

A Change at the Helm

By LEAH GREENWOOD
Staff Writer

Students flocked to their computers on Monday and Tuesday to cast their votes in the 2018 student body presidential election. Esther Katz and Josh Trepiccione have become the new student body president and vice-president, respectively, of Patrick Henry College. Their 126 votes defeated Ol-

ivia Bowers and Kara Brown, who received 65 votes. The voter turnout for this election was 92 percent.

Both Katz and Trepiccione said they appreciated how civil the whole election process was this year. "I was really encouraged by the support from the student body on both sides, especially how gracious and supportive the other ticket was of us," Katz said. "Policies

really were the primary focus of this election...rather than the person taking the office."

The team is excited to get started on some of their policies and ideas before summer, Katz said, so that they "can come back swinging" in the fall. She realizes that her role is to be an ambassador for the student body and plans to be "active and present" wherever she

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may find herself on campus.

Throughout their campaign, Katz and Trepiccione talked to various people about what their slogan “Expanding the Ethos” meant. Many of the replies they received involved the idea of community. “Ethos is very community-based,” Katz said. They plan to move forward in their new leadership roles with a focus on living out their slogan and helping the community at PHC.

“[Community is] imperfect people, living together, striving for excellence,” Trepiccione said.

“And bathed in grace!” Katz added. She pointed out that it is important to remember that extending grace is an essential part of living in community with one another.

Bowers and Brown are handling the loss graciously, despite their disappointment at the significant defeat. “It’s hard to put yourself in a really vulnerable place [and then lose],” Brown said. “But we’re super happy for Esther and Josh.”

One of the main goals of the Bowers/Brown ticket was to add some diversity of ideas

into the election process while keeping the election free of damaged personal relationships. “Our goal wasn’t necessarily to win,” Bowers said. “We wanted the student body to get to experience a really healthy, relaxed, and positive election.”

Many participants in this year’s election realized that previous campaigns often have been filled with such intense competition that people’s reputations would come out damaged and feelings would be hurt. Together, they strove to make this election different. “I hope to see more presidential elections in the future that prioritize the idea of what it means to be examples of Christ and living that out, while having our priorities straight and not making things a bigger deal than they are,” Brown said.

Bowers expressed gratitude for the people who helped and supported her and Brown, and she is excited to see where Katz and Trepiccione will lead the school. “I know Josh and Esther will continue to walk in the compassion, attentiveness, and intentionality that they already do,” she said. ♦



PHOTOGRAPHER: EVIE FORDHAM

The Journey to Becoming Earnest

Eden Troupe's cast and crew preview their spring performance

BY SUSANNA HOFFMAN
Contributing Writer

Eden Troupe's "The Importance of Being Earnest," set in late Victorian London, is a masterpiece of satirical comedy. Unlike other PHC productions that promote deep life values, co-director Elias Gannage chose Oscar Wilde's play to keep the audience laughing with its stereotypical period characters and witty dialogue.

"This might be the first show in three years that no one dies in," co-director Spencer Reeves said. "We are taking a breather from that and want the audience to have a good time."

Wilde's play is about how two men, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, convince two women, Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew, to believe that both of their names are Earnest. Both women have an odd fascination and obsession with the name, however, preventing the men from revealing their true identities. The parody of nineteenth century British culture is acted by a nine-member cast, all of whom portray certain stereotypes in society.

Jack Wordsworth, played by Ben Purnell, represents the correctness and normality of the upper-middle class. Algernon Moncrieff, played by Christian McGuire, "represents the decadence of British society," Reeves said.



COURTESY OF GANNAGE

"He is very wealthy and highly educated, but he is also languid and immoral."

Moncrieff's mannerisms contrast the pristine posture and correct outfit of Purnell's character. Moncrieff is everything extravagant about the British aristocracy. Reeves said that crafting Algernon's character was easy. "He just flops everywhere," Reeves said.

As a director, Gannage wanted more from his actors than just the script. "So much has to do with how you say things, how you look while you say those things, and what you are doing while you are saying those things."

Gannage worked with each actor to help mold them into something some of them clearly were not. Elle Reynolds plays the strong and fiery Gwendolen Fairfax. Reynolds needed coaching in

how to be icy and angry, Gannage said.

Some actors have added their own personal flare to their characters. McGuire's personal spin on Moncrieff is especially hilarious, Gannage said. "He has really made his character a dandy; very flamboyant and nonsensical—that is very Christian McGuire."

One of the most striking features of the play is the colorful costumes. Each costume was hand-picked by the directors in a very purposeful way. "We wanted to convey the characters through their costumes," Reeves said.

Wordsworth's vibrant personality is shown through his blue coat, but his black pants and black bow tie reveal that he is in line. With Moncrieff, Reeves said, "from the outrageous houndstooth patterned jacket, to his mustard yellow pants, to his brown top hat, he just screams decadence and arrogance and a lack of seriousness for society." Moncrieff's fancy brass-handled cane that he brandishes along with his top hat adds to his ridiculous and over-the-top demeanor.

"Looking at the whole cast, the costumes capture the fun, somewhat goofy, very overdone nature of Oscar Wilde's play," Reynolds said.

"It's just a goofy, funny story and that is what we are trying to make," Gannage said. ♦



COURTESY OF GANNAGE

D.C. Stole My Heart

Senior Danielle Fife talks APP, bikes, and dreams

BY CARRIE DURNING
Backpage Editor

PHC senior Danielle Fife once brought a bike to class. This semester, actually.

"But that's not an important story, I'll get to it eventually," Fife laughed.

The other story occurred in fall semester of her senior year, in APP Practicum with Dr. Mike Haynes. Being a very social person and in a class with many friends, Fife often talked until Haynes called for attention. This particular time, she did not notice him and continued speaking with her classmates. Finally noticing the class's silence and Haynes staring at her, she quieted down—but not before Haynes asked politely, "Will you please shut up?"

"That was the first time and not the only time that Dr. Haynes asked me to shut up," Fife said. "I deserved it, every time."

Currently a Government major minoring in Journalism, Fife planned on attending PHC for as long as she can remember.

She recalls having conversations with friends as a 13-year-old about why she loved Sarah Palin—which she regrets—and how amazing PHC is. Fife

applied to universities including Hillsdale, Seattle Pacific, and Liberty, but "PHC and Washington, D.C., stole my heart," Fife said.

Upon arriving at orientation, Fife described herself as a "bright-eyed little freshman," hopeful and excited about this new life and newfound independence, expecting PHC to fix her problems. "When I came here, I was a bitter person expecting PHC to fix me," Fife said. "I quickly learned that just coming to PHC wouldn't change that, and that I have to change myself."

At first, Fife was disappointed that school was not all that she expected. "It was different because it was very real, and very hard. I had to learn how to be okay with who I was," she said.

Being in the PHC environment changed Fife over the course of four years, making her a kinder, more understanding, and less angry person. "PHC has taught me to be a nice person, and to genuinely care about others," Fife said. "It held me accountable for my actions and my attitude, and forced me to get outside of my comfort zone."

During her sophomore and junior years, Fife interned with the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute and in public relations with Javelin in Washington, D.C. She is currently working as a processor, serving legal documents in Northern Maryland and the D.C. area. "I've had internships, I've worked part time, and I sometimes do school," Fife said.

After graduating, Fife plans on searching for a full-time job, hopefully a small firm or non-profit, that she will enjoy. "Finding a job in the area I want to be in is difficult," Fife said, "especially since small businesses are hardly ever hiring."

Focusing on graduating after this semester of 18 credits, a part-time job, and a very busy social life, Fife enjoys her share of Netflix and naps. She trusts that she will find a job when it is her time, but is a firm believer that when in college, college is your job. "It's okay to graduate without having a job and without having your future planned out," Fife said. "That is actually very normal."

"I don't think there is any shame in graduating college and doing what you want, whether that be taking a break for a year or becoming a barista," she said. "No one should tell you what is worthy of your time. This idea of having a big, fancy career after college with a perfect job immediately after college is a dangerous idea."

When reflecting back on her time at PHC, Fife is most thankful for the lessons she has learned about herself and others. "I learned to become myself," Fife said. "I am graduating in, they tell me, three weeks, and I am still not fully into my own. But I have grown."

In the immediate future, Fife sees herself working a job she enjoys in public relations and living closer to D.C. and "Shake Shack, so I can eat it whenever I want." In the distant future, Fife envisions owning a home, being married with two kids, and working her career, hopefully in Northern Virginia. "A nice white picket fence and a golden retriever would be nice too," Fife joked.

After graduating from PHC, Fife anticipates that what she'll miss the most about college will be the environment. "There is no other time of our lives where we will be surrounded by and living with people that are the same age and sharing the same life experiences with us, as we are now," Fife said. Fife also expressed how she will miss the people and the professors.



COURTESY OF FIFE

On the topic of professors, Fife laughed and remembered what she had forgotten to explain: her bicycle story. Fife had just gotten her bike fixed and was so excited that she decided to ride it to class in 50-degree rainy weather. Not having a bike lock due to the fact

that she tossed it off her porch when she saw a spider on it, Fife had no choice but to take the bike into the building with her. "I rolled it into Principles of Policy Analysis and sat down next to it, and Dr. Haynes just looked at me as he always does," Fife said. "Then he very

legitimately asked, 'Danielle, why are you always so strange?' He let me keep it in the classroom for the rest of class."

"PHC is a good place, and it had been wonderful to me," she said. "I'm going to miss it a lot; it's going to be hard to say goodbye." ♦

Presenting... the George Wythe Symposium

BY VIENNA JACOBSON
Editor

"I'm curious... how did you come to select this topic?" asked Colonel Gordon Middleton.

The question was addressed to International Politics and Policy senior Julia Tomaszewski, as she presented for the George Wythe Symposium on Monday, April 16th.

The symposium, put on by the George Wythe Review's staff, gives student contributors a platform to present a paper they researched. In Monday's symposium, the topics were Women in Terror, Voter Fraud, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

One of three seniors to present on Monday night, Tomaszewski stood out as she presented on Women in Terror. The topic was inspired by her friend and fellow senior, Sarah Geesaman. Tomaszewski explored the recruitment of women in terrorist organizations and how they serve many purposes, among them actors for social media stunts.

Middleton, the panelist responder to Tomaszewski's paper, had shown it to Katharine Gorka, a national security analyst and anti-Muslim activist, prior to Tomaszewski's presentation and said that Gorka had interest in talking with her about the paper. Even with her impressive amount of research, Tomaszewski said that she had just scratched the surface and encouraged others to seek out more information.

"I found myself drawn in and interested in the results of her study," junior Cougar Poths said. Poths said Tomaszewski's clarity and conciseness

along with her arguments helped him understand the topic. "I learned, actually, a lot from it."

Tomaszewski was also junior Marina Moreira's favorite presenter at the Symposium. "I think that obviously terrorism and terrorists are something that everyone should have a general overview and some knowledge of," Moreira said. "And I think a lot of times we don't think through all who could easily become a terrorist and what demographics could be targeted in order to have maximum effect." Moreira also pointed out the relevant nature of Tomaszewski's topic to the times.

Helaina Hirsch, an American Politics and Policy major was the first to present and talked about the use of indelible ink in elections and how it could potentially solve many problems in voter fraud. "It might be genius just because it's simplicity," Hirsch said.

Dr. Stephen Baskerville, when re-

sponding to Hirsch, said that while he was not an expert in this field, "I couldn't find any weaknesses in your argument; I couldn't find any criticisms of this proposed solution."

Daniel Thetford, a strategic intelligence major, presented on alternative dispute resolution (ADR). ADR is a field that Thetford finds appealing as he ventures into the world of law after graduation. "Traditional litigation only offers win-lose resolutions," Thetford said while appealing to the statistic that 85% of ADR cases are resolved prior to litigation. He believes ADR produces faster, cheaper, and better results.

Michael Carowitz, special council of the Federal Communications Commission, mused on his own undergraduate days as a political science student before congratulating Thetford on his paper and corroborating Thetford's research with his personal experience at work. ♦



PHOTOGRAPHER: EVIE FORDHAM

Fowl Play

A birdwatcher's review of avian life at PHC

BY RACHEL GROVE
Contributing Writer

Few things justify hanging up on your mother. A belted kingfisher is one of them. “Mom, I’m going to have to call you back. I have grab my camera and get some pictures of this.” I was very glad I did, as a few minutes later, the bird sailed off her branch and torpedoed into the water, reemerging with a small wriggling fish. It was like watching something from the Nature Channel, except I got to be the one to capture it. I had to remind myself to breathe as I inched closer to the bird to snap a few photos while she enjoyed her meal.

Kingfishers aren’t as common on campus, but on a nice afternoon, if the water is clear and you are very lucky, you might catch a glimpse of one of these incredible predators. This bird sports an impressive crest of grey blue feathers and a prominent beak. In this species, the females are the ones who have the prettier colors, as they have a second orange belt that the males lack. This is possibly due to the fact that males are highly territorial; the flash of orange tells the males that the

approaching kingfisher is a female and shouldn’t be chased off. Like most hunters, the kingfisher has very keen vision, its eyes able to focus in on the movements of underwater fish.

Kingfishers are just one of the many kinds PHC’s campus hosts.

I sat outside in the dark and cold. No one was up before 7 a.m. besides myself and two robins. One perched in a cherry tree not ten feet away, and the other stayed out of sight, merely a distant song that complements the first. Robins are one of the most prevalent and distinguishable songbird species on campus. They are especially active in the morning. This is a nuisance when a pair decides to flirt outside your dorm window at 4:30 in the morning.

The robin’s diet is mainly fruit.



MALE ROBIN

During the most recent snow day on campus, flocks of hundreds gather on the holly bushes outside the dorms to eat the bright red berries. These birds hide out on the lower branches of trees and hop through the grass in search of worms. Males are slightly larger and more brightly colored than females.

The longer you birdwatch, the easier it is to pick out the cries of the blue jay: a loud, dissident, and harsh “jay-jay” sound that is vaguely reminiscent of a teenager complaining to her mother. This call alerted me to the presence of one of these territorial birds while I sat outside reading. In a moment of mischievousness, I pulled up blue jay calls on my tablet and played them, then attempted to stifle laughter as the bird fluttered from tree to tree. Flustered, it cried out, trying to locate the bird that was yelling back at it. Don’t feel too bad; blue jays are known for ganging up and brutally killing other jays that trespass on their territory. They are also omnivorous and will eat just about anything, including baby birds of other species.

The blue jay has brilliant blue patterned wings, a blue crest, and a white



FEMALE BELTED KINGFISHER



MALE CARDINAL

underbelly, all of which make it easy to spot among the trees. They are beautiful birds, but hardly stay still long enough to get a good picture, much to the chagrin of bird photographers.

You've heard the melodious call before—a bubbling “tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle tea”—but you'd never imagine such a loud, distinct song could come from the tiny body of a Carolina wren. This small, drab, brown bird may not look like much and is hardly eye catching next to an American cardinal; however, these unique little birds are quite common on campus.

When nesting, the male Carolina wren builds multiple nests. The female takes her pick and the rest serve as decoys for predators. After finding a partner, these birds will pair up for life and will accompany each other year-round. Rather shy, like many of PHC's resident introverts, this bird has a knack for staying out of sight and can be found low to the ground

amid brush piles or bushes. Best spotted in the mornings, it actively hops about the leaf litter foraging for insects which make up a majority of its diet. This wren carries its tail in a distinct upright position and has a long beak that curves down slightly and a distinct white line above its eyes.

It is always a treat to see a beautiful red cardinal. The bright pop of warm color amid the trees is stunning. These birds are very active in the morning, retreating further into wooded areas as the day progresses. They are difficult to get close to, but their bright colors make them easy to spot at a distance. The females tend to be a faded brown, while the males boast a striking red body and a black mask around the eyes and beak. Both male and females have a pointed crest and a reddish beak. They usually travel in pairs. The northern cardinal is the state bird of seven states, including Virginia, and is the mascot of numerous sports teams.

If you peek through the foliage of the holly bush outside D2, or the ones behind D3, you might just catch a glimpse of a nesting mourning dove and her chicks. The mother bird will freeze up, hoping to remain hidden, and gaze back at you with wide wary eyes. Don't be fooled; mourning doves don't score

any medals when it comes to being good parents. Their nests consist of a slap-dash pile of sticks, often made in the most inconvenient of spots where both they and their fledglings are at the mercy of the wind. These doves rely on quantity, not quality, when it comes to raising young.

It's a brownish grey bird with black spots on its wings; its call, to which it owes its name, consists of a series of softer and louder “coo-oo” sounds. It is a sad yet comforting cry.

At some point in your PHC career you will find your path to class blocked by one or more of the fearsome beasts called Canada geese. Their black soulless eyes will lock on to you and you will have to make a choice; retreat and hope your professor does not count goose obstruction against you, or risk life and limb to wade past the seething mass of feathers and fury.

While these geese are known for migrating in the iconic V formation, they are present year-round here in Virginia. With favorable winds, flocks of these “honkers” can fly 1,500 miles in 24 hours, though they prefer to travel at a more relaxed pace as they complete their 2,000 to 3,000-mile migration. Unless their mates die, these birds are monogamous, and in the spring, these

lifelong pairs are more easily distinguished, often followed by a number of goslings. These goslings are incredibly impressionable and after hatching will imprint on anything that moves.

Birdwatching may not be for everyone, but anyone can take a moment to pause and listen to the cheery notes of a songbird or take a second to watch a robin hunt for worms. None of us are too busy to appreciate God's creation. Birds were created to be enjoyed... even the geese. ♦



CANADA GOOSE

The Room

PHCers open up about their gym experiences

By LEO BRICENO
Contributing Writer

If you close your eyes it's quiet—quieter than you would expect. But it's not the peaceful kind of quiet you get at a library. Instead, the occasional scrape of metal or pad of footsteps adds to the restlessness in the air. Small, irregular sounds make the room feel vibrant. The monotonous hum of the air conditioner and the distant whir of the treadmill give the stillness a sense of urgency.

Now open your eyes, and you can see that for the people here the room is bursting with noise.

Joel Panchak is listening to the blood pounding in his ears and rapper Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" is pounding even harder. If you stand next to him, you can hear the faint melody over Panchak's heavy breathing and an occasional grunt.

He's swapping out the plates on his bar—his load isn't heavy enough, not yet, anyway. He takes a moment to switch songs on his phone. His eyes move across the screen, hands lock onto the bar on the ground, and the pump begins. It's all part of the grind.

Joel is in here six to seven times a week. The only reasons he doesn't show up are if he's too sore, or maybe if he's sick. He's not the only one. He's just one

of the many Patrick Henry College students who make the gym their home on a regular basis.

For a handful of students, that room provides both a challenge and an opportunity to improve their bodies, minds, and even their identities. The blue-tiled floor and the pale glare of the ceiling lamps are a welcome sight for these students; it's a part of their lives in a very personal way.

It's a part of Julia Coniglio's life—specifically, it's an important component of her role as a college student. Her life in the gym began long before she submitted her first college application.

In middle school, Coniglio struggled with insecurity over her physical body image. So she decided to take steps to ward becoming physically active; she wanted to try her hand at organized sports by enrolling at the local high school. Maybe that would provide a sense of wellbeing she was looking for.

From freshman to junior year in high school, Coniglio ran with her high school team. The strain, the run, the endurance—she learned to love it. The team also provided her with a sense of community she'd never had before.

During senior year, Coniglio took a break from running for a team, instead choosing to focus on academics.

She dropped out of her teams and, for the remainder of her senior year, participated in CrossFit, integrating new forms of exercise from different types of competitive areas of fitness.

By the time Julia came to PHC, the practice of maintaining a certain standard of physical activity was something she had been doing for years. The skills and practices she had been building up over the years provided her with tools that would help her better deal with college.

Coniglio finds that she focuses better as a result of working out. Being in the gym makes a difference for her both academically and emotionally.

Sometimes, when assignments and stress bear down on her, she exchanges the pencil and notebook for a barbell and a set of weights. Back in the gym it's a matter of sweat and blood. There, she can work on the three or four goals she's set out for herself. She can complete them, feel accomplished, and find motivation to get back on the road.

The balance between being fit and having enough time to live the college life is a challenge that Coniglio has also had to deal with. She uses the gym and the track to work out four or five times a week, but her workout routine isn't a straitjacket. Sometimes she's only in the gym pumping iron three times a week—sometimes that's all the time she can afford. But she's learned that that's okay.

There are alternatives to working out; basketball, Frisbee, and other ways to be physically active. She isn't constrained to the gym. If she can't go, she doesn't beat herself up about it.

For other students, however, the gym is something they have come to need.

For Sutton Hays, the gym is an emotional room. Every time he's in there, he's personally invested in the exercises he's performing. He needs it. That's because it's not just about the muscles or the silhouette in the mirror. While



PHOTO BY VICTOR FREITAS ON UNSPLASH

those fruits contribute to the reason he visits the room six to seven times a week, the mental benefits he has reaped from his time in the gym provide a degree of emotional and mental stability.

"The mental results of getting good at training are far better than the physical—especially if you pay attention to them," Haye said.

After having a bad day, Haye can go to the gym and succeed at something. Sometimes successfully clearing a lift is the only thing that feels like it's going right, he said. For Haye, it can serve as both a vent and a coping mechanism.

But the benefits don't stop there. In the gym, Haye has honed a problem-solving mentality. He sets a certain goal for himself, learns to adapt to meet that goal, and achieves it. That same mindset provides him with a sense of task-managing that applies to the rest of college life. With it comes confidence in becoming someone who can do more today than they could yesterday, Haye said.

Alan Iiyama describes a similar experience. When Iiyama was having difficulty coping with stress, Haye encouraged him to get into the gym. Iiyama decided to try it out. His initial experience was less than stellar.

"Ah...this sucks," he said to himself after a couple of workouts.

Nevertheless, Iiyama stuck with it. Slowly, the gym went from being something he forced himself to do to becoming habit. Something clicked for him when he realized progress was possible.

Sure, he had struggled with putting one plate on the bar. But that was yesterday. Now, it's two—tomorrow, maybe it's three. There's potential in there—in the room. Iiyama has a mental image of what he could look like, and he can't let that go.

It's helped him cope with the restlessness that often accompanies the college experience.

"It could just be the blood draining from your head, but there is a release of emotional tension and stress whenever



PHOTO BY MARIA FERNANDA GONZALEZ ON UNSPLASH

you finish working out," Iiyama said.

For other students, the journey towards physical fitness is just beginning.

JP Schumacher remembers looking up from his studies and feeling troubled. He was sitting at his desk, chewing away at homework, but it wasn't his workload that was bothering him. Instead, it was the family-sized bag of peanut-butter M&Ms he was slowly depleting and the bottle of Mountain Dew he had recently emptied. He recognized he had been putting on weight throughout his time at college.

He was concerned for his health. Frankly, he didn't want to look in a mirror down the road and see something he could have prevented. On top of that, his father had struggled with a weak back—something Schumacher didn't want to replicate. He decided to make change happen.

In order to do that, he would need to visit the room. That was okay; it wasn't a complete stranger. Back when he was

14, Schumacher remembers working out with his brother, maintaining a consistent workout routine up until the age of 16.

He's been in there a few weeks. No, he hasn't been pumping iron for months or years, but he's building consistency.

Schumacher has already seen some of the room's benefits. Walks between Founders Hall and the Hodel Center used to tire him. Already, he's experiencing an increase of energy.

An attempt to eat healthier has accompanied his decision to work out, Schumacher said. There are a lot more plates of burger patties, hot dogs, chicken salad, and quinoa in his life than there used to be.

"I want to look like the next Sutton Haye...maybe I'll look more intimidating than him, who knows?"

He was only half joking.

A life of fitness is a benefit to anyone who musters the motivation to make the room a part of their lives. ♦

SoCal Spring Summit

BY KYLE ZIEMNICK
Copy Editor

I watched from the sand as the sun sank beneath the horizon, coloring the sky shades of yellow, red, and eventually purple. Dusk shrouded the mountains behind me, and Zuma Beach in Malibu was quiet. Homework seemed far away.

Except, of course, that it wasn't. Aside from the fact that papers were waiting for me when I got back, as a PHC student on a recruiting/public relations event, I was there to talk about academics with roughly 100 students and family members.

President Jack Haye, Dr. Michael Kucks, Aimee Stauf, Abi Carter, and I led a Student Impact Summit in Thousand Oaks, Calif., last weekend.

The Summit's goal was threefold: to make connections with families and younger teens in the southern California area, to aid in convincing seniors to attend PHC, and most importantly, to glorify God and edify listeners through our teaching and messages. It's the second of its kind; Haye and Dr. Robert Spinney held a Summit in Chicago last spring.

"I think Southern California has a community of people who would connect with PHC's message, but many of them have never experienced or heard of the college," Carter said. "The summit gave families the chance to not only hear about PHC but actually experience the college."

Before the event, we'd received just over 70 registrations, which was short of what we had hoped for. But we prayed for improved turnout, and God brought around 100 attendees on the day of the summit. They packed into Living Oaks Community Church, a building that looked like a business park on the outside yet was more developed and tech-savvy than any regular church I've seen in Virginia.

Stauf opened the event by leading

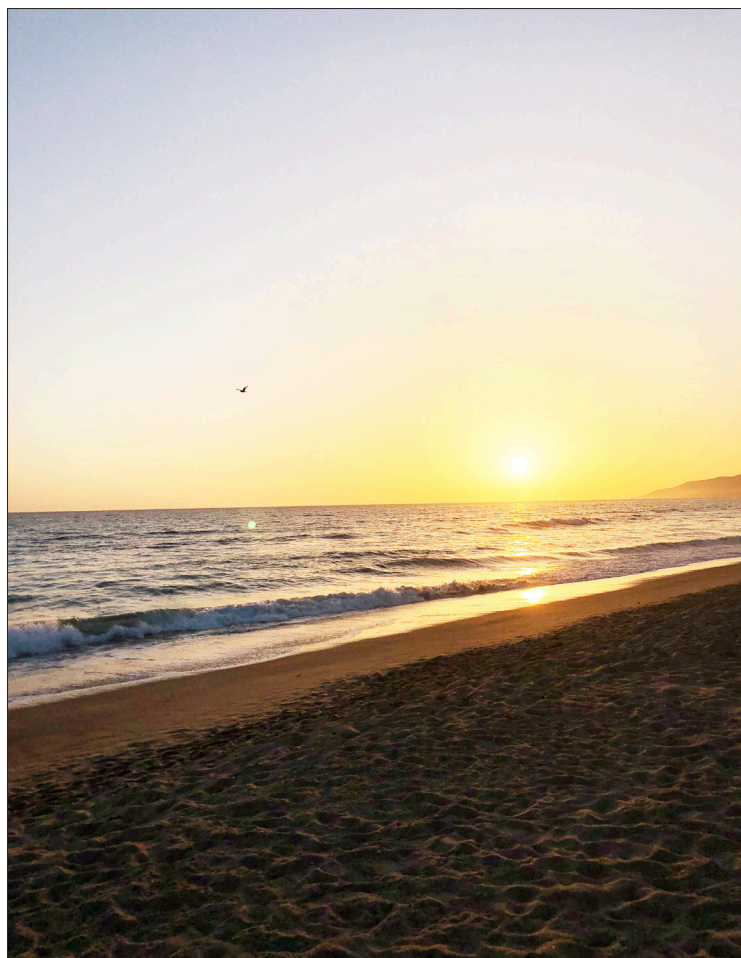
a brief worship service before Haye gave the keynote address on biblical leadership. Afterwards, the students and parents split into three groups which alternated in attending three breakout sessions: "Principles of Integrated Leadership" with Haye, "Is Profit Evil? The Business of Ordering Chaos" with Kucks, and "Forensics in Real Life: Speaking with Wisdom" with Carter and me. Stauf then closed with a message based on Francis

Schaeffer's "How Then Shall We Live?"

To prepare for our talk beforehand, Carter and I had built our session around a moot court demo and an interactive discussion of the other forensic events at PHC. We didn't really practice the talk until a couple days prior to the Summit, which made me relatively nervous going in. The audience, though, responded well and asked a lot of questions, especially during the first two sessions.

What did I learn from this experience? First, that it's incredible that we can go from one end of our massive country to the other and back in a weekend. This wasn't even dreamt of by the settlers who trailblazed their way across the prairies. We shouldn't take that ability to travel for granted.

But the most important lesson to



COURTESY OF ZIEMNICK

me was to have a little faith. You never really know how anything will go until it happens, and the fact that God allowed us to have such great walk-in attendance was incredible. He worked through many of the speakers; the parents and students I talked to afterwards felt blessed by the event.

It's also important to remember how much bigger PHC is than this current student population.

In just four months, an entire new crop of freshmen will come in. In four years, nearly everyone who's currently a student will be gone. My time here is almost halfway through. These kids, the ones who came to the Summit and heard our talks, are the future. They'll be the next Christians to lead the nation, shape the culture, and run the race. This trip reminded me that it's not too early to start passing the torch. ♦

Men in Black

Campus safety officers—the eyes and ears of PHC

BY ELIZABETH WASHINGTON
Contributing Writer

They're always around. As the eyes, ears, and introductory smile of PHC, student Campus Safety Officers work around the clock to ensure that everything is as it should be. Whether manning the front desk, patrolling the grounds, or letting underclassmen into their dorms after curfew, CSOs are taught by Chief Paul Yancey to "observe and report" anything out of the ordinary.

Yancey, Director for Public Safety at PHC, is currently finalizing the CSO team for next semester.

"Campus Safety is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to be plugged into the campus," Chaz Toplikar said.

Now PHC's Campus Safety Sergeant, Toplikar began work as a CSO during his senior year at PHC after applying for three years in a row.

"I think everybody who is interested should apply because everybody has a chance to get a position on CS, but I definitely would say that it's selective," Toplikar said.

Yancey is looking for the "cream of the crop." For him, this means responsible, trustworthy individuals who can think clearly, make decisions for themselves, act without bias, and interact in a mature and polite manner with others.

"We're supposed to be observant... detail oriented...always on alert, always willing to go above and beyond to improve things," CSO Hallie Skansi said.

For each applicant, Yancey distributes evaluations to RDs, RAs, and the deans. Other CSOs have a say as well. Then, Yancey ranks the candidates on a list with the highest average score at the top. If there are five open spots, Yancey picks the top five on the list, he said. He later returns to the same list if further vacancies open up.

"I think that mostly he's just looking for people who can competently address situations and...[are able to think] outside the box when there isn't a specific guideline for a situation," PHC senior and CSO Sarah Geesaman said.

Instead of calling him with every problem, Yancey instructs his CSOs to respond to most situations using their own judgment, excepting any kind of emergency.

"I empower the students—my Campus Safety guys—to think for themselves," Yancey said. He turns mistakes into learning opportunities.

CSOs take a class on all the "laws and regulations that are required of them as an unarmed security officer" through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice as part of their training. CSOs are not trained to engage in unsafe situations, but to monitor suspicious behavior and report it if necessary.

If a CSO sees someone suspicious lurking around on campus, for example, "the best thing to do is call the police department because they're trained in that," Yancey said.

As far as suspicious behavior and emergency situations go, PHC is not a prime hotspot.

"You sit behind a desk, you get paid for it, [and] you answer the phone, so there's jokes about what campus safety actually does...not much happens, but you have to remind yourself that the reason [you're] there is in case of something," Skansi said.

She explained that it can be tempting to skimp on mundane tasks like keeping an equipment log and diligently watching the cameras. Like lifeguards, CSOs might "sit around a lot," but could ultimately be "responsible for someone's life someday," she said.

Despite the serious nature of their job, CSOs still find ways to have fun and connect. Geesaman said that her

favorite part of the job is the "camaraderie" between officers. She enjoys deep conversations on patrols and pulling the occasional prank.

"At one point, I programmed the computer to pop up messages every five minutes to an officer while they were on their graveyard shift...[they] would just say, 'Hello...how are you?... I'm watching you,' and they would keep coming up," Geesaman said.

Some CSOs have also compiled a list of things "you don't want to see on patrol," which Geesaman could not share details of for confidentiality reasons. She also reminisced about the time some "hobos" camped out on PHC property and the on-duty CSOs had to kick them out.

Despite the occasional hiccup or suspicious stranger, Yancey doesn't have any "hairy situations" to report. He knocked three times on his wooden desk.

"I want to keep it that way." ♦

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quotes from campus

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"By the way, I cut myself a few
hours ago and I'm still bleeding,
I think."

[Dr. Roberts]

**"I want a Mustang like Dr. Sil-
lars."**

[Marina Moreira]

"I don't know what that was,
but I dropped my apples for it."

[Dr. Mitchell]

**"I want a purple pony. With
sparkles."**

[Dr. Haynes]

"My wife is my best friend in
the entire world."

”

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