

Academic Life: Joys, Challenges, and Best Practices

Why did you become an academician? What are some of the rewards of serving in higher education? What are three of your biggest challenges? What do you know now that you wish you would have known when you started teaching? How does your faith make a difference in your work?

Daryl McCarthy serves as Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategy with Forum of Christian Leaders (FOCL). He is also Director of the European Leadership Forum Academic Leaders Network which provides networking, training, and mentoring for evangelicals in higher education. Daryl has traveled to more than 55 nations and has spoken at universities, conferences, and churches around the world. In 1988 he helped found Global Scholars (formerly International Institute for Christian Studies) and served as President until 2014. Daryl earned a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary School of Intercultural Studies, Master of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary, Master of Arts in Philosophy of Religion from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Theology from Kansas City College and Bible School. Daryl and his wife Dr. Teri McCarthy lived in Lithuania 2010-2015 where they taught at Lithuania University of Educational Sciences Department of English Philology in Vilnius. They have one son and one daughter who are both married and they have four grandchildren.

Yury Bachyshcha studied at the Belarusian State Pedagogic University (Minsk), and did his PhD in History there. He taught history in universities in Minsk, and since 2007 he has been teaching at the European Humanities University in Vilnius (Lithuania). He became a follower of Christ in 2002 and joined the New Reformation Movement in Belarus. He is the coordinator of the Institute of New Reformation and University Network at the East European Leadership Forum. He also helps as a speaker at the worldview debate club in Minsk. The impact of faith and the church on the nations is the focus of his research and service. He lives with his wife, son, and daughter in Minsk (Belarus) and is an active minister of a local church.

Jan Hábl is a professor of pedagogy at J. E. Purkyne University in the Czech Republic and pastor in the Církev Bratřská (Brethren Free Evangelical Church). He studied education at J. E. Purkyne University, theology at EMF School of Biblical Studies in England, and philosophy at the University of Wales. He has taught systematic theology at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Prague and philosophy of education at Hradec Králové University. Jan is a happy husband and father of two children.

Rodica Mocan is a senior lecturer and the Head of Cinematography and the Media Department at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Her education includes an Engineering degree, an MA in Art from Mississippi College, and a Ph.D. in e-learning, and is the result of a continuing interest in lifelong learning in an interdisciplinary context. Her interest in studying the effects of media use and digital technologies on everyday life led her into new learning contexts like formation in psychotherapy, management of public policies and a new Ph.D. in multimedia in performing arts. Her research interests are reflected in the book *A Sociological Perspective on eLearning* and on various studies regarding new technologies, of which Happiness and The Family 2.0 Paradigm is representative for the interdisciplinary approach. Her current interests focus on interactive documentaries and the use of multimedia in performing arts. She strongly believes that family, profession, and one's walk with God are interwoven in the personal life story. Thus, as a mother of three, a Christian, and as an academic that is teaching new media-related disciplines, she strongly believes in the power of mentoring the new generation, to harness the great potential of new technologies to better understand the times we live in.

Michael Reeves is President and Professor of Theology at Union School of Theology in Oxford, England. Previously he has been Head of Theology for UCCF and an associate minister at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London. He is the author of *Introducing Major Theologians*, *Why the Reformation Still Matters*, *The Unquenchable Flame*, *The Good God*, and *Christ our Life*, co-editor of

Adam, the Fall and Original Sin, and holds a doctorate in systematic theology from King's College, London. He is married to Bethan, and together they have two daughters, Lucy and Mia.