

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

AUTUMN 2012 ★ VOL. 12, No. 2



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- PHC No.1 College in National Testing
- Joni Eareckson Tada Visits Campus

From the Chancellor



Dr. Michael Farris

In the recent election, some said we should vote only for candidates who meet a standard that borders on perfection. Others contended that we shouldn't choose the lesser of two evils, while still others said we should make the most pragmatic choice available to us and make the best of it.

The tension between the ideal and the pragmatic confronts us almost every day, in almost every facet of life. And there is no simple formula that gives us all the answers. Man-made formulas will never suffice.

The path to truth lies in a relationship with God, period. He alone can guide us to right decisions, primarily through His Word, which we need to know deeply and thoroughly. He also works through His Holy Spirit, inviting us into an intimate, daily walk with Him in which we discern His voice in our spirits. The heavens also declare the glory of God, and the world around us imparts important, eternal truths.

This is the purpose for Patrick Henry College—to equip students to discern God's voice and, ultimately, discover Truth. It's reflected in our focus on Christ and in our academic programs, which combine rigorous classroom instruction and real-life apprenticeship. It is not a simple or easy path to attain Truth, but I believe PHC is providing students the right tools for obtaining it.

From the President



Dr. Graham Walker

Higher education today is mostly a wreck: low standards, bad behavior, and pervasive secular/left ideological bias. In reaction, it might be easy to wish for a college that does reverse-propaganda. That bad idea would go like this: if students are sponges and education is dye, and if the state schools and the Ivies dip students' brains in blue dye, we should immerse our students' brains in red dye.

But as C.S. Lewis said, "He who surrenders himself without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation, or a party, or a class is rendering to Caesar that which, of all things, most emphatically belongs to God: himself." A wise Christian knows that his brain is not merely a sponge but a tool for truth, and that "Christian bias" is not the proper antidote to secularist bias. Christian students like those at Patrick Henry College can be fearless in the pursuit of real knowledge, because we serve the One "in whom all things hold together" and "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 1:17; 2:3).

Likewise, while government funding tightens its vice-grip on nearly all of higher education, Patrick Henry College maintains its liberty to exercise both faith and reason, constrained only by the Word of God and the demands of honest inquiry. It's working: our students graduate with real wisdom, good judgment, eloquence and love for Jesus. With those qualities, they'll be leaders who make a difference in America over the long haul.

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Editorial Office:

10 Patrick Henry Circle
Purcellville, Virginia 20132
540.338.1776 • Fax 540.441.8709
communications@phc.edu

Address Changes:

To change your address or remove your name from our mailing list, please use the above contact information.

Publication Archives on the Web:

www.phc.edu/publications

Magazine Staff:

Editor: David Halbrook
Editorial Assistant: Chelsea Rankin
Design Consultant: Kenny Garrison
Designer/Photographer: Art Cox
Contributor: Sarah Pride, Literature '07
Student Contributors:
Sara Foss, Journalism '13
Grace Howard, Journalism '13
Elizabeth Stinette, Journalism '15

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On the Cover:

Autumn walk along Patrick Henry Circle.

Barbara Hodel

PHC Champion, Model of Servant Leadership

Barbara Hodel, the namesake behind the elegant Barbara Hodel Student Center and a long-time friend and champion of Patrick Henry College, journeyed home to be with her Maker on October 11th in Colorado. Her husband of 55 years was by her side to the end.

After her passing, her husband Don remarked, "I say with complete confidence that if we were offered the chance to live the exact same life we have just shared and could not change a single thing including these last five years, I know that I would accept that offer instantly, and I believe Barbara would react exactly the same. We have been blessed beyond all comprehension and merit, and we never lost sight of that fact."

"Her Christian faith and godly perseverance in adversity prompted our Board of Trustees to name our beautiful Barbara Hodel Center in her honor," said PHC President Dr. Graham Walker.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Barbara Beecher Stockman attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She married Don Hodel in her senior year in 1965. The Hodels moved to Oregon after graduation and started a family; Mrs. Hodel became a full-time mom to their two sons.

Both Don and Barbara have been involved in government and politics most of their adult lives. Don was appointed Secretary of Energy (82-85) and Secretary of the Interior (85-89) by President Ronald Reagan, and together they have served as volunteers for a number of Christian organizations, including the Christian Coal-



Dr. Farris, the Hodels, and Dr. James and Shirley Dobson in Colorado for the The Barbara Hodel Center announcement.

tion and Focus on the Family, where Don served as President and CEO from 2003 until 2005. In all endeavors, Barbara and Don have served together as a husband-and-wife team in the truest sense.

After reading about Patrick Henry College for the first time in the fall of 1999, Barbara contacted the College's chancellor and founder, Dr. Michael Farris, about his plans for training the next generation of leaders. Inspired by the vision for the College, she offered to help and later accepted Dr. Farris' request to join the PHC Board of Trustees.

In August of 2007, Barbara fell down the stairs of their Colorado home and suffered a high spinal cord injury which paralyzed her from the neck down. Regaining her mental faculties, she received great physical care from her husband and staff of nurses, and received nationwide prayer support.

Dr. Farris visited Barbara in the hospital in Denver and was deeply moved by her upbeat spirit in the face of suf-

fering. The experience prompted him to recommend naming the College's student life center in her honor.

"She had a breathing tube, and yet there was joy radiating from her countenance," he recalled. "She could not move, yet her contentment was palpable. If ever I felt as if I was standing on sacred ground, it was that day in that hospital room in Denver."

Since her fall in 2007, her husband Don spent the last five years as a deeply devoted husband and caregiver to Barbara.

Dr. Farris hopes Barbara's legacy will continue to inspire PHC students.

"First, her God-given joy and contentment in the midst of a life-altering trial taught our students an incredibly valuable lesson about that which is truly important in life," he said. "Second, Barbara had served quietly in the background as her husband occupied a series of positions of national importance. Yet, his work and impact was only possible because of her active, quiet partnership at every step. She was a wife and mom. The life of Barbara Hodel is a life that deserves to be honored by all. She did that which truly mattered in eternity." ★



Barbara Hodel in March of 2007.

PHC Ranks No.1 in National Academic Testing Profiles

For the first time, Patrick Henry College's Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) can report the statistical academic improvement of an entire class of PHC students. While PHC freshmen typically arrive with high incoming scores, the graduating class of 2012 represents the first group IE has tracked throughout its entire four years.

On both the ETS Proficiency Profile (ETS PP) provided by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and on the American Civic Literacy Test (ACLT) given by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), the class of 2012 demonstrated, quantitatively, the value of a PHC education, scoring significantly higher than their peers nationwide.

On the ETS PP as seniors, students from other colleges and universities

"PHC is not only the top college overall: our students have the top scores on every single sub-component of the test."

- Dr. Michael Farris, PHC Chancellor

scored an average of 445.75, 36.53 less than the PHC seniors. On the ACLT, nationwide seniors achieved a score of 54.2 percent—32.3 percentage points less than the PHC seniors.

"Once again, we are the top college in America," said Chancellor Michael Farris in his September letter to College supporters. "On the national Proficiency Profile test, PHC is not only the top college overall, but our students have the top scores on every single sub-component of the test."

As freshmen, members of the class of 2012 scored an overall 472.45 out of a

possible 500 in the four "skill areas" of Reading, Critical Thinking, Writing and Mathematics, and the three "context areas" of Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences on the ETS PP. The 52 graduates of that class scored an overall 482.28 on the 2012 test, a significant improvement.

PHC Director of Assessment Jacquelyn Veith said the value of these numbers to the College is considerable.

"Institutions of higher education need to demonstrate that their students are learning," she said, "but not every institution can present strong quantitative data to support student learning achievement. That PHC students produce stronger performances at the end of their PHC education than they did as entering students provides evidence that PHC students are learning." ★

Scientists and Theologians Gather at PHC for Biblical Creation Conference

Prominent "young-age" Christian scientists and theologians from around the globe gathered at Patrick Henry College, July 26-28, for the "Origins: 2012" conference, hosted by the Creation Biology Society (CBS) and Creation Geology Society (CGS).

The society holds a yearly conference to discuss the group's latest scientific research and was co-founded in 1996 by PHC Biology professor Neal Doran. This year's gathering at Patrick Henry College featured an A-list of leading young-age scientists, including Cedarville University professor and geology expert Dr. Steven Austin (formerly of the Institute for Creation Research), who provided groundbreaking evidence supporting the New Testament's "earthquake" narrative linked to Jesus' crucifixion.

"Our College was the first to hear a report on a topic that should soon be receiving much attention," reports Doran.

Scientist, pastor and speaker Dr. Stephen Lloyd delivered an exclusive lecture in Nash Auditorium on "Why Does Noah's Flood Matter?," and Dr. Kurt Wise, an origi-



PHC's Nash Auditorium was the site of the Creation Conference.

nal CBS founder well regarded in secular scientific circles, offered striking geologic evidence for Noah's Flood.

"Unlike other 'polemical' creationist organizations that attack Darwinism," Doran explains, "CBS aims to construct positive alternative models for understanding the history of life on earth. Darwin's problem with creationism was that it did not provide insight into how the world operated. The purpose of this conference is to assemble a like-minded group of Christians in the natural sciences who want to build a scientifically viable alternative model." ★

Former Student Body President Serving Justice in Kenya

Alan Carrillo's new motto is "Mpaji ni Mungu," which is Swahili for "God is the Sustainer." Carrillo is learning what it means to look to God for sustainment, as he is leaving everything he knows to travel to a country he doesn't know to work with those who have lost everything. While he's not sure what to expect in Kenya while working for the International Justice Mission, he knows he serves a big God who does great things.

"I know the next year will not be easy on so many levels—combatting loneliness and facing unspeakable injustices—but it will be good," he said, adding this prayer request: "Instead of allowing the challenges of a new human rights job, a new home and culture, living by myself, and having a lack of family and friends around me lead to discouragement and loneliness, please pray that our Father uses this special time to grow my faith in ways I could never ask or imagine. Please pray that I will know God more fully and that I will love and serve Him—and Him only—with all of my heart, mind, soul, and strength. God is faithful. God is my sustainer."

During his time at PHC, Carrillo (Government, '12) was an active servant-leader on campus, both through his many campus involvements and through his caring spirit. He served as Vice President of PHC's International Justice Mission (IJM) chapter and was student body president, a resident assistant for two years, a teen camp counselor, Campus Safety Sergeant and student senator. He also led Sunday night worship for three years, participated in men's soccer and the National Model United Nations team, and performed in two of Eden Troupe's plays.

"My four years at PHC were the best four years of my life," Carrillo said. "PHC equipped me academically and professionally better than any other college could have, but I think PHC also uniquely prepared me as a Christian, teaching me to take my faith and make it my own and ask the Lord to make my life—including my academic preparation and career—His, for His glory. I am forever indebted to PHC for changing my life."

During the spring of his junior year, Carrillo interned

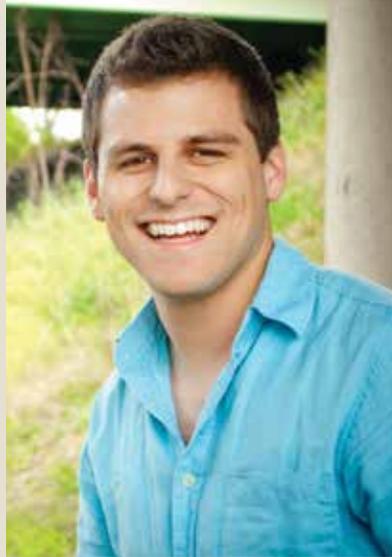


Photo courtesy of Alan Carrillo

"... please pray that our Father uses this special time to grow my faith in ways I could never ask or imagine."

— Alan Carrillo

with International Justice Mission (a Christian human rights agency that aids victims of slavery), an experience that changed the course of his life.

"I didn't look at IJM as just another internship opportunity—I saw it as a fulfillment of a dream to live out my calling and passion to see God's justice reign on earth," he recalls.

Most impacting, he said, was the ministry's emphasis on corporate and personal prayer. Each morning, at 8:30, the whole office would participate in 30 minutes of "stillness" before God, a time to be quiet before the Lord. At 11:00, the office gathered for a time of corporate prayer, sharing prayer requests and praise reports from IJM offices around the world—times during which Carrillo saw God's faithfulness revealed in remarkable ways. In those moments, he often found himself thinking, "I am sitting in the company of heroes—men and women who will never be known outside of IJM or the people they have rescued

over the years. I don't belong here, but there is no other place I would want to be."

He is thrilled to once again be working with IJM, this time in Kenya.

"The fact that I have the opportunity to once again intern with these heroic men and women of the faith is absolutely humbling and exciting," he said.

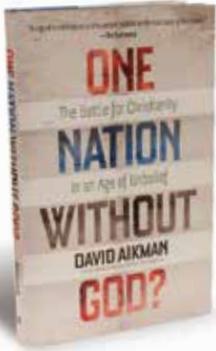
He left the United States on September 22, 2012, and will remain in Nairobi for a 10-12 month stretch. He said he has been counseled to "not expect specific things, but to expect great things."

"I expect to see God faithfully work through his people to provide love, compassion, and justice to those who are oppressed, marginalized, and forgotten," he says, "I know I will not be alone, and I know I will not return to the United States of America in a year as the same person I was when I left."

To stay updated and receive prayer requests and praise reports from the field, network with Carrillo online: His blog, "*The Extraordinary*" — www.alancarrillo.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/calancarrillo; Twitter: www.twitter.com/cacarrillo. ★

New Aikman Book Tracks Christianity in Modern Culture

Adding to his literary output as a PHC professor of history and writer in residence, Dr. David Aikman has published yet another book (making it two within the past year), entitled *One Nation Without God? The Battle for Christianity in an Age of Unbelief*. Tracking Christianity from America's birth to the present age, it highlights the moral decay of today's culture yet imbues readers with hope of what Aikman believes is a coming spiritual awakening.



Probing the long-debated question—was America ever a Christian nation?—Aikman declares that a close look at the

early American history demonstrates “that what was established was a consciously, self-aware Christian community.” That thinking, he writes, applied to everyone, whether or not they were believers. His research even cites Thomas Jefferson as being a faithful church attender who believed that church-going was a good thing, even though he did not believe in the biblical manifestation of miracles.

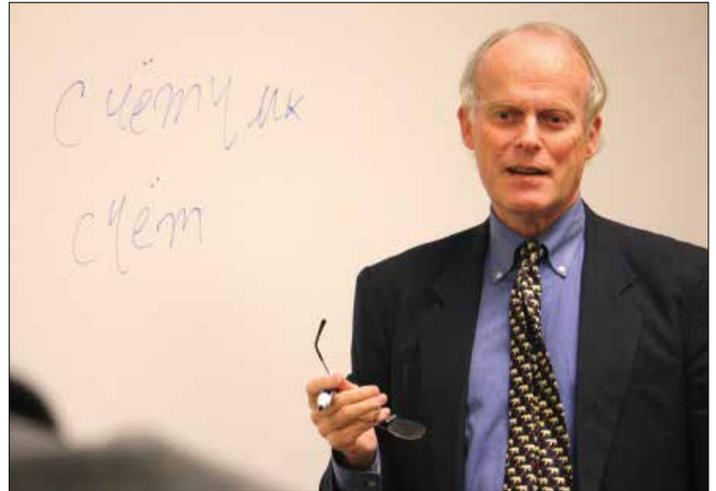
“Even in 1776,” he says, “the most secular of the Founders, Jefferson, wanted a democratic republic based on moral virtue. From the earliest time in this country, Puritans and the rest were aware of a community covenant with the Almighty that existed separate from their individual ones. America did not create a Christian government, but was a self-identifiably Christian nation.”

One Nation argues that while America is affected by sin like other nations, it has been set apart by God to be a blessing to other countries, even as the Church has contributed to the decline of morality through its “blindness to the nature of popular culture.”

Popular culture—television, movies, and music—has steadily seeped into the minds of both Christians and non-Christians, he contends, promulgated by screenwriters and producers who push an overtly secular agenda. The result has been an idolization of sexual gratification, he observes, noting that in practically every romantic comedy men and women who are attracted to each other invariably sleep together. As Christians carelessly and repeatedly expose themselves to Hollywood's output, many find themselves unconsciously slipping from their “moorings of Biblical standards.”

“Church-going Christians do not realize how compromised they've become,” he says.

The remedy rests in the church, he adds, while pointing out that too many pastors have failed to impart a genuine Gospel to their congregations. Recent studies, for ex-



Dr. David Aikman is a professor and writer in residence at Patrick Henry College.

ample, show that most Christians are unable to name the Gospels, and in *One Nation* Aikman rails against pervasive “feel good sermons” and “bubble gum Christianity” that fail to communicate the heart of who Jesus is.

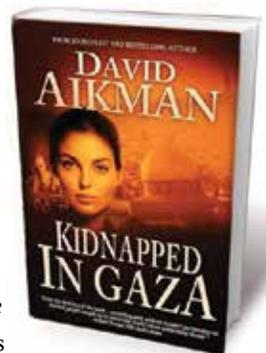
“If you claim to be a follower of Jesus, you better start showing it, or else your life is going to be a mess,” he says. “There is a price to pay for being an outspoken Christian, but the fact is that's always been the case.”

A passage in *One Nation* deals with Aikman's forecast of a youth-led revival comprised of high school and college students, who he says are presently experiencing a spiritual awakening entirely under the radar. “Becoming serious with the Gospel is not unique to young people, but young people have the energy and the drive. I think people are going to be dazzled by it,” he says. “Keep watching.”

New Novel About the Middle East

In May, Aikman's extensive experience in Jerusalem and first-hand knowledge of Israel, Gaza and the Middle East were showcased in the pages of another book, a new novel entitled *Kidnapped in Gaza*. The thriller about the life of fictional journalist Richard Ireton follows Ireton's kidnapping and possible rescue by Israeli Special Forces, and incorporates a “strong undertone of romance” while he tracks down a lead with the help of a female Israeli intelligence officer.

As a senior correspondent for *Time Magazine*, Aikman worked for 23 years overseas, reporting from four continents and 55 countries. The book's cover was designed by PHC graduate Ian Reid (Journalism, '12), an accomplished video, film, and graphics entrepreneur. ★



Summer Reading Marathon

Evan Johnson boarded the Washington, D.C., metro train at 5:15 a.m., surrounded by sleepy, somber commuters. Many were reading books.

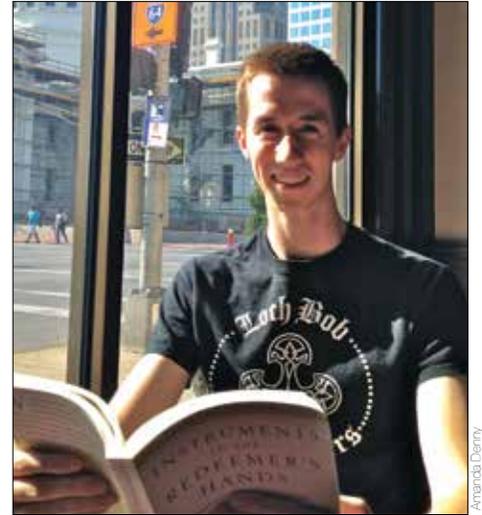
"I often wondered what might happen if people simply looked around at other readers and discussed what they were reading," said Johnson, a PHC senior (Government: Strategic Intelligence).

Anyone discussing books with Johnson might feel a little inadequate. When he stepped on that commuter train last year, Johnson, 20, was speeding his way through his 40th book of the summer. Between May 16 and August 12, Johnson read one book a day – 94 books and 19,276

pages, an average of 217 pages per day. On some days he finished two books.

"Reading taught me just how much time is often wasted everyday," Johnson said. "People talk about how wasteful Americans are with stuff, water, money, et cetera. I also would add that we are incredibly wasteful with time."

Johnson's titles included devotionals and philosophic works, novels and biographies. *The Black Swan*, by Lebanese polymath Nassim Nicholas Taleb, and *Leading With Billy Graham: The Leadership Principles and Life of T.W. Wilson*, by Jay Dennis, became two of his favorites. Taleb's work convinced Johnson of life's uncertainties. "Because change



Evan Johnson with one of his many books.

is the only certainty, everyone should be grateful and flexible," he said.

This story originally appeared in WORLD on campus, July 12, 2012. ★

Freshman Scholar Attends PHC for its Classical Education

About eight years ago, Wendie Shives read an essay written by her son, Matt, about what he wanted to do when he grew up. As the home-schooling mom from Hagerstown, Md., began reading, she was shocked to read that he wanted to earn not one, but three Ph.D.'s, including one in math.

Mrs. Shives knew that Matt was precocious. He started reading at age two. At five he amazed family friends by rattling off facts about the Aztec Indians he'd memorized from historical encyclopedias. Instead of reaching for the television remote, each morning Matt would place a new book on the coffee table.

Now, at 18, Matt is racing steadily toward his goal, having joined Patrick Henry College this fall as a freshman after graduating last spring with a bachelor's degree in economics and math from Hood College in Frederick, Md. He also holds an associate degree in physics, chemistry, and math from Hagerstown Community College.



Matt Shives earns first bachelor's degree.

"I always wanted to go to college, for as long as I can remember," Matt said. He started attending Hagerstown Community College at age 13, even though he was ready for college work when he was 12. Matt thought about attending PHC when he graduated simultaneously from high school and earning his associate degree at 16, but chose to commute to Hood College,

thirty minutes from home.

In May 2012 he graduated summa cum laude from Hood College, the first in his class of 400 students, and had already decided to attend Patrick Henry in the fall.

"In secular school, they're training you for a particular career," recounts Matt, who wanted the kind of comprehensive, Christian classical liberal arts education offered at PHC.

"He really wants to get the broad liberal arts education that he feels will help him anywhere," added Wendie Shives.

Besides pursuing his education, Matt spent several years competing in the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) Bible Quiz. William Keely, his long-time Bible coach and mentor, says, "He was always more mature for his years. He has strong moral fiber, and could get a master's or doctorate right now in any one of a number of college and universities. But he's choosing to develop himself spiritually at a place like Patrick Henry College." ★

Impressions of Patrick Henry College after One Year

by Dr. Marvin Olasky

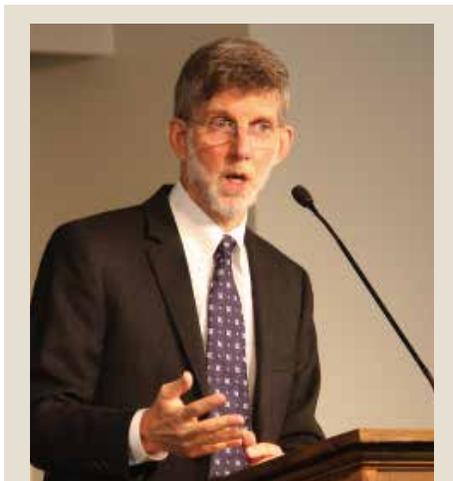
I begin year two in my part-time residence at Patrick Henry College by heading up Interstate 81 toward Purcellville from our home in Asheville, N.C., with country music on the radio.

The music poses a challenge. While winners at the Country Music Awards are still more likely to say something about Jesus than their equivalents at Grammy or Oscar shindigs, their songs don't portray love and marriage as going together like a horse and carriage; rather, lust and whiskey make folks frisky.

Having interacted with lots of Patrick Henry students in the past year—we supervised 14 interns, one of whom lived with us—we found them to be intellectually frisky but conservative in lifestyle. Like college kids everywhere, they have hidden worries and concerns, but with the supportive environment that PHC provides they are unlikely to dive into swimming pools drained of water.

That environment is important. We've found Patrick Henry students to be smart but unlikely to put on intellectual airs and pretend they're sitting by the Seine berating bourgeois values. Professors and mentors are around a lot and willing to give biblical guidance, which is different from the way it is at many universities, where professors commute in, offer a lecture, and vamoose.

Even at some Christian colleges, students and professors often fall prey to a danger that has beset much of the evangelical world. Theologian David Wells described the long-term trend this way: "The biblical interest in righteousness is replaced by a search for happiness, holiness by wholeness, truth by feeling, ethics by feeling good about oneself.... The past recedes. The Church recedes. The world re-



Dr. Olasky giving a recent chapel message.

"Patrick Henry's coherent core and its solidly Christian professors help students to learn not just about their bodies and minds but also about their souls."

- Dr. Marvin Olasky

cedes. All that remains is the self."

This self-emphasis has turned education at most U.S. colleges into a series of discrete bits without core or coherence. Students elect courses that interest them at the moment. And students who pick courses from a vast menu are also majoring in lots of minors, and are unlikely to encounter what is best and most challenging in our culture or others. Patrick Henry's coherent core and its solidly Christian professors help students to learn not just about their bodies and minds but also about their souls.

Several years ago Yale professor Anthony Kronman wrote a *New York Times* column complaining that faculty members have "ceased to think of themselves as shapers of souls. Today's students are thus denied the opportunity to explore the question of life's meaning in an organized way, under the guidance of teachers who seek to

acquaint their students with the answers contained in the rich tradition whose transmission was once the special duty of the humanities."

PHC professors ask the right questions as they transmit a rich tradition, teaching students to think through life's meaning in an organized way. They make courses soul-forming for students.

My wife and I lived in New York City from 2007 through early 2011, and there I came to value something I always thought was effete: opera. I've now seen the Metropolitan Opera from a distant balcony seat from where I could hardly see the performers. I've seen it in HD on a large screen in the Lincoln Center courtyard. But best of all was seeing it inside from a close-up seat, and feeling a bond with the performers.

College options these days are like that. I once taught lecture classes with 450 students at The University of Texas at Austin, and saw that students in the distant balcony don't get much of an education. They would be better off taking online courses where at least a student has a modicum of involvement with a teacher and is required to respond, not just take notes or veg out.

The best education, however, is that which offers close-up live interaction with superb professors who see students as souls, not just names and numbers on a grading form.

Patrick Henry offers that best education, and my wife and I are committed to the college for at least the next four years, God willing. It's not a sacrifice for us, as we get our fill of country music during the drive up and back, and realize how much the country needs college graduates trained to prize both liberty and virtue. It is a sacrifice for many parents and donors, and we appreciate their commitment. ★

Faith & Reason Lecture, Fall 2012

Chancellor Farris Tracks Rise of Religious Liberty

Three-hundred and forty suit-clad students stood in unison to sing “All Creatures of Our God and King.” The ladies stood in their best dresses and their highest heels, while the gentlemen wore their finest ties, celebrating the gifts of faith and God-given reason at Patrick Henry College’s fall Faith and Reason lecture. Entitled *Religious Liberty: Did it arise from Faith or Reason*, the lecture was presented by PHC founder and Chancellor, Dr. Michael Farris, who drew heavily from his book *From Tyndale to Madison: How the Death of an English Martyr Led to the American Bill of Rights*.

Offering a rich historical overview of forces both aiding and opposing religious liberty, Dr. Farris posed and repeatedly reframed the central question: did religious liberty arise from a triumph of the Reformation or the Enlightenment or some other source? In doing so, he brought clarity to the question of whether religious liberty grew from faith or reason.

“Today, we are going to take an in-depth look at this issue in the context of British and American history to trace the origins of our national commitment to religious freedom,” he said. “But, I have to warn you that this look at history will not be entirely comfortable. Our duty is to look at history honestly. If we do not model a commitment to truth when we are looking at history, how can anyone trust us to be committed to truth when we are presenting the Gospel?”

Citing the “rising orthodoxy” of “Political Correctness,” Dr. Farris identified Christian homeschoolers as a group particularly under attack in today’s culture from elite academics and university professors who, simply, “do not like the content of our speech.

“What should our position be in response to this new orthodoxy that seeks to use the power of law to repress our views?” Farris asked his audience. “Should we, like them, seek to establish our own political and social dominance so that we may silence those who disagree with us? Or, should we stand up for the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of religion—even if people use that speech to criticize us and our religion, and even if they worship gods that we abhor?”

Tracing the origins of America’s national commitment

to religious freedom from the context of British and American history, he cited a need to “recognize that the history of religious liberty is only one side of the coin. The history of religious repression is the other side of that very coin. Unfortunately, both sides of this coin represent viewpoints where the leading proponents were

professing Christians. I will demonstrate today,” he continued, “that the leading advocates of religious liberty were professing Christians who were using religious arguments to advance their viewpoints.”

Conversely, he added, careful historical analysis reveals that leading practitioners of religious repression were, likewise, professing Christians who relied on religious argu-

ments, sincerely believing that “they were doing the work of God as mandated by Scripture.”

Researching his book, *From Tyndale to Madison*, he said he discovered that, “Religious freedom arose when people of faith argued that their faith rationally required the protection of each individual’s freedom to use his God-given human reason to interpret Scripture for himself to reach his own religious conclusions.”

Putting this into ethical and effective practice, he added, requires of Christians a mutual duty to practice forbearance, charity, and love.

“The skepticism which did aid the development of religious toleration must be understood in the context of faith,” Farris said. “Christians who fought for religious liberty never doubted the existence of universal truth or the possibility that man might know the truth; they simply admitted that the difficulties attending scriptural interpretation were significant enough that men ought to be allowed to personally read the Bible and decide for themselves on matters which had eternal implications.”

As usual, the lecture culminated with students participating in lunchtime discussion groups, a panel discussion featuring PHC professors, and an extensive question-and-answer session in which students and professors alike grappled with the implications of Dr. Farris’ lecture.

To see this lecture, go to www.phc.edu/faithandreason. ★



Dr. Farris elaborates on his theme during the Q&A Panel Session.

High Profile Line-up Highlights Fall Semester's Newsmakers Interview Series

Two weeks of hard-hitting *Newsmakers Interviews* during the fall semester, featuring top evangelical leaders, filmmakers and authors, and national healthcare and welfare reform policymakers, once again blessed and invigorated the PHC campus and surrounding community. Guests like Joni Eareckson Tada (see sidebar), Walden Media founder Micheal Flaherty, Donna Rice Hughes, and former Bush policy advisor Claude Allen, were among the semester's notable interviewees, each sharing rare, behind-the-scenes truths with Dr. Marvin Olasky about failure, success, suffering and redemption.

Kicking off August's week of interviews was Hudson Institute fellow and *Wall Street Journal* editor and columnist **Melanie Kirkpatrick**, discussing her new book, *Escape from North Korea: The Untold Story of Asia's Underground Railroad*. She described an "underground railroad" of safe houses and secret transit routes across China that aids North Koreans escaping from the oppressive Kim Jong-un regime. "The word from my sources in South Korea and along the border is that fewer people are getting out," she said.

Next up was **Claude Allen**, former domestic policy advisor under President George W. Bush, discussing his humbling fall in February 2006 when he was arrested for felony theft and shoplifting. "Our hearts can be very deceitful," Allen said. "We need to be very aware of when we're tempted and when we're weakest. God is not going to allow us to continue walking in sin. If he loves us, he is go-



Dr. Olasky interviews Micheal Flaherty (above) and Donna Rice Hughes (below).

ing to discipline us."

Communities in America are suffering because of decreasing religiosity, said **Charles Murray**, author of *Losing Ground: American Social Policy, 1950-1980*, and it's "worse in lower-class neighborhoods, where faith has declined even more than in wealthier ones." Author, political scientist, columnist, and fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Murray added that "the virtue necessary for a free society remains from a period of stronger Christianity," but that, as Christianity declines, virtue suffers.

John C. Goodman, a leading national authority on conservative approaches to healthcare, spoke about "the most intricate of all political systems," health care, and about the dangers of Obamacare. "Democrats who support Obamacare are going to be surprised that, contrary to expectations, access to care is going to go down in the most vulnerable populations," he said.

"... I said to myself, 'Well, I've always liked movies.' Rather than curse the darkness, let's light some candles."

- Micheal Flaherty



August's *Newsmakers Series* concluded with **Samuel Rodriguez**, recognized as the nation's leading Hispanic evangelical leader, discussing his life's mission to "reconcile Billy Graham's message with Dr. King's march." Citing Hispanics as the fastest growing born-again community in America, he predicted that, "this community may very well save American evangelicalism in the 21st century."

Walden Media Founder **Micheal Flaherty** launched October's interviews, entertaining more than 100 audience members with a delightful behind-the-scenes narrative of turning his lifelong love of stories into Walden Media, an independent film studio

that adapts beloved children's books into films. Walden brought classics like the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, *Holes*, and *Charlotte's Web* to the big screen.

"When in doubt, get in the ring," he said of his desire to found a family-friendly movie company to counter Hollywood's increasingly violent, debauched offerings. "I was trying to figure out what to do with the rest of my life, and I said to myself, 'Well, I've always liked movies.' Rather than curse the darkness, let's light some candles," he said.

William "Chip" Mellor, president of the Institute for Justice, litigates against "ludicrous laws" that threaten constitutional liberties in the era of big government. As co-author of *The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom*, Mellor said, "The government imposes arbitrary regulations and licensing requirements on people of modest means simply trying to make a living. It's crucial to begin insisting that our elected representatives acknowledge that there are Constitutional limits on legislative and executive authority."

Voicing concerns over an Obama re-election, he added, "The most troubling aspect of what Obama has so far accomplished is a perversion of the American dream from one of initiative and opportunity to one of entitlement."

Finally, **Donna Rice Hughes**, president of *Enough is Enough*, closed out October's superb string of interviews by revisiting her path to redemption from "sex scandal queen"—for her widely-publicized role in bringing down the presidential candidacy of Gary Hart in 1988—to becoming a champion for on-line decency. "It took an international sex scandal for God to get my attention," she said. "He will break us down by the consequences of our actions. Take that as a warning."

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

Joni Meets Jesus and Finds Purpose in Suffering

The night before she fractured her neck in a 1967 diving accident, Joni Eareckson Tada dyed her hair bright blonde. The next day, lying face down, paralyzed and unable to breathe in the shallows of Chesapeake Bay, she expected to die. Strangely enough, her bright blonde hair beneath the water was a signal to her sister, who quickly pulled her to safety. If she hadn't dyed her hair that night, her sister wouldn't have seen her and she would not have been able to inspire a standing-room-only crowd at The Barbara Hodel Center.

"These are the very choices God can use to control our destiny," Tada said in her October 4 *Newsmakers Interview* with Marvin Olasky at Patrick Henry College.

More than 300 people jammed into The Barbara Hodel Center lobby, and another 100 webcast viewers tuned in from around the country, to hear Tada's staggering story of God's faithfulness through suffering. The accident left her a quadriplegic and sent her into a two-year depression with continual thoughts of suicide. She used to thrash her head in the hospital bed, hoping to break her neck again and die.

"A person can only live with that kind of depression and despair for so long," she said. "But thankfully people were praying."

Finally, lying in her hospital bed, she uttered what she believes is the most powerful thing she has ever prayed: "Oh, God, if I can't die, then show me how to live."

Almost immediately, her depression began to lift.

Since the day of her accident 45 years ago, Tada has written over 40 books, founded the ministry *Joni and Friends*, painted best-selling works of art while holding the brush with her teeth, evangelized the lost and tirelessly advocated for the disabled.

She wakes every day hating her quadriplegia, yet chooses to walk by God's strength. "It's a constant choice informed by the Holy Spirit and God's word," she said. "Admit that you can't do this thing called life, then cast yourself at the mercy of God." ★



Joni Eareckson Tada shares her testimony during the *Newsmakers Interview Series*.



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Beach

Rebecca Beach has enjoyed having her own space to let her creativity soar. She operates a successful blog.

College Alumna a Media Entrepreneur on the Rise

Rebecca Beach carefully set out nine paintbrushes, colored pieces of paper, and watercolor paints. She arranged everything on little black tables and then opened the blinds to let the morning sunlight stream into the room.

As girls from her wing poured into her room for wing chapel, Beach (Government: APP, '11) sat on her bed and read from Edith Schaeffer's book *The Hidden Art of Homemaking*, asking the girls to paint a picture of whatever they found beautiful, as a way to express their God-given creativity.

When the pictures were complete, Beach hung them over her bed with a clothesline and clothespins.

Before arriving at Patrick Henry College in 2008, at the age of 22, Beach loved to organize, especially people. She loved to plan political events and figure out the logistical details of everything. At PHC, she pursued her love for both event planning and politics, coordinating annual 9/11 memorials, setting up musical coffeehouses, helping on the homecoming committee and diligently working to keep up with her classes.

"It gave me a lot more experience and responsibility," Beach said, "and trained me for managing people and events. It made me realize my love for all the behind-the-scenes work."

During the spring of her senior year, searching for a new creative outlet, Beach launched her own blog, *A Daily Something*, featuring a daily post about things that she loved: a thrift store find, a project, an outfit, a pretty picture.

Her early readership consisted largely of PHC students, yet she cleverly marketed the blog, sharing posts on Facebook and Twitter, and letting all of her friends know about her latest postings.

Fast-forward a year and a half. Today, *A Daily Something* has vastly exceeded expectations, generating a positive revenue stream from a variety of paid positions. The elegantly styled blog has attracted strategic connections leading to lucrative gigs as a collaborative wedding planner in the DC and New

York area, and its high-end appeal has gained her attention as a young media entrepreneur on the rise. Spawning

contracts to style a feature story for an international magazine and provide graphic styling for *Blogshop*, it has also allowed her to write pieces for *Styled Magazine* and direct styling and decor for a nationwide Christian blogger conference. Her blog, meanwhile, gets between 800 and 1,000 unique hits a day.

On the "about me" section on her blog, Beach declares that she is a follower of Christ, which has, in turn, connected her to other Christian bloggers around the world.

"I've been learning that it's possible to be a blogger and an entrepreneur and still glorify God in and through my endeavors," she said. "If I can share the gospel or just be an encouragement to one person through my blog and business, it's worth it! I want to make much of Him through this journey, and go where He leads." ★

"I've been learning that it's possible to be a blogger and an entrepreneur and still glorify God in and through my endeavors."

- Rebecca Beach

Ryan Gilles: Telling Stories of God's People Around the World

Ryan Gilles cringed as toilet water splashed on his shorts while scrubbing the dirty commode that served the Athens Refugee Center (ARC) for Christians in Greece. He cleaned alongside Ramin, a 22-year-old refugee from Iran, who was on staff at ARC.

"You know why I love cleaning bathrooms?" Ramin asked, stopping his work and looking directly at Gilles.

"I have absolutely no idea, Ramin," Gilles responded.

"I love cleaning the bathrooms because it reminds me how great God is and who I am," Ramin said, still smiling.

Gilles couldn't help but smile too.

While attending PHC, Gilles majored in journalism, played on the soccer team, participated in mock trial, and led worship at chapel. But his real passion was found in ministry and missions. After a summer missions trip to Zambia in 2010, he dreamed of a ministry that would allow him to witness to others while telling their stories along the way. What he discovered was International Teams (ITeams), a Chicago based organization whose vision for missions and writing paralleled his own.

After graduating from PHC in December of 2011, he signed on with ITeams for a full-time missions trip over a 15-month period, during which he would be traveling to 10 different countries. He teamed up with Andrew Nicodem, a Wheaton College graduate, who shared a passion for missions, writing, and photography. Together, the two of them are traveling the world, witnessing, and telling the stories of those they encounter.

"This project is not driven by any extraordinary talents that Andrew or I possess and I can't promise you that anything we do will end up on the cover of *TIME Magazine*," Gilles wrote in his personal blog. "But I can promise you this: that we serve an extraordinary God who calls ordinary people to use their ordinary passions to do great things for His glory. At its heart, that is what this project is all about."

Each week, Gilles and Nicodem serve those around them by helping at Christian refuges, encouraging ministry teams, and assisting in local ministries. Alongside hands-on ministry, they write about what they see and who they meet, and they tell the stories of those who've risked everything to serve the God who gave them their names and stories.

Gilles believes that he would not be where he is today if it

were not for the time he spent at PHC.

"Sure, I learned how to write a news story and a profile," he said. "But you can learn those basic journalistic skills

anywhere. I think the reason my time at PHC was so powerful was because it helped shape my vision for how I wanted to use those skills. I graduated with this burning desire to put my talents to work in some way that might impact people, and I hope and pray that the Lord uses this project to do that in some way, big or small."

He chose to attend PHC because it was the kind of place "where students go when they have a goal and a message that's worth telling well," he said, explaining his understanding of PHC's motto, "to lead the nation and shape the culture."

"It's not about being a leader, or the issues, or winning the culture war," he said. "It's about worshiping a God that's worthy of your very best and wanting to make His name known."

Gilles realized he could combine his communication skills and heart for missions during the summer of 2010, while in

Lusaka, Zambia. Driving away from an orphanage in Lusaka's slums, he recalls watching the kids run after the bus, smiling and waving. Earlier that day, he had met a woman named Elina who founded and ran the orphanage by herself.

"I remember thinking how these kids have a chance in life and know who Jesus Christ is because of the endless work Elina does each and every day," Gilles said. "I think those are the kinds of stories that are so powerful and can change a life. That's when I started thinking about how I could use my love for writing and communication to do that."

Reflecting on his encounter with Ramin, scrubbing toilets, he wrote: "We are all refugees of sorts on this road called life. I thought about how no one is truly home just yet, and while we walk this long road ahead, we keep our eyes fixed on Christ in whose presence we will one day belong for all eternity. I long for that day. But for now, we are cleaning bathrooms in Athens." ★



Photo courtesy of Ryan Gilles

"I graduated with this burning desire to put my talents to work in some way that might impact people."

- Ryan Gilles

Strategic Intelligence Majors Produce Counterintelligence FBI Journal

When the FBI's Baltimore field office decided its Counterintelligence Program needed to make greater inroads into the private sector, an intelligence analyst in the Baltimore office, who happened to be a 2010 PHC alumnus, suggested a partnership with Patrick Henry College. He proposed producing a professional publication on counterintelligence topics, with PHC Strategic Intelligence (SI) majors doing the basic research and writing under editorial supervision. The arrangement he proposed would allow FBI analysts to focus on higher priority work while retaining oversight of the project.

Calls were made, an agreement struck, and a small group of PHC's SI majors were quietly handed the job of ghostwriting for the FBI and pro-



PHC Students have been exceptionally capable, according to the FBI and CIA.

ducing a journal that would be sent to over 3,000 cleared defense contractors. These companies contract with the US government to do classified work for research universities and other corporations who could be targets of economic espionage. By any measure, it was a challenging, heady undergraduate assignment, and the first issue of the unclassified Counterintelligence Journal produced by PHC SI students was emailed by FBI Baltimore in January.

Jonathan Binnie, adjunct professor of government and strategic intelligence at PHC, oversees the journal and serves as a liaison between the FBI and PHC. When he retired as an FBI Special Agent, Professor Binnie was the FBI's Chief Counterintelligence Strategist. Prior to that assignment he had managed the National Security Training Program, and had served in operational assignments in FBI headquarters in Miami, San Diego and Chicago. The journal's purpose, he explained, is to "assist the FBI with

making their corporations that are at risk more aware of what the problems are and how to identify intelligence threats to the company and protect people and information."

The journal also alerts its readers to FBI services available to them, seeks to prevent espionage from occurring, and informs at-risk companies of available risk reduction programs.

PHC students are "exceptionally capable" and well-suited for this task, Binnie says, noting that FBI officials have been highly impressed with the journal. They were, in fact, "stunned by how intelligent our students were," with one intelligence analyst supervisor confiding, "If I could hire every one of your graduates, I would."

For students working on the maga-

zine, Binnie says the educational value is unparalleled.

"It puts them right in the cauldron of counterintelligence issues," he said, "and helps them understand how the government and the private sector have to work together to overcome threats, because neither one can do it by themselves. It also helps

them understand what the government can and cannot say. PHC students are ghostwriting for the FBI, so it's not just the students

saying something. They are saying it on behalf of the government."

Although the publication was originally sent out to 3,000 private sector corporations and institutions at risk, it was also circulated by email, resulting in an estimated "views" of around 30,000. The Bureau also forwarded the journal to its National Security Business Alliance Council, comprised of some well-known corporations—including GE, Verizon, Disney, Intel, and others—and SI students can now boast that the Chief of Security at Walt Disney read their journal.

Chandler Karadsheh, PHC senior and current project manager, remarked, "We're doing things that FBI agents or analysts would be doing if they had time."

Through his journal work, Karadsheh adds, "Our customers are cleared defense contractors. We're trying to help them understand and administer counter-espionage activities for local and foreign threats. It's a real product that people are using, and it represents the school to a lot of people who would never hear about PHC otherwise."

PHC's logo and link to its website are published on the back page of the journal. ★

Upon meeting the students who work on the journal, one of the supervisors of intelligence analysts told Binnie, "If I could hire every one of your graduates, I would."

Moot Court Team Honored by Virginia General Assembly

Winning its fourth consecutive ACMA National Moot Court Championship this past winter brought PHC's moot court team special recognition by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Purcellville. But this past April also saw two members of the Virginia House of Delegates travel to Patrick Henry College to hand-deliver a special commendation by the Virginia General Assembly.

Entitled House Joint Resolution No. 488, the commendation was presented during morning chapel by Virginia House of Delegate members J. Randall Minchew (R -Tenth District), and Joe May (R -32nd District).

"We had an honor bestowed upon us this past session to recognize an outstanding and gifted group of oral advocates who won the national championship representing this College, the national moot court championship," began



Virginia House of Delegates members read Commendation during chapel announcements.

Delegate Minchew. "We were lifted up by their spirit and were so immensely proud of what they did. Oral advocacy is probably one of the most important acquired arts of any advocate for liberty."

"That our state representatives took the time to travel to our campus to bestow this honor on our students is something we should be very grateful for, and I am," said Chancellor Michael Farris, the College's founder and moot court coach. ★



House Joint Resolution No. 488



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(540) 441-8740
www.phc.edu