

Tributes to the Mellichamp's and Bradley's

Dr. Larry Caillouet, Emeritus Professor of Communications, University of Western Kentucky:

I earned my bachelor's degree at a Christian liberal arts college, but when I earned my doctorate I knew that I didn't want to teach at a Christian school. They had enough Christian faculty already. So I accepted a position at a state university. Now what? There I was, but with no concrete idea of how to utilize my position to share Christ with my students or colleagues.

Then I saw a video of Walter Bradley and Rae Mellichamp telling stories of ministry activities that they had done on their campuses. A Cru campus ministry staff had gathered a dozen Christian faculty to see the video. When the video was over, people were standing up to leave but five of us stayed—we could not leave. We were deeply convicted that we must start a ministry of Christian faculty at Western Kentucky University. It was a Damascus Road experience for me. I could never look at my role as a professor the same after that.

Rae and Walter weren't just examples of what a Christian professor should be. They gave of themselves to our faculty ministry at WKU. Our first ministry event occurred when Walter told me "You organize it and I will come to speak at it." Rae and Walter spoke on my campus several times. Our Christian faculty organization used Rae's Christian Faculty Discipleship Curriculum. They always had new ideas that stimulated my own creativity. The trajectory of my life and my career would have been significantly different without Walter and Rae's examples, influence, and involvement. They will always be my heroes.

Dr. Phil Bishop, Emeritus Professor of Kinesiology, University of Alabama:

I met Rae Mellichamp the first week I arrived on campus in August 1984. I was invited to a weekly Christian Faculty meeting in the Ferguson Student Center, and there I discovered a group of professors committed to modeling and learning to be Salt and Light on the University of Alabama campus. Rae was a successful, highly respected Full Professor in the Business School. Early on Rae challenged me to create a Christian/academic talk. (We used 2x2 slides in a carousel in those days). That's when I put together "Evidence of God in Human Physiology." When I told Rae about it, he smiled and gave me a book to read titled, *How to Make Better Grades and Have More Fun*, by Steve Douglass. Rae then challenged me to put together a talk on that topic. And I did. The next thing I knew I was loading my growing family into our rickety old auto to travel to Dallas for a Christian Leadership Ministries conference. By 1991 we were driving all the way to Ft. Collins, CO for Cru's national staff conference. Rae guided me into my first Faculty International Mission in Uzbekistan in 1993. Rae and Peggy invited us into their home often, and over our first year or two, became our loving mentors in ministry, professoring, family, and life. Rae started that weekly Christian Faculty meeting at U of AL in the 1970s, and it has continued ever since—probably the oldest continuous meeting of the kind in the world. What a blessing to have wiser, more experienced friends to guide us. The Mellichamp's mentoring led me and my family to fully embrace the call to be Salt and Light in the public university—a calling we still pursue today—around the world. Thanks, Rae and Peggy!

When I met Walter Bradley in about 1985, he was widely known as "Butch" Bradley, co-founder with Rae Mellichamp of the faculty ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru). As someone with a strong southern accent, I loved having Dr. Bradley as a leader because his West Texas accent was quite pronounced (pun intended). Dr. Bradley has shown me a solid foundation throughout my journey with faculty ministry. I have spoken alongside him and heard him speak at many "A Common Call" regional conferences. He has overcome persecution and held the course. He pioneered, along with Rae Mellichamp, many faculty ministry ideas. All of us, and I more than most, owe a huge debt

of gratitude to Dr. Bradley, and to Ann, who has always been by his side. He and Rae have led the way with excellence and with joy. Walter certainly has impacted my life and my ministry on the university campus. His ministry has been a 2 Tim 2:2,2,2 ministry in that he has passed inspiration on to others, who have inspired others, who have inspired others. Thank you, Walter and Ann, for showing the way and doing it with enthusiasm.

Dr. Dave Engle, Regents Professor Emeritus, Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Oklahoma State University:

It was one of those divine appointments—it just so happened sometime in the 1980s that a person I ran into on campus invited me to a luncheon featuring Rae Mellichamp speaking on “Ministering in the Secular University.” Intrigued at such a radical idea, I readily accepted the invitation for the free lunch sponsored by an organization and with a speaker, both of which were unknown to me. I was convicted by Rae’s message—that as a Christian professor, I was called to the university to share the Good News to students and faculty members. That was the beginning of my career-long association with Faculty Commons, one that equipped me and encouraged me to use my place in the secular university to witness to my students and my fellow faculty members.

Not long after my buy-in to faculty ministry in the 1980s, someone told me of Walter Bradley’s reputation for initiating and leading the nation-wide faculty ministry movement. Walter, I learned, built this reputation while also creating the remarkable, and duplicatable, pattern on how to serve as an ambassador for Christ in the secular university. As the featured speaker at our Christian faculty group’s first Promotion & Tenure workshop (he spent three days to minister on campus), Walter had an enduring influence on me and many others. To this day, I feel indebted to Walter for teaching me to be a Christ-follower who just happened to be a professor. Walter is one of my heroes of the faith—innovator, leader, scholar, mentor—who because of his humble transparency about his own struggles to represent Christ in the university, taught me to persist with courage.

Dr. Russell Carlson, Emeritus Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia:

I met Walter Bradley and Rae Mellichamp in the mid 1990s at a Veritas Forum at the University of Georgia where I was a Professor of Biochemistry. As a Professor, I was really absorbed in my work, but was also wondering if I could do more for the Lord as a faculty member. My wife and I were very involved in our church, but surely, I thought, there was more we could do through my faculty position at UGA. Walter gave a talk at the Veritas Forum where he related his experiences as a professor to reach colleagues and students for Christ. He had many suggestions on how to do this, and one was to identify yourself as a Christian to your class. I decided to give this a try. It took only about 10 seconds during my first day in class. This led to 15 years or more of inviting students to our home for dinner and a discussion on the relationship between science and faith; wonderful times and always a great blessing.

Rae came to UGA several times to help us reach out to faculty colleagues (“How to Get Tenure” talks, etc.). He was, and still is, a great encouragement to me and, with Walter, a major influence that enabled me to incorporate Christ into my role as UGA faculty member. Both Rae and Walter have been, and still are, examples of what it means to be a Christian Professor. For me, they are the fathers of Christian Leadership Ministries, now Faculty Commons. They encouraged me to take a step for Christ as a professor which has led to many blessings for my wife and me. I know they have also done this for many others. They have an eternal legacy. God bless Rae and Walter!