# Sample letter to the editor for the school paper

Dear --------,

I am a Christian, an Evangelical Christian to be precise.

We are confessing we have been embarrassed by our faith and we have been quiet. We’ve been afraid of being judged. We have created a safe bubble for ourselves.

We have disengaged from healthy conversations on campus. We’ve avoided leaving our bubble. It’s more than a little awkward for me to be writing about being part of the problem on campus because I am aware of the stereotypes. Evangelicals are narrow-minded. We hate the gays. We think we are better than everyone else. We are judgmental. We talk about love but we fail at showing it in tangible ways. We pull away from campus. We often communicate only what we are against.

Stereotypes? Yes and no.

Next week we are going to host some open conversations on campus. We have realized, hopefully not too late, we need to come out of our bubble. Somewhere along the road between the church pews on Sunday mornings and here on campus many of us have lost our way.

Christians actually founded the majority of private universities in the United States. Traditionally faith and education went hand in hand. Somewhere along the road we allowed our belief in Jesus to become a wall that divides “us” from “them” creating an entire subculture using language and behavior as code to further identify those who are “in” and those who are not. We’d like to step up and break down the walls of misunderstanding and distrust and engage our campus in important conversations. We think faith and academics go together.

In our faith tradition, there is a strong partnership between faith and the university. We want to re-engage in helpful ways. Ultimately, we have failed to acknowledge how a healthy, pluralistic society and culture here on campus is what allows for different organizations and people of different faith traditions, cultures, and vocational paths to flourish and succeed.

It’s awkward to be around others who see me as a religious freak. I am hoping it’s not too late for me and others like me stop being a part of the problem on campus and be a part of the solution. Come join us at the artistic display board on campus next week and see what I’m talking about.

Sincerely,

------------------, class of ------