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Student body president elect Daniel Thetford (left) and running mate Matt Hoke

Thetford's Presidential Plans

Junior Daniel Thetford and running mate Matt Hoke win student body election

by Hailey Kilgo

Daniel Thetford and Matthew Hoke won the PHC student body presidential election with 61.2% of the vote. As of May 1 when they are sworn in, they will be able to assume the responsibilities of the president and vice president for the 2017-2018 school year.

Thetford and Hoke plan to assemble a group of peers to help them with their plans, like the mentorship program and the Christian study groups that are slated to begin

in the fall.

"We want to get started with things right away," Thetford said. "We want to get things going so that we can use the summer to talk with faculty. It's one of the most underused times to talk to faculty and to get things done, and if we can use this summer, then things will already be done when we come back in the fall."

Their first priority as newly elected representatives is a bill proposed to the senate that re-evaluates the Community Involvement Commission to make it more efficient, and to

make it an executive body that can accomplish what needs to be done. They also plan to get their professional development class underway, recruiting people to help with writing resumes and other life skills for the professional world.

"The most controversial thing on our platform was the Christian study groups," Thetford said. "Some people really wanted them, and some people really didn't, so we want to start reaching out to students and figuring out if it's what

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Coulter and Kelly

No Brains for Dinner Premieres

by Evie Fordham

A social-climbing ornithologist tries to feed and restrain his zombified brother while resisting the flirtations of a noblewoman in Edwardian England – no, it's not a Mad Libs puzzle. It's senior Luke Thomas' original play, *No Brains for Dinner*.

Thomas is writer, director, and supporting actor of *NBFD*, which is Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. Although Eden Troupe was unable to produce *NBFD*, Thomas funded it with a Kickstarter campaign.

The dark comedy centers on duplicitous Oscar Norton, an aviary scholar recently returned from a trip to the Americas, where his brother Zachary caught a

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Credit: Beth Bergstrom

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studentgovernment

This week, the Senate passed three pieces of legislation:

SB19 The Key Act: Encourages the Office of Student Life to keep the key to the student kitchen at the Campus Safety desk rather than with the RDs. The hope is that it will be easier for students to check out the student kitchen key in the future.

Spring 2017 Chapel Assessment Commission Report: This report touches on 5 major areas. It affirms the change in discipline for missing more than 10 chapels a semester, while also making other recommendations.

Fall 2017 Senate Election Proposal: The EC's proposal for the fall Senate election was approved without amendment. The Senate election season will begin on September 18 and voting will conclude on September 29.

- Tim Kocher, Speaker of the Senate

PHC Welcomes New Student Body President

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they want or not. Then we can move forward and also work on that this summer.”

The Thetford/Hoke campaign had a tough start, almost dropping out of the race before the debate only to come back and win it all.

“It was a real blessing, a total God thing as to how it fell into place,” Hoke said. “All the random moving pieces fell into place, and it wasn’t all us obviously. We had a great team, like Mary Katherine Collins, who came in and helped out with the campaign. From everything from Facebook to encouraging us to stay in the race, we had a lot of support.”

Since announcing their candidacy, Thetford and Hoke have changed in platform tactics but overall have stayed the same.

“We’ve talked to a lot of students at this point, and something everyone seems to be interested in is the mentorship program, both with student mentors and accessing the alumni that we have for that,” Thetford said. “We don’t want to do one to the exclusion of the other. Another thing that’s slightly changed is the development class. We’ve added more to that. In terms of implementing the mentorship



Courtesy: MK Collins

Members of the Thetford/Hoke campaign team

program and how to make that happen, it’s all the same platform we started on.”

From the beginning of their race, the Thetford/Hoke ticket has tried to center their campaign around building a team of people that can figure out the student body’s ideas and find ways to make them happen.

Now that they are in the position to make those ideas happen, Thetford and

Hoke hope that students will reach out to them with questions, concerns, or more ideas.

“We want to hear about everything,” Thetford said. “If you like something we’re doing or don’t like something we’re doing, if you want to work with us to make it happen, then tell us. Come find one of us and we can work together. We’re ready to get started.” ♦

PHC NMUN Team Excels in UN Simulation

by Evie Fordham

PHC’s National Model United Nations team traveled to New York City for its annual UN Simulation April 9 to 13 and returned with an Outstanding Delegation Award for the team and Position Paper Award for members Manus Churchill and Mikael Good.

PHC’s NMUN team has received an Outstanding Delegation award for nine years in a row. “An ‘Outstanding Delegation’

award is essentially the highest possible award and goes to roughly 20 percent of the teams,” said NMUN club president Julianne Owens. “It means that your team had consistent participation, dedication to consensus-building, and exhibited leadership when possible as well as followed procedures correctly.”

Owens, an International Politics & Policy major, has participated in NMUN for three years. PHC represented



Courtesy: Julianne Owens

Owens (right) and a fellow delegate

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NMUN Lets Students Interact with Other Cultures

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Romania at this year's simulation. A team's 20 delegates are divided in pairs and assigned to committees addressing various humanitarian, environmental, and economic issues.

"Each team's goal is to be the sponsor in as many resolutions as they can," Owens said. "That means that team members have done a portion of the writing of resolutions. It requires you to think on your feet and be good at coming up with solutions to problems. Networking is a big part of it, because some of the committees have over 100 people in them."

PHC's country assignment, Romania, was only represented in nine committees, so Owens and fellow PHC head delegate Clayton Millhouse served alongside model UN staff on the dais.

"What was unique about it was that Clayton and I weren't originally assigned to a committee, so we didn't leave a partner to be on the dais," Owens said. "I liked interacting with the Model UN staff."

Freshman Abi Carter enjoyed meeting students from countries like Germany and Egypt during her first NMUN trip.



PHC's Model UN delegation

Courtesy: Julianne Owens

"It really widened my world, and I understand more how to interact with people from around the world," she said. "One of my favorite parts was when I was working with a group of people. Someone brought out a bag of candy and passed some Snickers bars around, but the international students had never had American candy, and it was so special to share a small part of

American culture with them."

Owens' last year of participating in NMUN was bittersweet.

"The highlight for me was seeing so many people who had never done NMUN before throw themselves into it, have a blast, and still bring home awards," she said. ♦

Ian Frith on Republican Party District Committee

by Bruce Truax

The College Republican Federation of Virginia (CRFV) appointed sophomore Ian Frith to the Tenth Congressional District Republican Committee as a representative of the College Republicans. The Tenth District is represented by Republican Barbara Comstock and includes Loudoun and other surrounding counties.

"Ian's appointment will give the PHC College Republicans a direct voice in the committee," said former College Republican Public Relations Director Tim Koehler.

Each congressional district within Virginia has a committee of Republican Party leaders that try to best represent the

needs and interests of the district. On every committee, a spot is open for a College Republican representative.

Frith would love to work his way up to the board of the CRFV.

"The College Republicans is definitely a fantastic way to rise up in politics really fast," he said.

Frith was heavily involved with PHC's College Republicans chapter his freshman year. He has worked as a College Republican on the campaign for Randy Minchew, a delegate to the Virginia General Assembly. He has represented PHC at many College Republican statewide events as a delegate at the Virginia College Republican convention. Before transitioning to Chair of PHC's College Republicans chapter



Ian Frith

Courtesy: Ian Frith

last semester, Frith served on the board of the PHC College Republicans as the secretary.

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Dr. Kristina Tanner: PHC's New Professor of Music

by Meg McEwen

Longtime PHC adjunct music professor Dr. Kristina Tanner is the new full-time Professor of Music. The search committee selected her from a large pool of national and international candidates.

As a long-standing member of the music department, Tanner understands the mechanics of the music program and has big plans up her sleeve.

"I would have been willing to work with anyone because I just love the school and I love the program, but I'm excited because I think we can do things with the program that haven't been done," Tanner said.

She intends to advocate for practical and budgetary modifications to the weekly chorale meetings, the chapel guild, and the minor program.

"For the program, what this ultimately means is that it helps us with accreditation because now we have a full-time person to help run the minor," Tanner said. "It also means that we can hopefully add some classes either in Music History or Music Worship Skills."

Tanner has already been involved in the inner workings of the minor.

"We've been trying to streamline the minor to make it more flexible, so people can do independent studies if necessary," she said. "We eliminated the piano profi-

ciency requirement."

To make the music minor comparable to other school's music minors, Tanner and other music professors have removed some other criteria.

Her Curriculum Committee proposal includes a Music and Politics class focusing on the fascinating intersection of the two subjects.

"There have been many different musical movements tied to different political movements, for better or for worse," she said. "You can look at what the Soviets did with music and how Hitler used music in the Third Reich... Modern American political campaigns and the random ties of country music to conservative politics... I think it would be really interesting for a lot of people."

If future funding permits, Tanner would also like to hire a guitar professor to instruct chapel guild members. She hopes that the chapel guild will have a monthly meeting that happens during wing chapel to help develop their skills.

"I'd like to see more promotional material for just the music department," Tanner said, envisioning brochures that inform incoming students about the opportunities that a music minor provides.

As she increases her studio, Tanner's academic and administrative duties will be expanding. Since the class schedule has been set for the fall, her tentative plan

includes doubling her piano class offering and potentially teaching more classes in the spring. However, she is still working out her plan for the upcoming months.

To many PHC students who dream of maintaining a family life and a professional career, Tanner is an inspiration. She looks forward to balancing her new duties as a full-time professor and a homeschool mom of five.

"I've spent my life trying to figure out how to balance Titus 2 and Proverbs 31, because Titus 2 talks about doing work at home and Proverbs 31 talks about going out and buying a field," Tanner said. "God has worked at a variety of different points to point me in one direction or another, and this is going in a different direction again. I'm grateful for the chance to balance the two of them - to be able to teach and to be able to homeschool."

Tanner thinks that a music major could eventually be built up, but not for at least another 10 years. A music major would require instructors for all individual instruments and faculty for music history and theory.

"Logistically, it would be a lot," Tanner said.

Ultimately, her new position is the logical next step in her life right now.

"This just means I get to advocate for sleeping full-time," Tanner said. ♦

Sophomore Receives Prestigious CR Position

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"I came to work, I showed up [to events], and I had some ideas and implemented them from my position on the board," he said.

As Chair of the PHC College Republicans, he plans to improve the group even more.

"I want...to make it more active and get it more plugged in with the larger network of state Republican leaders," he said.

Currently, the PHC College Republicans have no regular meetings. The group gets together at events. Many members have no formal role.

"A lot of people are signed up to be a College Republican, but I don't think very many people actually participate," Frith said.

He plans to change this by creating monthly group meetings and a system where every member has to contribute.

This election season Frith plans to

focus on providing nominees for the Virginia House of Delegates with PHC students to help run their campaigns. Potential names include Randy Minchew, Dave LaRock, and Subba Kolla.

"I really enjoy working both at PHC and with people in the community," Frith said. "In everything that I did, I enjoyed the people that I worked with in every regard." ♦



A butcher boy (Logan Crow) and Oscar Norton



Giovanna Lastra as Mrs. Norton



Andrew Kelly as Oscar Norton

NBFD: A Dark Comedy with a Deep Message

continued from cover

ghastly “bug” that gives him an insatiable hunger for brains. Zachary’s condition unravels Oscar’s plans to achieve status and wealth as his lies are revealed to the high-society friends he is trying to fit in with. His brother may seem monstrous, but Oscar is the real monster.

Senior Andrew Kelly gave an energetic performance as Oscar, down to every last twitch and nervous laugh as his character tried to keep his true identity from being discovered while satisfying Zachary’s need for more and more brains by luring innocents to his house. Kelly barely left the stage for the entire performance.

As Oscar wove his lies to the revolving cast of characters who entered his door (many of whom never left, thanks to Zachary), Kelly molded his persona with skill. He was flattering, insulting, and demanding in turn. His co-stars included Caitlin Coulter as the wealthy girl who wants to marry him, Nikki Cordaro as Allécher,

his bawdy French maid, and Chaz Toplikar as his zombie brother. Toplikar groaned and grunted his lines in a truly hilarious way and should have had more physical comedy to perform.

One of the funniest scenes depicts Oscar’s parents, who are vagrants, mistakenly thinking he is dying. Giovanna Lastra gave a hysterically dramatic performance as his grieving gypsy mother. However, many of the characters, like Oscar’s mother, seemed like stereotypes rather than full-drawn individuals, including Thomas’ character, Oscar’s drunkard father.

The first half dragged slightly with Oscar’s long speeches, which were full of subtle humorous jabs, but the second half allowed Kelly to demonstrate his physical comedy chops with laugh-out-loud funny scenes including a duel, an almost-surgery, and a masquerade ball.

All of these shenanigans occur in the space of a few days in Oscar’s foyer. Props director Ellyse Elmer (who also plays the

senile but good-natured Mrs. Mottsdale) obtained a plethora of bird-themed decorations for Oscar’s home. The idyllic paintings on his walls contrast with the murder and deceit that happens within the room.

NBFD is a full-steam-ahead romp that reminds audience members to accept who they are, not try to be someone they’re not. Once the play closes, Thomas plans on recording a dramatic reading of the play with a prequel.

“*NBFD* was always intended for PHC, so having a performance here very much fulfills its vision,” he said. “By no means do I expect it to get picked up nor would it being produced somewhere else accomplish my vision for this play.

“I will probably also enter it into some theatre competitions and see if I can get anywhere,” he added. “But in the end, it is more about the experience here and bringing *NBFD* before people I know and love.” ♦

Former PHC Journalism Student on the Radio

by Leah Greenwood

Former Patrick Henry College journalism student Nathan Spangler is the new morning traffic reporter for three major CBS FM radio stations in Baltimore: Today's 101.9, Mix 106.5, and 105.7 The Fan.

He goes by Nathan Scott when he is on air because Scott, which is his middle name, is crisper and punchier than Spangler, he said.

"I am responsible for [reporting on] what sort of commute probably 50 percent of the people going into Baltimore are going to have," Spangler said.

Every weekday from 5 to 9 a.m., Spangler records 13 individual traffic reports using an interface program which gives him access to all of the traffic cameras.

He records one report and then personalizes it in three different ways for each of the stations. The recordings are played on their respective stations within five minutes of their completion.

For the past year and a half, Spangler had worked at CBS as a radio board operator for 105.7 The Fan. In this position, he was always behind the scenes and would occasionally entertain the other people on the control board with different voices and impressions. This past March, a St. Patrick's Day promo was being put together for Mix 106.5, and Spangler's friend asked him to do the recording in an Irish accent.

"The Irish accent is one of the only accents where I actually feel that I could legitimately fool somebody," Spangler said.

He nailed the promo in one take, and when it went on air, it got the attention of the senior program director. The position for morning traffic reporter had recently opened up, and Spangler's boss in the engineering department suggested him for the job. Spangler went in for an interview and was offered the position.

Spangler has been interested in voice work from a young age. He grew up listening to Focus on the Family's *Adventures in Odyssey* and watching animated shows. He

would always find time to practice doing different voices and impressions, and he has always loved the art of storytelling.

Spangler realized that he wanted "to learn the mechanics of storytelling" so that he could then "apply that to any media." With this goal in mind, he entered PHC as a Journalism major with the Class of 2016. Spangler took the Journalism I and II courses, and participated in the World Journalism Institute with Dr. Marvin Olasky.

"If I could learn to tell a nonfiction story well, then a fictional story will be that much easier to come up with," Spangler said.

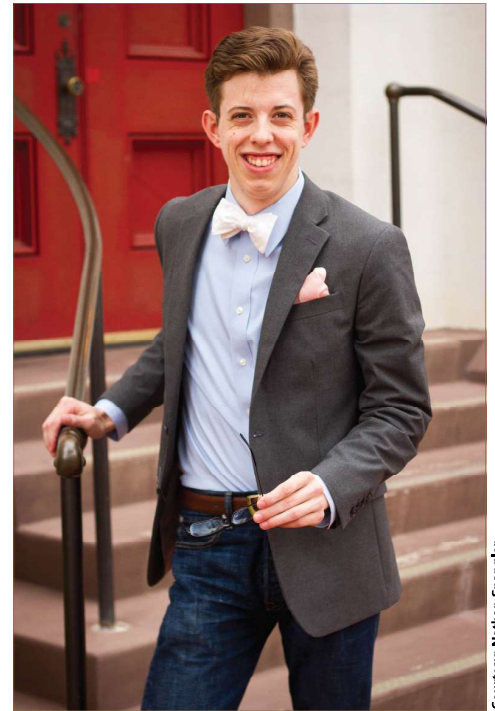
Spangler did not graduate from PHC. He wanted to stay involved with his class, though, and has done marketing for some Eden Troupe projects, as well as acting in Eden Troupe's *Macbeth* last semester.

Though he is currently in the radio business, Spangler hopes to someday have a career in film.

"Film is still my favorite media for storytelling, but I learned to appreciate different forms of storytelling in different media and how different media are effective at communicating very different types of messages," he said.

Working in the radio industry has also taught Spangler to just be himself. He has realized that, generally, when someone hires you, they want you, and not a performance.

"There's a temptation to want to be someone else - you certainly have that option since no one can see you - but fortunately the general philosophy in radio right now is one that strives for authenticity," Spangler said.

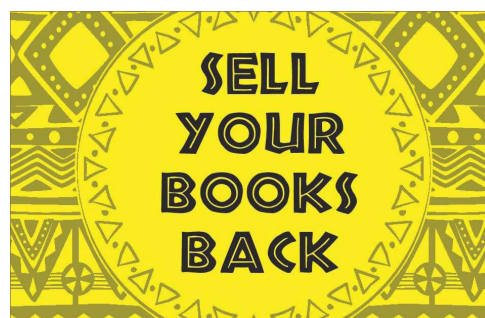


Nathan Spangler

Courtesy: Nathan Spangler

With his new position at CBS Radio, Spangler has found an outlet for his voice talents and now has a foot in the door of the voice acting world. He looks forward to helping the Baltimore commuters as best he can.

"Something that I've learned in my life is that all of the best things that have ever happened to me have fallen into my lap," he said. "Every good thing that's ever happened to me is something that I could never have planned and that God only gave to me after all the plans that I had made had been exhausted and thrown to the wayside. So I'm sure whatever comes next will be unexpected and amazing, and I can't wait to see what it is." ♦



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Book Review: *The Benedict Option*

by Victoria Cook

“No front porches,” Clarisse said in *Fahrenheit 451*. The book by Ray Bradbury portrays a dystopian world full of apathetic people glued to their electronics day and night. They are an isolated people with no front porches. They lost their front porches because they were not willing to fight for the community - the intimacy and familiarity that comes with knowing the neighbors.

The Benedict Option is journalist Rob Dreher’s response to the Church’s inability to defend itself against an ever-more aggressively secular and anti-Christian culture, a problem exacerbated by an American culture with no front porches. It proposes that in order to develop deep theological roots, Christians need to build intentional relationships among themselves and practice important spiritual disciplines typically lacking in churches, thus building a “Benedict Option” community. Dreher believes this will provide Christians with the spiritual and community resources to survive a crisis in Western culture.

Dreher’s inspiration for the book is St. Benedict of Nursia, now Nursia, whose Rule of St. Benedict was instrumental in preserving Christian culture and teaching

in the aftermath of the fall of the Roman Empire. In the early 500s, after shunning a leisure-filled life and spending three years in a cave, he emerged to write the Rule, a how-to for laymen on living in Christian communities.

Dreher’s first two chapters deal with problems: the death of a Christian culture is coming and Christians are unprepared. A historical recap reveals that Christians have chained God to the Church and have separated their church lives from their normal lives.

Culture dies when the values that birthed it are no longer compelling, and, sadly, the Christian response to the dilution of biblical values has been less than adequate.

Dreher mainly points to the fact that the Church has been so externally focused on Christianizing America’s culture that it has lost its own culture in the process. We have focused on fixing American politics at the expense of godly living. Dreher warns that Trump is no savior to Christianity and that we must change the way we interact with politics and American culture. He encourages building tight-knit communities that focus on creating a Christ-centered culture.

However, Dreher is not saying that we need to become monks and isolate ourselves from the world. Dreher’s main



Benedict of Nursia

point is that Christians need to safeguard their faith, and the best way to do that is to be around other Christians, talking and serving with them daily.

Faith is precious and needs to be cultivated in places conducive to growth. A Christian community provides accountability and creates a culture that will attract new believers.

Also, if Christians are making Benedict Option communities because of their fear of persecution, then they are not creating the community with the right intentions. A Benedict Option community is for the sake of developing faith that will stand through tempests and building the community that most churches seem to lack.

Is God enough? Is God enough that you are willing to sacrifice everything that you have, even when you do not have to? Dreher’s application to the lack of Church community requires Christians to sacrifice worldly desires for spiritual gain, to practice asceticism, and to create a culture with biblical foundations not pop cultural ones.

Let’s build a front porch. The process may cost time, money, and personal sacrifice, but in the end, we will have built it together, and the community that comes with that is invaluable. ♦



Rod Dreher

Courtesy: Vimeo

Courtesy: Flickr user Nadia D'Agaro

First Place: From a Demon to a College Student

Congratulations to Richardson for winning the Creative Classic short story contest!

by Grace Richardson

I happened upon this letter, and realized it was the transcription of a missive Lewis himself had intercepted. I read it, and found it charming, if a bit morose, and I hope the reader shall find it likewise.

My dearest Wormwood,

So your patient is at university? Excellent.

It is a Christian university? Such a place is in name the Enemy's territory, but so often do our patients rest on that title and let down their guard that it can be perfect for angst, despair, material worries, and even redemption of some of the Enemy's strongest to our side, or at least so wounding them they crawl away into defeated apathy. Oh, Wormwood, this is a field fertile for our planting!

The month before your patient packs his bags, fill his mind with all manner of anticipation: make it seem a Paradise on Earth. Paint a vision of rich learning, admiring friends, beautiful ladies, and weekends of leisure. Remind him that the Enemy claims it, so, naturally, it will be overflowing with all manner of saccharine vices like love, and graciousness, and faithfulness, with nary a glimpse of our Prince's work.

Then, when he encounters the first real sinner, he will be shocked. Tell him that fellow is simply an anomaly, perhaps not really a Christian. Prompt him to let the foolish man know this, out of concern for his soul, of course. Thus we shall isolate the patient from all his fellows. When they are alone, Wormwood, then they are most vulnerable.

“And Wormwood—he must believe he’s ‘the only one.’ Suggest that burdening others with his brokenness is selfish, and asking others of their welfare is intrusive. And so he will bear his despairing soul in silence.”



Once it is clear to him that all the others are quite broken, remind him that they are Christians, too. If you have done your work well, the patient will begin to wonder if any of the Enemy's promises are real. None of those “Christians” are living a life of real love, after all.

Then show him his sleeplessness, his awful grades, and his aloneness. A morning's argument with a roommate, a dining hall dinner with no welcoming tables, a C on an evening test, or slow Internet an hour before a paper deadline — they all work marvelously well.

Here we get to one of my favorite little tricks: while reminding him how very un-Christian his roommates are, put a visor over his eyes that makes them at the same time seem so very handsome and smart and successful. Leave to his mind the only logical conclusion: that he is the real disappointment.

Humans are so very gullible, Wormwood; ridiculous as it is, that one could hold such a contradiction, they fall for it nearly every time.

The Christian university is a positive petri dish for Disillusionment. Unfulfill each and every one of his idyllic expectations. If you have not shown too much of your hand, you will send him straight to Despair and Cynicism by the time of his mid-term examinations.

And Wormwood—he must believe he's “the only one.” Suggest that burdening others with his brokenness is selfish, and asking others of their welfare is intrusive. And so he will bear his despairing soul in silence, never letting another experience the so-called “blessing of giving.”

But perhaps your patient is not so naive. If so, do not let him dwell contented, having reconciled the Enemy's ludicrous idea of “already, but not yet.” Let mystery frustrate him. Give him a thirst for certainty, precision, and proven fact, particularly in the realm of the infinite.

Constantly whisper to his ear, “How do you know? Are you sure?” Feed the

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From a Demon to a College Student (continued)

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great lie of human flesh: not that they are God, but that they deserve to be.

Moderation, contentment, nuance, and (the idiocy of it!) paradox are the delight of our Enemy. No, keep him always longing for extremes, which are what he really wants, being temporal. Black and White are invariably more attractive than Gray.

Or, if he proves resistant, simply steer him more subtly: let him delight in his own fantastic sense of nuance! Let him see how very sensible he is and exult it as the chiefest of his virtues, noting how unlike he is from the bombastic freshman down the hall. Then he is but a hopscotch step from Self-Importance.

Oh, Wormwood, how delightful it is to turn the Enemy's weapons against Him!

Now, my dear boy, do not forget our simpler tricks. Some of my personal favorites are the three little words "only," "just," and "really." Slip them into his thinking: "It's only once," "It's just a word," "It's really not that bad." They are shortcuts to worldliness, Wormwood. Humans aspire for greatness, but never see the little traps that keep them from it. It's so easy to turn their minds from a nebulous Eternal to an immediate Deadline. Never give them Perspective, Wormwood!

"Humans aspire for greatness, but never see the little traps that keep them from it. It's so easy to turn their minds from a nebulous Eternal to an immediate Deadline."

Do strive hard in your work, for if the patients perceive nothing but failure – or better yet, believe failures to be successes! – then that school shall produce no soldiers at all. And so from one of their boot camps, we may infiltrate and disable the Enemy.

But, Wormwood—do be careful. Our Enemy is very clever, and as soon as any of our patients shows the slightest inclination toward Him, He may rush in with answered prayers, and timely verses, and such a flurry of love and senseless joy that you might lose a year's work in a night!

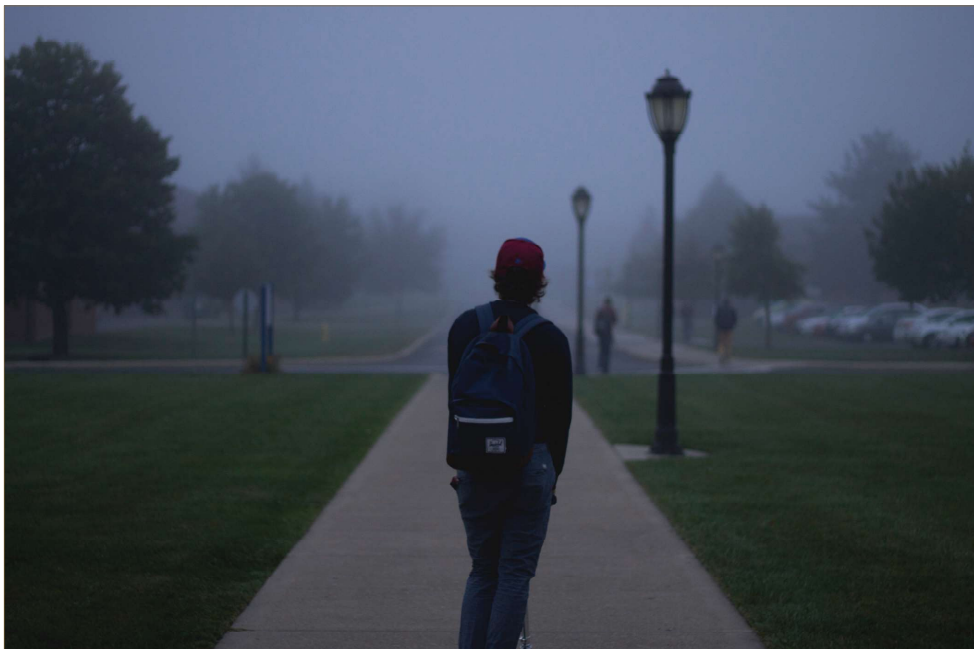
So, do keep me updated about your progress.

Your most affectionate uncle,

Screwtape

We want to thank every student who participated in the Creative Classic short story contest this semester! We received so many great submissions. Check out the second and third place winners' stories on the PHC website.

*First Place Winner: "From a Demon to a College Student" by Grace Richardson
Second Place Winner: "Three Loves" by Leo Briceno
Third Place Winner: "The Winter War" by Jimmy Waters ♦*



Courtesy: Unsplash



Courtesy: Pixabay user Wildone

SUBMIT YOUR OPINION
Email thoughtful opinions to ejfordham248@students.phc.edu.

Opinion: It's Okay to Graduate Single

by Stan Crocker

Every spring, a class of PHC students graduates. Some of them are elated that they have found a spouse, while others grab their diplomas with great sorrow thinking they they may never utter the words, "I do."

After all, if you fail to find a significant other at PHC, there's something wrong with you, right? You'll never have this golden opportunity again, and you blew it.

Well, if that's you, hopefully these stories of alumni who graduated single but still found Mr. or Mrs. Right will cheer you up.

Alissa Robertson graduated and moved back home before meeting her future spouse. For some of us, that might sound like a vow of celibacy, but the Lord had other plans. Alissa met her future husband, Jesse Thompson, on a blind date arranged by a trusted friend. After two dates, she said no to Jesse in favor of another guy, but soon realized she had made a mistake. She texted him, asking if they could still go on a third date, and he agreed. Six months later, Jesse proposed on a beautiful railroad track, and she said yes. For Alissa, dating after college was especially rewarding in at least two ways. First, she found dating after school to be very mature. Even starting on a blind date, there was no awkwardness of playing games to figure out whether the other person was interested. They both enjoyed the time together and, early on, she knew he was a good choice for a husband, so falling in love would be no problem. Second, she enjoyed getting to know Jesse with her family nearby. He was able to quickly be-

come one of the family, a true blessing.

Zachary Henry first met his wife Bre at an ugly sweater Christmas party but did not really connect until she began attending his church. This was not a case of love at first sight; Zachary did not develop romantic interest until he learned how she loved to dance, and they danced almost an entire night at Glen Echo together. When Zachary worked up the courage to ask Bre on a date, their first few dates were far from an idealized couple sipping wine at a French restaurant. On the first date, the conversation was somewhat stilted and the fries were terrible (although Zachary remedied the situation by bringing the fries home to feed the squirrels). On the next two dates, Zachary took Bre bowling and ice skating, even though he was far from confident in his abilities to master either activity. He wanted her to appreciate him even when he was not at his best. When the couple had their first serious "Define the Relationship" talk, he planned to take it slow at first, but she had the idea of flying to visit her family on short notice, and he, though stunned, could not refuse. The first month of dating had its fair share of intense conversations, awkward moments, and laughter, and meeting her family was worth every penny, helping him get to know her and her family in a new light.

Emily Carde, a Resident Director, met Ethan Weitz freshman year but did not start dating him until ten months after she graduated. After graduation, she began to spend more time with him through their mutual friends, Stephen and MJ Pierce. The first time that Ethan and Emily started to develop mutual interest was on a rainy hike at Old Rag Mountain, where Ethan and Emily walked significantly fast-



Stan Crocker

er than Stephen and MJ. Two months later, Ethan was driving Emily's car on Skyline Drive and asked her on a date for the first time. Ethan also hit a deer (in Emily's car!), which was somewhat traumatic for him, but Emily dated him anyway.

For the first five months of their dating relationship, Ethan and Emily wrote quirky notes to each other every night, and when it came time to pop the question, they returned to Old Rag, this time on a sunny day, found a secluded spot, and Ethan proposed. They look forward to (Lord willing) many years of marriage ahead.

There's not enough time to tell of Jonathan Carden, Daniel Hebda, Nick Barden, Sarah Watterson, and Anne Constant. These all graduated single but then found their true loves.

To my fellow single seniors, look at this great cloud of witnesses and be encouraged. There's still hope, my friends. ♦

"Hopefully these stories of alumni who graduated single but still found Mr. or Mrs. Right will cheer you up."

Stan Crocker
Senior

Correction

2017-2018 resident assistant Rose Perkins' wing was listed incorrectly in our April 7 issue. She will be the resident assistant in Monticello 111-114.