

IMPACT

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A select group of Regent University Cinema-Television students broke new ground this year at the inaugural Hollywood Experience in Los Angeles, Calif. This unique study immersed students in the world of Hollywood television.

Filmmaker and professor Booker T. Mattison oversaw the two-week experience. “This was an opportunity for students not only to experience how a writer’s room is run, but to hear from working TV writers, directors, producers, editors and assistants,” he explains.

The students also learned from incoming professor Sean Gaffney, who works as Story Administrator for Warner Brothers.

“Professor Gaffney is a tremendous asset to Regent University,” says participant Amanda Morad. “He’s a natural-born

teacher. Every time he opened his mouth we were in awe, not only because of what he’s done, but just the way he shares information.”

The first night, during the welcome meeting, award-winning filmmaker Christine Swanson, a film-school friend of Mattison, stopped in to meet the group. Swanson, who has written and directed movie projects for HBO Films, Magnolia Pictures and Faith Filmworks, has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Christianity Today*, and *JET* magazine.

“Talent is meaningless,” Swanson asserted. “Humility is everything. Preparation is key.

INSIDE:

EDITH PRAKASH

PAGE 4

REGENT ONLINE CONTINUES TO SHINE

PAGE 5

“Connections count, sometimes more than great talent. Second to that is excellence in our writing. Calling is never an excuse for anything less. All the connection in the world doesn’t make up for poor story.”

Swanson encouraged the students to keep their priorities in order. “You can never have enough success to be happy if you’re not centered in God,” she shared.

“This was an opportunity to work in a real TV writer’s room with people who are currently working in Hollywood,” says Dr. Mitch Land, dean of Regent’s [School of Communication & the Arts](#). The dean joined the project for the first few days to observe its launch. “This experience gave our students an opportunity to interact and hear personal stories of many Christian professionals who are successful in Hollywood. It’s not that we expect all of our graduates to work in Hollywood, but they do need to understand how Hollywood works,” he adds.

The students connected with Regent alumni who now work for DreamWorks, ABC Family and Disney. They also heard from people like Hollywood producer Ken Wales, who produced the movie *Amazing Grace*, and actor and director Anson Williams, who played “Potsie” on TV’s *Happy Days*. Another speaker was Regent graduate and *CSI Miami* producer Brian Davidson.

“We met with more than 30 working professionals,” says recent Regent graduate Eric VanValin. “They helped us manage our expectations, gave us tips, and really poured into our lives.”

The students began their day with individual writing in the morning to prepare for afternoon classroom sessions. They led devotionals using a book by Kris Young, a screenwriting professor at UCLA. Young examines the discipline, rejection, isolation and potential success of the Hollywood writer from a Christian perspective.

As one of the speakers, Young explained that movies and religion feed the yearning of the heart: “The hungry heart drives most of what humans do. As storytellers, that puts great responsibility in our hands to feed hungry hearts with the work we produce.”

Following two afternoon classroom sessions with guest speakers, students moved into a writer’s room from 7 to 11 p.m.—or

even later. The professional would act as the showrunner or producer, and students served as staff writers.

One day, the students had lunch at CBS Studio Center with Michael Klausman, president of CBS Television City. They toured the grounds of CBS Studio Center, visited the set of *Entertainment Tonight*, and strolled down a “New York Street” where scenes from *Seinfeld* were shot.

“I enjoy the collaborative process of writing with a partner,” Morad says. “It was really fulfilling because we made each other’s ideas better. I realized that ‘being’ a writer is different than ‘doing’ the act of writing,” she reflects. “During this experience, as our creative and spiritual worlds overlapped, we became closer to finding the intersection of our talent and calling.”

Production of the web series the students took from conception to completion during the experience will begin this fall as the Regent endowed project. Mattison will be the executive producer, with students working on all levels of production.

“With more than 300 student film awards, Regent’s Cinema-Television program has established itself as an industry leader for training the next generation of movie professionals,” says Regent president, Dr. Carlos Campo. “The Hollywood Experience is a natural next step as we shine the truth of the gospel in the Hollywood community.”

The students heard again and again that to start in TV, you begin as a writer’s assistant. “You’re not going to graduate from film school, go to Los Angeles with a pilot and get your show made,” says Mattison. “You have to start at the bottom and really have a servant’s heart.”

“The emphasis on humility surprised me,” VanValin confesses. “You assume a big ego gets you to the top, but it’s actually the exact opposite. If we are able to humble ourselves and serve others, we have a better chance of making an impact in Hollywood.”

Read Amanda Morad’s blog from the Regent Hollywood Experience: <http://blogs.regent.edu/students/author/amorad/>

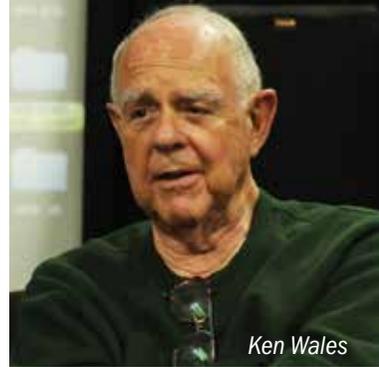
Learn more about the Regent Cinema-Television program: regent.edu/cinema_tv



Sean Gaffney



Sheryl Anderson



Ken Wales



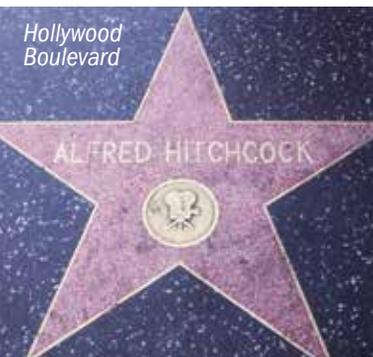
Students interact during a lecture



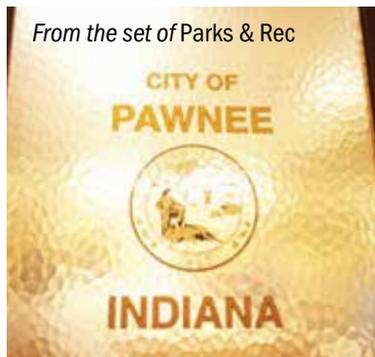
Students on the CBS backlot



Hollywood Boulevard

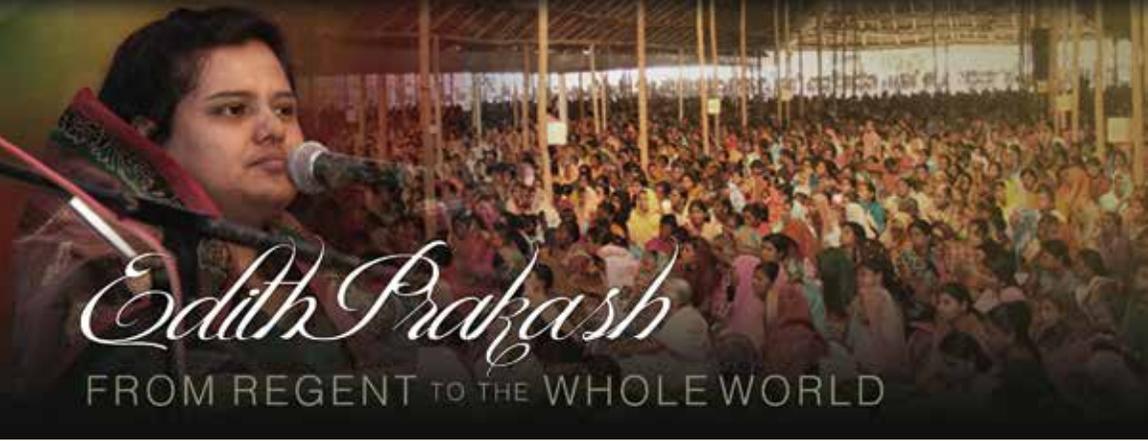


From the set of Parks & Rec



Dolby Theater





Edith Prakash

FROM REGENT TO THE WHOLE WORLD

Before she graduated this year with a Ph.D. in [Renewal Theology](#), Edith Prakash was already taking the gospel around the world. But it all started with a Bible study on the campus of Regent University.

“When I started the Ph.D. program, I was studying intellectually. But as I saw what God did in the past, it began to create a desire to see that manifested today,” she shares.

Prakash began attending the Spiritual Gifts Seminar that was co-sponsored by the School of Divinity and CBN, explaining, “I had not moved in the gifts of the Spirit. God began dealing with me about balancing academics and spirituality.”

In 2005, she became chaplain in the School of Divinity and started a Bible study in her home that would often last until midnight. Soon she opened an all-night prayer meeting on campus that attracted many students.

During this time, Gordon Robertson started the Spiritual Gifts Webcast on CBN.com. “Through these webcasts I began to practice moving in the spiritual gifts,” Prakash says. “We would pray for people over the Internet, and they would get healed.”

Then God opened the door for her to intern with Robertson through *700 Club Interactive*, which took her ministry and her faith to another level as Prakash ministered on television.

“I saw God take me step by step by step,” she says with deep gratitude. “Soon, He

opened the door for me to go to India to speak in a crusade. The first time I spoke, there were 45,000 people. When we began to pray, the power of God came, and many were healed.”



Prakash has since taken a team of Regent students to minister in Chennai, India. A lady came forward with a little girl, after Prakash preached, explaining, “My granddaughter is blind. Can your Jesus heal her?”

“I prayed, ‘Lord, I know you did miracles through great evangelists in the past, but can it happen right now as I pray over this blind girl?’ And God

said, ‘You just speak the Word. It’s not you who does the work, it’s Jesus.’ So I gathered up the little faith I had, like a mustard seed, and I began to pray for this girl. After I prayed, the girl said, ‘I can see.’ The grandmother began to cry. The people around me began to cry. I began to cry.”

God has opened the door for Prakash to conduct crusades in Africa for tens of thousands of people. In one meeting, an 18-year-old girl was healed of advanced breast cancer.

“The kingdom of God is already here,” Prakash explains. “In the past, some have planted and others have watered—but we are reaping the harvest of the hard work that the saints have done for 2,000 years.”

Watch this video to learn more about the ministry of Edith Prakash: vimeo.com/55420567

More from the School of Divinity: regent.edu/divinity

REGENT UNIVERSITY ONLINE CONTINUES TO SHINE

Regent University's online bachelor's degree programs have been ranked in the nation's top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2013 rankings of online programs at colleges and universities. Regent's online MBA degree program tied for #1 in the nation for faculty credentials and training, and was ranked in the top third overall. Regent's online graduate education program is the highest-ranked Virginia school, coming in at number 43 overall.

"Our goal at Regent is to deliver the highest-quality, top-ranked, best-value Christian education possible," says Regent president, Dr. Carlos Campo. "Receiving a Top 10 national ranking from *U.S. News & World Report* helps quantify our commitment to educational excellence."

Rankings for the bachelor's programs were based on faculty credentials and training, student engagement and assessment practices, and student services and technology.

"We are certain that as prospective online students become more savvy and selective about their online school of choice, more and more of them will

turn to Regent University to fulfill their academic goals," Campo adds. Currently, Regent offers 11 bachelor's degrees completely online, including business,

leadership and management, criminal justice, and psychology. Components of other degree programs are also offered online.

"Our faculty and staff are committed to delivering an excellent, distinct and innovative education to all of our students—online or on our campus—and this Top 10 national ranking provides objective evidence that we are delivering on this promise," says Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño, dean of Regent's [College of Arts & Sciences](#).

Regent's online programs offer the same courses taught by the same on-campus faculty, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. More than 4,500 students—approximately 75 percent of all students—take at least one class online.

"We are grateful to have reached this milestone," Moreno-Riaño adds. "And we look forward to continuing to educate tomorrow's leaders on our campus or online."



SOME OF REGENT'S RECENT ACCOLADES

Top 10: Best Online Bachelor's Programs

#1 in Online MBA Faculty Credentials and Training

#4 in Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans

Highly ranked **best online** Education and Business School programs

Virginia's only **"A" rated** university for rigorous and comprehensive liberal arts education and **top 2% nationally** (American Council of Trustees and Alumni)

A Top-Value Private Christian College, listed in the **top 6% nationally** for undergraduate tuition affordability among Christian universities (CCCU Tuition Survey, 2013)

THE PROFESSIONAL THEATRE OF REGENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS



Forever **PLAID**

Written, Originally Directed and Choreographed by Stuart Ross
Musical Continuity Supervision and Arrangements by James Raitt • Originally Produced by Gene Wolk.

July 5-7, 12-14 – 7:30 p.m. • July 6, 7, 13, 14 – 2:30 p.m.

If you love The Four Aces or The Four Freshmen, you'll adore The Plaids. This 1950s quartet will charm you with their hilarious antics and keep you humming along with such nostalgic hits as "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Sixteen Tons" and "Chain Gang."

REGENT WORLD CHANGER



Robert H. Woods

Associate Professor, Spring Arbor University

Dr. Robert H. Woods Jr. '99, '94 (Communication & the Arts and Law) is an associate professor at Spring Arbor University. As a "working scholar" he mentors graduate students who want to become effective communicators and also do professional and academic research.

Woods also is launching a new network, the first of its kind, called the Christianity and Communication Studies Network (www.theccsn.com).

This is a global network for teachers, researchers, communication professionals and practitioners interested in issues at the intersection of Christianity and communication studies.

Since joining Spring Arbor in 2001, Woods has received the Graduate Faculty Scholar Award, the Faculty Merit Award, the Second Mile Service Award, and a faculty scholarship and research appointment. He is co-author of a widely adopted communications textbook, *Media Ethics: Cases and Moral Reasoning*, and co-editor with Dr. Quentin Schultze of *Understanding Evangelical Media*, and other editing projects. Learn more at roberthwoodsjr.com.

Please join the Regent community in praying for Dr. Robert H. Woods, June's alumni world changer—and for all the Regent University graduates declaring Biblical truth in the academic world.

Join us for the inaugural season of Regent University's professional theatre company, featuring the highest production standards, professional actors and delightful summer fare!

Barefoot IN THE PARK

August 2-4 and 9-11

Reserve Your Tickets!

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All performances will be held in Regent University's Performing Arts Center.

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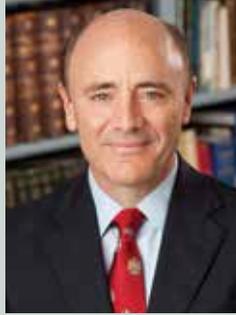
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A Message From the President



Dear Friends,

Hollywood. Just the name evokes a wide spectrum of emotions. Some of Western culture's most inspiring and defining moments in the last 100 years have been created in Hollywood. At the same time, some of the most shameful and immoral material is exported from this country and viewed by millions of people around the world.

Part of the vision of Regent University is to make an impact on culture through film and TV with a message of Biblical truth.

That's why I am so excited about the first Regent University Hollywood Experience that took place this summer in Los Angeles, Calif. Students from the Regent School of Communication & the Arts had the opportunity to experience the life of a Hollywood television writer through a two-week immersive program. Held at the Film Studies Center in Los Angeles, Calif., this special intensified training gave students the opportunity to write scripts under the tutelage of working television writers.

During the course, led by Professor Booker T. Mattison, students worked in a television writer's room atmosphere under the guidance of industry experts, developing a webisodic TV series.

Over these two weeks the students met numerous industry professionals as they visited studios, worked with television writers and producers, received feedback on their original work, and networked with television executives.

Your prayers and generous gifts help us offer exciting and educational opportunities like these to help our students reach the world for Christ through film and TV. Thank you.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
President

“NOW THAT I'VE PUT YOU THERE ON A HILLTOP,
ON A LIGHT STAND—SHINE!”

MATTHEW 5:15-16