

2014 Workshop for Senior Administrators

From Mission to Meaningful Lives: Student Success in Church-Related Higher Education Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana, September 25-26, 2014

The Speakers



Patricia O'Connell Killen is academic vice president and professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, a position she assumed in July 2010. She received her B.A. from Gonzaga and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University. An historian and theologian whose scholarship focuses primarily on Christianity in North America, particularly Catholicism, and religion and spirituality in the Pacific Northwest, she researches and writes about the intersection of social context, community, and spirituality, exploring how, in differing social contexts, communities “think” (or don’t think) with the wisdom of their religious heritage to address the challenges and novel circumstances of their time.

Killen is the primary editor of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone* (2004), the first of a nine-volume series that explores the religious configuration and public presence of religion in different regions of the United States and a contributor to *Cascadia, the Elusive Utopia: Exploring Spirituality in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia* (2009). Among her other publications, Killen is an author of *Finding Our Voices: Women, Wisdom and Faith* (1997), and, with John de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (1994). She is a co-author of *The Catholic Experience of Small Christian Communities* (2000), and is co-editor, with Roberta Stringham Brown, of *The Selected Letters of A.M.A. Blanchet, Bishop of Walla Walla and Nesqually, 1846-1879* (2013). Currently she is co-editing and contributing to a volume of essays on the future of Roman Catholicism in the United States.

Among the awards for her work as a teacher and scholar, Killen is a recipient of the American Academy of Religion Teaching Excellence Award (2006), the Paul Bator Memorial Award from the Canadian Catholic Historical Society (2001), the Elizabeth Seton Medal from the College of Mt. St. Joseph (1999), and an Arnold L. and Lois S. Graves Foundation Award for Outstanding Humanities Teachers (1991).

Before returning to Gonzaga University, Killen taught for two decades at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, serving as provost for her last four years there. She also taught previously at Loyola University of Chicago.

Bobby Fong became the fifteenth President of Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA on July 1, 2011. The son of Chinese immigrants, he graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in English. Dr. Fong earned a doctorate in English Literature from the University of California-Los Angeles, where his dissertation research formed the basis for his lifelong scholarship in the works of Oscar Wilde. He is the editor of *Poems and Poems in Prose*, volume one in the Oxford English Texts edition of the *Complete Works of Oscar Wilde* and is the author of essays and monographs on literature, higher education, religion, and baseball.



His academic career began at Berea College in Kentucky. He served as Dean of Arts and Humanities at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and Dean of the Faculty at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. From 2001 to 2011 he served as President of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. His decade at Butler was marked by highly successful financial management and strategic planning. The University implemented a new core curriculum, built or renovated a facility each year, completed a \$154 million comprehensive campaign, and sustained an athletic program distinguished by its balance between academic achievement and competitive excellence, exemplified by its men’s basketball team. The University realized improvements in student life, for which he won the President’s Award from NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education in March, 2011. At Ursinus, Fong has led the campus in creating a seven-year strategic plan and the establishment of two interdisciplinary centers: the Center for Science and the Common Good and the U-Imagine! Center for Integrative and Entrepreneurial Studies.

Dr. Fong is past Chair of the Board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and serves on the Presidents’ Council of the Association of Governing Boards, and on the boards of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, and the Lingnan University Foundation.