

Catherine Wright

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SUMMARY

Experienced advocate, administrator, program director and educator with a background in sustainability, spirituality, and Christian ethics with 8+ years experience coordinating encounters and designing infrastructure that became Wingate University's new inaugural hub for community engagement called the Collaborative for the Common Good. Keen to leverage teaching, leadership, programming, and relationship building expertise to promote an ethos of spiritual engagement with Earth in Christian communities. Ecojustice webinar speaker and author looking to connect faith with creation care.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Wingate University, Wingate, NC

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| <i>Executive Director</i> , Collaborative for the Common Good / | August 2019 - Present |
| <i>Department Chair</i> (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) / | August 2020 – August 2022 |
| <i>Associate Professor</i> (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) / | August 2019 – Present |
| <i>Assistant Professor</i> (Religion and Philosophy Dept.) / | August 2014 – August 2019 |

- Promoted to Executive Director of the Collaborative for the Common Good due to my oversight and leadership of the administrative team tasked with the creation of an entrepreneurial hub to connect the campus and community in a challenging context.
- Built infrastructure in 2019 to execute an effective communication campaign since July 2020. The CCG Campus-community monthly online newsletter has had 673 views since July and the CCG podcast has 13 episodes and 146 downloads with a “Student Voices” section being added in the Spring of 2021. [LINK](#)
- Awarded 2022 Finalist for AASHE Campus Sustainability Research Award ([LINK](#))
- Designed ROOTS Summits for all Wingate stakeholders ([LINK](#)) and since August 2020 the CCG has facilitated 49 hours of programming for 578 people and 65 students were involved in research. See: [LINK](#)
- Generated new pathways for reciprocal partnerships with local stakeholders. In the first 12 months the CCG collaborated with 115 community partners and impacted 1570 people via its programming. Two stakeholder summits were held with over 120 participants and seven service-learning courses implemented. See: [LINK](#)
- Developed high impact experiential learning courses including Food and Faith (2022 Core Curriculum), Introduction to Systematic Theology, Cry of the Celts: Exploring the Landscape of Celtic Spirituality, Ecotheology and EcoJustice immersion courses, EcoLiteracy seminar, and a service-learning Global Perspectives in Ethics course. See: [LINK](#)
- Hosted over 50 Lyceums since 2014 – averaging 3-5 each semester

EDUCATION:

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| Summer 2021 | Leading for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education U. Michigan Online Course |
| August 2021 | “Stop the Hate” Trainer Workshop - Doing DEI Work in Higher Education Racial Equity Institute |
| Summer 2020 | Online Pedagogy and Teaching with Canvas (OPTC) Course Wingate University |
| June 2018 | Professional Certificate in Campus Sustainability Leadership University of Vermont, June 18-22, 2018 |
| 2011- 2015 | Doctoral Program, Ph.D Regis College, Toronto School of Theology Specialization in Christian Ethics |
| 2000 – 2003 | Masters of Divinity University of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto Thesis: “Mysticism in the Film ‘The Matrix’” |
| 1996 - 1997 | Bachelor of Education Faculty of Education, University of Toronto Junior / Intermediate / Senior Divisions, Science and Mathematics |
| 1991 - 1995 | Honors Bachelor of Science University of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto Held With Distinction |

SKILLS:

- Building Infrastructure and Programming Centred on Student and Program Learning Outcomes
- Designing and Facilitating Retreats and Spiritual Encounters (EcoSabbaths, Creation Care and Spirituality, Book groups, Faith and Justice lyceums)
- Public Speaking and Scholarship Using Wix website and blog design tools [LINK](#)
- Coordinator of Large Stakeholder Gatherings (ROOTS Summits 2019; 2020)
- Education in person and on multi-media platforms (Zoom, Canvas, Whova, Microsoft)
- Assessment Tool and Training Development using Qualtrics, Google Suite, and Excel
- Research and Scholarly Writing and Publishing
- Construction of Effective Communication Aids Using Canva, Prezi, Smore, Adobe Spark, Google Suite, Audacity Podcast Software, RSS platform (for podcasts) [LINK](#)
- Grant Writing and Implementation and Assessment of Grant Projects

RETREATS, WEBINARS, PUBLIC LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

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| Sept 2022 <i>Co-Presenter</i> | Public Lecture (1.5hr) “The Heaven’s Declare the Glory of God ... But for How Long” SLIDES and VIDEO |
| Mar & Apr 2022 | Public Lecture |

- Presenter* [In the Darkness Grows the Green: Standing Vigil at the Tomb](#)
Hosted by M2M, Charlotte, NC
[Slides](#) and [Notes](#)
- Feb 2022 **Public Lecture (2 week series)**
Presenter [In the Darkness Grows the Green: Lessons of the Solstice](#)
Hosted by First Baptist Church, Wadesboro NC
[Slides](#) and [Handout #1](#) and [Handout #2](#)
- Feb 2022 **PACE Conference**
Co- Presenter Title: “Community Gardens as Centers for Civic and Community Engagement”
- Nov. 2021 **NetVUE gathering-[Religion and Justice Issues in the Undergraduate Classroom](#)**
Co-Presenter Title: “Environmental Justice and Religion in the Undergraduate Classroom”
- July 2021 **Creighton University Conference: Laudato Si’ and the US Catholic Church**
Presenter/ Designer Title: “Creation Care Teams” [LINK](#)
- Mar 2021 **Gulf South Conference**
Presenter Title: “COPIL: SLCE Practitioner-Scholars Building Healthy Communities and Common Ground through Co-Inquiry”
Title: “Implementation of High-Quality Service-Learning Courses to Improve Health & Wellness in the Rural South, USA”
- Mar 2021 **North Carolina Religious Studies Association**
“Engaging Religious Diversity in Undergraduate Classrooms via High Impact Practices”
Co-presented with Dr. Paige Rawson and undergraduate Rania Badran
- Jan 2021 **Catholic Climate Covenant Webinar**
Panelist Title: “Environmental Justice and Catholic Social Teaching”
- Jan 2021 **Spirituality and Creation Care Retreat**
Facilitator Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Belmont NC
- Jan 2021 **Caring for Our Common Home: A Practical Guide to Laudato Si’**
Facilitator Online 4 Week Book Group with a Blog series
- Sept 2020 **Season of Creation Lecture**
Speaker Title: “Environmental Racism and Laudato Si’”
Catholic Social Teaching Ministry, St Philip Neri Parish
- Oct 2019 **American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) National Conference & Expo**
Presenter Title: “How a Small, Rural University in NC is Helping to Co-Create a Sustainable Economy”
- Nov 2018 **American Academy of Religion Conference**
Panelist Title: “Doing Religion and Ecology in the Bible Belt: A Roundtable Session on how the Cross Pollination of Religion and Ecology in a Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Rural town in North Carolina is Bearing Much Fruit”

- April 2018
Presenter
Health Equity Conference: Tale of Two Union Counties
Title: "Growing Food, School, and Faith Partnerships"
- August 2013
Worship Leader
North American Interfaith Network Conference (NAIN)
Awareness Walk: Awakening Our Biospiritual Imaginations In and Through Four Prayerful Movements: Earth, Water, Fire and Air
- June 2013
Hike and Meditation
Fontbonne Ministries, Sisters of St. Joseph
Title: *Water, Wind, Earth and Fire - Four Prayerful Movements to Awaken Us to God*
- March 2013
Holy Week Twilight Retreat
Title: *From Darkness to New Light: An Evening of Scriptural and Cinematic Reflection on the Place of Faith in the Universe*
Hosted by Student Council at Regis College, TST
- Dec. 2012
Advent-Winter Solstice Evening of Reflection
Title: *Galactic Transformations: Creativity on the Edge of Chaos*
Hosted by the Passionist Center for Ecology and Spirituality & The Elliot Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology. Held at St Gabriel's Parish, North York, Canada
- Sept - Nov 2012
Wednesday Evenings
2012 Regis Film Series "Finding God in the Dark"
Created by Geoffrey (Monty) Williams, S.J. (*I facilitated these during his Sabbatical*)
An in-depth meditation on the Book of Genesis to discover how it speaks to our lives today

GRANT WRITING & OTHER PROPOSALS

- April 2023
Hosting NetVue Gathering (Proposal Accepted)
Budget of over \$15,000
- 2020-2022
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Carolina Farm Credit Grant (EUMS Ag. Grant)
Ag. Immersion Program
\$5000
Food Council Grant -- Shared Gifting Microgrant
Community Food Strategies
\$4519
NC Community Health Mini Grant
Blue Cross Blue Shield & American Heart Association
\$6250
- Jan. 2019
Jessie Ball duPont Green Revolving Loan Fund
\$125,000
Green Energy Renovations
Created Programming with Mathematics Department to track energy use and savings
- April 2018
NC Resourceful Communities Food and Faith Grant
\$14,000
Wrote Grant; Supervised three students and one instructor and oversaw the management of the aquaponics system at local United Methodist Church

MAJOR PROJECTS MANAGED

2021-2022

- Community Garden Projects – First Year Council; Residents Life; Food Systems Program; Environmental Biology Club; Paws on Pages Club; Public Health; Chartwells; Food and Faith (Religion Department)
- Farmer’s Market – Supported Ag. Center, Public Health, OT Program & Clubs, Master Gardeners, 10-12 Local Famers and Vendors, Pharmacy Program, ASL Classes, Communication Program (Internships), Chartwells, DHHS, Food Council
- Paw Provisions Contributor – Addressing Food Insecurity in Campus

2020-2021

- Bulldog Bone-Appetit Program: Winter Break Food Assistance Program
- Agricultural Immersion Summer Experience
- Oversaw and Directed building of UC Food Council
- Community Garden Projects (building raised beds; educational videos; partnership with Agricultural Extension Office)

2019-2020

- WU Partnership Portal (Online Service Portal) – Research, Design, Implementation
- WBC CCG Space – Research, Floor Refinished; Painting; Purchasing, Space Design
- Green Energy Projects in Partnership with Schneider Electric (Replacement of Hot water heaters in Dormitory; 40% light replacement in library; Plug load installation): Research; Design; Tracking; Reporting
- Mobile Medical Unit Deployment for Health Fairs – Coordination of Health Science Schools; Communication with Community Partners; Logistics and Deployment

PUBLICATIONS

Jan 2022

Peer Reviewed, Open Access Journal

Cultivating a Collaborative Culture for Ensuring Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education: An Integrative Case Study

**2022 AASHE Campus Sustainability Research Award Finalist*

Feb 2021

CEE Primer: NC Campus Compact

Civic and Community Engagement in Higher Education

Co-Author/Researcher

June 2020

AASHE Publication

Exploration of Creation Care and Sustainability Among Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Members

Fellowship with DANS/HEASC under the direction of Dr. Debra Rowe PhD.

June 2020

Book Publication

A Practical Guide to Creation Care: Living Laudato Si'

Paulist Press

April 2019

Book Reviews in Modern Believing Journal (UK Liverpool Press)

Reviewed texts: D. O’Murchu, *Incarnation: A New Evolutionary Threshold*.

T. E. Hosinski, *The Image of the Unseen God: Catholicity, Science, and Our Evolving Understanding of God*.

- Fall 2018 **Peer Reviewed Article**
Wright, Catherine, Melanie Keel, Allison Kellar, "A New Alliance for Service-Learning and Community Engagement: Cultivating Citizens with an Ecocentric Vision of Justice" in *Partnerships: A Journal of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement* (Vol. 9, No. 2, 2018)
- Fall 2018 **Book Chapter**
"Social Justice in Service-Learning And Community Engagement: A Conversation About Meanings, Practices, And Possibilities" In Jewett, Laura, Freyca Calderon-Berumen, and Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto, eds., *The Critical Intersections In Contemporary Curriculum & Pedagogy*. Curriculum and Pedagogy Series
- Fall 2017 **Book Publication**
Creation, God, and Humanity: Embracing the Mystery of Suffering in the Sacred Cosmic Story
Paulist Press
- Fall 2017 **Peer Reviewed Article**
"Connecting SLCE with Sustainability in Higher Education: Cultivating Citizens with an Ecocentric Vision of Justice" *Michigan Journal for Community Service Learning* (Vol. 23, Issue 2, 2017 pp.165-169)
Co-Authored with Dr. M. Keel and undergraduate T. Fleurizard
- Summer 2017 **Peer Reviewed Article**
"We Are Stardust: Towards an Ecological Theological Anthropology"
The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology and Culture
The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology
<https://theotherjournal.com/2017/08/28/stardust-toward-ecotheological-anthropology/>
Selected to be published in a special printed edition: Fall, 2018.
- Fall 2017 **Special Journal Article**
"In the Darkness Grows the Green: The Promise of a New Cosmological Horizon of Meaning within a Critical Inquiry of Suffering and the Cross" in *The Ecozoic Reflections on Life in an Ecological-Cultural Age: Thomas Berry's Work: Development, Difference, Importance, Applications*. *Journal of the Center for Ecozoic Societies* (No. 4, 2017): 465-480.
- Spring 2015 **Book Review**
Toronto Journal of Theology 31, no. 1 (Spring 2015): 149-151.
Jonathon R. Wilson, *God's Good World: Reclaiming the Doctrine of Creation* (2013)
- Spring 2014 **Book Review**
Toronto Journal of Theology 30, no.1 (Spring 2014): 161-162.
Stephen Scharper's *For Earth's Sake: Towards a Compassionate Ecology* (2013)
- Spring 2013 **Book Review**
Toronto Journal of Theology 29, no.1 (2013): 207-208.
Robin Ryan, CP. *God and the Mystery of Human Suffering: A Theological Conversation Across the Ages* (2011)
- Fall 1997 **Co-Authored Peer Review Article**
"The Effect of Water Surface Tension on Feather Wettability in Aquatic Birds" in *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 74 (1997): 288-294
Richard Stephenson and Catherine A. Andrews (maiden name)

REFEREES: Upon Request