Peter J. Mehl

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religion, Ethics and the Human Sciences, The University of Chicago, 1989

M.A., Religion, The University of Chicago, 1983

M.A., Philosophy, Ohio University, 1982

B.A., Philosophy, minor English Literature, Ohio University, 1981

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

University of Central Arkansas

Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts, June 1998 - July 1999; July 2017 - present Associate Dean, Professor, College of Liberal Arts, July 2002 – June 2017 Director, General Education Program, July 1999 - December 2003 Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts, May 1996 - June 1998, August 1999- June 2000 Director, Interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program, May 1996 - June 1999 Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, May 1994 - June 2003 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, August 1990 - May 1994

Methodist Course of Study School, Affiliated with Southern Methodist Univ.

Instructor, Personal and Social Ethics, Spring 2004, Fall 2006, Spring 2009, Fall 2011, Spring 2014

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Medicine

Adjunct Instructor in the Division of Medical Humanities, Medical Ethics, August 1992 - November 1995

University of Chicago, The Divinity School

Graduate Lecturer, Philosophy of William James, March 1990 - May 1990

DePaul University

Lecturer, Business Ethics, September 1989 - May 1990

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts, June 1998 - July 1999; July 2017 - present Reports to the provost and is responsible for budget, curriculum, long-term planning for the college, faculty staffing, personnel issues, and recommendations for promotion, tenure and salary increases. The dean works with department chairs and their staff; the College has six departments, many with multiple degree programs, as well as four interdisciplinary minor programs.

Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, July 2002 – June 2017

Reports to the dean and is responsible for supervision and coordination of the budget for the college, pursuing development opportunities, working with faculty on grants, reviewing travel requests and capital equipment orders, securing space, coordinating summer sessions and preparing college data reports. Advises the dean on faculty matters, such as new positions, promotion, tenure and salary increases.

Director of General Education, July 1999 - December 2003

Reports to the provost and is responsible for chairing the general education council, managing the program's budget, overseeing a process of general education renewal, reform and assessment, working with the office of academic advising and the registrar, preparing relevant grant applications, working with the academic assessment office, and participating in summer orientation for new students and faculty.

Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts, May 1996 - June 1998, August 1999 - June 2000

Reports to the dean and is responsible for supervision and coordination of interdisciplinary programs, student academic matters, grant opportunities for faculty, special events, travel requests and capital equipment orders, space allocation, summer sessions and college data reports.

Director, Interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program, May 1996 - June 1999 Reports to the chair of the philosophy and religion department and is responsible for curriculum development of the program, insuring regular course offerings, advocating for the program's interests and overall assessment of the program.

SELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Chronologically from most recent)

- Collaborating with other deans and chairs across campus, initiated a Bachelor of General Studies degree. As a program with online learning options, it will provide an opportunity for more non-traditional students to complete a university degree. (2017)
- In cooperation with colleagues, initiated and organized a Campus Election
 Engagement Project committee that helped students to hold voter registration
 drives, soapbox and debate watch events and disseminate information about the
 candidates. (2016)

- In cooperation with colleagues, initiated and organized a university-wide Academic Service-Learning program; served as inaugural Faculty Liaison for Service-Learning and in this capacity facilitated an annual faculty development seminar on service-learning pedagogy. (2012)
- Initiated and organized a faculty development workshop on Undergraduate Research. Dr. Jenny Shanahan, Director of Undergraduate Research at Bridgewater State University, led the workshop for college faculty. (May 2012)
- Initiated, and in cooperation with the Director of Learning Communities, began
 a new Residential College organized around the College's EDGE plan: EDGE
 Residential College emphasizes global learning, civic engagement and study
 abroad, and I served as Rector for seven years. (2010)
- Initiated and co-wrote a successful UCA Foundation grant, "Service-Learning Workshop: Building Capacity for Student Success," to sponsor two service-learning faculty development activities, an online audio seminar and a hands-on workshop with Dr. Patty Clayton, Senior Scholar at IUPUI. (May 2010)
- Initiated and organized a distinctive strategic identity for the College of Liberal Arts: "Educating for Diversity and Global Engagement." The EDGE program emphasizes the college's expanding diverse/global curriculum and increases opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning activities such as study abroad/domestic study away, internships, service-learning/civic engagement courses and undergraduate research partnerships. (2009)
- Initiated, organized and directed a degree program in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies which provides an opportunity for students to design a course of study with a faculty mentor. (2008)
- As the first Director of General Education, I initiated and organized a full review of the General Education Program with particular attention to rethinking the core competencies of writing, speaking, critical thinking and information literacy. (1999-2003)
- Initiated and organized a state-funded faculty development workshop on "Critical Thinking and Writing in the College Classroom," that allowed faculty across campus to participate in an intensive two-day workshop for critical thinking and writing pedagogy development. Dr. Gerald Nosich, from the Center for Critical Thinking at Sonoma State University, led the workshop.
- Initiated and organized two state-funded faculty development projects on Teaching with Technology in the Residential Colleges. Also secured a State grant for UCA's first Smart (technology enhanced) classroom
- Helped to organize an Asian Studies Development Project to develop an Asian Studies minor and infuse Asian studies into the general education curriculum.

This project began with three faculty (myself included) attending the Asian Studies Development Program at the East West Center in Hawaii, and has continued with additional faculty attending ASDP, a number of on-campus workshops and presentations, and culminated with the college being named a regional center of the ASDP.

- Helped to plan and develop two new Residential Colleges, the second of which
 included an enriched general education curriculum. Over the years Residential
 Colleges have expanded at UCA with successful retention effects.
- Initiated and developed First-Year Seminars in General Education in the Humanities and in the World Cultural Traditions areas of the general education program.
- Initiated, developed and formerly directed an Interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program. Implemented an assessment plan and process for all students in the program.

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Attended and presented with colleagues on UCA's new service-learning program at the Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education, March 2015
- Attended a CUR Institute: Mentorship, Collaboration and Undergraduate Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities, February 2011
- Attended Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education, March 2008
- Attended focused CASE conference, "Development for Deans," October 2006.
- Organized and chaired a panel on "Evaluating the Dean: A Department Chair's Perspective," at the National Conference of Academic Deans, July 2005.
- Attended AAC&U Conference, "General Education: Goals, Strategies, and Assessments for Powerful Learning," February 2003.
- Presenter and participant, National Conference of the Association for General and Liberal Studies, "The Changing Face of Liberal Education for a Democratic Society," October 2001.
- Attended AAC&U Working Conference, "Best Practices in General Education and Its Assessment: Bridging Theory and Practice," February 2001.
- Attended Annual Conference of the Association for General and Liberal Studies, "Great Debates about Liberal Education: Function, Structure, Outcomes," and participant in a workshop for new Administrators of General Education Programs, October 1999.
- Attended Annual Conference of the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, "Transforming Campuses Through Learning Communities," May 1999.

- Attended Annual Meeting of American Conference of Academic Deans, "Creating Academic Communities," and Association of American Colleges and Universities, "Liberal Education: Confronting Questions of Quality," January 1999.
- Participant, AAC&U workshop on "Interdisciplinary Studies: New Intellectual and Institutional Frameworks," March 1998.
- Attended Annual Meeting of Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, November 1996, November 1997, November 2017.
- Participant, ACUO workshops on preparing proposals for the FIPSE comprehensive program and for the DOE Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language program, September 1996.
- Participant, New Deans Seminar, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, June 1996

GRANTS

- Co-wrote an internal grant "Service-Learning Workshop: Building Capacity for Student Success" to fund a service-learning professional development seminar and workshop for faculty.
- Directed and obtained funding for a "Critical Thinking and Writing in the College Classroom," grant that allowed faculty across campus to participate in an intensive two-day workshop for critical thinking and writing pedagogy development.
- Helped obtain funding for a Title III grant, "Transforming the Teaching/Learning Process for Student Success," to strengthen faculty/staff development, redesign academic programs, and strengthen student academic support services.
- Obtained Arkansas Department of Higher Education funding for a "Teaching and Learning with Technology in the Residential Colleges" grant that allowed faculty in the residential colleges to travel to the International Center for Computer Enhanced Learning at Wake Forest University to participate in a course development faculty workshop and to purchase laptop computers.
- Helped obtain funding for a State grant to develop the first information technology enhanced classroom for students in core general education courses.
- Obtained funding from the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii to participate in an Asian Studies Development Program Institute at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Obtained Arkansas Department of Higher Education funding for a Residential College General Education Curriculum Development Project titled "Cultivating Humanity: Liberal Education, Life-Work and World Citizenship."
- Obtained funding and directed a Campus Community Symposium on "Religious Diversity in America" held April 1996; funded by the Arkansas Humanities Council/National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rockefeller Foundation.
- Obtained internal funding and co-directed (with an economist) a symposium on "Ethics, Economics and Health Care" held April 1993.

• Obtained funding and directed a symposium on "The Ethical Responsibilities of Business" held April 1992; funded by the Arkansas Humanities Council/National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Summer Fellow, Summer Scholars Fellowship Program, Hong Kierkegaard Library, Saint Olaf College, Summer 2001
- Sabbatical Leave and grant for research travel, University Research Council, University of Central Arkansas, Summer 2001 and sabbatical only, Summer 2015
- Reassignment Time for scholarly development, University of Central Arkansas, Spring 1992, Spring 1993, Fall 1994, Spring 1996
- Summer Research Stipend, University of Central Arkansas, 1992
- Fellow and Junior Fellow in the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago, 1986-87

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
- Association for General and Liberal Studies
- American Association of Colleges and Universities
- Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World
- Council for Advancement and Support of Education

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE University

- Service-Learning Faculty Liaison, 2012 to 2017
- University Liaison to The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, 2008 to 2017
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Leadership Studies program, Leadership Team, 2016 to present
- Cooperative Education Partnership Committee, 2012 to present
- Search committee for University Registrar, 2012
- Associated Faculty, PhD in Leadership Studies program, 2011 to present
- Search committee for Director of Doctoral Studies in Leadership Studies, 2007
- Title III Grant Proposal Committee, 2005
- Honors College Tenure & Promotion Committee, Chair, 2005 2007
- Scholarship Committee, 2004 2009
- Chair, Director of General Education Search Committee, 2003
- Financial Aid Appeals Committee, 2003 2006
- First Year Experience Course Development Committee, 2003
- Faculty Associates Instructional Technology Development Committee, 2001-2003
- University Residential College Committee, 1996

- Southern Learning Communities Conference Committee, 2001 2002
- Provost's Technology Advisory Committee, 2001 2002
- Title III Grant Proposal Task Force, 2000 2002
- Chair, University College Search Committee, 2002 2003
- UCA Netherlands Study Abroad Curriculum Committee, Chair, 1999 2003
- Council of Deans, 1998 99, 2017 present
- Honors College Search Committee, Interdisciplinary Studies, 1998 99
- Donaghey College Group, "Major Decisions Project," 1997 98
- Freshman Seminar Group, 1996 98
- Freshman Year Experience Committee, 1994 96
- Health Care Humanities Program Committee, 1996 97
- Ad Hoc Writing Program Committee, 1996 97
- Institutional Review Board: Human Subjects in Research, 1992 98
- Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Committee, 1992 98
- University Research Council, 1992 93
- Interdisciplinary Doctoral Task Force, 1992 93

College

- Committee for the Promotion of the Liberal Arts, 2015 present
- Chair, Ad hoc Committee on the Undergraduate Research Experience, 2011 -2015
- Chair, Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies committee, 2008 present
- Chair, EDGE committee, 2007 2017
- Council of Chairs, College of Liberal Arts, 1996 2000, 2002 present
- African & African-American Studies Degree Committee, 2003 2004
- Chair, First Year Seminars in General Education committee, 1997 2000
- Asian Studies Development Committee, 1995 2008
- Faculty Advisory Council, 1995 2002
- Committee on Committees, 1993 96, 1999 2002
- Chair, College Research Committee, 1992 93; Member, 1991 92
- Chair, Academic Achievement Committee, 1992 93; Member, 1991 92

AREAS OF SCHOLARLY SPECIALIZATION

Philosophical and Religious Ethics; Applied Ethics; Philosophy of Religion; Religion and Culture; Moral Psychology; Kierkegaard; William James

AREAS OF SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION

World Religions; Biblical Studies; American Philosophical and Religious Thought; Social and Political Philosophy

COURSES TAUGHT

Contemporary Moral Problems; Religion and Ethics; Introduction to Religious Studies; World Religions; Philosophy of Religion; Religion and Psychology; Religion in the Modern World; Ethics; Medical Ethics; Business, Ethics and Society; Introduction to the

Bible; Freshman Seminar: Becoming a Critical Thinker; William James's Philosophy; American Pragmatism; Healthcare Ethics (graduate); Leadership and Ethics (graduate); The Capabilities Approach (graduate); History and Principles of the Liberal Arts; Exercises in Democratic Deliberation & Civic Engagement, and 21st Century Democratic Citizenship (both for Schedler Honors College)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Co-Editor, reader in *Contemporary Moral Problems*, first printing and revised printing, (Kendall-Hunt Publishing, 2004)
- Participant, "Teaching Portfolio Series," UCA Instructional Development Center, October 2001.
- Director & Participant, "Critical Thinking and Writing in the College Classroom," UCA, April 2001.
- Presenter, "Using Threaded Discussions to Engage Students," UCA, March 2001.
- Participant, "Infusing Computer Technology into Course Development," International Center for Computer Enhanced Learning, Wake Forest University, June 2000.
- Co-chaired the development of a Residential College faculty development program titled, "Teaching and Learning with Computer Technology" that assists faculty with infusing computer technology into instruction, Fall 2000.
- Participant, "Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum," Asian Studies Development Program, East-West Center and the University of Hawaii, July 1999.
- Chaired the development of a Residential College General Education program titled "Cultivating Humanity: Liberal Education, Life-Work and World Citizenship," that attempts to link general education with professional work issues and global citizenship concerns, spring 1999. Edited a text of readings to supplement the curriculum in the college, *Cultivating Humanity: Liberal Education, Life-Work and World Citizenship*, (Copley Custom Publishing Group, Acton, MA, 1999).
- Participant, "How to Infuse Critical Thinking into Instruction," The Foundation for Critical Thinking, April 1998.
- Chaired the development of First-Year Seminars for the College of Liberal Arts. These seminars are designed to introduce first-year students to college level inquiry in the humanities and social sciences.
- Developed and directed an Interdisciplinary Religious Studies Program offering both a major and a minor in the study of religion.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

• Thinking Through Kierkegaard: Existential Identity in a Pluralistic World, (University of Illinois Press, 2005).

Book Chapters

- "Edifying Hermeneutics: Kierkegaard's Existential 'Method' and Its Limits," in *Kierkegaard and the Word(s)*, edited by Poul Houe and Gordon Marino, (C. A. Reitzel, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2003)
- "Kierkegaard and the Relativist Challenge to Practical Philosophy, with a New Postscript," in *Kierkegaard After MacIntyre*, edited by John Davenport and Anthony Rudd, (Open Court/Carcus Publishing, 2001), originally published in *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 14/2: (Fall 1986)
- "Moral Virtue, Mental Health, and Happiness: The Moral Psychology of Kierkegaard's Judge William," *International Kierkegaard Commentary* on Kierkegaard's *Either/Or, Part II*, edited by Robert Perkins (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1995)

Journal Articles

- "Rethinking Liberalism: Sandel, Nussbaum and the Good Society," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, forthcoming
- "Educating for Life: Liberal Arts and the Human Spirit," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, (Fall 2010)
- "Matters of Meaning: Autonomy, Authenticity and Authority in Kierkegaard," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, 4/1&2 (Spring and Summer 1997)
- "William James's Ethics and the New Casuistry," *The International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 2/1: (Summer/Fall 1996)
- "Religion, Philosophy and Public Life," Theology and Public Policy, 7/2: (Winter 1995)
- "The Self Well Lost: Psychotherapeutic Interpretation and Nelson Goodman's Irrealism," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, 2/4: (Winter 1995)
- "Despair's Demand: An Appraisal of Kierkegaard's Argument for God," *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 32: (December 1992)
- "In the Twilight of Modernity: MacIntyre and Mitchell on Moral Traditions and Their Assessment," *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 19/1: (Spring 1991)

Book Reviews

- M. G. Piety, Ways of Knowing: Kierkegaard's Pluralistic Epistemology, for The Review of Metaphysics 65/1: (2011)
- Ellen Kappy Suckiel, *Heaven's Champion: William James's Philosophy of Religion*, for *The Journal of Religion*, 79/2: (April 1999)
- Terrence Tilly, *The Wisdom of Religious Commitment*, for *The Journal of Religion* 77/4: (October, 1997)
- Lawrence Blum, *Moral Perception and Particularity*, for *The Journal of Religion* 75/4:(October 1995)
- Owen Flanagan, Varieties of Moral Personality, for The Journal of Religion 74/3: (July 1994)
- Louis P. Pojman, Religious Belief and the Will, for The Journal of Religion 69/1: (January 1989)

- John Fischer, ed., Moral Responsibility, for The Journal of Religion 68/1: (January 1988)
- Charles E. Larmore, Patterns of Moral Complexity, for The Journal of Religion 68/2: (April 1988)
- Clarence J. Karier, Scientists of the Mind: Intellectual Founders of Modern Psychology, for The Journal of Religion 67/3: (July 1987)

Popular Press Articles

• "The Gulen Movement: A Shared Bridge between the U.S. and Islam," *The Fountain Magazine*, Issue 92, March-April 2013.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Cultivating a Service-Learning Culture at UCA," with colleagues at the Gulf South Summit on Service Learning, March 2015.
- "Rethinking Liberalism: Sandel, Nussbaum and the Good Life," Conference of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, July 2013
- "Educating for Life: Liberal Arts and the Human Spirit," Conference of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, August 2009.
- "Can Kierkegaard Speak to a Religiously Pluralistic World?," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division conference, December 2007.
- "Selfhood, Sociality and Spiritual Satisfaction in Kierkegaard," International Kierkegaard Conference, June 2005
- "Can Kierkegaard Speak to a Theologically Pluralistic World?," Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Regional Meeting, March 2005
- "Living Learning Communities: General Education on a Confucian Model," National Conference of the Association for General and Liberal Studies, October 2001.
- "Edifying Hermeneutics: Kierkegaard's Existential 'Method' and Its Limits," International Kierkegaard Conference, June 2001
- "Personhood and Possibility: The Promise and Peril of Kierkegaard's Theological Anthropology," Religion, Culture and Kierkegaard Group, American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 1998
- "Liberal Education and the Global Economy: Recent Research," Faculty Development Seminar, University of Central Arkansas, September 1998
- "Matters of Meaning: Autonomy, Authenticity and Authority in Kierkegaard,"
 International Kierkegaard Conference, June 1997
- "William James's Ethics and the New Casuistry," Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World Conference, August 1996
- "The Self Well Lost: Psychoanalytic Interpretation and Nelson Goodman's Irrealism," Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World Conference, August 1995
- "William James's Religious Ethics and the Revival of Casuistry," Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 1994
- "Religion, Philosophy, and Public Life: A Review Essay of Stephen Carter's The

- Culture of Disbelief: How American Law and Politics Trivialize Religious Devotion," Arkansas Philosophical Association Meeting, October 1994
- "Medical Ethics: Autonomy vs. Justified Paternalism," Board of Directors, Methodist Health Systems, Memphis, TN, March 1993
- "Euthanasia and Questions about Autonomy," The Arkansas Chapter of the Hemlock Society, August 1992

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "Liberalism, Liberal Education and the Good Life," book-length manuscript
- "Liberal Arts Education and the Challenges of Professionalism and Pluralism"

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Edited an issue of the Journal of the Society for *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, "The Future of Liberal Arts Education," Vol. 17, #1, fall 2010.
- Reader, Stockfield Ph.D. Thesis, University of Sydney, Australia
- Reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Referee for The Journal of Religion, published by the University of Chicago Press
- Referee for *The Journal of General Education*, published by Penn State Press
- Reviewer for McGraw-Hill Higher Education Publishing, Wadsworth Publishing and West Educational Publishing
- Planner and Presenter, Faculty Retreats on Critical Thinking, and on Ethical Issues in Teaching, Instructional Development Center, UCA
- President and Program Director, Arkansas Philosophical Association, 1995

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professionally Related

- Speaker, "The Gulen Movement: A Shared Bridge between Islam and the US," Institute of Interfaith Dialogue, Little Rock and Springdale, AR, November and December 2011.
- Chair, Program Committee, The Forum Class, First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR, 2003-2008.
- Speaker, "Thinking about the Resurrection: Reflections on History and Theology," Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock, July 2003
- Leader, book study of John Cobb's book, *Becoming a Thinking Christian*, First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR, June 1997
- Lecturer, Mini-course on "Moral Issues Facing the Church" for the Methodist Conference on Leadership in Ministry, Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR, January 1994.

Community Related

- Chair, UCA Bicycle-Friendly University committee, 2016 present
- Member, Regional Planning Advisory Council, Metroplan, Little Rock, AR, October 2011 – May 2015
- Member, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, City of Conway, August 2009 –
 December 2015; March 2017 present

- Chair, Mayor's Task Force for a Bicycle-Friendly Community, September 2008
- Founder and Board member, Conway Advocates for Bicycling, August 2008 present
- President, Faulkner County Literacy Council, July 2006 July 2007
- Board of Directors, Faulkner County Literacy Council, July 2005 July 2008
- Site Visit Team, United Way of Faulkner County, 2005 2007
- Founding member, President, Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity of Faulkner County, AR, 1999 – 2003

PERSONAL DATA

Born June 28, 1956; married, with two daughters and one granddaughter

References furnished upon request