

REV. JOSEPH D. BLOSSER, PH.D.

Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning
Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy
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Education **University of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois
Doctor of Philosophy, 2011, Constructive Studies in Religious Ethics

Dissertation: “Ethics Before God and Markets: A Theory of Moral Action in Conversation with Adam Smith and Ernst Troeltsch”

Committee: William Schweiker (chair), Kathryn Tanner, and Deirdre McCloskey
Comprehensive Examinations, Completed Spring 2008:

Philosophical Ethics, Franklin I. Gamwell

Theological Ethics, William Schweiker

Ethics and Political Life, Jean Bethke Elshtain

Ethics and the History of Economic Thought, Robert Fogel and Martin Riesebrodt

The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
Master of Divinity, 2005

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
Bachelor of Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2002
Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in Economics and Religion

University Leadership **Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy**, High Point University: Teaching Business Ethics, Philosophy of Education, Social Ethics, Religion in America, Modern Christian Theology, Contemporary Christian Theology, and Approaches to Religion. 2011-Present.

Senior Seminar Papers Advised:

Leeann Mangum, “The Use of the Bible in Youth Leadership.” 2012.

Anna Mahathey, “Becoming More Religious: The Religious Experiences of First-Generation Hindu Indian Immigrant Women in the US.” 2012. Published in the *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*.

Nick Bache, “Living Authentically in Camus’ *The Myth of Sisyphus* and Tillich’s *The Courage to Be*.” 2013.

Founding Director of the Service Learning Program, High Point University. Became the Robert G. Culp Jr. Director of Service Learning and developed the program to include an Assistant Director of Service Learning, and over 50 trained faculty across the university. 2011-Present.

Founding Director of the Bonner Leader Program, High Point University. Built a 4-year developmental program to include approximately 40 low-income students. The cohorts are half non-white and nearly half first-generation college students. Together the Bonner Leaders work 12,000 hours a year in the community. 2013-Present.

Founding Supervisor of the HPU AmeriCorps VISTA Program, High Point University. Supervised three VISTAs for three years, and will soon sponsor our own project with nine VISTAs working full-time in High Point. 2014-Present.

Founding Director of the Civic Responsibility and Social Innovation Minor, High Point University. Created this minor to serve Bonner Leaders and other students who have a commitment to productive citizenship and positive social change. 2017-Present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, DePaul University, Religious Studies: 2009-2011.

Adjunct Professor, DePaul University, Religious Studies: 2008-2009.

Lilly Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago, The Divinity School: Introduction to Preaching. Autumn 2008.

Grants

AmeriCorps VISTA Sponsor Grant, NC State VISTA Office: Approved to host an AmeriCorps VISTA Program at HPU with nine VISTAs without co-pay. This grant totals \$159,300 for 2017-2018.

Local Food, Local Places, City of High Point: Co-author of a \$70,000 technical assistance grant from the EPA to convert the High Point Public Library parking lot into a public space with permanent farmers market stands. 2016.

Think Big Award, High Point University: Co-PI on a \$10,000 grant to develop a Community-Based Research Center. 2015.

Earhart Fellowship, Earhart Foundation: A \$9,334 grant to support research on a project titled *A Responsibility Ethic for a Global Market: A New Look at Adam Smith's Moral and Economic Theory*. 2014.

Think BIG Award, High Point University: PI on a \$50,000 grant to conduct an interdisciplinary and experiential learning project involving over 20 faculty and 300 students researching the presidential elections. 2012.

Campus Election Engagement Project, Campus Compact: PI on a \$500 grant to support the efforts of the Democracy USA Project. 2012.

Robert G. and Ellen S. Gutenstein Foundation: A \$95,000 grant to fund Service Learning faculty development at HPU. The grant is ongoing at about \$15,000 per year. 2011-Present.

Survey of the Long-Term Impacts of the Religious Studies Major, AAR/Teagle Seed Grant: PI on a \$750 grant to collect data on HPU Religion Majors. 2014.

Honors

Spirit of Advocacy Award Winner. United Way of Greater High Point. 2015.

Civic Engagement Professional of the Year, North Carolina Campus Compact. 2014.

Disciples Scholar, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago: Combines with a University merit award for full tuition and housing, plus \$17,000 a year. 2005-2009.

Jones Scholarship, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Awarded to an ordained PhD student for leadership and scholarship. 2007.

Founder's Medalist, Vanderbilt: Awarded by the Chancellor to the one graduate in each school with the highest grade point average. 2005.

Wilbur F. Tillet Prize, Vanderbilt: Awarded to the graduate with the highest accomplishments in the field of ethics. 2005.

Carpenter Scholar, Vanderbilt: The highest academic scholarship for a student committed to ministry and social justice. Full scholarship and stipend. 2002-2005.

Lockridge Ward Wilson Award, Disciples of Christ Historical Society: Awarded annually for the best student essay on Stone/Campbell movement history. 2003.

Phi Beta Kappa Scholar, TCU: Awarded to the one Phi Beta Kappa student with the highest achievements in the liberal arts. 2002.

Boller Award, TCU: Awarded to the student with the best presentation of a senior honors thesis at the University. 2002.

Chancellor's Scholar, TCU: One of twenty-five incoming students awarded with the University's highest academic scholarship. 1998-2002.

**Research &
Teaching
Interests**

Faith, Work, and Economic Thought
Business Ethics
Faith and Democratic Life

Philosophy and Ethics of Education
Civic Responsibility & Social Innovation
19th and 20th Century Protestant Theology

**Book
Chapters**

"Christian Freedom in Political Economy: The Legacy of John Calvin in the Thought of Adam Smith," in *Adam Smith as Theologian*, ed. by Paul Oslington (New York: Routledge, 2011).

**Refereed
Articles**

"Resisting the Siren Song: Charting a Course for Justice," *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 23:1 (2016): 102-106.

"More than Free Markets: Adam Smith and the Virtue of Responsibility," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 36:1 (2016): 163-179.

"Turning Civic Education into Engagement: Evaluating the Efficacy of the Democracy USA Project," with Alixandra B. Yanus, Martin J. Kifer, Paul Namaste, Sadie Leder Elder, and Joe Blosser, *Journal of Political Science Education*, 11:3 (2015): 279-300.

"Opportunities after Babel: Forming Christian Personality Through Faith at Work," *International Journal of Practical Theology*, 18.1 (2014): 49-68.

"Turning from the Shadows: Meno, the Cave, and the Service-Learning Classroom," *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 20.2 (2014): 79-89.

"Natural Law Economics: Reading a Theological Economics," *Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology*, 31.1 (2013): 119-132.

"Can God or the Market Set People Free?: Libertarian, Egalitarian, and Ethical Freedom," *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 41.2 (June 2013): 233-53.

"Beyond Moral Development: Re-Theorizing Ethical Practices in Service Learning," *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, 12.2 (Fall 2012): 196-214.

“A Defense of Ethical Economics: Review Essay of *Are Economists Basically Immoral?* by Paul Heyne,” *Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology* 28.1 (2010): 369-380.

“Ritual Revival for Playful Protestant Preaching,” *Encounter* 67.3 (2006): 245-272.

“Modeling God: Preaching in Process Theology,” *Homiletic* 31.2 (Winter 2006): 1-11.

“The Table’s Edge: Exploring the Historical Boundaries of the Lord’s Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” *Encounter* 65.3 (2004): 243-266.

“Agitator of Identity: The Effect of the Campbell Institute on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” *Discipliana* 64.3 (Fall 2004): 67-77.

**Invited
Publications**

Thesis Abstract, *Ethics Before God and Markets*, in *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* 5.2 (Autumn 2012): 155-56.

“The Deflowering of Hawaii,” *The Spire* 25.1 (Fall 2004): 29-32.

**Book
Reviews**

Review of *Marketplace of the Gods: How Economics Explains Religion*, by Larry Witham, in *The Journal of Religion*, 92.2 (April 2012): 321-3.

Review of *Beyond Essence: Ernst Troeltsch as Historian and Theorist of Christianity*, by Lori Pearson, in *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 50.2 (2011): 206-208.

Book Notes on *Religion and the Human Future*, by David Klemm and William Schweiker; *Religious Perspectives on Business Ethics*, ed. by Thomas O’Brien and Scott Paeth; *Prophets, Profits, and Peace*, by Timothy L. Fort, in *Religious Studies Review* 35.3 (September 2009): 166-167.

**Community
Engaged
Research**

“Ethics and Young Professionals in the City of High Point: An In-Depth Analysis.” With Nick Palmer, et al. A qualitative research project conducted by an HPU Business Ethics class on behalf of the High Point Chamber of Commerce. December 2015.

“People and Profits: The Importance of Ethical Understanding in the Workplace.” A qualitative research project conducted by HPU Business Ethics class on behalf of the High Point Chamber of Commerce. December 2013.

**Selected
Papers**

“Whom Does Service-Learning Really Serve? The Impact of Socio-Economic Status on Service-Learning Outcomes.” With Cara Kozma (English) and Ali Yanus (Political Science). American Educational Researchers Association. San Antonio, TX. April 2017.

“Post-secular Leadership in an Age of Religious Pluralism.” With Allison Blosser (Education). Keynote Address at the Doctoral Research Forum and Innovative Leadership Collaborative. High Point, NC. April 2017.

“Whom Does Service-Learning Really Serve? The Impact of Socio-Economic Status on Service-Learning Outcomes.” With Cara Kozma (English) and Ali Yanus (Political Science). Gulf South Summit. Greensboro, NC. March 2017.

“The Space Between: Assessing the Influence and Impact of Student and Faculty Engagement Across Two Universities.” With Cara Kozma (HPU), Lane Perry (Western Carolina University), and Betty Farmer (Western Carolina University). Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement. North Carolina Campus Compact. High Point, NC. February 2016.

“Dewey and Beyond: Service Learning and Moral Communities.” Civic Engagement Institute. North Carolina Campus Compact. High Point, NC. February 2016.

“Responsibility and Moral Education: Rethinking Smith’s Impartial Spectator and the Virtues.” History of Economics Society. Lansing, MI. June 2015.

“Food is Not the Problem: Changing the Way We Approach our Neighbors.” Keynote at the Second Harvest Food Bank Annual Meeting. Winston-Salem, NC. May 2015.

“Experiential and Service Learning: A Pedagogy of Community Engagement.” The Craft of Teaching Series at the University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. May 2015.

“More than Free Markets: Adam Smith and an Economic Ethic of Responsibility.” Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, IL. January 2015.

“Survey of the Long Term Impacts of Liberal Education on Religious Studies Majors.” Academic Relations Committee of the American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA. 2014.

“From Virtue to Responsibility: Pushing Adam Smith’s Moral Theory for a Post-Great Recession World.” History of Economics Society. Montreal, Canada. June 2014.

“Turning Civic Education into Engagement: Evaluating the Efficacy of the Democracy USA Project.” With Martin J. Kifer, Alixandra B. Yanus, Paul Namaste, Joe Blosser, and Sadie Leder. Mid-West Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 2014.

“Faith and Ethics at Work: A Study of the Role of Religion in Workplace Ethics.” Invited Lecture. Texas Christian University. Fort Worth, TX. March 2014.

“Faith and Ethics at Work: A Study of the Role of Religion in Workplace Ethics.” Re-Imagining Faith Conference at Georgetown College. Georgetown, KY. January 2014.

“When Does Civic Education Work? Measuring the Impact of the HPU Democracy USA Project,” With Martin J. Kifer (Political Science), Alixandra B. Yanus (Political

Science), Paul Namaste (Sociology), Joe Blosser (Religion), and Sadie Leder (Psychology). Mid-West Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 2013.

“Hearing is Believing: MP3 Feedback on Student Papers.” American Academy of Religion. Chicago, IL. November 2012.

“Behind *Redeeming*: Reading a Theological Economics.” History of Economics Society. St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. June 2012.

“Opportunities after Babel: The Importance of Faith at Work in a Post-Great Recession World.” American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA. November 2011.

“Forming the Intellect and the Passions: Rousseau’s Emile.” A Liberty Fund Conference. La Jolla, CA. August 2011.

“Adam Smith as Theologian.” History of Economics Society. South Bend, IN. June 2011.

“Liberation as Moral Imagination: A Comparison of American, British, and German Philosophies of Liberty in Education.” Comparative and International Education Society. Montreal, Canada. April 2011.

“Can God or the Market Set Us Free? A New Look at the Old Problem of Freedom in Ethics, Theology, and Economics.” Society of Christian Ethics. New Orleans, LA. January 2011.

“A Theology of the Impartial Spectator in Adam Smith.” Illinois Economics Association. Chicago, IL. October 2010.

“Adam Smith’s Sympathetic History.” History of Economics Society Conference. Syracuse, NY. June 2010.

“Ethics and the Invisible Hand.” Invited lecture with Robert Garnett on the occasion of TCU’s opening of their new Honors College building. Fort Worth, TX. April 2010.

“Transformation of the Divine: Adam Smith’s Immanent Providence.” History of Economics Society Conference. Denver, CO. June 2009.

“Deep and Wide: The Pedagogical Value of Reflections and Case Studies.” DePaul University Annual Teaching Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2009.

“To See the World: Theology and the Social Sciences in the Thought of Ernst Troeltsch.” Southeast Regional Commission, AAR. Raleigh, NC. March 2009.

“How Do You Teach What Can’t Be Taught? Reflections on Teaching Ethics and the Arts of Ministry.” Lilly Foundation, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. March 2009.

“Christian Freedom in Political Economy: The Legacy of John Calvin in the Thought of Adam Smith.” Adam Smith as Theologian Workshop, Sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. Edinburgh, Scotland. January 2009.

“*Homo Economicus* Reconsidered.” AAR. San Diego, CA. November 2007.

Ministry Experience	<p>Ordination, Mid-American Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO. May 22, 2005.</p> <p>Deacon, Emerywood Baptist Church, High Point, NC, 2013-2015.</p> <p>Board Member, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries. 2014-2015.</p> <p>General Assembly Worship Planning Team, Disciples of Christ. 2010-2011.</p> <p>Interim Associate Minister, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, University of Chicago. 2007-2008.</p> <p>Disciples Leadership Institute, Founder and planning team member. 2005-2009.</p> <p>Interim Minister, Bellevue Christian Church, Nashville, TN. 2004.</p> <p>Co-Interim Minister, Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville, TN. 2003-2004.</p> <p>CPE Chaplain, Pacific Health Ministries, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Honolulu, HI. Summer 2003.</p> <p>Interim Youth Minister, University Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX. 2001-2002.</p> <p>North-East Area Youth Minister, Arkansas Region of the Disciples of Christ. 2000.</p>
Civic Service	<p>Board Member, YMCA of Greater High Point. 2014-Present.</p> <p>Board Member, High Point Community Foundation. 2015-Present.</p> <p>Grants Committee Chair, High Point Community Foundation. 2015-Present.</p> <p>Founding Board Member, Greater High Point Food Alliance. 2014-Present.</p> <p>Board Member, High Point Jail Ministry. 2012-2015.</p> <p>Panel Review Team, United Way of Greater High Point. 2014.</p> <p>Achieve Guilford, Guilford County Public Schools. 2012-2013.</p> <p>Ethics Consultant, Il. Dept. of Child and Family Services Training. Spring 2006.</p>
Professional Experience	<p>AmeriCorps VISTA Sponsor, HPU. Project sponsor with 9 VISTAs. 2017-2018.</p> <p>AmeriCorps VISTA Supervisor, HPU. Sub-grantee with 3 VISTAs. 2013-2017.</p> <p>Bonner Leader Director, HPU. 40 Bonner Leaders. 2013-Present.</p> <p>Culp Director of Service Learning and Committee Chair, HPU. 2011-Present.</p> <p>Academic Planning Committee, HPU. 2012-2014.</p> <p>Quality Enhancement Plan Committee, HPU. 2013-14.</p> <p>Phi Beta Kappa Exploratory Committee, HPU. 2012-Present.</p> <p>Common Experience Theme Selection Committee Chair, HPU. 2014.</p> <p>Common Experience Committee, HPU. 2014.</p> <p>Global Studies Committee, HPU. 2014-Present.</p> <p>Think BIG Committee, HPU. 2012-2014.</p> <p>Diversity Committee, HPU. 2011.</p> <p>Visiting Assistant Professor of World Religions Search Committee, HPU. 2017.</p> <p>New Testament Search Committee, HPU. 2013.</p> <p>Hebrew Bible Search Committee, HPU. 2016.</p> <p>Visiting Assistant Professors (x2) Search Committee, HPU. 2013.</p> <p>Business Ethics Search Committee, HPU. 2011-2012.</p> <p>Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Exploratory Committee, HPU. 2011-2012.</p> <p>External Reviewer, <i>Journal of Religion and Business Ethics</i>. 2009-Present.</p> <p>External Reviewer, <i>Journal of Religious Ethics</i>. 2013-Present.</p> <p>External Reviewer, <i>Journal of the History of Economic Thought</i>. 2014-Present.</p> <p>Chair of Honor Council, Vanderbilt Divinity School. 2004-2005.</p> <p>Copy-Editor, Amy-Jill Levine, Dale C. Allison, Jr., and John Dominic Crossan, eds., <i>The Historical Jesus in Context</i> (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).</p> <p>Research Assistant, David Grant, TCU: Assisted in grading, proctoring courses and researching for <i>A Theology of God's Grace</i> (St. Louis: Chalice, 2004). 1999-2002.</p>

**Professional
Associations**

Association of American Colleges and Universities. 2012-Present.
North Carolina Campus Compact. 2011-Present.
History of Economics Society. 2008-Present.
Society of Christian Ethics. 2008-Present.
American Academy of Religion. 2004-Present.

References

Dennis Carroll, Provost. High Point University. Email: dcarroll@highpoint.edu
Clint Corcoran, Chair of Religion and Philosophy. High Point University. Email: ccorcora@highpoint.edu
William Schweiker, Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics in the Divinity School and the College, Director of the Martin Marty Center. University of Chicago. Email: w-schweiker@uchicago.edu.
Deirdre McCloskey, Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English, and Communication. University of Illinois at Chicago. Email: deirdre2@uic.edu.