

FOR CHRIST & FOR LIBERTY

# The Trumpet of Liberty

The Newsletter for Patrick Henry College

Volume 9, Number 1



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*"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."* Colossians 1:17



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## From the Chancellor



Michael Farris

As I walked through the nearly completed Barbara Hodel Center in early August during preparations for the start of fall classes, I could hardly contain my emotions and

sense of joy and gratitude at what the Lord had done on our campus.

In less than a decade, He has provided us with an elegant collection of wonderful buildings and facilities to help us train a generation of Christian men and women, who we pray will one day lead our nation and shape our culture with fidelity to Christ, his Word, and our founding principles.

I also cannot begin to express our thankfulness to you, the many thousands of PHC friends and supporters whom our Lord has moved to bring us to this point in our history. During the dedication for the beautiful new Barbara Hodel Center, one of our current students put into words during her address my deep sense of gratitude.

She spoke from the book of Nehemiah, recalling how, during the building of the walls of Jerusalem, God used many servants with different skills and capacities to accomplish His great work. It is no different here. God has not called one or two, but thousands from across the nation to help accomplish this work for His glory.

As we prepare to enter our second decade I would like to ask you to continue to pray for us as an institution. We stand at this critical crossroads in our history, in large part, because of your prayers and financial support.

As we move forward, we depend for each and every step on God and your continued faithfulness.

## From the President



Graham Walker

It was my blessing to be among the small group of friends who gave Barbara and Don Hodel their first tour of the beautiful campus life center that bears her name. The sparkling smile on her face throughout told me all I needed to know. Second only

to the day that we opened our doors, the dedication of the Barbara Hodel Center was the most important day in the young history of Patrick Henry College.

This new building has already transformed our campus on many levels. Not only do we have additional, modern classroom and office space, we now have a well-equipped, collegiate-level athletic facility that will allow our students to develop physically, not just academically and spiritually, throughout the years. An elegant student coffee lounge modeled after a French bistro provides a stylish café in which our students can meet, study, and socialize. And of course the multi-purpose gymnasium and adjoining fitness room has already been put to strenuous, gleeful use by our men's basketball team, staff, students, faculty, and even members of the surrounding community.

With its spacious dining commons, handsome bookstore, music and rehearsal rooms, mail-room and information technology quarters, The Barbara Hodel Center rounds out the important components of the college experience. This stunning, classically-styled, 106,000 square-foot crown jewel of our growing College will continue to be a hub of campus life for years to come.

The Lord Jesus Himself has provided for us on so many levels and we are thankful for every prayer and gift given from the heart throughout these memorable foundational years. As we look toward our second decade, we continue to pray for the Lord's provision and direction. As we trust Him, I believe He will continue to bless this remarkable enterprise in Christian higher education anchored in God's inerrant word.

## HODEL CENTER DEDICATION A TRIBUTE TO A BELOVED FRIEND



Honoree Barbara Hodel

As Barbara Hodel sat in the front row of a packed gymnasium with her husband, Don, Patrick Henry College President Dr. Graham Walker began the glowing tribute of a woman whose early, ardent support he said helped sustain the college through its first decade. Having cut the ribbon to dedicate PHC nearly 10 years earlier, Mrs. Hodel watched Saturday's proceedings from her wheel-



**Top:** Students and alumni stand for special benediction. **Bottom:** A near capacity crowd listens to Dr. Dobson's address.

chair, two years after a fall in her home left her paralyzed. Yet it was the spirit of a woman Dr. Farris described as "spunky and delightful" that defined an afternoon given over to song, prayer and testimonies of God's faithfulness.

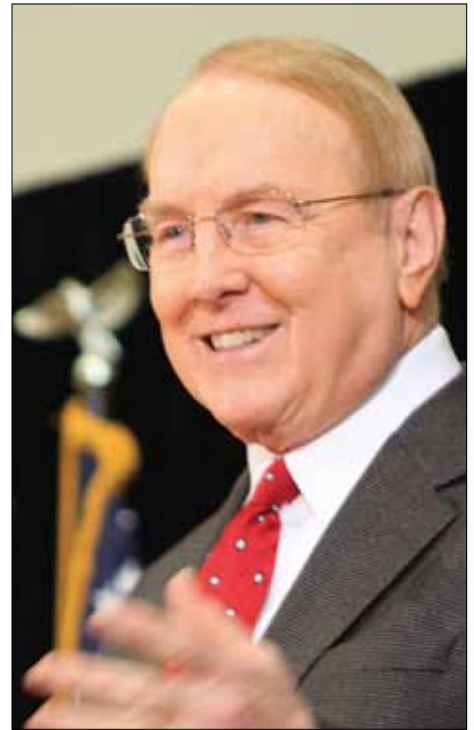
On hand to celebrate Mrs. Hodel and the completion of the \$33-million Center bearing her name were some 1,000 students, alumni, families, and guests gathered to bear witness to her life. College founder and Chancellor Dr. Michael Farris noted Mrs. Hodel's "wealth of experience in leadership positions" as integral to the College's early success, but said it was her personal courage following her injury that proved most inspirational.

"The reason this building is named after Barbara is because of what I saw that day in the hospital," Dr. Farris recalled. "She had a breathing tube, and yet there was joy radiating from her countenance. I hope her spirit will speak to our students in the years to come—to love God, to have faith in God, when the storms of life come."

Introducing the special keynote speaker, the Chancellor credited Dr. James Dobson's early books and broadcasts with his decision with wife Vickie to pursue homeschooling in 1982. "Dr. Dobson told America that God has something to say in every part of our lives," he said.

In a 30-minute address, Dr. Dobson recounted his life and ministry and acknowledged the heroes of his faith, among them Don and Barbara Hodel. Don, who served as Secretary of Energy and Secretary of the Interior under President Reagan, came to Focus on the Family in 2003 to serve as an unpaid president and CEO.

Addressing the Hodels, Dobson said, "I've watched the two of you and your



Dr. Dobson pays tribute to Barbara Hodel.

love for each other. Through the hardships you've not yielded to despair but hung on to each other."

Dobson next spoke pointedly to PHC students and alumni about God's call on their lives.

"Who will answer the call?" he asked, recounting his father's youthful resistance to God's explicit call to ministry. Noting how his father later embarked on a flourishing preaching ministry, Dobson cautioned against the tragedy of turning a deaf ear to God's calling.

Citing the death of his friend, evangelist D. James Kennedy, Dobson asked who among today's youth would fill the shoes of a passing generation of spiritual giants.

"Who in the next generation will be willing to take the heat," he asked, "when it's so much safer and more comfortable to avoid controversial subjects? Who will call sin by its name and lead the nation to holiness? We have a wonderful heritage, and may God help the younger generation carry on the work of their forebearers."

# Hodel Center Architecture

*Combining Classical elegance with America's founding*

Inspecting the new Barbara Hodel Center in late September, Patrick Henry College President Dr. Walker pointed out features intended to exemplify “in its very mortar and brick” the College’s ties to America’s founding principles and its spiritual mission for Christ.

The building’s elegant look and motif is anchored in a stately, early American theme with classical brush strokes that were eleventh-hour additions by internationally known classical architect Daniel Lee. Commissioned in 2007 to

incorporate new classical elements, Lee added features calculated to evoke God’s transcendence and the ideal of truth.

“We’re trying to recreate the original American collegiate ideal,” Dr. Walker explained. “We are a college of classical Christian learning trying to revive a tradition that has, at specific times and places in history, mirrored the beauty of God’s creation and His eternal Truth through architecture. It is an ethic that seeks through classical design to point the heart and mind toward the heavens.”

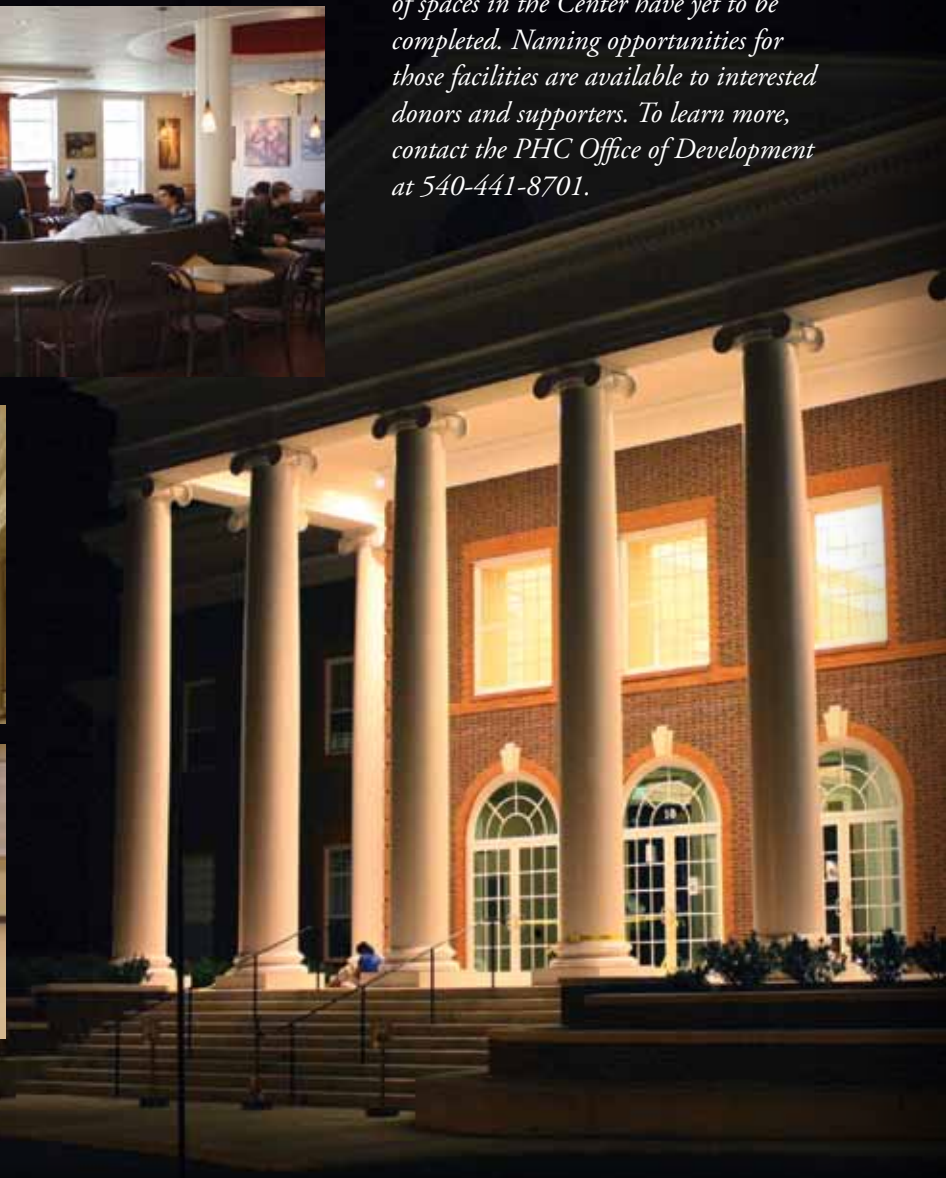
The Hodel Center incorporates

Greco-Roman features such as decorative corner *quoins*, Palladium windows, cambers crowning portico columns, and a dramatic Grand Lobby whose gracefully arcing ceiling includes a massive skylight shaft and etched inscriptions from Jeremiah 9 and 1 Corinthians 1: *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; Let not the mighty glory in his might; But let him who glories glory in the Lord.*

*While the Barbara Hodel Center was built without debt, through the generosity of a major donor family, a number of spaces in the Center have yet to be completed. Naming opportunities for those facilities are available to interested donors and supporters. To learn more, contact the PHC Office of Development at 540-441-8701.*



Dr. Walker describes Hodel Center’s classical features; the coffee bistro opens for business; the Grand Lobby; the music rehearsal room



## Political Theory Prof Invigorated by Princeton Fellowship

Freshly returned from his year-long James Madison Research Fellowship at Princeton University, Dr. Mark Mitchell (Director of PHC's Political Theory track) delivered the semester's faith and reason lecture: *Grateful Creature, Ungrateful Gods*. While away last year, he completed one book, with another underway, and organized an academic colloquium. Look for the release next year of Mitchell's co-edited book—*The Humane Vision of Wendell Berry*, a collection of essays from 16 writers, published with ISI Books. His other new book, *The Politics of Gratitude: Scale, Place, and Community in the Age of Obama*, will follow thereafter.



Mark Mitchell during the panel discussion of this year's Faith and Reason lecture.

## French Bar Another Milestone for PHC's Dr. Montgomery

After two years of studying French law in the French language, Dr. John Warwick Montgomery this summer passed examinations to be admitted to the Paris bar.

For an English barrister admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, this milestone stands as yet another highlight in a formidable body of achievement. PHC's Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Christian Thought passed the bar—a four-hour written examination and three oral examinations before three-person juries—on the first attempt.

“There is nothing like bar examinations to encourage reliance on the Lord,” he said.

The admission ceremony took place at the magnificent Court of Appeals in the Paris Palais de Justice, which from the sixteenth century to the French Revolution was the seat of French Parliament.

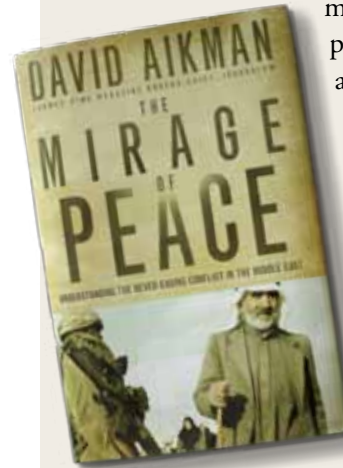


Dr. John Warwick Montgomery

Photo courtesy of John Warwick Montgomery

## Dr. Aikman's Middle East primer hits bookshelves

Standing in a patch of bombed-out Lebanon in 2007, surveying the wreckage around him, Dr. David Aikman pulled out a video camera to record the damage left by Israelis during the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War. Within 30 seconds, a young man materialized at his elbow. In polite, friendly English, he asked Aikman who he was and what he was doing.



“Ultimately, this Hezbollah agent let me keep my camera,” shares Dr. Aikman. “Once he was assured that I was a college professor, not a member of the CIA or the Mossad (Israeli intelligence agency), he eased up.”

Aikman's many travels about the turbulent Middle East in the past 30 years prompted publisher, Regal, in 2007 to ask the former TIME Magazine senior correspondent and PHC history professor to write a comprehensive overview of the region as a way to give average citizens insight about a complex area of the world. The result is *The Mirage of Peace: Understanding the Never-Ending Conflict in the Middle East*, Aikman's tenth book, released in August.

“[Dr. Aikman's] analysis makes a genuine contribution to our understanding of the political, cultural, and religious conflict in that troubled part of the world,” says PHC Provost Dr. Gene Edward Veith.

### Other professional contributions made by PHC faculty include:

PHC Chancellor Dr. Michael Farris has written extensively about the threat to parental rights posed by possible ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The September issue of *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity* features two contributions from PHC faculty. Dr. Mark Mitchell's article, “Education Normal,” and Dr. Les Sillars's book review, “Durable Divinity.”

WorldNetDaily published a column entitled “Molested by the State,” by Dr. Stephen Baskerville, Associate Professor of Government.

## Emma Elliott

Class of 2005

Since graduating from Patrick Henry College in 2005, Government: Public Policy major Emma Elliott has enjoyed a position at Concerned Women for America as well as brief stints living and working abroad in both Berlin and Brussels. A dual citizen of Holland and the U.S., Elliot now works as an English-language editor at the Dutch corporate headquarters of a large international financial institution. She enjoys a beautiful, 15-minute stroll each morning through a lovely little park in the medieval city center of Utrecht to get to her office. But what excites Elliott most



Emma Elliott

Photo courtesy of Emma Elliott

about her life right now is her involvement with Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), the largest political party in Holland.

Holland's CDA is a "centre-right" party that, according to descriptions online, encourages separation of societal power between

state, the market, and social institutions such as the church, as well as other policies such as stewarding the environment and limiting rights to abortion and euthanasia.

"Right now, I'm participating in a book group that meets twice a week to discuss Augustine, Erasmus, and other writers who were influential in Dutch

political history," says Elliot. "I suspect many Americans would be surprised to hear that Dutch students and young professionals are reading de Tocqueville and grappling with the question of the role of government."

During her years at PHC, Elliott encountered many of the conservative authors she is now seeing brought to life in Dutch politics. She also participated in moot court and debate, learning, in her words, "analytical skills and an attention to detail which I draw on every day at my job." Even more, however, she developed a core cadre of friends who still provide her support.

Patrick Henry College graduates like Elliott are continuing to spread the wisdom of Christ and the knowledge of centuries across the world—one conversation at a time.

## Caleb & Kirsten Dalton

Classes of 2008 and 2007

Last fall, new husband and 2008 LPHC Government graduate Caleb Dalton directed over 1000 young volunteers around the country for Generation Joshua's (GenJ's) Student Action Teams. Now Dalton has recently moved to Virginia Beach with his wife, Kirsten, and new daughter, Rachel Anne, in order to attend law school at Regent University.

Dalton knew from his early teens that he was interested in Constitutional law—especially the First Amendment. In his words, he "considered other options, but always came back to that." He competed in moot court and debate at PHC.

Kirsten, a Classical Liberal Arts: Education major, partnered with him in both types of public speaking competi-

tions. The Daltons' story unfolds as a beautiful tale of love. After four semesters of walking in the same friend circles and serving alongside each other in various ministries, they started officially courting when Kirsten was a senior and Caleb a junior. They starred opposite each other in an original musical adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities* that Kirsten wrote for PHC's Eden Troupe. The two married the day before Dalton's graduation.

The two Daltons share a vision for God and family. A talented writer, Kirsten has put personal ambitions on hold for a season. "When I've reached the end of my life and look back," she says, "I want to rejoice because my children are walking in truth, because my husband has been able to fulfill the calling God has on his life, and because



Photo courtesy of the Daltons

Caleb, Kirsten and Rachel Anne Dalton

I have come to love God more than I did when I began."

Typically, the Daltons chose Regent University for solid reasons: its Christian worldview, a location close to Kirsten's family, and finances. Also, says Caleb, "the American Center for Law and Justice has an office in the [Regent law] building, and I would like to work for them one day."

# DOING HARD THINGS

*Alex and Brett Harris balance the rigors of PHC against the demands of The REBELUTION*

By Cate Pilgrim

For the third year in a row, Alex and Brett Harris are leading The REBELUTION—their term for rebelling against the low expectations society imposes on teenagers. Two years after the publication of their best-selling book, *Do Hard Things*, the twin brothers recently completed a five-city REBELUTION tour across the

United States, hosting conferences challenging thousands of Christian teens to combat the idea that adolescence is a vacation from responsibility.

Now back in Purcellville, approaching the halfway mark of a hectic sophomore year at PHC, the Harris twins remain energized by the summer's excitement.

“At each conference, the atmosphere was charged in a special way—God’s spirit was so evident,” recalls Brett.

Their fellow students might seem a little puzzled: why spend weekends studying West-

ern Literature when you could be traveling the world speaking to crowds? The Harris twins harbor no such misgivings.

“There may seem to be a tension between ministry and school, but it’s a short term vs. long term dichotomy,” said Brett. “We need to keep a long term perspective so we can continue to bear fruit for God throughout our lives. Honestly, for us, there’s a feeling that there’s so much to learn at school.”

Their second book, *Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are*, debuts in March 2010.

Photo courtesy of Alex Harris



Alex and Brett Harris challenged thousands of teens this summer.

## BACK HOME FROM MANDARIN IMMERSION: PHC SENIOR MATT BOEHM SPENDS TEN MONTHS IN CHINA

By Cate Pilgrim

Stranded alone and sick on the thirteenth floor of a high-rise apartment in northwestern Beijing, Matthew Boehm realized that nobody knew he was there or cared if he lived or died. He was alone and invisible, a semi-delusional sick foreigner in a city of 13 million people. “The worst part wasn’t the illness. It was that I was completely and utterly alone,” Boehm recalls. Fortunately, he fought off the fever and energetically resumed his study of Mandarin.

Boehm, 22, traveled to China in September 2008 after earning a Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program. The year-long scholarship requires recipients to study “critical need” languages, such as Arabic, Russian,

Chinese or Farsi, and then complete a year of government service work. Boehm chose Mandarin because he had studied it briefly at the University of Kansas before coming to PHC.

Although Chinese is a language composed of over 40,000 characters, the average native speaker only uses about 3,500 to 5,000 characters. By the end of his ten month stay in Beijing, Boehm was familiar with upwards of 1,500 characters and was able to converse with the locals.

Outside of the classroom, Boehm immersed himself in the local culture. The program paid for his food, so he became a regular at the local tea shops and restaurants where he practiced conversing in Chinese. He also made it a point to travel and, among other adventures, backpacked down to Shenzhen during Chinese New Year’s, utilizing local commuter trains. He saw Hong Kong and visited Macau, known as “the Las Vegas of the Orient.” He even flew to Taipei, Taiwan, to check out the temples, museums, hot springs, and night markets.

What he missed most about the U.S., he recalls, was consistent Christian fellowship. “The ex-pat communities were so fluid, with people leaving and coming, it was difficult to put down roots or have accountability with other Christians,” Boehm said.

Boehm, a Government-Strategic Intelligence major in his final semester at PHC, is currently interning with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, but at some point, post-graduation, he looks forward to returning to China to carry on his studies.

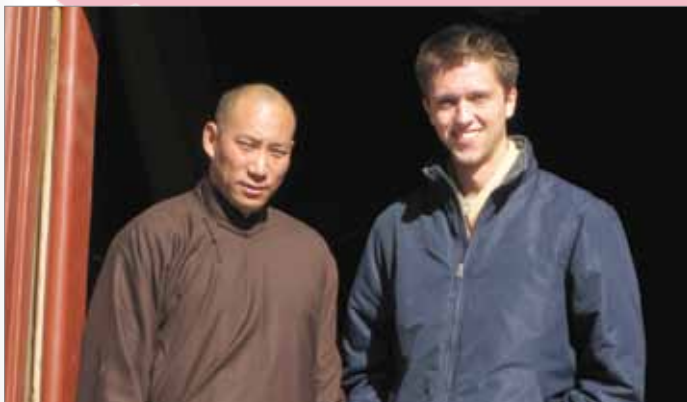


Photo courtesy of Matt Boehm

A Buddhist monk and Matt Boehm at the Llama Temple in Beijing.

## New Music Track Gains Momentum

Now in the second semester of the new CLA: Music track, Dr. Steve McCollum says he can see the pieces of a future Music major coming together.

"It's a lot of work," said the College's Director of Music. "We've been writing curriculum, building Chorale traditions, and waiting for facilities [in the Hodel Center]. Now we're starting to see the connections form."

With the Barbara Hodel Center open, PHC's Music students have access to brand new recording studios and practice rooms. This fall, they are able to study piano or voice for credit and take classes in conducting or music theory. Students also have the opportunity to apply their skills in a variety of ways: singing in the PHC Chorale, which performs throughout the region and holds a concert each semester; performing in a small chamber music ensemble; serving high-schoolers in the Youth Music Academy; and leading PHC chapel worship.

"Music complements our classical curriculum," says McCollum. "It particularly stands out as a platform for servant leadership in our culture. We have a responsibility to hone these skills to serve our community, even if people don't plan to become professional musicians."



Dr. Steve McCollum

## SHOOTING HOOPS: MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM RELISHES SPACIOUS NEW GYM

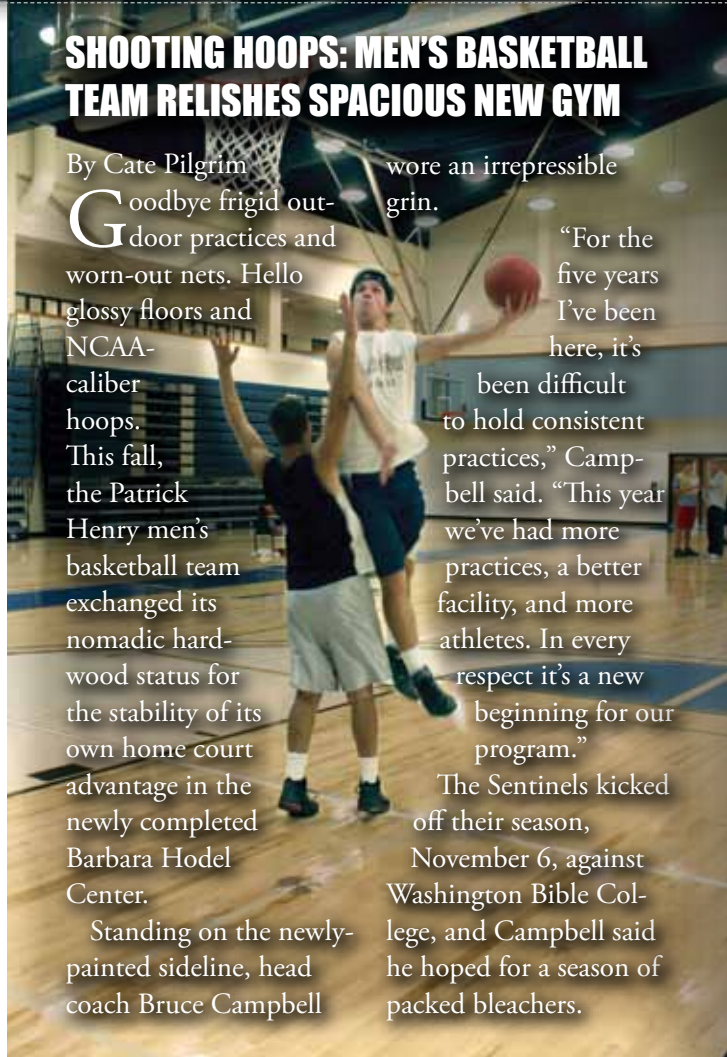
By Cate Pilgrim  
 Goodbye frigid outdoor practices and worn-out nets. Hello glossy floors and NCAA-caliber hoops. This fall, the Patrick Henry men's basketball team exchanged its nomadic hardwood status for the stability of its own home court advantage in the newly completed Barbara Hodel Center.

Standing on the newly-painted sideline, head coach Bruce Campbell

wore an irrepressible grin.

"For the five years I've been here, it's been difficult to hold consistent practices," Campbell said. "This year we've had more practices, a better facility, and more athletes. In every respect it's a new beginning for our program."

The Sentinels kicked off their season, November 6, against Washington Bible College, and Campbell said he hoped for a season of packed bleachers.



## A Call to Pens

Patrick Henry College  
 Short Story Competition

Now in its second year, Patrick Henry College's "A Call to Pens" writing contest invites students ages 12-18 to prove that the pen is truly mightier than the sword. Students will compete in two separate divisions; ages 12-15 will address the topic "Love Never Fails," while ages 16-18 will seek to portray "Joy in Humility." Participants nationwide will compete for several cash prizes, while top entrants from Loudoun County, Virginia, home of PHC, will receive special recognition.

With last year boasting more than 250 entrants, this year's "A Call to Pens" competition should prove a splendid opportunity for students to display their quality writing. All proceeds will be donated to PHC's Annual Scholarship Fund.

*The entry deadline is December 30, 2009, with winners to be announced in March, 2010. For more information and competition rules, please visit [www.phc.edu/acalltopens](http://www.phc.edu/acalltopens)*