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Dr. Cory Grewell



Courtesy: Thaddeus Tague

Thaddeus Tague

The Four Blows and One Redeemer

by Meg McEwen

The following story is the third story in the Herald's Mental Health series.

Thaddeus Tague could not remember anything except who he was, where he was, and the names of his family members as Clayton Millhouse drove him to the emergency room. He knew that one of his relatives had recently passed away, but he did not know who. Weeping and helpless, he grabbed onto the seat in front of him.

"I was hoping to God that it wasn't someone who was extremely close to me. It was one of the scariest moments of my life, because I was so lost in space that all I had was Jesus's name and

(Re)constructing Meaning

Dr. Cory Grewell Gives the Fall 2016 Faith and Reason Lecture

by Giovanna Lastra

"The irony is this: words, words, words can be interpreted to mean roughly nothing," said Dr. Cory Grewell, Assistant Professor of Literature, as he delivered the biannual Faith and Reason lecture this past Tuesday.

The lecture, entitled "(Re)constructing Meaning: The Nature of Words and Participating Being," focused on the relationship between meaning and words and how believers and scholars should en-

gage with postmodern theory. Grewell tackled a challenging subject that many in the Christian community choose to ignore, providing a thought-provoking lecture.

"To remain thus ignorant [to dismiss postmodern theory] is to perhaps not participate as fully in the discursive nature of God's creation and revelation as one otherwise might," Grewell said. He explained that postmodern theory impacts how our culture views texts, language and discourse. In this view, words and languages are revealed as

unstable and the meaning is arbitrary.

"If language is revealed to be inherently unstable," Grewell said, "then how can we credibly base our faith on truth revealed in the Word of God?" Grewell explained that the theory of deconstruction has large implications for how we read Scripture and view our faith, but that we can also learn from these ideas and engage with them in our own reading.

Grewell suggested that

continued on page 3

continued on page 4

Credit: PHC Communications

theherald

volume 24, issue no. 5

thestories

- leap street page 3
- christian community page 5
- profile: dawson frasier page 6
- freshman dance page 7
- profile: mercy quinonez page 8
- profile: brenna bakke page 8
- blue ridge fellows page 9
- homecoming page 10
- review: tribe page 10
- review: snowden page 11
- letter to the editor page 11

themasthead

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studentgovernment

The Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission (APAC) conducted a second survey. The survey was multiple choice format, with answers based on the results from the first survey.

254 people took the survey. Of the 254 people, 37 were freshmen, 46 were sophomores, 48 were juniors, 52 were seniors, 29 were alumni, 20 were faculty, and 22 were staff members.

Of the students, 34 were APP majors, 15 were IPP majors, 14 were General Government majors, 14 were Political Theory majors, 40 were Strategic Intelligence majors, 17 were History majors, 22 were Literature majors, 22 were Classical Liberal Arts majors, 18 were Journalism majors, and 22 were Economic & Business Analytics majors.

132 of the responses were from men, and 122 were from women.

The age breakdown is as follows: 9 were under the age of 18, 109 were between 18 and 20, and 136 were 21 or older.

Learning to Engage with Post-Modern Theory

continued from cover

the meaning of words tends to change across time and must, to some extent, be left open to the reader's interpretation. This interpretation should be centered around God and the working of the Holy Spirit in the reader to find meaning.

Much of the student body found the lecture compelling and a refreshing take on postmodern theory. "For me this was such a good and balanced perspective on a topic that is hard for Christians to deal with. This is a different take than how I learned to approach postmodern theory in other classes. I appreciate this point of view," said senior Literature major Caitlin Coulter. Other students are still consider-

ing what they think about Grewell's lecture.

"I am still developing my thoughts," said senior Government major Julianne Owens. "But I do think that he [Grewell] took a topic that most would have shied away from."

Several professors on the panel were skeptical about some of the ideas that were conveyed.

"Post-modernity is a massive topic. Absolutely huge. I have been studying its intersection with biblical studies carefully since 1993, and to this day I stand amazed at how expansive the issues are," Dr. Darrel Cox said. While on the panel, the Professor of Biblical Studies explained that a stable text has one meaning and a

myriad of applications. He also expressed a concern for the ramifications of accepting postmodern hermeneutics and the consequences it has on Christians and the Church.

In his response, Grewell agreed with much of Cox's take on postmodern theory and hermeneutics, but maintained that these issues did not prevent believers from engaging with these ideas and acknowledged that languages and words are imperfect, human constructs. "If language is stable, it's because God made it stable," Grewell said.

The discussion ended on the subject of imagination and how it helps us come to a deeper understanding of truth in extra-scriptural texts. ♦

Lovettsville Mom's Site Helps Kids Earn Money

by Evie Fordham

Around the time that Robin Greene's eldest daughter Diana turned 12, requests from neighbors and friends for Diana to babysit their children started pouring in. But rather than dealing with Diana directly, they contacted Greene to hire her daughter. The Lovettsville mother of three began feeling like a go-between.

"I thought there must be a better way to do this and teach kids to do things on their own so that the kids are not at risk and parents are still comfortable," Greene said.

Four years later, Greene has a solution in her website Leap Street, which launched in March 2016 and has around 250 users in Loudoun County.

"Leap Street is a service that matches neighbors who need things done to students ages 12 to 18 looking for work," Greene said. "There is opportunity for everybody. As a neighbor there's always things to be done that you don't want to do, and kids always want to earn money."

Students can list skills like cleaning,

childcare, yard work, and music in their profiles.

"I ask my kids, 'What can you do? What are you good at?'" Greene said. "Diana is good at cleaning and organizing. She does regular dusting for one neighbor in particular because that neighbor hates dusting."

Diana, 16, also found a full-time summer job at Lovettsville daycare center Heather's Kids through Leap Street. Some of her coworkers connected with Heather's Kids through the site, too.

Leap Street protects its young users by requiring their parents' consent and verified email address before allowing them to connect with neighbors. All users undergo background checks. Parents can view all of their kids' communications with neighbors.

"Things were different when I was younger," Greene said. "I worked at McDonald's at 15. When I started working, my parents handed over responsibility to me, and I had to figure it out... it was freeing and overwhelming, because I got little guidance learning how to do things like balance a checking account."

Greene first thought about turning the idea that would become Leap Street into reality in Spring 2013. She had never started a business before. She and her husband gathered information from friends working in the tech industry and then interviewed web designers to hire to create the site.

"We wanted to start off our website with enough foresight to handle expanding nationwide," Greene said. "It took a year to do."

If the business expands enough, Greene plans to develop a Leap Street app.

"We're adding new people everyday," she said. "But app development costs a lot of money."

For now, Greene is happy to teach local kids the value of their time and money so they will understand finances better than many in her generation did.

"It's scary when you think about how many people are in debt," she said. "We're helping kids figure out that what they do now will have an impact on how they handle money in the future." ♦

Visit the site at www.leapstreet.org.

The Road to Recovery

continued from cover

God sitting over me. And at that moment, I knew that that was all that mattered,” Tague said.

Tague began the fall semester of 2014 feeling on top of his classes, his friendships, and the world. However, the death of his great-grandfather dealt the first of four blows. “He personified a lot of the manly characteristics that I wanted to emulate,” Tague said. “We did this woodshop class together because he had a lot of talent as a general contractor. Every Friday for three or four years we would work on a project... He wasn’t much of a talker but we really bonded.”

Tague’s accident, following on the heels of the crushing news, occurred while sparing with fellow student Andrew Olejnik. Olejnik, fifty pounds superior to Tague’s weight class, countered on his left orbital cheek bone. The force of the blow missed Tague’s protection helmet and split his nasal cavity. The doctors told Tague that he had a concussion and a broken nose, prescribing rest. The next week at PHC, he received a third blow: a series of bombed grades from his favorite classes. Instead of studying, he mourned his great-grandfather’s passing the weekend before midterms.

Tague felt a change within himself the following spring semester. “I was super depressed. I was starting to become introverted. I was having a little bit of a personality change and I didn’t know why,” said Tague, who keenly felt the stress in his interactions with others. Through a series of traumatic events, his best friend was removed from campus, dealing the fourth and final blow. His grades plummeted. Classes like Freedom’s Foundations and Philosophy exposed him to nihilistic streams of thought. “I associated with William of Ockham’s theory of rationalism. He said that no concrete universals besides God really exist. From start to finish, I wasn’t Thaddeus... I thought I had some sort of late-blooming mental illness,” Tague said.

Tague’s uncle experienced symptoms similar to Tague his freshman year of

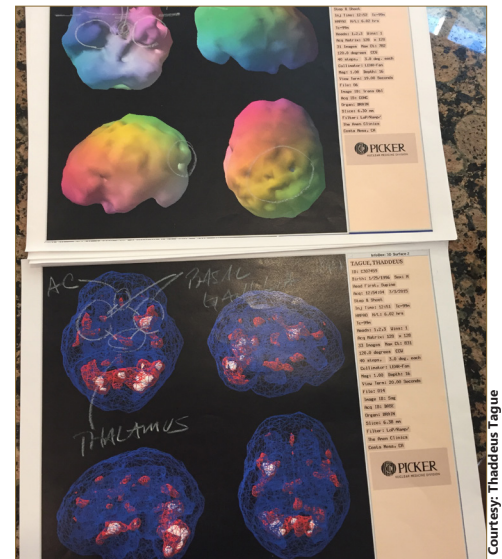
college. He developed a delayed autism which transformed the 6’6 Division I basketball player from an outgoing athlete into the withdrawn, paranoid man with whom Tague grew up. Tague feared that the disorder was hereditary.

When summer rolled around, he drove home to California with his younger sister and fellow PHC student, Belle Tague. Belle had sensed something off about her brother all semester. He rarely smiled. He never reached out to her. After settling into a strained silence during the 2,600-mile road trip, her sense of foreboding was confirmed. “It was hard. After a couple hours of conversation I knew that there was something wrong and I did not know how to address it. It was awkward, and that is the worst feeling in the world, for a little sister to feel awkward around her brother,” Belle said.

An arduous internship, loneliness, and negativity continued embittering Tague with suicidal thoughts that the “normal Thaddeus” would never have considered. Tague often walked down a hill on the way to his internship, mentally calculating how many seconds it took for cars to come down the incline and how long it would take to throw himself into the road.

Finally sick of the depression, Tague voiced his fears to his parents that summer. Miraculously, his name made it through the long waitlist of skilled brain surgeon David Amen. In the course of three weeks, Tague was injected with radioactive isotope serum to track his brain waves. When the brain scan results came back, the doctor sat Tague down and slid two sheets towards him, saying, “This is what a healthy brain looks like. And this is what your brain looks like. We only see this kind of damage in two situations. Number one, severe concussions usually found in football and number two, meth addicts. You don’t use meth, do you?”

Tague found out that his pre-frontal cortex, the part of the brain that determines one’s entire worldview, was damaged so that he no longer had a positive outlook. Olejnik’s blow had sent his rear ganglia slicing into his skull, causing in-



Normal brain scans (top), Tague’s brain scans (bottom).

ternal brain bleeding. “The reason why I became negative was because my brain was reverting to the only other thing it knew to survive, which was a negative worldview,” said Tague.

Relief came with remedies. He began taking natural supplements and prescription medication and saw drastic improvements within a month. However, as a side effect of the concussion, Tague couldn’t read for more than fifteen minutes at a time without getting distracted or experiencing headaches. “I was not keen on going back to college that semester. But I was so torn because never before had I experienced such a community of Christians as at PHC,” Tague said.

Tague decided to take the minimum credits required to reside on PHC’s campus, and receive the rest of his education from Liberty University’s online school.

Today, Tague attributes his paper writing acumen, spiritual stability, and GPA to his years at PHC. He made a nearly complete recovery and will be pursuing a master’s degree next semester. “It is comforting in retrospect to look back and know that God micromanaged every aspect of that situation for my benefit,” Tague said. “So when I read the Scriptures and it says God works all things for the good of those who love him, it means it. I have a lot more faith now going into situations that I don’t know.” ♦

What Does Community at PHC Look Like?

by Harvest Prude

When are you most lonely? Is it the meals you skip going to the dining hall because there's no one to go with? Or in chapel, when the students singing in unison around you highlight how detached you feel in contrast? Is it when you are up in the cubes until 3 a.m. working on a paper when everyone else seems to be sound asleep in their beds? Is your loneliness accentuated when you are around people, or does the presence of others mask your disconnect until you are once again by yourself?

From events like Walk & Talks, to the Welcome Back Fall Retreat at the beginning of the semester, to chapel messages, students and faculty alike are constantly discussing how we can live well together and love each other as a community. In a place where students struggle with loneliness, at a time in life where we want to make lifetime friends, considering how we can exist well with those around us is worth our time.

Everyone has a different idea about why this is so difficult, what we're getting right, what we're getting wrong, and how we can get better. But amidst the diversity of ideas, there are similar themes that bind the community itself together.

"What holds us all together is the human condition," said junior Belle Tague. Tague thinks that at PHC, the emphasis on the classical liberal arts causes students to focus finding excellence in learning and in being Christians. This can come at a cost. "In that we can't lose sight of [what is] behind the grand tradition, which is being better humans," Tague said. Maybe she's right.

"Everyone comes from somewhere," Tague said. "Each person is an individual that is coming from somewhere and has a story and a life and a person behind their eyes." To Tague, recognizing that everyone participates in the human story of creation, Fall, and redemption is why each individual in our community matters.

Senior Jordan Hughes sees the oppor-

tunity for people to be unified centers around a single shared goal. "Unity only comes out of necessity," Hughes said. "If I don't think I need people, I will never be unified with them...this campus would be unified if above all else our goal was, all the time, to honor and please the Lord, to glorify him and please Him forever."

Everyone's expression of that goal, if he is right, is different. There is diversity even in unity. Think of being in the community like being on a sports team, Hughes said. A team is unified in the common goal to win the game, but each player has different means of achieving that end in the different positions they play. "If your goal is to glorify God, people stop looking like a barrier and become teammates going for the same goal," Hughes said.

With this analogy, loneliness comes when people aren't on the same team. When someone is your teammate, you don't gossip about them, shy away from sitting next to them in chapel or the dining hall, or look away when they pass by on the Farris Wheel.

Senior Andrew Kelly thinks a balance can be found between a forced atmosphere where people pretend to be best friends with everyone and an atmosphere where people are isolated. For Kelly, it's a lot of "intentionality in talking to people that you don't know." He believes that the enemy of community is in the masks people wear.

"The difficult thing about PHC is that it's a community where the Christian adjective is assumed because of a document [everyone signed] when they came in," Kelly said. "The moment that we [stop assuming] that we're a Christian community is the moment that we have to honestly and open-mindedly allow people to be broken and doubting and struggling."

It is this assumption that allows people to hide behind masks of being the perfect Christian or the perfect student. In an environment where struggles are not talked about as candidly as they could be, people wear masks and often end up disenchanting with the people around them.

Kelly pointed out that people don't

really want community. Or, more specifically, they don't want the accompanying problems: the messiness of relationships, losing of sleep to listen to an upset friend, or the basic inconvenience of people's problems. "The dream of community is a safe haven of perfect people," Kelly said. "So it seems either people buy into this ideal dream, or they don't and swing to the other side of being cynical."

What people want is perfection from others. When I'm upset, I want someone to sit up and talk with me. But how willing am I to lose sleep, or miss an assignment deadline, or forgo my plan for the day for a friend? Maybe I'm just too busy. Maybe I've got my priorities out of order. "[People will live] a haphazardly busy life that doesn't allow for an organic development of relationships," Dr. Mark Mitchell said.

Why don't I view everyone as my teammate? More importantly, why don't I treat them like they are? There's no easy answer. How to live well with the community around me is something I have to figure out on a day-to-day basis. I have to decide who I will sit with at lunch, how long I'm willing to pause when I ask someone how they're doing, and whether I keep my door open for girls to come by and talk.

"All I know how to do at the end of the day is each day being more and more willing to both give time to others that could have been wasted, and also give time to myself that could have been wasted in unproductive ways," Kelly said. "Give time to others when I can tell that they need it more and more each day, forgive myself when I don't do that well, and provide opportunities that encourage people to think outside the box, and believe that in the small ways, we can do better and we can actually improve."

Some of those opportunities have been Litflix and Walk & Talk, both new events that Kelly has been involved in organizing.

"We can often just think ourselves to death, when we should just work on loving people better each day," Kelly said. ♦

Dawson Frasier's Oxford Experience

by Rebekah Jorgensen

Meeting and learning from apologists such as Ravi Zacharias, John Lennox, and Os Guinness was just the starting point of senior Dawson Frasier's summer trip to England. He attended a weeklong conference entitled "Dare to Stand," hosted at Oxford University by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries.

"Since I was younger I've always wanted to learn at Oxford because it's a place that stimulates your inner desire to learn," Frasier said. "Even though I wasn't going there full time, it was a privilege to study there."

In fact, this lifelong desire to attend Oxford was how Frasier heard about the conference in the first place. As Frasier walked out of a church in Maine during a trip home last semester, he struck up a conversation with a woman and mentioned that he had always wanted to study at Oxford. She happened to know of Zacharias's ministry and told Frasier about the conference, and he quickly took advantage of the incredible opportunity.

Since Frasier's dad spent several weeks of the summer in England for business training, Frasier went two weeks before the conference started to tour around and enjoy some quiet reading and time alone.

"One of my favorite things was going back to Holywell Cemetery that I'd found before when I was there with Dr. Grewell's trip," Frasier said. "It was started in 1847,

and lots of Oxford professors are buried there. I was able to do lots of reading and meditation on things I was learning in that cemetery."

Once the conference started, Frasier's schedule was packed from morning to night. The day started at 8 a.m with an hour of worship, and then John Lennox worked through a lecture series on the book of Daniel, correlating the modern world with Daniel's experience in Babylon.

In the afternoon, speakers varied from day to day. Sam Alberry, leading Christian speaker on homosexuality and author of *Is God Anti-Gay?* spoke on his struggles with same-sex attraction. A brain scientist also came and spoke on the origins of thought and how they correspond to free will in the mind. Finally, Zacharias spoke on the implications of hell for the Christian.

For Frasier, while the lectures were packed with incredible information, the most impactful part of the experience was the connections he got to make with fellow conference attendees.

"One of them was this guy named Andrew," Frasier said. "As a Christian, I had always been wary of Pentecostal teachings, but he gave me a different perspective on the Holy Spirit. We were really open about things in our lives that we had gone through in our Christian walk."

Even when outside of the lecture halls, Frasier admired the awe-inspiring architecture and years of history that surround him, and marveled at the chance to be



Dawson Frasier in England

in the same place as some of the greatest minds alive today. "One lady was walking outside and saw Richard Dawkins walking his dog!" Frasier laughed.

As he returns to PHC to conclude his senior year, Frasier is still reflecting on all the things that he learned in the seven days that he spent at Oxford.

"It helped me to appreciate taking moments to sit down and really think about ideas in an environment that's conducive to learning," Frasier said. "It was an experience that I'll never forget." ♦



Courtesy: Dawson Frasier





Credit: PHC Communications

The Roaring '20s: PHC Edition

by Evie Fordham

Students danced, laughed, and had a blast at the Freshman Dance last Saturday. Organizers Jane White, Kyle Permann, Esther Katz, and Rose Perkins, all sophomores, decorated Purcellville's Carver Center with white and gold decorations in a 1920s speakeasy style.

"It was really fun," Freshman Emily Roessler said. "I never really danced before, so it was great to be in an environment where everyone was so willing to teach me and have fun doing it."

Senior Luke Thomas served as DJ, spinning swing tunes and the occasional pop song. Nearly all of the students arrived in costume - the girls in 1920s-style dresses

accented with gold, and the guys in classy collared shirts and slacks.

"My favorite thing about the Freshman Dance is that it's the first event with the student body letting them know we're welcoming them," Permann said. "Since I got to be one of the hosts, it was my way of saying, 'I'm glad you're here.'" ♦



Credit: PHC Communications



Credit: PHC Communications

Lasting Memories at Bible Quiz

by Victoria Cook

“ZZZZT!” the buzzer beeped as competitors in the National Bible Quiz tournament raced each other to answer the next question. In Huntsville, Texas, last weekend, PHC sophomore Mercy Quinonez, along with five other team members, placed third in the tournament, a first for them and their church, the Tabernaculo de Dios.

Before the team was chosen, Quinonez and others memorized the first eight chapters of Romans in great detail, including even the section titles. Analyzing chapters, knowing key geographical locations in Romans, and practicing each week were ways in which the group prepared to compete.

“Overall, in every competition, you can really see that it is God who chooses who will win, because He is the only one who knows how much effort people have truly put into it,” Quinonez said.

Quinonez has participated in Bible quizzing for five years and qualified for National Finals four times. For her and her church, placing third meant recognition for the years put into cultivating their Bible Quiz group.

At the finals, the 14 teams were split into two divisions, and the two top teams of each division moved onto the final. When Quinonez and her team made it to the last stage, they hoped to place. For their final rounds, the team was calm but alert as they answered questions in thirty seconds. During the awards ceremony, Quinonez and her friends finally experienced the thrill of placing.

When she took a gap year from Bible quizzing, Quinonez coached the junior division and found that memorizing the Bible on her own time was not easy. Bible quizzing provided accountability and incentive to memorize, things she missed when she faced struggles in her life.



Photo Credit: Mercy Quinonez

“I felt worthless. I felt like I had committed so many faults that I didn’t deserve to be loved or to be helped,” Quinonez said. A few of the passages she had to remember, Romans 8:38-39, reassured her of God’s love and the life she has in him.

For Quinonez, remembering the Bible is more than a drill; she has found that she hears God best when dwelling on Scripture. While finals was fun, Quinonez is more excited to remember the testimonies other people shared at the event. ♦

Brenna Bakke’s Summer as a Nanny

by Beth Bergstrom

Junior Brenna Bakke spent the summer being a nanny to eight children for 10 hours a day.

“I showed up at 8 a.m., usually a small child would open the door and scream something at me, then I would walk inside and the dad would say, ‘Sorry about that,’ and then I would start breakfast,” Bakke said.

Bakke watched over 11-year-old Jaelee, nine-year-old Ashlee, eight-year-old DJ, eight-year-old Diamond, seven-year-old Andrew, six-year-old Shirlee, two-year-old James, and one-year-old Jack.

Shirlee, James, and Jack are adopted, and Diamond is James’ biological cousin who stayed with the family for the summer.

James, and his biological family, suffers from a chromosome disorder in the ninth chromosome. This condition can lead to a variety of physical and mental challenge.

While Brenna was their nanny, James could not yet walk or talk, although he is

currently learning how to walk. There is no way to know what deficits, if any, James will have. Throughout the summer Bakke met a variety of James’ biological family. “The adults of his family have the literacy rate of an elementary kid,” Bakke said. Diamond is the only one in the family that does not suffer from the intellectual disabilities. Unsure of how environment would impact the intellectual disabilities, Diamond left her biological family for the summer.

“I learned how to make very basic food items. I learned how to make eggs in every single way because everyone had their preference. I learned a lot of patience,” Bakke said. “I think the biggest thing I learned was to stop being so controlling, because when you have eight high energy kids running in eight different ways, you cannot be controlling.”

Bakke recalls the moment Shirlee taught her how to handle problems. While she was assigning chores, she went from oldest to youngest, leaving Shirlee’s chore as the last remaining. When Bakke

looked over at Shirlee, she was dancing. As she kept trying to assign Shirlee a chore, she just kept dancing. Finally, Bakke asked Shirlee if she was dancing away from her problems, and Shirlee said yes. “I told the other kids we could all learn something from Shirlee, and then we had a five minute dance party before they did their chores,” Bakke laughed.

Bakke originally wanted to be a Teen Camp counselor for the summer but was not offered the position. “As soon as I heard about this job and interviewed with the mom, I knew that is what I needed to do. And there was a part of me that didn’t like that,” Bakke said. “But the whole time I felt like that was exactly where God wanted me to be this summer.”

“It took a lot of my pride away to teach me how vulnerable people are,” Bakke concluded. “Kids are vulnerable in a different way. We all need a lot of things from different people, and we all rely on each other. But we all are kind of prideful about these needs and try and hide them, or approach them in a different way.” ♦

Blue Ridge Fellows Program

by Harvest Prude

Tim Henderson had seen it too many times: many young adults who floundered in their faith post graduation, quit going to church, or just seemed adrift. It was nothing new. At a steakhouse, Henderson was having dinner with a former student who had been a leader in the Campus Crusade ministry at Penn State. The young man confessed he was losing the battle against porn. He also had not been attending a church for 24 months and lacked any sort of Christian community to hold him accountable. Henderson wanted to do something to help.

Thus, he co-created the Blue Ridge Fellows Program out of an interest to help young people to grow in their faith as they transition from college and begin their professional life.

Blue Ridge Fellows Program is located in Roanoke, Virginia. It is a nine month program designed to help graduates have a strong foundation for integrating their faith in every aspect of their lives, be that in their vocation, their marriages and families, in serving the community, or all other areas of life. The Fellows program seeks to make an impact that will translate into the way the individual leads their life.

“We’ve noticed that very frequently when students graduate from campus ministry where they really thrive and do well in their faith, it’s often a very different transition to life after graduation,” Henderson said. “We, for a number of years, have been concerned. How do we help make people this transition? That’s essentially what we do—very often people learn how to walk with Christ in a professional environment,” Henderson said.

Before the program, Henderson worked on staff for Campus Crusade for Christ for over 20 years, and served as Vice President with Christian Union before initiating the Fellows project a year and a half ago. He was also the keynote speaker for the Welcome Back Fall Retreat held at the beginning of the semester.

The context for learning this integra-



Blue Ridge Fellows

Courtesy: Tim Henderson

tion is community. Students learn how to integrate their faith into all aspects of their life within a context of other Christian believers learning alongside them and mentoring them.

A normal week for the Blue Ridge Fellows includes time spent with the other fellows, living with a host family, working an internship three days a week, and gathering for classes and spiritual training.

“There’s a lot of very, very lonely people,” Henderson said. “I’m convinced life is all about relationships. We are made in the image of a God who is a relationship. Before there was time itself, God existed as a relationship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who delighted in each other. He is complex. We are much simpler. We don’t have multiple persons within ourselves—we need to go outside ourselves to other people.”

Henderson is convinced that part of the reason graduates struggle is because their daily routine and habits change so much, as well as the structures in which they operate. Students unknowingly depend on structures like campus ministries, chapel, or mentors that don’t have parallels in the professional world.

“The ultimate goal is that they would have the knowledge and the habits to live a seamless faith,” Henderson said.

Yet since all cannot join a fellows program, Henderson advises getting involved in a local church and seeking community.

Stephen Pierce graduated PHC in 2015 with a Classical Liberal Arts Music degree.

“Post grad can be tough,” Pierce said. “No longer do you have dorms around you filled with tons of people who are spurring you on spiritually and emotionally...I think that drop in sheer volume surrounding you is difficult and challenges you to truly carve out your own spiritual walk apart from the greenhouse of PHC. It truly makes you make your faith your own in the real world of career and family.”

He has had to work to find practical ways to stay strong in his faith. He has focused on carving out more personal devotional time, seeking out individuals who are older and more mature to encourage him on his faith. “It’s still not something I’m perfect at. I’m going on two years out of college, so there’s still some growing to do,” Pierce said.

The Blue Ridge Fellows Program works with the Church of the Holy Spirit, a church in Roanoke, VA, and associates with The Fellows Initiative, which unites multiple fellows programs across the nation. The fee for the full year’s program is \$6,500. Students can opt to raise support, and the program offers training and coaching in raising support. ♦

To learn more about the Fellows Program, visit www.blueridgefellows.org

Homecoming 2016 Preview

by Leah Greenwood

“Homecoming is a celebration of the accomplishments and achievements of our school,” Katie Segesdy said, “and we all come together to celebrate where we came from, and where we are going.”

This year, Homecoming falls on Sept. 28 through Oct. 2, and class competitions have been moved into one day to more easily maintain interest and class spirit. Some events, like the cheer competition, have been discarded, some, like a game show night, have been added, and other events, like the dress-up competition, have been modified.

Kent Hoshiko, head coordinator for the students, is working to make this year’s Homecoming “something everyone can do and will enjoy without a whole lot of prior knowledge, or effort, or special

ability.” With this year’s costume theme of having each class represent a different generation, Hoshiko is attempting to keep all costumes fun and easily attainable with a thrift store run or two.

During previous Homecomings, alumni-only events have taken place at the same time as student events, thus making it difficult for the alumni and current students to mingle. This year, however, more concentrated efforts are placed on the interaction between students and alumni. Alumnus Stephen Williams is the head coordinator for the alumni. “The desire is that Homecoming will be a true celebration for everyone who is a part of the PHC family, and will be something that has plenty of opportunities for alumni to interact [with the current students],” Williams said.

An outdoor fair with games, face painting, caricature drawing, and catered food

is on the agenda for both alumni and students to enjoy. This event is family-friendly to accommodate the increasing number of alumni with children. The schedule has also been worked so that alumni are able to attend the soccer games and other events.

Due to budget restraints, Williams originally was unable to travel to Virginia for Homecoming. However, Hoshiko reached out to the students, and in two days, he raised enough money to cover a round-trip plane ticket for Williams. “It was just an extraordinarily humbling and kind gesture,” Williams said. “I’m so sincerely grateful to [come] and see you guys and spend as much time with you as I can.” ♦

Check the PHC Homecoming 2016 Facebook page for more detailed information as it is released.

Book Review: Sebastian Junger’s *Tribes*

by Bruce Truax

“There are many costs to modern society, but the most dangerous loss may be the community,” wrote Sebastian Junger in his book *Tribes: On Homecoming and Belonging*. The genius of Junger revealed that even with all of its benefits, modern society will crumble from lack of a community experience. “The beauty and the tragedy of the modern world is that it eliminates many situations that require people to demonstrate a commitment to the collective good,” Junger wrote.

However, the most disturbing part of Junger’s book is not that it shows that we lack community, but rather that we are so far gone from any real community that we need pain and suffering to suffice. Junger points to instances in which people have been far happier under prolonged situations of extreme hardship, like in war zones and during natural disasters. After things had turned to normal, people of

ten wanted those hard times back. People became like a tribe during those situations; they shared food, slept near each other, and depended upon each other for preservation of their lives.

Junger pointed to the way physiological disorders and suicide rates went down in a community when a situation of physical duress occurred. “I miss being that close to people...we were the happiest,” Junger wrote, quoting a Bosnian civil war survivor.

This truth especially applies to veterans. Junger, a veteran himself, wrote that when they come home, veterans must transition from a close brotherhood into a society in which only immediate families have communal relations to each other. However, Junger claimed that individualism robs people of a sense of belonging. For most of human history, people shared basic necessities with their people groups or tribes, and worked together to stay alive. Thus, Junger claimed that, in order for veterans to heal, they require a sense

of brotherhood in their communities, not an antagonistic environment.

Unfortunately, Junger noted that it is not just veterans who suffer. He claimed that our society is in the midst of a social crisis, pointing to the current physiological epidemic, rising suicide rates, and rampage shootings as proof. Studies also suggest that political debate is wider and more antagonistic than it has ever been. Unless the western world changes, Junger wrote, there will be serious repercussions in mental and social health.

To begin addressing these issues, Christianity must take the first step by fostering strong community in the Church. In fact, churches have historically been at the center of small communities, with church buildings often used for town meetings and classrooms. Junger is right: community is in jeopardy. Christians need to be the ones building communities to save our culture from the current social diaspora. ♦

Movie Review: *Snowden*

by Jared Midwood

The modern American moviegoer has little responsibility when interacting with blockbuster cinema - a sad truth that politically charged directors are unwittingly trying to change. Perhaps foremost among these is Oliver Stone, whose preeminence as a social commentator and filmmaker extraordinaire spans the past few decades. His latest effort tackles one of the most divisive and sensitive issues of the twenty-first century: a man named Edward Snowden.

Snowden stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*Lincoln*, *Inception*) in the title role, and it is clear throughout the course of the film that Stone selected the young actor for his precision in imitating both Snowden's sharp looks and soft eccentric mannerisms. Despite this talented mimicry, the film introduces the whistleblower by first focusing on the object he is holding - a Rubik's cube, and the puzzle toy factors heavily into the movie as a recurring motif. It symbolizes tortured genius and nervous habit; it is used as a gift of parting but also as a means of smuggling top-level security information out of the NSA.

From the beginning, as expected, there is no pretense as to which side the film takes in the debate. "You didn't tell me we were running a dragnet on the whole world," Snowden laments as he begins to peel back the layers of citizen surveillance in which the CIA and NSA is engaging. The dragnet is proverbially frowned upon

for the duration of the narrative - not only by Snowden, but also by the collective mood of the film.

Perhaps the most unexpected moments in the movie come from Snowden's relationship with his lover Lindsay Mills, played by *Divergent* and *The Fault in Our Stars* heroine Shailene Woodley. Besides influencing him towards liberalism and support of then-nascent presidential candidate Barack Obama, Mills gives Snowden a reason to contemplate the potentially harmful effects of his quest for justice. Without Mills' presence, the conflict of the story would fall flat.

Rather than presented as a series of blurred lines, the events that Snowden uncovered to British media outlet *The Guardian* on June 13, 2013 are set up as a clear dichotomy. On one side of the split is the United States government, portrayed by Stone as a Big Brother-esque entity capable of peering into the bedrooms and bathrooms of any American citizen it so chooses.

On the other side is Snowden, a humble and soft-spoken genius who is capable of performing a five to eight hour security task in less than 40 minutes, but who also groans under the unethical weight of his government position. What are perhaps lost in the intimate metanarrative of Snowden's life are the looming security questions that critics of Snowden asked in the days and years following the incident. That omission is Oliver Stone's first failure. "The modern battlefield is everywhere," says Corbin O'Brien (Rhys

Ifans), Snowden's CIA mentor. The cinematic battlefield, however, fails to leave Snowden's mind. Where are the voices of his detractors?

The danger of any political cinematic endeavor is that the viewer may leave the theater assuming that what he or she has just seen is concurrent of the national mood at large. However, NBC News and other outlets report that among American citizens who have "closely" followed the Snowden saga, nearly 50% oppose his actions while only 33% support them. Stone largely ignores the national mood and the negative press that Snowden received; this mistake is his second failure.

Two things can be said of Oliver Stone's trendy new film. On one hand, it is well-scripted and well-acted, thereby earning at least fleeting approval from some in the film community. But on the other, its oversimplification of the events leading up to *The Guardian's* explosive 2013 story undoes its primary purpose of imparting historicity through art. As seen so many times before in the cinematography of Oliver Stone, the viewer is left sifting through the truths and the fabrications.

Snowden (rated R for strong language and sexuality/nudity), while in the news for its divisive treatment of contemporary issues, is likely to become a historically parenthetical film for its lack of originality and clear-cut authenticity. It is unlikely that many viewers two decades from now will be fiddling with the Rubik's cube of *Snowden's* oversimplified political philosophy. ♦

Letter to the Editor

by Nick Barden, Class of '14

I read your article on the difficulties of commuting into Washington, D.C. for students with internships. Having commuted to the District from Purcellville during the summer of 2015, I sympathize. Might I recommend students investigate taking the MARC train from Brunswick,

MD? The Brunswick train stops approximately 20 minutes from campus, has a free parking lot, and reliably takes an hour and a half to arrive at Union Station. Given the current state of the WMATA metro system, it is much faster than attempting to navigate the Silver Line, more economical, and, perhaps most importantly, best suited for students seeking to use their commute time to complete their reading.

Passengers are quiet, seating is ample and comfortable, interruptions are minimal (and much less intrusive than metro announcements), and the route winds peacefully through the Maryland countryside along the Potomac. From Union Station, students have myriad of travel options, including buses, the Red Line, or a brief walk to Heritage or the Capitol, to reach their final destination. ♦



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Dancing to Single Ladies at the Freshman Dance

courtesy: Christine McDonald

#trendingatPHC

“**Hazelnut or Salted Caramel Lattes.** They are like a warm loving hug to tell you it’s all okay and then a kick to help you get going, all while disguised under foam art.”

-Caitlin Coulter

“I am a basic white girl, I love **Pumpkin Spice Lattes.** They taste like Fall in a cup!”

-Diego Lastra

“**Hot Apple Cider** is my favorite drink in the Fall because it tastes like apples and it’s comforting. Also it makes you kinda not want to cry.”

-Sequoia Poths

UPCOMING EVENTS

Freedom Sounds
Festival
Sep 23rd-25th
Washington D.C.

Opening of
National Museum of
African American History
and Culture
Sep 24th
Washington D.C.

Andrew Peterson
Benefit Concert for
Romania Reborn
Sep 23rd
7pm
Blue Ridge BC

Presidential Debate
Watch Party
Sep 26th
9:30pm
Student Lounge

“Some people have to die in order to have decent science. Sorry.”

-Dr. Haynes

[#heraldbackpage]

Have a candid pic of campus life? Post it on social media and tag us. Or send it to gmlastra811@students.phc.edu