

## **Douglas Easterling**

**Your title:** Professor and Department Chair

**Your organization/institution:** Wake Forest School of Medicine, Dept of Social Sciences and Health Policy

**Your qualifications:**

Ph.D. in Public Policy & Management (Penn), M.A in Quantitative Psychology (UNC), training in community organizing (VISTA)

**Areas of specialization/research interests:**

Community-based health promotion; Collaborative problem-solving; Social capital; Building individual, organizational and community capacity; Strategic philanthropy

**Academic/work experience:**

Faculty at Wake Forest School of Medicine (2003-present); Division Director at Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships, UNC-Greensboro (1999-2003); Director of Research and Evaluation, The Colorado Trust (1992-1999); Research Associate, Wharton School (1987-1992); Research Associate, University of Wisconsin (1982-1987).

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Writing; Dog training (agility, flyball); exploring indigenous spirituality and healing; travel (esp to the mountains and the desert).

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

Survived a near-death illness episode in 2008 which diminished my fears considerably.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

Being part of processes, experiences and communities where people grow, evolve and step into their power.

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

*Unsaid* by Neil Abramson

**Douglas (Doug) McGaughey**

**Your title:** Professor

**Your organization/institution:** Department of Religious Studies; Willamette University; Salem, Oregon

**Your qualifications:**

PhD University of Chicago Divinity School; ordained in the United Methodist Church

**Areas of specialization/research interests:**

Critical Idealism (Kantian Moral Theory). Hermeneutic Phenomenology (Heidegger, Husserl, Gadamer, Ricoeur)

**Academic/work experience:**

29 years of undergraduate teaching; four years of parish experience

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Hiking in the backcountry of the Pacific Northwest;

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

Have lived some 12 years in Germany – mostly in a small university town in the southwest, Tübingen

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

Creative freedom and concealed possibilities!

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

Kants, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* and *Religion within the Boundaries of mere Reason*

**Eugenia 'Geni' Eng**

**Your title:** Professor of Health Behaviour

**Your name and surname:** Eugenia "Geni" Eng

**Your organization/institution:** Gillings School of Global Public Health,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Your qualifications:** BS, MPH, DrPH

**Areas of specialization/research interests:**

One is the relevance and measurement of the concept of *community competence* as an outcome of community-based interventions. Examples of field studies include: (1) rural villages of Togo and Indonesia, comparing the effects from water supply projects with and without a community participation component and (2) African American communities in the Mississippi Delta and North Carolina, who were engaged in a participatory evaluation of their community-based interventions by operationalizing the definition of community competence and monitoring changes over time. Second is the *lay health advisor (LHA) intervention model*, which is distinguished by its focus on the concept of *natural helping*. This model builds on the social support function of naturally occurring social networks in ethnic minority populations, such as Latino migrant farmworkers and low income African American women, to address socially stigmatizing health problems such as, pesticide poisoning, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and STDs. Third is the application of the *Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis*, which is a community assessment procedure that combines the principles of community organizing with those of the social ecological framework for health promotion.

**Academic/work experience:**

Joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health in 1983. Directed the MPH Program (1985-2004), the Kellogg Health Scholars Program (2001-2013) that offers postdoctoral training in the community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, and Cancer Health Disparities Postdoctoral Program (2013 to present).

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Piano jazz and all things West African.

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

Born and raised on a Chinese vegetable truck farm in Jacksonville, Florida.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

The only thing constant is change.

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

*A Death in the Family* by James Agee

## **Gary Gunderson**

**Your title:** Vice President for Faith and Health, Professor of Public Health Sciences and, (at the Divinity School) Professor of Religion and the Health of the Public

**Your organization/institution:** Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Wake Forest University School of Divinity

**Your qualifications:** (not sure I have them). My degrees, which hide as much as the illuminate, are undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University in History, a Masters of Divinity at Emory University (with an honors thesis on economics, faith and the hungry) and a Doctor of Ministry from the Interdenominational Theology Center in Atlanta (with a thesis on Boundary Leadership). My real qualifications are some 40 years of life in incredibly rich webs of relationships with people working seriously in the areas of hunger/poverty and community development, public health and more recently health care, all of which in the boundary zone between people moving out of their exclusive faith identities.

**Areas of specialization/research interests:** Beyond that implied above, I'm interested in organizational and community change and how people influence complex human systems to morph in the direction of greater vitality, decency and maybe even justice. I'm always interested in what faith has to do with any of this.

**Academic/work experience:** It's been a curious life path, but has lead through about 8 years at the Carter Center where many of these ideas were developed, and the school of public health at Emory, then 7 years as a senior executive at Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare (a \$1.5 billion faith based hospital system in Memphis, one of the poorest cities in the United States), now serving in a similar role at a system that is sort of faith-based, but an academic medical center with large referral area, also pretty poor. My current work focuses on helping this large system align its full institutional and human assets with its professed goal of advancing the health of the region.

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:** I love tennis, hiking and almost anything outdoors, am learning squash. And do appreciate the fine wines of the Cape region.

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:** I have a beginner's mind, partly because I am not really credentialed in anything to speak of. So I live as a learner, finding synthesis in ideas I learn from people I find lively.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?** This question seems to call for a motto. But the pattern of my life reflects mostly intense family commitments balanced by very broad and diverse webs of relationships that feed and draw my curiosity and in which I find meaning. In the second half of my life that balance has shifted toward the networks. The word "poesis" is closest to what my life is about.

### **How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

I am humbled by the question, as I devour murder mysteries and other low class fare. I have read every word Mary Oliver, Bill McKibben and Wendell Berry have ever written and love the prayers of Walter Rauschenbush (prayers of the social awakening). The soundtrack of my life is written by Patty Griffin, the Indigo Girls and in recent years a panoply of Delta Blues singers.

## **Heather Wood Ion**

### **Your organization/institution:**

The Epidemic of Health

### **Your qualifications:**

Degrees from McGill University, Claremont Graduate School, Oxford University in history, comparative religion, cultural anthropology, and Indology

Teaching, field work and various jobs in Calcutta, Kyoto, Heidelberg which kept me in the glorious mess of everyday challenges to poor people and people on the margins.

### **Areas of specialization/research interests:**

Resilience and belief—how do our belief systems impact the ways we are and are not resilient

Pioneer values and community capacities—what do explorers and homesteaders teach us about adaptation and change?

How do people make sense of their lives in the face of challenge?

### **Academic/work experience:**

Taught at University of Heidelberg, Western University of Health Sciences, UCSD School of Medicine

Work with Jonas Salk for eight years on how to create an epidemic of health

Turnarounds in healthcare for 25+ years—taking troubled practices, or large systems, discovering their challenges and their assets, and then building a turnaround on the basis of inherent talents and strengths

Published three books and approximately 280 articles

### **One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

I love to learn

### **What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

“That Art Thou”

### **How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by James Agee

## **James R Cochrane**

**Your title:** Dr., Emeritus Professor

**Your organization/institution:** Department of Religious Studies, and Senior Research Associate in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, at the University of Cape Town

**Your qualifications:** (BSc, MDiv, PhD, DDiv h.c.)

**Areas of specialization/research interests:** Previously Director of the Research Institute on Christianity and Society in Africa, he is Co-Director of the International/African Religious Health Assets Programme Hub at the University of Cape Town, and manages the Leading Causes of Life Initiative in partnership with Prof Gary Gunderson, Wake Forest University, NC, USA.

**Areas of specialization/research interests:** His more recent research has been mainly in religion and public health, and religion in public life generally, including studies in social ethics, 'community wisdom,' and globalization. A previous editor of the Journal of Theology for Southern Africa and of the New South African Outlook, his publications include *Religion and the Health of the Public: Shifting the Paradigm* (with Gary Gunderson), *Circles of Dignity: Theological Reflection and Community Wisdom*, and *Servants of Power: English Speaking Churches in South Africa, 1903-1930*, as well as several edited volumes (most recently, *When Religion and Health Align: Mobilizing Religious Health Assets for Transformation*, with Barbara Schmid & Teresa Cutts), and about 150 essays and articles.

**Furthermore...** Married to Renate, a German pastor working in South Africa for most of the last three decades (primarily in HIV and AIDS programmes), they have three children: Thembisa (now working for Spier Films alongside its CEO, but based in London), Thandeka (currently on a Commonwealth Scholarship to the University of Cambridge), and Tebo (entering his third year of studies at the University of Cape Town). He is an 11<sup>th</sup> generation South African with forbears that include Flemish, German and Huguenot settlers intermingled with Bengalese slave women, going back to the 1660's.

**Influential literature?** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Hiawatha*, Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies* (a fantasy about child labour in industrializing England, Kingsley being a prominent Christian Socialist in the mid-1800s), T S Eliot's *The Four Quartets*.

## **Joyce D. Kirkland Essien**

**Your title:** Retired Captain US Public Health Service, National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention..Retired Founding Director, Center for Public Health Practice, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

**Your organization/institution:** Retired

**Your qualifications:** MD, MBA, FACP, Registered Mediator (Georgia)

### **Areas of specialization/research interests:**

The restoration of “community” and democracy : the exploration and design of adaptive and responsive systems, informed by principles of covenant relationships and interdependencies, to assure conditions that optimize the potential for health , equity and societal contribution.

### **Academic/work experience:**

Retired Captain US Public Health Service, National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention..Retired Founding Director, Center for Public Health Practice, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Co Author *Public Health Competency Handbook-Optimizing Individual and Organizational Performance for the Public's Health*

Recently concluded service on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Public Health Strategies, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences .

Currently serving on IOM Committee- Assessment of Resiliency and Preventive Programs for Mental and Behavioral Health in Service Members and their Families

Advisory Committee for the 2030 Project for the Institute for Alternative Futures, to develop expectable, challenging and visionary futures of public health in the U.S.

Leadership Coach, National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health of the Public Health Institute for teams who successfully competed for selection to participate in a one year action-learning, training and leadership development program to strengthen cross- sectoral leadership; to drive the adoption of evidence based practices; to better align public health and medicine and improve health outcomes through sustainable systems change.

Board of Directors, Amerigroup Georgia (Medicaid Managed Care Plan)

### **Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Gardening, Cooking

### **One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

Curious and inquisitive, reflective

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

To fully understand the meaning of grace so that I may receive it and minister it to others.

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

*Consilience* EO Wilson

**Lawrence Pray**

**Your title:**

Rev.

**Your name and surname:**

Lawrence (Larry) Pray

**Your organization/institution:**

Praytell, Larrypray.com

**Your qualifications:**

Co-Author The Leading Causes of Life, Abingdon

Author, Thresholds: Connecting Body and Soul after Brain Injury, Ruder Finn Press

Author, Journey of a Diabetic, Simon and Schuster

**Areas of specialization/research interests:**

Creativity and Healing

Healing

Chronic Disease

Finding life in unlikely places

**Academic/work experience:**

Pastor, Writer, Poet, Painter

Union Theological Seminary, New York City MDiv

Johns Hopkins University, MA

Beloit College, BA

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Banjo, watercolor painting, poetry, cooking

Public speaking

Worship

Helping people find their stories

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

I work from the inside out rather than the outside in.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

Continuing creation

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

Hafiz, The Gift

**Masana Mulaudzi (preferably Sana)**

**Your title:** Miss

**Your name and surname:** Masana Mulaudzi

**Your organization/institution:** London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Cape Town

**Your qualifications:** B.Com Politics, Philosophy and Economics; B.A. African Studies (Hons); MPhil Transitional Justice (Social Justice in Transformation) (Pending); MSc in Political Economy of Late Development (Pending)

**Areas of specialization/research interests:** Political science, economics and economic development, African studies, social justice, poverty reduction, black consciousness, religious studies, global political economy.

**Academic/work experience:** Currently, I am working with the LCL Initiative as a 'project co-ordinator' (since I could no longer be an intern). Previously, I was the project co-ordinator for the Politics Writing Centre at the University of Cape Town and congruently an intern at The Warehouse a Christian social justice movement based around Cape Town's informal settlements. I have been an intern many times: Machel-Mandela Intern for The Brenthurst Foundation; South African Washington Intern at The Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Human Rights in Washington, D.C., Intern at the African Leadership Academy and finally, when I had an interest in investment banking, I was an intern at Allan Gray Asset Management Bank. My other experience includes being Resident performing artist for The British Council in 2010; and an Economics and Politics tutor at University of Cape Town and Teach Me 2 – which I thoroughly enjoyed.

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:** I enjoy reading leisurely – not for academic purposes, which is increasingly difficult with two theses to write. Most of my life is spent typing or reading at a desk. When I am not doing this I enjoy live music, slam poetry shows, going to art house movies, a glass of wine and good company. I am a performing artist with writer's block and a quarter life crisis. I hope to one day be able to work full-time! This is at present unlikely as I seem to have chronic intern syndrome and a knack for academia. Hopefully, when I am done I will work in social justice initiatives in South Africa.

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:** I am not a wonderful morning person but I am generally happy to assist where needed. I thoroughly enjoy learning from people in whatever setting I find myself in – after 9am.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?** My faith and the truth for me that my hope is for more than eternity – that Christ is in the everyday and that the perfect balance of justice, mercy, and love are His attributes that spur me into action (or mostly, waiting, listening, healing). As much as I am broken, I love to be around those seasoned by life – to hear and to understand. How I reconcile this all with my Marxist/Socialist leaning is a work in progress.

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?** Purple Hibiscus by CHimamanda Ngozie Adichie

**Paul J. Laurienti**

**Your title:**

Dr.

**Your name and surname:**

Paul J. Laurienti

**Your organization/institution:**

Professor, Wake Forest School of Medicine

President and Founder, Starling Insights, LLC

**Areas of specialization/research interests:**

In my academic pursuits I use ideas from complexity theory and network science to understand the aging brain. As director of the Laboratory for Complex Brain Networks (LCBN) I lead a team of scientists and trainees that are focused on understanding the brain as a complex, integrated network. Our studies are primarily focused on healthy aging and the effects of exercise and obesity on the aging brain. Our group is among the pioneers in applying network science to the human brain rather than utilizing reductionist techniques that have dominated the field for the past 2 centuries.

My company also utilizes complex system theory and network science but is focused on applying these methods and concepts from the brain to real-world issues. We recognize that we are now drowning in data and that we must change the way we view the world if we want to understand our complex times. Much of our work is based on simulation to understand and identify unintended consequences of decisions in organizations. It is like a game for businesses where they can test an unlimited number of scenarios and observe all the possible outcomes.

**Academic/work experience:**

I have been faculty at Wake Forest since 2002. I have extensive experience mentoring students and junior faculty. I currently have over 70 peer-reviewed publications that are focused on normal and abnormal brain function.

**Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

I am an avid grower of orchids and I enjoy multimedia sculpting and cooking.

**One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

I am married (Denise) with 2 children (Jillian– 8 and Hughes -4). While I am not a religious person, I recognize the importance of some form of spirituality – in whatever form an individual chooses.

**What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

Knowledge is my passion and I am seeking a greater understanding of our world and universe. I believe that knowledge should be made available to everyone. Through a greater understanding of complexity we can all make the world a better place.

**How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

Most recently I have really enjoyed John Mackey's book Conscious Capitalism. I believe that the future of capitalism is based in companies that have purpose and are caring.

Mackey highlights the important of purpose and the fact that systems intelligence is critical for the future.

## **Teresa 'TC' Cutts**

**Your title:** Director of Research for Innovation, "Dr."

**Your organization/institution:** Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare's Center of Excellence in Faith and Health

### **Your qualifications:**

Worked in program development and implementation in faith and health for 12 years; developed many programs (including Life of Leaders, using the LCL framework)

### **Areas of specialization/research interests:**

Congregational and Community Health, Integrative Health and Medicine, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Health psychology, Healthcare Utilization, Spirituality and health, Participatory Research, Preventive medicine, Population Health Management, Positive psychology, Translational Research, Trust in healthcare

### **Academic/work experience:**

Clinical psychologist since 1986; post-doctoral fellow in health psychology, at University of Tennessee College of Medicine, 1987-88; worked in medical-surgical consultation from 1987-2001 and GI quality of life for years (NIH consultant) since 1988; have worked in Faith and Health and community health since 2001

### **Other interests, hobbies and/or passions:**

Folk singing with friends, finding treasures at thrift or junk stores, enjoy time with my two teenage daughters (19 and 15) and hanging out with Faith Health boundary leaders

### **One characteristic about yourself you feel free to share:**

I have a twin sister, and, when we were 2 our mother was pushing us in our stroller around Oxford, MS and the writer William Faulkner walked up, patted us on the heads and said, "You got some mighty pretty babies, Ma'm." We now say that we were "blessed" by William Faulkner (who, by the way, was considered by most in that small town in 1961, to be the "town drunk" NOT a award winning author)!

### **What motivates you personally, encapsulates your vision for life?**

I am a peasant from the MS Delta (from a relatively lower class farming background) who was blessed to get a semi-adequate higher education and then (somehow) wound up being in the company of extraordinary brains and talents and spirits who work in the world of Faith and Health. [It is always a deep honor to be the least intelligent person in the room, BUT I am very honoured to even be in the room!]. I am very dedicated to helping those in poverty or otherwise marginalized. moving us all toward equity and abundance, away from inequality, racism and elitism.

### **How about a literary work that you highly recommend?**

I love all books. Some of my favorites and recent reads:

- 1) Anti-fragile: Things that Gain from Disorder by Nassim Nicholas Taleb
- 2) Drive: The Surprising Truth about what Motivates Us by Daniel Pink
- 3) Man and His Symbols by Carl Jung

- 4) To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- 5) The Red Book by Carl Jung