

# PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

SPRING 2014 ★ VOL. 14, NO. 1



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- New Economics and Business Analytics Major
- College Wins Sixth Consecutive ACMA Title
- Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith

## From the Chancellor



Dr. Michael Farris

I have to admit that I love March Madness and all of the basketball excitement that seems to grip our nation. In general, I am a big sports fan—especially if we are talking about the Seattle Seahawks or the Washington Capitals. And if you want to get me talking about participatory sports, just ask me about cycling.

But as I was watching my alma mater (Gonzaga University) get clobbered in the Round of 32 in the NCAA basketball playoffs, I did a bit of a mental comparison between the long-term benefits of basketball versus moot court (or other forms of debate).

Our political leaders engage in debate. They do not face off in basketball in a one-on-one shootout. Some of them might do better in basketball than they do in debate, but the public wouldn't accept it as a valid method of choosing leaders.

While I don't expect the television networks to understand the riveting nature of a moot court round, it should be apparent to all the rest of us that if we want to develop the kind of leadership skills that will help lead this nation for Christ and liberty, we need to place the emphasis on being able to understand the clash of ideas and to present truth in a winsome and effective manner.

PHC competes in basketball and soccer. I love the games and I hope we continue to improve. But even if we someday made it onto a March Madness broadcast, I would never believe that we had achieved that which is really the most important. Fun, yes. Important? Well, we are already doing that.

## From the President



Dr. Graham Walker

Patrick Henry College is still a young school, and it is growing. This year saw the addition of a new major in Economics and Business Analytics and the creation of minors in Pedagogy, Classics, Philosophy, and Music. We hosted world-class scholars at the *Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith*. We have new support personnel, including a counseling advisor and security officer, to better serve our students, and we have new students who have expanded their involvement with the college and the surrounding community in creative ways.

We've found that our students and co-laborers are attracted here because of the community. The center of our community is Jesus Himself. In chapel, in Christian study groups, and in their personal lives, our students and faculty are encouraged to seek Him first. And we have found that a community centered on Christ fosters exactly that freedom and creativity that have taken PHC students to the ends of the earth in serving God and people.

With a curriculum that gives our students a solid foundation in our civilizational legacy of theology, philosophy, literature, and history, Patrick Henry College prepares them to embark on their careers with a deep acquaintance with the world of ideas. But most importantly, it is a place where we seek to foster a deep acquaintance with Christ. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made"—whether work, ideas, or the people we serve. I hope this shines through clearly in this issue's stories.

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### On the Cover:

Spring on the campus of Patrick Henry College

# New Economics and Business Analytics Major Offered at PHC

Patrick Henry College will launch its new Economics and Business Analytics major in the fall semester of 2014. The new Bachelor of Arts program, which incorporates advanced applied mathematics and statistical analysis skills demanded in today's tech-savvy business environment, has been approved by the College's accreditor, the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and by SCHEV (the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia).

"Beginning this fall, Patrick Henry College will now be a serious competitor in the field of business and economics," said President Graham Walker. "We've created a program that combines the ethos of PHC (academic rigor and commitment to God's Word) with the real world needs of today's business leaders, entrepreneurs, and economists. This is an exciting development and a milestone in the life of the College."

The new program resulted from months of research and planning by a fifteen-member business task force chaired by PHC Foundation board member Frank Edelblut, Chancellor Michael Farris, and including Foundation board member Howard Schmidt, PHC trustee Michael Wright, Provost Ed Veith, and PHC professors Michael Kucks (physics) and Nathan Russell (economics).

"We weren't interested in creating just another business program; there are enough of those out there," said Edelblut, a longtime business and investment leader. "The more the task force discussed it and surveyed businesses about their needs, we saw that

students with standard business degrees don't necessarily possess the skills to be effective. Most are missing a

*"We weren't interested in creating just another business program; there are enough of those out there."*

- Frank Edelblut  
Chairman,  
Business Task Force



Photo courtesy of Frank Edelblut

rigorous liberal arts approach to math and quantitative analysis required in today's business environment.

"I'm an avid fan of classical liberal arts education," he added. "This major fills out the classical liberal arts offering at PHC by elevating the economics and mathematics disciplines that go along with it."

The College recently hired Daniel L. Bennett, who is expected to complete his PhD in economics this year, to direct and shepherd the new major. Bennett has an MA in applied economics and a BA in business administration from Ohio University.

In addition to PHC's comprehensive 63-credit core curriculum, founded on biblical truth and the great texts and ideas of Western civilization, the Economics and Business Analytics major requires advanced courses in calculus, statistics, microeconomics, and business ethics. An intensive "cooperative" module will give students real-world experience working alongside top corporate and

entrepreneurial leaders.

"Students need a basic understanding of the mathematical underpinning of manufacturing processes, quality control, failure analysis—all of the many applied aspects and principles that allow them to be successful in the marketplace," noted Edelblut. He said graduates will learn the skills needed to excel in multiple career tracks, from stepping in as a corporate executive to launching a successful start-up.

"They are going to be shrewd entrepreneurs," he said, noting that "coming from PHC, we'll see Christ-centered young adults equipped for leadership positions while bringing their faith along with them."

Task force member Michael Kucks, PHC's associate professor of physics and math, reiterated that many business school graduates lack higher economics and mathematics skills demanded in a global economy defined by relentless technological change, viral marketing, advanced metrics, and sophisticated data analysis.

"Business leaders told us that, in addition to foundational economics and math, they wanted employees with an ethical framework who have a heart and a soul," he said. "PHC already instills that in its core, so—grafted into the academic rigor, math analysis, and economics components—we've created a very potent program."

Kucks concluded, "We want to send a flood of kids grounded deeply in economics and analysis, and fortified in Christian faith, into the corridors of power to help change the culture of DC, corporate finance, and American business itself."★

# College Adds Sixth Consecutive Title to ACMA Trophy Case

Adding another title to a growing championship legacy, Patrick Henry College won its sixth consecutive ACMA (American Collegiate Moot Court Association) National Moot Court Championship in January at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. The national title brought the College's total to eight in the past ten years, with this year's winning team of Blake Meadows and Kayla Griesemer (both seniors) defeating a team from runner-up California State University, Long Beach.

The competition continues to intensify at nationals, with PHC competing against a lineup that included the University of Virginia, Wheaton College, Texas A&M, and the US Air Force Academy.

The results reflected another increasingly familiar storyline, as once again PHC stood alone in qualifying the maximum number of eight teams for nationals (fourteen PHC teams actually qualified, but a maximum of eight can compete). The next closest competitor qualified six teams. In Arizona, seven of PHC's eight teams made it to the playoff rounds, and in the round of the top thirty-two teams in the nation, seven were from Patrick Henry. By the time PHC reached the semifinal round of four, two were from PHC.

"I hope this victory never becomes commonplace or assumed," said chancellor and moot court coach Mike Farris. "I spoke with Congressman Mark Meadows [father of champion Blake], who told me that in sharing [PHC's string of victories] with a fellow member of Congress who had done moot court in law school, the member told him that moot court is so subjective that this level of success



Members of the Patrick Henry College Moot Court Team just before leaving for the tournament

is practically unheard of.

"The competition is getting stronger every year," he noted, "and teams are certainly aiming at us."

*"I hope this victory never becomes commonplace or assumed."*

- Dr. Michael Farris

The PHC team of Claire Rossell and Cameron Etchart were semifinalists, and Ashlyn Olson and Jacob Van Ness (both freshmen) made it to the quarterfinals round.

Claire and Cameron also won second place in the respondent brief, and Joseph Samelson and Courtney Ngai won first place in the petitioner brief.

"One of the hurdles we faced," said Dr. Frank Guliuzza, co-coach of the moot team, "is that our teams were constantly hitting each other in the playoff rounds. In the Sweet Sixteen of the playoffs, the defending national champion, Katie Tipton, and her

partner, John Ehrett, hit this year's champions, Kayla and Blake."

"On the final day of competition we were in twenty-one rounds," added Dr. Farris. "We won fifteen and lost six, yet three of our losses occurred when a PHC team competed against another team from PHC. When PHC teams went up against other schools, we only lost three of eighteen matches. The strength of our program is not found merely in the top winner, but in the team's depth and breadth."

Of the College's stunning winning streak, Dr. Guliuzza says, "People have asked, 'What's the most meaningful part of the string of victories?' I guess, for me, seeing the looks on our students' faces on the podium is incredibly moving. But just as meaningful is when their parents come up afterwards and, with hugs and tears, thank us for the opportunity that PHC provides for their children. That truly blesses my heart." ★

## Final Results: How PHC Teams Placed

National Championship	Kayla Griesemer/Blake Meadows
Final Four	Claire Rossell/Cameron Etchart
The Elite Eight	Ashlyn Olson/Jacob Van Ness
The Sweet Sixteen	John Ehrett/Katie Tipton
The Top Thirty-two	Josh Schhow/Gregory Monk Samuel Johnson/Elizabeth Ertle
Petitioner Brief: First Place	Courtney Ngai/Joseph Samelson
Respondent Brief: Second Place	Cameron Etchart/Claire Rossell

# IT'S ABOUT THE STORY: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN JOURNALIST

By Dr. Les Sillars

Journalists sometimes joke that public approval surveys rank them just below car salesmen and just above pond scum. Given the slanted, inaccurate, and sensationalized coverage that characterizes too many media outlets, it's easy to see why many people are jaded and cynical about their news. Others worry that journalistic failures are damaging our democracy.

So when I talk to students who might be interested in studying journalism at Patrick Henry College, I explain what it means to be a journalist and a Christian, and why God might be calling them to the profession. Here is what I tell them:

Being a journalist is not about seeing your byline in print, or being famous because you're on TV. It's not about how many Twitter followers you collect or people waiting breathlessly for your take on the day's events. Holding powerful people accountable is important, but you are unlikely to bring down a sitting president.

Being a journalist, in short, is not about you; it's about the story. What's more, it's about honoring the Lord and serving society in a very particular way. You get to look around the world, try to see it as it really is, and then help other people see it clearly too.

That's why it is an incredibly fulfilling vocation. It's like a combination of novelist and historian. A novelist makes up characters and events, but his real goal is to show readers something true about themselves and their culture. Historians help people see the present in light of the past.

We have the incredible privilege of telling true stories about our society today. As *WORLD Magazine* editor-in-chief (and PHC faculty member) Marvin Olasky recently observed, we journalists have front-row seats at the circus. The least we can do is to let people know what's going on, and we can have a lot of fun along the way. What's more, at PHC we show you how to do this no matter where you work, whether at mainstream or Christian media outlets.

I tell prospective students that our proximity to Washington, DC, offers great internship opportunities, and I mention our Samuel Adams Scholarship for Journalism (see our Web site for details). I emphasize how PHC's extensive

core curriculum, with all that history and philosophy and literature and science, prepares students to think well and to understand our culture. And I make it clear that, while the industry is obviously going through a serious transition, young people with character, determination, and intelligence can still find significant positions in journalism.

Studying journalism at PHC might be a good fit even for students who can't see themselves in a newsroom. The journalist's most important skills are an ability to see the world clearly,

and to think and write clearly. Such skills are in high demand in many fields; PHC journalism graduates work in communications, public relations, technical writing, education analysis, and national security, among others.

I understood these things in a general way when I first arrived at PHC in 2002. In the years since, our students have helped me understand how our program really works.

When the students arrive on campus as freshmen, not many know they want to be journalists. They take Journalism I because they think being a reporter might be fun, or they like to write. For the first year they're trying to figure out how to write a concise sentence and what I mean by "biblical objectivity."

By the end of their sophomore year, a light goes on in their heads. Students have thought about the concepts and practiced their skills. They've tasted reporting through two semesters as staff on the student newspaper, the *Patrick Henry Herald*. Also, as they take history and literature and constitutional law, they begin to put it all together and realize how ideas and information help shape and move society.

Then they go off to an internship at *WORLD*, *The American Conservative*, the Heritage Foundation, or a local TV station. They come back with a sharper view of what they want to do, a realistic picture of what it takes to get there, and what God might be calling them to pursue. As one student told me last year, "For the first time I began to see journalism as something noble."

Journalism may never improve its public image, but students like this remind me that God has planned good works for us to do in newsrooms (and elsewhere) across the country. ★

*"Being a journalist ...  
is about honoring the  
Lord and serving  
society in a very  
particular way."*

- Dr. Les Sillars  
Professor of Journalism



## College Approves Four New Minors, Offers Flexibility

Patrick Henry College's administration recently approved the addition of four minors—Classics, Music, Pedagogy, and Philosophy—enabling students to add a minor to their major degree program. The change allowing students to take minor classes outside of their major degree area began last spring when Dr. Jackquelyn Veith, Assistant Professor of Education, saw an opportunity to expand and enhance the CLA major's classical disciplines.

"It's a fairly substantial change," said professor Veith. "It's really designed to give the students so much more flexibility and the ability to mix and match," she added, noting that the major expands the core curriculum to reflect a more conservative liberal arts tradition.

Before the CLA faculty submitted their changes to the administration, they met often to discuss what the core CLA courses should be, what the distribution of the credit load should look like, and how to define the purpose of the major. According to the new description, the CLA is a "rigorous interdisciplinary focus in the liberal arts, preparing (students) for graduate school, seminary, or the work force." The major is now characterized by a unifying core of five disciplines: history, classics, philosophy, biblical studies, and literature. After completion of the core and required CLA courses, students will still have twenty-four open credits, which they are encouraged to use toward completion of one of the new minors.



*Sophomore Matthew Boles learns to teach under Dr. Jackquelyn Veith in her Pedagogy class.*

"The shift had two goals: to create the appropriate linkages in the curriculum, also then to put it into a form that is recognizable to everyone," said Dr. Steven McCollum, who will head up the music minor. "Minors are something people feel familiar with."

Dr. Matthew Roberts will be heading up the philosophy minor, which he sees as both a valuable and natural extension of the CLA major.

"Any school whose ethos is both Christian and classical should offer a course of study in philosophy, given its central nature to all of the liberal arts," Roberts said. "Minoring in philosophy is a great means to sharper and deeper thinking in virtually any vocation."

The new minors will also expand the options available to the incoming students. Starting next academic year, there will be six majors and four minors.

"The breadth of the liberal arts makes the CLA major an obvious incubator for new minors, and, perhaps, new majors," Veith said.

Students are not required to minor, may choose only one minor, and may not minor in the discipline of their major. ★

*"This is really designed to give the students so much more flexibility and the ability to mix and match."*

*- Dr. Jackquelyn Veith*

## PHC to Host NCFCA Tournament This Summer

Patrick Henry College and the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA) have had a close relationship since before the College had accepted a single student. The College opened in 2000, but PHC's founder, Dr. Michael Farris, and his daughter, Christy Shipe, co-founded the original organization under the umbrella of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) in 1995.

The first NCFCA national tournament PHC hosted was in 2006, following the league's tenth anniversary. On June 9-13, 2014, that relationship will come full circle, as the College plans to welcome 450 high school students from forty-two states for NCFCA's 2014 national tournament.

"We saw right away the natural connection ... PHC and NCFCA have always had very similar missions and attracted similar students," Shipe said. "We want to expose our students to PHC, an excellent classical Christian liberal arts college we think would be a great fit for many of our members."

From their respective humble beginnings, PHC and NCFCA have each grown in size and influence. NCFCA became an independent organization, separate from HSLDA, and now serves more than 4,000 students nationwide.

"Each of the past six Moot Court National Champion teams from PHC has had at least one NCFCA alumnus," Farris said. "We're excited to host so many young leaders, and maintain the strong connection that we have with the NCFCA." ★

## Community Turns Out for *Expelled* Movie and Pensmore Preview

In support of the 2014 *Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith* at Patrick Henry (see page 6), nearly two hundred students, alumni, and members of the local community crowded into Patrick Henry College's Town Hall building in February to watch Ben Stein's *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. Introductory comments by Pensmore Foundation founder Steve Huff and Marketing Director Ralf Augstroze detailed conference goals and objectives while guests enjoyed complimentary pizza, soda, and snacks.

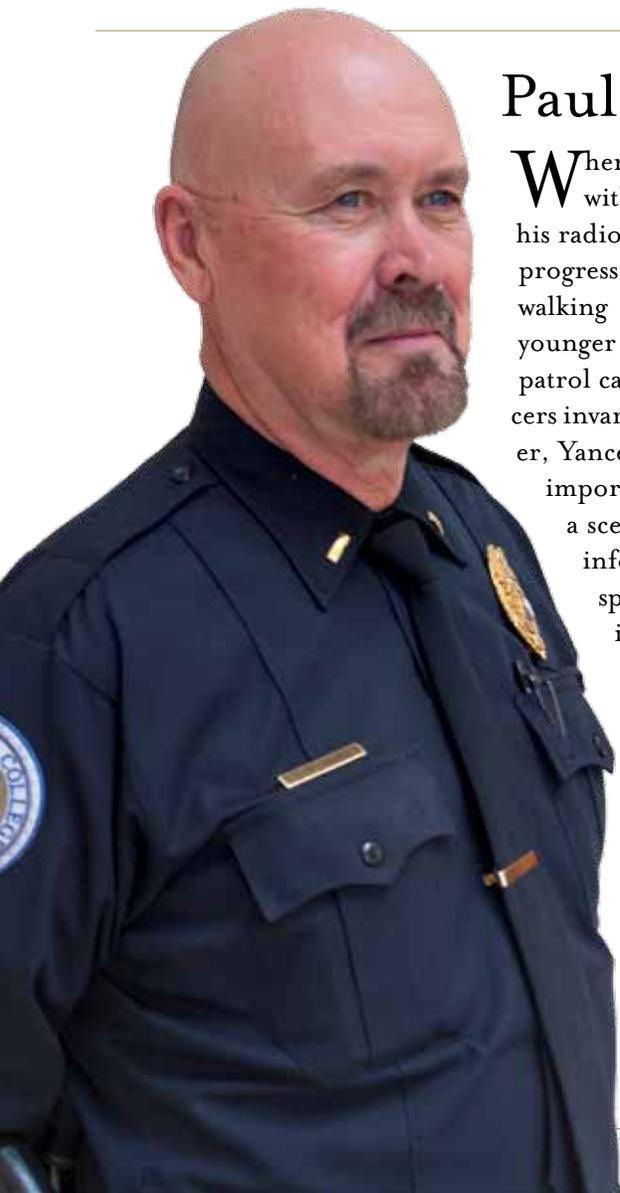
Huff, a retired intelligence software entrepreneur in the DC area, established the Pensmore conference to bring together the world's top thinkers to interpret some of the latest developments in scientific discovery from a biblical worldview. His passion reflects the College's mission to equip students, families, and Christians from all walks of life to understand the clear intersections of science and biblical truth.

"We were thrilled by the number of students and community members who joined us," said Director of Communi-



Steve Huff, founder of Pensmore, answering questions about the upcoming conference

cations David Halbrook. "The questions demonstrated a keen curiosity for the subject matter and a desire to dialogue about the connections between science and faith." ★



## Paul Yancey: Securing the Campus

When Paul Yancey worked with new police officers and his radio announced a robbery in progress, he always took his time walking to the parking lot while younger officers bolted for their patrol cars. When the young officers invariably questioned him later, Yancey patiently explained the importance of arriving safely at a scene with the best available information, rather than speeding ahead and arriving on a scene clueless as to what was happening.

Yancey brings twenty-eight years of experience to his new role as Security Lieutenant at Patrick Henry College. And while he hopes that nothing serious ever happens at the school, it's his job

to be prepared for any situation and use his law enforcement experience to help prepare others.

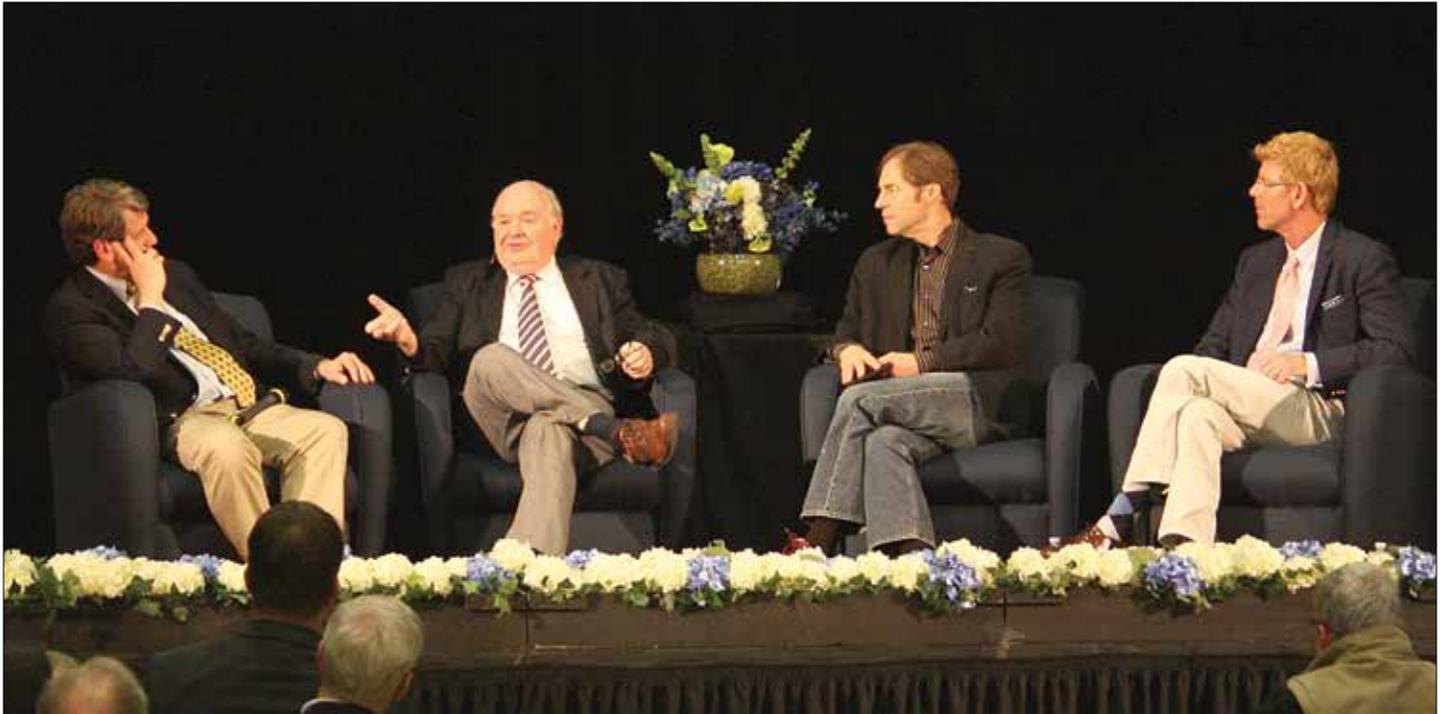
Studies have shown that the mere presence of armed security is often enough to deter criminal activity, so much of Yancey's job is to simply be a visible presence on campus. The College has also implemented minor changes like requiring certain outside doors to have key-card access.

"Most places are reactive," Yancey said. "But Patrick Henry is being proactive."

Yancey began his police career in the suburbs of Fort Lauderdale, working with road patrol and a tactical unit. He has also worked undercover, and recently was a member of a joint task force involving local law enforcement, federal marshals, and other agencies investigating several Columbian cartels running large-scale money-laundering and narcotics operations.

Yancey is a father of six children and grandfather of nine, and now resides with his wife, Cindy, and three of his kids in Stephens City, Virginia. Cindy is a nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit in Winchester, where the couple's three adopted children (two came from the foster care system) attend Shenandoah Valley Christian Academy. ★

Security Lieutenant Paul Yancey



Dr. Michael Farris interviews Dr. John Lennox, Dr. Stephen Meyer, and Dr. Jay Richards after their Friday evening sessions

## PENSMORE DIALOGUE MERGES WORLD-CLASS INSIGHTS ON ORIGINS, SCIENCE, AND FAITH

After months of preparation by PHC's staff and a team of students, over eight-hundred people from across the country packed the Patrick Henry College gymnasium on April 4 and 5 for the *Pensmore Dialogue on Science and Faith*.

Notable Christian speakers, including Oxford mathematics professor Dr. John Lennox, and authors Dr. Stephen Meyer and Dr. Jay Richards, wrestled with the origins of life and the roles of science and faith in the Christian life.

Throughout the conference, Twitter exploded with live-tweeting by attendees. Chancellor Michael Farris kicked off the event by clarifying that while the College welcomes conference speakers who hold a variety of views on the age of the earth, PHC science professors

*Dr. Stephen Meyer discusses intelligent design*

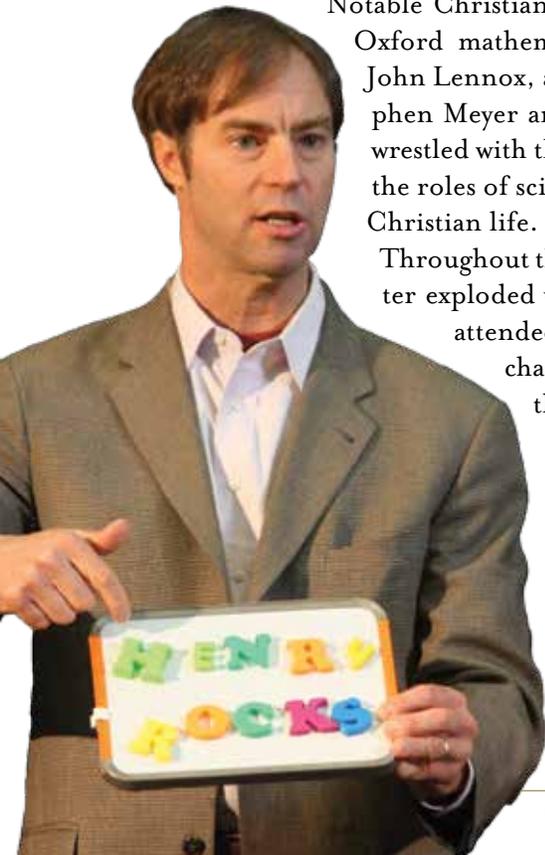
teach from a young earth perspective. Jay Richards began with a talk on why science matters to people of faith, and Dr. Lennox received standing ovations for his presentations entitled "Has Science Buried God?" and "Is God Necessary to Explain Life?"

"It is important in the current debate that Christians are characterized by thinking more rather than thinking less," Lennox said. "The idea of science on the one side and God on the other ... is dangerously false. What we're dealing with is a worldview conflict."

Lennox, along with Richards and Dr. Vern Poythress, emphasized that science has shifted drastically from the investigation of an orderly world, based on the idea of a designer, to a materialistic ideology bent on excluding God at all costs.

"A world of chaos does not lend itself to science," Poythress said, noting that scientists must have an ultimate idea of purpose to understand the created world. In his session entitled "The Return of the God Hypothesis," Dr. Stephen Meyer of the Discovery Institute used evolution's inability to explain the origin of the information in DNA to insist that "mutation and natural selection" are bad explanations for the origin of life and the universe."

The universe is impeccably fine-tuned for life, said



Richards, and our planet possesses an almost impossibly precise alignment of critical factors necessary for habitability, including a stabilizing moon, plate tectonics, an exquisitely calibrated atmosphere, even a galaxy turning in flawless cosmic time. "If the earth were just slightly different, no life would be here," he said.

Nearly twenty pastors from all backgrounds attended a special Friday session on empowering scientifically literate congregations, while ninety high school and college students enjoyed a special session with Dr. Robert Spitzer, Dr. Michael Kucks, and Dr. Michael Tenneson, who encouraged students to equip themselves to confront teachers and friends who try to disprove God with science.

"I know it takes guts to respond to a teacher, but when they make a theological statement, it's your right to respond," said Spitzer, president of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith.

Special Saturday breakout sessions saw Dr. Farris and Dr. Meyer jointly exploring how the teaching of intelligent

design in schools impacts public policy. And renowned physics professor Guillermo Gonzalez presented the latest research on the earth's habitability.

In "Evidence for the Supernatural from Human Consciousness," Dr. Robert Spitzer cited intrinsic human values and shared medical research on near-death

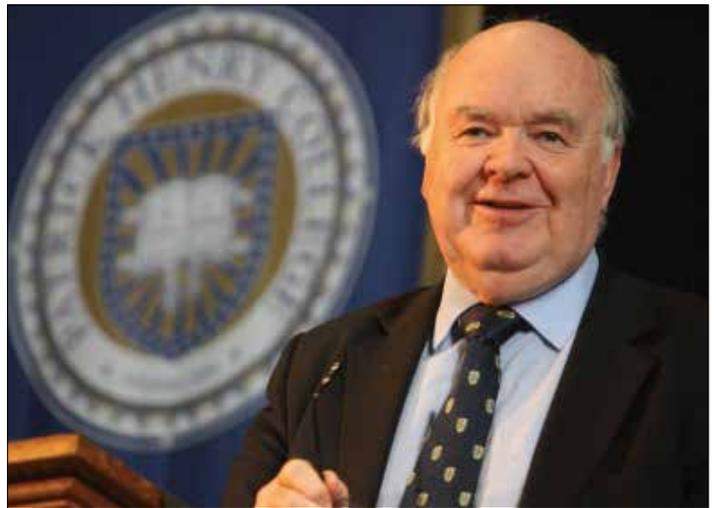
experiences suggesting that humans are genuinely spiritual beings. Many attendees left the conference built up in their faith.

"The Pensmore Dialogue was a fantastic opportunity to hear first-class speakers," said PHC junior Rachel Aldrich. "I was mentally stretched and challenged with every speaker. I'm really hoping we can host this event again."

Lennox closed the conference by emphasizing that evidence for a "designer" God is not only viable, it's the best explanation for the miraculously ordered physical world we inhabit.

"'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' is one of the most famous statements in history," Lennox said. "Those words are as powerful and meaningful today as they ever have been." ★

*Top to bottom: Dr. John Lennox; Dr. Vern Poythress and Dr. Jay Richards answer questions; Full gym listens to conference; Special Student Session with Dr. Robert Spitzer*





Luis Palau (left) and two of his sons, Andrew and Kevin

## A Savory Banquet of Ideas

# Newsmakers Interview Series

Spring semester at PHC brought a host of powerful speakers to the *Newsmakers Interview Series*, providing students one-of-a-kind encounters with renowned leaders, international evangelists, political activists, and bestselling authors. Along with global evangelists Luis Palau and David Jeremiah, Marvin Olasky interviewed Christian publisher Marvin Padgett, founder and president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers Reggie Littlejohn, Jennifer Marshall of the Heritage Foundation, and Natasha Srdoc and Joel Anand Samy, co-founders of the Adriatic Institute for Public Policy.

In January, Mark Meckler, founder of the Tea Party Patriots, discussed how his journey toward faith coincided with Tea Party movement's rise. As a young law school graduate, Meckler's bitter divorce sparked a desire to "seek something bigger." After remarrying, the politically conservative Meckler successfully coordinated some of the fledgling Tea Party's early

rallies and found among his fellow activists a sense of unity amidst diversity. "We were all holding up the same signs, telling the government to 'get off our backs,'" Meckler said.

It was his interaction with Tea Party Christians—"powerful people personally unaffected by their own power"—that slowly revealed to him the power of prayer and God's guidance, until finally "it made more sense to believe than not believe. God led me to that place."

Meckler now partners with Dr. Michael Farris on the Convention of States project.

Pastor Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, testified in strained English to the strength of suffering Chinese Christians. Raised in an impoverished village, he dreamed of achieving equality but, alongside millions of his countrymen, experienced only brutal

ensorship and oppression from the Chinese government. Narrowly escaping the Tiananmen Square massacre as a student protester, he contemplated suicide, but "God had a

much better purpose," he shared. When another student gave him a Christian biography, he committed his life to Christ, after which "even the birds started singing at me."

Ruthlessly persecuted, he escaped to America in 2002 and founded ChinaAid to provide legal, physical, and spiritual assistance

to persecuted Christians. "Americans do not truly understand their freedom," he said.

In February, world-renowned evangelist Dr. Luis Palau and sons, Kevin and Andrew, joined Marvin Olasky to discuss the growth of Dr. Palau's international ministry, the state of

*"I personally have great hope that if we get people to stick with the scriptures, we will see great growth in church in the USA."*

- Luis Palau

Christianity around the world, and the challenges of growing up as sons of a famous preacher. The Argentinian-born Palau has shared the gospel with over thirty million people and his ministry, the Luis Palau Association, has reached over one billion people.

Palau was “awakened to evangelism” after losing his father at age ten. “I realized the importance of eternal life,” he said. “I wanted to lead as many people to God as I could.”

As a young man attending seminary in the US, an internship with Billy Graham (“He was my hero”) led Palau to launch his own international ministry by forging church-city relationships and holding ever-expanding crusades to share Jesus in city parks.

“I personally have great hope that if we get people to stick with the scriptures, we will see great growth in church in the USA,” he concluded.

Best-selling author and pastor Dr. David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point Ministries, detailed the prayer and discipline he has developed, and which is required, to pastor a megachurch, fulfill familial obligations and creatively use his enormous influence to reach the world with the gospel. “The Word of God is the most balanced diet you can give to someone,” Jeremiah said. “If the Bible’s boring, it’s because we make it boring.”

With ties to over 8,000 churches in America, more than twenty books in print, and radio and television programs reaching millions, Jeremiah says he works to avoid the pitfalls of mass consumerism. “If we’re not careful, we’re just franchising things—losing the intimacy that should be had in a church,” Jeremiah said.

He explained how he has grown Turning Point into a publishing and media juggernaut, utilizing a team of editors to turn his sermons into books and radio programming,

*Dr. David Jeremiah*

while cultivating an international network of churches for crusades and events. “You have to find the right people to delegate,” Jeremiah said. “I cannot fail as a teacher; it is my greatest priority.”

He recalled how, early on, he learned to prioritize family after his wife called him on his workaholic tendencies. Thereafter, even as a prominent preacher in high demand, he attended every one of his two sons’ college football games—flying across the country to do so.

February’s Newsmakers concluded with Cynthia Wenz, president and CEO of The Source for Women, who shared a riveting testimony of how



*Dr. Olashy and Mark Meckler (top), Bob Fu (left) and Cynthia Wenz (right)*

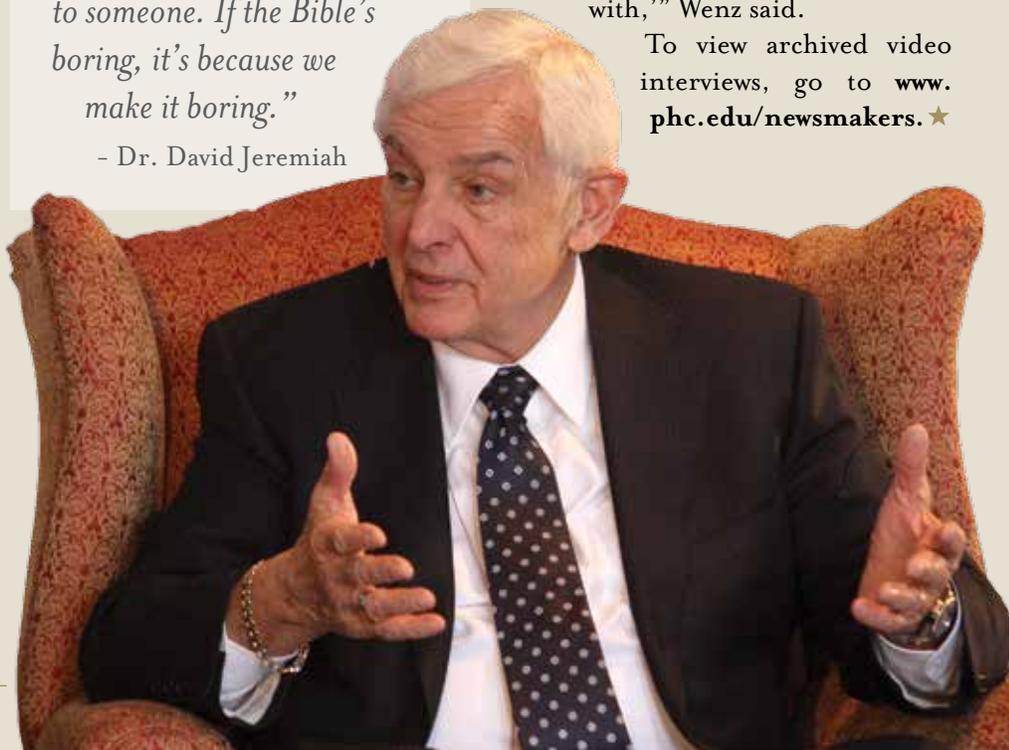
she became an impassioned pro-life leader after having undergone three abortions herself. Eight years after walking into The Source for Women as a client, she is now president and CEO and the mother of three boys.

“I say to women, ‘Consider what’s being left in the dark, because it’s what’s in the light that has been dealt with,’” Wenz said.

To view archived video interviews, go to [www.phc.edu/newsmakers](http://www.phc.edu/newsmakers). ★

*“... The Word of God is the most balanced diet you can give to someone. If the Bible’s boring, it’s because we make it boring.”*

*- Dr. David Jeremiah*



## Ben Snodgrass— a “Watchman” on the Wall of Texas Politics

On a Tuesday evening last May, as he worked on a college paper and skimmed his e-mails, PHC junior Ben Snodgrass took a short break to distract himself with what might only interest a PHC government major: he started reading Texas legislative bills—for fun. A Texas native, Snodgrass was a member of the Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) “Watchmen,” a team of six homeschooled graduates who committed five months during the Texas legislative session toward protecting Texas homeschoolers from laws that could undermine families and parental rights.

The Watchmen had meticulously tracked, reviewed—and often feverishly worked to kill—more than 9,000 bills with potential to impact homeschooling or parental rights. One particularly egregious bill, Senate Bill 768—which would have levied exorbitant legal costs on families defending themselves from Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) and allowed family-hostile international laws to influence Texas courts—had thankfully died in committee a few days earlier. Yet when Snodgrass casually pulled up SB 768 on his computer that night, it had inexplicably leaped back to life. What’s worse, it was up for a vote the next morning.

*“We learned that God uses the little guys to take down the giants.”*

– Ben Snodgrass

Almost instantly, the Watchmen went on red alert to kill the bill, cleverly concealed on the Legislature’s Local and Consent calendar, where supposedly non-controversial bills are sent for quick approval. In prior heated discussions with SB 768’s sponsor, however, the Watchmen learned why a deeply flawed bill that would have harmed thousands of families was being pushed stealthily along. Warts and all, it was worth \$2 million in federal money to Texas’ CPS.

The Watchmen quickly targeted lawmakers they hoped might have the courage to challenge Texas protocol, spent the morning canvassing the Texas capitol, and found a willing champion in Representative Jonathan Stickland. The freshman legislator spoke forcefully against the bill on the House floor and was instrumental not only in postponing a vote, but in rallying other representatives to the cause and killing the bill for good.

In its newsletter, the Texas Homeschool Coalition attributed the bill’s death to “an act of God,” crediting



Snodgrass (second from the right) with other Texas Watchmen

Snodgrass for going “above and beyond the call of duty, checking dead bills in the middle of the night when he wasn’t expected to be working. If he hadn’t, we wouldn’t have discovered that SB 768 was still alive until it was too late to take any action.”

Snodgrass has always been fascinated by politics and driven by the idea of defending families and protecting those who are unable to speak for themselves.

“I see God’s desire to protect the weak and the innocent,” he said, “and that heart for justice is something I’ve developed over the years.”

Before the Watchmen had even chosen a name, he recalls how his homeschooled colleagues were inspired by Isaiah 62:6: “On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest.”

Snodgrass was on the first team of Texas Watchmen, but their success prompted an annual internship. The THSC recently received so many applications that it implemented a rigorous screening process to select the best and brightest.

“We learned that God uses the little guys to take down the giants,” Snodgrass said. “It’s neat to see how an organization that’s faithful to the Lord and to doing what is right can make such a difference.” ★

## Teresa Scanlan—Refocusing on What’s Important

In the Nebraska History Museum’s Miss America exhibit are telling artifacts from PHC sophomore Teresa Scanlan’s last seven years of life: the beaded white gown she wore at age seventeen, when she became the youngest Miss America since 1937; the jelly-strap shoes she wore to pageants at age thirteen, and a bouquet of duct tape flowers from an Ohio duct tape festival.

But as local politicians lauded her beauty and potential, Scanlan wrestled with conflicted thoughts about the price of success.

*Is my whole life going to have to be trying to fill this museum with more accomplishments?* she wondered. *I don’t want to live another day if I’m constantly striving to reach the next rung on the ladder.*

As she began to transition from national celebrity to PHC college freshman, post-traumatic stress began to set in. The pressure of maintaining her public life by traveling most weekends while balancing the rigorous academic demands at PHC brought Scanlan to a crisis point.

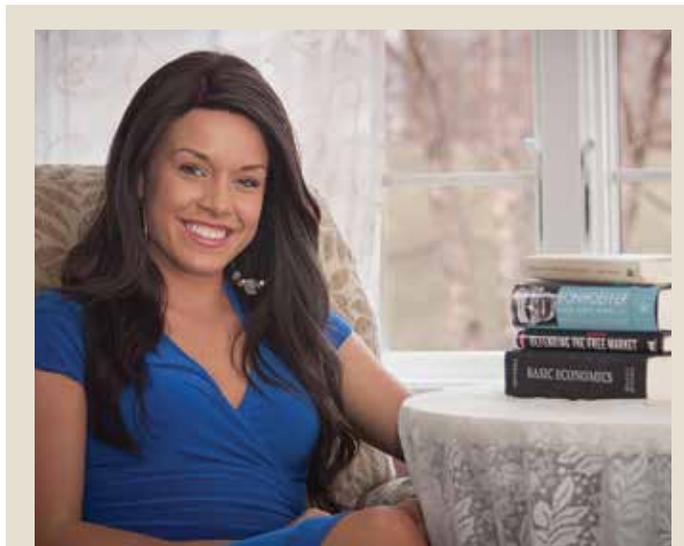
To maintain her grades, she pulled eight all-nighters in her first fall semester and two more in the spring. With every test and paper, she fought an overwhelming fear of letting everybody down.

“For the first part of the year I had been ... trying to handle everything myself, and it got worse and worse,” Scanlan recalls. “The depression was really bad, and the anxiety got horrible ... Every week this past year, I was thinking of quitting.”

In March of 2013, midway through her second semester, she talked about her depression to her parents and reached out for help. For the first time in two years, she realized she had friends she could trust and that she needed to rely on God and the community of believers.

“I’ve opened up about things this past year that I never, never had, to anybody,” Scanlan said. “There’s something about [the PHC] community that fosters that: there’s no judgment, there’s help, support, and encouragement ... March [of 2013] was the very lowest point of my life, and I’m grateful to God to say it’s been uphill from there.”

Last fall she decided to take a semester off and “tie up loose



*“I’m finally realizing that all that matters is that I please my God.”*

– Teresa Scanlan

ends” so that she could focus on school in the spring. During that semester she pursued her physical trainer certification, took Croatian and piano, and fulfilled a number of traveling and speaking engagements.

She also invested in another passion—Haiti. In March of 2012, Scanlan’s Croatian uncle invited Teresa to serve at the orphanage he had founded in Haiti.

“I thought, ‘I’ll go there for a week, help with this fundraiser, and be done,’” she said. “Instead I went down there and it completely changed my life ... and I came back incredibly on fire.”

She stayed two weeks over Christmas and New Year’s and met forty-six kids housed at the orphanage, ranging from ages one to 16. “You fall in love with every single one,” she said.

Last December, Scanlan and her three sisters were able to go back to Haiti together. They also received 501(c)3 status for their Haiti-focused charity, Hearts Inside Out. The charity focuses on supporting the orphan ministries that she and her sisters have visited and helping families with adoption costs.

Her spring 2014 semester at PHC has brought a number of changes, and in some ways, a fresh start. She has moved on campus, slowed her travel schedule to focus more on school, and rediscovered her discipline for daily spiritual refreshment. “I’m slowly learning to slow down, to relax, and to stop worrying and stressing. I’m starting to learn to trust God more and more each day,” she said.

“It’s so encouraging to say to the Lord, ‘I’m clay in Your hands, and I’m going to do whatever You wish for me.’ I’m no longer going to try to keep achieving and achieving for the sake of praise, accolades, and not disappointing other people,” Scanlan said.

“People may be disappointed if I graduate PHC and don’t go to law school and instead decide to be a missionary in Haiti—which I’m actually strongly considering at this point. And they might say, ‘You could have been President’ and ‘You could have done this,’ but I’m finally realizing that all that matters is that I please my God.” ★

# Trusting in God—Americans in Korea

Carissa Davis and Rebecca Hobbs ran their hands along the Seoul Fortress Wall, built in 1396. They were awed to see and touch and experience something so ancient. They walked alongside the wall, then walked on top of it, continuing their pursuit of the mountain ahead of them. As they arrived at the top, they watched the sun set while listening to the squawking magpies and taking in the beauty as Korean hikers admired the view alongside them.

“Some things don’t need words to be shared,” they wrote on their blog, [www.twofriendsinkorea.wordpress.com](http://www.twofriendsinkorea.wordpress.com). “[We] were overwhelmed with the same thought: ‘We’re really here. We’re really watching the sun set over the Korean mountains.’ There are no other words.”

Davis and Hobbs both graduated from PHC in May of 2013 with classical liberal arts degrees. Both chose to attend PHC because of its high academic standard paired with its emphasis on equipping students to glorify God in everything they do. And both credit PHC with deepening their relationship with God while teaching them to think and express opinions more eloquently.

During their senior year, they applied to work with Teach for America, but reached a closed door. Teach for America subsequently sent out various e-mails regarding partnership opportunities around the world, which Davis saved in her inbox just in case. Through her last months of college she only opened one e-mail, which told of an opportunity to teach in South Korea. Davis applied, was interviewed, and signed the contract with them. She encouraged Hobbs to pray about the opportunity, which led her to also sign a contract.

In early September of 2013, they flew to Seoul on a Saturday, had a few hours of classroom training on Sunday, and began teaching on Monday. In Korea, kids are

in school from 9:00 a.m. to between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Part of their day involves attending an after-school

program called a hagawon, which offers lessons in Taekwondo, swimming, and music, as well as math tutoring and a variety of other programs. Both Davis and Hobbs arrive at the school at 9:00 a.m. and teach in the classroom until 7:00 p.m.

The biggest obstacle either has faced is simple communication in their new environment. Most Koreans understand English, but are not able to speak it in return. On weekends Davis and Hobbs are taking lessons in Korean, well known as one of the top five most difficult languages for Westerners to learn.

Although they are becoming more familiar with the language, there are days where they crave familiarity and desperately want to see something in English, be able to walk into a restaurant and know what’s being served, or walk up to a

stranger on the street, talk to them, and mutually understand each other. Once everything familiar was pulled away, they realized there was nothing left but to trust in God.

“I underestimated what it would feel like to be a stranger in a strange land,” Davis wrote on their blog. “But God is letting me live a life of faith. I understand so much more what it means to be an alien and stranger. For the first time, I am truly *different* from those around me.”

Although communication is sometimes difficult, they have made friends, attend a Bible study, go to the movies, and enjoy exploring “historical places and museums.” They spent their Christmas break in Thailand, both in Bangkok and on an island, and are planning a trip to China and Japan.

“I can’t believe this life I’m living,” Davis wrote on their blog. “I don’t deserve this God or this love. But He gives because He delights to give, not for deserving.” ★



Rebecca Hobbs and Carissa Davis in Korea

*“I understand so much more what it means to be an alien and stranger. For the first time, I am truly different from those around me.”*

– Carissa Davis

# New Horizons for PHC Teen Leadership Camp 2014

Beginning this past fall, Teen Leadership Camps 2014 got a facelift. As this summer's camp season (June 15–August 2) draws near, Teen Camps director Stephen Williams can't wait to unveil some exciting changes. For one, Teen Camps has a new interactive Web site, designed by PHC alumna Jennifer Olmstead (Journalism, '08) and is blessed with a new scholarship fund. This year applicants can write an essay, submit a reference letter from a pastor or teacher, and apply for a scholarship online and receive need-based aid.

As of mid-March, registration had increased forty-five percent from last year, says Williams, who is excited as well about a new literature camp—Journey to Middle-Earth. As the name suggests, it focuses on J.R.R. Tolkien's works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and is taught by PHC literature professor Dr. Steven Hake. Campers will discuss themes of sac-

rifice, redemption, and courage, and will study the weapons and poetry discovered within Middle-Earth.

Many of the old favorite camps, like Constitutional Law and Drama Camp, are returning this year. Speech camp has also been revamped, including a name change to "Public Speaking Camp." Rather than appeal solely to competitive speakers, the camp will concentrate on public speaking as an outreach opportunity appealing to all skill levels.

In Williams' second year as director, he says he's excited to incorporate a deeper knowledge of teen camp logistics, a diverse integration of social media, and the camps' always robust core spiritual dynamics into an even more academically and spiritually enriching summer program.

For more information or to register, visit the Teen Camps Web site at [www.phc.edu/teencamps](http://www.phc.edu/teencamps). ★



Steven Williams in DC during the 2013 Teen Camps

Photo courtesy of Teen Camps FB



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