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APAC Chair Giovanna Lastra speaks to Student Senate prior to the report passing on Wednesday



Courtesy: Patrick Henry College

## PHC's New VP Howard Schmidt

by Victoria Cook

"During one stretch in my career, my ability to hit a baseball all but vanished," junior Ian Schmidt said. "While I was very discouraged about the situation, my dad spent hours of research trying to find a solution. What he found is a technique called rotational hitting, and after hours of coaching and thousands of swings, my batting form not only improved but became better than ever before."

The persistence to find creative solutions is one of Howard Schmidt's best characteristics. Schmidt, father of Ian Schmidt and three other children, is Patrick Henry College's new Executive Vice President and will be arriving to PHC on

## Senate Passes APAC Report

*Unanimous Recommendations Include Voluntary Referral System*

by Evie Fordham

Student Senate unanimously passed the Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission Official Report and Recommendations on Wednesday. The report will be sent to President Jack Haye, who will write a cover letter for it and send it to the Board of Trustees. The board will have time to read the report before deciding whether to change the policy when it convenes in late March.

"I am pleasantly surprised by the wide acceptance of the

report from the student body and student senators," APAC Chair Giovanna Lastra said. "I look forward to seeing what comes from it with the board."

APAC was commissioned in the spring of 2016 at Haye's request to gather and analyze the opinions of the campus about the current alcohol policy. Student Senate approved its 10 student members last semester. APAC met 11 times to design and analyze surveys sent out to PHC students, faculty, and alumni. Two hundred fifty-four people completed the in-depth, multiple-choice

final survey sent out last fall, and their answers influenced APAC's recommendations about alcohol and school's ethos and relationship with the community.

The 50-page report includes a letter from Student Body President Andrew Kelly, an *ex officio* member of APAC, about the policy's patriarchal roots. It prevents of-age single students from drinking during the school year but allows of-age married students to imbibe. Married students create

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Credit: Evie Fordham

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## studentgovernment

Student Senate unanimously passed the report and recommendations of the Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission. The commission was created at the request of President Haye, and I am glad to report that the Senate found that APAC produced a serious report that engaged with the salient aspects of the alcohol policy and included both major viewpoints held within the student body. While it was a bumpy road, I believe that APAC shows that the PHC community can handle serious, complex issues with grace and humility in a manner that brings about greater understanding, even when disagreement remains. The report has been sent to President Haye, who will review and include his thoughts before sending the report onto the Student Life & Academic Affairs subcommittee on the Board of Trustees. We expect to have an update on the report after the next Board of Trustees meeting in March.

- Tim Kocher, Speaker of the Senate

# Report: Close Loopholes, Re-examine Foundation

continued from cover

their own family unit and have authority over themselves while single students are still attached to their parents in patriarchal thought.

“The implication is that marriage is the goal of all Christian students, yet we know that is not the case, neither practically nor theologically,” Kelly said. “This assumption undermines the College’s commitment to doctrinal neutrality in matters of indifference, and it is questionable whether such an assertion is biblically grounded.”

The report’s unanimous recommendations include that the campus remain dry, that loopholes in the policy be closed (such as whether non-degree-seeking students must obey), that the board “reexamine the policy and its exceptions apart from the underlying philosophy that views students as bound to their parents until marriage,” and that Student Life distinguish between drinking and drunkenness.

“Not distinguishing between drinking and drunkenness is a problem because of the biblical standard there,” said APAC member Grace Richardson. “It’s there in the Bible that it’s not wrong to drink... Even if the policy isn’t changed to allow off-campus drinking, drinking that’s not to excess should be treated as a different kind of violation than drunkenness.”

The report also unanimously recommends that the college adopt a voluntary referral program that allows students to seek help for alcohol abuse without penalty “prior to confirmation of a first violation of the alcohol policy.”

“Assuming that they’re not using this to try to escape punishment, that would allow them for that first time not to be punished,” APAC Secretary Thomas Siu said. “I think all of us are on board with that.”

The majority report reflects the most common answer to Question 10 of the survey: “How should the current policy be changed?” Almost 64% of participants answered that they wish campus to remain dry but allow of-age students to consume alcohol off-campus.

It includes a sample policy in which of-age students may imbibe off-campus but must be mindful of whether underage students are around. No student may provide alcohol to underage students or be drunk at any time.

Commissioners Siu and Esther Katz presented the minority report, which recommends no substantial changes to the alcohol policy but advocates for a voluntary referral system and some clarifications to the policy.

“I think the majority is a bit overly optimistic about the potential impacts of

changing the policy,” Siu said.

The minority report recommends that the College prohibit imbibing by all students enrolled in on-campus classes except during academic breaks. Students on college-sanctioned trips during a break would not be allowed to imbibe. The minority also advocates for eliminating the parental supervision rule, meaning that any student over 21 can drink provided they follow the above requirements.

Freshman Leah Petree believes that however the board reacts to the report, APAC’s efforts were worth it.

“Just raising awareness that this is how the Student Body feels is important,” she said.

Senior Blaire Bayliss attended Wednesday’s meeting.

“The report is so well-written, and I think it accurately reflects what the campus believes, especially with the majority report,” she said.

Richardson sided with the majority report because it promotes following legal standards and is more enforceable.

“My hopes would be that at least the board adopt the unanimous recommendations,” she said. “Those are the most important ones because they deal with the underlying philosophy and the inconsistencies and the lack of clarity.” ♦

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## APP Conference Focuses on Technology

by Bruce Truax

Max Everett, former Chief Information Officer of the White House and current Senior Cybersecurity Advisor for Fortalice Solutions, spoke at PHC’s American Politics and Policy Conference last weekend. This semester’s conference focused on technology and communication.

“Everett was talking about cyber security in the political sense, the corporate sense, and also the personal sense,” former APP Student Chair Tim Kocher said.

Also speaking was Brent Skorup, who is a fellow at the economics research-oriented Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He used his experience in technology and economics to explain the impact of self-driving cars on society.

The conference also hosted the election of the new APP Student Chair. Sophomore Ian Frith won unopposed.

During his tenure, Kocher restructured the APP program to have more oversight. He also created the position of the APP chair.

“You’re writing the book,” he said. “To a certain extent, nobody has done this before, so you get to have a big role in shaping the standard for what is expected.”

“Tim Kocher and Christian McGuire... they’ve set us on a good course,” Frith said. “I want to continue that. I just think the way I approach accomplishing their goals might be a little different. I want to make sure internally it’s a program that everyone enjoys working for.”

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## Ian Frith Voted APP Chair

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He also plans to reorganize fundraising and events duties.

“I’m still trying to figure everything out, so it’s a little bit nerve-racking right now,” Frith said. “I’m sure as I go through the next couple days and have meetings with all the different departments I can straighten things out.”

Kocher, Maggie McKneely, and Kianna Smith organized the conference, which took place Feb. 10-11.

Other speakers included Josh McGuire, former General Counsel at LeEco, a Chinese tech conglomerate, spoke about the various abuses in the patent law system.

According to McGuire, most patents are written in such a way so that it is hard to tell what they refer to. Therefore, companies can sue for inventions that are very different than what they created. McGuire claims patent laws suits cost the economy billions of dollars a year and many of them slow down productivity in America.

Michael Carowitz, the Acting Chief at



Max Everett speaks at the conference

the Enforcement Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission spoke as did Tom Stuble, the Policy Counsel at TechFreedom, a District of Columbia-based think tank.

“Overall, it was pretty fascinating and interesting. I think people learned a lot, and I think the speakers did a pretty good job,” Kocher said.

The internship fair was another integral part of the APP Conference.

“That’s just a really great opportunity [to make connections]...that was the best

part of the conference from a career standpoint,” Frith said.

“Last year, they had only three organizations trying to recruit. This time they broadened their scope to about 10,” said sophomore Alan Iiyama, who attended the conference.

APP students were excited for the APP Conference.

“There are just so many upcoming issues with technology that no one really knows anything about,” said McKneely. ♦

## Locust Street Film Night and Valentine’s Dinner

by Vienna Jacobson

Locust Street Film Night at Ketoctin Covenant Presbyterian Church in Purcellville, Virginia, is hosting a Valentine’s Dinner with homemade Italian food and a showing of *Sabrina* Friday at 6 p.m. *Sabrina* is a 1954 romantic comedy starring Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

Sophomore Grace Weitz and her brother, freshman Daniel, have grown up attending these film nights with their friends from church and now from college. Pastor Charles Biggs of Ketoctin Covenant Presbyterian Church in Purcellville, Virginia, was a film minor in college and his love for movies had extended to sharing them with others. Grace Weitz encourages people to attend Locust Street’s monthly movies not just as a time of fel-

lowship but also as a learning opportunity.

“It’s an opportunity to learn with someone who has studied this stuff and really, really gets it,” she said.

“No free motifs” is Locust Street’s philosophy. Grace and Daniel Weitz say that in the films chosen everything is important and everything matters.

“It is a really great fellowship opportunity,” Grace Weitz said.

While Daniel Weitz would not ordinarily be interested in older films, he says that Locust Street has helped him enjoy film noir and other such genres.

“Films give us the ability to visually see world-views at work, and see the impact of the gospel even in secular films,” he said.

Not only does Locust Street host the showing of the film, but they also spend



Hepburn and Holden in *Sabrina*

time after to discuss the themes and the importance of the film in the culture.

“It’s really helpful to hear people’s views on the movie. They help you understand it more,” Daniel Weitz said. ♦

# Howard Schmidt Excited for New Role at PHC

continued from cover

April 1 of this year.

President Hays and Howard Schmidt started talking about future plans last fall.

“God was just beginning to stir in his heart that there might be a different season coming for him, though not knowing what that could be,” Hays said. “Since I had gone through a similar transition, we were able to have some good conversations and pray together about what it is that God may be doing.”

Before considering Schmidt for an executive position, Hays talked with Dr. Michael Kucks and Schmidt about the possibility of the candidate taking a position as an Economics and Business Analytics professor.

After listening to Howard Schmidt speak as a guest lecturer in his class, Hays realized that Howard Schmidt could potentially work better in a broader role.

An assessment of college affairs revealed that the administration needed someone with expertise in strategic planning.

“We have a lot of great ideas that bubble up; I don’t have the time to chase them all down. Other members of the executive team have their own responsibilities too,” Hays said. “There was a sense that there was a higher level of assistance that we could use.”

After prayerful consideration, Schmidt accepted the position as the College’s Executive Vice President.

“For the past several years my wife, Cathy, and I have had a desire to serve the Lord and impact His kingdom in a greater manner than we do

today,” he said. “Cathy and I considered ourselves extremely blessed, and the opportunity to serve and give back to others through the college seems to be a natural step in our lives.”

Schmidt will be resigning from his position as Vice President and General Manager of Advanced Distributor Products for Lennox in order to start his full-time position at PHC.

“He’s right at the very height of his career and to step aside from that requires great conviction and a heart attuned to God,” Hays said. “To be able to follow with a real sense of peace that this is what God has asked him to do requires a great deal of trust and faith, a spiritual maturity that there are things that are more important than the things we are amassing for ourselves.”

Schmidt plans to work with Kucks to develop new curriculum that will teach EBA students knowledge beyond what is taught at the graduate level of a university.

Kucks, who has known Schmidt for about seven years, said that he stands apart

as someone who has Christian principles as forethoughts when making his decisions, whereas other Christian businessmen have those principles as afterthoughts.

“He’s not someone who just does the standard fare; he’s someone who sees opportunities that others can’t quite visualize and then he makes them into realities,” Kucks said.

Schmidt plans to help PHC expand in brand awareness, student body size, and involvement with local community and businesses.

**“To be able to follow with a real sense of peace that this is what God has asked him to do requires a great deal of trust and faith, a spiritual maturity that there are things more important than the things we are amassing for ourselves.”**

**Jack Hays**  
President of PHC



**Howard Schmidt and his family**

Courtesy: Ian Schmidt

“There are still so many areas of opportunities for the college, and so many people who do not know much about what God is doing here. As incredible as the first years have been, I believe the best years are still ahead,” he said.

“As my dad has grown in wisdom and experience, his ability to revolutionize his areas of expertise have astounded me,” Ian Schmidt said. “From watching him coach soccer through math and excel, to his several industry patents credited to his name, my dad follows the rules until he creates better ones.”

The Schmidt family is excited about moving and the opportunities that will come with a new place.

“The foundation is wonderful and the potential is unlimited,” Howard Schmidt said about PHC. “God’s hand is clearly on the college, and we are humbled and honored to be able to serve the college in any manner the Lord presents. To be able to work with such incredible students, faculty, board members and administration on a daily basis is going to be a great blessing.” ♦

# Purcellville Welcomes Creperie La Petit Loulou

by Leah Greenwood

String lights hang above the courtyard outside La Petit Loulou, creating an ambience worthy of the title of Parisian Creperie + Bar a Vins. Inside, the hand-painted black and white scallop-designed floors, 1920s authentic Parisian lights, French antique décor, and French music all work together to transport the customers to 1930s Paris.

La Petit Loulou is set to open this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The first 50 guests will receive complimentary crepes for a year, and there will be tastings, live music, and children's activities.

"We tried to emulate French culture throughout," Dusty Lockhart, co-owner of La Petit Loulou, said.

Lockhart and her husband Stefano Frigerio, a skilled executive chef who has worked at Fiola, a high-end restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue in the District of Columbia. They moved their four children to Purcellville, Virginia, almost three years ago.

"We noticed there weren't many places we could take the kids...for a quick dining option and/or easy ways of dining," Lockhart said.

With a combined experience of about



Courtesy: Pixabay user Ritae

40 years in the restaurant business, Lockhart and Frigerio decided to open their own restaurant.

"We asked the kids what they wanted," Lockhart said. "And they wanted crepes."

After researching how to "present crepes in a way that would still be profitable," Lockhart and Frigerio settled on a theme. The restaurant is designed to transport the customers to 1930s Paris.

"It was a very important historical [and cultural] time in Paris," Lockhart said. "But it was also a very vibrant time; the music, art, and art deco style that was coming out of Paris at that point in time

was really phenomenal, and we wanted to emulate that."

La Petit Loulou follows the current shift in the restaurant industry, which is moving away from sit-down dining and entering into counter service operations.

"It just makes the food a lot more accessible and the experience a little bit easier to choose how you want to use it," Lockhart said.

The menu features a variety of French delicacies such as crepes, croissants, pastries, cheeses, wines, and espressos. The creperie will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. ♦

# Community Involvement Commission

by Pierre du Plessis

The Community Involvement Commission is creating opportunities for students to invest in the community.

The CIC, co-chaired by student senators Andrew Bambrick and Seth Lucas, executed a large-scale pillow drive during the fall 2016 semester. Over 45 pillows were donated to the Good Shepherd Alliance, a local shelter with an over 80% success rate of placing homeless people in jobs and providing them with homes.

"Our biggest principle that we operate on is that we live in a community that extends beyond the perimeters of campus,"

Bambrick said.

The Volunteers in Police Service Program, an effort spearheaded by student senator Christian McGuire, also provides a chance for PHC students to become involved in local politics and town governance.

"Chief McAlister wants a group of volunteers that can apply for grants for things like body cameras, as well as do policy research, best practices research, and then finally some crime analysis," McGuire said.

The opportunity is available to all students.

Lucas and Bambrick are optimistic

about the chance of impacting the town through the Purcellville Town Cleanup on March 25.

"The event will start at 8 a.m. in front of the Purcellville Town Hall, and will last about two hours or more, depending on how much time volunteers wish to contribute," Lucas said. "While the town will provide safety vests and trash bags, volunteers are expected to wear long jeans and bring their own gloves. Those interested in participating should contact the CIC as soon as possible... Contact either myself, Andrew Bambrick, Morgan Conliffe, Spencer Reeves, or Nathan Gray if you would like to volunteer." ♦

# Men's Basketball Season Wraps Up

by Hailey Kilgo

The Sentinels wrapped up their season on Saturday, Feb. 11, with a loss to Appalachian Bible College, ending the season 0-8.

With several young team members added this season, the Sentinels spent most of it learning to work together to become a team under the guidance of head coach David Ness and assistant coach Nolan Yost.

With the season ended and the completion of his first college basketball season, freshman Diego Lastra has taken the time to contemplate what the season meant for him.

"The program has a long way to go, but one thing that kept us going is that we played and we sacrificed so that there could be a program in the future," Lastra said. "We want guys who love basketball and love camaraderie and brotherhood to come and play college basketball, paired with the great education that PHC provides."

The season was tough for this team consisting of mainly freshmen who were learning how to play together.

Captain Andrew Shepherd, a junior, credits a large portion of getting through the season to the fans who showed commitment to their team, even in the face of defeat.

"One thing that we do appreciate as a team... is that the fans are really good," Shepherd said. "It's painful for us to play in some of these games, and it's not fun to go lose by a hundred points. We know they have things to



The PHC Sentinels

Credit: Mary Katharin Collins

do, so coming out to watch is helpful. It's nice to know we have people who support us."

**"The program has a long way to go, but one thing that kept us going is that we played and we sacrificed so that there could be a program in the future. We want guys who love basketball and love camaraderie and brotherhood to come and play college basketball, paired with the great education that PHC provides."**

**Diego Lastra**

This season, Shepherd and his younger brother, sophomore Seth Shepherd, played together for the first time on the same team.

"We grew up in a big family, and it would have taken a lot of traveling to get everyone on their own team," Andrew Shepherd said. "Since we're all different ages too we would have been all over. We played pick up ball together growing up, but this is the first real team we've been on together, and it's been great."

Another first for the team came from freshman Colin Turner, a mid-season

transfer from Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia.

Originally a friend of Ness, Turner found a brotherhood here at PHC that he didn't experience at Christendom, and one he hopes to further in the next seasons of his basketball career here.

"Personality-wise, I like this team," Turner said. "I think we're going to get better, and I'm going to keep playing. I think we have to make a few changes and get more players, but we'll get better."

The end of the season was marked with disappointment for the Sentinels.

Yet, the attitude of the team is one of hope moving forward, and a commitment to working hard for a program that they helped to build up, and a brotherhood they established this season through some tough loss.

"The season was really up-and-down and difficult," Lastra said. "We had personal bests, and if we'd had a couple more games, I think we'd have won because we started playing for each other, not ourselves, and if we can keep that up next season, we will be good." ♦

# How to Win at the LSAT

by Meg McEwen

As a young debater, Thomas Siu faced a resolution dealing with due process versus discovery of fact and which one should be upheld when the two come into conflict. The resolution marked the beginning of Siu's enduring interest in the legal field.

"My thought process was that it kind of takes a special sort of person to get really excited by due process," Siu said. "I realized that this is something I am genuinely interested in."

Today, Siu is neck-deep in preparation for the LSAT, the test that will eventually enable him to use the same rules in law school that he grappled with as a sixteen-year old. The LSAT measures the critical thinking skills necessary for students to succeed at law school. The test includes logic, reading comprehension, and analytical reasoning sections.

Many students turn to Dr. Frank Guliuzza, PHC's pre-law advisor, for LSAT coaching. "The LSAT is clearly the most important part of the [law school] application, because that's the way they can compare a kid from Patrick Henry with Duke... what I do is advise on the whole application," Guliuzza said.

Years ago, Guliuzza helped to devise a preparatory course for a friend who would go on to make the highest score possible on the LSAT, a 180. Following this feat, they decided to coordinate a week-long LSAT preparational course in Utah for students. The course was a combination of a week-long commercial and then a self-paced course in the following weeks leading up to the test. Students, including PHC students, benefited from this course for 16 years.

"Our purpose was to teach you the golf swing, make sure you could swing the club well and then get you on the course. Then the next 10 to 12 weeks was about you learning to play better," Guliuzza said.

Today, Guliuzza provides direction to students who are preparing for the LSAT and looking at potential law schools. He



Credit: Pixabay

surveys their LSAT scores, personal essays, GPA, and other factors to locate the best law school possible for them, working with students who have discouragingly low or incredibly high scores. "Your first legal argument is not when you stand up and they say, 'Give us the facts of Jones vs. Smith.' Your first legal argument is 'Why you should take me into your law school instead of the other guy,'" Guliuzza said.

The pressure is on for students at Patrick Henry College. Matt Hoke, a senior studying for the LSAT, was told by a mentor and Harvard graduate at the Heritage Foundation that your law school's name is valuable in the job market. Many students shoot for big name law schools. These colleges only accept the cream of the crop - the students with the best LSAT scores. That being said, here are Guliuzza's tips for how to win at the LSAT:

**1. Do not swallow more than you can chew as a freshman.**

Guliuzza cautions freshmen who anticipate taking the LSAT to start with small bites. He advises younger students to delve into journals in literature, law, social science, hard science. Learning to read the abstracts of the journals prepare students for the reading comprehension sections of the test.

**2. Break down your study schedule.**

Learning to pace oneself for the LSAT can be a nightmare. Guliuzza and a friend broke down 150 hours of studying into a ten-week schedule for students. "The ones who followed that course tended to improve dramatically," Guliuzza said. On

a similar note, Ryan McDonald, a Patrick Henry College alumni who now attends law school at George Mason University, said, "Start preparing many months in advance, and start small. As you become more proficient at particular elements of the test, work your way up more rigorous practice routines."

**3. Use the old LSATs to study.**

"Actually use the old LSATs, because a lot of the commercial materials are written by philosophers trying to mimic LSAT questions," Guliuzza said.

On the LSAT, students face questions on a variety of topics. They might be asked to find a flaw in a problem related to fishing in Massachusetts or to answer a question regarding basketball players on the west coast. Whatever the topic, these critical thinking questions have all been vetted for an average of forty months before reaching the actual LSAT. Commercial guides do not go through that intensive process.

**4. Build up your stamina.**

"When you're doing the test, buy some old tests that you can harvest individual sections that would serve as the equivalent of the dummy section," Guliuzza said.

The test is five sections long, with one section being a "dummy" section. LSAT only provides practice tests with the four real sections, so the practice tests can sometimes give students a false understanding of how much mental stamina they would need for the test. "You need to start building the stamina of sitting down, doing thirty-five minutes of fry-

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## Film Event: *Is Genesis History?*

by Professor David Lee

Audiences around the country have a rare opportunity to watch documentary *Is Genesis History?* in theaters and see the splendor of our planet portrayed on the silver screen Thursday, Feb. 23. It will be showing at 7 p.m. in Leesburg at the Cobb Village 12 Cinemas and in Winchester at the Carmike Apple Blossom 12. I recommend buying tickets in advance, either on-site or online, as this event could easily sell out.

However, it's not the scenery, cinematography, or score that makes this a unique event, but the fact that this film rightly credits the beauty and complexity of the universe to its Creator. In this one-night-only event, viewers will be exposed to evidence consistent with the biblical worldview and the position that God is the Creator and sustainer of the universe.

*Is Genesis History?* seeks to answer its title question by exploring the scientific markers for the age of the earth, the evidence for biological evolution, and the accuracy of the historical account of creation. Del Tackett (creator of the Truth Project) interviews experts in the fields of biology, geology, astronomy, paleontology, archeology and biblical interpretation in an effort to answer this central question.

As Tackett hunts for answers, he takes the viewers on a journey to such incredible sights as a marine wildlife preserve in the Caribbean, an active dinosaur dig site in Wyoming, museum archives full of Hebrew artifacts, the diversity of zoos and natural history museums, the splendor of the Grand Canyon, and the ruins of Mount Saint Helens. Where did we come from? Is it reasonable in our modern era to believe in the claims of Scripture? Does nature show evidence of design? Didn't God create using the Big Bang? This documentary explores these and many other questions. In short, the title says it all.

Unlike similar projects, this film was produced with careful attention to the most current arguments and with the direct involvement of the creation science community. At the 2015 Origins Conference (a joint meeting of the Creation Biology Society and Creation Geology Society), my colleagues and I were informed that this documentary was being produced and involved in a "town hall" dialogue regarding the scope and direction of the film even before its production. At the 2016 conference, we saw a screening of the film that showed that the filmmakers, Compass Cinema and Fathom Events, are committed to an accurate examination of the young-earth creationist position.

In contrast with other such films,



Credit: Pixabay

which have typically been limited to contributors from a single organization, *Is Genesis History?* features scholars from an assortment of universities, ministries, and research institutes. These researchers are credentialed scientists with decades of experience in their fields (possibly even centuries, I haven't crunched the numbers). The result is a documentary that has been lauded by many creation ministries, none of which were directly responsible for its production. For a community with an unfortunate reputation of "not playing well with others," this is incredibly encouraging.

Please, join us on Thursday to support and learn from this great documentary. For more information, go to [www.isgeneshistory.com](http://www.isgeneshistory.com) and feel free to contact me at [dalee@phc.edu](mailto:dalee@phc.edu).

To paraphrase Dr. Randy Guliuzza, the natural response to studying the beauty of God's creation is to worship the creator. ♦

## PHC Students Admitted to Top Law Schools

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ing your brain, take five seconds, and then do the next thirty-five minutes, and do it again and again," Guliuzza said. He recommends even filling out the informational sections of the practice tests to prepare your mind for the actual test.

**5. Do not skip over the questions that you miss.**

"Never leave a missed question until you see why you are wrong and they are right," Guliuzza said. In this way, students become more accustomed to the patterns

and the language of the test. If you find yourself missing more than you should, then Guliuzza recommends a commercial course of study, like *Master the LSAT* by Jeff Kolby.

**6. Chart your tests.**

"People make mistakes at consistent spots in the test," Guliuzza said. "See where you are missing parts of the test and see if you can remain focused on that... My friend who got the high score found himself wandering mid-test. So he would shake his head a little bit or tap his nose, just to get himself back in the game," Gu-

liuzza said.

PHC students have averaged in the 96th percentile of LSAT scores in past years, according to Guliuzza.

Harvard Law School, Yale University Law School, and the University of Virginia School of Law are just a few of the prestigious institutions that graduates have attended.

Additionally, alumni have earned editorial and staff positions on fifteen legal journals, including the Yale Law Journal and Columbia Law Review. ♦

# A Third Caesarian Dialogue

by Luke Thomas

*After his lunch with Cato, Julius decides to go back to the stands for a little dessert. He finds Gaius paying for some himself.*

**Julius:** Why Gaius, is it good to see you again. Cato and I were just talking about you.

**Gaius:** The Arch-Senator himself, eh? What did he tell you?

**Julius:** That all the Consul can do is make recommendations to President Haye?

**Gaius:** Who is that?

**Julius:** What is a President?

**Gaius:** I am not sure that I know. But if that is the case, it would be the exact same power of the senate.

**Julius:** That does seem like an overlap where one branch makes recommendations but the other has the same power.

**Gaius:** Even more so, the power to make recommendations and to keep any recommendations of Senate out of President Haye's hands.

**Julius:** Who?

**Gaius:** Exactly! One could say that the existence of Consul Kelly makes the Senate useless.

**Julius:** One could; you just did.

**Gaius:** Why, there is no recourse from the Senate. Except for impeachment, that is.

**Julius:** And how effective would that be?

**Gaius:** Well, only last year the Consul ve-

toed every bill from the Senate, and they did not even know.

**Julius:** Is that true?

**Gaius:** Completely, they were only made aware of it upon the new consulship.

**Julius:** Goodness. What did the Senate do then that the Consul could not do?

**Gaius:** Quite an excellent question, Julius.

**Julius:** Come now, Julius, be fair. Cato told me that you only say this because you think whoever would be made Caesar would be of your faction?

**Gaius:** Faction? What place of faction is there here? Only one would call someone else factional if they were of their own faction. Is there no place for reason in the Polis? The very fact that only one citizen could be made Caesar contributes to how virtuous that citizen must be. The problems that plague our city are not ones of ideology. A hard-working, virtuous, and intelligent man is best for leading our Polis, not one of tribal loyalty and dogmatism.

**Julius:** So the Caesar must be virtuous then? Is not intellectual charity a virtue?

**Gaius:** Of course it is! He must be the best of the best if he is to be elected by the people.

**Julius:** But Cato said there was no representation.

**Gaius:** And why did Cato say such a thing?

**Julius:** Because Senate has to be re-elected.

**Gaius:** How many people live in this city?

**Julius:** How many?

**Gaius:** Yes. Ten thousand?

**Julius:** No, fewer.

**Gaius:** Ah, is it one thousand?

**Julius:** No. Fewer, still.

**Gaius:** Could it be around three-hundred.

**Julius:** Yes, that is the number.

**Gaius:** How is there not representation when it can be fairly said that one leader can know everyone in the polis? I would think a conversation would communicate better than a "no vote."

**Julius:** That is true. We have the luxury of personable politics. But what about a tyrant, that is surely what Cato is worried about.

**Gaius:** Which of us is going to elect someone we know is morally vicious and disliked by most other citizens?

**Julius:** Ask the United States population.

**Gaius:** What?

**Julius:** Nothing.

**Gaius:** Is a butcher going to sell bad meat to his next door neighbor? Is a father going to give him a snake when he asks for a fish? We know each other, what is our foundation of civility and respect but friendship?

**Julius:** That is fair, Gaius. I know every man who would be Caesar. They are all worthy men.

**Gaius:** That is our position, Julius, I pray that it does not depart. ♦



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# Book Review: *Secondhand Time*

by Jared Midwood

Investigative journalist Svetlana Alexievich opens her finest book with a simple quote: “I learned that the heroes of one era aren’t likely to be the heroes of the next.”

With that dynamic presupposition slowly trudging alongside a makeshift narrative, *Secondhand Time* powerfully explores the depths of the Russian experience – both before and after the fall of the Soviet Union. The book earned a Nobel Prize in 2015.

Alexievich was born in 1948 in modern day Ukraine, over 30 years after the October Revolution. In *Secondhand Time*, she takes a unique voice, using her experience and panache to gather hundreds of firsthand accounts from survivors of the communist experiment. The unique perspectival mini-narratives weave together formlessly to tell the story of nation ripped apart by ethos competing against ethos.

Building off the concept that heroes and ideals change over generations, Alexievich convincingly builds the case that modern-day Russians actually have less of a telos now than they did during the height of radical communism. Individual after individual in the book relays how citizens of Russia found their identity in the state, and now have no identity except as members of a godless and soulless conglomerate.

Political leftism is not portrayed through rose-colored glasses. Rather, Alexievich points out the pitfalls of making the state a god.

When religion and spirituality were altogether abandoned during the reigns of men like Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin, people began to associate their spiritual identity with the communist regime. As George Orwell intoned, “Nationalism is power hunger tempered by self-deception.”

By demanding rigid nationalism in its constituents, the Soviet Union was able to deceive people into viewing it as a deity in

and of itself.

Transitioning decades into the future, the outlook is bleak in Eastern Europe. People now work towards nothing; their value coming from little more than a grim work day, dire financial conditions, and little collective hope for the future of their society. They even lack a strong centralized political machine in which to put their faith, while a “difficult business environment, weak institutions and overreliance on natural resources will place strong constraints on Russia’s long-term growth,” *The Economist* reported in 2016.

Alexievich recounts the tales of people who experienced similar stagnation under communism. After communism’s fall, weak economic conditions were magnified without the same utopian goals or a unified propaganda machine to positively spin the outlook on the future.

Alexievich’s approach when interviewing her respondents is unique. She is less concerned with questions of politics than with questions about life itself.

“I’m rushing to make impressions of [the Soviet civilization’s] traces, its familiar faces,” she says. “I don’t ask about socialism, I want to know about love, jealousy, childhood, old age. Music, dances, hairdos. The myriad sundry details of a vanished way of life. It’s the only way to chase the catastrophe into the contours of the ordinary and try to tell a story.”

Sara Danius, secretary of the Swedish Academy that awarded *Secondhand Time* the Nobel Prize, called the project “a history of emotions,” a new “kind of literary genre.”

The miracle of the book is that it juxtaposes oppression, terror, and famine with pride, hope, and longing. The reader of Alexievich’s magnum opus does not get a foreboding sense that all hope is lost for the Russian society.

Rather, they get a tempered view of a society marred by tragedy yet alive with potential. Svetlana Alexievich in *Secondhand Time* carries the modern mantle of Andrei Tarkovsky in his profound art-house films: it tells the tales of the Rus-



Svetlana Alexievich

sian people in an objective and studious fashion. Glimpses into individual lives aid the telling of a larger tale, one shaped by human history and everything from agriculture to religion to politics to language.

Alexievich tells a story about her father before “the war.”

“[He] had been studying at the Minsk Institute of Journalism,” she said. “He would recall how often, on returning to college after vacations, students wouldn’t find a single one of their old professors because they had all been arrested [for imparting democratic ideals on students]. They didn’t understand what was happening, but whatever it was, it was terrifying. Just as terrifying as war.”

*Secondhand Time* is a beautiful read for those of us in the liberally democratic West. It is the story of a different place, across the ocean, tested by the fires of unchecked tyranny and paradox. ♦

## Correction

Our Feb. 10 story on Loudoun County charity Prom Wishes said that the organization had been around for 60 years. Prom Wishes was founded 16 years ago. ♦