

ConnectED

Connecting United Methodist Colleges & Universities to the Church



DAKOTA WESLEYAN SPURS RURAL RENAISSANCE

In an age where many rural areas are losing access to healthcare and other critical resources, Dakota Wesleyan University is leading an effort to help these communities not only survive but thrive.

Dakota Wesleyan has identified strategies to strengthen rural America through its newly formed Institute for Rural Development. One focal point of the Institute is improving rural healthcare. The DWU Rural Nursing initiative focuses on equipping nurses and other healthcare professionals for work in rural communities and providing professional development opportunities for those already in rural areas. Positive outcomes from the Rural Healthcare Initiative include developing certified nursing assistants with a rural specialization to increase the healthcare labor force; increasing the number of registered nurses who will remain or return to rural healthcare environments; and increasing access to resources on issues related to rural healthcare.

“People will lose access to healthcare if we don’t emphasize the opportunities for work in rural areas and the necessity of keeping our rural facilities viable. This starts with attracting practitioners into and preparing them for these communities. Dakota Wesleyan is making rural experiences a

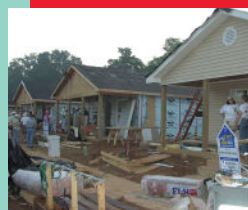
priority in our nursing program while also providing educational ladders for students to continue to earn degrees while working. The DWU LPN-BS in nursing program and the DWU RN-BS in nursing program are examples of this commitment,” said Dr. Stacy Eden, administrative chair of the DWU nursing program.

DWU’s Institute for Rural Development also inspired another innovative program designed to equip pastors to strengthen their congregations and their communities. Churches have deep roots

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RURAL RENAISSANCE *(continued from page 1)*



The LPN-Bachelor of Science in nursing class of 2019 sing at a special pinning ceremony on Dec. 13, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls. I.

Church leaders participating in DWU's second cohort of the NPCL program pose for a picture during a gathering at DWU's campus in Mitchell.

in the DWU region and are pivotal in the life of rural communities. The program provides educational training to equip pastors with the business and leadership acumen to successfully lead and strengthen rural congregations across the region. The program also prepares pastors for a seat at the table strategizing and implementing efforts to strengthen community development.

"In some cases, churches may be the only viable institution in their community. This program helps pastors understand how to use an asset-based management approach to help strengthen not only their church but the larger community and encourage stronger volunteer engagement and philanthropic giving while building systems that respond to the unique needs of each place. We are excited to partner with DWU on this effort to prepare pastors to lead stronger, more



vibrant congregations committed to serving their community," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough, former president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

The DWU Institute for Rural Development will be collecting rural-specific best practices, creating networking opportunities, and providing educational opportunities that help reimagine the future of rural communities. For more information visit www.dwu.edu.

WHY METHODIST EDUCATIONAL IDEALS HAVE INFLUENCED THE WORLD



Mark Hanshaw
Associate
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Recently I stumbled upon an article worthy of note while doing research for an upcoming presentation. The title of the article, "The Idea of the Small Christian Liberal Arts College," found in the Encyclopedia of Christian Education, gave me pause.

As I dug into the article, I came to realize that Methodists would play an outsized role in its narrative. Indeed, Methodist education was cited as the inspiration for the emergence of a unique brand of educational institution in North America. The article notes the unusual efforts of Methodists in founding and building liberal arts colleges across an emerging nation, in areas "often barely wrested from the American frontier." While acknowledging that some of these institutions were destined to become major global centers for research and scholarship, for the most part each one started in the same way. They were small and intimate, each structured around the notion that liberal learning was of great value. As the article observes:

The intimacy of its size made the small college the obvious choice (of Methodists), for spiritual, economic and administrative reasons. Also, the smaller scale facilitated a commitment to the liberal arts, the key orientation of Wesleyan education dating back to the Kingswood School.

Methodists are credited with establishing a model that proved instrumental to the expansion and growth of the United States. The educational institutions founded by Methodists made the "invaluable" contribution of spreading a unique approach toward

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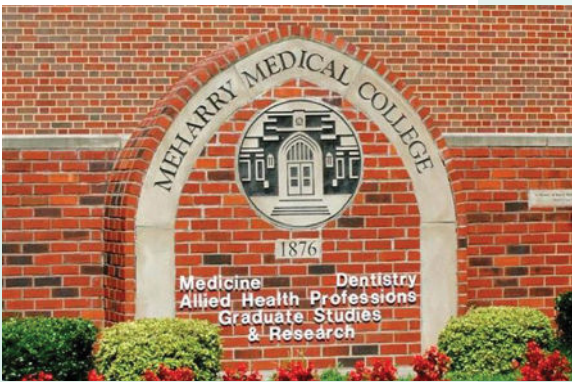
MARK HANSHAW

education throughout North America, bringing the classroom into many remote and undeveloped regions, inviting underserved minority students into the educational sphere, and turning education itself into a vital societal mission.

As I read this article, I was struck by how these early educational institutions had changed and grown over time. Yet, I also marveled at the fact that the critical and uniquely Methodist mission of spreading educational opportunity is still as vital as it was centuries ago. Today, more than 110 educational institutions founded by Methodist hands carry their missions forward in the United States alone, serving more than 300,000 students each year. And beyond the United States, new Methodist educational institutions are emerging regularly, in such places as Central Africa, Southern Asia and the Pacific region.

Truly, through the purposeful cultivation of expanded educational opportunity, Methodists have lived the Wesleyan goal of making the whole world our parish, and in so doing have definitively changed our communities.

UM SCHOOLS LEAD IN SERVICE



MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

Each academic year, nearly 5,000 students apply for the 105 slots available for first-year medical students at Meharry Medical College. While Meharry’s clinics provide \$35 million in uncompensated care to patients each year, faculty and students also actively serve the community through many programs involving mentoring, counseling, and volunteer work. A 2010 study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* ranked Meharry as one of the nation’s top five producers of primary care physicians. Meharry is also a leading producer of African Americans with doctorates in biomedical sciences.

In addition to providing quality professional health care education, exemplary patient care, and compassionate community outreach, Meharry Medical College produces the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, a public health journal.

Although a historically Black medical college, Meharry Medical College reflects the diversity of our nation with student-body representation from the Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American communities. The School of Medicine is

proud to support the College’s mission statement by training new generations of health care professionals and serving as a national leader in community-based health care that focuses on patient care, AIDS research, public health, and medical education. We must persist in closing the gap in health disparities. For more information: home.mmc.edu/.

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE

During their 2020 spring break service trip, 11 students and two administrators explored the history, causes and consequences of homelessness, food insecurity, and “forced displacement” (gentrification) in the United States through dynamic service-learning at a wide variety of community and nonprofit organizations. Students served with One DC, DC Central Kitchen, National Coalition on Homelessness, Central Union Mission, Joyful Food Market, and Food and Friends. Through hands-on service, discussions, and interactions with speakers, participants compared the strengths and limitations of emergency food and housing programs, federal food and nutrition assistance, and community-based approaches to organizing



Lebanon Valley College students



GBHEM Response to COVID-19

Our United Methodist schools, colleges, universities and seminaries are grappling with an unprecedented situation. Professors are experimenting with the best ways to take their teaching online. Theological schools are preparing clergy to care for their flocks through cyberspace. Administrators are deciding how to issue grades and confer degrees to newly remote student populations.

GBHEM is here to help.

OUR NEW E-RESOURCES page offers digital tools and assistance for United Methodist students, faculty and staff as they navigate life and education during this global health crisis. The page provides items like:

- Special weekly devotions to help students remain connected and bolster mental wellbeing
- Tips and guidelines for conducting remote education
- FAQs and a place to submit new questions about higher education during this time

Explore the full page at GBHEM.org.

Nurturing Leaders. Changing Lives.



TRANSFORMATION OF ANY KIND CARRIES POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

M. Kathryn Armistead, Ph.D., publisher, GBHEM

“Exploring a Wesleyan Political Theology” by general editor, Ryan Nicholas Danker, is a new book from the Publishing Office of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The book’s goal is to help people of faith address political issues without the partisanship and tribalism that marks our discourse. Basing the conversation on shared ethical commitments and values can provide a cogent means to approach divisive issues. With these things in mind, how does a person or community of faith approach the great issues of our day in ways that are inclusive and invitational?

The contributors assert that Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, even in his own day, saw social repercussions to the Methodist message of transformational grace. The revivalistic nature of early Methodism included both an emphasis on individual and corporate salvation, with the individual often overshadowing the corporate in many church settings. However, at its core, Methodism was constituted by communities shaped by the radical call to new birth and were seen from the beginning as potentially subversive, having a political edge whether the early Methodists intended it or not.

Ted A. Campbell, who serves as professor of church history at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University says: “Starting out with an essay by Bill Clinton’s press secretary on the relevance of a Wesleyan political theology today, the book engages political theology from a variety of angles: an exposé of the Methodist tendency towards ‘A Big Appetite and No Teeth’ when making political claims, an examination of early Wesleyanism as a network of intentional communities (that did have teeth), and a variety of essays offering deeper analyses of what it might mean to be a deliberately Wesleyan community in the midst of the political polarization and turmoil of ‘the present age.’ The book is fun. It’s also challenging and will doubtless be controversial.”

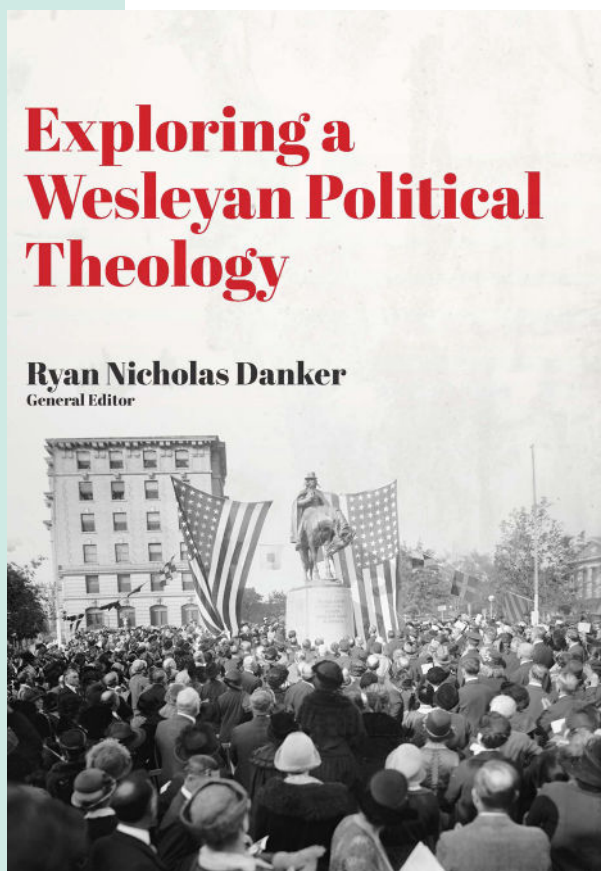
Ryan Nicholas Danker is associate professor of the history of Christianity and Methodist Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

The book’s contributors include: William J. Abraham (Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University); Edgardo Colón-Emeric

(Duke Divinity School); Ryan Nicholas Danker (Wesley Theological Seminary); Michael McCurry (Wesley Theological Seminary); Luther Oconer (United Theological Seminary); James Thobaben (Asbury Theological Seminary); and Lacey Warner (Duke Divinity School).

“Exploring a Wesleyan Political Theology” is available at Amazon.com and other fine bookstores. To receive a review copy, email: publishing@ghbem.org.

Wesley’s Foundry Books is an imprint of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church. These books are clearly and accessibly written with an emphasis on church life and ministry. Representing the rich diversity of the church, Wesley’s Foundry Books offers a disciplined and balanced approach. GBHEM Publishing is an affiliate member of the Association of University Presses.



YCI GRANT MAKES CENTER FOR COURAGE AND RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP POSSIBLE

GBHEM’s Office of Collegiate Ministry and the Parker J. Palmer Center for Courage and Renewal (CCR) cosponsored a retreat for campus ministers, chaplains and student affairs professionals on December 27–30, 2019 in Chapel Hill, Tennessee.

The retreat, “Always We Begin Again: A Turning of the Year Retreat for Soul Rest, Restoration and Nourishment,” was led by

CCR facilitators. A group of 17 campus professionals from across the United States and Canada learned a time-proven Quaker method of active listening called “Circle of Trust.” The university leaders intend to facilitate Discernment Circles with students when they return to campus and stated they are grateful for the opportunity to both participate in and be a facilitator of new and exciting programs from GBHEM.



DEPAUW WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

The DePauw University Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Lori S. White, the vice chancellor for student affairs at Washington University in St. Louis, as DePauw's 21st president. When she takes the helm July 1, White will be the only African American woman leading a university in Indiana as well as one of the few in the nation to do so.

"Throughout her career, Dr. White has brought a student-centered approach to her work and the work of the institutions she has served," said Kathy Patterson Vrabec ('85), chair of the board of trustees. "She understands that the student experience is best served when academics, co-curricular experiences and residential life are considered holistically. She is a team-oriented leader who is engaging, energetic and passionate about the liberal arts, access and student success."

"I am beyond excited to serve as DePauw's 21st president and join countless others who have passed beneath DePauw's iconic arch into a world of endless possibilities. Throughout the interview process, I've been deeply impressed by this community of extraordinary faculty who challenge students to think and learn broadly, supportive staff who care about each student's experience and students and alumni who exemplify the transformational impact of a DePauw education. I knew from my first awe-inspiring moment in East College that I wanted to be part of DePauw's history, tradition, passion and values that are truly 'gold within,'" said Dr. White.

White comes with more than 30 years of experience in both student-focused leadership and academic roles. Before joining WashU in 2015, she worked as vice president for student affairs and clinical professor of education at Southern Methodist University; associate vice president for student

affairs at the University of Southern California; associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students at San Diego State University; and assistant vice provost for undergraduate education and director of undergraduate advising at Stanford University.

"I am beyond excited to serve as DePauw's 21st president and join countless others who have passed beneath DePauw's iconic arch into a world of endless possibilities "

— DR. LORI S. WHITE

White earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and English from the University of California, Berkeley, and a doctorate in education administration and policy analysis from Stanford. She also attended Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education and is passionate about the power of the liberal arts.

"Throughout my career my commitment has been grounded in what I believe are the distinctive values of liberal arts universities such as DePauw and what makes them so special—that is, a focus on creating and sustaining community, engaging in collaborative leadership and decision-making and thinking about our greater sense of purpose as institutions of higher learning," White said.

"More than ever, our world needs individuals who are thinkers, problem-solvers and innovators who understand the value of diversity, consider ideas using an interdisciplinary lens and are brave enough to challenge the status quo. The true value of the liberal arts is how well-prepared students with these abilities and perspectives are for careers in a wide array of fields."

We welcome Dr. White to the NASCUMC connection!

Article courtesy of DePauw University. For more information, see depauw.edu.

INNOVATION ON CAMPUS



BECOMING A FORCE FOR CHANGE AT LAGRANGE COLLEGE

The Wilkinson Family Servant Scholars Program prepares the next generation of servant leaders by linking the college's brightest students with community leaders and mentors, so they can study local needs and decide how to best meet them. These future servant leaders live in the newly renovated Broad Street Apartments, located midway between campus and the downtown square, the perfect home to link campus and community with scholarly service.

Servant Scholars Colloquium presented to the campus and community near the end of the program's second year.

"Last year, the scholars completed more than 1,800 hours of service above their usual duties as a student, [such as] classes, sports, socializing," said Dr. Jack Slay, the program's director. "That is an amazing accomplishment. But even better is that they are growing every day as true servants to their community."

As designed by the faculty, service and academics are equally important to the program. "These students serve, and they study the concepts of service and servant-leadership," he said. "They're a smart bunch and, despite the demands of the program, their grades remain impressive."

LaGrange College Servant Scholar graduates have moved on to impressive master's and doctoral programs that will launch careers of influence—spreading the impact and philosophy of servant-leadership across the nation and world.



Each year, 12 juniors are chosen to start their two-year journey in the groundbreaking program. While living as a community, each student is engaged in active learning and service through individual internships at local agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Circles of Troup County, Enoch Callaway Cancer Clinic, LaGrange-Troup County Humane Society, Boys and Girls Club of West Georgia, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and Harmony House.

The Servant Scholars' senior year involves a collaborative capstone project addressing a need the group identifies from their junior-year service. The capstone project culminates in a



LaGrange College

Shirley A. R. Lewis Legacy Luncheon Offers Exposure, Support

More than 20 years ago, Dr. Shirley A. R. Lewis, then assistant general secretary of the Black College Fund (BCF), envisioned the annual meeting of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) as the perfect place to show off the amazing talent the 11 BCF-related college choirs are known for and to raise much-needed funds to support them.

Lewis worked out the logistics to make the inclusion of the BCF choirs possible, and now this musical tradition bears her name and is an annual conference favorite. The 2020 meeting featured the Philander Smith College Choir from Little Rock, Arkansas, under the direction of veteran director Dr. Stephen Hayes. The 200 attendees and local alums donated \$17,800 to support the ministry of the choir. Hayes, formerly director of Wiley College's A capella Choir, returned to Philander in 2018 after he directed the choir for the 1993 inauguration of President Bill Clinton.

Each of the eleven choirs have a turn to "sing for their supper," depending on proximity, availability, or special circumstance. In 2016, in honor of the 150th anniversary of its founding, the world-renowned Rust College A capella Choir traveled to the BMCR to commemorate the historic occasion.



In 2019, when the Bennett College Concert Chorale performed for the luncheon, the audience enthusiastically donated more than \$22,000, setting a record for the amount raised.

Now almost 50 years old, the BCF/BMCR partnership had planned to extend jurisdictional priorities for youth in the Southeast this summer. Unfortunately, the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Harambee has been canceled due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus. The event was originally scheduled to take place at Dillard University in New Orleans in June.

Harambee is a Swahili word that means "all pull together." This coming summer, when prospective BCF students cannot join together in person, the legacy and importance of the BCF/BMCR partnership lives on. Our schools are doing amazing work to "all pull together" even as we are physically apart. No doubt the next gathering will be all the more joyous after this time of social distancing has ended.



McCord intern and ambassador summer travel, along with orientation for 2020 interns, scheduled for May 19-22, may be postponed because of Coronavirus restrictions. McCord intern and ambassadors are recommended by their presidents and chaplains.

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