

## **RICK OSTRANDER, Ph.D.**

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### **Education**

- 1996 Ph.D., American History, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.  
Advisor: George M. Marsden  
Dissertation: "The Life of Prayer in a World of Science: Protestants, Prayer,  
and American Culture, 1870-1930."
- 1992 M.A., American History, University of Notre Dame.
- 1990 B.A., History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 1990 B.A., Theology, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Professional Experience**

- 2021-present Executive Director of Westmont Downtown and Assistant to the President for Academic Innovation and Global Education. Responsibilities include expanding Westmont's global presence, developing a new urban campus, and facilitating academic innovation within a Christian liberal arts mission.
- 2019-present Academic consultant for Christian higher education. Emphases include academic innovation, institutional partnerships, faculty-administration relations, Christian study abroad, and dean/provost mentoring ([www.ostranderacademics.com](http://www.ostranderacademics.com)).
- 2019-2021 Regional Vice President for Academic Partnerships, Acadeum. Worked with independent colleges and universities across the U.S. to foster collaboration in academic programs. Created and continue to expand the CCCU Online Course-Sharing Consortium ([CCCU Consortium](http://CCCUConsortium)).
- 2015-2019 Vice President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, Washington, D.C. Responsibilities included international study programs, professional development for administrators and faculty, scholarly grant programs and conferences, Christian Higher Education Research Council, Accreditation Coordinating Committees, College Consortium, and other collaborative ventures.
- 2009-2015 Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Responsible for oversight of all academic programs, budgets, faculty hiring and evaluation, governance, etc.
- 2002-2009 Dean of Undergraduate Studies, John Brown University. Responsibilities included undergraduate programs, core curriculum, faculty evaluation, international programs, academic advising, academic assistance, faculty committees, and registrar's office.

Fall 2007 Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, John Brown University.

Spring 2004 Fulbright Senior Scholar/Lecturer, University of Wurzburg, Wurzburg, Germany.

2002-2009 Associate Professor of History, John Brown University. Responsible for courses in American History, Western and World Civilization, American Studies, Research Seminar, and electives in American intellectual and cultural history.

2001-2002 Chair, Division of Social and Behavioral Studies, John Brown University. Responsible for the departments of history, intercultural studies, political science, and psychology. Supervised curriculum, programs, assessment, faculty evaluations, divisional budget, and student recruitment.

2001-2002 Chair, Faculty Development Committee, John Brown University. Set committee agenda and presided over bi-weekly committee meetings. Developed and supervised the awarding of course release grants for faculty scholarship. Conducted a faculty workload survey among Council for Christian Colleges and Universities institutions.

1999-2003 Chair, Department of History, John Brown University. Responsible for course offerings, student advising, departmental budget, and assessment.

1999-2001 Chair, John Brown University Faculty Association. Set agenda and presided over monthly meetings. Maintained minutes and records of the association. Served as liaison between Faculty Association and the university president. Created and coordinated a monthly Faculty/Cabinet Communications Forum. Represented the faculty at meetings of the Board of Trustees. Implemented a Faculty Opinion Survey.

1998-2001 Faculty Sponsor for Alpha Chi Honor Society, John Brown University. Created and implemented an annual Scholarly Symposium. Supervised special events such as mock presidential debates, student-faculty forums, etc.

1997-2001 Assistant Professor of History, John Brown University.

2000 Teagle Fellow for the Promotion of Scholarship and Integration. Designed and helped implement Teagle Faculty Summer Workshop: "The Christian College Distinctive: Integrating Faith, Learning, and Living." Designed and implemented the Faculty Lunch Colloquium series for the 2000 calendar year. Coordinated special events such as faculty panel discussions and special speakers. Served on the Advisory Board for The Institute for Learning Enhancement. Helped plan and lead the New Faculty Orientation program.

1996-1997 Assistant Professor of History, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Spring 1996 Adjunct Instructor of History, Taylor-University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Taught World History and Church History.

1993-1995 Adjunct Instructor, University of Notre Dame. Taught Freshman Writing Seminars in American Cultural History and American Religious History.

## Professional Activities

### Books

- 2021      Why College Matters to God: An Introduction to Christian Learning, Third Edition. Abilene: Abilene University Press.
- 2014      Reconsidering College: Christian Higher Education for Working Adults. Abilene: Abilene University Press.
- 2009      Why College Matters to God: Academic Faithfulness and Christian Higher Education. Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press.
- 2003      Head, Heart, and Hand: John Brown University and Modern Evangelical Higher Education. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press.
- 2000      The Life of Prayer in a World of Science: Protestants, Prayer, and American Culture, 1870-1930. New York: Oxford University Press.

### Other Publications

- Forthcoming      "How Are We Called to Think? Reflections on David Foster Wallace's 'This is Water,'" in Jacob Stratman and Jessica Hooten Wilson, eds., To This You Are Called: A Reader on Vocation in Christian Education. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic.
- 2020      "Walking in Faith Amid the Storm," in Christopher Gehrz and Beth Allison Barr, eds., Faith and History: A Devotional. Waco: Baylor University Press.
- 2019      "The Case for Christian Higher Education," in Lipscomb University Intersections Magazine, Volume 5 Number 1 (Winter 2019).
- 2018      "The Role of the Christian University in the Cultivation of the Evangelical Mind," in Christian Scholar's Review 47, Number 4 (Summer 2018), 401-406.
- 2015      "Globalizing Christian Higher Education: Reflections from Kampala and Delhi," in Christian Higher Education: Global Challenges, Local Practices, Volume 14, Issue 1-2 (2015).
- 2014      "The Southernization of the Evangelical Mind," in Darren Dochuck, Thomas Kidd, and Kurt Peterson, eds., American Evangelicalism: George Marsden and the State of American Religious History. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press.
- "The Next Revolution," Books and Culture (May/June 2014)
- "Missionary Kids," Books and Culture (March/April 2014)
- 2013      "A Global Renaissance in Christian Higher Education," The Chronicle of Higher Education Worldwide, October 2013.
- "Learning to Surf: A Christian College Provost Encounters the Digital Revolution," Books and Culture (March/April 2013).

- “Learning to Fish: A College Provost Tests the Waters in China,” Inside Higher Education (February 2013).
- 2012 “Christian Learning in the Digital Age,” The Colossian Forum on Faith, Science, and Culture (<http://www.colossianforum.org/>).
- “Learning to Surf: A Christian College Provost Encounters the Digital Revolution,” The Chronicle of Higher Education Review (September 2012).
- 2008 “The Adopt-a-Village Project,” in Peter Machonis, ed., Shatter the Glassy Stare: Implementing Experiential Learning in Higher Education (National Collegiate Honors Council).
- “The Distinctive of a Christian College: An Historical Perspective,” in Stephen Beers, ed., The Soul of a Christian University: A Field Guide for Educators. Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press.
- 2007 “Spirituality and the Discipline of History,” in Bruce W. Speck and Sherry L. Hoppe, eds., Searching for Spirituality in Higher Education. New York: Peter Lang Publishers.
- 2006 “The Practice of Prayer in a Modern Age: Liberals, Fundamentalists, and Prayer in the Early Twentieth Century,” in Maffly-Kipp, Schmidt, and Valeri, eds., Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America, 1630-1965. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- “Prayer and Revivals,” in Michael McClymond, ed., Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America. Westport: Greenwood Press.
- “John Brown” and “John Brown University,” Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture (Butler Center for Arkansas Studies).
- 2003 “Dwight L. Moody,” in The Encyclopedia of Christianity, Volume 3. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- 1997 “Proving the Living God: Answered Prayer as a Modern Fundamentalist Apologetic.” In Fides et Historia 28:3 (Fall, 1997).
- 1996 “The Battery and the Windmill: Liberal and Fundamentalist Protestant Devotional Teachings in Early Twentieth Century America.” In Church History 65:1 (March, 1996).
- 1996 “Fundamentalism.” In Reader’s Guide to American History (Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers).

## Book Reviews

- 2020 Review of John Bernbaum, Opening the Red Door: The Inside Story of Russia's First Christian Liberal Arts University (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2019), in Christian Scholar's Review, 49:2, 203-205.
- 2017 Review of William Ringenberg, The Christian College and the Meaning of Academic Freedom (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016), in *Christian Higher Education* Vol. 16 (2017), Issue 1-2.
- 2014 Review of Adam R. Shapiro, Trying Biology: The Scopes Trial, Textbooks, and the Antievolution Movement in American Schools (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), in The American Historical Review, 119 (April 2014).
- 2012 Review of Darren Dochuk, From Bible Belt to Sun Belt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism (New York: W.W. Norton, 2010), in Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 71, No. 3 (Autumn 2012).
- Review of Don Looser, An Act of Providence: A History of Houston Baptist University, 1960-1910 (Alvin, TX: Halcyon Press, 2010) in Journal of Southern History, Volume LXXVIII, No. 2, May 2012.
- 2008 Review of Douglas Jacobsen and Rhonda Hustedt Jacobsen, eds., The American University in a Post-Secular Age (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) in Christian Higher Education.
- 2007 Review of Michael Lienesch, In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2007) in Arkansas Historical Quarterly (Winter 2007).
- 2006 Review of Timothy Weber, On the Road to Armageddon: How Evangelicals Became Israel's Best Friend (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2004) in Interpretation 60:2 (April 2006).
- 2005 Review of Bruce Evenson, God's Man for the Gilded Age: D.L. Moody and the Rise of Modern Mass Evangelism (New York: Oxford Press, 2003). Church History 74:2 (June, 2005).
- 2003 Review of D.G. Hart, The Lost Soul of American Protestantism (New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002). Church History 72:4 (December, 2003).
- 2000 Review of Mark Toulouse and James Duke, Makers of Christian Theology in America (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997). Fides et Historia 31:1 (Winter/Spring, 2000).

## Presentations and Events

- September 2021 "The Value of a Christian College Education." Plenary address at Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa.
- January 2021 Creator and organizer of a Zoom symposium, "General Education and the Christian University," an event attended by sixty U.S. higher education leaders.

- August 2020 "Understanding the Power of a Course-Sharing Consortium." Webinar for the Association of Biblical Higher Education.
- February 2020 "The Future of Christian Higher Education: Dying, Surviving, or Thriving?" Presentation to faculty and staff at Greenville University, Greenville, Illinois.
- "Academic Freedom and the Christian University." Presentation to the Greenville University Board of Trustees, Greenville, Illinois.
- January 2020 "Using Online Collaboration for Computer Science Program Development." Webinar for Acadeum and the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.
- October 2019 "Living a Different Story." Academic Lectureship Series, Crown College, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota.
- "Beyond Christian Triumphalism: Forming Students of Character Through Suffering and Lament." Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.
- "Christianity and Institutional Collaboration: Shaping Christian Learning Through Partnerships." Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Network for Christian Higher Education, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- August 2019 "American Higher Education Today: The View from 30,000 Feet." Westmont College fall faculty workshop, August 2019, Santa Barbara, California.
- April 2019 "The Value of a Christian Education." John Brown University Honors Symposium, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.
- 2016-2018 Lead organizer and presenter for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities' New Faculty Institute (June 2016, 2017, and 2018), Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- August 2018 Fall Faculty Workshop plenary speaker, Carson Newman University, Jefferson City, Tennessee.
- April 2018 "Scholarship as Worship." plenary address at the Lipscomb University Students Scholars' Symposium. Nashville, Tennessee.
- March 2018 "Christian Global Study Programs." Campus Ministry Leadership Summit. Atlanta, Georgia.
- February 2018 "Seizing the Opportunity of Global Study Programs." Annual Meeting of the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Orlando, Florida.
- January 2018 "Advancing Christian Higher Education: The Key Role of the Faculty." Bluefield College faculty workshop. Bluefield, Virginia.
- October 2017 "The Future of Christian Higher Education." Council for Educational Standards and Accountability National Conference plenary address. Dallas, Texas.

- September 2017 “Does the Christian College Have a Future?” Dallas Baptist University Friday Symposium. Dallas, Texas.
- August 2017 “The Value of Christian Higher Education.” “Up For Debate” live radio broadcast on Moody Radio Network.
- October 2016 Session host and organizer: “Is the Benedict Option the Best Option for Christian Colleges?” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture annual conference, Baylor University.
- October 2016 Christian Heritage College Chapel Address. Brisbane, Australia.  
Christian Heritage College Professional Development Workshop. Brisbane, Australia.
- May 2016 Houston Baptist University May Faculty Workshop. Houston, Texas.
- September 2015 Regent University Fall Faculty Workshop. Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- April 2015 “Becoming a Leader on Campus,” Council for Independent Colleges’ Workshop for Department and Division Chairs, Greenville, South Carolina.
- November 2014 “Sustainable and Affordable Models of Campus Internationalization.” Panel presentation at the Council for Independent Colleges and Universities annual conference, Portland, Oregon.
- October 2014 “Christian Higher Education in America.” Presentations at the International Christian School in Hong Kong and Hope International School in Beijing, China.
- September 2014 “The Purpose of a Christian College.” Presentation to first-year students at Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Michigan.
- April 2014 “The Value of a Christian College.” Presentation for the Michigan Colleges Alliance, Woodside Bible Church, Troy, Michigan.
- “Why College Matters to God.” Presentation to students and faculty at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma.
- February 2014 Response to Jay Selingo’s College Unbound. Panel presentation at the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities International Forum.
- “Redeeming Work,” Spring Arbor University chapel, Spring Arbor, Michigan.
- May 2013 “Christian Worldview and Education” and “Integrating Faith and Learning.” Presentation at Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda.
- February 2013 “*Lost in Transition: Emerging Adults and Christian Higher Education.*” Panel presentation at the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities’ Chief Academic Officers Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.
- November 2012 “Building a Campus Culture of Trust and Integrity.” Panel presentation at the Council for Independent College’s Chief Academic Officers Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

- October 2012 "Christian Worldview and Education: Contemporary Challenges in the United States." Presentation at Handong Global University, Pohang, South Korea.
- August 2012 "Following Christ in the Classroom." Chapel presentation, Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana.
- "Why College Matters to God." Book presentation to first-year students, Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana.
- "The Future of Christian Higher Education." Faculty presentation, Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana.
- January 2012 "Educating Students for Service and Ministry," Conference on Connecting Church and Academy, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky.
- November 2011 "Preparing Division Chairs for Leadership." Panel presentation at the Council for Independent College's Chief Academic Officers Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- February 2011 "Academic Rigor in Adult Education." Cornerstone University Professional and Graduate Studies Faculty Workshop, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- October 2010 "Christian Higher Education in the American Context." Address to students and faculty, Ede Christian University, The Netherlands.
- "Investing in a Christian College." Black Forest Academy, Kandern, Germany.
- September 2010 "The Goal-Focused College Student." New Student Convocation, Cornerstone University.
- July 2010 "Making Sense of Christian Colleges." Maranatha Bible Conference, Muskegon, Michigan.
- April 2010 "An Anti-Commencement Address." University Chapel, Cornerstone University.
- November 2009 "A Parent's Guide to Christian Colleges." Jackson Christian School, Jackson, Michigan.
- October 2009 "The Christian Liberal Arts in the Evangelical Tradition." Presentation to the Calvin College Honors Program, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- September 2009 "Resourcing for Academic Excellence." Cornerstone University Professional and Graduate Studies Faculty Development Workshop.
- "Academic Excellence for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Cornerstone University Fall Convocation Address.
- March 2009 "A History of Christian Colleges in America." Presentation for the regional meeting of the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals.
- February 2009 "Collaboration in the First-Year Experience." Presentation at the National Conference on the First-Year Experience, Orlando, Florida.



- September 2008 Panel presenter: "Protestant Theology and the Making of the Modern German University." Conference on Faith and History Biannual Conference, Bluffton, Ohio.
- August 2008 Organizer and leader, John Brown University Faculty Workshop: "Maintaining a Vibrant and Cohesive Core Curriculum."
- August 2008 Guest speaker, MidAmerica Nazarene University Fall Faculty Orientation: "The Integration of Faith and Learning."
- November 2007 Featured guest on "Prayer in America," a public television documentary produced by the Duncan Group (<http://www.prayerinamerica.org/>).
- April 2007 "The Christian University and Academic Excellence." John Brown University chapel address.
- June 2005 Organizer and co-leader, John Brown University Faculty Workshop: "Globalizing the Curriculum."
- October 2004 "The Practice of Prayer in a Modern Age: Liberals, Fundamentalists, and Prayer in the 1920s." The History of American Christian Practice Conference, University of North Carolina.
- June 2004 "Reflections on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Racial Desegregation." Guest lectures at the University of Wurzburg and the University of Mainz, Germany.
- May 2004 "Brown vs. Board of Education in Historical Perspective." Lecture at the Deutsches-Americanisches Zentrum in Stuttgart, Germany on May 8, 2004.
- October, 2002 "Christian Historians and the Writing of Contemporary Religious History." Panel presentation at the Conference of Faith and History Biannual Conference, Huntington, Indiana.
- January 2002 "Subway Devotions: Protestant Devotional Writers and Urban Culture in Turn-of-the-Century America." American Society of Church History Winter Conference, San Francisco, California.
- October 2001 "Our Own Place as Text: Writing and Teaching a History of One's Own Institution." National Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Societies, Chicago, Illinois.
- Fall 2001 Organizer and co-leader, John Brown University faculty book discussion on The Christian Liberal Arts (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), by James Mannoia.
- May 2001 "Higher Education in America: The Present Crisis." Presentation for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities Regional New Faculty Workshop, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.
- October 2000 Panel organizer and moderator: "The Christian Professor in the Modern Academy: Four Perspectives." Conference on Faith and History Biannual Conference, San Diego, California.
- July 2000 "The Christian Mind." Lecture series given at the Maranatha Bible Conference, Muskegon, Michigan.

- January 2000 "John Brown University and Secularization in American Higher Education." Presentation for the John Brown University Faculty Colloquium.
- April 1999 "Science vs. Prayer: The Prayer-Gauge Debate of the 1870s." American Society of Church History Spring Conference, San Diego, California.
- July 1998 "The Christian and Civil Society." Lecture given at the Maranatha Bible Conference, Muskegon, Michigan.
- September 1994 "A Church-less Piety: Popular Culture and the Christian Inheritance, 1900-1930." Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Fellowships and Awards**

- 2004 Fulbright Award, Senior Scholar/Lecturer. Grant from the Fulbright Foundation to teach and conduct curriculum review for the spring 2004 semester at the University of Wurzburg in Wurzburg, Germany.
- 2001-2004 Member of "The History of Christian Practice in America," a scholarly project funded by the Lilly Endowment.
- 2000 Teagle Fellowship Award Winner for Scholarship and Integration.
- 1998-2000 Summer grants in support of research and writing "A History of John Brown University," John Brown University.
- 1998 Pew Summer Research Grant, the Pew Evangelical Scholars Program.
- 1996 Dissertation Fellowship Award from the Louisville Institute.
- 1994 Graduate Teaching Fellowship Award, University of Notre Dame.
- 1990 Phi Beta Kappa Society, University of Michigan, 1990.
- 1987 President's Award for Scholarship and Athletics, Moody Bible Institute.

### **Service Activities**

#### **Professional Service**

- Current: Board Vice-Chair, International Network of Christian Higher Education (INCHE).  
Co-Book Review Editor, Christian Higher Education: An International Journal of Research, Theory, and Practice.
- Past: Awards Committee member, Emerging Public Intellectual Award, sponsored by the Redeemer Centre for Christian Scholarship (Redeemer University, Ancaster, Ontario).  
Board Member, Michigan Chapter of the Fulbright Association, 2012-2015.  
Advisory Board member, The Grand Dialogue on Science and Religion, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2011-2015.  
Mentor for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Leadership Development Institute, 2016

Manuscript referee for: Oxford University Press  
Religion and American Culture  
Christian Scholars Review

**Local Church and Community Service**

- 2015-2021 Safe Families for Children host family, Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2010-2019 Adult Formation teacher, Thornapple Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2010-2014 Outreach ministry to Bhutanese refugee community, Thornapple Covenant Church.
- 2001-2008 Small group co-leader at Fellowship Bible Church, Lowell, Arkansas.
- 1997-2003 Boys and Girls Club coach for youth soccer and basketball.

## References

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Rev. Rob Peterson (personal reference)  
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