Blackwell will think it will sell. That is their only question at this point).

I have also been involved in some writing projects. In addition, I began work on a new paper that emerged from our discussions in Philosophy of Religion. I am exploring how the starting points in atheistic arguments often contain elements that are very unlikely on atheism. I have sent a shorter version to a conference, and I will let you know how that one develops. My paper “Evan Fales and the Possibility of Divine Causation,” was published in Sophia (2015).

I also spent a weekend at Resonate Church in the Bay Area, training them in Apologetics and preaching. In April I participated on a panel for three on-campus ministries on "Mormonism, Islam, and Post-Modernity." Since I know nothing about Mormonism and Islam, I spoke on Post-Modernity.

I also had the privilege of preaching twice at In the Vine Anglican Church in Fullerton.

I am excited to be part of the team here!
ince the last newsletter, Daniel Eaton and I got word that our paper “Evidence Against Pragmatic Encroachment” was accepted by Philosophical Studies. It’s available online only now; we’re not sure in which print issue it will appear. Rob Koons and I are finalizing the manuscript for our long metaphysics book, which is now called The Atlas of Reality: A Complete Guide to Metaphysics. It should be in print by Summer 2016. And I’ve taken over as Chair of the department! This is very exciting, since it means I get to tell everyone else what to do and use all of our departmental budget however I please. Finally, Jamie and I both recently turned 36. There are two great things about this. First, we’ve finally exited the target advertising demographic of 18-35 year-olds. And second, having celebrated our 12th anniversary in July, we’ve been married fully one third of our lives.

emi-retired” = df half the pay, twice the work, no benefits! Well, not quite true, since our decision to “semi-retire” was largely motivated by a desire to be closer to our children and grandchildren in Colorado, and that is a great benefit. Since moving to Colorado Springs, I have continued teaching a hybrid course at Talbot, one for the Science and Religion MA at Biola, and a DMin track with JP, so in many ways I still feel quite involved at Talbot. I’ve also been teaching one class each semester at Denver Seminary in the Apologetics and Ethics program. Writing and research have slowed down—one article in Christian Research Journal and a couple entries in the forthcoming Dictionary of Christianity and Science. If you are ever in Colorado Springs, plan on dropping by for a visit. I still use my Biola email address.

Dr.

Rae has spent the summer traveling internationally and teaching in a variety of contexts. In June, he traveled to Israel as the keynote speaker for a conference with the leaders in the Messianic Jewish movement in Israel, and in August, he did four different lectureships in Australia—at the Presbyterian seminaries in Melbourne and Sydney, speaking in Tasmania to a group that included member of Parliament and the minister of health for Tasmania, and the keynote speaker at the Religion in the Public Square conference, sponsored by the Presbyterian church of the province of Victoria.

He also completed a chapter for an edited volume (Why People Matter, Baker Academic) entitled “Naturalism and Human Significance.” He has a fourth edition of Moral Choices in process as well as an abridged version of that same book for use in the church.

Tim Pickavance
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department Chair

Garry DeWeese
Professor at Large

Scott Rae
Professor of Philosophy
Talbot Dean of Faculty
his was an especially busy first half of the year for Dr. Craig. As usual, the year began with his Interterm seminar at Talbot, this year’s being a survey of Philosophy of Religion. Later in the spring, he taught a Biola extension class to a group of 60 at his Atlanta-area church, entitled, “The Coherence of Theism.”

There were a number of speaking engagements this spring, including several to audiences at Rutgers University, a team-taught Templeton Foundation seminar, and a dialog with Peter van Inwagen and JT Bridges on God and abstract objects. However, the highlight was giving the Cadbury Lectures at the University of Birmingham, England. These consisted of five lectures on the general theme “God Over All”. It was an especially gratifying event since UB was his alma mater for philosophy doctoral studies.

Publication-wise, his manuscript on God and abstract objects has been finished and is currently under submission. A popularization of this book, entitled God Over All, is under consideration at Oxford University Press. A student version of On Guard was also published, which has been written with a non-believing seeker readership in mind.

Currently, he is preparing for a Fall 2015 speaking tour, beginning in Munich, where he will debate the German philosopher Ansgar Beckermann on the question “Gibt es Gott?” and present four lectures in German on the existence of God.
I've recently completed my PhD in theatre and performance studies at the University of Pittsburgh. For the dissertation, I analyzed live performance interaction using Elizabeth Anscombe's teleological philosophy of action and intentionality and demonstrated how this conception of performance can be used in the design process of User Experience design for ubiquitous computing. The MA Phil has been incredibly important in this project! As an application of my research I am starting a company, Nymbus, that gives musicians a creative platform to interact with fans at concerts by turning smartphones across the audience into a huge two-way interactive lighting display. My lovely family Lynn, Grace, and Sheldon are thriving here in Pittsburgh, spreading joy as they pursue a busy schedule of activities across the city.

The past year I worked as an adjunct teaching philosophy at Azusa Pacific University and Biola. I loved every minute of it! The biggest news is that Laura and I are moving to Waco, TX. I'll be starting the PhD philosophy program at Baylor University and Laura will start her new job teaching 4th grade at Woodway Elementary. We had a choice of six schools and are very confident that Baylor is exactly where God wants us.

I've keep busy the past several months writing as well. I was invited to write a chapter arguing against emergent dualism for an edited volume on Christian substance dualism that will be submitted to OUP in January. Derek McAllister (a Talbot alum who is also starting Baylor's PhD program in the fall) and I have co-written a paper on divine hiddenness that we are presenting at a conference on divine hiddenness at Oxford University in August. Also, Steve Porter and I have co-written a paper that philosophically analyzes models of the role of the Holy Spirit in sanctification, which we will be polishing up to submit for publication soon.

Laura and I are very excited for what the Lord has in store for us over the next five years at Baylor and we are very grateful we get to share this adventure with Derek and Nakai McAllister!

After receiving my Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, I was fortunate enough to get a tenure-track job in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Eastern Kentucky University back in 2004. I'm now a full professor and just became chair of our department. Our family is doing well. My wife Dawn is a nurse, and we'll have 2 kids in college next month. Our youngest will be a sophomore in high school. The opportunities for influence that come along with the training I received at Talbot are very real, and I continue to draw from my time there both personally and professionally. I recently started a website/blog devoted to the cultivation of Christian character. If anyone is interested, check out Putting on the Character of Christ (http://www.michaelwaustin.com) and let me know what you think. I'm always trying to improve it!

I live in Torrance, California and work as an associate pastor at Nova Community Church. I have a wonderful wife and three very active boys.
ear friends,

Greetings from Singapore, where I am spending my summer vacation after a fruitful academic year at The University of Hong Kong (HKU).

I am grateful for the privilege of working at HKU, a leading university in Asia and the highest ranking university in China. I started in October 2014 during the Umbrella Movement—a very exciting time! I planned to teach something that had relevance to what was happening in HK, and in March I had the opportunity to teach a course ‘Freedom, Suffering and Hope’ for the General Education Unit, in which I explored these issues through an examination of the Judeo-Christian philosophical tradition. I’m thankful that a number of participants told me that the course was very helpful; one of them works for Creation Media; she has since arranged their company to have me record a series of short video clips on ‘Is there a God?’, ‘Did Jesus rise from the dead?’ etc. in Putonghua, to be made available online. Pray that these will be greatly used by the Lord to bless the Chinese people.

I also had the opportunity to participate in a panel debate ‘The Peace between Religions in a World of Crisis’ organized by the Centre for Comparative and Public Law in March. I am thankful that one of the debaters approached me afterwards and said he was interested to find out more about Christianity. We had a few sessions of Bible studies and he prayed and accepted Christ.

I was also invited to take part in a dialogue with Dr Peter Boghossian (a spokesperson for Richard Dawkins Foundation) at the University of Western Australia on ‘How do you know God exists?’ in June. I corrected Peter’s view that faith is believing without evidence, pointed out the errors of his scientistic assumptions, and presented the Kalam Cosmological Argument and Teleological Arguments for the existence of God which went unrefuted.

I was invited to Beijing Language and Culture University in June where I presented ‘The First Cause of the Universe: contemporary discussions in science, philosophy and theology’ at a Science and Religion conference, and received very good feedback.

While in HK I also had the opportunity to speak at Christian fellowship groups and churches. I am thankful that through these events a number of people have received the Lord.

With regards to my publications, my book A Kryptic Model of the Incarnation (Ashgate) was published in December 2014. The first edition of my book. Debating the Christian Faith, was sold out within a year and a revised edition has since been published. A simplified Chinese version has also been finished and will be released soon. I have also finished the following books and have received contracts from publishers:

> Science and the Christian Faith (Singapore: Ethos Institute of Public Christianity, forthcoming 2016) (in English)

I’m also finishing up three books, one on the Kalam Cosmological Argument, one on the origin of Christology (a response to Bart Ehrman and others), and a popular level book on philosophy of religion. Wish you a fruitful and enjoyable summer.

just graduated from Talbot with a Doctor of Ministry in Discipleship. My dissertation was titled, “Following Jesus with Your Brain: Applying Knowledge of Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind to Strengthen Discipleship in a Local Church.” I am continuing to serve as Teaching Pastor along with Ed Morsey at Granada Heights Friends Church in La Mirada.

ANDREW LOKE

MIKE SANBORN
Ed Bort (MA Phil ’07) serves at Impact 360 Institute in Pine Mountain, GA as the Associate Director of Academics where his position affords him the opportunity to invest in the lives of gap year students. He provides leadership in the areas of academic content and curriculum, coordinates visits of guest professors, teaches in the classroom, and leads a weekly integration seminar. Dana Bort (MA Phil ’07) currently practices her philosophical training on their three children: Elijah (8), Elise (5), and Tori (3). She also works with the Impact gap students as a guest lecturer, retreat facilitator, and mentor.

ED & DANA BORT

David Gilbert am currently an Associate Director of the Academy and Instructor of Philosophy at Houston Baptist University. At the Academy we emphasize reading entire primary texts in chronological order in Socratic, discussion-centered classes, integrating philosophy, theology, literature, and history. I also teach a Freshman Year Seminar on villains in pop culture, lead discussions through the Honors College at HBU, and am the philosophy and logic lecturer for the Academy. I am currently engaged (to be married!) to Talbot Institute of Spiritual Formation and Biola Torrey alumna, Cate MacDonald. The three best books I’ve read for the first time this last year are Steinbeck’s East of Eden, Ovid’s Metamorphosis, and Plantinga’s Warranted Christian Belief.

DAVID GILBERT
value keeping you up-to-date on the goings-on with the MA Phil program, and so it’s our pleasure to supply you with this most recent edition of With All Your Mind. We hope you’ve found it encouraging to read about what our faculty and students have been up to recently. We faculty are always uplifted by the stories of what God has been doing through our graduates, whether in academia, the marketplace, or in the broader mission of the church. And we hope you are, too.

We would love for you to support us, and there are at least two ways you can. First, you can pray! You can pray for our students, especially our new students, that they would flourish not just philosophically but as whole people while they study in the program. You can pray for our faculty as well, that we would flourish. And you can pray that students would continue to come. Our numbers had dipped a bit during the recession, but we have been blessed in the past three or four years with robust incoming classes. We had 27 students join us this Fall, and have around 80 students total. Please pray for all of them, and for us faculty, as we learn and grow in the MA Phil community.

Second, you can give! Because of the financial generosity of people connected with our program—especially our graduates—we’ve been able to do things we couldn’t manage any other way. Your gifts have helped us develop a student-run conference, have supported research and travel for faculty, and have provided scholarships that allow students to afford continuing on in the program. We are deeply grateful to those of you who have given so generously. The work we do on behalf of the Kingdom could not be done without you. Importantly, though, your continuing financial support is crucial. We must, for the long-term success of our program, make progress in all of these areas, especially when it comes to student affordability. Indeed, I dream that, at some point during my time as chair, we will be able to tell every one of our students that their tuition is completely covered.

That’s a lofty goal, and many of you may think that what you can afford simply cannot make a difference. But it certainly can! Suppose each of our 400 or so former students gave $10 per month. That’s around $50,000 a year! The point is, don’t think that even small gifts are of no use. We are deeply grateful for giving in any amount, whether a one-time donation or on an ongoing basis. You can use the form below or the online form at giving.biola.edu. Simply click the Give Now button, and, to ensure your donation gets to us, designate your donation to Other and type in ‘MA Philosophy’. Please, give today!

Gratefully,

Tim Pickavance
Department Chair

MA PHILOSOPHY COMMUNICATION FORM

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13800 Biola Avenue
La Mirada, CA 90639

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