

Rev. Zachary C. Wooten, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Updated August 2025

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Rev. Dr. Zachary C. Wooten is a bivocational leader, serving as a tenured Associate Professor at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) and as an ordained American Baptist pastor serving in a United Church of Christ Congregation. With over eight years of experience in higher education, and twelve in professional ministry, he is an award-winning, student-centered educator known for transformative, experiential, community-engaged, and dialogical pedagogy. He directs the WCU Interfaith, Meaning-Making, and Spirituality Project and the WCU Leadership and the Good Life Hub within Yale Center for Faith and Culture's Life Worth Living Network, seeking to encourage communities of practice committed to building trust across enduring differences while engaging questions of human flourishing. His scholarship spans ethics, leadership, digital culture, pedagogy, and grief, including peer-reviewed publications and published creative work in poetry. Committed to collaborative leadership, Dr. Wooten bridges academic rigor and compassionate care to cultivate purpose, flourishing, and belonging as a teacher, scholar, and leader.

EDUCATION

Aug. 2017-May 2022	Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership, Alvernia University <ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i> (4.0 GPA)Dissertation: "The Aim of Leadership Education: Spirituality and the Writings of Parker J. Palmer"Awarded Top Departmental Prize: Ph.D. Leadership Award for demonstrating leadership and superior academic performance.
Sept. 2014-May 2017	Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis: "Leadership, Community, and Young Adults"Activities: Student Government Representative, Chapel Assistant
Aug. 2011-Aug. 2014	Bachelor of Arts, West Chester University of Pennsylvania Honors College <ul style="list-style-type: none">Major: Communication Studies – <i>summa cum laude</i>Deans' List - Honors College, School of Music, and College of Arts and Sciences

ACADEMIC TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Aug. 2017 – Present	West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) Positions held: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Honors College, <i>Associate Professor</i> (August 2024 – Present)Honors College, <i>Assistant Professor</i> (August 2023 – July 2024)Honors College, <i>Instructor</i> (August 2017 – July 2022) Teaching courses for the Honors College, Minor in Civic and Professional Leadership, and Department of Philosophy via in-person, remote synchronous, and asynchronous modalities. Courses include: <i>Fall '25, Fall '24, Fall '23, Fall '22, Spring '22, Fall '21, Spring '21, Fall '20, Summer '20, Spring '20, Fall '19</i> CPL 120: Theories of Leadership for Today's Societies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>taught course using in-person and online modalities</i><i>course-related initiatives financially supported by internal funding from WCU's Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact</i> (Spring 2020)<i>often features WCU alumni representing diverse career sectors as guest speakers to offer networking opportunities and showcase real-world application of leadership theories</i> <i>Fall '25, Fall '24</i> CPL 300: Contemporary Challenges in Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>taught as Individualized Instruction</i> <i>Fall '25, Fall '24, Fall '23, Fall '22, Fall '21, Fall '20, Fall '19, Fall '18, Fall '17</i> HON 100: Self-Awareness and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>team-taught with interdisciplinary team from departments including communication studies, economics, kinesiology, and dance</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>class utilized to launch an Honors College First-Year Common read beginning Fall 2023</i> • <i>community partnerships with Domestic Violence Center of Chester County</i> • <i>campus partnerships with Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact</i>
Spring '18, Spring '17	HON 211: Decision-Making and Public Discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>course-related initiatives included a partnership with the Frederick Douglass Society's Pennsylvania State System-wide Debate Tournament</i>
Spring '25, Spring '24, Spring '23, Spring '22, Spring '21, Spring '20	HON 212: Ethics and Moral Choice in a Technological Age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>collaborated with the Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact and the Hickman Senior Living Community as part of an ongoing community engaged pedagogical practices (Spring 2025)</i> • <i>co-taught with a founding member of the Honors College, Dr. Ruth Porritt, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, and Spring 2022</i>
Fall '25, Fall '24	HON 352: The Good Death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>designed and launched new course</i> • <i>incorporated guest speakers and dynamic assignments to facilitate interdisciplinary inquiry on death, dying, and grief including but not limited to Chester County Coroner, a WCU Alum working as a Death Doula, and a local funeral director</i>
Fall '21, Fall '20, Fall '19, Fall '18, Fall '17	HON 352: Personal Leadership Development (Lessons from South Africa) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>co-taught with Director of the Honors College</i> • <i>focused on sustained institutional partnership with South African dialogue partners</i>
Fall '25, Fall '24, Fall '23, Fall '22, Spring '22, Spring '21, Fall '20, Spring '20, Fall '19, Fall '18, Fall '17	HON 382: Leadership and the Good Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>initially developed in partnership with Yale University's Center for Faith and Culture</i> • <i>course-related initiatives supported by external and internal grants from Yale's Center for Faith and Culture, Interfaith Youth Core (now Interfaith America), and WCU's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</i> • <i>developed community-engaged service-learning experiences in partnership with WCU's Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact; supervised an undergraduate Community Engagement Scholar in Spring 2025 and Spring 2022, building partnerships with The Hickman, a local senior citizen living community</i>
Fall '20	HON 399: Directed Study in Ecology, Spirituality, & Leadership
Spring '25, Fall '23	PHI 206: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
Fall '22	PHI 349: Ideas of the Bible
July 2022 – Present	University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn College, Adjunct Instructor Teaching asynchronous courses for the Master of Arts in Leadership Studies and the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies within the Department of Leadership Studies including:
Spring '23	LOS 501 and LOS 701: Foundations of Leadership II: Groups and Teams
Spring '25, Spring '24	LOS 740: Leadership and Applied Ethics
Summer '25, Summer '24, Summer '23, Summer '22	LOS 661: Ethical and Spiritual Dimensions of Leadership
Aug. 2021 - May 2021	Eastern University, Adjunct Instructor Taught hybrid courses for undergraduate leadership programs including:
Fall '21	LEAD 200: Introduction to Leadership
Spring '22	LEAD 445: Leadership Strategies for Groups, Teams, and Organizations

RECENT PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Dec. 2024– Present	Willow Street United Church of Christ (Willow Street, PA), <i>Pastor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtained a \$10,000.00 innovation grant from Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ to launch a new staff role and ministry of community connection (2025) developed an ongoing internship program for college students in departments of music and history
July 2017 - Dec. 2023	Baptist Church of West Chester (West Chester, PA), <i>Associate Pastor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> awarded \$1,200 from Princeton Theological Seminary (subgrant from the Lilly Endowment) to lead a team within the PTS Collaboratory focused on young adult social innovation and leadership across faith communities (2022-2023) developed internship programs for college students in education, business, and more that continues licensed by the congregation in 2017, ordained by the congregation in April 2022
July 2015 - June 2017	First United Methodist Church of Mount Holly (Mount Holly, NJ), <i>Co-Pastor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtained a grant from the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Church to launch an internship program for college students studying education (2016-2017)
August 2013 - June 2015	Baptist Church of West Chester (West Chester, PA), <i>Director of Youth Ministries</i>
June 2013 - August 2013	Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring (Chambersburg, PA), <i>Children's Ministry Intern</i>

SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Peer Reviewed Journals and Research Monographs

Forthcoming	Wooten, Zachary C., and Brown, Jocelyn. "The Leadership of Interfaith Hospital Chaplains During the COVID-19 Pandemic." <i>Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy</i> .
April 2025	Wooten, Zachary C., and McDevitt, Haley. "The Digital Pulpit and Media Influencers: Investigating Forms of Christian Leadership on TikTok." <i>Journal of Religious Leadership</i> 24 (1). Journal of Religious Leadership.
August 2024	Wooten, Zachary C., Pierlott, Matthew M., & Gittleson, Elizabeth. Rabbi Regina Jonas: A Life of Aspiration and Inspiration . <i>Journal of Leadership Education</i> .

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

March 2023	Wooten, Zachary C. Personhood in the Tragic Gap: Between Reality and Possibility. In <i>Personhood: On Becoming a More Relevant Leader</i> . Bloomsbury. [Invited]
September 2022	Wooten, Zachary C. & McDevitt, Haley. COVID-19 and The Ethics of Grief and Loss. In <i>The COVID-19 Pandemic Collection</i> . Ethics International Press. [Selected]

Books and Monograph Contributions

In Press	Dean, K. W. and Wooten, Zachary C. <i>Reflection in First-Year Honors Courses: Why We Can't Take it for Granted</i> . National Collegiate Honors Council Monograph Series.
November 2024	Martin, G., Wooten, Z. C., & Camacho, S.. <i>Interdisciplinary adventures: Navigating the honors experience</i> . West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Book Reviews for Peer-Reviewed Journals

March 2021	Wooten, Zachary C. <i>The Productive Online and Offline Professor: A Practical Guide</i> , by Bonni Stachowiak, book review in <i>The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching</i> .
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Refereed Conference Proceedings

June 2022	Hendon, C., Springer, S., and Wooten, Zachary C. The Influence of Faith Identity on Leadership Educator Identity: the Interwoven Dimensions of Human Stories, Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) Annual Proceedings online publication.
June 2022	Wooten, Zachary C. and Dunham, E. Leadership and The Good Life Across Generations, ALE Annual Proceedings online publication.
July 2019	Wooten, Zachary C. and Pierlott, Matthew. <i>Leadership and the Good Life</i> , ALE Annual Proceedings online publication.
July 2018	Wooten, Zachary C. <i>The Intersection of Leadership Studies and Family Communication Theory: Implications for Undergraduate Pedagogy</i> , ALE Annual Proceedings online publication.

Creative Publications: Poetry and Academic Blog Features

October 2023	Wooten, Zachary C. The Substitute Teacher: A Teacher's Identity Grounded in Loss – Part 2. Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Theology and Religion Blog Series on Embodied Teaching. October 2023.
September 2023	Wooten, Zachary C. The Substitute Teacher: A Teacher's Identity Grounded in Loss – Part 1. Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Theology and Religion Blog Series on Embodied Teaching. September 2023.
May 2021	Wooten, Zachary C. "Recast, Still Broken" – a poem published in the award-winning and peer-reviewed literary and arts journal, <i>Zephyrus</i> (Alvernia University).

SCHOLARLY PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Aug. 2022 - June 2025	Life Worth Living Project Scholar & Leadership Team Member Yale Center for Faith & Culture, Yale University (3-year grant-funded role) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Selected to serve on the leadership team of an interdisciplinary initiative exploring moral, philosophical, and religious traditions to define and pursue the good life</i> • <i>Supported evaluation of competitive international fellowship applications</i> • <i>Facilitated pedagogy training sessions for new scholars as part of global fellowship training events</i> • <i>Advised faculty and staff on strategic direction and growth of the program, supported by a multi-year grant</i> • <i>Contributed to shaping the long-term vision of the project's international expansion and curriculum development</i>
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PRESENTATIONS

International Refereed Presentations

April 2025	Academy of Religious Leadership, Presenter <i>presented "¡Sí Se Puede! Utilizing Organizational Religious Leadership to Create Social Change in Migrant Communities" with Jocelyn Brown</i>
March 2023	Global Followership Conference, Panelist <i>participated in a panel, "At the Core of Followership is Personhood - We Start There"</i>
Oct. 2022	International Leadership Association, Emerging Research Scholars Consortium <i>presented a display poster entitled, "The Spiritual Aims of Leadership Education"</i>
Oct. 2022	International Leadership Association, Panel Presenter <i>presented on a panel, "Wisdom Perspectives on Personhood in Leadership"</i>
Oct. 2022	International Leadership Association, Panel Presenter <i>presented on a panel discussion entitled, "Ethical Challenges Presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic" along with four other scholars from around the world</i>
Oct. 2022	International Leadership Association, Presenter <i>presented "We Have No Gifts, But We Are Many: Ethically Responsible Leadership in Disney's Encanto" with undergraduate Honors student Aubrey Eason</i>

- June 2022 Association of Leadership Educators, *Practice/Application Manuscript Presenter*
presented a leadership education practice manuscript entitled, "A Beautiful Life: An Alternative Approach to Teaching Ethics in Leadership Education"
- June 2022 Association of Leadership Educators, *Panelist*
presented "The Influence of Faith Identity on Leadership Educator Identity: The Interwoven Dimensions of Human Stories" with Drs. Cathy Hendon and Scott Springer
- June 2022 Association of Leadership Educators, *Roundtable Presenter*
presented a roundtable entitled "Exploring Philosophy as Method in Leadership Education" along with Dr. Matthew Pierlott and Dr. Kerry Priest
- June 2022 Association of Leadership Educators, *Poster Presenter*
presented "The Spiritual Aims of Leadership Education: The Writings of Parker Palmer and Beyond"
- June 2022 Association of Leadership Educators, *Poster Presenter*
presented an award-winning poster, "Leadership and The Good Life Across Generations" with Community Engagement Scholar Emma Dunham
- Oct. 2021 International Leadership Association, *Interactive Display Poster Presenter*
presented an interactive display poster along with Elizabeth Gittleson (undergraduate student); the poster details a leadership analysis of Rabbi Regina Jonas: A Life of Aspiration & Inspiration, the first women to be ordained a Rabbi
- Mar. 2021 ILAs Philosophy, Religion, and Worldviews Conference, *Research Presenter*
presented "Leadership Education, Spirituality, and Personhood" at a conference focused on leadership and identity | 2020 Conference canceled due to COVID-19 precautions, rescheduled conference took place in March 2021
- Nov. 2020 International Leadership Association, *Graduate Student Case Competition*
worked with a team of Ph.D. students at Alvernia University on a project focused on United Nations' sustainable development goal of equitable and inclusive education
- Oct. 2019 International Leadership Association, *Poster Presenter*
presented "Parker Palmer, Thomas Merton, and Courageous Authenticity"
- July 2019 Association of Leadership Educators, *Innovative Practice Paper Presenter*
presented "Leadership and the Good Life," with Dr. Matthew Pierlott about HON 382
- July 2018 Association of Leadership Educators, *Roundtable Presenter*
presented and facilitated a discussion entitled, "The Intersection of Leadership Studies and Family Communication Theory: Implications for Undergraduate Pedagogy"
- National Refereed Conference Presentations*
- Nov. 2019 National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, *Faculty Poster Presenter*
presented a poster entitled "Self-Awareness and Development: Identity, Authenticity, and Vocation through the Writings of Parker Palmer"
- Nov. 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, *Faculty Poster Presenter*
accepted along with Dr. Matthew Pierlott (Chairperson of Philosophy Department at WCU) to present a poster about pedagogical practices implemented in HON 382
- Regional Refereed Conference Presentations*
- Jan. 2022 American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, *Faculty Presenter*
developed a presentation with Dr. Matthew Pierlott for the APA's Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy and the APA's Teacher's Teaching Hub. The presentation, "Creating and Structuring Religiously Inclusive Classrooms in Divisive Times: Cultivating Trust," was part of the Religion in the Philosophy Classroom session.
- April 2020 Mid-Atlantic Leadership Studies Conference, *Research Presenter*
accepted to present a paper with undergraduate student Jocelyn Brown entitled "Leadership Theory in 'The Terror'" | Conference canceled due to COVID-19

Jan. 2020	American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, <i>Faculty Poster Presenter</i> <i>presented, "Visions of the Good Life: Leadership Anthology Project" with Matt Pierlott</i>
April 2019	Pennsylvania Leadership Studies Conference (2 nd Annual), <i>Paper Presenter</i> <i>presented "Teaching Courage and the Courage to Teach: Parker Palmer, Higher Education, and Leadership Pedagogy"</i>
April 2018	Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Interdisciplinary Conference, <i>Presenter</i> <i>chaired panel, "Rereading Douglass: Pathways to Freedom and Wisdom"; presented paper, "Addressing Political and Social Division in Higher Education, the Complications of Religion and Freedom, and the Wisdom of Frederick Douglass and Parker Palmer"</i>
April 2015	Eastern Communication Association Conference, <i>Paper Presenter with Dr. Elizabeth Munz</i> <i>"Family Systems Theory: Evolution, Practical Application, and Limitations"</i>
<i>Invited Presentations</i>	
Oct. 2024	West Chester University of Pennsylvania Omicron Delta Kappa Inductions, <i>Keynote Speaker</i>
Oct. 2024	Yale University Life Worth Living Teaching Forum, <i>Invited Speaker</i>
Oct. 2022	Kansas State University Staley School of Leadership Studies, <i>Guest Speaker for a Ph.D. Leadership Communication Seminar</i> <i>presented "Philosophy as Method in Leadership Studies" with Dr. Matthew Pierlott</i>
June 2022	Academic Theology Conference, <i>Paper Presenter and Respondent</i> <i>presented a paper exploring spirituality, memoir, and poetry</i>
Dec. 2021	WCU Department of Philosophy Philosophy Forum, <i>Presenter</i> <i>offered a campus-wide presentation, "Spirituality and the Pain of Disconnection"</i>
Aug. 2021	West Chester University of Pennsylvania Honors College Retreat, <i>Presenter</i> <i>presented an introduction to the "pedagogy of the good life," facilitated discussion regarding points of intersection between the course and other course offerings</i>
July 2020	Red Lion Area Student Leadership Training, <i>Guest Speaker</i> <i>offered a presentation entitled, "Leading with Integrity" at an annual training for student leaders at Red Lion Area Senior High School in Red Lion, Pennsylvania</i>
Nov. 2017	Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils, <i>Presenter & Roundtable Panelist</i> <i>invited to speak about leadership pedagogy and collegiate emergent adults</i>
May 2015	High School Theology Program Think Tank, <i>Participant</i> Princeton Theological Seminary, Institute of Youth Ministry

ACADEMIC GRANTS

External Grants

Beginning Sept. 2023	Life Worth Living Leadership Studies Hub at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Yale Center for Faith and Culture a \$122,000 grant from Yale to make WCU the Leadership Studies Hub for the <i>Life Worth Living Initiative</i> . I am the PI, Dr. Matt Pierlott is the Co-PI, and we will employ several students.
Beginning Aug. 2023	Provost's Research Grant, West Chester University of Pennsylvania "Power, Persecution, and Progress: Stories of Religious Leadership in Chester County." Along with Co-PI, Dr. Matt Pierlott, we are in the process of utilizing narrative inquiry, specifically thematic biographical narrative, to create a public-facing scholarly podcast series about the history of interfaith and religious leadership in Chester County, Pennsylvania, interweaving themes of power, progress, and persecution throughout the study and podcast episodes.
Jan. 2023 – May 2025	Project Grant for Researchers, <i>Louisville Institute</i> <i>awarded \$29,000+ to fund study, "I Saw it on Tik Tok: The Nun, the Mormon, and Ex-vangelical"</i>

Jan. '22 – Feb. '23	Cohort Lead Stipend, Faith and Health Grant program, <i>Interfaith Youth Core</i> awarded a \$1,000 grant to support my leadership of a cohort of educators exploring the positive potential of religion on personal and/or community health. In this role, I lead monthly cohort sessions, work with IFYC staff to curate and provide resources to group members, facilitate project workshops as part of cohort session, provide 1:1 consultation with cohort members, inform IFYC of the group's outcomes
Feb. '22 – Dec. '22	Faith and Public Health Grant, <i>Interfaith Youth Core</i> Principal Investigator awarded \$7,000 grant to study leadership of interfaith chaplains in the COVID-19 pandemic; 4 funded undergraduate research assistants
Aug. 2019 – May 2020	Campus Innovation Grant, <i>Interfaith Youth Core</i> Principal Investigator awarded a \$4,000 grant to support the 'Leadership and the Good Life' class at WCU and implement sustainable initiatives to address the cultural, political, and religious divides facing our country and advance cooperation
Fall 2019 – Summer 2020	Graduate Research Fellowship, <i>Alvernia University</i> awarded a \$3,000 grant to study leadership education as part of an effort to support innovative research and scholarship by graduate students
Fall 2017	'Life Worth Living' Grant, <i>Yale Center for Faith and Culture</i> awarded a mini-extension grant as part of the Honors College at West Chester University of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale Divinity School and funding from the Templeton Foundation to develop academic conversation around joy and the good life, in order to recover joy as a central human experience
<i>Internal WCU Grants</i>	
Jan. 2023 – May 2023	WCU ORSP Campus Sustainability Research and Creative Activity Grant completing a research project entitled, "Mourning the Planet and Signs of Hope: The Role of Grief and Resilience in How Undergraduates Understand Climate Change"
Aug. 2022 – May 2023	Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grant, <i>West Chester University of PA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</i> Principal Investigator awarded \$5,000 to launch WCU's WCU Interfaith, Meaning-Making, and Spirituality Project Launch
Fall 2020 - Spring 2021	Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact COVID-19 Community Engagement Mini-Grant, <i>West Chester University of Pennsylvania</i> awarded a \$500 grant to provide undergraduate students a means to create solutions to COVID-19 related problems; grant distributed for use in CPL 120: Leadership Theories for Today's Societies to link leadership theory with community engagement to address COVID-19 related issues
Fall 2020	Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grant, <i>West Chester University of Pennsylvania</i> awarded a \$750 grant by the Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grants Council to send 30 undergraduate students to the Interfaith Youth Core Leadership Institute. This proposal was selected in a competitive request for proposal process facilitated annually by the Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI).

ACADEMIC/SCHOLARLY PODCASTS

Featured Guest

March 2021	<u>"Continuing Conversations Amidst the Pandemic"</u> - Leadership Educator Podcast interviewed with Dr. Nyasha GuramatunhuCooper to discuss building scholarly community to enhance teaching and scholarship of leadership in times of crisis and digital innovation (podcast sponsored by the International Leadership Association)
March 2017	<u>"Equipping Young Leaders"</u> - Uncovered Dish Christian Leadership Podcast interviewed about involvement in Mosaic Ministries, a cohort program that appointed young seminary students to lead churches in need of revitalization

Hosted and Produced

- July 2021 *"How can we address issues of privacy in the world of AI?" - NHC selected by the National Humanities Center to serve as a podcasting intern; developed, wrote, produced, and recorded as part of the center's conference, "In Our Image," examining issues surrounding the integration of artificial intelligence and our daily lives; President of the NHC, Dr. Robert Newman, called the podcast "thoughtful and provocative," saying we "established the contours of this difficult and complex topic [and] encapsulated its nuances well"*
- January 2021 *"Caretaking Conversations" - National Humanities Center worked with an interdisciplinary team of graduate students enrolled in the NHC Digital Residency program to discuss the role of caretakers and how to move towards greater flexibility and acknowledgment of caretaking and family leave*

OTHER RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 2023 – May 2024 West Chester University Teaching and Learning Center, E-Textbook Initiative with colleagues Dr. Gerardina Martin and Spencer Camacho, selected for a training program focused on building high-quality, free, interactive electronic textbooks
- June 2022 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's 2022 Annual Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust, Theological Encounters of Race, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust in Transatlantic Context
selected to participate in a seminar examining the multifaceted encounters between Black American Christians and Jews in both the U.S. and Europe from the 1920s to the present; an informed dialogue among scholars and religious leaders
- Jan. 2021-July 2021 National Humanities Center, Scholarly Podcasting Intern
served as an intern on an interdisciplinary team of graduate students with the goal of developing a series of podcasts exploring the role and impact of artificial intelligence in themes like privacy, education, art and film, and morality; podcasts supplemented 'In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities' conference
- Jan. 2019-Dec. 2019 West Chester University, Leadership Education Course Pack Project
worked with six undergraduate students to begin developing a course pack for introductory leadership theory courses, meeting weekly and training students in developing pedagogical resources for leadership education.
- Spring 2022 West Chester University, Research Scholars Program
Spring 2021 *created a Leadership Studies undergraduate research lab, an initiative of the Honors College and the ORSP seeking to promote scholarship through student-faculty research collaborations, particularly ones of an interdisciplinary nature. In 2020, students established a database of leadership education literature. In Spring 2021, students helped to create materials utilized in CPL 120 to support student understanding of leadership theories. In Spring 2022, a student collaborated with me to develop the foundation of an interactive, multi-media, online course pack for future use in HON 382: Leadership and the Good Life.*
Spring 2020
- Jan. 2019-Dec 2019 Alvernia University, O'Pake Institute of Ethics, Leadership & Public Service
served as a graduate research assistant for project topics including student retention, educational foundations, organizational culture, developmental education, and "Executive-in-Residence" programs within higher education, provided research contributions to earn AU a Title III grant

Scholarly Journal Reviewing

- June 2025 - present Journal of Leadership Education
Aug. 2022 - present Journal of Leadership Studies

Association-Level Reviewing

Association of Leadership Educators

- March 2022 Conference Proposals Reviewer
June 2021 Conference Presentation Reviewer

International Leadership Association

- April 2022 Conference Proposals Reviewer

Student Mentorship of Research Activity

Graduate Student Dissertation Committee Member

August 2024 - Present **Joseph B. Kroclic** – *Igniting Hearts and Minds For Sustainable Design*, Alvernia University.
Provided expert feedback on research methodology, data analysis, and theoretical development; Participated in proposal and final defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor and alignment with research goals; Advised on refining the dissertation’s theoretical framework and ensuring clarity in academic writing.

November 2024 - Present **Monica Reeves** – *Title TBD*, Kansas State University.
Provided expert feedback on research methodology, data analysis, and theoretical development; Participated in proposal and final defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor and alignment with research goals; Advised on refining the dissertation’s theoretical framework and ensuring clarity in academic writing.

April 2025 - Present **Marie Rim** - *Title TBD*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.
Provided expert feedback on research methodology, data analysis, and theoretical development; Participated in proposal and final defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor and alignment with research goals; Advised on refining the dissertation’s theoretical framework and ensuring clarity in academic writing.

Undergraduates Students

Summer 2025 Layla King, WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute
mentored a student researching undergraduate self-awareness; With my recommendation, Layla was competitively selected to participate in a full-time funded research experience

Summer 2022 Joseph Blaney, WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute
mentored a student researching alt-right political extremism and youth pathways for entering and exiting online alt-right communities; With my recommendation, Joe was competitively selected to participate in a full-time funded research experience

Spring 2021 Abigail Boquist, WCU-CARES mentee
The WCU Creative Activity & Research Experience Stipends increased the interest in and opportunities for undergraduate research, promoted scholarly collaboration between students and faculty, and promoted critical thinking to prepare students for careers and graduate studies. I worked collaboratively with Abigail on a literature review about the impact of student leadership camps and leadership education.

Spring 2020 Julia Edwards, Tournier Research in Ethics Award (First Place)
Competing against students from across WCU’s campus, Julia (a Mathematics major) won this competitive award from the Philosophy Dept., earning a \$300 scholarship for her applied ethics paper entitled, “Ethics of Care and the Good Life.” The essay, originally written for HON 382 course with my mentorship, judged by a faculty committee; one of few awards granted by the department.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING

External to WCU

Sep. 2023 – May 2024 Fred Rogers Educators’ Neighborhood
selected to participate in a monthly program building a community of educators who learn together inspired from the work of Fred Rogers and his commitment to community care

Aug. 2022 Sacred Design Lab and Princeton Theological Seminary Public Discourse Event
invited to attend an interfaith event focused on the public discourse of religion and spirituality; a select event bringing together accomplished scholars, renowned authors and journalists, viral content creators, and community leaders

June 2022 U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust

accepted to and participated in a seminar hosted by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies entitled, "Theological Encounters of Race, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust in Transatlantic Context;" which examined encounters between Black American Christians and Jews in both the U.S. and Europe from the 1920s to the present for the purposes of opening up an informed dialogue among scholars and religious leaders

Aug. 2021	International Leadership Association's Leadership Education Academy <i>two-week immersive training program intentionally designed to advance ability to teach leadership; enhanced knowledge of leadership foundations and theories while exploring and practicing a range of instructional strategies and pedagogies</i>
June 2021	Association of Leadership Educators' Annual Conference <i>attended a week-long workshop to learn best practices and explore research in leadership education; facilitated conversation among graduate students as the Student Focus Area Network Coordinator; served as a workshop reviewer</i>
Dec. 2020	National Humanities Center Institute for Graduate Studies, Digital Residency Podcasting the Humanities: Creating Digital Stories for the Public <i>Alvernia University's nominee for a five-day institute to provide hands-on training for Ph.D. students in the humanities to develop public-facing scholarship</i>
Sept. 2020	Interfaith Youth Core Interfaith Leadership Institute (Virtual) <i>attended a training for educators about interfaith leadership</i>
July 2020 – Aug. 2020	International Leadership Association's Critical Conversations Series <i>participated in interactive series addressing: What does it mean to be a leadership educator right here, right now?; Navigating Uncertainty in Leadership Education Contexts; and What is the place of anti-racism in leadership education?</i>
July 2020	Association of Leadership Educators' Annual Conference <i>attended virtual week-long workshop to learn best practices and explore research</i>
May 2019	Committee for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Workshop: Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning (West Chester University of Pennsylvania) <i>training for teaching across disciplines, overviewed challenges, experiences, and approaches to interdisciplinary teaching and learning</i>
Aug. 2018	Future of Joy and the Good Life Conference (Yale Center for Faith and Culture) <i>selected to attend international conference with full funding focused on the future of joy and the good life and teaching the subject at universities and beyond</i>
Internal to WCU	
Aug. 2022 – May 2023	Research & Sponsored Programs, Develop. Research Agendas Through Mentoring <i>selected to participate in a select year-long professional development program for WCU tenure-track professors; participants receive training to strengthen skills in developing a research agenda and leading externally funded projects.</i>
May 2022	WCU Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact Workshop (CCESI) <i>attended two-day workshop for faculty working on integrating service-learning into their courses; invited to speak about my experience with the Community Engagement Scholars program by CCESI Associate Director Ella Guimond and Faculty Associate Linda Stevenson</i>
Jan. 2021	WCU Ethics-Emphasis Course Design Workshop <i>received training in offering opportunities for students to engage in activities that encourage them to problem-see and problem-solve with an ethical lens, expose students to discipline-specific and general ways to attend to the ethical frameworks</i>
Jan. 2020	WCU Brandywine Workshop in Sustainability <i>participated in workshop to modify a course to focus on issues of sustainability</i>
Jan. 2020	WCU Online/Blended Faculty Development Program

completed a fully online 2-week program that introduces faculty to best practices for online and blended teaching, facilitated by an instructional designer

May 2019

WCU Committee for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Workshop: Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning
training for teaching across disciplines, overviewed challenges, experiences, and approaches to interdisciplinary teaching and learning

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

May 2019, May 2018

First-Year Student Scheduling Training (West Chester University of Pennsylvania)
Registrar's Office training about scheduling first-year student courses

September 2017

Disney Institute on Leadership Excellence (PASSHE Academy)
program teaching participants how to create transformations within organizations

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL

Committees and Other Departmental Activity

Fall '24 - Present

Honors College Evaluations

- *Committee member for Dr. Gerardina Martin*
- *Committee chair for Spencer Camacho*

Spring '23 – Present

Honors College Graduation Commencement Speaker Committee

Spring '23

Honors College Director Search Committee

Fall '19 - Present

Civic and Professional Leadership Minor Committee
supervises and supports work study students to promote the minor

Spring '19 - Present

Honors College Assessment Committee
works with primary assessment leader, Dr. Gerardina Martin, to assist with departmental internal assessment of learning outcomes and program goals

Fall '17 - Present

Honors College First-Year Symposium Committee

- *Faculty lecturer and facilitator*
- *assists with planning and implementation of first-year summer program*

Fall '17 - Present

Honors College Recruitment Committee

- *Faculty Interviewer (Spring '18, '19, '20, '21, '22, '23, '24, and '25; Winter '18, '19, '20)*
- *offered the keynote address to prospective students/families in March 2019*
- *regularly recruit alumni to serve as interview team members and leaders*
- *led 2023 recruitment for Seminar Pathway increasing enrollment by 120%*

Summers '19, '18, '17

First-Year Student Scheduling, *Faculty Volunteer*
served during summer to block-schedule students into first-semester classes

Co-Curricular Programs

Fall '23 – Present

Omicron Delta Kappa, Faculty Co-Advisor
advisor to WCU's premiere leadership honor society recognizing the achievement of students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the areas of scholarship, athletics, community service/student activities, journalism/student media, and creative/performing arts

Fall '18 - Spring '21

Honors College Community Builder Fellowship Program, *Faculty Mentor*
appointed by Honors College Director to work with students to build community on the designated Honors College housing floors and facilitate the transition for first-year Honors College students

Fall '17 - Present

Honors Student Association, *Faculty Supporter*

attended General Assembly and Executive Board meetings as needed; launched H.S.A.'s student interfaith action committee; mentored student leaders of "H.S.A. Happenings," the Honors College monthly newsletter

- *wrote article entitled, "Tips for Success" for Sept. 2020 Issue of HSA newsletter*
- *organized "Wednesdays with Wooten" events in Summer 2020 to facilitate community building with entering class of Honors College students*

Fall '20 Honors Research Scholars Program Recruitment Event, *Faculty Panelist*
spoke at a student-organized panel discussing benefits of student-faculty research

Fall '17 - Present Honors College Awards Committee
served on a team to select recipients of junior and senior awards

Fall '17 - Present Honors College Alumni Committee
regularly supports alumni efforts including recruitment to panels, attendance in classes as guest speakers, or helping support alumni events and mentoring; actively posts on Alumni social media including LinkedIn

- *During the 2024-2025 academic year, I helped re-launch the chapter and together we created two new alumni awards to be given each year during the Honors College Commencement*

Fall '17 - Present Honors College Commencement and Medallion Ceremony Committee, *Participant*

- *participant in medallion ceremony and graduation, often serving as an award presenter*
- *served as the Grand Marshall for commencement in Spring '23, Spring '24, and Spring '25*

UNIVERSITY

October 2024 [The Fifth Annual Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste Frederick Douglass Institute Lecture](#), *Invited to offer an opening Interfaith Invocation*

August 2022 – Present Interfaith, Meaning-Making, and Spirituality Project, *Director*
working in collaboration with the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion I lead the Faculty & Staff Interfaith Advisory Board, the Student Interfaith Action Committee, and the Interfaith Leadership Fellowship program

Oct. 2022 – Present Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence, *Member*

Sept. 2022 – May 2025 WCU Council on Undergraduate Research, *Honors College Representative*
member of the Marketing and Outreach subcommittee; SURJ reviewer

Aug. 2022 – May 2023 WCU Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact Workshop Faculty Fellow

April 2023 and April 2022 Collegiate Leadership Competition, *Judge*
WCU Office of Student Leadership and Involvement
served as one of two judges for CLC, a nonprofit leadership development program offering students an opportunity to engage in experiential leadership learning

Sept. 2021; Feb. 2021 Alpha Alpha Alpha First-Generation Honors Society Inductions, *Faculty Attendee*

June-Aug 2019 Search Committee for Student Affairs Employee, *Member*

Jan. 2019-May 2021 Autism Speaks U, *Faculty Advisor*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE FIELD OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Association of Leadership Educators

Dec. 2020 – May 2023 'Students' Focus Area Network Coordinator

Sept. 2020 - May 2022 Conference Planning Committee

COMMUNITY

May 2025 - Sept. 2025 Spring Garden Band of York, *Member*
serving as a member of one of the oldest continuously active bands in the U.S., supporting community engagement through public concerts and arts advocacy as part of a long-standing tradition of musical excellence.

Sept. 2025 - Present	Cub Scout Pack #21 (Atglen, PA), <i>Committee Member</i> <i>serving as a member of the cub scout pack committee assisting with planning and implementation of cub scout programs</i>
Nov. 2024 — Dec. 2025	Octorara Primary Learning Center, <i>Classroom Volunteer</i> <i>provides weekly leadership for learning centers in Kindergarten classroom; assisted with special events such as Kindergarten Halloween Party</i>
Jan. 2021 — Dec. 2022	ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester, <i>Board Member</i> <i>connecting those in need with existing support services and to fill gaps; aims to build a community that empowers the un- and under-employed; “Thanks to You”, Governance, and Communications and Technology committees; In 2022, I supported a WCU HC Capstone Project by coordinating an internship opportunity at AIF</i>
May 2022	Red Lion Area School District Gifted Program, <i>Letter Writing Campaign Participant</i>

HONORS AND AWARDS

AWARDS FROM PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

October 2022	International Leadership Association Emerging Research Scholars Consortium <i>selected to participate in a unique mentoring opportunity where junior scholars their research to a group of seasoned senior scholars</i>
June 2022	ALE Rising Star: Early Career Leadership & Service Award <i>award recognizes an early career Association of Leadership Educators’ member whose leadership and service upholds and embodies the association's mission: to strengthen and sustain the expertise of professional leadership educators.</i>
June 2022	Association of Leadership Educators Founding Mothers Student Scholar Award <i>award supporting emerging leadership educators attending the annual conference</i>
June 2022	Association of Leadership Educators’ Conference Outstanding Practice Poster <i>awarded for practice poster entitled, “Leadership and The Good Life Across Generations” along with HON 382 Community Engagement Scholar Emma Dunham</i>
April 2022	Alvernia University Ph.D. Leadership Award <i>department’s top award; demonstrating leadership, superior academic performance</i>
November 2020	International Leadership Association Graduate Case Competition Finalist <i>one of only three finalist teams of the case competition, placing first runner-up; conference with the highest number of competing teams in association history</i>
November 2018	National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference Faculty Poster Winner <i>recognized as first place winner for Revising and Revitalizing an Existing Honors Course</i>

INTERNAL AWARDS FROM WCU

Spring ‘24	West Chester University of Pennsylvania Civility Award <i>One of WCU's most prestigious awards, this recognition is presented annually by the President of the university to an individual, office, or department nominated for exemplary behavior reflective of civility, community impact, commitment to student success, and collegiality.</i>
Spring ‘25, Spring ‘22	Community Engagement Scholar, Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact <i>selected faculty member to supervise student leader in service-learning class</i>
‘25, ‘24, ‘23, ‘22, ‘21, ‘20, ‘19, ‘18	West Chester University Outstanding Faculty Award <i>nominated and selected by students for recognition of excellent teaching</i>
‘25, ‘19	West Chester University Outstanding Advisor Award <i>nominated and selected by students for recognition of excellent advising/mentoring</i>

SELECT ADDITIONAL GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

July '21	American Baptist Home Mission Societies Academic Doctorate Grantee <i>selected to receive \$1,000.00 to support doctoral studies a</i>
June '21	George Garrett Grant Fund Grantee <i>selected to receive \$1,500.00 to support doctoral studies</i>
Fall '19 – Summer '20	Alvernia University, <i>Graduate Research Fellowship</i> <i>awarded a \$3,000 grant to study leadership education</i>
<u>SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES</u>	
April '20	West Chester University of Pennsylvania Alumni Association Alumni Spotlight <i>featured interviewee for the WCU Alumni Association's monthly publication</i>
Feb. '20	Alvernia University Graduate School and Adult Education Sunday Spotlight <i>featured graduate student interviewee from Alvernia University's doctoral program</i>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Religious Leadership, <i>Member</i>	American Philosophy Association, <i>Member</i>
American Academy of Religion, <i>Member</i>	International Leadership Association, <i>Member</i>
Association for Leadership Educators, <i>Member</i>	National Collegiate Honors Council, <i>Member</i>
- Coordinator of Students FAN (Dec. 2020 – May 2023)	