

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

SPRING 2012 ★ VOL. 12, NO. 1



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- PHC 2012 National Moot Court Champions
- Alumnus Making Mark in China
- Newsmakers Series Returns with Stellar Cast

From the Chancellor



Dr. Michael Farris

Last summer I finished my LLM program with the University of London in Public International Law, completing about half of my course work in the area of human rights law. I wanted to learn this area of law to equip myself to oppose the use of international law in the domestic courts of the United States. Americans should make the law for America—not UN agencies and tribunals. I also wanted to help our brothers and sisters in Christ fight for their religious freedom and parental rights in nations that have accepted the jurisdiction of international law.

An unexpected bonus is that now I'm fully equipped to teach our students Public International Law. This first semester offering the course we're reading a textbook used by top law schools across the country. While PHC classifies it as an undergraduate course, it's a law school course in every substantive way.

Studying cases from international courts and examining the miserable records of repressive governments and international tribunals toward human rights, liberty and justice has been deeply disturbing.

We're proud to be offering this unique course at PHC, and I thank you for your prayers and support. Together with my students, I know you join us in saying, "Thank God we live in the United States of America."

From the President



Dr. Graham Walker

The world is fragmented—intellectually, spiritually, relationally—without Him in whom all things hold together (Col 1:17). The world of higher learning in particular has largely succumbed to the futility that Paul attributes to man's refusal to give thanks to God (Rom. 1:21). Charles Spurgeon said, "Knowledge of itself alone is as land which may either become a blooming garden or a howling wilderness." It's little surprise, then, that America's intellectual landscape looks like a pitiless wasteland, full of information but with no sense of center. God intends something better.

That is why, at Patrick Henry College, discipleship and worship are indispensable components of our academic enterprise. They are the fuel on which the Christian mind runs. We order the routine of academic life by the daily oasis of worship and discipleship in our chapel program. Likewise—from the forensics podium to the halls of government, behind the camera and the pen—our students, alumni and faculty seek to order the habits of their minds by reverence for the Lord.

The world is enslaved to a glut of information organized, if at all, by futile thinking. Here, we seek the liberty of mind that is found in worshipful thought and thoughtful worship. After just over a decade, the results are in from Patrick Henry College—a flowering of intellectual creativity, unmistakable cultural impact, and a legacy, we pray, of faithfulness to Jesus that will last for generations to come.

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On the Cover:

The Barbara Hodel Center

PHC National Moot Champs for Fourth Consecutive Year

Matched against the 80 top teams in the country, PHC's moot court program won a fourth consecutive ACMA National Championship at Chapman University Law School in Orange County, CA. Competing against the likes of Duke, the University of Virginia, the Air Force Academy, Holy Cross, Wheaton College, Baylor University and the University of Texas, the College's duo of J.C. Cartee and Andrew Ferguson won five rounds in a single day to capture the first-place trophy from a team from the College of New Jersey.

With six championships in the past eight years, PHC remains the only ACMA moot court participant to have won more than one title.

"Praise God and congratulations to our students," said PHC founder and chancellor, Dr. Michael Farris, coach of the moot court team. "Going in, I believed any one of our eight teams could've won the tournament. J.C. and Andrew both have the ability to understand and give concise, convincing answers delivered very smoothly. That was their key."

"It's a huge achievement," offered moot court coach Dr. Frank Guliuzza. "How many schools can say they're the best, or have been the best, at anything? I'm still in awe of what the



J.C. Cartee and Andrew Ferguson, ACMA national champions.

Lord is enabling our students to do."

In addition to the first-place trophy, two PHC teams tied for third place: Micah Walters and Kayla Griesemer and Logan Spena and Samuel Johnson. Ardee Coolidge and Josh Chamberlain made it to the Elite Eight, and duos Blake Meadows and Bridget Degan and Ben Williamson and James Compton advanced to the Sweet Sixteen. The College once again qualified the maximum number of eight teams for nationals and advanced seven teams to the round of 32 (octofinals).

"I have dreamt of winning nationals from before I attended PHC," said Ferguson. "For the Lord to bless us with victory has been thrilling, and to have our names next to some of the PHC

moot court greats is truly humbling."

"It does feel surreal," added Cartee, also a junior. "The final round had the feel of a prize fight. It's so exciting to feel the reward of victory after all these months of practice and preparation."

The College also excelled in the tournament's Top Orator rankings, earning second through seventh Top Speaker Awards, including, respectively: (2nd) freshman Ben Williamson, (3rd) sophomore Blake Meadows, (4th) freshman James Compton, (5th) freshman Samuel Johnson, (6th) senior Nicole Frazer and (7th) senior Logan Spena. In the Brief Writing Competition, PHC teams of Kyle Niewoehner/Nicole Frazer and Samuel Johnson/Kira Clark won third and fourth places, respectively. The team of Mackenzi Siebert and Tait Deems

placed fourth in the Top Respondent Brief Competition.

Some may have expected a rebuilding year after last year's winners, Brett and Alex Harris, chose not to compete, but PHC teams dominated all three regional tournaments heading toward nationals.

"Our students were still hungry to win," observed Dr. Guliuzza. "Those who wonder how we win should see how hard these students work throughout the fall."

Dr. Farris cited a personal anecdote to bring the achievement into perspective.

"During the earlier rounds, Kelsey Stapler Morris, a former top PHC moot court competitor, served as a judge," he reports. "She received a full-ride scholarship to Pepperdine University School of Law and today works for Akin Gump, one of the largest law firms in the nation. She's on her way toward a very successful law career, which is one of the reasons our kids are so inspired to get involved and work so hard. They've seen the fruit it has born in the lives of our graduates." ★



Patrick Henry College championship moot court teams.

TRACS Peer Review Sets Stage for “Reaffirmation”

A team of experts in higher education visited PHC during a January peer review process to reaffirm the College’s accreditation with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). The peer review assesses PHC’s compliance with TRACS standards and maintains the College’s standing with the State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV) in Virginia, which requires accreditation from a federally recognized accreditor. PHC has been a member of TRACS, the only federally recognized Christian institutional accrediting body, for five years.

“The external peer review process undergirds the mission of the College insofar as it requires external accountability and transparency, both of which are clearly biblical principles,” said Dr. Laura McCollum, PHC’s vice president for institutional effectiveness and strategic initiatives.



Members of the TRACS site team with Patrick Henry College administration.

“It is a process that promotes fidelity to PHC’s mission.”

Guided by a “self-study” compiled by PHC administrators that contained written evaluations and documentation covering over 100 criteria, the TRACS team visited classes and conducted interviews during the three-day review. The team’s report offered two specific points of commendation—first, for the College’s overall vision and quality of its faculty, and

second, for the comprehensiveness of its institutional effectiveness and strategic planning process.

In early April, President Graham Walker, Executive Vice President Carl Schreiber, and Dr. McCollum travel to Chicago to appear before the TRACS Commission to receive a final determination on reaffirmation. When reaffirmed, as school administrators expect, the school will not face another on-site review for ten years. ★

Intensified Recruiting Effort Nets Growing Applicant Pool

By the midpoint of the recruiting year, Patrick Henry College had received over 210 student applications for the fall 2012 semester—more than the total number who applied for fall 2011. The College’s admissions staff has redoubled recruiting efforts and has been gratified to see results.

“In the nearly four decades I’ve served the Lord in Christian higher education, I have never been more impressed with the dedication and commitment of colleagues and students,” remarks Bill Kellaris, assistant vice president for enrollment management. “Patrick Henry College is an institution that stands apart from all of its peers.”

Communicating with an inquiry pool of over 4300 high school students, the enrollment office streamlined its admissions processes to better serve interested families, revised and updated many of its printed display materials, and created an attractive wall gallery along an upper corridor of The Barbara Hodel Center to highlight alumni successes. Enrollment staffers also traveled to 14 states, cultivating new relationships with key high schools through targeted events, all resulting, says Kellaris, in helping the



Assistant VP for Enrollment Bill Kellaris, far left, and counselors welcome visiting students.

College maintain an exceptionally high academic caliber of admitted students. The average SAT score for fall 2012 so far is 1315, which places PHC’s applicants in the top 10 percent of all college-bound students taking the test.

Another distinguishing quality of the growing PHC Class of 2016 is its consistently impressive commitment and accomplishments in multiple areas of service, say enrollment counselors. From church, to school and employment, to scouting and other community organizations, the group exemplifies lives dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ. ★

Harris Brothers Moving Forward, Along Different Paths

Arriving on the PHC campus in fall 2008, Alex and Brett Harris had just published their best-selling book, *Do Hard Things*, and had begun what would become a five-year run of *Rebellion* conferences, sparking a “teenage rebellion against low expectations.” They had for years been practicing what now brought them national notoriety—working campaigns, interning for government officials, launching a grassroots web platform to connect teens, and even boosting then-candidate Mike Huckabee’s primary prospects with their “Huck’s Army” website.

A polished team, their faces appeared in full-page *WORLD Magazine* ads; their names were featured in TV, radio, and news stories; and their words were framed in grand slam quotes like: “We encourage young people to understand that the reason any of us can do hard things is because Jesus Christ did the ultimate hard thing, the thing we never could do for ourselves.”

They chose PHC after reading the controversial *God’s Harvard* by Hanna Rosin and “began to gain a wider appreciation of what PHC was achieving,” said Brett. “We saw God working there and were impressed by the College’s enemies.”

If anyone expected the Harris twins to make a loud splash on campus, running for student office as freshmen, say, or leveraging their reputations somehow, they were mistaken.

“It was something we decided before we came,” Alex confided. “We didn’t want to come across like we felt entitled to positions of leadership. We wanted people to see us as normal guys.”

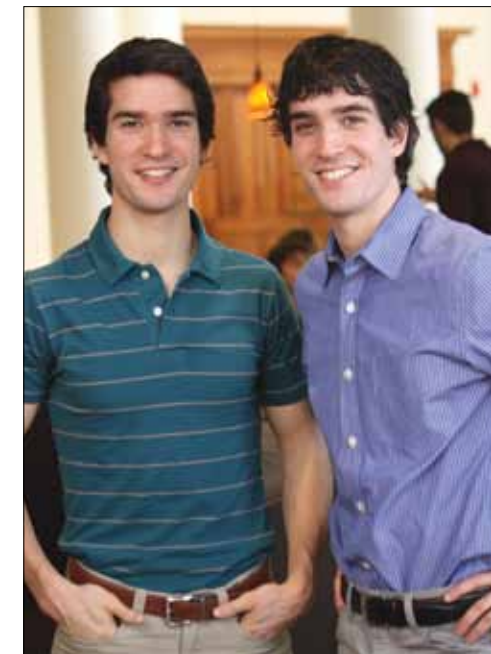
So, humbly and somewhat self-consciously, the brothers kept doing hard things, studying, speaking at conferences, writing another book, winning a national moot court championship as juniors—Brett also appeared in a full-length Christian movie—and assuming low-profile roles that few saw. Wherever they spoke or traveled, they energetically promoted the College to thousands of prospective PHC students, a number of whom later enrolled.

In time, a campus that viewed the brothers as almost a single entity came to know Alex and Brett as unique individuals with distinct gifts. The brothers both became engaged during their PHC years (Alex is now married to Courtney, with a newborn daughter), and each steadily discovered his own path toward the future.

“We’ve both been able to identify our individual strengths and interests,” says Alex. “We’re pursuing those now, but we also feel like they complement each other really well.”

Observes PHC Chancellor Dr. Michael Farris, who has known them since they were infants: “I’m incredibly proud of what they have achieved here at PHC. Not only did they win the national moot court championship, but they’ve been exemplary young men in numerous aspects of campus life.”

Next fall, Alex will attend law school (early indications point toward Harvard) having found a “love for politics and public policy” through classes and moot court success. Brett also plans to marry this summer and then move back to Oregon to work with his father, home-schooling pioneer Gregg Harris, helping to care for younger siblings after the loss of their mother in



Brett and Alex Harris have impacted the campus community.

2010. He expects to keep writing, pursue public speaking and ministry opportunities, and explore entrepreneurial projects with fellow PHC comrades.

“I’m graduating with guys I fully expect to work with the rest of my life,” Brett says. “That kind of friendship is not something either Alex or I had before we arrived.”

Reflecting on their PHC careers, each treasures the gift of simply being able to “fit in” with a group of like-minded students.

“The biggest thing for me was being able to be a normal student here,” says Brett, who competed in basketball and soccer, served as a dorm R.A. for two years and as editor for the *Herald*, and even helped to organize the dormitory football game and homecoming tug-of-war.

Since marrying in the middle of his sophomore year, “my experience was a bit different,” allows Alex. “But building relationships with other students, participating in basketball, Eden Troupe, and debate—those are huge blessings that I’ll never forget.”

Of their future prospects together or apart, neither offers a definitive forecast, though Brett ventures something of a working outline moving forward.

“We both share in common the PHC calling to lead the nation and shape the culture,” Brett adds. “We’ll work together the rest of our lives, even if our paths diverge for a season.” ★

High Profile Line-up Highlights February Newsmakers Interview Series

Round three of the *Newsmakers Interview Series* with Marvin Olasky hosted another fascinating line-up of distinguished guests in February, highlighted by an exclusive interview with the former Komen Foundation executive who resigned over a funding dispute with the nation's largest abortion provider. Karen Handel's Tuesday evening appearance created a buzz on campus and shed light on Planned Parenthood's furious media blitz against Komen for discontinuing funding to the abortion giant.

The "pre-meditated" campaign that Handel called "nothing short of a shakedown to coerce a private entity to give them grants," was in fact "just a vicious full-on assault across multiple channels," she explained. "It wasn't just the press, but it attacked Komen's



"Get involved with campaigns, and elect individuals who do not just check the box for being pro-life."

-Karen Handel



Dr. Ben Carson shared his inspirational story with a packed audience in The Barbara Hodel Center Coffeehouse.

donors, corporate contributors who saw their Facebooks being completely raided, CEOs being picketed and getting vicious phone calls and emails. Twitter just exploded with some of the most vile and vicious things that you can possibly imagine."

Responding to students' questions, Handel offered insight into how proliferators might respond.

"Get involved with campaigns, and elect individuals who do not just check the box for being pro-life," she offered, "because it's not enough to just get endorsements from the state Right to Life organizations. The (candidate) needs to be willing to put personal sacrifice on the table to advance pro-life culture, pro-life legislation. And we need women who are willing to talk about how evil abortion is and that it is killing babies, and to stand up and be a voice on this issue."

The February rotation, webcast live to PHC friends across the country, also featured filmmaker Laura Waters Hinson, who produced *As We Forgive*, a documentary about post-genocide

reconciliation efforts in Rwanda.

"When I went to Rwanda I really started meditating on the idea of radical forgiveness on earth," she told Dr. Olasky. "It helped me to search it out in my own heart and ask myself, 'Could I forgive? Could I do the same thing?'"

The week's other distinguished guests included history-making surgeon, Dr. Ben Carson, sharing the story of his rise from poverty to become a pioneering surgeon known for several life-saving surgical procedures. Former Oklahoma quarterback and Congressman J.C. Watts warned students against the pitfalls of the "cheer of the crowd" in both athletics and politics, and Eric Teetsel of the American Enterprise Institute's Project on Values and Capitalism discussed the compatibility of faith and the system of free enterprise. Finally, Dr. K.P. Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia, shared with students his message of radical discipleship and an all-out commitment to Christ that has impacted Southeast Asia.

To view archived video interviews, go to www.phc.edu/newsmakers. ★

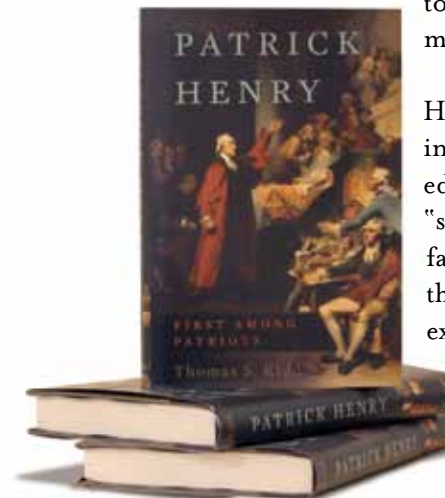
Patrick Henry Biographer Illuminates Famous Patriot

Baylor University historian and Patrick Henry biographer Thomas Kidd, author of recently-published *Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots*, detailed the life, passions, and convictions of one of our nation's prominent founding statesmen in a lecture, February 1, at the College's Barbara Hodel Center Coffeehouse.

Among the few scholars who today possess an intimate knowledge of the College's fascinating namesake, Dr. Kidd shared facets of Henry's life extending far beyond his famous quote: "Give me liberty or give me death." A full coffeehouse and live webcast audience learned that Henry was in fact a deeply complex, enigmatic, and largely self-taught former homeschooled student who became an incredibly powerful and influential statesman committed

to faith, limited government, and freedom.

Little-known aspects of Henry's early upbringing included his Virginia education, whereby he was "schooled at home by his father, learning history and the classics, but with a deep exposure to the Christian tradition and the heroes of the ancient past that stuck with him through his career."



Dr. Thomas Kidd paints a vibrant portrait of the College's famous namesake.

In a fascinating description of the colonial backdrop and intensifying tension with Britain that fueled sentiment for the Revolutionary War, Kidd noted how "the leaders of the patriot movement were being targeted for arrest, and Henry urges the Virginia Convention... to take up defensive arms and prepare for military conflict. 'Now is the time to stand in our own defense,' he declared, which of course leads him to say at the end of the speech: 'I know not what others may do, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!'"

To view an archived video of the Thomas Kidd lecture, go to www.phc.edu/kidd. ★

Alumnus Uses Creative Gifts in Film, Book Projects

During his time at PHC, literature grad Peter Forbes ('09) worked to influence culture through many creative literary and cinematic productions, gaining experience with the campus film club, working on scripts and screenplays, and signing up as a production manager for the Christian feature film *Come What May*. That pro-life movie about challenges facing fictional members of PHC's championship moot court team gained a national following and sold 80,000 DVDs. It propelled Forbes into a long-term internship with Purcellville-based Advent Film Group, during which he worked on four feature-length movies under the guidance of Advent founder George Escobar.

This past fall, Forbes directed his own micro-budget film, *Writers' Block*, and self-published his first book, the



Peter Forbes directs micro-budget film.

novelization of *Come What May*. As with the movie, the book tells the story of "students who must choose whether or not to stand for their convictions, even if it means sacrificing their own desires," while further embellishing the plot and delivering a more nuanced, character-driven narrative. Following a free screening of *Come What May* at The Barbara Hodel Center in January, Forbes spoke to students and signed copies of his book.

"I graduated from PHC with the desire to pursue storytelling across a wide range of media, from fiction to film, graphic novels to video games, and more," he explained. "That desire hasn't changed, and I hope that in some way this book will encourage people to see human beings, unborn or born, as deserving of respect as image bearers of God." ★

Kenny Ly Shares Passion for Christ with Shanghai Teens



Kenny Ly, Government: American Politics and Policy, '09

The young man on the phone was crying, saying he was tired of living and that he intended to end it all. Some months before, Kenny Ly recalled, the teen had a powerful encounter with God at the Shanghai youth group Ly leads in the city of 26 million off the East China Sea. Over the next hour, Ly prayed for the teen, reminding him of the Lord's unmistakable touch and assuring him

that Jesus had an awesome plan for his life. The call ended with a sense of hope and relief, and Ly kept tabs on the lad in coming weeks, until the crisis had passed.

"When I reminded him," Ly recalls, "he said 'Kenny, even now I know that moment was real.' I got off the phone and was just so thankful he called me and that God gave me the right words to say."

Moments like this have become almost standard fare for Ly, who graduated from PHC in 2009 and has since served as a youth leader for an international church in Shanghai, China. He earns his living as an English professor at Shanghai International Studies University, "teaching Chinese professors looking to study abroad." Yet for a group of

80-plus-and-growing international students from Britain, Australia, Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, among many others, Ly is fully a pastor, preacher, worship leader, prayer partner, counselor and, perhaps most importantly, friend. Pastoring spiritually hungry and often desperately lost international students in the heart of Shanghai's colossal industrial metropolis wasn't necessarily on Ly's radar upon graduating from PHC as a Government: American Politics & Policy major. But today he believes that, if he has not found his life's calling, he is tantalizingly close.

"I have found my sweet spot," he said on a recent trip back to the States. "I've never felt as happy and fulfilled as I do today, worshipping with and ministering to these international students. There have been many times when

I've questioned why God brought me back to China, but I finally feel like all the pieces have come together. This is what I was created to do."

Eight years ago, when Ly was a homeschooled international student in Shanghai trying to find his way, he found his faith reignited at this very same youth group at Shanghai Community Fellowship Church. Among the more than 200,000 internationals from around the world that live in Shanghai, drawn by jobs and a dynamic economy, Ly was like many who heard of the youth group on the street and simply dropped by looking for something to do, hoping to connect.



Kenny Ly, arms outstretched, looks out over the Great Wall of China.

"There have been many times when I've questioned why God brought me back to China, but I finally feel like all the pieces have come together. This is what I was created to do."

- Kenny Ly

he's equipping disciples for Christ in China, among a population of transient foreigners.

"As a teenager, the group shifted my paradigm of what walking with God should look like," he says. "It's not just evangelism, but every part of your being serving God, wanting to live for Jesus. Now that's my passion, to help other people understand and experience Christ in that way. God is using this youth group in crazy ways, and I believe that He is going to sweep through the international community of this city.

"Shanghai is a significant global crossroads," he adds, "the center of east Asia, where people come from all over the world to pursue money, happiness, fame, fortune. I'm praying it will become known for Jesus." ★

"I look at these kids today and realize that, eight years ago, that was me," he says. "God changed my life in that youth group. It's where I caught my passion for the Lord, just an ordinary home-school kid meeting all of these kids passionate about worship, passionate for the Lord. For those who know me as a Christian, that group was possibly the most influential reason for who I am today."

Who he is today is an extension of who he was at PHC, a young man who loves God and young people. At PHC, Ly was known for his infectious passion for Christ, serving three summers as a Teen Leadership Camps counselor, always intent on drawing others toward an intimate relationship with the Lord. Today,

Alumnus Ridley Wins First Attempt at Public Office

In a local election in Napoleon, Ohio, on November 8, 2011, PHC graduate Chris Ridley (Government: Public Policy, '07) won a close city council race by a five-percent margin. Not only was it the first time he'd ever run as a candidate, it was the first campaign he'd ever run, period, making him what many believe to be PHC's first graduate to be elected to office.

"I knocked on doors every night and weekend for about eight weeks," he reports. "I placed yard signs and had some well-timed radio and newspaper advertisements."

The effort helped Ridley beat out a

long-time incumbent.

"There were four candidates running for three open seats," he said, "two of whom were long-time incumbents, the other a prominent figure in the community. I was the underdog."

Serving as a city councilman is a logical next chapter in Ridley's journey. At PHC, he interned with the Department of Labor and secured a full-time appointment after graduation.

When he and his wife moved back to



Chris Ridley, Government: Public Policy, '07

his hometown in Ohio, he found work as an operations manager for a statewide prison ministry, teaching healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood curriculum to incarcerated fathers.

"I feel called by God to be involved in the public sector in some form or another," he said. "In whatever I do, I want to

be a leader who has a positive impact on those around him in a way that ultimately brings glory to God." ★

Former Student Body President Joins Advancement Staff



Jonathan Carden, Journalism, '11

As a former student body president at Patrick Henry College who excelled in moot court, served as a dormitory R.A., and wrote for and edited the student newspaper, Jonathan Carden's career sights were pointed toward the nation's capital. As a senior, he had earned a prestigious internship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and he later

followed his boss there to the National Retail Federation in D.C., where he served as coordinator for communications and public affairs. For Carden, it wasn't just a great break for a first job out of college, it seemed a natural fit.

"I did a lot of writing, press releases, blog posts," he explains. "It was a great job, a great opportunity, and I appreciated my boss. I was grateful for the opportunity and enjoyed D.C."

And yet, navigating D.C.'s hyper-ambitious professional byways had its drawbacks. "The D.C. culture is so much about politics and being a young up-and-comer," he observes. "In many cases, it's about rampant ambition unchecked by morals. The pressure to succeed and desire to fit in can be disastrous for one's conscience."

"The mission of the College is infectious, so, in that respect, it's an easy job."

- Jonathan Carden

Six months into his new job at the NRF, Carden received a call from the PHC Advancement Office asking if he'd be interested in a position as a major gifts officer. He politely said, "Thanks, but no thanks."

"My initial response was, 'I really appreciate it, but I

have a good job,'" he recalls. "I didn't feel, at that time, that it was appropriate to even think about taking another job. But as I thought more about it, the idea of fundraising struck me as, 'Oh, maybe I would be good at that...' Still, the stigma of returning to the College and moving back to Purcellville was a barrier."

After interviewing with PHC's Vice President for Advancement Colin Stewart, and taking counsel from PHC Trustee George Clay, a fellow Texan, he settled into a weeks-long process of prayer and consultation with family members, mentors, and friends, sifting through subtle issues of gifting, calling and, ultimately, God's will.

"At the end of the day," he recalls, "I decided that fundraising and all that it entails allows me to hit on more cylinders of my natural gifting, with skills aligned more completely with my personality."

Having started as the College's new major gifts officer in (See **CARDEN** on following page)

Faith & Reason Lecture: The Virtue of Purity

Students and alumni are still discussing Dr. Anthony Esolen's February Faith & Reason lecture, entitled "The Person as Gift." An additional 100 people who watched the morning lecture via live webcast from across the country also registered their approval, sharing Facebook reviews and e-mail links that netted another 500 viewers of the archived video.

Dr. Esolen's topic proved especially fitting for a young audience seeking to honor God with their relationships while learning their own value in His sight—what he termed the "positive virtue of purity." This virtue, he says, allows us to view the holiness and wonder of what God has made in the differences between male and female. Using excerpts from Shakespeare, the Bible, and works by Christian theologians, he connected this gift of "wonder" with the ability to experience the world at large with genuine joy.

"Eventually, those who deny that there is any special beauty in man and woman, and who deny that this beauty is a precious gift, from one sex to the other, will deny the beauty of much less obviously beautiful things, and



Dr. Anthony Esolen addresses questions from faculty and students during the Q&A panel session.

"Dr. Esolen's talk addressed his audience insofar as they are men or women. That covers everyone, no matter what their major."

- Dr. Gene Edward Veith

the profundity of much less obviously profound mysteries," he stated.

As is the tradition with the day-long conversation, faculty and staff guided students in small-group debates and then reconvened in the afternoon for a panel discussion featuring Dr. Esolen, PHC Provost Dr. Gene Edward Veith, Dr. Steven Hake, Dr. Bonnie Libby, and Dr. Mark Mitchell.

"Some of our Faith and Reason lectures have drawn from specific disciplines," Provost Veith noted. "Dr.

Esolen's talk addressed his audience insofar as they are men or women. That covers everyone, no matter what their major. And the issues he discussed—love between a man and a woman, the nature of marriage—are highly relevant for our student body."

Dr. Anthony Esolen teaches Renaissance English Literature and the Development of Western Civilization at Providence College in Rhode Island.

View the archived video of the lecture at www.phc.edu/faithreason. ★

Carden (continued from p7)

November, Carden has been traveling, visiting PHC friends and donors across the country, and speaking at events while learning the ropes of the advancement profession.

Tom Ziemnick, PHC's assistant vice president of advancement, says, "Jonathan has tremendous interpersonal skills, and he is able to talk with and relate to a wide variety of people. He relates to people on their level and is as comfortable in a board room as he is on a ranch in Texas hill country.

"He also has a great personal story at PHC," Ziemnick adds, "and credits God and the College with helping transform him, in some respects, from a freshman under-achiever with a chip on his shoulder to someone who has grown and matured and has a solid walk with God. He's a great ambassador for what we're doing here."

For Carden, the opportunity to give back to his alma mater in a job he both enjoys and believes suits his gifting helps him to see the past year's whirlwind, full-circle journey—from PHC student to D.C. professional, back to Purcellville—as part of a larger plan.

"Talking to folks about PHC is easy," he says, "because we are, in a very tangible way, meeting the needs of donors—and the country—by explaining what we're doing and what we stand for. Patrick Henry College is 'good news,' and in a little over ten years we've made amazing strides. Our mission is to equip a generation of leaders who are going to be difference makers for Christ, and we're allowing people to be a part of that. The mission of the College is infectious, so, in that respect, it's an easy job. My job is to get PHC in front of as many eyes as possible and let God do the rest. I'm very blessed to have that opportunity." ★

Patrick Henry Alumnus Honored at Michigan Capitol

Michigan lawmakers honored Kendell Asbenson with the 2011 Frank M. Fitzgerald Public Service Award this past fall. The honor is given annually to outstanding young volunteers in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, and rewards excellence in academics, communication and volunteerism. The award is named after a former speaker pro tempore of the Michigan House, whose widow presented the award during a ceremony at the Michigan State Capitol.

"I am honored," Asbenson said, "and have been truly blessed to have served in these ways. The positions I've held in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches provide me with a unique perspective on government, as well



Kendell Asbenson worked as a staff assistant for George W. Bush.

as excellent experience."

While at PHC, Kendell Asbenson (Government, '07) interned with the California State Senate and with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, landing a post-graduation position as staff assistant for President George W. Bush in the Office of White House Management. Now in his third year at the Michigan State University College of Law, Kendell has served with the Michigan

Supreme Court, the Michigan Court of Appeals and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and as senior managing editor of the *Michigan State Law Review*.

Asbenson and his wife Emily (née Holmes), also a PHC graduate, live in East Lansing, Michigan. ★

Students Celebrate Life with WORLD Stories

The arrival of Dr. Marvin Olasky, editor-in-chief of *WORLD Magazine*, as the College's Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Public Policy this past fall didn't simply add a world-class ledger of *Newsmakers Interviews* to the College's events schedule. It opened the door for PHC students to enjoy coveted internships with *WORLD Magazine*, under Dr. Olasky's direct mentorship. This mutually beneficial relationship has seen students' articles published nationally in *WORLD* or one of its online editions.

"Our Patrick Henry College interns are doing a great job," says Dr. Olasky. "They continue to write excellent, in-depth articles for *WORLD Magazine* and for all of our online publications."

Two articles published recently by

PHC students appeared in *WORLD's* January 2012 pro-life edition, coinciding with the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. In that issue, junior Grace Howard detailed the undercover work of pro-life activist Lila Rose, who infiltrated Planned Parenthood clinics posing as a client in order to record and publicize their practices. Another PHC junior, Alicia Constant, shared the story of Barbara Curtis and her family of 12 children, four of whom have Down syndrome—and three of those adopted.



Dr. Marvin Olasky is an internship mentor for PHC journalism students.

Both students say they are passionate to write and shed light on heroic efforts to preserve human life. As Constant writes concerning Curtis: "The one lesson she wants to teach her children: 'Spend your life serving others. It's not about us,' she said," quoting Matthew 25:40. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." ★



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