

# the herald

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Michael Farris with Mike Smith

## Celebrating 30 Years at HSLDA

*Farris Reflects on His 30 Years Working With HSLDA Full-Time*

by Harvest Prude

The homeschooling movement has grown from a fledgling group of outliers to a culturally acceptable option now legal in all 50 states. At the forefront of the effort to legalize homeschooling is the organization that shares PHC's campus. Just above the library, the Steven Hake classroom, and the registrar, the Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) still fights for the liberties and rights of homeschoolers. And

they don't seem to be slowing down.

"[We have] 20 or 30 active cases going on," said HSLDA President Mike Smith.

It has been 30 years since Mike Farris made HSLDA his full-time job. He, along with Smith, cofounded HSLDA with the support of a handful of families in 1983. The organization has since grown to a staff of over 100, with 11 attorneys that are either former homeschool graduates or homeschooling parents.

Yesterday afternoon, HSLDA staff gathered to celebrate

Farris's 30-year anniversary since making it his full-time job. With food and gifts in tow, family and faculty spent time swapping stories about Farris, who gave a short speech.

Shortly after Farris, a practicing lawyer at the time, started homeschooling his children, he began getting requests for legal help from other homeschoolers. Most of the families could not afford all of the expenses for a lawyer when they were facing legal challenges. "It's a great way to

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Olmstead's painting: "North Gold"

## Alumna's Art Sold by West Elm

by Leah Greenwood

PHC alumna Christine Olmstead graduated in 2015 with a journalism degree; now, her passion for art has turned into her full-time business. Prints of her paintings are now being sold through West Elm, a national home furnishings chain. In fact, West Elm was selling her paintings before she even knew about it.

This past January, Olmstead entered her painting "North Gold" into an art competition sponsored by Minted, a community of independent artists. The competition was open to all, and whoever placed in the top three would receive a cash prize and have their artwork sold by West Elm.

While Olmstead's art

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Courtesy: Christine Olmstead

Credit: Todd Metzgar

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## studentgovernment

At the last Senate meeting, the Student Senate expedited and passed the authorization bill for the Honduras mission trip funding, which was subsequently signed by Student Body President Andrew Kelly. All fundraising for the trip flows through the Student Government account with PHC. This bill authorizes the mission trip coordinator, Student Body Vice-President Clayton Millhouse, to release any of the funds earmarked for the trip, enabling him to meet the deadlines of our partner organization, World Gospel.

Also, student government groups chapel assessment commission and community involvement commission have been hard at work. Review the minutes sent out to all students to keep track of their progress this week!

# HSLDA Guards Homeschooling Rights

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go broke,” Farris said. That’s how he got the idea. “If we all stand together, then we’ve got a shot—if they touch one of us then we all come to fight.”

Farris said the the beginning battles felt like “sticking [a] finger in the dyke.” According to Smith, 30 states since 83 have passed laws recognizing homeschooling as legal.

“The word on the street was if you’re going to homeschool, you better have HSLDA or you’re going to get in trouble,” Smith said. The main focus in the beginning years was the legality issue, or dealing with the question of how much authority a social worker held when it came to homeschoolers. HSLDA has met success on a legislative and individual case level. Still, there is much to do.

“We have almost as many cases as ever,” Farris said. The nature of the issues has changed.

“The challenge is helping people to realize [homeschooling] is not as safe as they think it is,” said Suzanne Stephens, Vice-President of Marketing and Communication. “We’re on the side of the phone where we get calls from parents who are being pressured or bullied or steam-rolled by government officials. We know that parents and families still really need a lawyer who is there to say; ‘Hey, wait a minute, that is now what the law says, or, ‘You can’t require them to do that.’”



Credit: Todd Metzgar

Families and individuals continue to face opposition when seeking to withdraw children from public schools, submitting college or job applications, or trying to get into trade school.

“We handled over 17,000 contacts of this sort just last year,” said Jim Mason, Vice-President Director of Litigation and Development. “The generation that remembers the scary challenges associated with homeschooling in the early days has just about graduated all of their children. HSLDA remains ever-vigilant...that’s why we monitor legislation and regulations in all 50 states and in the federal government.”

Farris thinks homeschoolers will continue to face increasing cultural opposition. “The real focus of homeschooling is

a greater battle over the effort to wipe out Christian voices in our country,” Farris said. He sees increasing efforts to curtail opposing viewpoints on college campuses or increases of sensitivity training in the workplace as indicative of the current cultural atmosphere, which is unfriendly toward views it regards as intolerant. Homeschoolers are a “pretty good source of effective communicators of an opposing worldview,” Farris said.

It all comes back to the parents in the end. Homeschooling parents standing together are what HSLDA represents. “Homeschooling moms are the biggest heroes in America,” Smith said.

The cost of membership is \$100 annually for homeschooling families. ♦

## Chapel Assessment Commission Prepares Report

by Beth Bergstrom

The Chapel Assessment Commission (CAC) met on Wednesday to review the information received from the survey. The CAC sent the survey to the student body on Monday and left it open until Wednesday evening.

The survey results showed some stu-

dents asking for a more lenient chapel attendance policy. The commission was unanimous in believing that the punishment for students who miss more than the 10 allotted chapels is excessive. The current punishment is two hours of community service for every extra chapel missed.

Students voiced a relatively positive opinion on hymn sing chapel. However, students generally agreed that hymn sing

chapel should only happen once a semester.

There were mixed responses regarding the preferences of call and response and the student-led chapel. After discussion, the commission unanimously decided to keep the student-led prayer chapel while examining other options.

The CAC also discussed chapel speakers, songs, and themes of chapel. ♦

# PHC Upperclassmen Lead Campaign Teams

*Student Action Teams Head to Battleground States of North Carolina and Florida*

by Rebekah Jorgensen

“I want to commit murder and also sleep.”

Student action team (SAT) leaders echoed junior Danielle’s Fife’s sentiment as they returned Wednesday evening from their respective campaigns. The grueling hours, pressure of managing teams of high school students, and nonstop phone banking and door knocking took their toll on the participants.

“A typical day was to get up at 7:15, have morning briefing and prep the vans for the day, then hit the road by 9 or 9:30 to start door knocking,” said junior Marquis Gough, who campaigned for Marco Rubio. “The teams would ‘break’ for lunch, and I use quotation marks because we used box lunches and some of the teams would just eat as they continued working instead of stopping. We’d call it a day at 6 and then start up the phones and keep them going until 9. After that, we’d have our evening devotional, send the kids to bed, have our leaders’ meeting, and then hit the hay between midnight and 1.”

While high school and college students may not seem like the obvious choice for campaign staff, since 2004, Generation Joshua has sent out numerous SATs across the country right before national elections to assist conservative candidates. This year, GenJ even gave college students an incentive to be leaders: \$100 for freshmen, \$200 for sophomores, \$300 for juniors, and \$400 for seniors.

Fife spent the weekend before the elec-



Gough with members of his campaign team

tion in North Carolina; however, her campaign differed from the standard format.

“None of the teams in North Carolina were working on an actual campaign; we were doing values voting,” Fife said. “Essentially, we were going to houses that were conservative, or Christians who don’t usually vote. We targeted them with voter guides that the Family Research Council had put together.”

Yet despite this unconventional campaign method, Fife still followed the typical scheduling format. Her team of 35 students, ranging in age from 12-19, spent their days door knocking and then came back at dusk to phone bank until bedtime.

“It’s hard to track success with something like values voting, but there were record turnouts,” Fife said. “A lot of the people we talked to were already planning to vote, or we were able to persuade them. Even though we lost the governor’s race, everything else went well.”

Senior Tim Kocher also led a values voting campaign in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. While his team of 30 students followed a similar schedule, Kocher ran into major complications with his walk books, the lists of targeted houses

in a geographic area. Even though Kocher managed to get his team briefed on time in the morning, they were consistently delayed while waiting for their daily walk books to update.

Despite these setbacks, Kocher’s students managed to win the statewide competition between teams. “My deployment had the highest number of voter contacts (doors knocked plus phones called) on election day than any of the other teams,” Kocher said. “5,707 in a single day.”

Further south in Tampa Bay, Florida, Gough’s team of 30 students campaigned for Marco Rubio’s senate race. Initially, Gough had intended to spend his fall break in Northern Virginia, celebrating his 21st birthday with friends on campus. Yet when he learned that GenJ was deploying a team to Florida on behalf of Rubio, Gough could not resist the opportunity.

“Up until we got there, polling had shown Marco with only about a three point lead, but by the time the race was called, he was up by eight!” Gough said.

If you are interested in leading an SAT in the future, visit [www.generationjoshua.org/GenJ/programs/student-action-teams](http://www.generationjoshua.org/GenJ/programs/student-action-teams) for more details. ♦



Fife and her teammates

# Olmstead Sought Out by Retail Chains

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career is doing well, she realized that it's tough to get the attention of big brands like Anthropologie, West Elm, or Target. Thus, she entered the contest for the experience, with no expectations of winning.

"North Gold is inspired by remembering the beauty of winter and of little moments," Olmstead said. Having grown up in Idaho, her family bought season passes to a local ski resort every winter. After a long day of skiing, Olmstead would lie in the backseat of the car and look out into the winter's night as her family drove home on winding, icy roads.

"I think winter is beautiful, and so that's the moment that I was able to reflect in North Gold," Olmstead said. "I want my viewers to have beauty in their lives and I want them to look at my art and feel alive and joyful."

In September, eight months after her contest submission, Olmstead received an

email about her painting from a woman she had never met. This woman had seen a North Gold print in a West Elm catalogue and wanted to buy the original. Olmstead, however, had never entered into a partnership with West Elm. She searched her name on their website and discovered prints of her painting for sale. "They had been selling my work for about six months without my knowing about it," Olmstead said. "It was terrifying because I know that artists deal with copyright infringement regularly, and I was so scared that this was going to be my first taste of that."

Olmstead had not placed in the original competition, nor had she heard from Minted or West Elm since. "It became this process of figuring out what exactly was going on," Olmstead said. She spent days on the phone with legal departments trying to find the competition guidelines and to see if she had somehow signed away her artwork by entering the competition.

Olmstead finally got in touch with

someone from Minted. They informed her that, as a part of the competition, West Elm curators took the prerogative of going through all of the submissions and choosing works they liked that they wanted to be in their collection.

Although Olmstead was supposed to be receiving payment, she had not received any emails or other information from Minted. She later learned that West Elm had made attempts to contact Olmstead, but had accidentally used a faulty email address.

Currently, West Elm has paid Olmstead for all of the sales, even though they have not told her the exact amount of prints that have been sold. Still, Olmstead is honored and excited to have her artwork chosen by West Elm.

"I have gotten inquiries from people all over the world – Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and France – asking for works of art because they saw me in West Elm," Olmstead said. ♦

## Seeking the Sabbath Rest

by Victoria Cook

"What are you going to do over break?" a friend asked. "Anything fun?"

"I'll study and sleep. Spend some time with my family," I said. My typical response caused me to pause. I would rest, but afterwards I'd have a sense of guilt when I remembered my unread books and the paper deadlines coming up. My devotional times lacked the depth I longed for, so I determined that this break I would actually rest.

I went home and did the craziest thing: no school for two days. For the first day, I went to a Christian conference where we did nothing but worship, pray, and study the Bible. I took that time to reflect on why rest can be so difficult for me. The desire to be perfect underlies why rest is difficult. Perfection is unattainably crippling and hinders me from accepting the rest God offers all of us.

"It's much easier to worry than it is to

trust," Dr. Kristina Tanner said. "Spiritual rest comes from knowing that God really is sovereign, which is very easy to say and very hard to live in."

As someone with anxiety issues, Tanner understands that rest is vital to a healthy body and soul. "There is never an end to spiritual rest," she said. "There's a point in which it doesn't necessarily do any visual earthly good, but there's never a point in which it doesn't do eternal good, and that's bigger."

Physical rest can come from spending time with friends, participating in a fun activity, or sleeping. Spiritual rest is a daily choice to trust God, despite the surrounding anxieties and uncertain circumstances. It isn't always easy, but sometimes, letting schoolwork slide for the sake of having strong relationships with people and Christ is more important.

Busyness isn't sinful. However, when Christians use busyness as an excuse to avoid spiritual rest, they may be leaning towards spiritual apathy. "Something we

value as a virtue which might be a vice at PHC is giving it all we can all the time," senior Jordan Hughes said. "Sometimes our physical exhaustion is bred from not trusting in God to give us the fruit we've worked for. If you don't trust God, it's going to lead you feeling like you have to do way more than you actually have to."

A genuine relationship with Christ requires resting in God's Word and praying, something that can be as easily shoved aside as one's sleep schedule. Ultimately, resting, spiritually and physically, is another way to glorify God. Christ carefully guarded his time of rest when He could have gone without, paralleling God resting on the seventh day.

"There's always further to go into Him, further to be at peace with Him, more to know of Him, more to grow into Him," Tanner said. "In some ways, that's even more important than sanity and more important than life and more important than everything." ♦



Sillars and Samen and Radha Manickam in 2014 at Angkor Wat, Cambodia's world famous Buddhist temple

## *Intended for Evil: The Story Behind the Story*

*Professor of Journalism Releases Narrative Nonfiction Book Highlighting a Survivor of Cambodia's Killing Fields*

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by Les Sillars

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The skulls were piled in layers three deep on each shelf, and the shelves rose one after the other almost to the ceiling of the tower. They faced out of the glass case, and many had cracks or holes where Khmer Rouge soldiers had bashed their victims' heads with hoe handles before dumping them into mass graves.

I was visiting Choeng Ek, memorial site for Cambodia's infamous "killing fields," just before Christmas of 2014. Between 1975 and 1979 Pol Pot's Communist regime murdered about 1.7 million people through execution, overwork, starvation, and disease in a doomed attempt to create an agrarian utopia.

From inside the Buddhist stupa I could see the grassy depressions that had once held thousands of bodies, and chankiri

trees against which soldiers had smashed infants.

I had been researching the Khmer Rouge regime for more than a year and knew roughly what to expect, but it was still ghastly. I was there to write about a survivor, a Cambodian Christian named Radha Manickam who had seen and endured awful things. To tell his story truly I would have to describe gruesome deaths and cruelty barely imaginable. As a believer and a journalist, I had to ask myself, does telling this story glorify God?

My answer, then and now, is yes.

Manickam's story ends well, but it would be worth telling no matter how it had turned out. The calling of the journalist is to help people see the world clearly, as it is. That means we find out what happened, try to understand what it means, and then tell the story. We need not wallow in the gory details, but neither

can we ignore the violence and cruelty that characterizes so much human life. To grasp how God wants us to live here we must understand this world as it is; to "walk in the way of Your truth as we wait eagerly for You" (Isa. 26:8), we need to come to grips with the reality of evil.

I never planned to be a journalist. After graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1993 with a master's degree in theology, I went back to my Alberta hometown with my wife and young son. I considered the pastorate but then applied at a weekly news magazine, the *Alberta Report*.

I knew little of and had less interest in politics, business, crime, society—the stuff of modern journalism. I never read newspapers and seldom watched TV news, but I needed a job right away and the magazine needed a reporter.

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# Growing Up in Christian Fundamentalism

by Giovanna Lastra

“How could they be Christians,” thought Bethany (names have been changed). Her best friend’s parents were drinking alcohol at a party and it stunned the young teen. She was deeply conflicted. Bethany could not wrap her mind around how someone could believe in God and consume alcohol. She was taught to view alcohol as a sin, to dress modestly, and not to ask questions about worldly evils.

Bethany is one of the many students at PHC who was raised with the conservative, fundamentalist ideas such as taught in Bill Gothard’s ministry. It has lost a great deal of influence since Gothard was accused of sexual harrasment. But growing up in the culture of fundamentalism had a profound impact on the lives of various students and how they practice their faith.

Bethany said that, although she had questions about things like sex, mental illness, and alcohol, her parents treated the subjects as taboo. This ostracizing of topics was indicative of Bethany’s parents’ attempts to shelter her from the world and any outlets that could cause her to sin.

Her family was influenced by Gothard and the teaching of the Institute of Biblical Life Principles. As a child, she only wore skirts and dresses and was not exposed to alcohol. Her parents also raised her with the idea of biblical courtship, which meant her father would oversee her romantic relationships, create the rules and boundaries of the relationship, and decide if they could get married.

Mary was also brought up in a church that was influenced by fundamentalist culture. Her parents were not fully immersed in these ideas but her church was. “If women wore pants or worked outside the home, their salvation was called



into question,” Mary said. One of Mary’s friends got into a courtship relationship with a boy from the church. The courtship did not work out and Mary witnessed people in the church treat her friend as tainted because the relationship did not lead to marriage.

“I had panic attacks when I first began dating my current boyfriend and we kissed. I honestly believed I was dirty, unworthy and tainted for kissing,” Mary said. Mary had always been taught that keeping

her purity was important and necessary. However, the way this idea was taught to her caused her to base her value and self-worth on her purity. “I believed my purity was all I had to offer someone in a relationship and a marriage,” Mary said.

Alec, who was brought up with similar fundamentalist principles, also struggled to feel worthy of God if he made a mistake or failed to meet an expectation that his parents had of him.

“There was a time in my life that I struggled with sin. I was 13 years old and was wrestling with what was right versus what was wrong. When my parents found

out about my sin they kicked me out of the house for a few weeks,” Alec said.

He explained that his parents were ashamed of him, believing that kicking him out of the house was exercising God’s judgment on him for his sin.

Alec was taught that his father stood in the place of God on earth. This meant that he had to be fully obedient to his father in order to be obedient to God. Alec grew to resent his parents and God. “My connection with God was hard because I felt I had to live up to His expectations in order to be worthy of Him,” Alec said.

“The ideas of maintaining the fundamentals of your faith, protecting your children from the dangers of the world and living as a testimony to Christ are not wrong or bad,” Bethany said. “I think my parents adopted these principles to protect me from the bad things of the world. They wanted to shelter me and honestly I don’t think that was bad for my childhood.”

Dr. Robert Spinney, Professor of History, noted that the fundamentalist movement was beneficial to the survival of Christianity in America. Fundamentalism, a reaction to theological liberalism beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, fo-

**“Some Christians view their faith as a checklist of what they must do and must not do to maintain their Christianity.”**

**Dr. Robert Spinney**

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My first months with the magazine were, charitably speaking, a pretty steep learning curve. I made dumb mistakes, was hornswoggled by a stock promoter, and inadvertently insulted more than one source. But I survived (and my editor endured) largely because the writing skills and understanding of narratives that I acquired in seminary made constructing news stories much, much easier.

Most importantly, my seminary and Christian college educations reinforced my conviction that the Scriptures provide the only reliable basis for interpreting contemporary events. As a journalist I had a front-row seat to watch how those truths played out in society. I also saw the fallout when those biblical truths were bypassed or ignored. The *Alberta Report* tracked the advance of abortion on demand, gay rights, sex education in schools, and a host of other issues. In short, being a reporter introduced me to the idea that ideas have consequences—for everybody.

One day I asked a fellow reporter, a tall, cheerful guy named Shafer, why he left the pastorate for journalism. “I always wanted to be a reporter,” he told me, “but when I was in high school, my pastor took me aside and said, ‘God doesn’t need journalists, He needs preachers!’” But Shafer eventually realized that God calls different people to different vocations, and that every society also needs people to show them what, truly, is going on. That, I think, is one of the good works God prepared in advance for me to do.



A shot of the famous skulls displayed inside the Killing Fields memorial called Choeng Ek

In 1999 I left the *Alberta Report* to start graduate school at the University of Texas and join the staff of *WORLD Magazine*, and in 2002 I joined the faculty of Patrick Henry College. I’d gone to seminary a decade before expecting to become a Bible college professor, and instead God gave me the ministry of preparing young Christians to tell true stories.

A PHC colleague, David Aikman, put me in touch with Manickam in 2013. We spent hours on the phone, and finally met in Phnom Penh. We visited Choeng Ek as part of a tour of Cambodia, and also saw the remains of the village where in 1978 he was forced to marry a woman named Samen. A month later they discovered they were both Christians,

two of perhaps a few hundred still alive. They survived the Khmer Rouge and later moved to Seattle, where they raised their five children. Today Manickam ministers to churches in the U.S. and Cambodia.

Manickam has been angry with God at times, but he still believes that the Lord had a purpose in allowing Cambodia’s genocide, and even the tragic losses in his own life. Could my faith stand such a battering? I pray so but, thankfully, for now my job is just to tell the story—and to help students learn to tell the stories to which God has called them. ♦

**Dr. Sillars will be hosting a book signing in the PHC coffee shop Friday, Nov. 18, from 4:30-5:30 p.m., with selected readings from *Intended For Evil*.**

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cused on bringing Christians back to the fundamental tenants of the faith. But that often reduced Christianity to a list of do’s and don’ts.

“My parents have very high expectations of me and my siblings and we can never fully live up to them,” Bethany said. Her parents focused on an external perfection, displaying

that they were good Christians. This external display of the Christian faith is what some believe has become the focus in the fundamental sect of Christianity.

“Some Christians view their faith as a check-list of what they must do and must not do to maintain their Christianity,” Spinney said. The teachings of fundamentalism become problematic when

the external display of faith is used as a measure of salvation and worth.

The experiences speak to the imperfection of well-meaning people simply trying to serve God and raise their children well. Although some students still feel very wounded by their upbringing, “I do not resent my parents or God like I used to; I think they were doing their best to teach me what

was right but they made mistakes,” Alec said.

“My sister and I agree that, moving forward, the only thing we would ask of our future children is that they love and serve God with all their hearts,” Bethany said. “If I know that they’re walking in the love of Christ, that’s the best thing I could ever ask for.” ♦



# In-House Student Loans Over After Spring 2017

by Evie Fordham

PHC will stop offering in-house student loans beginning with the Summer 2017 term. The Covenant Foundation, a San Antonio-based Christian organization, had funded the loans since 2012 but recently notified PHC that it would no longer be able to continue this program. Loans already obtained for the Spring 2017 term will still be honored. Director of Financial Aid Bill Kellaris recommends that students needing loans turn to PNC Bank or Sallie Mae, which 17 current PHC students already use.

“When [Covenant] entered into that agreement with us to provide the funding, it was just for a certain number of years originally,” President Jack Haye said. “That term expired, and they agreed to extend it one more year, and that was this last year, 2015 to 2016. We are now in a position where we’re looking for another private foundation to provide the funding, but there are no guarantees with that.”

Dean Corbitt sent out an email on Oct. 25 notifying students of the change, and

Haye fielded questions regarding student loans at the senate meeting on Oct. 26.

“It’s an important part of funding for a lot of students, so we wanted to make sure they had as long a runway as possible to make sure they had funding available,” he said.

Freshman Leah Petree uses the in-house loans with her mother as her co-signer. She was surprised to learn that the program was ending.

“I assumed that I would be able to do this all four years,” she said. “The school should have advertised that there was a possibility this could end... Now I’m going to have to figure out a new loan, which adds on to the stress of everything.”

Sixty-eight current students use the PHC loan program, Kellaris said.

“The only group of student that face a substantial challenge are single students who do not have a co-signer and can’t get one,” Kellaris said. “We have 30 students without a co-signer. That doesn’t mean they can’t get one, that just means they don’t have one.”

The financial aid office will process loans from any lender that is most convenient for individual students.

“If you have a local bank or credit union that your family has a relationship with and you’d like to use them, I’m happy to do the paperwork,” Kellaris said.

Haye, Kellaris, and other members of PHC’s administration are seeking a new partner to replace Covenant as well as more institutions to recommend to students for loans. Without Covenant, the college does not have the cash to fund its own student loan program.

“If you had someone else who was technically providing the funding for [student loans], the college didn’t have to use its cash to provide the funding,” Haye said. “So it provided us an ability to use our cash in different ways versus providing the funding.”

The college has discontinued in-house student loans before, Kellaris said.

“PHC had no in-house student loan program for several years before 2012,” he said. “In the very early years of the college, the college did have its own student loan program and it was discontinued in 2005 or 2006.”

Students with questions or concerns should contact Kellaris. ♦

# British Parliamentary Teams End Season

by Bruce Truax

The PHC British Parliamentary (BP) debate team recently finished a strong semester of competition representing the school.

At Hobart and William Smith College, Jacob Beaver and Clare Downing won the novice title, at the University of Vermont, Johanna Christophel and Blaire Bayliss broke into quarterfinals and Jacob Beaver and Blake Toman placed second in the novice tournament, and at the University of Rochester Debate Tournament, Jacob Beaver and Becca Samelson, along with Chris Baldacci and Thaddeus Tague, advanced to the quarterfinals.

“We spent a whole Saturday doing basic BP coaching so they would be able to jump into their first tournament and not be nervous and not know what to expect,” assistant coach Bayliss said.

USUDA, the BP League, is very politically and culturally liberal, often taking a one-sided stance on issues. This gives PHC students a chance to share their Christian worldview with secular thinkers, and also exposes them to ideas that are not heard often on campus. “If you talked to a lot of the BP team I think there’s definitely more than one or two people that have had their opinions shifted on certain issues [because] of the ability to actually discuss how you feel,” Downing said.

Many BP debaters claim that it teaches

one how to think classically, as this style of debate is focused on coming in contact with new viewpoints. “It’s very conversational, it’s very casual, but it’s very much based on speaking well, reasoning well, saying things well,” said assistant coach Daniel Thetford.

A standard BP debate is set up with two sets of opposing teams. A resolution, completely unknown to the competitors until the round starts, is given to all teams who then have 15 minutes to craft an argument supporting or opposing the proposal. This time crunch forces debates to focus only on big-picture issues, instead of getting into the weeds over minute details. ♦

# Sowing in Kindness at Fox News

by Meg McEwen

PHC senior Kendra Olson snagged the internship opportunity of a lifetime at DC's local Fox news station this semester. When a supervisor gave Olson access to the archive database, introduced her to a few of the staff members, and told her that she had to fight to get anything out of the internship, Olson knew that this environment would be a challenge. However, she chose to pursue the internship at Fox, even though the high-pressure and competitive atmosphere meant coming head to head with the same anxiety and insomnia tendencies that she was trying to dodge.

"It has been an incredibly stressful ride, but I am learning so much about myself... On my good days I spend eight hours basically praying Scripture to myself to combat the pressure to perform. And in the end I am stumbling back to my car like I have just fought for eight hours," Olson said.

Olson's internship at Fox gives her the opportunity to observe the tough choices that journalists must make every day. On an outing with Fox videographer Indra and reporter Bob, they interviewed a 17 year old burn victim from Ethiopia. She traveled to America the day before a pipeline exploded at her apartment in DC. The explosion killed seven people, wounded 35, and left 75 families homeless, including the girl. CASA, an equal-rights advocacy association, brought lawsuit against the two big organizations involved that chose to ignore the situation. When Bob pieced the package together, he explained to Olson that he chose to use the sound bite of the girl to give DC viewers a fuller picture of the personal implications of the story.

"Those kinds of stories are really intriguing to me because you are pitting the little man against the big corporation," Olson said. "Yes, the corporations have the legal right to do some of the stuff



Olson (front right) and Fox News team with Olympic gymnast Simone Biles.

that they are doing, but how do you balance that with the loss of life and ethics? Where can the government step in and enforce virtue?"

Olson followed another reporter, Matt, as he wrote about the Death with Dignity bill that, if passed, would legalize physician-assisted suicide in DC. Strict qualifications within the bill blurred the ethical discussion: there can be no chance of a cure, two doctors must concede that the patient has six months left to live, and the patient has to be clearly in his right mind. Matt interviewed Mary, a terminally-ill woman who wanted to have the option to die on her own terms after brutally battling with cancer for two years. Her partner explained that they lived every day together on borrowed time.

Matt and Olson also attended a council meeting during which Councilwoman Alexander articulated strong arguments against the bill. She thought that such a personal issue required a popular vote rather than the majority vote of 13 councilmembers.

"Each council person on both sides gave very thoughtful responses on why

they agreed with it or why they did not agree... it started me thinking, and I love stories that do that. I had to know why I believed what I believed," Olson said.

Between tailing reporters and videographers and creating news packages, Olson still finds time to invest in her coworkers. On her first day of the internship, she made an effort to shake every hand and memorize every name on the job. "Whenever I see a mask or a wall, my initial reaction is to get a sledgehammer," Olson said. "That first day was me going around with a sledgehammer" trying to get to know people.

Olson became a self-described "little journalist in the newsroom" by asking for their stories and how she might serve them. This simple kindness set her apart from other interns, and the Fox employees responded with graciousness and favors that deeply surprised Olson.

"I've had editors say, 'I will help you edit all your packages.' I've had photographers say, 'If you ever need anything shot, I'll shoot it,' all because I remembered their names," Olson said. "If you sow in kindness, you will reap." ♦

# The Do's and Don'ts of the Christmas Ball

by Becca Samelson

Dear PHC Men,

It's that time of year! The air is getting (somewhat) colder, paper season is upon us, and the Christmas Ball has been announced! That's right, young gent, it's time for you to ask the girl of your dreams to the dance! You underclassmen - and let's be honest, some of you upperclassmen are in this state too - might be wondering how you could ask someone to the ball? Never fear, Becca is here! Here's a list of do's and don'ts for asking your date to the dance.

**DO:** ask in chapel. Anything from sending in a chapel announcement to passing the lucky lady a note in the middle of the bridge to *Behold Our God* will go over swimmingly. Nothing like asking in front of the entirety of the student body to get that yes! She won't feel awkward or pressured and will instead admire your courage.

**DON'T:** be creative. Use the exact poem your friend used to ask his date or the same pick up lines Adam Johnson posted on PHC Family. The girls will never know that you didn't come up with this brilliance yourself.

**DO:** use social media. A Facebook meme, a mention in a romantic retweet, or, better yet, a beautiful Instagram selfie with her tagged in it; these will make her extremely happy. She won't feel uncomfortable that her mom, cousins, pastor, grandparents, and high school friends can all see that you asked her to the dance. She could still say no if she wanted to! It wouldn't be awkward at all.

**DON'T:** utilize her interests. If you know her favorite flower, get a different type. Does she love *Hamilton*? Pretend it doesn't exist. She loves Harry Potter? Go with a Narnia-themed invitation. She hates movies? Buy her movie tickets. Show her what she should *really* be interested in and don't play to her favorite hobbies or interests.

**DO:** ask her in front of all her friends. Whether it's a residence life event or in



the dining hall, this is a sure way of getting a date. She can't say no!

**DON'T:** be funny. Girls hate to laugh. Be serious. This is basically a marriage proposal. If you incorporate any humor whatsoever, she will say no. Seriously.

**DO:** ask either right away or the day before the dance. Every girl loves being bombarded with requests ten seconds after the ball is announced! But if that doesn't happen, they'd rather wait until Nov. 30 to be asked. They don't want lots of time to plan their dresses, hair and makeup, and groups for the ball; giving them only one day takes so much of the pressure off!

**DON'T:** make sure if she already has a date before you ask her. It doesn't matter if she's already made plans with someone else. She'll cancel them to go with you, because you are so incredibly cool. So it doesn't matter whether she's already agreed to go with someone else- or if she has a boyfriend - because she'd rather go with you instead!

**DO:** ask in class. Whether by passing a note or having Dr. Spinney ask for you, this is a great way to show the girl of your dreams that not only do you care about her privacy, but you are also incredibly intellectual. You love school so much that you had to ask her to the dance during class! Wow, aren't you a genius?

**DON'T:** ask someone you already know. It's awful going to dances with people you know really well. Ask someone that you have literally never talked to before. It won't be awkward for either of you!

**DO:** ask the friends of the girls who already turned you down. Let's be honest... sometimes a girl might have a moment of temporary insanity and turn you down. So, just ask her best friend! That won't be problematic at all.

**DON'T:** ask her friends or your friend for help. You have to do this all on your own. If that means breaking into D1, D2, or D3 to sneak some flowers or chocolates in, that's totally fine. Also, don't run your ideas by anyone else, especially if you ignore the earlier advice to not be creative. Do this all by yourself. It will go fine.

**DO:** use a mating dance to ask her. Not only will this show of your manliness, but it will also show her that you can really bust a move! She'll love to swing with you on the dance floor!

**DON'T:** read sarcasm into this advice. This, like my previous letter, is meant to be viewed completely literally and 100% seriously. Trust me here.

Sincerely,

Your Extremely Wise and Amazing and Perfect Upper-Classman <3 ♦



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Christmas Ball Meme

Courtesy: Adam Johnson

## #trendingatPHC

“A guy I knew filled up balloons and placed individual letters within each balloon that spelled out, ‘Will you go to the Christmas Ball with me?’”

-Stephen Pierce

“I walked out of my room and Luke Thomas was standing in the lobby with an accordion. He started playing to the tune of *Amazing Grace* and belted out, ‘Will you go to the Christmas Ball with me?’ It’s one of my favorite memories.”

-Josephine Johnson

“For work on the grounds crew, I invented a new, more effective way to blow leaves off the sidewalks. So my reward was I could make Ben Davis and Luke Lawrenz serenade a dorm room of my choice and I made them do it as my Christmas Ball invitation.”

-Kent Hoshiko

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Cleveland Cavaliers @  
Washington Wizards  
Nov. 11  
7 pm  
Verizon Center

PHC Men’s Basketball  
Game  
Nov. 12  
7 pm  
PHC Gym

Thoroughly  
Modern Millie  
Nov. 11-13  
7:30 pm  
Franklin Park Arts  
Center

Macbeth  
Nov. 17-19  
7:30 pm  
Town Hall

“My life is kind of a movie I would never watch.” -Jane White

[ #heraldbackpage ]

Have a candid pic of campus life? Post it on social media and tag us. Or send it to [gmlastra811@students.phc.edu](mailto:gmlastra811@students.phc.edu)