

the Herald

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Jane White and Spencer Reeves, director and assistant director of *A Winter's Tale*. Photographer: MK Collins

A Winter's Directors

| by Carrie Durning |

Meet the director and assistant director of The Winter's Tale, Jane White and Spencer Reeves, as they discuss their reasons for the production of this Shakespeare play specifically, scenes and acts, and more. The production will take place Nov. 16-18. Below is a transcript from the interviews with The Herald; questions and answers have been edited for length and clarity.

The Herald's interview with director Jane White.

CD: How did you get involved in directing the play?

JW: I've been in a few Eden Troupe plays in the past few years here at PHC, and was offered the chance to direct one. Of course I accepted. I asked Spencer Reeves to be assistant director, and he is fabulous. I do not know what I would do without him when directing the play.

CD: Why *The Winter's Tale*?

JW: I first discovered the play when reading an illustrated children's book as a child, and found it fascinating. It is such a beautiful, edifying, uplifting story, which is not something seen in Shakespeare very often. The main themes are forgiveness, redemption, reconciliation, and the reuniting of family. I thought about a few other plays I wanted to direct, such as *Antigone*, but that is just so dark and so sad. I think this play is a lot more applicable to human life, especially as Christians, and as students at PHC. This school does not need another drama about the nature of justice and law. I think this campus needs to focus on love, forgiveness, and reconciliation on our differences as humans. When people hurt each other, they need to remember how important it is to forgive—not just by saying “I forgive you, I never want to talk to you again,” but forgiving someone and

continued on page 6



Photo courtesy of Roberts

Alumna to Teach US History

| by Susanna Hoffman |

When Dr. Robert Spinney decided to take a sabbatical during the spring semester of 2018, he knew he had to find someone to teach his U.S. History II course. Both Spinney and Dr. Doug Favelo agreed that Prof. Anna Roberts was the perfect candidate, and contacted her in April. Roberts was initially unable to accept the offer, so Favelo began reviewing 30 other applicants, all of whom seemed suitable.

When Roberts emailed in September asking if the position was taken, Spinney replied, “I wish. I was preparing for sabbatical. We can't find anyone to take my classes.”

That's when Roberts knew that she should take the position. And on October 9, Roberts met with Spinney and made it official.

continued on page 4

the **H**erald: *informing, engaging, preparing, and celebrating*

informing *this week's stories*

kate roberts page 4
from sports to the stage page 5
directors of *Winter's Tale* page 6
tabletalk page 7

engaging *reader participation*

Interested in submitting an editorial?
Notice an error?
Have an event we should know about?
If so, contact Becca Samelson at:
theherald@phc.edu

preparing *the ink-stained wretches*

Editor Becca Samelson
Copy Editor Vienna Jacobson
Backpage Editor Marjorie Pratt
Social Media Editor Carrie Durning

celebrating *shared successes*

We've got more stories for you online!
Here's a sneak peek of this week's
#HeraldOnline

• Hoedown Haze

*Did you have fun last night at the Hoedown?
We did! Look for photos on our Instagram!*

• More Moot Court

Last weekend, PHC teams locked out semi-finals at Liberty University's moot court tournament, while Chris Baldacci and Caleb Engle placed first in Orlando, where Meridian Paulton also won best speaker. Look for more updates on Twitter as several teams compete at Regent law school this weekend.

• Featuring Freshmen

This issue, we featured a few of the profiles from students in Journalism I. We'll post the best parts of the rest of the profiles on Facebook!

Find the full stories online!
Facebook: Herald Media
Instagram: @heraldmedia
Twitter: @phcheraldmedia

Ben Appleton: The Gift of the Zero

| by Kyle Ziemnick |

Six-year-old Ben Appleton woke up, startled. The floor shook as dust fell from the ceiling. He heard his mom scream, "Get under the table!" An earthquake had struck Bali, Indonesia, and the Appletons were right in the middle of it. Ben leapt out of his bed and huddled with his siblings underneath the hotel furniture. The TV fell off its stand and crashed to the ground in pieces. The roof slowly began to cave in. Nearly in tears, Ben's sister Emma cried, "Are we going to die?" But Ben, oblivious to the danger, excitedly yelled, "The tectonic plates are shifting, Mom!"

Since that trip to visit missionary relatives in Indonesia, Ben has exemplified the art of staying joyful in almost every situation. He exudes cheerfulness and enthusiasm to those around him. But that spirit needed refining and testing, and God never fails to give people exactly the tests they need.

Benjamin Appleton entered the world on November 30, 1995, just outside of Vancouver, British Columbia. He and his family soon moved to Yorba Linda, California, where his father Rod became a music pastor. There, Ben went to elementary school until his parents decided to homeschool him starting in the third grade. He summarized life in California in four words: "Loved life. Good times."

The good times didn't last forever. The Appletons moved to northern Virginia in 2005, and Ben found himself cut off from his friends in his home-school group.

"When you move to a new state entirely, where you don't know anyone at all, and you live on a dirt road, and you're homeschooled, life kind of sucks as an extrovert," he said. Surrounded by 10-15 acre lots and far from his old buddies, Ben struggled to hold on to his joyful spirit.

"He had a lot of friends changing over time... it was a challenge watching him go through that," said Rod Apple-

ton, PHC's chorale director.

Eventually, Ben re-entered the public school system, attending Harmony Middle School and then Woodgrove High School in Purcellville. Here, he found people again – lots of people. Ben regained his happiness and thoroughly enjoyed his time in high school, even leading Bible studies during his junior and senior years as well as becoming president of the math club.

After graduation, Ben attended the only college to which he had sent an application: Virginia Tech, where he entered the engineering program. He expected that he could use his expertise in math and science to propel him into the engineering industry, but things did not go according to plan. "Virginia Tech is an awesome school. God used Virginia Tech a lot in my life," Ben said. "But engineering was not what I thought it would be. I didn't enjoy it at all."

Ben made several self-proclaimed "stupid" decisions during his freshman year and even had to withdraw from one course because of its difficulty. Despite these hardships, there were still rays of light. Ben joined the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), a campus ministry that hosted gatherings for around 150 like-minded Christian students split into "families." As part of Green Family, he fondly recalled 26-person games of Mafia, a role-playing game with constantly shifting rules. "It was intense," Ben said.

When Ben returned home in the summer of 2016, everything seemed okay. He was headed for a new year at the school he loved, and his family didn't notice anything wrong with him. "He was not super communicative with us during his time at Tech," Rod said. "He was a freshman just finding his way, and his brother was there, so he was able to have some family down there."

Ben drove back to Virginia Tech for the fall 2016 semester, hoping that his classes would improve. He became an



Photo Courtesy of Appleton

RA in Tech's Cochrane Hall, overseeing approximately 50 students in a long semi-circular hallway. Ben spent a lot of wonderful time with his charges, often hanging out in the family room, a common room where the students would "chill and do bro stuff."

Academics, however, continued to dog Ben's collegiate life. He found out exactly why he disliked engineering – it required almost no personal interaction, an aspect which he knew he needed to have. The last straw came in the form after a test in statics (a branch of mechanics that analyzes loads). Ben studied for three days and skipped all his other classes. In the test, there were seven questions worth 120 points.

"I got a 0 out of 120. It broke me. That was the first time I had straight up failed something," Ben said.

"I remember just lying in bed every night thinking, 'I hate myself,' just wishing I'd get hit by a bus. I didn't want to kill myself, but I just wanted my life to stop."

At home during Thanksgiving Break, the Appletons could tell that their son was not himself. "He was pretty sober and really questioning what he was going to do now. Who was he?" Rod said. Ben was seen by a counselor who diagnosed him with depression and Virginia Tech gave him a medical withdrawal.

That winter, Ben, desperately looking for help, felt himself called to lead a young adults' Bible study in the area. He remembered **continued on page 6**

History Alumna Hired as Spinney's Replacement

continued from cover

cial: she would teach Spinney's course in the spring.

Roberts graduated from PHC in 2012 with a major in history. Spinney and Favelo enjoyed her 100-page senior thesis about an African-American minister in the 1840s so much that they use the thesis as an example of an ideal thesis for other history majors. Roberts even helped Spinney redesign several of his courses.

"[Roberts] may have been the best history student I have had," Spinney said.

Spinney encouraged Roberts to pursue her M.A., and after nailing a perfect score on her GRE, Roberts completed her master's in history in one year from 2015-2016 at William and Mary.

After receiving confirmation for the teaching position at PHC, Roberts threw herself into preparation.

"It's a bit of a whirlwind because I just found out in September that I would be doing it, but it is super fun," Roberts said. "I enjoy curling up on the couch with a history book for a couple of hours."

History has fascinated Roberts since her childhood. On family library trips, Roberts' three younger siblings would eagerly search the fiction section for the Boxcar Children books while Roberts looked for kid biographies, such as the Childhood of Famous Americans series and a biography of Harriet Tubman called Minty. Her parents, siblings, and friends could always find her on her bed or on the living room couch with a book in her hands.

"There was the time I was supposed to be cleaning the upstairs bathroom, got engrossed in a book instead, and left the water running," she said. "No one noticed my dereliction of duty until Mom spotted water coming out of the chandelier downstairs."

Roberts described herself as the farthest "I" that ISTJs go. As a student, she

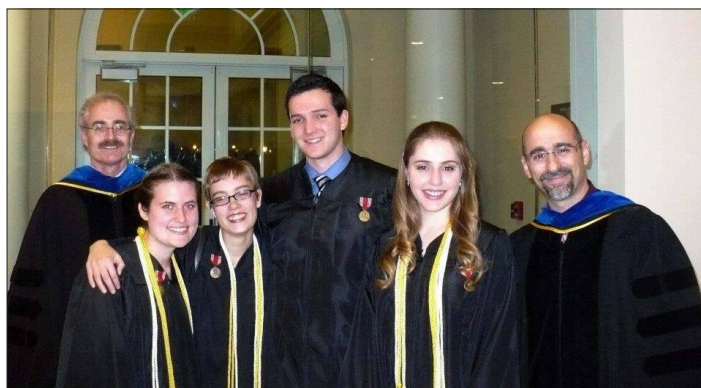
was quiet and studious, feeling almost inferior to her extremely extroverted roommate. Now coming back to campus, Roberts said it feels weird that everyone knows about her. She dreamt of coming back to PHC, but thought it would never happen because she decided not to pursue a Ph.D.

"I gave the dream to God, sort of like Abraham sacrificing Isaac, and then He gave it back to me. I am so grateful to have the opportunity."

The opportunity, however, comes with an exhausting amount of work in the months leading up to the semester. Spinney's U.S. History courses are one-hour sessions three times a week. Roberts' class, however, will meet from 6-9 on Wednesday evenings. Roberts intends to stick with the familiarity of Spinney's curriculum, while possibly adding another book to the required reading list. Both Spinney and Roberts are interactive teachers. Their teaching styles differ in that Roberts is a micro-historian while Spinney, according to Roberts, understands and communicates the larger picture first.

"For me it is about bringing what I can to the table, my interests and strengths," Roberts said, "It makes me nervous, but I think the nervousness is driving me to do well preparing. I care about PHC and Dr. Spinney and I want to give them my best."

Roberts began her preparations by reading Spinney's textbook. She then acquired a 20-book reading list from 1877-present. Because Roberts' area of expertise is pre-Civil War era, she was slightly disappointed that she will not teach the first semester material.



Kate Roberts (front left) at PHC graduation. Photo courtesy of Roberts

Roberts attributes her fascination with African-American history to her adopted younger brother, who is biracial. Roberts has a keen interest in African-Americans' experience in U.S. history and especially black-white relationships. As U.S. History II covers post-Civil War material, racial tension will be regularly discussed.

"I don't think the Church has done a great job addressing this issue and I think it is important for PHC students to be able to engage with the culture in a meaningful and informed way and also a Christ-like way," she said.

Spinney and Favelo are completely confident in Roberts' ability to engage in these discussions with the students.

"She lines up with what we as a college believe and endorse almost perfectly," Spinney said.

Ironically, Roberts is currently living in a former slave's cabin 2 hours from campus. Roberts works full time at Montpelier, President Madison's former residence, as Developer Associate, and volunteers at the International Rescue Committee tutoring refugees in English. Roberts will continue working full time at Montpelier while she teaches U.S. History II.

"I know this is going to be crazy hard, but it is going to be totally worth it," she said. ■

Ben Purnell: Playing His Hardest

| by Blake Toman |

In the 8 meter gap between the two white metal posts on the far end of the pitch, the 12-year-old goalkeeper for the Terre Haute Fusion, Ben Purnell, mentally prepares himself for another hectic 70 minutes. He will stave off an onslaught of shots to keep his team in the game.

Ben faces a few obstacles, the least of which is his youth. He will be competing against teams with players nearly six years older than him. Moreover, the young keeper is only 4 feet 11 inches tall, and the goal is 8 feet tall. Even with a lunging dive towards the upper corners and his arms fully outstretched, there are some areas of the goal he can't reach.

That doesn't stop Ben from trying. Even though his team lost almost every game that season by more than five goals, Ben still remembers his time with the Terre Haute Fusion varsity high school soccer team fondly. The experience shaped the way he approaches nearly everything he has done since.

Benjamin David Purnell was born on Nov. 18, 1999, in the small town of Brazil, Ind. to Charles and Barbara Purnell. Barbara homeschooled Ben, the second youngest of 11 until he attended Patrick Henry College in the fall of 2017. Although Ben taught himself how to read at six-years-old, he didn't have an interest in school until he turned twelve. "Ben would always finish school quickly," Melissa Purnell, his sister, said. "And afterward he would run into the yard and throw a football to himself, even in the cold."

Ben's love for sports spanned farther than football in the backyard. When he was five years-old, Ben starting playing soccer in a local park district league. "I found I loved the sport, and I wanted to continue playing it," Ben said. However, he didn't realize he had a gift for playing soccer until he was nine years-old.

"I was asked to join the high school varsity team because they only had ten men for one of their games and needed me to be the eleventh man," Ben said. They won the game 8-6. Ben proceeded to join a junior varsity middle school soccer team and eventually played for the varsity high school team, the Terre Haute Fusion, when he was 11 years-old.

"Being younger and less physically developed than my opponents, I was never able to beat people with pure athleticism. I had to beat them with my mind," Ben said. "All the skills I had to learn without athleticism gave me an advantage when I played with the Sentinels in the fall because I had more athleticism than the teams we played against."

The Terre Haute Fusion usually won at most one game a season. They regularly suffered double-digit losses by teams from Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and other cities around the state. "Our team participated in a league and a tournament, but we were the worst team in the league. We were probably a junior varsity team at best," Ben said.

One of those losses came at the hands of the Indy Warriors FC on Aug. 9, 2014, when the Warriors beat the Terre Haute Fusion 17-0. "Our coach told us that we could only score using our heads in the second half since we were up by nine goals," Micah Bock, who played for the Indy Warriors FC that season, said. "So we started to flick up balls in the box and head them towards goal." The Indy Warriors FC would tally eight goals in that half.

"Before playing for the team, I usually won a lot, but you're not always going to win," Ben said. "So it was important that I learned how to take losing well."

Those around Ben have noticed the impact of that lesson on him. Daniel Thetford, Ben's RA, noted that while



Photographer: Evie Fordham

Ben is good at most things he does, he doesn't approach anything like he deserves it.

"I remember when Ben had to face a penalty kick against Regent when we were up six goals," William Bock, one of the captains of the PHC men's soccer team, said. "Ben got scored on by the penalty and Ben appeared unhappy with himself because he thought he could have saved it. He had the attitude of a professional: he was going to play his hardest no matter what the score was."

Now Ben takes on more challenges than just soccer. He has the part of Florizel in the upcoming Eden Troupe production of *The Winters Tale*. He accompanies vocalists on the piano and tackles 16 credits of freshmen courses. In all those things, Ben seems to apply the lessons he learned from soccer. "Ben is successful at almost everything he tries," Thetford said. "He doesn't boast, but if you watch him, he puts everything he has into everything he does." ■

From Virginia Tech to PHC

continued from page 3

that it was like God specifically communicated words to him without an audible voice. During Ben's time as a leader of the group, it grew from only two people to over 36 in the spring of 2017. And, miraculously, God used this study to take away his depression over time. "I thought about God as I went to sleep instead of hating myself," he said.

During the summer of

2017, Ben met with PHC professor Dr. Michael Kucks to talk about the new Economics and Business Analytics (EBA) program. It was exactly what he was looking for. He now lives in Red Hill, where his spirit has already positively affected his fellow students.

His RA, Manus Churchill, pointed out that Ben is also a deep thinker and a source of encouragement to those

around him.

Fellow chorale member and wingmate Ian Frith said, "He was a serious unexpected blessing for me. His personality and attitude are infectious. He brings a lot of joy to the wing."

Ben's family has seen the difference. "Since he went to Patrick Henry, he's been a new Ben," Rod said. "He has that upbeat, jovial side, but ultimately, he's a compas-



Photographer: Elle Reynolds

sionate man, and that's one of the most beautiful things about him." ■

A Production for A Winter's Night

continued from front page

loving them enough to welcome them back into your life.

CD: Which act are you most excited for in the production?

JW: Hallie Skansi and Theresa Rowland have taken a scene that is very so boring if it is just read as written in the script. We gave them the script and put them on stage together, and their chemistry, acting skills, and with just their creativity, they just brought a ridiculous amount of life to the characters and to the scene. I can't wait for people to see what they have done with it. I'm really impressed.

CD: What has made you laugh the hardest, in either auditions or rehearsals?

JW: Near the end of auditions, we realized that there were many girls that, when auditioning for Perdita, were not comfortable flirting. You're told to hold hands and put your arm around and "get on stage and flirt" with some guy you possibly just met three weeks ago- I get it. It's weird. So we asked John Southards to read for the princess Perdita, so all the girls auditioning could become more comfortable and see John going all out flirting, and possibly have more confidence and realize there's nothing

inappropriate about it. When John was reading for Perdita and Ben Purnell for Florizel, John read the line "I swoon!" with his voice three octaves higher than normal and flung his arms up into the air, falling backwards into a trust fall. When about half way to the floor, John realized Ben was not there to catch him and yelled "catch me!" and Ben grabbed him at the last second. Then John just hung there in Ben's arms, delivering the rest of the lines, and everyone just lost it. John Southards is the real hero.

The Herald's interview with assistant director Spencer Reeves.

CD: How did you get involved in The Winter's Tale?

SR: Completely out of the blue, Jane White sent me a Facebook message at 10:09 PM on May 24 which read, "Hey Spencer. Wanna be the assistant director for a play I'm proposing for this fall?" I asked her of the play and time commitment, and when she told me it was The Winter's Tale and low balled the time commitment, naturally, I said Sure! Why not?

CD: How do you balance the play with academics?

SR: It's actually not as difficult as I

had anticipated. I had the good fortune of having almost all afternoon classes, so I get up in the morning, do homework, go to class, then go to rehearsals. Also, my Apple calendar looks like a Jackson Pollock painting. Really, you can make time to do almost anything as long as you are on top of your schedule enough and plan things out in advance. I've been able to get all my work done, be at almost every single rehearsal, and get 7-8 hours of sleep most nights. And anytime I can't get those 7-8 hours, I compensate with medically inadvisable amounts of Earl Grey tea.

CD: Which act or scene are you most excited to watch the actors perform?

SR: Although not a whole act, I'm very excited for Act 3, Scene 1, where Cleomenes and Dion (Hallie Skansi and Theresa Rowland) travel back to Sicilia. The scene is less than a page long in the script and serves almost a utilitarian role in the plot, but Hallie and Theresa have given such life to an otherwise plain scene - it's just blown me away. It's been one of the funniest scenes in rehearsals, and I cannot wait to see it performed opening night! ■

Table Talks with Dan and Matt

A Lack of Trust

| by Matt Hoke |

What am I going to do once I graduate? Am I going to succeed on this next assignment? Will I have the financial resources to come back to school next semester? Is my life going to be successful? Am I going to do anything great for God?

Two weeks ago, I talked about the first type of self-centered thoughts, comparative thoughts. This week I want to talk about the second type of thoughts, fears about my future. While none of the thoughts listed above are inherently self-centered, the orientation of the thoughts can be. For example, there is nothing wrong with thinking ahead and seeking to plan for what I will do after I graduate from PHC. The self-centeredness comes when I continually focus on this uncertainty, when it consumes my mind. Instead of turning to Christ, I continue to think about how I do not know what I will do. This same pattern applies to these questions. The common denominator between these fearful questions is a lack of trust, a lack of my trust in God's plan for my life.

God has shown me through my time at PHC and before I came to PHC through the instruction of my Mom, that I am to trust God with everything: my career opportunities, my future, my next assignment. To take my focus off Christ in times of uncertainty is to place it on myself, my own abilities and wisdom. I know that that place is unstable, and it can lead me to sink in my fear and stress (Matthew 14:29-33). So, what certainty do I have if I choose to trust God with my life and my fears about my future?

The certainty for me comes from the fact that God promises that He has good plans for me (Jeremiah 29:11), will direct my steps if I trust Him (Proverbs

3:5-6), and, as His child, has prepared good works for me to do on this Earth (Ephesians 2:10). In addition, Christ invites me to "cast all my anxieties on Him" because He cares for me (1 Peter 5:7). The Lord of the Universe invites me to trust Him with my anxieties, promising me that His control of my life will bring me rest and that He will give me enduring peace (Matthew 11:28-30, John 14:27). He also promises to always be with me, including when I go through the fearful, stressful times of my life (Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10).

However, Christ does not only give benefits to those who trust Him wholeheartedly with their lives. He also tells me that worrying about my future is foolishness since God cares for me infinitely more than the sparrows which He provides for and He knows what I need (Matthew 6:25-32). Instead, I am to pursue God's holiness, seeking His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33). The futility of worrying about the future is summed up in Jesus' statement that I ought to not "be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble (Matthew 6:34)." This admonition teaches me that I am not to be concerned about the future for two reasons. First, I do not know the future, since as a human, I am finite (James 4:14-15). In this sense, it is not my job to worry about what will happen in the next day, week, month, or year. Second, thinking about the future will unnecessarily add to my stress when I have enough challenges that I must face today. Christ's admonition in the Sermon on the Mount teaches me that I am only required to do my best for Him moment by moment. Any self-centered, God-absent worry about my future is above my pay grade and is ul-

timately sinful.

Why is it sinful? Because, as I said in my second talk on the lie behind these thoughts, my fears about my future dethrone God from His rightful place as Lord, Master, and Pilot of my life. When I choose to focus on future fears, I take the place of God as the determinative force in my life. I may not say it, but my lack of trust is a taking of my life into my hands to achieve my goals. "My, my, my," is a self-focused refrain that once again takes me back to the root of pride so insidiously rooted in my heart. Instead, the reality is that He determines my steps, has planned my future, and guides me along the path He has set before me (Proverbs 16:9, James 4:15, Acts 17:26-28, Isaiah 46:9-10, and Psalm 119:15).

This denial of my status as controller of my destiny is not a diminution of my strength. Rather, it locates my confidence in the correct Place, the steadfast love and unchanging character of my Father (Psalm 32:10, Psalm 18:2), and that is a good Place to be (Psalm 16:5-6, 8, 11).

Next week I hope to talk about the last of the two types of self-centered thoughts, anger at being slighted by others and pre-judging others. If you have any questions or would like to talk about these ideas, please shoot me an email at mlhoke945@students.phc.edu.

Discussion Questions:

- Do I struggle from a lack of trust in the loving, good plans of God for my life?
- How do I exhibit this lack of trust?
- How can I personally cultivate a heart of trust in God?
- How can I encourage others to trust God further? ■

Creative Corner

"Actual footage of PHC students right now"
by **Andrew Shepherd**



EVENTS

**# D1 & D5
Open Dorms**
October 10th
6 - 7 & 7 - 8 p.m.

**# Coffeeshop
Performances**
Oct. 10 @ 8 p.m.

**# Purcellville Pardoning
the Turkey**
Town Hall
Nov. 11 @ 12 p.m.

Seek & Hide

This week's hiding place:

B. Doughnut

"If you are looking for something sweet and savory, B. Doughnut is definitely the place to go. They have incredible donuts, filled with everything from coffee cream filling to cream cheese and chives. Get there early though, they make them fresh everyday and they tend to run out!"
- Liv Bowers

