

# PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

AUTUMN 2011 ★ VOL. II, NO. 2



★

- "Newsmakers" Series with Marvin Olasky
- Alum Spearheads New Bennett Book
- Alumni Time Capsule Project

## From the Chancellor



Dr. Michael Farris

Our alumni placed a time capsule in the brick monument at PHC's entrance this fall during Homecoming Week. It contains items from the College's first decade and will be opened in 20 years. Included among them is a letter I wrote to the Class of 2031 (see story on page 3), confessing my fears of how things may have changed in two decades and of how far the culture may have strayed from God's Truth.

I reminded PHC's future students that, "When we started Patrick Henry College, our goal was not merely to build an educational institution; we wanted to change America. We believed that there was Truth. And, it was embodied in the person of Jesus Christ..."

I confessed that I dreaded to think about how two decades could distort the institution of marriage and shared my hope that PHC students still burn with a passion for the culture of life. I hope that one of our alumni will have sat on the Supreme Court that reversed *Roe v. Wade*, and "that America is still a land of liberty. I hope and pray that freedom is chosen."

On behalf of the Class of 2031 and all of the classes in between, I want to thank you for your fervent prayers and support. In a single decade, this College has already begun to make an impact. What our nation becomes in 20 years will be affected, I truly believe, by how true we stay to our mission. I thank God that you are a critical part of that equation.

## From the President



Dr. Graham Walker

If you've been a reader of *The Trumpet of Liberty* for the past ten years, you'll no doubt notice big changes in this edition. Symbolic of exciting new developments at PHC, we've redesigned and renamed it *Patrick Henry College Magazine*.

With the passage of the College's first decade, this magazine reflects an institution entering a new era of stability and growth, one that continues to see some of the best student and faculty talent walking our halls. Inside, you'll read of the recent arrival of Dr. Marvin Olasky, editor-in-chief of *WORLD Magazine* and the College's new Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy (see story on page 1).

His arrival only enhances PHC's reputation as a destination for some of the brightest writers, thinkers and educators of our day.

You'll also read about how our students and graduates continue to impact the nation—and the world—for Jesus Christ. Senior Russell York endured a punishing cross-country bike trek to raise awareness for Ukrainian orphans, and graduate Chris Beach, "right hand man" to former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett, led a team of PHC students to help publish Bennett's new book. I hope you enjoy our new *Patrick Henry College Magazine*, a testament to the tremendous blessings flowing to this College—and our students—for the glory of Christ.

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Founders Hall Cupola

## Dr. Marvin Olasky

### New Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy

Patrick Henry College was delighted in August to announce the appointment of Dr. Marvin Olasky, editor-in-chief of *WORLD Magazine*, as Professor of Journalism and the inaugural holder of the College's new Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy.

A well-known conservative scholar, cultural commentator and author of more than 20 books, Dr. Olasky began his duties this fall at PHC with a fascinating week of exclusive interviews with politicians, public policy experts and authors in the Hodel Center Coffeehouse (see *Newsmaker Interview Series*, page 4). His wife, Susan Olasky, will serve the Col-



Dr. Olasky shares personal testimony during chapel session.

lege as an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Writer-in-Residence. The Olaskys will continue to live in Asheville, N.C., but will regularly be on the PHC campus for events and mentoring of interns throughout the year.

He is the author of many books and articles for major U.S. publications on topics including journalism and media, public policy, the sanctity of human life and Christianity's intersection with culture. His more than 2,500 articles and op-ed columns have appeared in publications ranging from *WORLD* and the *New York Times* to the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*.

Two books, *The Tragedy of American Compassion* and *Compassionate Conservatism*, played important roles in the struggle for welfare reform and non-governmental concern for the poor in the 1990s. Called by President George W. Bush "compassionate conservatism's leading thinker," Olasky's journalistic writings and research have also emphasized the Christian origins of freedom of the press and investigative reporting.

"It is a great privilege for Patrick Henry College to welcome Marvin Olasky as a distinguished member of our faculty," said PHC President Dr. Graham Walker. "He is an accomplished journalist, scholar and academic leader. He has been an advisor to governmental leaders and has built *WORLD Magazine* into a highly respected journal

of news and analysis. All of Marvin's accomplishments have been built on the foundation of his love for Christ and his commitment to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. These commitments are what make his analysis of public policy issues so potent. Susan Olasky shares these commitments and will make a strategic faculty contribution as well."

Olasky said, "Patrick Henry is a great evangelical college with a firm commitment to glorifying God. Our PHC work fits perfectly with our *WORLD* work: Susan and I look forward to teaching students how to think through and write articles and book reviews suitable for national publication. We hope our efforts will supplement the instruction that PHC's excellent faculty provides."

"Our PHC work fits perfectly with our *WORLD* work."  
- Marvin Olasky

Dr. Olasky received his B.A. in American Studies from Yale University, an M.A. in American Culture from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan. He became a speechwriter and program coordinator at the DuPont Company in 1978 and joined The University of Texas at Austin in 1983. He served there as Professor of Journalism until 2007, teaching courses on journalism history, journalism and religion, sports writing and column-writing.

Dr. Olasky was a visiting professor at Princeton in 2004-05 and served as Provost of The King's College in New York City from 2007 through January, 2011. He has chaired the boards of a Christian school and a crisis pregnancy center and also been a newspaper reporter, foster parent, PTA president, cross-country bicycle rider and Little League assistant coach.

Susan Olasky received her B.A. from The University of Michigan and an M.A. in Urban Affairs from the University of Delaware. She founded the Austin Crisis Pregnancy Center and later chaired CareNet's pregnancy resource centers. She is the author of eight historical novels for children and, as a senior writer at *WORLD*, reviews books and writes lifestyle articles. ★

## College Welcomes Largest Incoming Class

Opening classrooms in late August to returning students, Patrick Henry College had already felt the impact of its largest incoming class yet. When the dust settled on dorm assignments, campus administrators calculated the total number of new enrollees at 145, a 19% increase over last year.

News of the enrollment boost was received enthusiastically across campus, providing tangible results for expanded recruitment efforts by the Office of Enrollment.

PHC's Executive Vice President, Carl Schreiber, said, "The Enrollment Management staff (Admissions and Financial Aid) has done an outstanding job working with prospective students and their parents to recruit one of the best freshman classes PHC has seen. With enrollment up, all of our service areas have ramped up to accommodate the growth."

Overall enrollment for full-time,



degree-seeking students also grew by 9% this fall, and when off-campus, non-degree seeking students were added, total enrollment increased to 371.

Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, William Kellaris, credits the boost to a focused, year-long recruiting initiative that included "increased personal attention to prospects and applicants, early and substantial financial aid awards, and a greatly enhanced

campus visit program. We were able to connect with a group of students and parents who anticipate that Patrick Henry College will be a 'perfect fit' for them."

Newcomers included Katie Speer, who arrived early for pre-semester soccer practice. Interested in journalism since the eighth grade, she attended a Prospective Student Day and met Dr. Les Sillars, PHC's Associate Professor of Journalism and editor of *WORLD Magazine's* World Virginia website.

"I knew then I would get the sort of education in journalism that I wanted," states Speer.

Alyssa Foster, an incoming student interested in political journalism, said she was encouraged by stories she read on the PHC website of fascinating internships enjoyed by the College's journalism majors. ★

## New Student Lounge Offers Communal Gathering Space

Transitional facility adjustments required of the largest incoming class in College history resulted in a delightful fringe benefit for students: the build-out of a beautiful new Student Fellowship Lounge in the Barbara Hodel Center. A long-time donor to the College provided the funds needed to convert an unfinished space in the Hodel Center into a multipurpose recreational refuge.

"I like it a lot," says junior Carissa Davis. "There are a lot of different things to do, whether it be watching sports on TV or playing air hockey or board games, and it seems that students like that they can be sharing time together while doing different things. I even know students who go in there first thing in the morning to study, because it's quiet that time of day."

The room was handsomely built out, painted and outfitted with new furniture, a big-screen television and rec-



Patrick Henry College's new Student Fellowship Lounge.

reational games and tables. As the College continues planning the build-out of the Hodel Center's second floor, the new Student Fellowship Lounge will serve students as a communal gathering point for fun and fellowship.

"It's certainly a larger space for recreation and fellowship," added Vice President of Campus Services Earl Hall, "so more students can enjoy those amenities." ★

## Twenty-Year Time Capsule Sealed

In spite of chilly rain, a mason had successfully sealed the shiny silver time capsule into the College's front monument by the end of Homecoming Week, Saturday, Oct. 1. The rectangular metal box held what the Patrick Henry College Alumni Association deemed a representative sampling of the College's first decade: a stack of printed documents in protective, acid-free folders, a DVD of a slideshow created for inaugural convocation, a copy of the student film club's campy PHC classic "Hitman" and more.

It also housed a sweater owned by PHC's founder and chancellor, Dr. Michael Farris, the first garment to bear the College logo. All of it and more went into the silver-plated container, sealed with silicon and enclosed in brick, not to be seen again until September of 2031.

"I was glad to see the project finished," said the alumni association vice president, Sarah Pride (Literature, '07), who chaired the time capsule committee's year-long effort. The project began with a week of prayer, she explained at the dedication ceremony, each member asking that it would be God's project, not theirs.

"We had written out an elaborate outline for the time capsule on paper," Pride explained, "but God took us at our word, so nothing happened quite according to our own plans."

The team identified items they felt painted a picture of what it was like for the first 70 to 80 students, who, in 2000, took a leap of faith to attend a college that didn't even yet



Members of the Alumni Association gather around the time capsule.

*"We hope to tell the story of PHC's first ten years in a way that unifies our community and proclaims to future generations God's Faithfulness and Mercy."*

- From the Official Mission Statement

have dorms. Many came because of an audacious dream of founder Dr. Michael Farris and a group of faithful supporters to build an academically excellent college to equip leaders while reinforcing the Christian faith of its students.

"We hope to tell the story of PHC's first ten years," the committee wrote in its mission statement, "in a way that unifies our community and proclaims to future generations God's Faithfulness and Mercy."

Over the year, committee members scanned hundreds of old photos into a private website for alumni to view, and more than six dozen alumni filled out an online form asking them what they are doing now and where they imagine they might be in 20 years. In the end, the capsule included letters to future students from PHC Chancellor Dr. Michael Farris, Home School Legal Defense Association President Michael Smith, and the Chairman of PHC's Department of Classical Liberal Arts, Dr. Steven Hake.

In his letter to the Class of 2031, Dr. Farris wrote, "When we started Patrick Henry College, our goal was not merely to build an educational institution; we wanted to change America... We believed that there was Truth. It was no invention of men. It was embodied in the person of Jesus Christ who said, 'I am the way, the Truth, and the life.'

"I hope that PHC students still burn with a passion for the culture of life," he continued. "Even more I hope that some of our alumni are on the Supreme Court and have already reversed *Roe v. Wade*. I

hope with all of my heart that America is still a land of liberty. I have great confidence in the future of this institution. I have less confidence that America will be recognizable as a land of freedom in two more decades."

Observed Alumni Association President John Vinci: "In 20 years, alumni and students will be able to draw their own conclusions and write their own version of the story." ★



Time capsule is lowered into monument.



Dr. Marvin Olasky interviews U.S. Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina during the first session of the Newsmakers Interview Series at PHC.

## Olasky's Newsmakers Interview Series Engages, Uplifts Campus Community

The College's Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy held court across campus in a whirlwind week of interviews and workshops.

In his first official week as the College's new journalism professor and Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy, Dr. Marvin Olasky treated the campus to a stimulating array of personalized events and appearances, highlighted by a weeklong interview series with prominent lawmakers, policymakers and authors. It all took place in the stylish intimacy of the Barbara Hodel Center Coffeehouse, and by week's end the roster of newsmakers includ-



A student addresses Arizona Congressman Trent Franks during a Q&A session.

ed U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), U.S. Representative Trent Franks (R-AZ), Sagamore Institute President Jay Hein, Christian author Ann Voskamp, and Baylor history professor Thomas Kidd.

What was billed as *WORLD Magazine Week* at Patrick Henry College drew students, faculty, staff and visitors from the local community to the Hodel Center's café tables and booths, as they listened intently and joined in stirring discussions about everything from the state of the union to challenges confronting homeschooling moms.

While on campus, Olasky also shared his testimony in a fascinating and humorous chapel message detailing chapters of his early life and journalistic career, when he was a practicing atheist and Communist. Each day saw him holding court at points across campus, teaching journalism classes, sharing post-interview luncheons with distinguished guests and students and filming tutorials for upcoming distance learning classes. He and his wife, Susan, a writer and editor for *WORLD Magazine* and assistant professor of public policy at PHC, also met with and mentored a half-dozen student interns who will be writing for *WORLD* and its various online editions.

"I think it went very well," Olasky said of the weeklong schedule. "We had excellent guests, and the students' questions were powerful and astute. The students, in par-

ticular, impressed me greatly, and I think the interviewees went away with a very positive sense of the College."

The inviting setting seemed designed for good conversation and proved especially fitting for Wednesday's interview with soft-spoken Christian author Ann Voskamp, who wrote *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*.

Querying the author about her creative process while writing *One Thousand Gifts*, Olasky asked, "So the book sometimes feels as if you're preaching to yourself?"

*"I think it's important, especially for students, to see world leaders as real live human beings and not just brains on a stick."*

-Marvin Olasky

"Exactly, Marvin," Voskamp replied, speaking barely above a whisper. "I actually preach the Gospel to the person who needs to hear it the most: me. We need to hear the truth of the Gospel over and over and over again. I am chief among sinners. I need the truth of God's word, and to

encounter afresh the grace of Jesus Christ. It is a preaching back to me."

Each interview will ultimately appear as a Q&A article in *WORLD Magazine* and, true to his style, will feature Olasky questions delving not merely into policy analysis or historical fact, but going deeper into the sometimes personal details of a guest's background. Exploring these lesser-known chapters of interviewees' non-public moments demonstrated his penchant for research and often surprised the guests themselves, as when he mentioned the name of a childhood teacher of Arizona Congressman Trent Franks.

A startled, albeit smiling, Franks replied: "I do not know where you got these names and I am going to find out afterwards." As it turns out, PHC journalism student Cody Holt assisted Dr. Olasky's research and helped draft many of the week's questions.

"Cody was a great help and came up with some good details," noted Olasky.

The penetrating interview style is, for Olasky, a studied, measured technique, particularly when addressing prominent politicians and public figures. There is, he says, an explicit agenda behind his meticulous preparation that allows him to tap his subjects' idiosyncratic, rather than strictly official, personas.

"Typically, the pattern of my interviews at the beginning is to have interviewees go through some of their past, particularly when they were students and first began to discern what their calling might be," he explained. "I think it's important, especially for students, to see world leaders as real live human beings and not just brains on a stick. I



Above: Bestselling Christian author Ann Voskamp discusses her new book.

Below: The Barbara Hodel Coffeehouse provided an elegant and relaxed setting for students and local residents alike.

want them (subjects) to share about how they first arrived on the road of their present positions, and what they went through while navigating the various turns in their careers. Hopefully, this draws out not just the relevancy of particular policy prescriptions and inside-Washington stuff, but illuminates some of the essence of real living and trying to understand the particular talents that God has given and the best way to put them to use."

Recalling the week's whirlwind schedule, PHC Provost Dr. Gene Edward Veith, who is personal friends with the Olaskys, said that Dr. Olasky's influence and presence is a blessing for both the College and its students.

"To have so many prominent figures on campus," he said, "from the arenas of politics, public policy, scholarship, and literature—and for our students to be able not only to listen to but also interact with them—created the kind of stimulating atmosphere associated with the very best institutions of higher education."

Watch our website for news of upcoming Olasky events at PHC. To listen to audio or view video archives of these interviews, go to the PHC Newsmakers Media Page at [www.phc.edu/newsmakers](http://www.phc.edu/newsmakers). ★



Russell York rejoices in the Pacific Ocean after having pedaled from Washington, D.C., to San Diego, California.

## Cross-Country Bike Trek Changes York for Life

Every day for 40 days, Russell York woke up, packed his gear, got back on his bike and rode 100 more miles, one pedal stroke at a time. The 21-year-old Patrick Henry College senior biked over 3,200 miles in 40 days across the United States to raise awareness and funds for Young Life's ministry to Ukrainian orphans, who suffer appalling neglect and often end up homeless or worse.

Arriving exhausted at the Pacific Ocean in late June, York turned around and crossed the ocean to visit the Ukrainian orphans who inspired his journey.

For York, the cross-country journey daily stretched him to the breaking point; he endured near constant physical pain, endless steep hills and headwinds, triple-digit desert temperatures and a disheartening series of flat tires in isolated locales. On a lonely afternoon in a remote corner of Arkansas, a car going 55 mph hit York's bike and sent him to the hospital. Traumatized and battered, he left the hospital two days later under his own power.

"If there was a moment of clarity, it was when I walked out of the hospital on my own two legs," he recalled. "I guess what I learned is that death is the kind of thing that blindsides you on an idle Tuesday."

Now back on campus, attending classes and looking toward graduation, he has had time to



"I guess what I learned is that death is the kind of thing that blindsides you on an idle Tuesday."

- Russell York

reflect on his experience of a lifetime and how the trip has changed and enriched him.

**Now that you're back at school, what lingering effects do you still feel from the cross-country journey?**

York: The gravity of the trip is still crystallizing. I don't think I appreciated how difficult, dangerous and rewarding the trip was, even after I finished it. I think of how many cars didn't hit me, how many miles I covered and what a crazy trip it was. There's no question that it's hard to sit still in class. I've got a bug now, and I'm pretty sure it's not going

anywhere. I now follow a number of blogs authored by crazy adventurers, each following the call of God and the road to explore. As arduous as it was, I miss the road more than I ever thought I would. The trip will define important aspects of my character for years to come.

**Any experiences that you're still processing?**

York: It might be a guy thing, but I've always wanted to know how far I could push myself. Now I've had the chance to test my limits, and I thought that I would be a more confident person after finishing the trip, having achieved a new level of perseverance. But the fact is that my physical limits were not tested as much as my spiritual limits. It was a trip of faith—"will God see me through?" So I am not done testing my limits. I found that by physically challenging myself, I was also spiritually challenged. My relationship with God grew more than my confidence in myself.

**How did the trip impact the orphans you set out to help?**

York: The trip was ultimately (See **YORK** on following page)

## WORLD Internships a Boon to Journalism Students

Dr. Marvin Olasky's arrival as the College's Distinguished Chair of Journalism and Public Policy is pointing PHC's journalism program in exciting new directions. A dynamic new internship pipeline now exists between *WORLD Magazine*, the Christian worldview magazine for which Olasky serves as editor-in-chief, and PHC's journalism department.

While PHC journalism students have long written articles for *WORLD* and many other publications, closer ties were forged this past summer. Two PHC journalism students interned for one of *WORLD*'s new online news-bureaus, *WORLD Virginia*, a regional branch of the magazine directed and edited by PHC journalism professor, Dr. Les Sillars.

Junior Zachary Abate and sophomore Alicia Constant worked 40-hour weeks this past summer, investigating and writing news stories on a wide variety of subjects—everything from politics to human interest, healthcare to sports. Each produced five to ten stories per week, writing from their homes in New Jersey and New Mexico.

"It was a great opportunity to get some experience in the journalism field and begin to build my resume a bit," said Abate.

For PHC's journalism program, it's only the beginning. With Dr. Olasky on board, multiple internship opportuni-

ties with *WORLD* will give PHC students the chance to work directly with a world-class author and editor and then write for national publication. Though competition will be intense, Olasky assures that quality content by PHC students will appear in *WORLD Magazine* or in one of its growing network of online editions.

"*WORLD* is expanding, and people like what we're doing, if we continue to do a good job," Dr. Olasky said. "There are lots of opportunities here to write for *WORLD* publications.

"To get a job in journalism," he added, "the degree is not as important as the clips. I'm really impressed with PHC students. The interns

that Susan and I have are godly and smart and articulate. Going forward, I expect there'll be all kinds of internships and job opportunities for PHC students at *WORLD*."

Dr. Olasky will work with interns on investigative and feature stories for *WORLD* publications, while his wife, Susan, will oversee interns assigned to write book reviews.

"The students are going to benefit from this partnership," Sillars noted. "They get to have a chance to work with a nationally known figure. Dr. Olasky has built *WORLD* into the national magazine it is today. He has served as a model of journalistic integrity and morality for my own career." ★



Zach Abate and Alicia Constant in the Journalism lab.

## York (continued from p6)

successful in raising awareness for the orphans in Ukraine. Not only did it raise thousands of dollars, we were also featured on two San Diego TV news stations and in multiple newspapers across the country. I continue to get emails from people who just heard about the trip and the cause it was supporting. My trip to Ukraine allowed me to share personal stories of those orphans with thousands of people back in the States. I hope that the plight of orphans around the world has been placed on the hearts of

a few people like it has been on mine.

**What feedback have you gotten from those who were moved by your blog and travels?**

York: I really had no idea exactly what I was getting into when I started the trip. One of the realizations I had early on, though, was that there is a community of cross-country bikers. I met a number of them on the road, and I continue to meet them. My professor of Foreign Policy, Dr. Rehberg, biked cross-country after he graduated high school. I recently learned that Dr. Marvin Olasky completed a cross-country bike

trip years ago as well. It's like being a veteran. You immediately start swapping stories and reminiscing.

**What about your next adventure?**

York: I don't have plans for the next journey, though I didn't have plans for the last one either. So I'm ready to pack up and go whenever the right opportunity calls. In the immediate future, I am finishing my degree and the college journey that I started three and a half years ago. I am excited about what life has in store for me as a graduate of Patrick Henry College.

To read more about York's adventure, go to <http://3000milesforukraine.com/> ★

## Dr. Hake Predicts the End of Postmodern Pride and Despair

The College's thirteenth Faith & Reason lecture this fall featured PHC's longest serving professor, Dr. Steven Hake. Arguing that pride and despair have brought the western intellectual world to a low point, he suggested that society is ripe for fresh, life-bringing ideas. His thesis, *We Are Ripe for a Christian Renaissance*, sparked a lively day of discussion, with students and faculty wrestling with the philosophies of theorists like Roland Barthes, Noam Chomsky, Claude Lévi-Strauss, and others.



*"Our culture shaping mission cannot be fully accomplished short of this, short of the Gospel's deep transforming work that puts to death both our pride and despair."*

- Dr. Steve Hake

Scanning the philosophical landscape of the twentieth century, Hake shed light on the "New Criticism" leading to the "structuralist revolution"—ideologies distilled by the precursors of postmodernism who promoted "grand theories" of truth and structure apart from God.

"The modernists . . . definitely did not want God, but still believed they

could have all the blessings of God, like meaning and purpose and understanding," said Dr. Hake.

A postmodernist is destined to fall victim to nihilism and intellectual despair, he clarified, a malady from which few survive.

"We cannot live without hope and meaning," he said, "and so we will exhaust ourselves trying to manufacture

them somehow." Academics who refuse to believe in God grasp inevitably for an "amorphous grab bag of 'cultural studies,'" haphazardly choosing theories of choice.

Addressing the tension between faith and reason, he concluded, "We need humble and courageous believers who love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength," while Christians also "need to read the great books that we might write them. Our culture shaping mission cannot be fully accomplished short of this, short of the

Gospel's deep transforming work that puts to death both our pride and despair. May we give ourselves to this in a thousand practical ways day-by-day."

The Faith & Reason lecture sparked a lively conversation that continued throughout the day, culminating in a Q&A session in which students raised dozens of probing questions for a faculty panel. ★

## Dr. Montgomery Lectures World Congress on Human Rights

Addressing the 25th World Congress on the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Frankfurt, Germany this past August, Dr. John Warwick Montgomery lectured on human rights and the right of parents to homeschool their children. Before this diverse audience of legal philosophers and lawyers, PHC's Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Christian Thought argued that human rights stem from a transcendent authority and that homeschooling, while illegal today in Germany, should be safeguarded as a human right within the European system.

"The state has the responsibility to ensure that, however children are educated, they reach the proper level," he argued, cautioning against assuming a particular method of education (i.e. homeschooling) is faulty.

HSLDA attorney and director of international affairs, Michael Donnelly, joined Dr. Montgomery in Germany and spoke on the "philosophy of homeschooling." Includ-



John Warwick Montgomery

this prestigious conference. It will be helpful in influencing European policymakers favorably towards home education." ★

ing homeschooling on the agenda, he allowed, "highlights freedom in education as a necessary condition to sustaining a pluralist democracy."

Noting the unprecedented opportunity to present the case for homeschooling in a country that has criminalized the practice, Donnelly observed, "This is the first time homeschooling has been on the agenda of

## Chris Beach Takes the Lead on Bill Bennett's Latest Book

Among the many surreal moments that Chris Beach can recall while working as a full-time producer for Bill Bennett's *Morning in America*, one stands out. The former Secretary of Education had just finished an interview with FOX Business Network, and he and Beach stood outside of FOX's New York City studios. A stretch limousine pulled up, a tinted window rolled down and a voice inside belted, "Is that Bill Bennett?"

Out stepped Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain. "The next thing I knew I was standing in New York City listening to Bill and Herman Cain laughing and talking about politics," Beach recalls. "I'm thinking, 'What am I doing here?'"

That notion creeps into Beach's thinking most days. Whether it's hiking trails with the heavyweight conservative in Aspen, bunking in swanky hotels on a recent book tour or simply bantering with his boss on-the-air about news and politics at *Morning's* D.C. studio, Beach feels as if he's living a dream.

"I have to pinch myself on a daily basis," he confides, "just waking up and going to work for Bill Bennett. He's a man of great faith and one of the intellectual giants of the conservative movement. Working one-on-one with a man who I consider the Benjamin Franklin of our times seems pretty surreal on a moment-to-moment basis."

One "pinch me" moment came on a recent tour for Bennett's new book, *The Book of Man*, exploring the notable lives of honorable men. Bennett's high regard for his "right hand man" had placed Beach in the enviable and demanding position of leading a team of, largely, present

and former PHC students, who researched, organized and wrote content for much of the 600-page manuscript.

"It was a huge job," says Beach of the project that began almost two years ago. "Hanna Rosin's article, *The End of Men in The Atlantic*, had just been published, with statistics about how men are falling behind women in education and success. Bill



Chris Beach and Bill Bennett in studio at Morning in America.

saw a data trend suggesting problems with boys and men."

Beach's team included: PHC grad Nathan Martin, a former associate producer for Bennett; alumni David Carver and Shane Ayers; and PHC literature majors Olivia Linde and Brian Dutze.

"The book is very classically oriented," says Beach, who conducted interviews and wrote profiles for many chapters. "We used lots of source materials from Plato, Aristotle and Homer, which came naturally from our PHC education. I knew (the students), brought them in

and they did an amazing job."

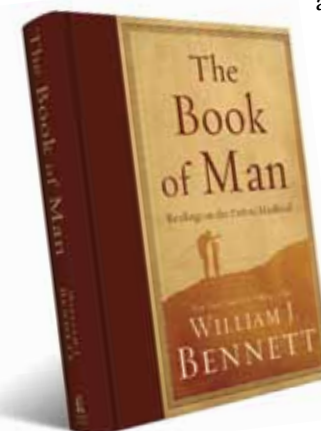
In his acknowledgments, Bennett wrote: "To my new team of researchers who provided invaluable contributions to this book: Olivia Linde, Brian Dutze, Shane Ayers and David Carver. The future looks better in your capable hands. And also to David Nathan Martin, whose creativity and skill inspired and created many of the fascinating profiles in this book. And special thanks to the leader of this team—Christopher Beach—chief engineer of this project, who put many of the pieces together."

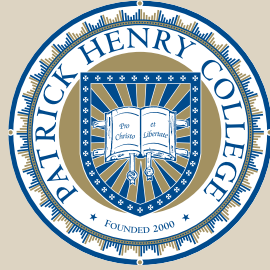
Beach began working full-time for *Morning in America* as a junior journalism student in 2008. He'd get up at 4 a.m., drive 90 minutes to *Morning's* studio and start the day as a call screener. Skills learned producing broadcast features for his PHC radio class equipped him to step directly into Bennett's editing booth, and soon his humble manner and diverse skillset won Bennett's trust. Today, less than two years after being promoted as Bennett's chief producer, the relationship has taken Beach to places he never imagined.

"He's the most gracious boss I've ever worked for," Beach says. "His style is to take people under his wing. I'm fortunate to be in the inner circle of the close team he relies on. I don't take any of it for granted, not for a minute." ★

*"I'm fortunate to be in the inner circle of the close team he relies on. I don't take any of it for granted, not for a minute."*

-Chris Beach





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