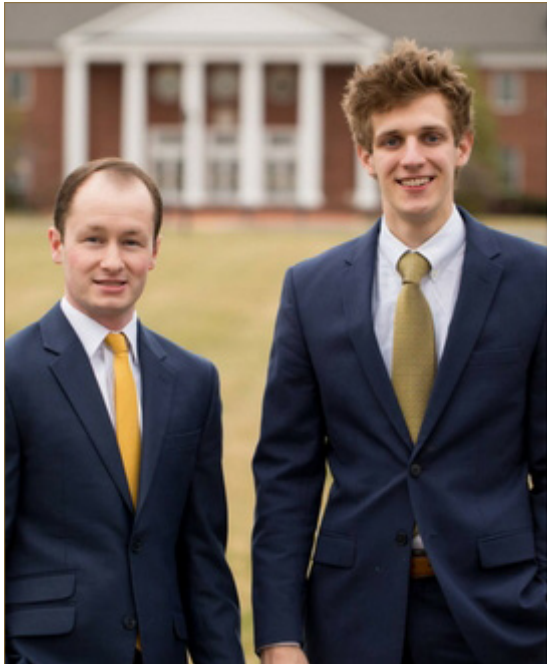


the herald

April 7, 2017

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Courtesy: William Bock



Courtesy: Daniel Thetford

Candidates William Bock and Josh Webb (left) and Matt Hoke and Daniel Thetford (right)

Presidential Race Narrows

McGuire/Geesaman Lose Primarys as Bock/Webb, Thetford/Hoke Press on

by Marjorie Pratt

The race for Patrick Henry College student body president narrowed to two candidates after this week's primary. William Bock and running mate Josh Webb received 38 percent of the vote, Daniel Thetford and running mate Matt Hoke received 34 percent, and candidate Christian McGuire and running mate Sarah Geesaman were knocked out after receiving 28 percent.

"All of our numbers indicated the election would be very

close," Thetford said. "There is not really any secret strategy for how we won. Our primary strategy has just been trying to talk to as many people one-on-one as possible. I think people like the ideas we are talking about, and they appreciate the fact that every policy we suggest is something that can and will happen. At the end of the day, I think students will choose the candidate who has demonstrated a genuine care for the people of PHC and the surrounding community."

"We want to congratulate Sarah and Christian on an ex-

cellent race," Bock said. "They consistently impressed us with their work ethic and their care for the school. We have no doubt that they'll continue to make a positive impact here. To our supporters, thanks for everything you've done to help us this far and we hope that this last week of campaigning can continue bringing us closer together."

Senior Santos DeBarros published the results of a public opinion poll he had conducted in March. Bock/Webb stood

continued on page 3



Courtesy: Mallory Faulkner

Eden Troupe's *Little Women* Opens

by Meg McEwen

Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* has always charmed me, perhaps because I sympathized with the journey of the four young March girls on their winding routes to womanhood. I keenly felt Jo's resistance as she fought against hoity-toity societal standards, caught up in a rush of storytelling and adventure. I admired Beth's sweet sensibility and longed to be more like Meg March, the graceful eldest sister. And as for Amy, well, I never liked her. That is, until I watched Eden Troupe's rendition of Allan Knee's *Little Women*, the musical, directed by students Spencer Milligan and Jimmy Waters.

Like the book, the musical focuses on the sweet,

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themasthead

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studentgovernment

President Haye addressed Senate on Wednesday night and discussed last month's Board of Trustees meeting. For next year's freshman class, Present Haye said that 58 students have confirmed their enrollment. He also discussed the Board's decision on the Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission report. The Board unanimously agreed to adopt the unanimous recommendations within the report; the Board did not take a position on either the majority or minority reports. A new committee is being formed with staff, students, and alumni that will rewrite the alcohol policy and present it to the Board at its meeting in July. The Board also expressed great thanks and respect for all involved in the APAC report. The Snapchat Geofilter competition is still going on! Submit entries to sgadmin@students.phc.edu. The winner of the competition will win \$75. Contact Tim Kocher with any questions.

- Beth Bergstrom

Student Body President General Elections Monday

continued from cover

with 36.9 percent of the vote, McGuire/Geesaman had 27.9 percent, and Thetford/Hoke had 13.1 percent. However, 22.1 percent of the polled students were still undecided at the time.

“Thetford and Hoke targeted the undecided,” DeBarros said, explaining their surge of support on election day.

Some students were unsurprised by the results of the primary, knowing the race would be close. But others had expected McGuire to make it through to the general

election.

“[Thetford’s] voters were quieter,” junior Aryn Andrews said, speculating as to why people were surprised by the results.

Sophomore Marina Moreira called them “under the radar voters.”

Thetford’s “campaign advertising wasn’t as professional, and I think that challenged how seriously [people] could take the campaign,” freshman Esther Maynard said.

Popular opinion suggests that McGuire’s voters will split between Thetford and Bock with a majority going to Thet-

ford. Andrews said that many of the people she had talked to listed Thetford as their second choice. McGuire and many of his campaign team are now backing Thetford.

DeBarros conducted his poll mostly out of curiosity. He notes that each of the candidates privately track their own numbers, but the students are usually unaware of the numbers until the final results are released. He wanted to see the numbers for himself and inform others on campus. He hopes to conduct a similar poll for the general election, which opens on Monday. ♦

The PHC Frisbee Tournament Continues

by Hailey Kilgo

In an upset last weekend, a team of freshman co-captained by Emil Meintjes and Kyle Ziemnick beat a team of seniors 11-9, and now they will advance to the next stage of the round-robin tournament.

Junior David Slaughter organized the Patrick Henry College Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. Over the course of several weeks, teams will duke it out to see who will be crowned PHC’s ultimate Frisbee champions.

“Ultimate Frisbee is a great tradition and a lot of fun,” Slaughter said.

If you don’t know what the game of ultimate frisbee involves, you are not alone. Frisbee is a game played by two seven-person teams. Once a player catches the disc, they cannot move. Like basketball, they can pivot with one foot before throwing the disc to another player. Like football, teams run up and down the field throwing the disc but hopefully without the tackling. Students from freshmen to seniors are competing in PHC’s tournament. Freshman Matt Donnelly does not think that beating the seniors was as much of an upset as it was a show of how hard the freshmen worked.

“We practiced quite a bit,” Donnelly said. “We love to play together as a team and being able to put that into action on



Members of the freshman team after their win

the field is something we enjoy.”

The date of the championship game is two to three weeks away and will depend on the weather. Weather permitting, the next game will include Meintjes and Ziemnick’s team and will be Saturday at 11 a.m. on the frisbee field.

“We play a team comprised of mostly sophomores next, and I think we will fare up against them pretty well,” Donnelly said. “We did well against the seniors, and I feel confident that we will be able to do well against whatever team we play next.”

Meintjes chose to play because he enjoys playing pickup ultimate frisbee with his friends back in Texas.

“Hard work pays off, and I’ve been re-

ally happy with our team,” Meintjes said. “People are taking it seriously, and that always makes it more fun.”

Each team must have at least one girl on the field at a time, and for the freshman team one of their two is Leah Widener.

“It’s Brianna Kelly and me, and it’s been really good,” Widener said. “Being a girl on the field is very interesting because you’re mostly playing a defensive game. Typically the guys jump in and take more of the offensive side. More girls should join and play though, because we are just as good as any of the guys.”

Keep an eye on PHC Family for details about the game schedule. ♦

Review: Eden Troupe's *Little Women*

continued from cover

complicated, and sometimes sour relationships between the four little women – Meg (Olivia Monroe), Jo (Kendra Olson), Amy (Becca Samelson) and Beth (Rosalie Blacklock) –, their mother Marmee (Abigail Olinski), neighbor Laurie (Gabe Blacklock), cantankerous Aunt March (Caitlyn Coulter), and other flavorful characters. *Little Women's* timeless value hinges on the relationships and personalities of the characters, and the play was no different. Each of the actors and actresses put on a refreshingly believable performance, truly embracing the distinct personalities of their various characters.

Though the spotlight favors all four of the sisters, the story begins and ends with Jo. Within moments, it was clear to me that Milligan and Waters chose an excellent Jo. As soon as Olson hit the stage, she spared no energy in bearing all of Jo's flurry of emotional outbursts, dreams, and escapades. Olson did an excellent job portraying Jo's metamorphosis from a carefree tomboy who steals trees and boxes Laurie at formal balls into a wiser, more stable "little woman." Olson battled illness up to the week of the performance, so I was floored when she jumped into her solos without a hitch.

Though Olson shone as Jo, a cast full of brilliant performers put on *Little Women*. I could imagine frail Beth in the form of Rosalie as she played a gentle tune on the stage piano, softening the harsh demeanor of Mr. Laurence (Nathan Karnes). Coulter spent the better part of the show with her nose in the air and her hand on a cane as the prim and proper Aunt March, forever trying to shape her wayward nieces into proper little women. She could not even give Jo a gift without a snide remark about her apparel.

Gabe as Laurie conveyed all of Laurie's



Courtesy: Mallory Faulkner

The ladies of *Little Women*

infatuation for Jo's wild ways. To be honest, I was a little disappointed that the script did not pay as much attention to their friendship as in the book, but one can only fit so much of a 500-page book into a three-hour play.

As earlier mentioned, I never liked Amy; in fact, my disdain for her only grew during my second reading of the *Little Women*. She seemed so self-consumed, utterly insensitive, and frankly, annoying. As a writer like Jo, I could never find it in myself to forgive Amy for her primary act of revenge against her sister. Yet, Samelson's retelling of Amy endeared her to me

in a way that I never thought could happen. I found a surprising source of comedy in a character that I formerly abhorred - whether she was parading a ball gown that she was not supposed to be wearing, announcing an unexpected engagement, or going to desperate extremes to mend her

relationship with Jo, Samelson brought new dimension to the character of Amy that I did not expect.

Monroe performed the quintessential Meg: elegant, sensible, and down to earth.

However, my favorite Meg moments came when she played the role of the damsel in distress in Jo's stories. I loved the way that Milligan and Waters sketched this duel-stage performance – Olson, utterly consumed in the telling of her story to a captive audience, stands on one side of the stage, while Meg and other characters act out the story on the other side of the stage.

Olinski did a great job communicating the hardships of single parenting to the audience. I caught a glimpse of Marmee in her as she taught each of her daughters how to become little women, despite their stark differences. One scene particularly stood out to me: while clutching Jo's hands, Olinski shows her how to grieve and be strong like a little woman when life takes a tragic turn for the girls, singing the line "You have to believe there is reason for hope."

I thought that the musical did a wonderful job highlighting the growth of four little women into adulthood through little snapshots of formative events in their life. The set felt homey, like an 1800s, middle-class house should. The cast did an excellent job conveying a spectrum of emotions through vocal harmony under the leadership of music director Bryan Leines, a senior. The play will be performed in PHC's Town Hall from April 6-9. ♦

"As soon as Olson hit the stage, she spared no energy in bearing all of Jo's flurry of emotional outbursts, dreams, and escapades."

Meg McEwen

PHC Welcomes New Resident Directors

by Leah Greenwood

As the current school year wraps up, Patrick Henry College is preparing to say goodbye to the current Resident Directors, Andrew Lonon and Emily Carde, and hello to new RDs Julianne Owens and Stan Crocker. Lonon and Carde have been RDs since 2015.

Class of 2014 grad Carde has enjoyed her time as RD. She loved getting to know the students, RAs, and Dean Sandra Corbitt better.

"I've learned a lot more about how people work," Carde said. "And I've definitely grown spiritually. There have been many situations that have brought me to prayer."

Carde will marry fellow PHC grad Ethan Weitz in May, then work as the assistant camp director for PHC Teen Camps over the summer. She will continue working on *The Cellary*, a music blog that she and Weitz created together, and *Humane Pursuits*, an online journal where she is an editor. Carde plans on dabbling in teaching to learn if it is something that she is interested in. She will be teaching two online English and literature classes part-time.

Carde would encourage the new RDs to pray about the situations they may find themselves in, especially when they are not sure how to handle or process those situations.

"It's really good to seek advice from other people on what to do, be that the deans or in some cases a trustworthy friend," Carde said.

Stephen Williams, a previous RD, encouraged Class of 2013 grad Lonon to take the position of RD. Lonon did

not want to pass up the opportunity that this role would give him to develop as a person, so he accepted.



Stan Crocker



Julianne Owens

"I knew that [being RD] would grow me in really important ways...like learning to be practical and not be idealistic about relationships or my influence... in organizational skills, and emotionally – being able to rest in and trust in the Lord, even when things are out of my control," Lonon said.

When his time as RD is finished, Lonon will move to Roanoke, Virginia, and enter the Blue Ridge Fellows Program. The program helps fellows find internships, connect within the community, and further their relationships with God.

As the new RDs take over, Lonon hopes to see a culture develop on campus that is more relationship-focused.

"Develop a culture where people don't get isolated as much, where people have more fun together, where people get to know each other and get to know people outside of their comfort zones," he said.

Current senior Owens is the new female RD. Throughout the last few years, she has seen God shut several doors which would have led to her fulfilling her own plans that she had for her life. Instead, He opened doors for ministry.

"I just felt that the RD position was the very logical next step given where He's brought me so far," Owens said. "And I do love PHC and the stu-

dent body and being able to serve here."

Owens is excited to have the chance to spend time with people without having to balance schoolwork with relationships with the people on campus. She hopes that her room will be a place where the girls on campus feel comfortable and welcomed.

Going into her new position, Owens wants to have a humble mindset, and be aware of the opportunities that the Lord gives her.

"I would love to see the campus truly love the Lord, serve one another, love one another, and have those things cultivate a deeper and more widespread unity," Owens said.

Current senior Crocker is the new male RD. He applied for the position because he saw it as a good ministry opportunity to serve the guys on campus, a time for the Lord to keep working in His life, and a chance to continue learning from the different people on campus.

Crocker is excited to spend time investing in and praying for the guys as much as possible without the stress of homework. He also looks forward to working with the new RA team. During his time as an RA, Crocker found himself to be very wing-focused, but now that he has taken on the role of RD, he has naturally started to think more campus-wide.

"I have been very blessed by the ministries of both former RDs, Stephen Williams and Andrew Lonon, and I am definitely honored to be following in their footsteps," Crocker said. "I hope I do it well." ♦

"I would love to see the campus truly love the Lord... love one another, and... cultivate a deeper and more widespread unity."

Julianne Owens

Incoming RD

MEET THE NEW GUY RAS



Courtesy: Neil Durning



Courtesy: Daniel Fierer



Courtesy: Pierre du Plessis



Courtesy: David Rowland

1: Neil Durning, sophomore

Oak Hill 201-204

Fun fact: My name was almost Cody before my parents chose Neil.

2: Daniel Fierer, sophomore

Oak Hill 101-104

Fun fact: I eat an obscene amount of peanut butter and Ritz crackers.

3: Pierre du Plessis, freshman

Oak Hill 211-214

Fun fact: I hunt whitetail deer with a flintlock longrifle.

4: David Rowland, sophomore

Oak Hill 111-114

Fun fact: I'm related to Daniel Boone.

5: William Bock, junior

Red Hill 310-317

Fun fact: I can rap Nicki Minaj's *Super Bass* and have eaten goose liver in China.

6: Manus Churchill, sophomore

Red Hill 101-107

Fun fact: I've read all 28 *Elsie Dinsmore* books at least once.

7: Mark van Matre, junior

Red Hill 201-207

Fun fact: I once solved a Rubik's cube in under two minutes... with my feet.

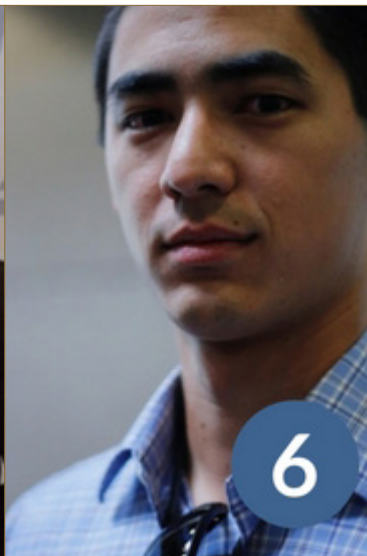
8: Daniel Thetford, junior

Red Hill 250-350

Fun fact: I'm an avid electric guitarist.



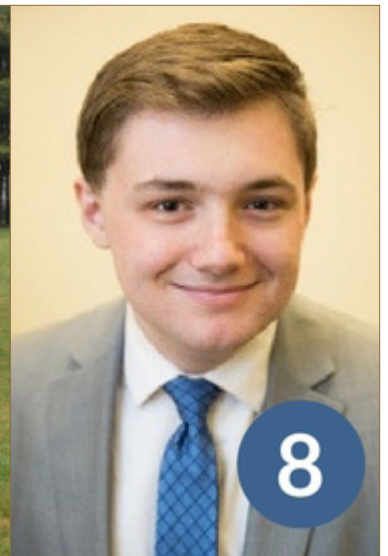
Courtesy: William Bock



Courtesy: Manus Churchill

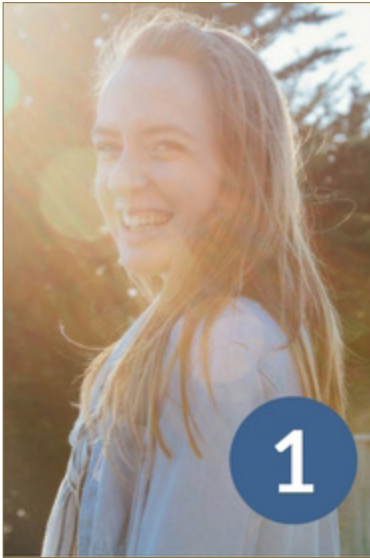


Courtesy: Mark van Matre



Courtesy: Daniel Thetford

MEET THE NEW GIRL RAS



Courtesy: Brenna Bakke



Courtesy: Leah Bolzman



Courtesy: Olivia Bowers



Courtesy: Victoria Cook

1: Brenna Bakke, junior
Monticello 211-214

Fun fact: When I was 16, I played Clifford the Big Red Dog in my city's Heritage Day parade.

2: Leah Bolzman, junior
Montpelier 101-104

Fun fact: When I worked on a farm I earned the nickname Leather Foot because I would go barefoot so much.

3: Olivia Bowers, sophomore
Mount Vernon 101-104

Fun fact: If I wasn't in college, I would be a sheep-herder in New Zealand.

4: Victoria Cook, sophomore
Mount Vernon 211-214

Fun fact: I've lived in 8 different states and can't wait to find Meredith in a hedge maze somewhere!

5: Meredith Monroe, sophomore
Mount Vernon 201-204

Fun fact: I love traveling and can't wait to get lost in a hedge maze someday!

6: Marina Moreira, sophomore
Monticello 101-104

Fun fact: When I was 18, I went on a mission trip to India and got my nose pierced in a back alley by a man who spoke no English.

7: Rose Perkins, sophomore
Mount Vernon 111-114

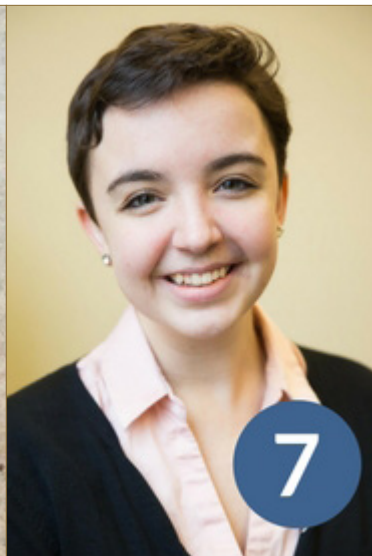
Fun fact: I danced for 14 years.



Courtesy: Meredith Monroe



Courtesy: Marina Moreira



Courtesy: Rose Perkins

Tensions of Faith, Justice in Immigration Issue

by Bruce Truax

With Trump's immigration plan in the courts and the Millennium Society's recent debate on immigration policy, the issue is widely discussed on campus. According to a poll by the Millennium Society, 55 percent of people at the debate agreed that the United States should take on additional refugees, and 45 percent disagreed. However, views on campus cannot be divided along the lines of pro-immigration and anti-immigration, as students' views tend to be far more nuanced.

All students who expressed their opinions to *The Herald* value legal immigration to some extent. They just disagree upon the varying degrees of steps migrants must take to enter the U.S.

As a strongly conservative campus, the majority of PHC students support fewer restrictions on immigration.

"The fact that we're a Christian conservative college causes us to think about more than just the legal justice side of the situation," sophomore Olivia Bowers said. "Instead, we think of ourselves as the body of Christ before we think of ourselves as Americans... We see the pain and suffering [refugees] are going through, and at that moment, we don't identify as Americans; we identify as humans."

Students who believe in fewer immigration restrictions note that most other waves of immigration were at first opposed by native-born Americans, but the immigrants gradually assimilated and hostility dissipated. Immigration is a three-generation process, said associate professor of history Dr. Robert Spinney.

The first generation of immigrants are culturally different from native-born Americans; they sometimes suffer discrimination and violence directed at them, and they sometimes retaliate.

The second wave is Americanized enough to experience much less discrimination, but still retains some distinct features of their original culture.

Finally, the third wave is completely Americanized, frequently intermarrying



Asylum seekers disembark from a plane

Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

with native-born citizens.

Others say that while that may be the case in the past, the American culture has modernized too much compared to other parts of the world for it to still be the case. Immigration these days leads to multi-culturalism, which is dangerous to our nation.

"A person from a completely different culture would [take a long time]... and whatever community they become apart of they necessarily change it by bringing over with them the culture, the religion, and the mental categories that they possess," said senior Luke Thomas.

Some students disagree.

"I'm not sure what people mean when they say 'American [culture],'" said senior Lisa Mattackal. "If people are committed to tolerating each other, multiple cultures can coexist and make each other richer and better. Of course they're different, but that doesn't mean they're incompatible."

The topic of immigration raises the issue of the economic effects to our nation. Students who want more restrictions point out that half of U.S immigrants are on welfare, as stated by Mark Krikorian, Director of the Center for Immigration Studies at a recent campus debate. They suggest a policy in which immigrants are

accepted based on whether or not they can financially support themselves once they come to the U.S.

"When we accept people we want people who will be independent and who will be able to work their way up, rather than people without any ability to have a stable life," said junior Shiyi Zhang.

Next is the issue of Trump's "travel ban," which would restrict immigration in 2017 to 50,000 people and would place a 120-day ban on immigrants from Muslim majority nations.

While he doesn't think we will experience violence from Middle East and does not support Trump's travel ban, Spinney understands the reasoning behind it.

"If there are violent elements in a country and if those violent elements have sworn to that they're enemies of America, [we should have] additional vetting," he said.

Mattackal disagrees.

"I think it's pointless and a broad legislative tactic to gain attention even though it does nothing to solve the problem," she said. "The fact that he's not banning immigration from Saudi Arabia, which is literally where the majority of 9/11 terrorists came from, demonstrates that this is problematic." ♦

Sign up for Summer Distance Learning Classes

by Evie Fordham

Associate professor of philosophy Dr. Matthew Roberts is assuming leadership of PHC's Distance Learning program from Professor of Journalism Dr. Les Sillars. Sillars and Roberts currently share responsibilities, and the transition will be complete by the start of the summer term.

"We see the DL courses as very helpful for drawing high school students into the PHC community," Sillars said. "We're helping them get started on their PHC program by giving them the option to start taking college classes in high school or doing their first year or two at home... It makes the cost of a four-year degree more competitive."

Students can still register for summer DL classes during the Drop/Add period from May 22 to 26. Tuition is \$1,275 for a three-credit course, and all first-year DL students receive a 50 percent discount on a second course. PHC core classes offered this summer are Theology of the Bible I and II with Professor of Biblical Studies Dr. Darrel Cox, Western Literature I and II with Assistant Professor of Literature Dr. Cory Grewell, and Music History and Appreciation with Professor of Music Dr. Kristina Tanner.

"Offering this class and other courses, especially core courses and courses taken by a lot of students, is quite a helpful advantage to students," Tanner said. "It enables more schedule flexibility during on-campus semesters... Currently, the DL summer Music History and Appreciation class has eight students registered."

Junior Belle Tague will take Tanner's DL class this summer. She was enrolled in the on-campus Music History and Appreciation class at the beginning of the spring semester but dropped it. The lighter course load has given her more time to plan her wedding.

"Summer is supposed to be a time to breathe or to focus on internships," she said. "But it depends on your priorities."

Students cannot complete their degrees through the DL program.



Courtesy: Pixabay user markuspiske

"If a student wants to graduate from PHC, they have to come on campus to take major classes, and they often complete an internship," Sillars said. "Lots of colleges have been moving into the online learning market for the last decade... Most offer eligible students dual enrollment. It's a competitive environment and we're trying to make PHC as attractive and viable as we can."

PHC discontinued its DL program in 2013 primarily because of new federal certification rules for distance learning programs, but restarted it last year when the process became much more manageable for small colleges.

"We had about 30 off-campus students enrolled in DL classes last year," Sillars said. "We want to grow and hope to have a couple of hundred students over the next several years."

Roberts envisions offering all core classes as DL on a rotating schedule as well as a few bigger major classes like Comparative Politics and Political Science Research Methods.

All PHC admitted students received a free DL class.

"Twelve out of 13 students currently enrolled in the DL program are coming to PHC in the fall," Roberts said.

He currently teaches a DL logic class.

"I'm really impressed with the DL students," he said. "A lot of them did really well on the first logic exam. The class average was an A."

Parents or other trustworthy adults are required to proctor DL students' exams, but Roberts foresees hiring a web proctoring service like Examity or ProctorU to make the process more secure.

The fall DL schedule includes six core classes. Classes taught by on-campus professors are Logic with Roberts, Economics for the Citizen with Associate Professor of Economics Nathan Russell, and History of the United States I with Associate Professor of History Robert Spinney. Classes taught by DL professors are Principles of Biblical Reasoning with Dr. Martin Erdman, Freedom's Foundations I with Dr. Glenn Moots, and History of Western Civilization I with Prof. Lilia Anand.

The DL classes help students prepare to survive and thrive for when they do come to campus, Sillars added, by introducing them to the idea of a classical approach to Christian liberal arts education: "And what we're trying to do as an institution is to help students become the people God wants them to be." ♦

Fort Defiance and *The Haunts of Youth*

by Victoria Cook

Country music is not often described as raw, honest, and hopeful, but Fort Defiance, husband-wife duo Jordan and Laurel Lane Eastman, brings new life to the genre with their passion for depth. *The Haunts of Youth*, the couple's first album without former Fort Defiance drummer Dave Martin, tells the story of life on the road and the longing for understanding in the murky world, with hope subtly underlying the theme. They released it March 24.

Fort Defiance started in 2014. Jordan, whose brother Jesse works at HSLDA, was finishing his solo album *1924*, when he decided that some of his songs sounded better with split vocals. He talked with Martin about starting a band and later met Laurel Lane in Robert's Western World, a Nashville honky-tonk. A brief chat and a YouTube search later, Jordan got in touch with Laurel to sing a few hymns together. While they did not harmonize well, Jordan invited Laurel to be a part of the beginnings of his band.

"She got better and better every show, and when we got back, we decided to start Fort Defiance," he said. "My only condition was that she wouldn't try to date me; we're married now, so that tells you how well that worked out."

Fort Defiance hopes listeners will sense

hope when they hear the songs, though the Eastmans recognize that their songs cannot fix external situations. They hope their music will touch the heart and help people heal internal wounds they may have had when questioning God about evil in the world or searching for meaning in drugs and broken relationships.

"I think the major theme that plays across the whole record is this sense of childish longing for a clarity that can't be found," Jordan said. "When we're kids, all we think about is how great things will be when we're grown, but as adults, we long for the simplicity and stress-less life of being a child again."

While Americana country music with a folksy twist is not for everyone, *The Haunts of Youth* looks for answers to the questions everyone has asked. In their single "The Haunts of Youth," Fort Defiance deals with facing change. "Maybe Things Will Make Sense When We're Grown" depicts the couples' journey of loving each other while trying to understand what death means.

"In no way do I consider Fort Defiance a 'Christian band,' but the themes of doubt and faithlessness, and longing for things not found on my own are heavily based in that worldview," Jordan said. "There's this fear that admitting a lack of faith, or hope, or unbridled confidence in God or grace, will let somebody, or themselves, down. So [Christians] pretend."



Jordan and Laurel Lane Eastman

In contrast, Jordan writes his music to show the often ugly search for truth and light in a dark world.

The Haunts of Youth is a combination of thoughtful melodies and raw lyrics. Laurel Lane Eastman has a whimsical voice with a country twang that compliments her husband's deep country voice. The songs produce a sweet melancholy feeling, if such a feeling can exist, and range from soft, thoughtful songs to upbeat ones questioning life.

"I just want people to know it's real. Even if they don't like it, I want them to hear it and feel like it's honest; or the words are honest, at least," Eastman said, "I think that all starts with people believing it. If nobody believes it, I'm just telling a bunch of stories like every other folk singer in history." ♦

Creative Classic Second Place: *The Three Loves*

Briceno is the second place winner of the Creative Classic Contest - check back next week to learn who took first place!

by Leo Briceno

"I'm in love."

Mr. Baker stopped stirring his coffee.

"In love, you say?" asked Mr. Baker.

He nudged his glasses back onto the bridge of his nose and peered inquiringly

down at the bright-eyed child in front of him.

The little boy nodded fiercely, his bright orange hair bouncing up and down with conviction.

"My teacher says I've been smattered."

"Smitten?"

"Yeah - that - smitted."

"I see."

Mr. Baker grunted as he put down his coffee. His gaze wandered about the shop momentarily before coming back to rest on the enthusiastic child.

"How old are you?"

continued on page 11

The Three Loves Continued

continued from page 10

The nodding stopped.

"I'm six... no... wait," the little boy smiled. "I've just turned seven. My birthday was last week, see."

"Ah."

Mr. Baker crossed his arms.

"Well, I'm terribly sorry to hear that, J.J." he said.

"What's wrong with turning seven?"

"No - " said Mr. Baker, "I'm sorry to hear you're in love."

At this, J.J. gave Mr. Baker a scrunched up grin, his extraordinarily bright eyes twinkling from behind his ruddy hair and freckled cheeks.

"But... Mr. Baker, falling in love is a good thing."

"Oh it's a brilliant thing," replied the older man with a nod. "It's just terribly inconvenient."

The boy frowned.

"Why?"

"It's..."

Mr. Baker took a moment to think.

"Well, when it's there - it's all you want to think about. And when it's not there, it's the only thing you can think about."

He ran his hand through his grey hair, observing the youngster mull the statement over.

"Well... That's stupid," said J.J. after a moment's contemplation.

Mr. Baker blinked.

"Well, I suppose it is, isn't it?"

He returned to his coffee. Stupid - that was one way to put it.

"J.J., you've hardly touched your sandwich."

J.J.'s face contorted in a frown.

"I don't like egg - it's squishy, and it makes my loose tooth feel weird."

"I don't want to have to tell your mother that you didn't finish lunch again - at least try to eat half of it."

J.J. unwrapped the tin foil wrap and took a tentative bite of the egg sandwich in front of him, but the bite had hardly been taken when the child succumbed to his inquisitive nature once more.

"Favs uou evar biin...." started J.J.

"Don't talk with your mouth full; it makes you look uneducated."

Mr. Baker watched on as J.J. went to town on his mouthful of egg, jaw working like some sort of steam engine.

"Have you ever," J.J. paused to swallow.

"Have you ever been in love, Mr. Baker?"

He took his time answering. He shifted in his chair, re-positioned his glasses again, and coughed before returning his attention to the boy.

"Yes."

"Like... in love with a girl?"

"Yes," scowled Mr. Baker.

"So what happened?"

"I asked her to marry me."

"Did she?"

"No."

"Why not?"

Mr. Baker tapped his finger audibly on the surface of the table.

"You either end up loving deeply or regretting deeply and..." he paused. "And... I don't think she wanted either option."

"Oh," said J.J.

"Yep."

"That's too bad."

J.J. returned to his barely touched sandwich.

"I think I'm going to marry this girl," he said confidently after a few more moments of chewing.

"Really?" said Mr. Baker.

"Really."

"What's her name?"

"Jenny... I think."

"You think?" Mr. Baker's eyebrows shot upward.

"Yes, I think so... either that or it's Amanda - I can't really remember right now."

The two sat there for a few moments— one chewing his sandwich the other sipping on his coffee.

"It really feels good, don't it?" said J.J. from behind a mouthful of egg. "Falling in love, that is."

Mr. Baker really didn't feel like challenging the statement.

"I think that's why daddy 'got with'



Courtesy: Pixabay user White77

mommy."

"What?" asked Mr. Baker sharply.

"I think he married her 'cause it felt good to be in love."

"Oh."

"Or at least until he left."

Mr. Baker drained the remainder of his drink and set it down with a decisive pat. He watched a stray drop of coffee make its way down the side of the cup. He re-adjusted his glasses once more.

Mr. Baker scratched his nose.

"J.J, love is like an unbreakable promise you can't keep."

J.J. stopped mid-sandwich bite, contemplating the statement.

"That's sounds really weird," said J.J. pensively. "I just feel good when I'm in love."

"Mmh..."

The pair sat there as the clock on the wall ticked steadily onward.

"Your mom should be here any minute now. What time does she get off work?"

"Seven, I think."

"And will she pick up your sister from daycare first or does she come straight to get you?"

"I think she comes straight here."

"Ah, okay."

"Yeah," said J.J. "The second job is closer to here than the one she goes to in the morning."

"Make sure you finish your sandwich, all right?"

"Okay." ♦