

## The Blood of His Fathers

**BY BLAKE TOMAN**  
*Contributing Writer*

For Diego Lastra, royalty runs in the blood—but so do persecution, displacement, and fear. The farthest back he can trace his ancestry is to Pelagius of Asturias, who created the Kingdom of Asturias in the eighth century A.D.; academics such as J.N. Hillgarth credit Pelagius for starting the Recon-

quista of Spain from the Moors. His ancestors had their lives and property threatened during the Spanish Inquisition, a relative was burned at the stake for his faith in Mexico, and his grandfather gave up everything for a chance at a better life with its unique challenges in America.

To some, ancestry is reduced to one well-known ancestor or a hodge-

podge of percentages that are brought up during small talk, but for Diego, heritage and ancestry are at the core of his thought. It influences the values he holds and impacts almost every decision that he makes. “Our ancestors serve to guide our lives, and we have to learn from those who came before us,” he said.

Pelagius of Asturias’s kin, over the  
*continued on page 3*



## NEWS

<i>forensics: Nationals</i>	page 4
<i>publications: New SI Review</i>	page 5
<i>feature: The 103</i>	page 6
<i>profile: Ian Schmidt</i>	page 8
<i>feature: Friendship</i>	page 10
<i>opinion: Outreach</i>	page 11
<i>seniors: Saying Goodbye</i>	page 12
<i>fashion: Rolled Sleeves</i>	page 14

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# Goodbye, and thanks

Dear PHC,

It has been a great semester for The Herald, but the time now comes for me and my staff to bid you goodbye until next semester. Thank you all for taking time to read The Herald this semester and offer your suggestions and kind comments.

I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who allowed us to interview you; we cannot do our job nor practice journalism here on campus without you all, and you have participated in making The Herald what it is!

In the last issue of the semester, we like to publish as much as possible, so these last few pieces are from across all our journalism classes here at PHC, from freshmen to seniors.

To my staff: Kyle Ziemnick, thank you for being my only male staffer, an amazing copy editor, and for putting up with all of our jokes. Leah Greenwood, thank you for coming back as a senior to be a part of the team! Carrie Durning, thank you for being an excellent backpage editor and for always laughing at my quotes. Kara Brown, thank you for adding so much to The Herald this semester with your incredible video skills!

Lastly, to Marjorie Pratt. Marjorie will be taking over The Herald next semester as Editor-in-Chief, and I am so excited to see the improvements she brings. She has been my right-hand man (woman?) this past semester, and I know I am leaving The Herald in more than capable hands.

Going into finals, study hard, pray harder, and go forth for Christ and for liberty!

And with that, The Herald staff bids you goodbye until next semester!

Vienna Jacobson  
Editor-in-Chief



PHOTOGRAPHER: MEGAN PIERCE

# From Pelayo to Lastra

course of the following generations, adopted the last name, Pelayo. Pelayo is Spanish for “ancestor of Pelagius,” but the name was taken to hide their Jewish heritage from the leaders of the Spanish Inquisition and members of rival noble families during the Middle Ages. His ancestors, forcibly converted to Christianity in the 16th century, were constantly insulted and had their lives and property put at great risk. “They [the people of Spain] would call us Marranos and, in the Middle Ages especially, our Jewish heritage put our family in jeopardy,” Lastra said.

The Pelayos were faced with the choice of either leaving their wealth behind and fleeing to Mexico to face less persecution, or remaining in Spain, where they would risk the lives of their progeny attempting to preserve their fortune. The decision was made to immigrate in the 19th century to a small town in Mexico made up of three or four Jewish families at modern-day



Basketball Game

COURTESY OF LASTRA



DIEGO LASTRA (BACK ROW) AND FAMILY; COURTESY OF LASTRA

Guadalajara. However, the softer inquisition in Mexico still affected the Pelayos. One of Diego’s ancestors, Gregorio Pelayo, was burned at the stake for Judaizing and refusing to recant his Jewish faith and beliefs.

Despite the trials the Pelayos faced in Mexico, they were able to make a living and provide decent lives for their family. Over successive generations, the Pelayos were able to rise to prominence in Guadalajara. However, the family tried only to marry from within the founding Jewish families of the cities through arranged marriages. Teresa Pelayo, Lastra’s grandmother, had a comfortable life ahead of her if she chose to follow through with an arranged marriage.

However, she made a choice, like her ancestors, to sacrifice for future generations by eloping with a neighbor, Rene Lastra, and immigrating to America. Teresa Pelayo and Rene Lastra went from being part of a prominent family in Guadalajara and holding academic degrees, to living as part of the working class in El Paso, Texas, in the late '70s.

Teresa Pelayo also chose to hide much of their Jewish heritage from her three children, one of whom was Diego’s father, Mauricio. Eventually, she revealed the once-hidden elements of her heritage, and an edict issued by the Spanish government in 2014 con-

firmed the truth. “The family that preceded my dad was persecuted for so long, but now I don’t have to live with that fear,” Lastra said.

“I believe that my family now is shaped by my family in the past in both a good and a bad way,” Lastra said. “My heritage was stolen from my family, and now I’m taking it back.” Reclaiming his heritage means that when Lastra, a Christian, has to work on the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah, he goes to work wearing his kippah. When he feels fear about showing his heritage, he remembers that he only faces discomfort, but his ancestors faced death. It means that when someone tells him, “I want an American to help me” or “in America, we’re Christians,” he doesn’t react in anger or fear. “I didn’t have to react to show my pride. I made that act of going to work a physical representation of that tradition,” Lastra said.

Diego Victor Lastra was born on April 22, 1997, in Dallas, Texas, to Mauricio and Angela Lastra. However, he doesn’t see his life beginning with his birth. Rather, it begins with the history of his ancestors, from Pelagius of Asturias to Gregorio Pelayo and Teresa and Rene Lastra. “My name is Lastra, but that’s not the badge of courage I hold,” Lastra said. “I live my life for more than just me, and my ancestors expect something great out of me.” ♦

# They Can Handle the Truth

*PHC's mock trial A team places 12th at the national championship*

By **KYLE ZIEMNICK**  
Copy Editor

They say that close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades, but for PHC mock trial's A team, close certainly counted for something significant. PHC tied for 12th place at the American Mock Trial Association's (AMTA) National Championship in Minneapolis, Minn., earning the best finish in school history.

"Obviously, I wish we could have done better—I think we had the talent and the coaching to win the whole thing," Josh Webb said. "Ultimately, I wasn't disappointed because we still did quite well, all things considered."

In addition to receiving a team honorable mention award for the 12th place finish, PHC won two individual awards. Cooper Millhouse and Chris Baldacci each received an All-American witness award for the main FBI investigator and the defendant, respectively.

"We were in roughly the top 1.5 percent of teams in the country. Cooper and Chris were among the top 0.5 percent of witnesses in the country," co-captain Shane Roberts said. "Running the math on those numbers is humbling. It's hard to look at that and say anything less than 'wow.'"

Webb recalled that one of the highlights of the tournament came when an opposing attorney was crossing Baldacci, who was playing a cancer survivor.

"When [Baldacci] was being cross-examined, the attorney apologized for coughing and said he'd been sick recently," Webb said. "Chris, without missing a beat, immediately said, 'Oh yes, I can tell you all about sickness,' and then the attorney just awkwardly stumbled into their next ques-



PHC'S MOCK TRIAL A TEAM; COURTESY OF SHANNON DOWNING

tion. It was hilarious."

Before the tournament, the A team worked day and night to prepare for the new case that had been released for the championship tournament. Roberts said that they worked for over an hour in 20 of the 26 days they had to prepare.

"We scrimmaged with William and Mary, UVA, Florida, and Emory," co-captain Brenna Bakke said. "We practiced constantly and reworked our strategies until we were happy with them."

PHC battled Stanford and Lafayette Universities in its first two rounds. In the third of four rounds, PHC faced the Yale A team, a team that had made three straight championship rounds and won the 2016 title.

"We were hyped," Roberts said. "We had been watching videos of their performances from years past and the whole mock trial community had their eyes on Yale's performance this year. We just gave it all we had and picked up 2.5 out of 3 ballots possible—a win

in our book. We lost our minds."

That result meant that this season, PHC defeated both participants in last year's national championship round: UVA and Yale.

In addition, this year marked the end of three A team members' collegiate forensic careers: Webb, Roberts, and Bakke.

"It's definitely bittersweet," Webb said.

"To be honest, it hasn't sunk in yet," Roberts said. "I've competed with most of the people on my team since high school. We're a tight-knit crew—partially because we practically lived together through all the tournaments this semester!"

Bakke added that most of all, she'll miss "the nights of laughter, the excitement of a sudden strategy epiphany, and the prayers and pep talks before every round."

"After the last trial," she said, "we all just hugged each other a lot and laughed, remembering all of our sweet memories together." ♦

# Leveling Up

The Counterintelligence Review prepares to launch a new website

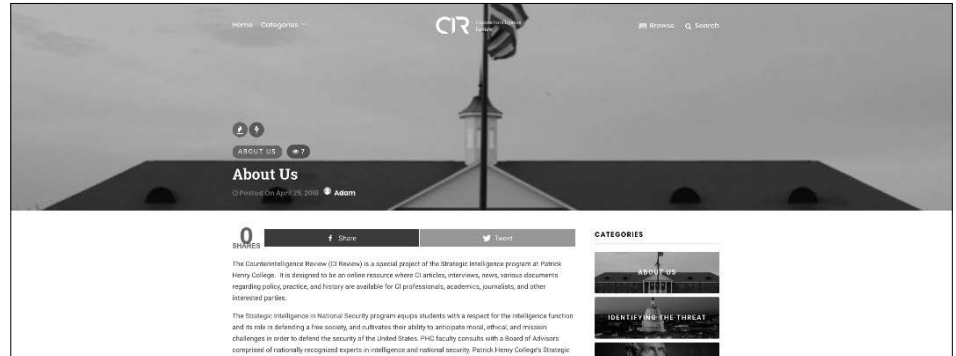
BY LEAH GREENWOOD  
Staff Writer

Within the intelligence community, Professor Jonathan Binnie said, PHC's Strategic Intelligence program is fairly well known. However, in a move to further advance PHC's name, the Counterintelligence Review special project will soon be unveiling its own website domain. The free online database is expected to launch for the fall 2018 semester.

The counterintelligence world is one overflowing with information—so much so, that it is often difficult to find specific information without knowing exactly where to look. The Counterintelligence Review addresses this problem by compiling various topic tags which consist of numerous links to information about each given topic. This information is targeted towards people in the counterintelligence world, academics, journalists, and anyone else who may be interested in information from the intelligence community.

"One of the largest targets for our audience is people who do this stuff every day, or who have done it but are retired from it now," Binnie said.

A good degree of careful consideration has been put into the creation of this website. "We'll have all this stuff in one place," Binnie said. "We don't want



to make it look super academic and boring, nor do we want it to be super splashy and inconsequential."

Freshman Tyler DeVliieger worked hours putting the website put together. DeVliieger entered PHC with a passion for website design and coding; at age 11 he taught himself how to code and has been learning ever since. "I want to be able to help the college and the Counterintelligence Review...and to be able to serve and use the skills that God has given me," he said.

The website will contain pieces written by PHC students, but it will mostly consist of links to different websites. "We're not going to put the documents on our site...we want people to go to other places," Binnie said. Excerpts of fiction stories and links to YouTube videos will also be included, as well as a current news section.

In an effort to extend its reach into an area dominated by classical liberal

arts, the Counterintelligence Review also plans to work with literature and music majors. The project will include reviews and other interactions with fictional stories from genres like spy literature, as well as topics such as the Cold War's influence on music.

"I like the unification of it," said junior Adam Johnson, Project Manager of the Counterintelligence Review. "[This project is] like a think tank for all things intelligence...with lots of different reference points that you can have."

The Counterintelligence Review originally existed in 2012 as a collaboration between PHC's SI Program and the FBI Counterintelligence Strategic Partnership in Baltimore. "In an increasingly complex security environment, the FBI is constantly seeking new ways to establish mutually productive relationships with new industry partners, and to reinforce our existing partnerships with long-standing friends," wrote Richard A. McFeely, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Baltimore Division.

After a few years and a change of personnel at the FBI Baltimore field office, however, the partnership was terminated. Thus, the Counterintelligence Review needed a new direction for its program and decided upon the current plan to launch the database. "[The Counterintelligence Review] is kind of the first in SI history to take different special projects and put them into one place," Johnson said. ♦



SCREENSHOTS COURTESY OF ADAM JOHNSON

# The Nerd, The Hater, and The Miraculously Single

*Which one's which in The 103, and how an unlikely group of sophomores became a band of brothers*

By **KYLE ZIEMNICK**  
Copy Editor

"Stop it, you dolt!"

Twelve three-person rooms line the bottom floor of D5, but all of them operate at less than full capacity—the current student population makes them unnecessary. All, that is, except for one. That room has three sophomores.

"You absolute monster!"

As you enter the first floor's right wing, you'll see that all the rooms have their occupants' names printed on the door. All, that is, except for one. That room has a "Biohazard: Contaminated Room" sign.

"He forked my queen!"

Although every room in the dorm has a number, all of them aren't referred to by their numbers, but by their occupants. All, that is, except for one. That room is the 103.

The 103 is, as one freshman put it, the room you go to for comic relief.

Matt Donnelly, Gabe Blacklock, and Andrew Shelton have lived in the 103 for the entire 2017-18 school year, but their time together is coming to an end. Shelton will become the RA of his own wing with Donnelly as his roommate, while Blacklock plans to move to D5's top floor.

During freshman year, though, no one would have expected these three men to become best friends. They were too different.

But through chess, school, and Star Wars memes, they would forge a lasting bond that will continue beyond their impending separation.

Donnelly had spent the most time on campus of the three before arriving for freshman orientation. His father, Mike Donnelly, works as an attorney for HSLDA, which shares a building with PHC, and has taught constitutional law to PHCers in the past. But Matt didn't befriend Shelton and Blacklock from the beginning.

"I became friends with people I thought would be fun," Donnelly said.

Donnelly befriended fellow athletes like Emil Meintjes and Micah Bock, and he tried to distance himself from the people he considered to be "nerds."

"I basically thought he was trying to be too cool," Blacklock said.

But in reality, Donnelly was hiding his true self. He loves Star Wars, the Lord of the Rings, and Narnia. He plays video games like Age of Empires. He reads books on conservatism and politics. He became extremely knowledgeable in foreign affairs. He's a chess master. He is, in short, a nerd.

"We made fun of him for about a year for attempting to be cool," Shelton said. "Despite his backwards Patriots hat (special edition sticker), and shoes, Matt secretly has a giant teddy bear heart for Bobby Fischer and Edmund Burke."

Shelton is also a Bobby Fischer fan. He's the youngest member of the class of 2020, having turned 17 just two months before enrolling at PHC. He, like Donnelly, had strong connections to PHC, as both of his older brothers had come here. But Shelton is no athlete.

"We almost didn't hire him as an RA because of the RA-freshmen frisbee game," RD Stan Crocker said, tongue firmly in cheek. "But we decided that God looks at the inside, not the outside, so we hired him anyways."

Shelton kept to

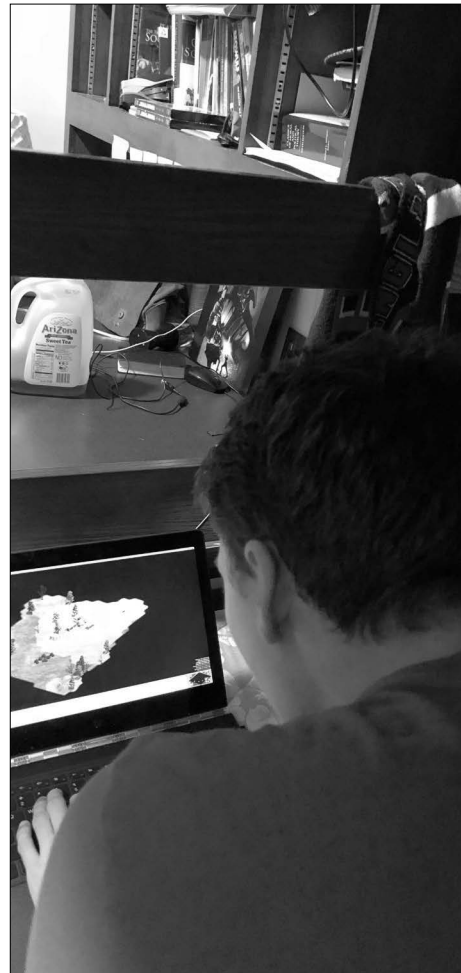
himself for most of his first semester, quietly going about his business and sticking to then-RA Jordan Hughes's couch. That would change, though.

"He didn't really talk to me at first," wingmate JP Schumacher said. "But he's a lot funnier than he appears. He's more willing to talk than I thought he was—he actually enjoys talking with people."

Although usually even-keeled, Shelton does become passionate on occasion. He's rage-quit chess matches, he obsessively shows pictures of his baby nephew to his wing, and he has a burning hatred of Congress's recent deficit-exploding omnibus spending bill.

"I have never seen him react to anything as much as he did to the spending bill," Donnelly said.

"That is one thing that has brought



GABE BLACKLOCK





this room together: our hatred of the spending bill and Mitch McConnell,” Shelton added.

Blacklock, in contrast to Shelton, is one of the oldest members of his class at 21 years old. He’s a modern-day Renaissance man who belts out Broadway tunes, acts in Eden Troupe’s productions, and plays instruments from the trumpet to the tin whistle. He inherited many of these talents from his older siblings, all of whom came to PHC as well.

“It is an act of God that Gabe Blacklock is still single with all of that talent,” junior wingmate Ian Frith said.

Despite his brilliance in many areas, Blacklock sometimes struggles with the basics of PHC life. Even after a year and a half on campus, he still asks questions like “How do you put money in your account to print things? And now how do I print stuff?”, “Where’s the admissions office?”, and “What time is chapel?”



ANDREW SHELTON

“I sometimes wonder how he’s going to make it in the real world,” Donnelly said.

When Blacklock and Shelton moved into D5, they roomed together because of their shared debate experience. But the two weren’t close-knit friends.

“I didn’t realize that Shelton wasn’t a quiet nerdy person and was actually the devil incarnate until the end of our first semester,” Blacklock said.

Donnelly and Shelton weren’t close either, even though they were on the same mock trial team.

“We didn’t really interact,” Donnelly said.

But at the end of their first semester, Donnelly walked into Shelton’s room waiting for a mutual friend. He saw a chess set on Shelton’s bookshelf, and, having played many times in high school, set up the board on the floor. Shelton walked back in from class and saw the board set up. Donnelly described what happened next.

“[Shelton] said in an arrogant, hurried voice, ‘You’re white. Your move.’ He must’ve had some false confidence. He played very quickly. Then I crushed him.”

“Crushed is a relative term,” said Shelton, a state chess champ in kindergarten.

The two would play many more games of chess over the next year, as well as rounds of video games like Age of Empires and Super Smash Bros.

Donnelly recalled that his first memory of Blacklock was of him sitting in the D5 lobby playing Marathon, a decades-old shooter game, on his



MATT DONNELLY

computer.

“I thought, ‘Wow, he’s a nerd,’” Donnelly said.

Blacklock, on the other hand, had a different impression of Donnelly with two main parts. First, he thought Donnelly was older than he really was. The second?

“Wow, there’s actually someone as skinny as I am,” Blacklock said.

Once the three began to hang out more often, they developed a common language: memes and YouTube videos. One of the first videos they watched together was one which dubs young Anakin Skywalker’s lines from Star Wars: Episode I over Darth Vader’s scenes from the original Star Wars.

“‘I’m a pilot, you know’ [one of young Anakin’s lines] was the 103’s go-to phrase to explain anything odd or dumb in a conversation,” Schumacher said.

The 103 has a group text in which they’ve had conversations entirely composed of movie quotes. They’ve done everything together in the past year.

As the 103 era comes to a close, those closest to the room remember its impact on their lives.

“They make a lot of noise and wake me up, but all in all, I could not wish for better neighbors. I know I can always come in to their room and my spirits are instantly lifted,” Frith said. “Even if it’s because of a lot of stupid videos or memes or something.”

The journey won’t end here, though. The members of the 103 still have some unfinished business with each other.

“One of my greatest achievements while rooming with Gabe is convincing him that protectionism and tariffs are actually a bad idea,” Shelton said. “Pronouncing the word ‘economics’ correctly is still a work in progress.”

“I know that no matter what I’m doing, what mistakes I’ve made, or where I’m going, they’ll always be there for me and always love me and try to help me,” Blacklock said.

“We’re brothers,” Donnelly said. “It’s just that simple.” ♦

# Servant Leadership in Action: Ian Schmidt

BY LEO BRICENO  
Contributing Writer

Ian Schmidt's finger hovered over the trackpad on his laptop. Before him sat the RA application form that so many friends had tried to talk him into submitting. He had filled in all the blanks, crossed the T's, and dotted his I's. The resident directors had confirmed his position. Everything was a go. One click and he'd be an RA.

He sighed and glanced at the time on his laptop.

One hour till application deadline, one click away; but here Schmidt sat, holding back, insecurity churning in his gut.

Schmidt hated the idea of setting high standards and not meeting them. Right now, the leadership required for the RA position felt like an impossible bar to clear.

Schmidt had so much to live up to. His former RA's, David Tyrrell and Jordan Hughes, had left big footprints to follow. On top of that, Schmidt knew that if he clicked that button, the way he related to the people at college would change; people would act differently around him.

"I just think you'd do a good job, man," Hughes had said. "You should have your own wing and influence guys."

Ian had little confidence in his own abilities, but it was the confidence of his friends that ultimately made all the difference.

Click.

"Loading...Sent."

As the email sprinted off, nothing changed. No sudden leadership inspiration came over him, no sense of confidence. Ian felt absolutely the same; the insecurities on his shoulders stayed put.

That was alright—he was fully expecting them to. Even before going into the job, Ian knew being uncomfortable was in the job description.



IAN SCHMIDT (CENTER, FRONT ROW) AND HIS WING

"As a leader, you will inherently be put into situations that you are not comfortable with, or else you're not leading...you're just doing stuff that you like and that makes you feel comfortable. Leaders are people that take initiative and do things that other people aren't willing to do," Schmidt said.

It's been two, almost three, years since Schmidt submitted that application. He's in his last month of being a college student; looking back, he's come a long way and through many situations, all from that one click.

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Grey Glove had struck again.

John Southards was in the process of tidying up his desk, listening to classical music as he went.

Caleb Cox, Southards's roommate at the time, did not share John's appreciation for classical music. He didn't particularly want to clean his room, his side of the room was anything but clean, and on top of that, the air was filled with classical music he didn't want to listen to. This was the last straw.

"Dude! What are you doing? Dude, stop that!" Cox said.

When Southards continued to play his song over his phone, Cox whipped

out his own cellular device. The lines had been drawn and the terms had been set; it was time to summon Ian and resolve the conflict. The phone hummed once, twice, and kept humming.

"Dude, why'd you call me?"

Schmidt, who had been in his own room eight feet down the hall, appeared at the entrance of the room.

"Oh good. Ian, I want to talk to you," Cox said. "John's playing this music and it's just not okay."

Cox explained the situation and appealed to the imaginary line down the center of the room that marked the strict divide between their two territories. The music had quite literally crossed the line and invaded his side of the room.

Schmidt took a moment to assess the crisis.

"Well..." Schmidt said, "as long as the music stays on John's side of the room, I guess that's okay."

Cox blinked.

The jury hadn't returned the sentence he wanted, but Cox respected Schmidt's jurisdiction over the matter. Southards, on the other hand, got the message; Schmidt was encouraging him to be accommodating, even in the

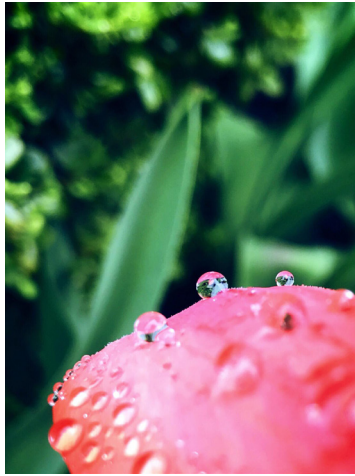
*continued on page 15*



# Adventures in Photography

Here are a few last photos from our Herald photographers who have been a constant source of help this semester!

**Kayla Schleining**



**Rachel Hankinson**



**Elle Reynolds**



# The End of the War of the Pearls

BY KARA BROWN  
Social Media Editor

The war began in a cold, narrow room lined with white concrete blocks. Fluttering snow was visible through the basement's expansive windows. Five people sat at cream-colored plastic tables under florescent lights, waiting.

At one table, next to a thick three-ringed binder and her high school debate partner, sat Sarah Geesaman. On the opposite end of the room, with a heaping assortment of notes and her little brother Matthew, was Meridian Paulton. Between them at a third table was the judge, who chattered on, oblivious of the time, until finally he invited Geesaman to approach the podium.

Geesaman, wearing a black pinstriped pantsuit with a red button-down shirt, let her hair fall in her face as she laid out their case concerning marine natural resource policy reforms. Then Paulton advanced wearing a red dress with a navy suit jacket and her hair pulled into a tight military bun. She also sported her signature pearl necklace.

Paulton felt excited and rebellious because she was about to do something her debate coach told her expressly never to do. Instead of arguing against the case presented, Paulton countered it with her own case identical to Geesaman, except for one changed word.

Geesaman and her partner were outraged. They stood up and protested that what Paulton had done was against the rules. But the judge didn't agree; Paulton's team won.

"After that round, any cordiality we had was just that. There was no sincerity left," Paulton said.

Their rivalry continued throughout high school as they hit each other in debate rounds three times in the next year.

"Meridian herself came across as very well put together, and certainly an impressive debater and extremely

competitive," Geesaman's second year partner Tristan Young said. "As a pair of debaters who were also very competitive and less well put together (to put it mildly), she was mildly infuriating."

"I thought Sarah was a tomboy," Paulton said. "She wore a black choker, dressed entirely in black, and her hair was crazy. I used to think, 'Oh, she must be having a rough time.'"

"I shaved half my eyebrow off once just to annoy my mother and make her think I didn't care.... I tried intentionally to look like I didn't care," Geesaman said. "[Meridian] always conveyed herself to me as a person who...cared a lot about their appearance, which was not something that resonated with me."

Looking back at their rivalry, Geesaman said, "I think there were a lot of stereotypes that [Meridian] fell into—not to say that Meridian was a stereotype, but I stereotyped her based off the characteristics that she portrayed.... When she started to be aggressive and obnoxious too, I was like, 'I hate you.'"

"In high school, I was extremely focused, competitive, and driven," Paulton said. She used to research her competitors' arguments between debate rounds and have her dad print the findings out before the round started so she could use the material to take down her opponents.

A few years after the round that solidified their animosity, Geesaman and Paulton started applying to colleges. They politely messaged back and forth to find out if the other had decided to go to Patrick Henry College, since neither wanted to attend the same school as the other.

"I only knew she was coming to PHC right before we got here," Paulton said. "Our moms were good friends, so they asked us to get a picture together at freshman orientation."

Geesaman was worried about the possibility of debating each other again. However, since they joined different forms of debate, they did not



GEESAMAN AND PAULTON

have to interact. Other than that day at orientation, they ignored each other and only talked when necessary during their freshman year.

"I was mostly just annoyed with her by the time we got to school," Geesaman said. "I thought she was weird because she wore pearls to go hiking and I thought that was pretentious."

By their sophomore year, both girls had become friends with fellow sophomore Julia Tomaszewski. Tomaszewski was unacquainted with either before college and was unaware of their past animosity.

"If I mentioned Sarah to Meridian or Meridian to Sarah, the response would always be, 'Oh,' and that was it," Tomaszewski said.

Tomaszewski once confronted Geesaman about Paulton. "Hey," she said. "I heard you and Meridian know each other, but I've never seen you hang out together."

"Yeah, we didn't really get along," Geesaman responded.

Determined to have her friends be friends, Tomaszewski told each one that she was going to make them talk to each other.

"If I was hanging out with one, I

would invite the other to come too,” Tomaszewski said. “I didn’t like the idea that two of my best friends were not on talking terms.... And yeah, I might have forced it a little bit.”

Sophomore year, Geesaman remembers a turn in her and Paulton’s relationship at a debate tournament.

“We were having civil conversations, though I still did laugh at the amount of makeup she brought,” Geesaman said.

After sophomore year, the animosity and annoyance started to die down according to Geesaman. Paulton remembers thinking after interacting with

Geesaman sophomore year, “She seems to hate me a little less.”

The next year at another tournament, an “awkward boy,” as Geesaman described him, was talking to Paulton and ignoring her polite remarks that she needed to go.

“I decided to save her from the awkward boy,” Geesaman said. “At that point we had an inside joke.... I realized Meridian is just a normal person and I can talk to her and it will be fine.”

Junior year, they both became RA’s in the same dorm and were a part of a physics lab group together.

“By the time I found out we were going to be RA’s in the same dorm, I was excited about it,” Geesaman said.

“They were joking about it by junior year,” Tomaszewski said. “I took a picture of them and they had an ‘Aw, we actually like each other now’ moment.”

Just a couple years ago, Paulton would not have been able to guess that she would befriend her competition from the debate round in the cold basement room. “Now Sarah is one of my better friends,” she said. ♦

## Reaching Out; Starting Today

BY DR. STEVE HAKE  
Contributing Writer

I am praying for a culture of discipleship, disciple making, and outreach at PHC. I really shouldn’t have to add the “and outreach” part. Jesus didn’t command us to “disciple the church,” but to “disciple the nations.” True disciple makers are always “outreachers,” even as Jesus was. On every page of the gospels we see Jesus reaching out to those far from Him, often those despised and rejected by the world. Look at the Gadarene demoniac that everyone feared and avoided, or the Samaritan woman he met at a well, or Zacchaeus the tax collector, or lepers whom no one dared touch, and we could go on and on. He was a friend of sinners, even sinners who had no other friends. He came to seek and save the lost. And He calls us to follow Him out into His world and do likewise. He promises to make us fishers of men.

If you live on campus, you live in a sea of believers. God may call you one day to reverse that and live in a sea of unbelievers. We did this for almost twenty years in Taiwan. But you can’t wait till then. You need to at least BEGIN to grow in this now, to balance your life. You may not be able to spend 20 hours a week among those outside, but you can spend at least spend two.

There are LOTS of ways to do this. It can be FUN (and lucrative!). If finances are tight, consider taking a job off campus. Many of you work on campus, and that is wonderful, but consider taking a job off campus.

Or consider using a strength or interest of yours as a way to build a bridge to those outside. Do you enjoy music, drama, debate, sports, tutoring, horseback riding, etc...? Plenty of people in Purcellville also enjoy these things, and we can do them together. One of my dreams is form a Loudoun Valley Windsurfing Club aimed at the high school next door to us. I would love it if we could practice wind surfing on Lake Bob on Saturday mornings—maybe some of you would like to join us!

You could work with Young Life, Wild Life, Child Evangelism Fellowship, or the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as they strive to reach students in the high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools all around us. Choose something that puts you in natural contact with our neighbors here in Purcellville, so that you can love them, enjoy them, pray for them, and share Christ with them.

Esther Katz, as a labor of love and at my request (as a triple A), has compiled a wonderful spreadsheet. Opportunities include volunteering at horse therapy programs, providing homework

assistance, tutoring, and mentoring to after-school students, teaching keyboarding skills to low-income adults, caring for dogs and cats at the local animal shelters, and delivering weekend meal packages to schools for low-income students. I will also be sending a follow-up email that includes it as a link.

If you are bold-hearted, you can join Caleb Hoverson and others in the Outreach Club and do “cold contact” evangelism. But ALL of us are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and relationship or friendship evangelism is something all of us can and must do as salt and light. Have you ever led any one to Christ? It’s crazy that most of us have to answer “no” to that one. That’s gonna change, dear friends! ♦



PHOTO BY LUDO SAWICKI



# One Week More

*Seniors delve into their feelings of impatience as their last year draws to a close*

**BY ELIZABETH WASHINGTON**  
*Contributing Writer*

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines senioritis as “an ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades.” As a freshman, I wanted to know what really causes senioritis and whether I’m doomed to suffer it myself three years from now, so I visited Dean Sandra Corbitt’s office for a chat.

“There is a lot that runs through their heads, you know, because you’ve lived in this great community for a while and all of a sudden the reality of it starts hitting,” Corbitt said.

She named apathy and anxiety as two results of senioritis on campus, and fondly remembered calling it “Senior Panic” in her days working for Campus Crusade.

“They just begin to panic. They haven’t found their mate, they don’t know what they’re going to do, and they’re going to say goodbye to all their friends.”

Corbitt recommends combatting senioritis with a game plan for “finishing well and not just surviving.” She believes it is an active choice to live in the moment and cultivate an attitude of thankfulness. Though it would be convenient to know every step of the future right now, she noted that in most cases it isn’t necessary.

“I mean, it’ll make you feel better to know,” she smiled knowingly. “But...it’s not the end of the world.”

In seeking out God’s will, she noted that it is easy to look only for direction in these major life decisions, but the attitude of the heart is most important to the Lord.

“I just think it’s a matter of perspective and enjoying the look back at what the Lord’s done in your life over these four years,” Corbitt said.

In Corbitt’s office, a bittersweet feeling swept over me for every senior nearing graduation as she advised all to “really enjoy these moments...celebrate all these last things.”

For senior Harvest Prude, senioritis is the feeling of apathy and desire to move past her current season. This has mostly manifested academically for her and not in emotional or mental struggles. She looks back at freshman year and is amazed at her past drive for school.

“I’m pretty sure I could not do Spinney now as a senior...I still work hard, but school has shifted priorities for me,” Prude said. “There are so many other things that take emotional energy that God has placed in my life as a senior.”

Prude has been increasingly intentional throughout college in caring for others and building community. She thinks her senioritis might be more of a natural focus change. Prude is an RA and the only senior left in her dorm, and many of her classmates have “checked out” at this point.

“I think you can stay engaged and have a really awesome year of being really connected to the campus, even more so than you’ve ever been if you’re



CLASS OF 2017—COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS

open to it," Prude said. "I think God can really bless your senior year even if you are on campus."

At the same time, the uncertainty of her future is "a big question mark" at this point, with some options undecided for several months.

"I really don't like uncertainty so I'm just ready to know what I'm going to be doing...that's just a little stressful I guess," Prude said.

Prude suggests intentionally remembering the value and blessing of this current stage of life to fight against the ache to move on.

"I think the best way to combat being tired of the season of life you're in is to remind yourself of the really precious things about [it]," Prude said. "Whatever it is, reminding yourself of those things can be really helpful in reminding you to treasure the season of life you're in before it's over."

Senior William Bock defines Senioritis as "feeling very uncertain and also a sense of anticipation about the future... you've learned a lot here already and are just looking forward to the next step."

For Bock, next steps include getting married this summer and potentially going to law school. His senior year has included planning a wedding and still getting good grades, but he has noticed a shift in productivity.

"[Senioritis] has certainly caused me—whatever it is—to play a lot more games on my phone and to be on Facebook a lot more," Bock said.

Bock has noticed a trend of nostalgia in his classmates as they resurrect old memories and friendships.

"A lot of them will be looking up old



PHC STUDENT BODY IN 2014

posts on Facebook and sharing those again and people will hang out with others that they hung out with freshman year," Bock said.

As an RA, Bock still has responsibilities on campus and a reason to remain involved. He views finishing well as a personal challenge.

"[Faith] definitely helps in the sense that it should alleviate senioritis and cause you to focus on being the best person you can be here with the time you have," Bock said.

Senior Belle Mitchell views her time at PHC as "pretty standard." Since her yearlong internship with PHC's communication office just turned into her post-grad job, she has been able to avoid the stress and uncertainty of job hunting. Though very grateful, she said that her transition into the job has increased her hours.

"That's definitely encroaching on school time," Mitchell said.

Mitchell hopes to attend graduate school one day but isn't sure it will happen.

"This may be the last class I take or this may be the last season that I get to

just sit down and listen to a professor talk. And that's something really special that I might not get again and so there's sort of an increased value on that," Mitchell said.

At the same time, Mitchell is feeling ready to be done. Every Wednesday, after sitting in hours of classes, she can't help but think that in a couple weeks she will be finished.

"Life here does bring so much stress that you just want it to be over with; you just want the stress to go away," Mitchell said.

Mitchell got married last year and says marriage provides her a sense of peace about the future. Regardless of what happens, "I have Seth and that's for sure."

She views senioritis as "an eagerness to get on with life and to wrap up loose ends and the random assignments." There's a battle inside of her between rising to the challenge to finish well and not caring anymore. So, does Mitchell have senioritis? She hates to admit it, but she thinks so.

"It's maybe not a chronic case, but it's there." ♦





# Men! Roll Up Your Sleeves!

*A PHC senior's advice on looking good without trying too hard*

**By ASHLEY SWARTWOUT**  
*Contributing Writer*

Men of PHC! Would you like to be considered gentlemen? Would you like to appear that you're working hard with very little effort? Would you like to know how to get the attention of every woman you walk by? Learn how through the advice of this unbiased editorial!

Summer is coming, but if you're in a job where you have to wear a suit, this is a trying time where you sweat and chafe under the layers. However, there is an alternative which allows you to follow the conventions of style and dress codes while remaining cool. In addition, a totally unbiased poll found that women view the men who follow this trend as more capable and attractive.

The key to achieve both these ends is to roll up your shirtsleeves. Now, there is a specific process to sleeve-rolling which must be followed in order to look respectable and to garner the attention of the ladies. This method also brings the perception of being a hard worker, dedicated to the task at hand

and willing to put in the extra effort and elbow grease to successfully complete the job. For your convenience, I've broken down the process into three easy steps.

To begin, you must be wearing a collared shirt, dress pants, and a suit coat (a tie is optional, though it can heighten the look of "I'm working so hard; look at me; I'm such a good worker," which is ideal).

Step 1: Take off your suit jacket (if you are wearing a white collared shirt, you might need to wear an undershirt in order to avoid an embarrassing see-through faux pas).

Step 2: Unbutton the cuffs of your collared shirt.

Step 3: Using the width of the cuff as a guide, carefully fold your sleeve up, and in this manner, roll your sleeve until it is situated just below or at the elbow (about three rolls).

Make sure that there are no wrinkles in the rolled sleeve. Not only does this help you look neat and precise, but it also prevents your shirt from getting wrinkled and needing ironing (although who actually irons their clothes around here?).

For a stellar example in sleeve rolling, notice Dr. Haynes. He often exhibits this fashion of the collared shirt and the rolled sleeve, which contributes to his hardworking image as well as allowing him to prevent from overheating while teaching about the frustrations of federal rulemaking. While ditching the suit coat, he retains the tie, adding a touch more professionalism to the casual rolled sleeves.

It is also perfectly acceptable for ladies to roll the sleeves of their collared shirts in this same manner. I'm not discriminatory. However, it is less common because women have more fashion choices and so overall wear fewer collared shirts.

So, men of PHC, exercise the wonderful ability fashion affords you: the chance to be cool while remaining stylish and attractive. Springtime is short in this semester—there are only a couple more weeks left to impress the ladies.

Nota bene: DO NOT just wear short sleeved collared shirts. We're not Mormons. Put in the extra effort to roll up your sleeves. Women appreciate it. ♦



IAN SCHMIDT | continued from page 8

small things. Southards grabbed a pair of headphones.

“He was telling me to be humble but in the least condescending way possible,” Southards said.

In other words, Schmidt told Southards what he needed to fix without actually telling him what he needed to do. It was this hesitation to take command and tell people what to do that had the greatest impact on Southards.

“[Schmidt’s] so humble,” Southards said. “You hear it from everyone else who talks about him. A lot of times, when having to show leadership...he was uncomfortable to set himself up as someone to be followed...but I think that’s actually a part of the reason why I wanted to follow him.”

“Ian leads by going down the paths he’d like to see other people walk,” Southards said. That, Southards believes, is the kind of powerful leadership that can change how the people around you behave.

“If you want people to build boats, you don’t tell them how to build boats—you tell them stories of the sea,” Southards said.

As he prepares to become an RA next year, that’s just one of the lessons Southards is taking with him.

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Schmidt is influencing people with this kind of leadership even outside the context of Patrick Henry College.

“I’m not very emotional and I’m very quick to make judgments,” said Grace Schmidt, his younger sister. “That’s one of the things he tries really hard not to do.”

Her brother has been away from college for three years, but the way he treats other people has had an impact on the way Grace acts. He’s inspired her to become a leader in the simple ways she interacts with others.

As Schmidt looked back on his first year as RA, he found that his greatest weakness in leadership was blowing his fears out of proportion. Instead of focusing on leading by example and relying on grace for his shortcomings, he focused on the best job he could do.

“I completely missed the point,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt realized that leadership wasn’t about focusing on your own flaws—it’s about meeting others where they are. “A focus on self is antithetical to being a good leader at PHC,” he said.

That realization changed the way Schmidt approached people and relationships; he began utilizing an arsenal of pool tables, coffee cups, dinner plates, and anything else he could think of to grow purposeful relationships.

“It’s about ministering to people.”

It was this purposeful leadership that helped Schmidt connect with the people in his wing. As junior year plowed onward, Schmidt set time aside to share with his wingmates.

“Let’s go play pool,” Schmidt said to

Cox one day.

The pair went up to the student lounge. Schmidt didn’t quite know what to expect, but after an hour of not very much pool and a lot of conversation, Schmidt knew his effort had paid off.

“Some of the most honest conversations I’ve had were in those moments,” Schmidt said. “[Cox] was crazy but he was a really truly honest guy.”

Schmidt recounted how he wouldn’t have had the opportunity to have those conversations if he had chosen to focus on himself and the potential mistakes he could make.

“Relationships in the context of leadership should be a result of living life where you’re convicted to following God’s hand in the areas where he’s working in your life,” Schmidt said. “If you feel convicted about being purposeful about a certain person or friendship you should go and talk to them. If you feel led to talk to and encourage certain people, you should.”

Schmidt believes leadership in relationships is ultimately God-dependent. Searching for God will result in what good leadership looks like. That’s cause for blessing.

“Ask yourself: where do you think that God is leading? Where are the good things that have been happening in your life in relation to other people? See God at work...and move there.” ♦



ALL PHOTOS: CHRISTINE McDONALD



things you should know



Israeli police  
probe deaths of  
nine students in  
flash flood

Evacuation  
ordered near  
Wisconsin  
refinery



Duchess of  
Cambridge  
gives birth to  
boy

## “WHO SAID WHAT

quotes from campus

[Anonymous Female Student]  
"Aw man, Sam Zinkgraf just  
turned 19. That is very sad."

[Dr. Roberts]  
**"If you are going to commit  
a premeditated murder, just  
make sure you don't do it in  
Texas."**

[Kyle Ziemnick]  
"I hope you all know how much  
better I am at hugs and physi-  
cal contact than I was two years  
ago."

[Dr. Sillars]  
**"You tell Manus that if he's  
gonna poke the bear, he better  
be ready for whatever comes  
next."**

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from this semester!



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