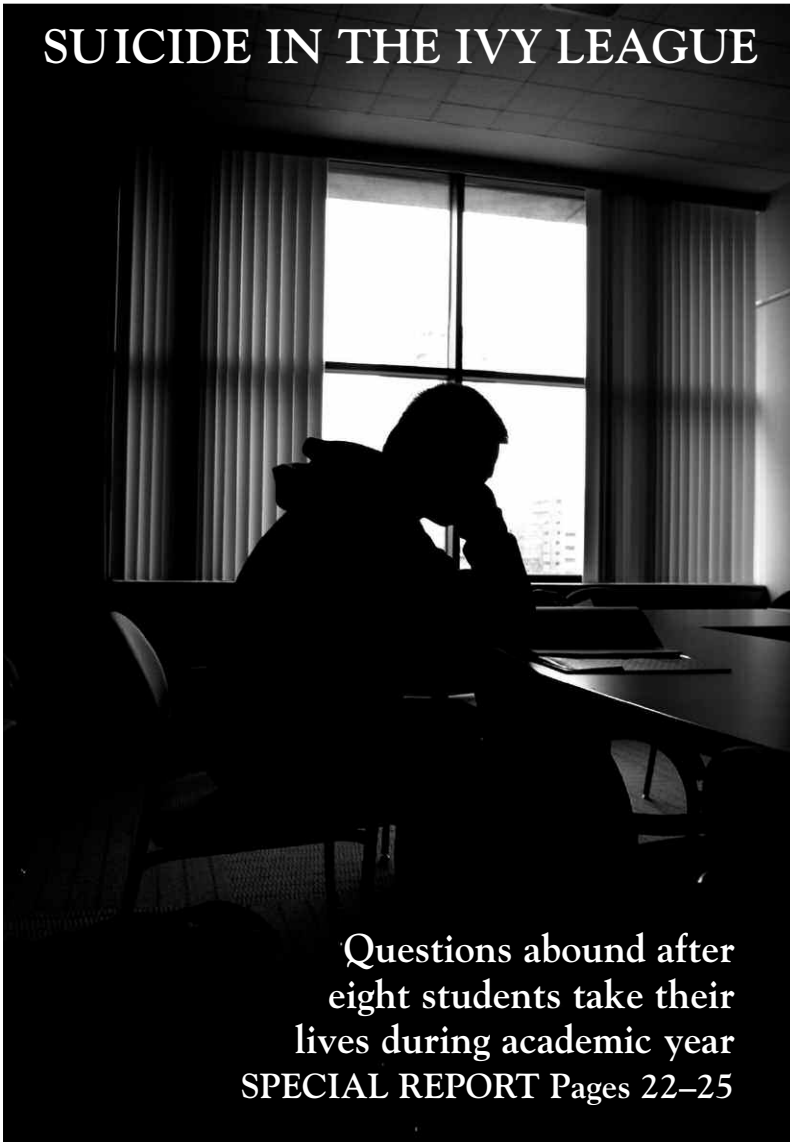


# THE IVY LEAGUE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER

## SUICIDE IN THE IVY LEAGUE



Questions abound after  
eight students take their  
lives during academic year  
SPECIAL REPORT Pages 22–25

Penn Student Glorifies God with  
Graduation Speech

Page 5

Sex Week at Yale Demeans Women

Page 7

Prayer Movement Builds  
Momentum at Columbia

Page 19

Cornell Fellowship of Christian  
Athletes Go the Distance

Page 12

Easter Egg Hunt at Brown  
Is a Sweet Outreach

Page 13

Wheelock Society Hosts  
Conference at Dartmouth

Page 14

Harvard MBA Gives Women  
a Real Choice

Page 29

Brown • Columbia • Cornell • Dartmouth  
Harvard • Penn • Princeton • Yale



Developing  
Christian Leaders to  
Transform Culture

The Ivy League Christian Observer is published by the  
Christian Union, an independent Christian ministry.

# EXPLORE THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS: THE APOSTLE PAUL'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LETTER



Martin Luther hailed Romans as the “most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian’s while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul.” If you want to know and live the Christian life, then you must know Romans. Renowned New Testament scholar Dr. Thomas R. Schreiner knows Paul and he knows Romans. Follow Schreiner over the course of twelve 30-minute lectures as he traces Paul’s thought through this masterful and sometimes perplexing epistle.

Through this course you’ll get your arms around all 16 chapters of Romans. Along with a macro-level knowledge of the letter, you’ll wrestle with some of the most difficult passages in the Bible, like Romans 9-11. You’ll be challenged by the call to live your everyday life in light of the glorious gospel that is on display in Romans. In addition to mastering the material of the book, you’ll improve your ability to interpret the Bible by learning observationally from the exegetical skill of one of the best New Testament expositors.

## THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Taught by Professor Thomas R. Schreiner, Ph.D.,  
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

### Lecture Titles

1. The Gospel and the Heart of Sin: 1:1-32
2. Sin Uncovered: 2:1-3:20
3. Salvation Accomplished: 3:21-4:25
4. Hope Secured: 5:1-21
5. Power over Sin: 6:1-23
6. The Role of the Law: 7:1-25
7. Indomitable Confidence: 8:1-39
8. God’s Faithfulness to Israel (Part One): 9:1-11:36
9. God’s Faithfulness to Israel (Part Two): 9:1-11:36
10. The New Life of Christians: 12:1-13:14
11. The Weak and the Strong: 14:1-15:13
12. The Spread of the Gospel: 15:14-16:27

This course is produced by Lifelong Discipleship Media, a ministry of the Christian Union. Lifelong Discipleship Media develops intellectually rich Christian education materials for use individually, in small groups, and Sunday School classes. Our aim is to strengthen Christians with the finest scholarship available in order to engender a habit of lifelong Christian learning for leadership development and cultural impact.

## NOW AVAILABLE

**ORDER TODAY!**

**1-866-222-0923**

**www.lifelongdiscipleship.com**



**Lifelong**  
DISCIPLESHIP MEDIA  
A ministry of CHRISTIAN UNION

### THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Course No. 1001 – 12 lectures (30 minutes/lecture)

DVD’s	<del>\$89.95</del>	<b>NOW \$44.95</b>
+ \$15 Shipping, Processing, and Lifetime Satisfaction Guarantee		
Audio CD’s	<del>\$59.95</del>	<b>NOW \$29.95</b>
+ \$10 Shipping, Processing, and Lifetime Satisfaction Guarantee		
Audio Downloads	<del>\$39.95</del>	<b>NOW \$19.95</b>
Lifetime Satisfaction Guarantee		





# DOXA

CONFERENCE 2010



Bishop Wellington Boone



Eric Metaxas



Dick Keyes

## REKINDLE & TRANSFORM

Doxa 2010 is an innovative conference designed to inspire, equip and mobilize Christians who are leaders in their professions, local churches and communities. During this two-day event, we'll gather the best leaders from business, science, the arts, ministry and many various fields. They'll share how they were able to make a difference for Christ in their own vocations. Doxa 2010 features networking, challenging content, and opportunities for collaborative action beyond the conference. We invite Ivy League alumni and any others who want to make a transformational impact in their spheres of influence to join us.

**OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2010**

FRIDAY 7PM – SATURDAY 10PM

**HILTON RYE TOWN**

RYE BROOK, NEW YORK

The beautiful 45-acre venue is 35 minutes by train from Grand Central Station.

Register today at [www.doxaconference.org](http://www.doxaconference.org)

240 NASSAU STREET  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08542

**ILCOEditor@Christian-Union.org**

Please help us get this magazine into the hands of those who want it. E-mail or write us in order to:

- pass along the names of fellow Christian alumni, parents, staff, faculty, or friends who would enjoy this quarterly update from the Ivy League universities.
- update us on any address change you have.
- be removed from the mailing list.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Matt Bennett, Cornell BS '88, MBA '89

**Managing Editor**

Tom Campisi, College of New Jersey '88

**Senior Writer**

Eileen Scott, Mount St. Mary '87

**Field Reporters**

Everett Aaron Benjamin, Penn '11

Samantha Bruno, Rutgers '11

Elyse Lee, Cornell '08

Kevin Plybon, Columbia '11

**Photo Editor**

Pam Traeger

**Letters to the Editor**

Please send us your feedback regarding events and topics described in this magazine at the e-mail or regular mail address listed above.



By God's power and the help of other ministries, the mission of Christian Union is to change the world by bringing sweeping spiritual transformation to the Ivy League universities, thereby developing and mobilizing godly Christian leadership for all sectors of society. Matt Bennett (Cornell BS '88, MBA '89) founded the ministry with friends in 2002 in Princeton, New Jersey. To learn more about the ministry, please visit [www.Christian-Union.org](http://www.Christian-Union.org).

The purpose of The Ivy League Christian Observer (this free quarterly magazine) is to inform Christian alumni, students, parents, staff, faculty, and friends of the Ivy League universities about the spiritual activity on the campuses. Our desire is that you would be encouraged to pray for these universities, give financially to Christian initiatives on the campuses, and use your influence for the cause of Christ.

# INSIDE

## ON CAMPUS

**MEETING GOD AT PRINCETON** ..... 4  
*Former Atheist Comes to Christ*

**THE SPOKEN WORD** ..... 5  
*Penn Student Glorifies God with Graduation Speech*

**SEX WEEK AT YALE** ..... 7  
*Demeaning Women in the Name of Free Expression*

**THE PERILS OF PORNOGRAPHY**..... 8  
*Lectures by Experts Warn Students*

**UNITY THROUGH WORSHIP** ..... 11  
*Night of Praise Brings Together Campus Ministries*

**GOING THE DISTANCE** ..... 12  
*Fellowship of Christian Athletes Finish Strong*

**'SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND'** ..... 13  
*Easter Egg Hunt at Brown Is a Sweet Outreach*



## INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT

**ARTICULATING A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE** ..... 14  
*Wheelock Society Hosts Inaugural Conference*

**'STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED'** ..... 15  
*Os Guinness Exhorts Princeton Students to Engage the World*

**CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF NATURE** ..... 16  
*Expert Lays out Evidences of Intentional, Orderly Design of Universe*

**ATHEIST: MEDIA ATTACKS CHRISTIANITY** ..... 18  
*Defending Faith Is 'An Issue of Democracy'*



## PRAYER POWER

- A CRY FOR UNITY** ..... 19  
*Prayer Movement Builds Momentum at Columbia*
- ‘GOD IS BIGGER THAN ALL THAT’** ..... 20  
*Prayer Warriors Battle Spiritual Darkness on Yale Campus*

## SPECIAL REPORT

- SUICIDE IN THE IVY LEAGUE.** . 22  
*Questions abound after eight students take their lives during the past academic year*

- SUICIDES AT CORNELL PROMPT CHANGES, REFLECTION** ..... 24  
*The Administration, Campus Ministries Respond to Tragedies*

## LAW AND ORDER

- UNPARALLELED INFLUENCE?**..... 33  
*Former Harvard Law School Dean Nominated to Supreme Court*
- THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN; BUT COURT WILL DECIDE**..... 34  
*Proposition 8 Lawsuits Seek to Redefine Traditional Marriage*

## ABOUT MINISTRY

- AFTER THE HEADLINES**..... 36  
*InterVarsity Event featuring Dr. Cornell West Raises Social Justice Awareness*
- SERVING THE CITY** ..... 37  
*Harvard College Faith and Action Takes Spring Break Trip to Manhattan*
- NO MAGIC KINGDOM** ..... 38  
*Spring Break Trip Is an Eye-Opening Experience*

- BRINGING ‘HOPE’ ONLINE** .....39  
*Ministry Launches Brown-specific Web site*

- ‘HOW I AM LIVING OUT MY FAITH’** .....40  
*Reunion Events Feature Moving Testimonies*

- IT’S NOT JUST POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE** ..... 42  
*Princeton Faith and Action Sends Off Seniors*



## IN PERSON

- FINDING RICHNESS OF LIFE** ..... 26  
*Wharton Alumnus Left Corporate Finance for the Priesthood*

- TRAINING UP A CHILD**..... 27  
*Couple Runs Preschool ‘For God’s Glory’*

- BOOKS SMART AND STREET SAVVY**.... 28  
*Pastor’s Life Experiences Prepare Him for Ministry*

- NURTURING NETWORK LIBERATES, EMPOWERS WOMEN** ..... 29  
*Organization Founded by Harvard MBA Provides a ‘Real Choice’*

- INFUSING A GENERATION** ..... 31  
*Author, Youth Pastor is Tenacious about Discipleship*

- RAPPING FOR GOD, FOR YALE**..... 32  
*Former Football Player Launches Tour*

## DEPARTMENTS

- NEWS-IN-BRIEF** ..... 43
- THE MISSION AND VISION OF CHRISTIAN UNION** ..... 51
- PRAYER FOR THE IVY LEAGUE** ..... 54
- IVY LEAGUE PRAYER NEEDS** ..... 55



## MEETING GOD AT PRINCETON

*Former Atheist Comes to Christ*

**P**  
PRINCETON

When Ben Farkas first started to pray in the fall semester, he felt like he was leaving messages on an answering machine—messages that might never be heard. It's the kind of rationale that might be expected from an atheist who was exploring Christianity for the first time.

Farkas, who recently graduated with a degree in philosophy and a certificate in East Asian studies, arrived on campus four years ago believing that God did not exist.

“No one ever pushed me to consider seriously the existence of God until I arrived at Princeton,” he said. “So I never did.”

Farkas followed his own belief system, which revolved around the inherent potential for goodness in humans. This provided him with strong motivations for being moral.

“That seemed consistent with everything I saw in the world, so I had no reason to believe in God,” he said.

At Princeton, Farkas enjoyed discussing and debating religious and philosophical issues with his Christian friends. So at their prodding, he joined Princeton's Religious Life Council, which explores issues relating to religion and spirituality on campus.

Farkas joined the Religious Life Council to learn what other people believed. “By this time, I had some other Christian friends, and I had become interested in understanding religious belief systems, including Christianity,” he said.

Two friends, both members of Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)), encouraged him to pray that God would show himself to him. Princeton Faith and Action is Christian Union's leadership development ministry on campus.



**Once a self-described atheist, Ben Farkas '10 is now a baptized believer.**

“I was reluctant to try because I wasn't sure I could pray to a God I didn't believe in,” he said.

Farkas tried praying as best he could, and began reading the Bible in October. “I tried praying at various points during that semester, but nothing really happened, or at least nothing that I noticed.”

He also attended PFA's weekly 802 lecture series and met regularly with Christian Union teaching fellow Dr. Chuck Hetzler. “The worship and the messages during 802

taught me about God, both on an intellectual and a spiritual level,” he said.

Justin Woyak (Princeton '09), a ministry intern with Christian Union, was impressed with his zeal and subsequent growth as a believer.

“Ben started fasting a couple weeks before he became a Christian! When I heard that, I knew it wouldn't be long before he would give his life to Jesus,” Woyak said.

At the end of winter break, Farkas had a hunger to know God after a friend from PFA began praying for him.

“Her prayer made me realize that there may well be a wealth of spiritual resources I was missing out on, so to speak. And so, then I prayed sincerely to know God for the first time,” said Farkas.

For the week that followed, Farkas and his friend prayed together every night.

“After a few days, I realized I was looking forward to praying,” he recalled. “One Saturday, I began to feel God's presence and peace during prayer. I accepted Christ the next morning.”

“I have a sense of peace now about my failures and imperfections. God has shown me the joy of devoting myself to him through the power of his spirit in prayer, and I am very grateful for that.”

*(continues)*

**“No one ever pushed me to consider seriously the existence of God until I arrived at Princeton. So I never did.”**

And while his non-believing friends were surprised by his conversion, they were accepting.

“Religious or spiritual matters are a pretty rare topic of conversation among my non-Christian friends,” he said, “but they were all completely accepting, though they didn’t agree with me. Some accepted my conversion with a shrug, while others asked more questions or argued about philosophical points.”

However, even those “arguments” served only to lead Farkas closer to God.

“The conversations I had with friends—either giving my testimony or talking about points of doctrine—have actually really helped me grow in my faith,” he said.

Part of that growth also involved being baptized on campus—something he felt strongly about: “In my mind,

the community through which God brought me to himself is the Christian community at Princeton, which includes PFA and other Christians on campus. Therefore, it was especially meaningful to be baptized in Dillon gym.”

He also continued to be steadfast with the PFA students who met each weekday at noon to pray on campus. Farkas said it’s a little scary leaving the faith community at Princeton, especially as he anticipates his future teaching English in Jishou, China.

“There will be no community waiting for me, either at home in California or in China. But I trust that God will use the next few years to grow me in my faith, and I think much of what I have learned this year will have laid the groundwork for that. It will be a challenge, though, and I guess that is as it should be.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## THE SPOKEN WORD

*Distinguished Student Glorifies God with Graduation Speech*

P  
PENN

*And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?*

*—Esther 4:14b*

The words of Mordecai plainly signify the evidence of a consecrated life, where an individual acknowledges God’s position and timeliness while submitting to His will.

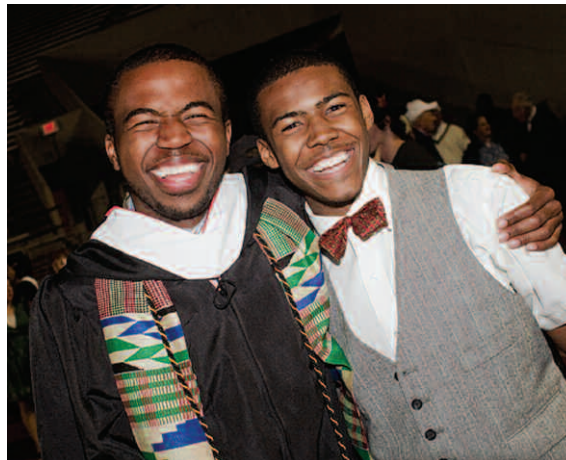
Joshua Bennett, Penn ’10, recalls the day he acknowledged the presence of God in his life. He was around the age of nine or ten and attending the Baptist Worship Center in North Philadelphia. Although they lived in Yonkers, New York, he traveled with his mother, Carrie Juanita Ballard, every couple of weeks to attend this particular church.

By his teenage years, Bennett found his voice through the efforts of Urban Word NYC, an organization that uses the spoken word and theater arts to assist inner-city youth in untraditional fashions. Using his poetic abilities, Bennett

made constant strides, winning the title of HBO’s ‘Brave New Voices’ poetry slam-champion and even performing for President Obama and the First Lady at the White House’s Evening of Poetry, Music and Spoken Word. He has often been hailed as an “exceptional individual.”

During his first few years at the University of Pennsylvania, Bennett wavered in his faith, finding comfort in the attention received from others and often falling for sexual temptation.

In a collegiate space where self-reliance is esteemed, his exceptional gifts flourished, granting him the audience of many. Not until his junior year did Bennett begin to offer himself back to the Lord, seeking to glorify God physically, academically, and even socially. Although he was once fixated on worldly gratification, he now adamantly states, “When the Lord renews you and renews your speech and everything about you, the world is going to hate you—or, at the very least, the world is



**Joshua Bennett (L), Penn ’10, gave God the glory during his graduation address to the College of Arts and Sciences.**

certainly not going to be entertained by you.”

The recent graduate majored in both English and Africana Studies and minored in History and Spanish, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. A recipient of the Marshall Scholarship, Bennett plans to study theater arts in Great Britain at the University of Warwick and later return to the U.S. to pursue PhD work in English at Princeton. The accolades continued on May 17 when he became the first African-American, faculty-selected, student speaker for the College of Arts and Sciences graduation. Yet on this remarkable day, what stood out most was how God got all the glory.

From the very first sentence of his speech, Joshua’s mother cried tears of joy. Unbeknownst to her, Ballard and the God she so diligently serves were the subjects of the evening’s address. To her left sat Bennett’s father and brother. To her right, Joshua’s Sunday school teacher, close friend, and spoken word coach of four years. As the Esther of the moment, Bennett admonished his classmates with a mantra that echoed Luke 12:48: “with great power, comes great responsibility.” He then continued with the following words:

“As someone with three disabled siblings, I have spent the better part of my young life thinking about what it means to live a life of privilege, to have access to spaces, people, and opportunities that my older sister and two brothers are barred from because they are different. They,

too, are exceptional, but not in the way that earns one a diploma, or a spot on an HBO documentary.”

Although honors and titles have labeled him “distinguished,” he said God has made him exceptional – just as God has done with each of his siblings. Reflecting on his educational career, Bennett shared how elementary school teachers urged his parents to place him in special education, insisting he could not function in the classroom with such a grand imagination.

“Defying a group of educators,” he said, “[my mother] had faith in her son’s exceptional mind, in an exceptional God that knew everything, even when she didn’t have a clue as to how everything would work out.”

Over the course of his four years at Penn, this truth has become even more apparent to him through the fervent prayers of a mother and the love of a sovereign God.

Both on stage and off, Bennett’s goal is to live in the exceptionality for which God created him, being reminded daily that he has been set apart. As a result, his most distinguishing attribute remains the outward reflection of an inward experience.

“It’s so funny how God will just reveal himself even when you are not thinking about it,” he reflected. “He has become the lens through which I view the world.”

*By Everett Aaron Benjamin, Penn '11*

**“As someone with three disabled siblings, I have spent the better part of my young life thinking about what it means to live a life of privilege, to have access to spaces, people, and opportunities that my older sister and two brothers are barred from because they are different. They too are exceptional, but not in the way that earns one a diploma, or a spot on an HBO documentary.”**



## SEX WEEK AT YALE

*Demeaning Women in the name of Free Expression**By Nathan Harden, Yale, '09*

When I first arrived at Yale, its beauty overwhelmed me. Strolling along under its high gothic towers, and listening to the sound of Carillon bells echo across the quad, I felt as though I were part of something high-minded – almost holy. It felt like a place where one could easily be inspired to contemplate, as Paul put it, “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure” (Phil 4:8).

There were times, however, when the content of the Yale education did not live up to the uplifting contours of its architecture. At no point was this truer than during Yale’s biennial series of sex-themed special events known as “Sex Week at Yale.”

The event, usually referred to around campus as “SWAY,” has taken place at Yale every other year since 2002. I first experienced Sex Week as a student. This year, I returned to cover the event as a journalist.

Sex Week is billed primarily as an educational event. Its “educational” value, however, is somewhat doubtful – that is, unless one aspires to a career as a porn star. There were more than thirty events during Sex Week 2010. Porn stars or porn producers were the featured speakers or performers in almost a third of them.

Events this year included two talks at which students were taught about the benefits of non-monogamous lifestyles, a presentation on kink and fetishism, and a graphic demonstration of erotic body piercing. At another talk, students were offered advice on how to find sexual partners online.

Corporate sponsors provide much of the funding for Sex Week, and the largest sponsor is a sex-toy company. Condoms, pornographic DVDs, and sex toys are promoted or given away as door prizes at many of the events.

At one well-attended event, a burlesque performer instructed students on oral sex techniques for more than an hour with the aid of various plastic props.



During Sex Week 2008, students were invited to attend a free screening of a pornographic film. Controversy erupted on campus due to the film’s graphic depictions of sexual violence against women. Nevertheless, this year, a violent pornographic film was once again screened in a Yale classroom. The film showed a woman being beaten, verbally assaulted, and sexually brutalized. Afterward, student volunteers were solicited for a live demonstration of sado-masochism.

In recent years, there has been a series of scandals involving the alleged sexual harassment of female students at Yale. In one such incident, fraternity pledges were photographed holding a sign that read “We Love Yale Sluts” outside the Yale Women’s Center facility. Last fall, an e-mail circulated among students entitled “Preseason Scouting Report,” which included photographs of newly admitted freshman girls, and ranked them on the basis of their sexual desirability. Mary Miller, the Dean of Yale College, published a letter to students calling the latter incident an “assault on our community values.”

Given the Yale administration’s outspoken disapproval of such incidents, one would think the university’s “community values” would be affronted by images of women being stripped, chained, and sexually brutalized by men. But it isn’t the case. I know because I asked Dean Miller myself.

In an email message, I asked Dean Miller whether she thought Sex Week received adequate oversight from the university administration. I also asked her whether she felt it was appropriate for students to participate in sado-masochistic exercises with guest lecturers in Yale classrooms. Finally, I asked if she was concerned that such episodes might send the wrong message to students about Yale’s attitude toward sexual violence.

I received the following response through a university spokesman:

Sex Week at Yale (SWAY) is a student organized and student produced series of events. SWAY is not a registered student organization and is not spon-

**“Sex Week offers a clear example of just how arbitrary the notion of “free expression” is at Yale.”**

sored, sanctioned or funded by Yale College or Yale University. While the administration may find aspects of SWAY distasteful or offensive, Yale's policies on free expression permit students to invite the widest range of speakers, politicians, writers and performers to campus.

Contrary to this statement, the university did, in fact, provide grant funds to pay for Sex Week's printed materials. This I learned from an interview with Colin Adamo, the student director of Sex Week.

According to the official statement, live sadomasochistic performances and the screening of violent pornography fall squarely under the university's definition of "free expression." But many students and observers believe that Sex Week takes the notion of "free expression" too far.

Graduating senior Margaret Blume explained how Sex Week promotes unhealthy views of women. "Just having this message bombarded: 'This is how you get it, this is how you should get it' – that naturally makes women feel more like an object. And if you know that all the guys are going to these talks just to learn how they can get pleasure, then you know that that's how they're going to look at you in a relationship."

Sex Week offers a clear example of just how arbitrary the notion of "free expression" is at Yale. Yale would never agree to host a "White Supremacy Week." The administration would rightly refuse to facilitate a racially threatening atmosphere on campus.

Yet, when it comes to Sex Week, the university cultivates an environment of extreme sexual excess, even though some of its own female students feel demeaned and objectified by its lewd and pornographic content.

Sex Week at Yale sends the message to students that women are to be valued as objects of desire, and that treating them with violence is simply another form of "free expression." In this case, "free expression" looks a lot like moral relativism.

By refusing to restrict the graphic content of Sex Week, Yale administrators have shown that their commitment to free expression outweighs their concern for the wellbeing and dignity of women.

*Nathan Harden blogs about higher education at National Review Online. He is currently writing a memoir about his experiences there as an ideological outsider.*

## THE PERILS OF PORNOGRAPHY

*Experts Warn Students with Lectures, Counter Appearance by 'Adult' Film Director*



Some psychologists compare the addictiveness of Internet pornography to crack cocaine.

That was one of the top messages from Mary Anne Layden, a clinical psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania, when she spoke to students on April 23 at Princeton University.

Far from being a harmless practice, pornography leads to addiction, misogyny, pedophilia, marital stress, and even sexual dysfunction, Layden said. The Anscombe Society ([www.princeton.edu/anscombe](http://www.princeton.edu/anscombe)) hosted Layden, in part, to offer counter perspectives to a scheduled appearance of feminist pornographer Tristan Taormino on April 30 at Princeton.

Despite being rejected in its bid to establish a chastity center at Princeton in

the fall, the Anscombe Society continues to warn students about the dangers of immoral lifestyles.

During her lecture entitled, "My Life as a Feminist Pornographer," Taormino showed clips from her adult films. The campus group Let's Talk Sex hosted Taormino as well as a counter appearance by Pamela Paul, Brown '93. The journalist and author spoke on "Why Porn Is Anti-Sex" on April 8. Inexplicably, it was the second appearance at Princeton for Taormino this academic year.



**Pornographer Tristan Taormino spoke to Princeton students as part of a "lecture" hosted by the campus organization Let's Talk Sex.**

Both Paul and Layden highlighted the highly addictive nature of Internet porn and its exponential growth in the homes and workplaces of this country. Paul is the author of *Pornified*, an expose on the far-reaching impact of the pornography culture.

## “Porn addicts have a tougher time than drug addicts recovering from their habit because prurient images can imbed in their brains forever.”

Internet porn is especially overpowering because it allows users to be anonymous while viewing images they later describe as arousing and intoxicating.

Indeed, porn addicts have a tougher time than drug addicts recovering from their habit because prurient images can imbed in their brains forever. “Men said they got images in their heads and then couldn’t get them out,” said Paul.

Also, the impact of porn on the brain mirrors the intense emotional, biological, and chemical connections associated with heroin or crack cocaine use.

Pornographic material can be especially intoxicating because sexual activity leads the brain to release a tidal wave of endorphins and other neurochemicals that produce a powerful rush, according to psychologists.

“Sex is incredibly potent,” said Layden, director of Penn’s sexual trauma program and a national porn opponent.

In addition, consumption of sexually explicit material is progressive, and it leads to behavior that can threaten careers and marriages, both Layden and Paul noted.

Careers at all levels can be toppled by reckless – and easily detected – porn use while on the job.

The issue made headlines this spring when a government report found that some senior employees of the Securities and Exchange Commission spent hours on the agency’s computers perusing adult sites while a series of high-profile financial crises, including the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme, were unfolding.

An investigation found 31 serious offenders during the past two and a half years; 17 of those were senior officers commanding impressive salaries. In all, employees and contractors tried to access adult Web sites on government computers at least 8,273 times, according to news reports.

A supervisor also admitted to saving numerous sexual images to his work hard drive and acknowledged that his indiscretions may have interfered with his job, according to ABCNews.com.

Along those lines, human resources experts say the problem of porn in the workplace has become widespread.

A recent survey showed that 28 percent of the people who used a work computer to access the Internet visited an adult site in February, according to news reports.

Those findings matched trends reported by Paul, who also noted that porn users hail from all backgrounds and faiths. “Most people would start with the mellow stuff and move on,” she said.

Despite their compulsive behavior, the users consider themselves to be normal, and many remain in denial about the consequences to their marriage, family, and career, Paul said.

In addition, Paul’s research revealed that virtually all porn users differentiate between themselves and other porn users whom they consider to be worse offenders. They especially disdain child-porn consumers.

Given the far-reaching consequences of porn, Layden left students with some serious warnings for their personal lives. She also called for a rally against the ginormous, cash-fueled porn industry.

“My suggestion is don’t use porn. Don’t date people who use porn. Don’t marry people who use porn,” Layden said. “Porn is just sexual junk food.”

More importantly, “it is my decision to tell every pornographer that they will never have the comfort of my silence again,” she said.

Layden was part of the consultation team that recently released, “The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations.” The study was presented by the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton (see sidebar).

Students who attended Layden’s campus lecture were moved by warnings about the data of pornography to individuals and society.

Layden was part of the consultation team that recently released, “The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations.” The study was presented by the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton (see sidebar).

Indeed, students who attended Layden’s campus lecture were moved by warnings about the data of pornography to individuals and society.

*(continues)*



“It was extremely powerful to have a professional voice stand up in this area,” said Brandon McGinley ’10.

While some may dismiss porn-usage as harmless to others, McGinley noted Layden made powerful arguments as to the ultimate harm to marital relationships and families – and the overall degradation to women.

Lauren Kustner ’11 agreed, adding that Layden made a strong point that porn users are more likely associate violence with sexual activity.

“People need to recognize that porn is a real problem,” she said. “This is not a fringe issue. It really affects everyone.”

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## THE SOCIAL COSTS OF PORNOGRAPHY

*The Witherspoon Institute Releases Landmark Study*

I  
ALL IVY

*Editor’s note: The following story was written by the Evangelical Press News Service. Reprinted with permission.*

A growing body of research suggests that the habitual use of pornography—especially Internet pornography—can damage people of all ages and both sexes, negatively impacting their relationships, productivity, happiness, and their ability to function in society. These are among the social costs of pornography, according to a report by The Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J.

In late March, The Witherspoon Institute released “The Social Costs of Pornography: A Statement of Findings and Recommendations.” The consultation was the first multifaceted, multidisciplinary, scholarly exploration of pornography since the advent of the Internet.

“Since the beginning of the Internet age, pornography has been consumed in greater quantities than ever before in human history, and its content has grown more graphic,” says Mary Eberstadt, research fellow of the Hoover Institution. “Recent research suggests that pornography consumption—especially consumption of a more hard-core or violent sort—has negative effects on individuals and society. Widespread pornography consumption appears to pose a serious challenge to public health and to personal and familial well-being.”

The scholars who worked on the study likened their work to the “efforts undertaken by health officials and other professionals concerned about tobacco use in the years before the Surgeon General’s milestone 1964 report on that issue.”

“Then as now, health professionals with the aid of scholars and other authorities took the lead in starting what turned out to be a dramatic, long-term turnaround on the consensus about a substance regarded by many Americans

as harmless...Decades later...smoking has been largely stigmatized and curtailed. Few would argue that society is worse off for that dramatic change in personal behavior.”

Mary Anne Layden, director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program, Center for Cognitive Therapy, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, noted that the overall body of research indicates that the re-

alistic and accessible nature of Internet pornography can lead to addiction that is so severe that users lose their marriages, families, and jobs.

Norman Doidge, M.D., of Columbia University’s Center for Psychoanalytic Training, noted that by offering an endless harem of sexual objects, “Pornography hyperactivates the appetitive system.”

“Porn viewers develop new maps in their brains, based on the photos and videos they see. Because it is a use-it-or-lose-it brain, when we develop a map area, we long to keep it activated. Just as our muscles become impatient for exercise if we’ve been sitting all day, so, too, do our senses hunger to be stimulated.”

The compilation of the consultation resulted in eight findings documenting the ubiquity of pornography, the qualitative difference in today’s pornography, and its harmful effects on women, children, users, and society at large.

More than 50 academic signatories—representing a sweeping range of religious and political views—endorsed the document, concluding that, “With concerted action from legislators, the therapeutic community, educators, policy-makers, and responsible corporate leaders, some of the negative effects of pornography consumption can be combated.”

*The entire study can be viewed online at [www.socialcostsofpornography.com](http://www.socialcostsofpornography.com).*



## UNITY THROUGH WORSHIP

*Night of Praise Brings Together Campus Ministries*

**B**

BROWN

The Unite With Love Tour came to Brown this spring and brought with it a message of unity for all Christians.

Unite With Love consists of acoustic artist Karen Spurlock and The Turn Around, a rock-oriented band.

“The tour’s purpose is to tear down the walls that separate different ‘brands’ of Christianity, bringing everyone together in worship,” said Derek Vance ’12 of College Hill for Christ at Brown ([www.college-hillforchrist.com](http://www.college-hillforchrist.com)).

While both artists would fit under the genre of contemporary Christian music, they appeal to a broader demographic. The Turn Around has opened for the Grammy-nominated band After Edmund, Run Kid Run, Group One Crew, and Seventh Time Down, and has toured much of the eastern United States between Florida and Ohio.

In addition to the music, breakout sessions were also held during the event. Scott Yi, Brown ’05, was the speaker for the event, and Spurlock held a time of prayer with students.

The event was organized by College Hill for Christ (CHC) in an effort to reach out to the Brown community in a creative way and to bring together Christians from the various ministries on campus. It was also designed to appeal to non-Christians as well, said Vance.

According to Vance, the hope is to “spark a desire between Christians at Brown to work more closely together than they have in the past.” While Christian students at Brown come together annually for a “Unified Praise Night,” there is still a need to bring home the message of unity on campus, says Vance.

“Christ calls us to be unified,” he said. “We cannot let our minor denominational differences stand in the way of working together in ministering to the lost.”

Additionally, Vance said a seeming increase in the num-

ber of campus ministries can also be a challenge to having a unified body.

“It seems like the Christian community at Brown is becoming less and less unified as time goes by,” he said. “I’ve heard that in the last decade, the number of Christian ministries has doubled, and that the general mindset is that if one cannot find a ministry one likes, the course of action is to start a new one. While this isn’t necessarily a bad thing, as different ministries can reach different people, the sheer numbers make bringing everyone together more and more difficult.”

And so, through the Unite with Love Tour, Vance and Christian peers on campus were able to come together in unity of worship and get to know one another better. “I feel that through this event I have developed deeper relationships with members of other Brown fellowships, primarily Athletes in Action at

[www.athletesinaction.org](http://www.athletesinaction.org),” said Vance.

Others were also uplifted by the event. Anna Hsu, Brown ’10, said, “I was encouraged. I think, overall, the music was great, the format was great, and the topic was great.” Sthefany Alviar ’12 agreed. “The performance was amazing and the band was awesome. That night just summed up the whole day for me: praising God for the day of rest He gave me.”

Ultimately, coming together to give praise to God is what the event was all about. “Unity may not mean having only one Christian ministry on campus, but it can mean having all of the ministries working together to accomplish the same goal, instead of working independently,” said Vance.

That’s particularly important in a relativistic environment, where Vance says the most common response to discussions about Christ during outreach is, “I’m glad this Jesus guy works for you, but he just isn’t for me.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*



**College Hill for Christ recently helped sponsor the Unite with Love music tour, which sought to foster unity among Christians.**

## GOING THE DISTANCE

*Fellowship of Christian Athletes Finish Strong*



From midnight wiffle ball games in a local Wal-Mart parking lot to service projects in Memphis, Tennessee, the Ithaca College/Cornell University Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) enjoyed an active, productive year of ministry.

Abigail Marlow, a recent Cornell graduate and president of FCA's leadership team, looked back over her time with pride and recounted how the ministry evolved.

"Especially looking back as a senior, it is awesome to reflect on not only the past few months, but really the past few years."

"FCA's goal is to create opportunities on a secular campus for Christian individuals to get to know one another and be encouraged in their faith; to serve Christ in our relationships with one another. We especially hope to appeal to athletes, but do not limit ourselves to that populace alone."

In an effort to create a fun, interactive activity, FCA has a midnight league where students meet to play wiffle ball in the parking lot of a local Wal-Mart on Friday nights before heading to a diner. The games provide an alternative to other weekend activities that most college students partake in.

"One week we ended up having five high school boys stop by and play with us. It was awesome. They joined us for prayer at the end of the game, and we got to know them a little...It's so much fun and hopefully it is bringing glory to God," Marlow said.

Over Spring Break, FCA took a service trip to Memphis. Approximately 10 FCA students worked in poor neighborhoods and helped build houses. The ministry has taken a number of service trips over the last couple of years, including ones to South Carolina and even overseas.

"The kids benefit just as much as the people getting work

done on their houses," said Tom Howley, the faculty advisor for Cornell/Ithaca FCA.

Over the course of the last academic year, FCA has forged a partnership with Renovation House, a Christian rehabilitation center for men addicted to drugs and alcohol. Renovation House is located in Spencer, New York, about 30 minutes from Ithaca. FCA invited the men of Renovation House to visit and tour campus and tailgate at sporting events.

According to Pastor Manny Archilla, director of Renovation House, some graduates of his program have attended FCA meetings and fellowshipped with the group.

"It is absolutely beneficial to the guys who are seeing different aspects of college life," he said. Renovation House has two graduates of the program and two residents in the transition house getting ready to start college in a few weeks, "so being around the higher education atmosphere and seeing how it works has been helpful."

Howley has taught classes at Renovation House and is looking to continuing the relationship between the two ministries.

"This is an opportunity for FCA kids to meet them and establish a connection," he said. "Everyone is really enjoying the fellowship."

FCA's spring semester included a Super Bowl party, bonfire, scavenger hunt, a Casting Crowns concert in Binghamton, and an end-of-the-year picnic.

In addition to all the excitement of the past year and the activities that have taken place, FCA has made a real commitment to reflecting and evaluating their Leadership Team's dedication to creating a place where people can fellowship with other people of faith. And there is a high expectation for next year.

"We talked a lot recently about not losing the passion for prayer and creating events that serve Christ, not ourselves or our own ambitions," said Marlow.

*By Samantha Bruno, Contributing Writer*



**Ithaca College/Cornell University Fellowship of Christian Athletes reached out to their campuses and community in a variety of ways this past academic year.**



**'SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND'***Easter Egg 'Hunt' at Brown Is a Sweet Outreach***B**  
BROWN

With Easter falling on the last day of spring break at Brown, members of College Hill for Christ ([www.collegehillforchrist.com](http://www.collegehillforchrist.com)) were concerned that the glory of Christ's resurrection would be overlooked by students more concerned with getting back to campus and gearing up for the next wave of academics.

"Usually, Christians [on campus] would invite non-Christians to church on Easter," explained Lisa Gomi '10, who is with College Hill for Christ (CHC). "But since folks were just getting back, a lot of the personal outreach wasn't able to happen."

So while many slept on Easter night, roughly ten students spent hours filling 3,000 plastic eggs with chocolate and scripture verses and placing the eggs around campus where returning students would find them on Monday morning.

The purpose of the Easter Egg Outreach was three-fold, according to Gomi.

First, she said the eggs served to remind the students of Easter. "CHC thought that the Monday after Easter could be an opportunity to be a light in people's lives by cheering them up and giving them the Gospel," she said.

Secondly, CHC hoped to incite conversation and curiosity among the students by providing them with exposure to the Word of God and an avenue for discussion. Thirdly, she said she and her fellow ministry team members strived for high visibility and a campus-wide impact by making it "irresistible for students not to grab [an egg]."

It took the CHC students roughly four hours—from 8 p.m. until midnight—just to stuff the eggs with chocolate, a note about grace and how Jesus Christ died to save the world from sin, and a scripture verse from Ephesians. The students then fanned out two-by-two across the campus in the pre-dawn hours of Monday morning to conspicuously "hide" the eggs so they would be discovered by the students later in the morning. Each CHC student distributed about 500 eggs. "We hardly slept," said Gomi.

The student response to the initiative varied, according to Gomi. "We saw some people grab the candy but throw away the egg and the paper, and we also saw people who took it with them," she said.

CHC also had a table set up on the main green to an-

swer questions about the notes contained inside the eggs, and some people did stop by.

With such a wide-reaching event, it's difficult to determine the initial impact of the outreach. However, Gomi is content to leave the ultimate results in God's hands.

"The event reminded me that ministry cannot be results oriented," she said. "I need to have faith that God is working in peoples' lives. When we spread the Gospel in this unorthodox way, it does have power. God will use this in some way to bring people at Brown to Christ. That's what made me most satisfied."

Gomi, who received Christ as her savior while attending a CHC retreat, can identify with students who may be seeking something more.

"I was very much someone who wanted to succeed, but during my freshman year I felt that wasn't enough," she said. "Life seemed very tiring to just keep working for financial security. I was seeking,

trying to figure out my own spiritual life."

Then after speaking with Brodi Herb, ministry director with CHC, "the power behind the Gospel really hit me," she said. "I haven't looked back."

But her experience of conversion on campus resonates with her peers who are eager to hear her story when they realize she wasn't a Christian when she arrived in Providence.

While, according to Gomi, Brown tends to be a place of "tolerance" in that students are willing to hear what Christians have to say about the Gospel, once it comes to making an active choice for Christ, she says most say, "no thanks."

"Most students don't feel that they have a need for the Gospel. They derive worth from their performance in academics and extracurricular [activities] and the pursuit of success. To them, the Gospel represents something that doesn't help with those immediate goals. They don't see the relevance," said Gomi.

And so, it is the hope of Gomi and her fellow Christians that through their efforts to brighten up the day for returning students, they will also inspire hearts to hear the Gospel message of love and forgiveness and make that active choice to say "yes" to Jesus Christ.

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*



**Approximately 3,000 Easter eggs containing candy and a scripture were distributed by College Hill for Christ at Brown.**

## ARTICULATING A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

*Wheelock Society Hosts Inaugural Conference*

Faith and reason can work harmoniously in the academy.

That was one of the key messages presented during a conference by a new organization dedicated to encouraging students to consider a biblical worldview during their studies at Dartmouth College.

More than 250 people recently attended The Wheelock Conference on Integrating Faith, Reason, and Vocation on April 24 at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

The event featured twenty-five distinguished alumni and fifteen leading scholars who spoke during panel discussions on topics ranging from healthcare to creative arts. Other topics included business, law, and social services.

"Dartmouth students desire to see how faith and reason can be integrated into one's full experience," said Andrew Schuman '10, who serves on the board of directors for the newly formed Eleazar Wheelock Society.

The society's inaugural conference attracted a variety of students, staffers, alumni, and community members. Panelists shared their personal, professional, and spiritual backgrounds and offered perspectives on topics such as the coexistence of faith and science.

"There is definitely an interest in hearing and seeing this perspective," Schuman said. "The alums really enjoyed coming back and articulating with the students. There were some pretty high-profile alumni who came back."

Among them was Kadita Tshibaka (Dartmouth '70, T '71), former chief executive officer of Opportunity International, which provides small-business loans, savings, insurance, and training to individuals and groups in developing countries. He currently serves on its board of directors.

Tshibaka, the conference's keynote speaker, was raised in poverty in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He spent thirty-three years with Citibank, eventually serving as head of corporate credit risk for emerging markets.

Conference organizers said they are trying to determine the timing and frequency of future Wheelock conferences.

A group of alumni, students, and staff formally established the Wheelock Society in fall 2009. The non-profit

organization supports Christian efforts on the Dartmouth campus, including the student publication of *The Dartmouth Apologia: A Journal of Christian Thought*.

In particular, the alumni wanted to back students in their efforts to "articulate a Christian perspective in the academic community in an intellectually rigorous way," said Tessa Winter '09, Wheelock Society administrator. "You're speaking to the academy in the language of the academy."

Students published the inaugural issue of *The Dartmouth Apologia* in spring 2007 to promote intellectual perspectives that reflect Christianity. Winter, who served as production manager and special features editor, plans to enter Dartmouth Medical

School in the fall. Schuman, the publication's founding editor, plans to work part-time for the Wheelock Society before pursuing seminary training.

"Some alumni got really excited about this and thought about how they could help this movement go forward," said Winter. "The alumni have resources that the students don't have."

Indeed, Dartmouth alumni are passionate about "reaching back" to students involved with key causes. "This is typical behavior of Dartmouth for Christian alumni," said



**The Eleazar Wheelock Society embraced the name of Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College, because of his commitment to the biblical worldview as a robust and rational foundation for all of life and learning.**

**"Dartmouth students desire to see how faith and reason can be integrated into one's full experience."**

Greg Fairbrothers '76, an adjunct professor of business administration.

In addition to supporting Christian students, a key goal of the Wheelock Society is to encourage them to consider the integration of faith into their personal, professional, and academic spheres.

"We're trying to open the door, to deconstruct all of the secular defenses," said Fairbrothers, a founding director of the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network and a former oil and gas industry executive.

Along those lines, founders of the Wheelock Society want to create a network of Christian alumni to mentor students who are seeking advice on spiritual and vocational issues. Additionally, the organization wants to support student initiatives to probe historic Christian thought and ethics and their relationships to academia and vocational development.

"We're also very focused relationally, connecting alumni and students," said Fairbrothers. "One of the big hungers on campus is for relationship, not just content."

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## 'STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED'

*Os Guinness Exhorts Princeton Students to Engage the World*



There's never been a more difficult era for believers — especially youthful ones — to be in the world but not of it.

That was one of the key messages from renowned author and scholar Os Guinness when he spoke at Princeton Faith and Action's 802 Lecture Series on April 23. Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)) is Christian Union's leadership development ministry on campus.

During the academic year, 802 featured such renowned speakers as Darrell Bock, a New Testament scholar and research professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary; Drayton Nabers (Princeton '62), former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court; and author David Bryant, also known as "the father of the modern prayer movement."

"Make sure you have the needed tools to grapple with the modern world," Guinness told students who packed an auditorium in Frist Campus Center.

"You've always got to assess the world, engage the world, and change the world. Our world is moving faster."

Despite the frenetic pace of academic deadlines and instant communications, young Christians need to be grounded in Scriptures. Such study should produce the type of biblical convictions necessary to survive and even thrive in a culture that is riddled with

lethal distortions of the Christian faith, Guinness said.

In addition, Guinness emphasized the importance of spiritual, societal, and scholarly awareness.

Young believers need to be "really skilled with the history of ideas," said Guinness, who holds a doctorate in social sciences from Oxford University. "If you want to understand an idea, you want to understand its family tree, its genealogy and DNA."

Indeed, Guinness sports an international reputation as a social critic and prolific Christian author. The great-great grandson of the famed Dublin brewery founder is also a senior fellow of the EastWest Institute and co-founder of the Trinity Forum, a leadership academy based in Washington, D.C., and London.

Since relocating to the United States in 1984, he has been a guest scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a guest scholar and visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution.

During his visit to Princeton, Guinness warned students that Christians should be aware that the church of the Western world is "profoundly worldly."

In short, "we have fallen captive to the very world we helped create," Guinness said.

Many believers in Western society need a "reaffirmation of what it means to be a Christian and evangelical," Guinness said.



**Author and scholar Os Guinness spoke to members of Princeton Faith and Action this April, telling students "There's never been a harder era for believers."**



## “We have fallen captive to the very world we helped create.”

ness said. “To be an evangelical is to be someone who defines their faith and life by the good news of Jesus Christ.”

As well, Christians need to be equally cognizant of the sweeping transformations that are reshaping culture, including the spread of modernity across the globe.

Guinness argued that Americanism is no longer synonymous with modernism. “There’s American modernity, Asian modernity, European modernity, etc,” he said.

On a related note, there also has been a significant spiritual shift from the Western world to the Southern Hemisphere. “Thank God for what is going on,” Guinness said.

In addition to having an awareness of awakenings across the planet, young Christians need to be prepared to engage in spiritual warfare.

“The other thing we need is prayer and knowing how to engage supernaturally. For centuries, Christians knew the invisible world was more real than other worlds,” Guinness said. “Christians have been deeply secularized.”

Likewise, modern Christians lack the deep-rooted faith found in previous eras.

“The church always faces greater challenges from prosperity,” Guinness said. “The modern world needs to shift from a fragmentation of faith to an integration of faith.”

He noted that today’s Christians have internalized a shift from the recognition of authority to the idolization of individual preference. They also practice cafeteria-style Christianity, essentially picking and choosing components to embrace or shun, he said.

Guinness also told students that believers should realize that modern communications make receptivity to Christian concepts more difficult.

“Everybody is speaking – nobody is listening,” Guinness said. “There is incredible noise.”

Believers who share Christ’s Gospel “need the power of the Holy Spirit,” Guinness said. “Don’t fall into the [illusion] that we are in the world of ‘communication.’ We’re in a world where evangelism is easier, but discipleship is harder.”

Ultimately, Guinness told the Princeton students that they are strategically situated to carry their faith across the world as ambassadors.

“Before you leave Princeton, go deep into your faith,” Guinness said. “Look out into this amazing world. Then, move out and discern it – assess it and engage it.”

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF NATURE

*Expert Lays Out Evidences of Intentional, Orderly Design of Universe*



The remarkable orderliness of the universe coupled with the precision of its governing physical laws make it virtually impossible to believe it was formed by a series of cosmic accidents.

That was one of the key messages from Walter Bradley, an engineering professor at Baylor University and noted expert on Intelligent Design. Bradley spoke on the scientific evidence for the existence of God at Princeton University on March 25.

The lecture, held in McCosh Hall, was sponsored by Christian Union’s leadership development ministries, Princeton Graduate Faith and Action and Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)), along with Princeton Evangelical Fellowship ([www.princeton.edu/~pef](http://www.princeton.edu/~pef)), Graduate

Christian Fellowship ([www.princeton.edu/~ivgrad](http://www.princeton.edu/~ivgrad)), and Faculty Commons ([www.clm.org](http://www.clm.org)).

Bradley candidly told students “one cannot prove or disprove the existence of God.” Rather, he encouraged students to consider implications from the “nature of nature.” That is, cosmology, physics, and chemistry suggest the universe was designed as an “ideal habitat” for complex, conscious life.

A noted expert, Bradley has spent more than twenty years presenting scientific evidence that points to an intelligent design of the universe. Drawing from his own background as an engineering professor, Bradley told Princeton students that engineers begin the design process with a needs assessment. They base their work on natural laws and

the conditions that come into play for their project.

Likewise, a reflection of the conditions of the universe shows that it was designed to form a suitable environment for life—and the interplay of the specific conditions are far too complex to be the result of happenstance.

As such, Bradley has identified at least thirty-five requirements for a universe to support complex, conscious life; each are satisfied with remarkable precision.

One of the key requirements is order. The orderliness of the rotation of the planets and the predictability of the seasons in the known universe do just that – they suggest thoughtful orderliness.

A universe that supports life also requires elemental diversity and sufficient chemical stability. Both are necessary to build complex molecules that carry out essential life functions, including processing energy, storing information, and replicating, according to Bradley.

A universe of just hydrogen and helium will not work, he said. More importantly, a universe that supports life requires a “universal connector,” an element possessing the chemical property that permits it to react readily with most other elements and form bonds. Carbon is the only element in the periodic chart that satisfies such requirements, Bradley said.

Likewise, a universe with life needs a “universal solvent.” Chemical reactions are “too slow in the solid state, and complex life would not likely be sustained as a gas,” Bradley said. Thus, the universe needs a “liquid element or compound that readily dissolves both the reactants and the reaction products essential to living systems,” Bradley said. In short, it needs a liquid with the properties of water, he said.

A universe containing life also needs a stable source of energy with sufficient – but not extreme – levels to sustain

living systems. It also needs a means of transporting energy from the source.

“The energy from the sun is very well suitable to the life forms we have on planet earth,” Bradley said.

In addition, a planet that supports life needs to be terrestrial, rather than gaseous. It also needs a temperature range that maintains both oceans of solvents and continents to nurture life. The planet also needs protection from destructive forces such as radiation and asteroids.

“Trying to have a suitable universe with the right properties – and a suitable place within that universe with the right conditions is, in fact, fairly challenging,” Bradley said.

Bradley contended that mathematics captures the precise nature of the fundamental laws at the heart of the universe. They include the speed of light, the gravity-force constant, the unit charge for the electron or proton, and electromagnetic coupling constants.

Recent research shows that small changes in any of the formulas behind the constants that rule the universe “produce rather draconian changes in the nature of nature that make it very inhospitable to the possibility of complex, conscious life,” Bradley said.

Students who attended the lecture said their faith was bolstered. “Dr. Bradley did a great job of laying out the exact physical laws that allow us to have an inhabitable earth as we do,” said David Kurz ’12, an ecology and evolutionary biology major.

Kurz also commended Bradley for explaining how slight variations in the physical laws mean “human life wouldn’t exist.”

For Bradley, the evidence points to the brilliance and handiwork of a Creator. “We don’t live in an accidental universe but in one carefully crafted for our benefit,” Bradley said.

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*



**Walter Bradley, intelligent design expert and engineering professor at Baylor University, addressed the Princeton community about the scientific evidence for the existence of God.**

**A reflection of the conditions of the universe shows that it was designed to form a suitable environment for life—and the interplay of the specific conditions are far too complex to be the result of happenstance.**

# ATHEIST: CHRISTIANS MUST STAND AGAINST MEDIA ATTACKS

*Defending Faith Is 'An Issue of Democracy'*



Calling for Christians to take a stand is not a unique message. However, in *Losing Our Religion*, by S.E. Cupp, Cornell '00, the rallying cry for Christians to oppose assaults from the “liberal” media is coming from someone who doesn’t believe in God.

Cupp, a self-described atheist, takes to task the mainstream media for relinquishing their responsibility as an unbiased advocate of truth, and admonishes Christians for relinquishing their rights to freely express their beliefs. And that, she says, is an affront to all Americans.

“No matter what you believe, and how fervently you believe it, this particular war on God, just the latest in a string since the Enlightenment, is a war against all Americans—religious, atheist, and secular—not because of whom it targets, but because of who’s behind it,” she writes.

Additionally, she states, “Targeting faith is targeting democracy, and that’s something that should make every American deeply concerned for the future.”

While political in its use of “liberal” and “conservative,” Cupp’s message to Orthodox Christians is clear: stand strong against the “mainstream” media or be marginalized.

From the attack against Christmas to the bias on moral issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage, Cupp gives examples of how Christians are belittled and negated by the media.

She references NBC’s spiritual neutering of the Christian children’s show *Veggie Tales*. The network edited out all mention of God and religion as well as the phrase, “Remember, kids, God made you special and he loves you very much.”

On more than one occasion, she names Cornell alumnus Keith Olberman ’79 for his bias against Christians.

“And in the case of opinion journalists like Keith Olbermann, you are being twice disserved: once when he gives you only half the story, and again when he attacks Christian America, not on the merits of their positions, but

simply because they are Christian,” writes Cupp. “That isn’t an opinion—that’s just bigotry. And it’s the very accusation Olbermann and the rest of the liberal press levies against Christian America.”

In discussing how the media uses religion as a political tool, Cupp references a quote by Dinesh D’Souza (Dartmouth ’83), who said, “On the left, you can be a believer if it never informs actual morality. So liberals can say, ‘My faith compels me to combat global warming,’ and that’s okay. But if they said, ‘My faith compels me to oppose abortion,’ that isn’t. Liberals have to reassure other liberals—in the media especially—that they’re insincere about their religious convictions, and that they’re only opportunistically using religion for political purposes.”

Cupp accuses Christians of all party affiliations of being asleep at the wheel.

“Christians have been noticeably absent in their outrage at the media, which is frankly more influential than any president could be alone,” writes Cupp. “Christians, regularly the targets of vitriolic and intolerant mainstream press, continue to watch MSNBC and CNN, continue to buy *Newsweek* and *Time* magazine, continue to subscribe to the *New York Times*, continue

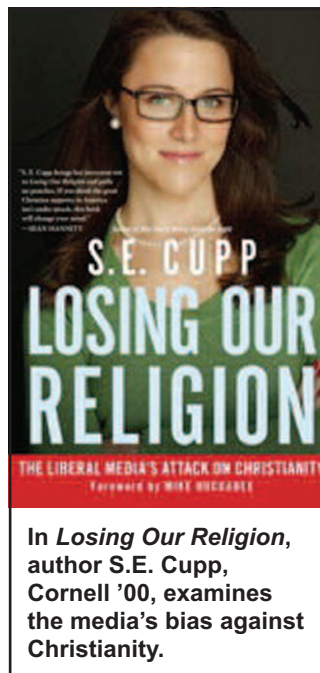
to click on the Huffington Post and Salon.com, somehow either able to separate these attacks from the news they are hoping to get, or maybe just unaware of them entirely.”

As a result, this sharp-witted atheist is sounding the call to encourage complacent Christians to wage a counter-revolution to the media assaults.

Of the media she writes, “It’s advancing its own secular revolution against you loudly, quickly, haphazardly, viciously, impolitely, duplicitously, and openly.”

And of Christians she asks, “What about your revolution? Remember, all it takes is faith and a plan of action.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*





## A CRY FOR UNITY

*Prayer Movement Builds Momentum at Columbia*



It's a new season of prayer and unity for ministries at Columbia.

Over the last half of the spring semester, students from InterVarsity, Korean Campus Crusade, Columbia Students for Christ, Remnant Christian Fellowship, and University Bible Fellowship started new prayer teams and renewed their commitment to uniting the body of Christ on campus.

Rebecca Fuller '11, a member of InterVarsity, traces the beginning of this movement to two key events during the semester. The first, an inter-campus prayer and worship night held at Columbia in March, showed the need to come together and work to advance God's kingdom. "We listened to God and asked him what he wanted for our campuses," Fuller says, "and at the end of the night, all the groups got back together and shared, and a lot of people thought that God was saying we need to be united in prayer."

The second event, called One Cry, was a citywide gathering of students to worship and pray for revival on their campuses. A number of Columbia students attended, and at the end of the night, Fuller stood to answer a call to become what she calls a "prayer catalyst." "I know that God has called me to lead prayer on campus, and he has shown me recently how crucial prayer is to knowing his heart for our campus and actually seeing things happen," she says.

Although she doesn't know exactly what the ministry will look like in the fall, Fuller says she feels called specifically to start prayer groups in individual dorms, as well as an inter-fellowship morning prayer meeting. "I'll be praying about it a lot this summer," she says.

Following the inter-campus worship night in March, Kathryn Brill '13 started a group for anyone that lived in the Barnard Quad, one of several dorm groups to form in the spring.

"It was by the grace of God that it happened at all, the chance of sending out an e-mail to a group of people and getting them to respond is always really slim, especially for 4:15 on a Friday!" Brill says.

Brill's group prays for many different things, including

ministries, events on campus, and students that live on the Quad. They also pray for personal needs and have seen some concrete results. One day, Brill asked the group to pray for her summer housing, as she was concerned about finding a place to stay and work over the summer. The very next day, she received two e-mails about possible places to live.

But perhaps the most important side effect of Columbia's new prayer movement is the new sense of community and purpose that has developed. Fuller sees a clear connection

between the new prayer groups and a renewed commitment to unity among Columbia's disparate ministries: "It just makes sense, because if we are all aligning our wills with God's, of course we will understand each other better," she says. Brill says that her Quad group has been a great way to get to know people from other ministries. "You can't plan inter-ministry events every week, but you can pray with your brothers and sisters in Christ whenever you want," she says.

Both Brill and Fuller emphasize the strategic and spiritual importance of prayer in their lives and in the life of Columbia's Christian body. Brill says her goal is to "bring



**Students from several Columbia ministries have formed prayer teams to renew their commitment to unifying the body of Christ on campus.**

**“I know that God has called me to lead prayer on campus, and he has shown me recently how crucial prayer is to knowing his heart for our campus and actually seeing things happen.”**

more prayer into everything we're doing, to infuse the different teams with prayer." Fuller agrees: "If we don't know what God wants, we don't take hold of his promises and what he's capable of."

There is a sense of excitement and expectation as Columbia's Christians prepare for the new fall semester. Fuller believes the new movements are signs that God is working in their midst toward something great. "I believe that a revival is close. Just looking at the history of revival, God always sets his people up to pray," she says. Fuller draws specific inspiration from the Fulton Street revival in New

York City, led by Jeremiah Lanphier in 1857. This awakening started with just a few people praying in the North Dutch Reformed Church on September 23, but within a few months, had grown to thousands of people meeting every week to pray for the city. The revival eventually spread across the United States.

"Look at how many people are praying to see revival [at Columbia]," Fuller says. "A lot of revivals start with students, and I think God is going to do something amazing very soon."

*By Kevin Plybon, Columbia '11*

## 'GOD IS BIGGER THAN ALL THAT'

*Prayer Warriors Battle Spiritual Darkness on Yale Campus*

**Y** This past academic year was a difficult one for the Yale community. Students, staff, and alumni grieved the murder of graduate student Annie Le in the fall, and the campus was shocked by the suicide of Cameron Dabaghi '11, who leaped off the Empire State Building in the spring. "Sex Week at Yale"—the school's biannual, anything-goes celebration of immorality and perversion—was center stage in February. Additionally, a new Web site that encourages students to post essays about their sexual experiences at the university will be introduced by the dean's office this fall.

Through it all, a small group of alumni and family remain undeterred by the darkness. They regularly come together to lift up prayers and petitions to the Lord on behalf of the campus and the culture as a whole.

"God's answer to prayer can take many years," says Harvard Business School alumna Liz Cook ('83), the wife of William "Bard" Cook, Yale '77, and mother of George Cook '12. "I continue to see what's going on at college campuses, things like Sex Week, as just a microcosm of the culture. What's happening on these campuses is not isolated. There is a general deterioration of culture. But we know that God is bigger than all that."

The group, which includes author Eric Metaxas '84, Pastor Dan Stratton '81, and David Manuel '58, first met in December at

the Cooks' apartment in New York City. They continue to pray weekly by phone. According to Cook, they pray for revival on campus and that students and teachers will learn the truth and know Jesus personally.

Cook points out that she, Metaxas, Stratton, and Manuel also have a passion for cultural transformation. Metaxas' latest book, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, reached No. 26 on the *New York Times* Bestseller List in June.

"These are all people connected to Yale," she said. "We are all spending our lives really thinking about [the] broader spiritual transformation of the country."

Specifically, Cook says, the group originally met to pray that Christian Union, which seeks to "develop Christian leaders to transform culture," would have a presence at Yale.

In September, Christian Union will launch a leadership development ministry at Yale—an answer to prayer according to Cook. Princeton Faith and Action and Harvard College Faith and Action are also leadership development ministries that are served and resourced by Christian Union.

"I believe that God has heard our prayers and that even now he is stirring the embers of previous revivals and awakenings on that campus," said George Taylor (Yale '68 and MDiv '71), who is among the alumni praying with Cook and a director of



**George Taylor, Yale '68 and MDiv '71, has joined a small group of fellow Ivy League alumni who regularly pray for Yale.**

“I believe that God has heard our prayers and that even now he is stirring the embers of previous revivals and awakenings on that campus.”

public affairs with Christian Union.

“The moving of the Holy Spirit at Princeton and Harvard gives all the more impetus to pray for the same Spirit of Christ to move at Yale,” he said.

Although today’s Yale barely acknowledges its roots in Christianity, Cook believes the shadows of Christian warriors like Jonathan Edwards, Yale 1720, still fall upon the campus.

“You still have the vestiges [of the Great Awakenings] in the buildings,” she says, commenting on Dwight Hall Chapel in particular. “If you’re in there alone, it’s hard not to be inspired being there.”

This spring, Cook attended a campus concert that featured music from the 1200s and 1300s. Most of the songs were sacred, she said.

“It was so incredibly inspiring,” she said. “There are

still these things there that are powerful reminders of the faith.”

Yale continues to battle the darkness of death and immorality on its campus, but Edwards’ words stand as a reminder of his spiritual legacy to Yale and as a source of encouragement for those prayer warriors who continue the cause of Christ on campus and within society.

“And whatever difficulties or distress we are in,” Edwards wrote, “we may go to him with confidence and great encouragement. What a comfort may this be to us! And what reason have we to rejoice in our privileges, to prize them so highly, and to bless God that he hath been so merciful to us, as to give us his Word, and reveal himself to us; and that he hath not left us to cry for help to sticks and stones, and devils, as he has left many thousands of others.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

ADVERTISE YOUR SCHOOL, MINISTRY, OR BUSINESS IN: THE IVY LEAGUE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER



Each quarter, the Ivy League Christian Observer is read by people who care about the spiritual well-being of our future leaders. By advertising with us, you can connect your ministry, business, or school with this special audience.



The Ivy League Christian Observer is a publication of Christian Union.

For advertising information, contact Managing Editor Tom Campisi: [ILCOEditor@Christian-Union.org](mailto:ILCOEditor@Christian-Union.org).



# SUICIDE IN THE IVY LEAGUE

*Questions abound after eight students take their lives during academic year*

**By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer**



At Cornell, flowers serve as a memorial on fencing that was erected following a suicide this spring.

**I** As the 2010 commencement season brought hope and joy for all that is to come in the lives of recent graduates, the end of this academic year also delivered a sense of sorrow and loss for the families and friends of eight Ivy League students who took their own lives.

Six students at Cornell and one each at Penn and Yale committed suicide during 2009-2010, sparking some to wonder if something unique is happening within the Ivy League.

While any life lost to suicide is one too many, Dr. Harold Koplewicz, MD, president of the Child Mind Institute in New York City, said this seeming spike in suicides on Ivy campuses is not indicative of a rising trend.

According to Koplewicz, who completed his residency at Cornell and fellowship programs at Columbia and Harvard, suicide is the third

leading cause of death among 14 to 24-year-olds.

“The Ivy League schools are getting as many depressed students as the rest of the population,” Koplewicz said. If anything, he suggests that the more intelligent people are, the better their ability to deal with depression.

“When they are depressed, people who are very bright and have a higher IQ have a greater chance of functioning,” said Koplewicz, who emphasized the important role campus ministries can play in reaching out to at-risk students.

Pastor Sam Kee, who is currently seeking publication for *Hope Stands: Ten Reasons Why You Must Not Give Up*, agrees that ministries play a key role on campus.

“Those suffering from despair need to know that someone is standing up for them,” said Kee, an alumnus of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. “They long to see just one reason to go on. The word *resurrection* literally means ‘stand up.’ When put like this, the resurrection is the event where one person, Jesus, stood up for us.”

Koplewicz, who has three children who have or are attending Ivy League schools, also points out that some of the suicides received more attention because of the public nature in which they were committed. At Cornell, three students leaped to their death in one month this spring, while Cameron Dabaghi, Yale ’11, jumped from the Empire State Building.

However, Koplewicz does state that universities are ex-

periencing a higher at-risk population for suicide today because depression is a more treatable condition. In years past, students with mental illness did not go away to college because the medication and resources to treat them on campus were not available. Additionally, many did not even attend college because their illness interfered with their ability to perform academically.

But while this data may answer some questions, other big questions remain unanswered for those left grieving, such as “Why would a student like Dabaghi, who was de-

**“Was there anyone they could turn to? How can others be saved from such despair?”**

scribed as positive, optimistic, and funny and who gave no indication of his despair, end his life?”

“Cameron’s passing comes as a complete shock, even to those who knew him best. What passed through his mind and weighed on his heart is a deep and tragic mystery. One which we may never be able to comprehend,” said Thomas Meyer-son, Yale ’11, at the campus candlelight vigil held in memory of Dabaghi.

Those who knew Dabaghi described him as a jokester, a great student, and a kind soul. At Yale, Berkeley College Master Marvin Chun spoke at the vigil, telling how he had shared an umbrella with Dabaghi as they walked the campus together, just hours before his death.

“Cameron complimented my big parachute-like umbrella with a bright red Berkeley shield,” said Chun, “I wish I gave him that umbrella.”

Equally puzzling was the suicide of Penn football player Owen Thomas, Wharton ’11, who was the second football player at the university to kill himself in the last five years. “It’s amazing how popular he was,” Penn coach Al Bagnoli told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. “He was very outgoing. He had an infectious personality. He literally got 90 percent of the votes for captain. I’m absolutely numb how this can happen to a kid like that.”

Katherine Brearley, Thomas’ mother and a Church of Christ minister, can only speculate as to what drove her son to suicide. She told news outlets that Thomas, who was recently named co-captain of the football team, was apparently not doing as well as he hoped in some of his classes, “He put huge expectations on himself...and wouldn’t let other people give him an appropriate perspective.”

Thomas’ father is senior pastor at United Church of Christ in Neffs, Pennsylvania. Mark Pass, chaplain for the



Despite the tragic loss of eight young people to suicide this academic year, Dr. Harold Koplewicz said the numbers do not suggest a rising trend.

Penn football team, pointed to the sovereignty of God as the source of hope through tragedy.

“People are not always going to find answers in the moment of tragedy, but they can find comfort in trusting in the sovereignty of God,” he said.

As the Ivy League looks toward a new academic year, Koplewicz says campus ministries are a valuable resource to new and returning students.

“Faith-based ministries provide a sense of community, whether someone belongs to a church or only participates in a

faith-based volunteer program. It’s the fact that they have a sense of belonging to a group of people who care about them,” he said.

However, he encourages ministry members to understand that some students may need professional help in addition to prayer and spiritual encouragement, because emotionally ill students often don’t feel worthy of love or forgiveness.

“When you are really depressed, you do believe God has forsaken you, that you are not worthy of His help and that you deserve to be punished,” he said.

**“When you are really depressed, you do believe God has forsaken you, that you are not worthy of His help and that you deserve to be punished.”**

After three male students at Cornell took their own lives this spring, J.W. Betts, a staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ at Cornell, reflected on the tragedies.

“It is naturally surmised that these three men felt a sense of despair, that they were depressed, hopeless, hurt, or scared,” he said. “Most people blame the intense academic rigor and competitive atmosphere of Cornell. And certainly that functions as a catalyst. But of course, there are deeper issues. The root cause of suicide is in a word—sin. Personal sin. Corporate sin. Universal sin. What were the evil desires that were allowed to reign in these hearts? Was there anyone they could turn to?” How can others be saved from such despair?”

## SUICIDES AT CORNELL PROMPT CHANGES, REFLECTION

*The Administration, Campus Ministries Respond to Tragedies*



This March, amidst the buzz surrounding an unlikely trip to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet Sixteen by its men's basketball team, Cornell University was also making national headlines for tragic reasons following the suicide deaths of three students.

Matthew Zika '11 of Lafayette, Indiana; William Sinclair '12 of Chevy Chase, Maryland; and Bradley Ginsburg '13 of Boca Raton, Florida, committed suicide in the gorges on campus between February 17 and March 12. Zika was seen jumping off a suspension bridge one day after Sinclair's body was found. There have been six suspected suicides this academic year.

The suicides have prompted a response by the Cornell administration, while campus ministries, moved with compassion, held prayer meetings and reached out in imaginative ways.

Following the deaths, the university sent officials door-to-door to every student's room to ask how they were coping, and posted security guards at the gorges. Fences were built on all university owned bridges and the pedestrian bridge between North Campus near BeeBee Lake was closed. Cornell also promoted its mental-health services and extended available counseling hours. A new website, Caring Community.cornell.edu, features resources and advice for students and faculty.

Additionally, President David Skorton personally wrote an email to all students and published a full page ad in the *Cornell Daily Sun* imploring them to talk with someone about the stress, depression, and emotions



**Cornell University President David Skorton.**

**“I do think that the suicides have definitely softened many hearts on campus and have driven the Christian community towards more prayer.”**

they may be going through. “If you learn anything at Cornell, please learn to ask for help. It is a sign of wisdom and strength,” he wrote.

The faculty was also encouraged to keep the right perspective on academics and not to add unnecessary pressure to students. Each college was asked to consider if students are having trouble managing their work loads. Academic advisors were also requested to speak to professors on behalf of students who were struggling with a class.

While the administration made some adjustments, campus ministries also responded in a definitive way. Larry Lin '12, of Campus Crusade for Christ ([www.cornellcru.com](http://www.cornellcru.com)), said, “I do think that the suicides have definitely softened many hearts on campus and have driven the Christian community towards more prayer.”

On March 14, the Saturday after the third suicide, an emergency prayer meeting was called at the Mott House, Christian Union's ministry center on campus. About thirty people attended the event as students asked God to use the recent tragedies to bring people to

Himself. During the following week, the 8 a.m. North Campus Prayer Meeting moved its location to Thurston Bridge, a site of one of the suicides.

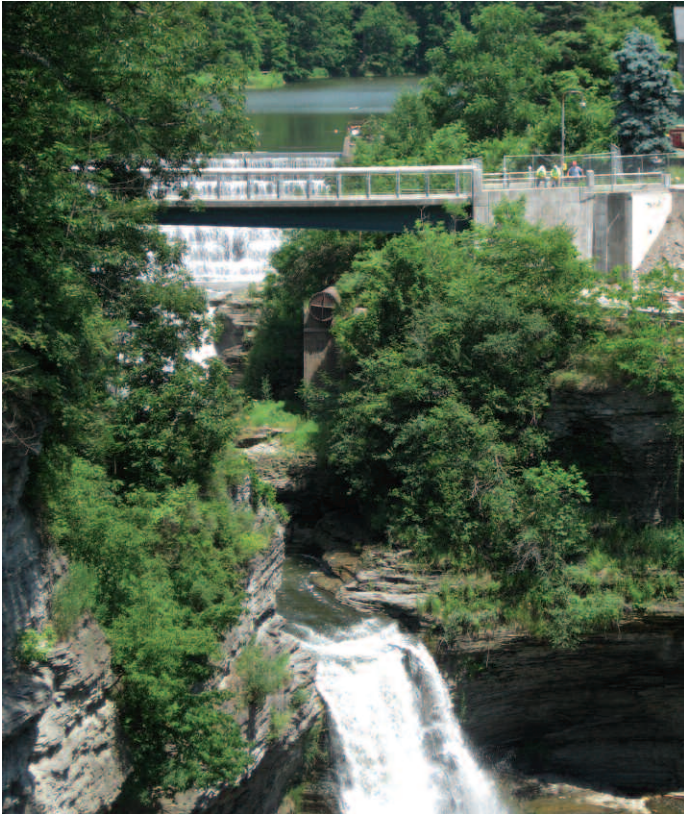
In addition to impromptu prayer meetings, some regularly scheduled ministry and outreach events at Cornell also took on added urgency.

On Easter weekend, Campus on a Hill (<http://rso.cornell.edu/campusonahill>) set up a 24-hour prayer tent on the Arts Quad, as has been done for the past several years. However, this year the turnout was much higher than expected. During the



**Six students took their own lives at Cornell during this past academic year.**





Three Cornell students committed suicide in the gorges on campus between February 17 and March 12.

late hours of the night, rarely were there less than ten people at the tent. During the day, it was not uncommon to see about thirty people praying at the tent.

At the prayer tent, Lin met Stan Matusz, Cornell '93 and Penn Law '96. Matusz recently returned to Ithaca after living in Rochester, New York for more than two-dozen years. He said he felt the Lord called him back to his alma mater "to do campus ministry of some kind." Since February, he has been prayer walking every day (except Sundays) at 8:30

p.m. at the Arts Quad.

On Friday, April 9, an inter-ministry night was held, featuring a message from Christian Union Founder and President Matt Bennett, Cornell '88, MBA, '89. Bennett exhorted the students to develop a "seeking God" lifestyle and radically impact their campus. Afterwards, about fifty students spent the next two hours chalking Bible verses around campus. Since then, verses have continuously been chalked, to the point that they have been mentioned in the *Cornell Sun* multiple times.

On April 10, as a follow up to Bennett's message, a prayer meeting for the purpose of asking God for revival was held in the Phillips Lounge. Thirty-six people from different ministries came and asked God to awaken the Cornell campus.

During the week of April 18, Campus on a Hill (<http://rso.cornell.edu/campusonahill>) held an inter-ministry meeting that encouraged participation in daily prayer meetings, public worship through music, Bible verse chalking, and fasting. Morning prayer meetings probably were the highlight, with 46 people coming out on Thursday to the Willard Straight International Lounge at 8 a.m.

It appears that the Holy Spirit is moving in response to these prayers. For a few years, a group of students has been witnessing every Thursday. In April, two students came to Christ through this initiative. Many of the seniors mentioned that they have never seen Cornell in such a spiritual setting before, and more so today, Christian students are talking about revival.

As the Cornell community heals from the suicides of last spring, there is also a renewed optimism and hope that the transforming power of Jesus Christ can accomplish many things in 2010-2011.

*By Elyse Lee Whang, Cornell '08*

**“People are not always going to find answers in the moment of tragedy, but they can find comfort in trusting in the sovereignty of God.”**

## FINDING RICHNESS OF LIFE

*Wharton Alumnus Left Corporate Finance for the Priesthood*

P  
PENN

“If you could do anything you wanted, what would it be?” That question changed the course of James Martin’s life for eternity.

As a 1982 graduate of Penn’s Wharton School, Martin landed a corporate finance job with General Electric in Stamford, Connecticut and was poised for financial and professional success. But after several years, Martin found himself overworked, overstressed, and unfulfilled.

“I started to feel out of place when I realized my peers enjoyed what they were doing. Business didn’t fit me,” he said. “I would go to work to earn a living to support myself so I could go to work. That seemed very circular; there was no meaning in it for me.”

Looking to find balance in his life, Martin sought advice from a counselor. It was during one of their meetings that Martin was asked the question that altered his destiny.

The answer was clear, Martin says. He wanted to be a priest. It was an odd response for a nominal Catholic. But a seed had been planted in him earlier while watching a documentary about the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, Columbia ’38; and that seed would grow into a true passion. Merton’s life, Martin said, “seemed interesting and peaceful and satisfying and fulfilling.” It was essentially what Martin’s life was not and what he longed for most.

Martin believes God calls people through the deepest desires of their hearts. Upon discerning his own true desire, he knew that his longing wasn’t for the corporate world, but for connectedness with God.

In 1999, Martin reversed course from that fast track to wealth by taking a vow of poverty and being ordained a Jesuit priest. He is now known as Father James Martin, SJ.

The SJ stands for Society of Jesus, denoting the Jesuit order of Catholic priests founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540.

As a novice, Martin has served the poor in Jamaica with Mother Teresa’s Sisters of Charity. Later, he used his business experience to help build cooperatives in Africa that helped people reach sustainability. As a priest, he has literally bathed the sick and affirmed and heard confessions from strangers on the streets of Lourdes. Within his own poverty, he has found the richness of life and God’s love.

“You have to discover your deepest desires and trust that God has made you for a particular purpose. The true self is who you are before God.” The problem comes, he said, when people make decisions based upon a “false” self, or one that is more in tune with what the world wants and expects.

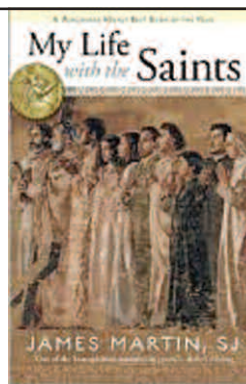
Martin shares his spiritual journey in his acclaimed book, *My*

*Life with the Saints*, a collection of essays that interweaves vignettes of the lives of Christians such as Ignatius, the apostle Peter, and Dorothy Day with experiences from his own life. His latest publication, *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, was released this spring and puts into “laymen’s terms” the famous spiritual exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. It’s designed for both believers and non-believers, but he admits that everything about the “Exercises” points toward God.

Martin also seeks to engage people for Christ through popular culture. He is the culture editor for *America Magazine*, a national Catholic weekly based in New York City, and is a sought-after speaker and media source for network and cable news outlets. Martin has also made multiple appearances on the somewhat irreverent “Colbert Report,”



**James Martin, Wharton Business School ’82, left the corporate world for the priesthood.**



**“The true self is who you are before God. The problem comes when people make decisions based upon a ‘false’ self, or one that is more in tune with what the world wants and expects.”**

hosted by fellow Catholic Stephen Colbert. The host recently introduced Martin as the “Colbert Report Chaplain.” It’s a moniker that Martin says he was surprised to hear, but willing to accept.

Part of Martin’s appeal is his ability to identify with a cross section of people. His humor enables him to exchange one-liners with the likes of Colbert and in doing so, engage an audience that might not otherwise encounter Christianity. Additionally, Martin can also relate to the many wealthy business people who have suddenly found themselves with much less financially.

“Don’t underestimate the suffering it causes,” he said. Yet, Martin also knows of the hope that can be found during times of such loss.

“I think it offers a window for people into the way most of the world lives—that is, with a great deal of uncertainty. It may be an invitation to experience God more deeply,” he said. “That doesn’t underestimate the suffering, but such vulnerability can bring about openness to God and a revelation of priorities. The Christian message is that surrendering of things can often bring new life.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## TRAINING UP A CHILD

*Couple Runs Preschool ‘For God’s Glory’*

**D** It’s never too early to start training up children to impact the culture, and John Leavitt, Dartmouth ’69, would know. The former industrial meteorologist turned preschool owner is working to instill the very basic values of character within some of Connecticut’s youngest future leaders.

The Preschool of the Arts, owned by Leavitt and his wife Susan, strives to provide a rich curriculum for children as young as age three. It incorporates visual arts, music, and dance as part of the core curriculum, and while not designated as a Christian school, the Leavitts put a premium on teaching values.

“I want them to have a love and respect for one another and to realize that at age three, four, and five, they aren’t the center of their own world. They need to learn to share, to give and take with other people,” says Leavitt, who runs the business side of the school.

“I guess I view each kid, each family, as one mission opportunity, in some sense, for today. We’re tending the mission field of the day one child at a time,” he said.

But raising up a quality preschool isn’t all fun and games, and the success the school has recently experienced is the result of hard work and fervent prayer, says Leavitt. It’s also the result of following the paths that have been laid before

him.

Leavitt began his career as an Air Force Weather Officer, but when advances in automation sidelined him to a research position, he took a job in meteorology with a private consulting firm. He worked with a variety of industries impacted by weather events, such as utility companies and even stone quarries concerned about dissipating blast noise.

After 17 years with that organization, a series of professional and personal events led him to look for a different opportunity, and he took a position with a utilities company in Connecticut. Eventually, Leavitt was given an opportunity for early retirement, but continued working through consulting and part-time opportunities forecasting the weather for sailors.

Leavitt says he sees it all as part of God’s plan.

“I didn’t realize until a meeting two weeks ago [with a fellow Christian], how through every one of those situations, God was preparing me for where I am now,” he said.

For example, he learned about growing a successful small business from one of the companies he worked for. He can also see God’s work in the purchase of the small interest his wife Susan initially made in the preschool.

While only an initial investment, due to changes in administration, etc, the Leavitts came to acquire full



**John Leavitt, Dartmouth ’69, (pictured with his wife Susan) has learned to follow God’s leading in a career that has spanned from meteorology to running a preschool.**



ownership of the school. However, by that time, the business had nearly gone under due to the poor acumen of the original owner.

“It was a vulnerable step of faith,” Leavitt said. “We found ourselves in a situation where we knew that what the situation needed was beyond human capabilities. We did believe God was capable of sorting it out and prospering if we called upon him.”

Leavitt says trusting in God every day took them to the next step that needed to be accomplished. They turned the situation over to him saying, “If you want us to succeed in this you make it happen. God is rarely early but never late,” he said.

And as the Leavitts moved forward one day and one prayer at a time, they called together a small group of employees in their living room and spoke honestly about the business, telling them, “We don’t have experience running this. This is God’s business; we’re counting on him to turn it around. Will you join us?”

The employees were not taken aback by the Leavitts’ bold reliance on God and agreed to join them in helping to make a go of the school. Some key new employees also joined the team.

“Once again, God led some great people to us; not a lot of strong people of faith but those quiet people of strong faith,” he said. The Leavitts were also able to cover old debts and get the school on track. “Nothing was held against us,” he said. “We had a clean slate.”

Upon that foundation, the preschool continues to grow, drawing upon Susan’s experience as a public school music teacher and John’s history with his parents, who were both schoolteachers and role models to young people.

And whatever success the preschool continues to have, Leavitt gives the glory to God.

“The school has prospered because he did it, not because I did it,” he said. “This is God’s work; all glory has to go to him. I never want to forget that for one moment.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## BOOKS SMART AND STREET SAVVY

*Pastor’s Life Experiences Prepare Him for Ministry*



Aaron Campbell, pastor of Antioch of Calvary Chapel Church in Philadelphia, enjoys ministering to a diverse group of people.

“On a typical day, I can be in the worst housing project visiting a member of the church and then be on Wall Street having breakfast with a young Penn alumnus who is just starting out,” he said. “I feel like I have the best congregation on planet earth.”

Additionally, Campbell and members of his church direct an annual mission trip to Angoon, Alaska, where they serve the poverty-stricken village of 500 people.

Making an impact in different worlds is nothing new to Campbell, Penn ’97.

Growing up in urban Plainfield, New Jersey, he attended Wardlaw-Hartridge, a private school. After spending each day in a college preparatory environment, he would

return to a single-parent home that would often have its door kicked in by burglars. Campbell, who was not a Christian as a young man, went on to study pre-med at Penn and spent his summers working as a janitor at the Port Authority.

Campbell chose to work in the dangerous Port Authority to get “street credibility” from the drug dealers where he lived. Although from the same neighborhood, Campbell was different. At home, his mother encouraged him and his brother to appreciate art, music, and culture. Although his parents were divorced, they agreed that education was a priority and worked hard to send their children to private school.

But the tandem life of privilege by day and the gritty streets by night left Campbell conflicted.

“By day, being a man meant providing for yourself through academic prowess, cultural awareness, and



**Rev. Aaron Campbell (L), Penn ’97, leads his church on annual mission trips to Angoon, Alaska.**

being a gentleman. That was what one world taught me,” says Campbell.

But on the streets, “A man isn’t a man unless he is feared and can fight,” he said. “It doesn’t matter what degree you have. If you don’t have respect, on the streets you are a nobody.”

So Campbell set out to become a “somebody” in the eyes of the street. “I was going to inject myself into the most violent environment [Port Authority],” he said. “It would either kill me or make a man of me.”

Slowly, Campbell says, the jadedness of the place started to change him.

“I fell in love with it—the fast life, fast money—it was lights, camera, action,” he said. Campbell even became “adopted” by a notorious and feared loan shark who called Campbell his “son.”

That loan shark became Campbell’s protector and shield. He could move freely about the streets of the city confident in the cover of his “father’s” shadow.

“If I had the Lord, I would have known he was my shield,” said Campbell. “When you don’t have the Lord, you have to fashion your own shield.”

But that self-made shield couldn’t protect Campbell from the yearning that pierced his heart and a desire that he couldn’t identify.

“I was on a desperate search for truth,” said Campbell. “I went on mountain tops and meditated; did everything those other belief systems told me to do, but they were powerless to change my life.”

“I didn’t want to be a Christian,” he said. “There seemed

to be so many hypocrites. I would read everything but the Bible.”

But during a visit with family in North Carolina, Campbell’s life changed. He spent time with his Uncle Greg who had given his life to the Lord.

“He had this joy and peace,” said Campbell. “I knew he was changed. I saw him loving God and I wanted to have what he had. He wasn’t a hypocrite.”

Campbell’s uncle shared the Gospel with him and it set him free. “I never knew Jesus wanted to be my best friend, my healer. Here I was, all my life working to get into Penn, to become a man. [Through the Gospel] I saw I didn’t have to work for it. It was grace, God’s heart.”

At this point, Campbell was in his last year at Penn. “My ticket was set for med school,” he said.

But then he had a dream.

In that dream, Campbell says, God called him to be a pastor.

“People were shocked; my family thought I had lost my mind,” he said. “I felt alone and misunderstood. That’s when I drew closer to the Lord and he showed me how he felt alone and misunderstood. I got a lot of comfort from his suffering.”

Today, Campbell’s church, which started in his home, has grown to 450 congregants, many of whom are Penn professors and students.

“That’s what drives me today. To equip the people who come to my church to actively engage and love and share the love of Christ.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## NURTURING NETWORK LIBERATES, EMPOWERS WOMEN

*Organization Founded by Harvard MBA Provides a ‘Real Choice’*



College students and young working women who experience unplanned pregnancy really do have a choice. That’s the message of Nurturing Network, a national life-saving, non-profit organization founded by Mary Cunningham Agee, Harvard MBA ’79.

Twice named one of the 25 Most Influential Women in America by *World Almanac*, Agee served as vice president of strategic planning for Bendix Corporation and Seagram & Sons, but left the corporate culture to better serve her family.

“As much as it was fun to travel around the world, the

intense top management lifestyle was not compatible with the kind of wife and mother I wanted to become,” Agee said in an interview with the *National Catholic Register*.

Subsequently, she and her husband formed Semper Enterprises, a venture capital and strategy-consulting firm. But when Agee faced the tragic death of her first child in a late-term miscarriage, her life and sense of purpose changed.

“In that one life-altering moment, I believe that I was ‘called by name’ to embrace a new way of life—one that would never again be able to measure success solely in terms of the bottom line,” Agee said in a speech on campus

culture in Washington, D.C.

“The gravity of my own infant’s death in utero prevents me, even to this day, from being able to participate in dehumanizing references to any unborn child as mere tissue or an inconvenient ‘choice’ to be reckoned with. I know the truth. On that night, a heartbeat stopped. A child died. And I was and will be for all time her mother,” she said.

And with that truth, Agee set out to help the many babies who die at the hand of a society that leads young women to feel that abortion is a viable alternative.

“With renewed energy and commitment, I began to research the industry of abortion—whom it serves and how the women who seek this solution arrive at this decision,” said Agee.

Her conclusion: “The vast majority of women who ‘choose’ abortion feel it is their only alternative.”

As a result, in 1985, Agee founded the Nurturing Network with a mission to “ensure that every pregnant woman will know the comfort and freedom of having the support she needs in order to nurture her child’s life...and make the most of hers as well.”

The network consists of 50,000 volunteer member resources from the employment, medical, educational, counseling, and residential fields. This, according to Agee, “enables a woman to continue the life of her unborn child without sacrificing her own educational or career development.”

The network has helped save the lives of nearly 20,000 babies and preserved the dignity and quality of life of pregnant mothers by placing them in temporary homes with loving families, facilitating quality medical care, and assisting with continuing educational and professional opportunities.

For students who want to keep their pregnancies private and are uncomfortable in their current campus environ-



**Mary Cunningham Agee, Harvard MBA '79, left the corporate world to establish a network where unwed mothers have real choices about continuing their pregnancies.**

ments, the pro-life organization helps arrange temporary transfers to a college of comparable academic standing. Additionally, the network helps provide temporary and permanent employment opportunities for pregnant career women. As stated in the network’s literature, “Employers across the country who understand a working woman’s needs at this particular time have offered to consider our clients’ resumes with the highest priority.”

For women who choose to give life to their children, but are not able to remain in their lives for a lifetime, adoption counseling is offered.

Agee states that women who turn to the network come from all walks of life—

many from middle-class families and many who are attending or have plans to attend college.

“Many could accurately be described as ‘the best and the brightest,’” she told her audience in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, speaking about the troubling moral environment on college campuses, Agee said, “Any thoughtful person should be driven to probe the underlying causes of such degradation masquerading as a moral college environment. We are compelled to ask how an institution of allegedly ‘higher’ learning could allow its standards to sink to this point of utter depravity.”

The Nurturing Network’s mission is to empower women to make real choices when it comes to their lives and the lives of their babies.

As one client wrote, “We live in a society where life is not valued. If abortion is the only choice that we are given—there’s not empowerment there. When you have the power to make a decision that is going to be life giving, that is genuine freedom and real choice. Mary Agee has given me and thousands of women true liberation and empowerment.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

**“Any thoughtful person should be driven to probe the underlying causes of such degradation masquerading as a moral college environment. We are compelled to ask how an institution of allegedly ‘higher’ learning could allow its standards to sink to this point of utter depravity.”**



## INFUSING A GENERATION

*Author, Youth Pastor is Tenacious about Discipleship*



In April, Pastor Jack Redmond, Columbia M. Ed., M.A. '95, preached to 16,000 teens, parents, and youth leaders as one of the speakers at Teen Mania's BattleCry event at Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey. In July, he continued to be a catalyst with the release of his third book, *Infusion. Receive. Grow. Give it away.*

Redmond, director of youth ministry at Christ Church in Montclair, New Jersey, is seeking to infuse purpose into a generation of young people, and adults too. He says that happens when we receive from God, grow in what He gives us, and give it away to others.

"I believe this process is one way to sum up Christianity. We often come to God with many issues and problems, at least that's how I came to Him. He [God] changes and heals us and we end up sharing that God is a healer to people around us," he said.

Redmond—who has also authored the books *Wounded Heart* and *People Matter to God*—is a strong advocate of mobilizing believers, saying Christianity was never intended to be a spectator religion. As the founder and president of Fourth Generation Ministries ([www.4thgen.org](http://www.4thgen.org)), he focuses on leadership training and teaching Christians to be ambassadors of Christ. He has a strong urban focus, sharing the Gospel in cities like Newark, Jersey City, and The Bronx. All of this is done with the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission—to go into all the earth and make disciples.

In addition to writing and speaking, he also recently launched the *Infusion* radio program, which airs every Sunday morning from 7-7:30 a.m. on Star 99.1, the largest Christian radio station in Metro New York.

"Jack has a burning desire to see this generation won for Jesus. He has a burden to win this generation of teenagers at any cost," said Rev. Peter Bruno, senior pastor of MetroChurch in Saddle Brook, New Jersey. "I have seen his work ethic side, he pursues this goal with a bull dog tenacity; he will not let go. He stays on target and his mission—'win this generation'—is always at the forefront."

Rev. Bruno, Redmond, and other local pastors united to form Generation Holy Youth Coalition a few years back.

"Our goal is to see a strong youth ministry in every church because a real movement is not done with one or two ministries. It starts with the local church," Redmond said.

The goal is to strengthen the local ministries through relationships, teaching, and by partnering with larger organizations like Teen Mania, which has held large events in Metro New York for the last three years, and Revelation Generation, a two-day festival in rural Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that features 60 bands and an eclectic blend of believing artists—some who are labeled as Christian musicians and some who are not. The evangelistic event hosts artist interviews in "Tent 7," where the musicians answer key questions from Redmond and other local pastors

"The concept was actually started by a group of concerned parents who were looking for an event their kids could bring their friends to that they would really enjoy, not something corny. Revelation Generation has grown over the last six years. Last year, it drew around 30,000 kids," said Redmond.

Revelation Generation also gives him the opportunity to present training sessions before, during, and after the event.

Youth pastors from around the region agree that Redmond is a driving force, a key leader.

"After being in youth ministry for 11 years now it is hard to find leaders that still have that same passion to reach and to train this generation like Pastor Jack Redmond," said Pastor Jacob Burgei of Faith Generation Youth Church in Sayreville, New Jersey.

Balancing initiatives like Revelation Generation, book writing, and speaking, with raising a young family can be extremely challenging, but according to Redmond, the key is to put things in the proper order: God, family, work, and ministry.

"He seemingly never stops," said Efrain Mercado, youth director of Soul Purpose youth ministry of Nutley Abundant Life Worship Center. "I appreciate his tenacity and his drive but most of all I appreciate his heart and desire to see young people come to know Christ in a greater way. I know that is why he works as hard as he does."

*By Samantha Bruno, Contributing Writer*



**Jack Redmond, Columbia M. Ed., M.A. '95, is a youth pastor, author, and conference speaker.**

## RAPPING FOR GOD AND FOR YALE

*Former Football Player Immersed in Holy Hip-Hop*

Y  
YALE

*Editor's note: The following article was reprinted from the Yale Daily News. Used with permission.*

The former running back for the Bulldogs, who on the field used to turn up the heat, is now spitting rhymes over spiritual beats.

Rodney Reynolds '10, an African American studies major who has launched his musical career in holy hip-hop at Yale, will be performing this summer in his first tour, "Sweet Music to My Fears," which will include performances by JProphet (Reynolds' stage name) and fellow rapper Antoine Dolberry. The two will tour in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

Rodney Reynolds '10 started making music while still at Yale.

"I'm taking a step out on faith, because I'm starting to think this is absurd myself," Reynolds said. "But I'm trying to be obedient to what I feel like I'm being called to do."

Reynolds has been involved with music since the age of 14, when he began rapping and writing songs for leisure. He began working on pieces for his album last summer, developed a Web site, and has released an album and two mix tapes while at Yale, including his most recent work, "The Fullness Thereof" which was released on March 27.

Reynolds said he was inspired by Psalm 24:1, which reads, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," adding that he believes all beats and instruments can be used to glorify God.

His manager Davida McGhee '10 said that despite all her help, Reynolds never stops trying to get it right on his own.

"As a true artist, J Prophet is always refining his craft," McGhee said. "He's constantly writing, recording, finding new beats — you name it. There's no rest for the weary in the music industry, so there isn't a day that goes by without discussion of how to improve and where to go from there."

But creating the lyrics for a song takes a large amount of time, Reynolds said.

"I don't really sleep much anymore because I stay up later now to either do work or write and record music," Reynolds said. "Still, recording while being a full-time student has also made me a more efficient musician I think."

Hayling Price, a friend he grew up with in church and his first producer, said though he believes in his friend, Reynolds' challenge will be to rise beyond being simply another holy hop artist in today's world.

"Though the market for this particular art certainly exists, religion is always stigmatized, making stereotypical success much more difficult to attain," said Jarren Simmons, another of Reynolds' producers.

Getting visibility and funding are a large part of the difficulties that face the budding rapper, he added.

Though Reynolds is still an unsigned artist, he said topping the Billboard charts is the least of his concerns. Reynolds said he does it all to preach one central message: to let go and spread God's word.



*Photo by Daniel Carvalho*

**Rodney Reynolds, Yale '10, is also known as "JProphet."**

**"As a true artist, J Prophet is always refining his craft. He's constantly writing, recording, finding new beats — you name it. There's no rest for the weary in the music industry, so there isn't a day that goes by without discussion of how to improve and where to go from there."**

## UNPARALLED INFLUENCE?

*Former Harvard Law School Dean Nominated to Supreme Court*

**I**  
ALL IVY

The confirmation of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court this summer would further strengthen the Ivy League's reputation as a place where a high percentage of society's future leaders are shaped.

Kagan, Princeton '81 and Harvard Law '86, is the current U.S. Solicitor General. On May 10, President Barack Obama (Columbia '83 and Harvard Law '91) nominated the native New Yorker to the land's highest court, which is comprised of eight Ivy League alumni. Kagan would make nine out of nine.

Kagan is the first woman to be named United States Solicitor General and dean of Harvard Law School. At age 50, she is the youngest Supreme Court nominee, which would give her influence within the court for decades to come.

While her influence would be substantial, because of her inexperience as a jurist there are some questions regarding where she would stand on abortion, same-sex marriage, and other key issues. Her prior support of various social and academic issues may give some indication.



**Elena Kagan, Princeton '81 and Harvard Law '86, was the first woman to be named dean of Harvard Law School.**

Cornell Law Professor William A. Jacobson, Harvard Law '84, states in his blog that, "Kagan has staked out a very clear and unequivocal position: there is no constitutional right to same-sex marriage."

Jacobson cites Kagan's response to a question by Sen. John Cornyn during her nomination hearings for Solicitor General.

"This doesn't mean that Kagan opposes gay marriage," writes Jacobson. "But she clearly believes it is a matter for the political process, not a constitutional right." Others are not so sure,

citing Kagan's advocacy of LGBT issues at Harvard.

While dean of the Harvard Law School, Kagan voiced her opposition to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding homosexuals serving in the armed forces by attempting to ban military recruiters from the campus.

"Ms. Kagan's incredibly hostile view of the military suggests she is out of touch with mainstream sensibilities and obedience to the rule of law," stated Family Research Council President Tony Perkins. "President Obama promised a nominee committed to the 'rule of law,' but instead,

## AN ALL-IVY SUPREME COURT?

The Confirmation of Elena Kagan to the United States Supreme Court would mean that all nine members of the court would be alumni of the Ivy League. Outgoing Justice John Paul Stephens is an alumnus of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University School of Law.



John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States  
Harvard '76, Harvard Law '79



Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice  
Harvard Law '60



Anthony M. Kennedy, Associate Justice  
Harvard Law '61



Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice  
Yale Law '74



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice  
Cornell '54, Columbia Law '59



Stephen G. Breyer, Associate Justice  
Harvard Law '64



Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr., Associate Justice  
Princeton '72, Yale Law '75



Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice  
Princeton '76, Yale Law '79



he appears to have nominated a hard-left activist to the Supreme Court.”

Perkins continued, “Additionally, in her brief tenure as Solicitor General, she argued that the federal government has the power, under campaign finance laws, to ban certain books and pamphlets.” Responding to this argument of Ms. Kagan, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, “As a free-floating test for First Amendment coverage, that (proposition) is startling and dangerous.”

Further, pro-life organizations have raised concern over Kagan’s stance on abortion, while the National Organization of Women “applauded” her nomination.

In a response to the nomination, Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, referred to a column written by Kagan for the *Daily Princetonian* in 1980.

“Regarding Ms. Kagan’s specific views on the Court’s past abortion-related rulings, there is little on the public record,” writes Johnson. “But Ms. Kagan may have betrayed a possible personal animus towards the pro-life movement in a 1980 essay lamenting Republican gains in the 1980 election, in which she referred disparagingly to avengers of ‘innocent life’... Was Ms. Kagan so dismissive of the belief that unborn children are members of the human

family that she felt it necessary to put the term in quotation marks, or does she have another explanation? Would she be able to set aside any animus she has towards those who fight to protect innocent human life, when reviewing laws duly enacted for that purpose?”

In a *Washington Times* article that examined Kagan’s nomination and the reasons and implications behind an all-Ivy court, Scott DeRue, Assistant Professor of Management and Organizations at the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business, noted how Ivy League schools offer access into a social network that is powerful and global.

“It is no accident that Obama and Kagan have worked and socialized together in the past, and now she is being nominated for a life-long position as Supreme Court Justice,” he wrote.

“But again, the issue is not where did she go to school or who does she know. Is she competent? Does she complement the existing justices? Does she have the principles and perspective necessary to make decisions that will affect a nation? Only time will tell. I can assure you there are many people educated as elites that do not have the necessary principles and perspective. I sure hope she does.”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN; BUT COURT WILL DECIDE

*Proposition 8 Lawsuits Seek to Redefine Traditional Marriage*



Ivy League alumni are on both sides of the California Proposition 8 lawsuit regarding same-sex marriage, and not surprisingly, the rights of people who believe in the morality of traditional marriage have gotten caught in the crosshairs.

Although the people of California voted in favor of Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to heterosexual couples, two same-sex couples have filed a lawsuit contending the amendment is unconstitutional because it was based upon animus toward “homosexuals.” If overturned, the decision could have national implications for other states

that voted to protect the sanctity of marriage.

Beyond the implications for the definition of marriage in the U.S., the case also raises the issue of the rights of Christians, and non-Christians, to vote based upon their beliefs.

“Although our opponents are trying to cast this as a battle between the religious right and everyone else, there are many secular reasons to oppose same-sex marriage,” said defense attorney David Thompson, Harvard ’91 and Harvard Law ’94.

For example, the institution of marriage has survived from the dawn of recorded history. “To make such a radical redefinition is something many



**Attorney David Thompson, Harvard '91 Law '94, is working to defend California's Proposition 8 Amendment, which upholds marriage as a union between a man and a woman.**

**“...marriage has always been understood as a  
pro-child institution with the focus on benefiting children.  
The plaintiffs want to change it into an adult-centered institution.”**

secular people believe should be done slowly or not at all,” he said.

Additionally, Thompson explained that marriage has always been understood as a pro-child institution with the focus on benefiting children. “The plaintiffs want to change it into an adult-centered institution,” he said, pointing out that the optimal environment for raising children is with the biological mother and father. “The plaintiffs couldn’t point to any other structure that was better.”

However, testimony by Yale historian and gay rights advocate George Chauncey, Yale PhD ’89, and Harvard historian Nancy Cott, Cornell ’67, tried to negate the sanctity of marriage, and depicted the institution as one that has been oppressive of women and ethnic minorities. Additionally, Chauncey testified that the information about Proposition 8 that was distributed by Protectmarriage.com, a proponent of the amendment, was “anti-gay” in its nature.

That argument, however, doesn’t jibe with fundamental Christian truths, says Thompson.

“The other side wants to characterize this as moral disapproval of homosexuality, and they claim that is why [Christians] voted against Prop 8. Christianity teaches marriage is between a man and a woman ordained by God, and that has nothing to do with the Bible’s teaching on homosexuality. One doesn’t follow the other,” he said. “It’s a fundamental distortion of Christian principles that hatred or animus was a reason why Christians would vote [for Proposition 8].”

“Christianity teaches love of all people. Jesus came to save all sinners, and we are all sinners. There is no room for hatred against gays and lesbians,” he said.

Yet there does appear to be room for marginalizing the voters of California who chose to cast their ballots based upon their morals and faith.

“Christianity and conservative religion have been put on trial,” said Thompson.

“All law springs from views of morality,” says Thompson. “That has been true since the founding of this Repub-

lic and the dawn of civilization...What’s really being said is that there is a category of people who can’t vote based on right and wrong—conservative people of faith.”

This type of bias is further apparent in states like Massachusetts, which does allow same-sex marriage.

In an article for the journal *The Catholic Thing*, Hadley Arkes, law professor at Amherst College, reports on a situation in Massachusetts where a male employee was fired for not showing support for a female colleague’s decision to “marry” another woman.

The woman, eager to announce that news, detected the discomfort in his silence. She kept pressing him. Finally, he told her that his Christian convictions could not really accept same-sex marriage. With that admission she filed a complaint, and two days later he was fired. Responding to her prodding, he was accused of “harassment.” Pleading, in effect, for his right to a discreet silence, he was accused of “imposing” his religious views on someone not under his authority.

Additionally, Arkes points out that individuals, from Justices of the Peace to wedding photographers, who choose not to participate in same-sex ceremonies have subsequently lost their licenses and were fined.

“[Advocates of same-sex marriage] are seeking the public and moral approval that the law bestows, along with the moral condemnation of those who will not share their views,” writes Arkes.

And so, while the focus of Proposition 8 is on the definition of marriage, it appears the ruling could also be a defining moment for voters of faith.

As Andrew P. Pugno, general counsel for Protectmarriage.com, told the *New York Times*, “To invalidate the people’s vote, the plaintiffs have a really tough burden: they have to prove the people acted irrationally. That does not mean that there has to be choice between whether gay marriage is good or gay marriage is bad, but do the people have a right to decide?”

*By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer*

## AFTER THE HEADLINES

*InterVarsity Event Featuring Dr. Cornell West Raises Social Justice Awareness*



In April, the social justice branch of Columbia’s chapter of Intervarsity ([www.columbia.edu/cu/ivcf](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ivcf)) capped off its semester with a sold-out event. “After the Headlines: Remaining Engaged in Haiti,” featuring Dr. Cornell West, was open to the entire Columbia community.

While many things stood out about this culmination of several months of hard work, perhaps the most significant was the composition of the audience. Although most of InterVarsity (IV) was in attendance, the crowd in the 367-seat auditorium was comprised of mostly non-IV students, and organizers had to turn away dozens more.

The popularity of After the Headlines stemmed largely from the star power of its featured guest. Dr. West, Harvard ’73 and Princeton \*80, is the Class of 1943 University Professor in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton. A well-known public intellectual who has developed something of a cult following, he is also a Christian, and has a compelling—and sometimes controversial—way of speaking about love, peace, justice, and Jesus.

West was invited to participate in a dialogue with Gabrielle Apollon ’09, a student at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs who was in Haiti during the recent earthquake. The theme of the conversation was hope: how can seekers of justice, Christian and non-Christian alike, sustain effective activism in the face of cynicism and seemingly overwhelming suffering?

Much of the conversation focused on the response to Haiti in particular. Apollon asked West how students can maintain a strong presence in Haiti after the story is no longer newsworthy, and the attention of the larger world has moved on. The Princeton professor responded in typical Cornell West fashion, passionately speaking about “wrestling with despair,” while quoting works by everyone from St. Augustine and Virgil to Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anton Chekov, and Franz Kafka.

Lucy Herz, co-coordinator of IV Social Justice, says the choice of Cornell West as a speaker was “strategic.” He was consciously chosen as a way of reaching out to the larger

justice-minded community at Columbia. “Cornel West is very vocal about his faith and he brings it up in everything he talks about,” she says, “but at the same time, he is really accessible to non-Christians and very well-respected as a public intellectual, academic, and activist.”

But although After the Headlines contained elements of evangelistic outreach, IV Social Justice (IVSJ) wanted to use the event to break through religious and cultural barriers—to force people to rethink their ideas about justice.

Herz says that no matter people’s faiths coming in, IVSJ wanted to encourage deep and fruitful thought about current issues like poverty, human trafficking, and natural disasters like Haiti. “It was about how to confront the injustices in the world and maintain hope despite continuing lack of change,” Herz says. “With Haiti, we have such a short attention span. It’s been a few months and it seems like nothing’s happened. But we wanted to bring a message of transcendent hope in a way, and perseverance.”

The conversation with Dr. West ranged over a number of issues, from the political, to the spiritual, to the personal. At one point, West turned to Apollon and asked her to tell a story from Haiti. She responded with an emotional recollection of being prayed for by a little girl who had lost her family. When she was done,

Dr. West was silent for a few moments before softly saying, “That was beautiful.” The sense of amazement in the auditorium was palpable as people of many different faiths were struck by the spiritual nature of Apollon’s story, and by Dr. West’s obviously deep appreciation of the little girl’s faith.

According to Herz, the event was a great success and has had some far-reaching effects. Afterwards, many people said the event had challenged their notions of God, faith, and justice, and one person even expressed a new desire to know Christ. “After the Headlines definitely pushed IV Social Justice in a different direction,” she says. “In the past, we’ve done more small-scale, inward-focused events. Now we are inserting IVSJ into the academic and intellectual conversation surrounding justice on campus.”

IVSJ also participated in a 5K/Half-Marathon to raise



**Dr. Cornell West, Harvard ’73 and Princeton \*80, spoke about serving the poor at Columbia this spring.**



money for Haiti and Gulu, Uganda, in the spring semester, and garnered a lot of support from different campus organizations. Herz believes that this event, coupled with After the Headlines, has helped IVSJ become more legitimate on Columbia's campus as a force for justice. "It showed that

there is a place on campus for our perspective on justice and love," she says, "and we have definitely carved out that place for ourselves."

*By Kevin Plybon, Columbia '11*

## SERVING THE CITY

*Harvard College Faith and Action Takes Spring Break Trip to Manhattan*



New York City served as a "spiritual greenhouse" for fifteen students from Harvard College Faith and Action who were on a spring break mission trip.

Harvard College Faith and Action, a ministry associated with Christian Union, ventured into Manhattan on March 10-14. Students focused their ministry efforts on volunteering with Operation Exodus Inner City, an organization that serves underprivileged children in the Washington Heights community. Much of their efforts centered on tutoring children in the organization's after-school program, but the students also held a worship service.

Ministering to the children provided special joy for the undergraduates. "Seeing their enthusiasm and being able to share the love of Christ with them in that setting had a big impact on my time in New York City," said Keren Rohe '13.

As well, the students worked at St. Paul's House, a soup kitchen in mid-Manhattan, where they helped distribute clothing and serve meals.

They also conducted spiritual surveys in Central Park, which led to opportunities to share their faith with passersby.

"We initiated conversations with lots of people in Central Park," said Don Weiss, Christian Union's undergraduate ministry director at Harvard. "We paired off – guy and gal – just engaging New Yorkers and visitors over spiritual things. That was the most challenging. There was surprise at the quality of conversations they were able to have."

"The weather was perfect. It was a wonderful day to go out and engage in conversation. It really felt like divinely-orchestrated conversations took place that day."

In addition to being a big blessing to the people of New York, the HCFA students were also able to grow in their faith and relationships with one another.

"Whenever you retreat or remove yourself from the routine with a group of likeminded believers, it becomes like a spiritual greenhouse," Weiss said. "Even though you only have days together, it translates into what feels like more."

The Harvard students said they were especially touched by the opportunities for bonding, and were joined for two days by two students from Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)) and Lorri Bentsch (Princeton '91), a Christian Union ministry fellow at Princeton University.

"I came back from New York City feeling like I had a family," said Rohe. "I really saw God work as I ministered to those in NYC and bonded with my Christian brothers and sisters from Harvard. My life here hasn't been the same."

Not surprisingly, students also took time to enjoy Manhattan's immense wealth of culture, history, and entertainment. Sightseeing activities included the Brooklyn Bridge, Empire State Building, Central Park, Staten Island Ferry, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

As well, they worshipped on Sunday morning at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, home of best-selling author Rev. Tim Keller. As for accommodations, students brought sleeping bags and camped inside the Neighbor-



**Members of Harvard College Faith and Action spent their spring break in New York City serving the poor and sharing the Gospel.**

hood Church of Greenwich Village, where they also prepared some meals.

“The outings were fabulous,” said Rohe. “Going out into the city was so much fun... The food was amazing. We had the chance to eat at all kinds of restaurants, and we cooked our own meals sometimes too.”

Nick Nowalk, a Christian Union ministry fellow at Harvard, said ministering in Manhattan worked better in many

regards for Harvard students than the usual college road trip to Florida.

“It’s a lot closer to Boston,” Nowalk said. “And [urban people] are the type of people that many of these students are going to be around in the future in terms of serving, worshipping, and working.”

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## NO MAGIC KINGDOM

*Spring Break Trip Is an Eye-Opening Experience*

**D**ARTMOUTH A group of Dartmouth College students received a snapshot view of the complexities of poverty during a recent venture to Orlando.

Sixteen students and four staffers from Christian Impact ([www.dartmouthci.org](http://www.dartmouthci.org)) spent their spring break working with Campus Crusade for Christ’s urban ministry, Here’s Life Inner City ([www.hlic.org](http://www.hlic.org)).

“For many of our students, it was really an eye-opening experience – how complex the problem of poverty and the simplicity of what people need,” said Faye Gillespie, a staffer with Christian Impact.

“Genuine compassion and care really can make a difference in people’s lives.”

The students made a nearly thirty-hour trip to the Here’s Life Inner City (HLIC) outreach. Through the organization’s Urban Immersion program, the team worked with a variety of area ministries to help the homeless, at-risk children, and other struggling individuals.

“Our purpose was to give our students, who generally come from upper-middle-class backgrounds, exposure to God’s heart for the poor,” Gillespie said. “They saw a level of poverty and hopelessness that is particularly heartbreaking.”

The trip was especially eye-opening because many of the problems the stu-

dents face in their daily lives are “very manageable.” Some commented that the situations they encountered in Orlando’s urban core were so enormous that “only God could bring hope,” said Gillespie, Brown ’02.

Bethany Mills, Dartmouth ’10, agreed. “A lot of us had our eyes opened to the situations of poverty in America,” said Mills, a classical languages and literatures major.

Ryan Bouton (Dartmouth ’01), a staffer with Christian Impact, echoed those comments, calling the missionary work a “particularly powerful time for the students. A lot of them were challenged to think about what they would do with their lives.”

The preparations and long drive also provided a powerful opportunity for bonding between the students.

“We learned a lot about fellowship and community as we prepared for the trip, meeting for a few Bible studies

and training sessions,” said Mills. “We got to know each other really quickly, and we spent a lot of the time talking about what God has done in our lives and what he might have in store for the future.”

Likewise, staffers with Christian Impact, Crusade’s outreach at Dartmouth, said they especially wanted to help create a sense of community among students during the getaway in late March.

“It was really neat to



**Sixteen students and four staffers from Campus Crusade for Christ at Dartmouth spent Spring Break this year in Orlando, Florida, ministering in the inner-city.**

“Our purpose was to give our students, who generally come from upper-middle class backgrounds, exposure to God’s heart for the poor,” Gillespie said. “They saw a level of poverty and hopelessness that is particularly heartbreaking.”

see them connect with one another,” Gillespie said. “Dartmouth has an unusual rotating schedule, which means that students often don’t see any of their close friends for six, nine, or even twelve months in a row. Dartmouth also has a culture of extreme busyness and individualism.”

As for accommodations, the students brought air mattresses and sleeping bags and camped in classrooms inside the First Alliance Church in downtown Orlando.

During weekdays, they assisted with after-school programs for at-risk children, tutored students with homework, and distributed food. They also helped assemble Easter bags – stuffed with candy, fruit, crayons, toys, and an activity book about Jesus – for churches to give to children. Additionally, the students surveyed a community for local resources, trained lay ministers in evangelistic tools, and participated in door-to-door evangelism.

In all, the students and staffers shared the Gospel with more than seventy-five people during their stay in Orlando—for many students it was their first evangelism experience.

When interacting with children, the students gave the youngsters “Good News” bracelets; each contained five colored beads, and each color symbolized an aspect of the Gospel.

“The best part of the trip for me was the opportunity to work with students at an after-school program,” Mills said.

“I’ve sometimes wondered how well young children can really understand the Gospel message. I was so encouraged when a six-year-old boy eagerly recounted the Gospel story we’d just told him and gave me examples of how he understood things like sin and forgiveness in his life.”

During their trip, the team spent a day at Disney World. The students also met Campus Crusade President Steve Douglass, Harvard M.B.A. ’69, during a tour of Campus Crusade for Christ International.

As a result of the trip, many of the students were “challenged to think about, ‘What does God want me to do when I grow up?’ Their faith is becoming a real core issue for them,” said Bouton.

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## BRINGING ‘HOPE’ ONLINE

*Ministry Launches Brown-specific Web site*



College Hill for Christ ([www.collegehillforchrist.com](http://www.collegehillforchrist.com)) is launching a new Web site aimed at fostering Christian dialogue at Brown University.

In response to a recent stir in *The Brown Daily Herald* over the university’s faith-themed motto – *In Deo Speramus* (*In God We Hope*) – ministry leaders are debuting [indeosperamus.org](http://indeosperamus.org). In March, columnist Emily Beslin ’10 suggested changing the motto to “Despite the odds, we hope and we act.”

While some at Brown may be seeking to disconnect the university from the name of God, the new site is a “way to bring the Gospel in a Brown-specific way. All of the apologetic topics are very relevant to Brown,” said Lorena Ellis,

an intern with College Hill for Christ.

[Indeosperamus.org](http://Indeosperamus.org) will offer a Christian worldview on a variety of topics and encourage interaction via discussion boards. Among the potential topics, social injustice is one that resonates among many Brown students and one that can be linked to a variety of faith issues.

Earlier this year, College Hill for Christ, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, purchased the URL for the endeavor. This summer, students interning in Campus Crusade for Christ’s Boston operations center are developing the graphics and format for the site, which is scheduled to launch around the commencement of the fall semester on September 1.

The site will feature weekly articles from students and



alumni; links to apologetic materials and Christian organizations; news and event tidbits; and comment and discussion boards.

As well, [indeosperamus.org](http://indeosperamus.org) will include podcasts, videos, and other multimedia materials; bullets on spiritual and service opportunities on campus; and weekly posts offering a Christian view on campus events.

“[The site] will serve as an “interactive, evangelistic Web site tailored to the community, events, and personality of Brown,” said Brodie Herb, a staffer with College Hill for Christ. “Students just spend so much time online; it’s just a different way of engaging students. Many ministries are looking more to online ventures. It’s natural for students to be online.”

Herb also noted that a Web site can offer a “safe” place for students to explore Christianity.

“Students feel safe exploring online what they would not explore off line,” she said. “This online culture opens the door for incredible access to a great number of students – and even those beyond the campus.”

Along those lines, “the number of hours the average stu-



**College Hill for Christ at Brown recently launched [indeosperamus.org](http://indeosperamus.org), a website to foster Christian dialogue at the university.**

dent spends online – e-mail, social networking sites, YouTube – is staggering,” Herb said. “The majority of student leisure time is spent online.”

Leaders with College Hill for Christ said they hope to promote the site by distributing promotional water bottles across campus early in the fall semester. They also plan to include additional advertising materials in a series of other events throughout the academic year. While organizers want to bolster the faith and worldview of Christian students, they also desire to engage the campus at large in discussions on current events. Along those lines, the organizers also hope to continue the spirited dialogue over the university’s inspirational motto.

College Hill leaders want to remind students of Brown’s spiritual heritage and

encourage them to explore Christianity via the modern corridors of the Web.

Brown students “grew up with computers,” Herb said. “It’s their natural way of finding information and relating to people.”

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## FAITH AND ACTION

*Alumni Panelists Share Moving Testimonies*



Christine Hsu Rohde, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, believes in the power of prayer.

“I pray for my patients,” she said. “Most of them don’t know that – they’re going through things that they don’t understand.”

Rohde, Princeton ’95, was among the participants of an alumni panel discussion in McCosh Hall on May 29. The discussion, entitled “How I Am Living out my Christian Faith Today,” was one of several events sponsored by Princeton Faith and Action to coincide with Princeton’s Reunions 2010. Princeton Faith and Action is a leadership development ministry resourced and served by Christian Union.

The alumni panelists shared touching details of per-

sonal, family and professional struggles before a packed audience that included Charles Gibson ’65. The veteran broadcast journalist and outgoing member of the university’s Board of Trustees was on campus in preparation to deliver the keynote address at Princeton’s Class Day on May 31.

Rohde shared how she incorporates her faith into her medical practice.

“It is such a privilege to be involved in someone’s path through illness,” said Rohde. “I thank God that He has gifted me to allow me to be part of that.” Rohde, who graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2000, focuses on reconstructive procedures.

At a practical level, Rohde lives out her beliefs by some-

times holding the hands of patients as they receive anesthesia, accepting patients who lack insurance, and making it a point to treat all patients with respect.

Rohde reminded the audience of Christ's words in Matthew 25:40. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers, you did for me."

Likewise, the mother of three young children is grateful for the prayers she received while battling an autoimmune disorder that threatened her use of one arm – and, thus, her ability to operate and even play the violin and piano.

"The power of prayer is unbelievable," she said.

Another key to living out the Christian faith involves the recognition that believers hold responsibilities for one another, said panelist Peter Ochs '65.

"We live in an extremely individualistic age," said Ochs, chairman of The Fieldstone Corp. and First Fruit Inc. "People say, 'I live on my own.' But we don't live on our own. We live in community. With that comes responsibility."

Panelist George Gallup Jr. '53 echoed those comments emphasizing the important of fellowship and commitment to prayer.

"A small group is really your extended family," said Gallup, chairman of the George H. Gallup International Institute. "I'd like to see young people in college or high school, or even younger, be involved in small groups."

Members of the audience said they were moved by the panelists' accounts of personal struggles and resulting insights.

"It is always high impact when someone shares their personal journey, and I enjoyed hearing their thoughts," said Robert Murley '72, chairman of investment banking for the Americas at Credit Suisse. Murley is a current member of the university's Board of Trustees.



**George Gallup Jr. '53, Peter Ochs '65, and Christine Hsu Rohde '95 were panelists for "How I Am Living Out My Christian Faith Today," a discussion held during Reunions Weekend in Princeton.**

Visitors to Nassau Christian on May 30 also were touched by the testimonies of three alumni, including Curt Blattman '75. The former banking executive chronicled his journey from atheism to Christianity.

A Jew by heritage, Blattman even used to quip that "The Bible" category was a waste of time on the game show *Jeopardy!* But,

today, the Princeton alumnus enthusiastically labors as a fervent evangelist and serves as a chaplain at the Bowery Mission on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

"Christ Jesus is the only way to heaven," said Blattman, who served as a vice president of finance for JPMorgan Chase & Co. before his retirement in 2007. "Real joy and peace are the byproducts of living for Christ."

Other speakers during the worship service at Nassau Christian included George W. Shepherd III '70, a senior account executive with Infineum USA, and Sam Haskell '00, a vice president with Sterne Agee.

A day earlier, more than 120 alumni, students, relatives, and friends attended Christian Union's annual brunch at Wilson House. The facility on Nassau Street serves as the ministry's headquarters and a resource center.

Students said the reunion weekend provided a bitter-sweet end to their time at Princeton.

Along those lines, Betsy Goodman '10 said the Saturday brunch offered a much-desired opportunity to introduce her parents to her friends with Princeton Faith and Action and the Christian Union staffers who have served as her "parents away from home."

"It was also a blast to see all of my old friends from Princeton Faith and Action and hear about all of the exciting new jobs they had and ways they were serving God in their new communities," said Goodman.

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*

## IT'S NOT JUST POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

*Princeton Faith and Action Sends Off Seniors*



Despite the intense pressures of academia, students at Princeton University should remember to store up treasures in heaven as Christ urged in Matthew 6:19.

That was one of the messages from seniors in Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)) when they bid a touching and bittersweet farewell to underclassmen during the group's final lecture series meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Princeton Faith Action (PFA) is Christian Union's leadership development ministry on campus. Many of the seniors were part of PFA Bible Courses and took on leadership roles within the ministry. Now these seniors will go out into various sectors of society and seek to make an impact.

"Now they are pursuing a great calling on their lives," said Dan Knapke, director of Christian Union's undergraduate ministry at Princeton.

The seniors left their classmates with an exhortation to maintain Christian friendships and seek the Lord, especially in hard times.

"Remember, our words are meant to build other people up," said Cally Robertson '10, a politics major. "Make your friends your priority. More important than what you're doing is whom you're doing it with."

Robertson, vice president of PFA, also encouraged underclassmen to turn to Christ when they are feeling insecure or weak about their abilities while on campus and beyond.

"You need to remember God's truth," she said. "That's really the only thing that can get you through those hard times."

Likewise, Robertson encouraged students to remember Romans 8:26, which explains that the Holy Spirit helps in weakness and intercedes with "groans that words cannot express."

Seniors also urged underclassmen to use their talents and abilities to honor Christ while at Princeton. "This is how you store up treasures in heaven," said Emmanuelle Pierre '10. "Now is the time to start. Work for the advancement of the kingdom of God."

In addition, several students shared powerful testimonies of their life-changing decisions to embrace the

Christian faith.

Among them, Colin Ponce '10 described himself as a "really rational guy" who asked Christ to "do something, show me something" to help with his need for evidence."

"In October, I said this really earnest prayer. Nothing happened that night or the next day or next day," said Ponce. "Over the next few months, I started seeing little changes."

In particular, Ponce said Christ especially touched him during the PFA ski trip over winter intersession.

"The PFA ski trip was the first time in my life when I had an encounter with the living God. That's when I was like, 'wow, this is for real,'" Ponce said.

The rest of the semester has been a "life-changing semester," Ponce said. "I have a relationship with Jesus. My desires are changing. My temper isn't as much as it used to be."

The changes were so pronounced they prompted questions from a colleague. "The answer is that Jesus happened," Ponce said.

Christina Powell '10 told underclassmen to be mindful that their matriculation into Princeton may be part of a divine assignment.

"You're at Princeton because God has you here," said Powell, a psychology major. "If you reach out for Him, you will find Him."

Mike Vincent '10 agreed. "God deserves your entire life," said Vincent, a sociology major. "My exhortation is just to seek God wholeheartedly. Press in – God is moving here."

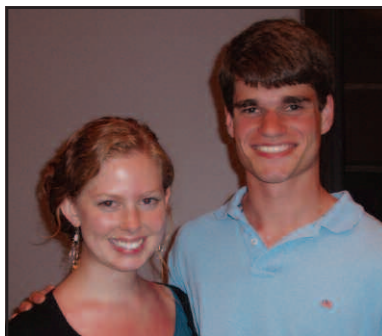
Julia Neufeld '10 encouraged students to make it a point to participate in a missionary trip during their time at Princeton.

In concluding remarks, Knapke exhorted the seniors to use their faith to make an impact on society.

"You actually are taking the first step to fulfilling the incredible life and destiny your God has for you," Knapke said.

"Princeton has done its magic. You can take all that has been invested in you and all that PFA has invested in you to change the world. Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."

*By Catherine Elvy, Staff Writer*



**Members of Princeton Faith and Action bid farewell to graduating seniors, including Becky Harper and Ian Flaniken, during its senior sendoff night.**



ALL IVY

**Faith's Role in Social Justice**

In April, more than 125 people attended a Veritas Forum at the University of Pennsylvania to hear Professor John DiIulio speak on "putting faith in social justice."

DiIulio, who teaches politics, served as the first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives under President George W. Bush. He earned a bachelor of economics and master of politics from Penn in 1980, and completed a doctorate in political science at Harvard in 1986. The former Princeton professor serves as chairman of the Penn Chaplain's Office Advisory Board.

Veritas Forum organizers also highlighted service opportunities for students.



**John DiIulio, Penn '90 and Harvard PhD '86, spoke on "Faith and Social Action" during a recent presentation sponsored by Penn Students for Christ.**



**Gail R. O'Day, Brown '76 and Harvard '79, is the new dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity.**

**Wake Forest Divinity Names New Dean**

Gail R. O'Day, Brown '76 and Harvard M.T.S.'79, was recently named dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. A New Testament scholar, O'Day assumed the position of dean on August 1. She was previously the senior associate dean at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Gail combines an outstanding record of teaching and scholarship with strong experience as an administrator and a sense of pastoral leadership that makes her the perfect person to lead the Wake Forest Divinity School into its second decade," said Wake Forest Provost Jill Tiefenthaler.

**Majority of Freshmen Favor 'Same-Sex Marriage'**

According to a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, a Pew research study suggests a majority of college freshmen are supportive of "same-sex marriage."

The article reports that, "Students who identified themselves as Jewish, Buddhist, or nonreligious were most supportive, with at least 87 percent in each group favoring legal same-sex marriage. Sixty-six percent of Catholic students and 58 percent of Muslim students expressed support, as did between 50 and 75 percent of students affiliated with most Protestant Christian denominations."



**A recent Pew research study suggests college freshmen have a higher tendency to support same-sex marriage.**

BROWN

**Ministries Unite for Evening of Worship**



**Praise Night 2010, "Arise and Awaken," was held May 1 in Salomon Hall.**

About 150 students from campus ministries at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design recently gathered for an annual praise celebration.

On May 1, the students participated in Praise Night 2010, "Arise and Awaken," in Salomon Hall. The featured speaker was Scott Yi (Brown '05), a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

College Hill for Christ ([www.collegehillforchrist.com](http://www.collegehillforchrist.com)) and Unified Christian Body helped organize the event, which also included an offering to benefit Family Resources Community Action of Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

**Care Packages Bring Relief to Organic Chemistry Majors**



**Organic Chemistry students at Brown were treated to special stress care packages by College Hill for Christ.**

Students with College Hill for Christ ([collegehillforchrist.com](http://collegehillforchrist.com)) conducted an outreach this spring by distributing stress-busting care packages to students majoring in organic chemistry. Organic chemistry is one of the most demanding and rigorous fields of study at Brown.

Roughly 200 care packages filled with lollipops, granola bars, balloons, and bubble wrap (for stress relief) were distributed to students during study sessions. A Christian Union grant helped fund the effort.

According to one College Hill for Christ student, the packages were very well received. "It was neat, and also a little sad, to see how shocked students were that we were just trying to care for them. Small acts of kindness go a long way," said the student.

**Dinner Discussions Show Athletes How to Share Faith**

Members of Athletes in Action at Brown ([www.aaatbrown.com](http://www.aaatbrown.com)) continued to come together and share a meal and discussion of scripture during the ministry's weekly dinner discussions. A Christian Union grant helps underwrite the dinners.



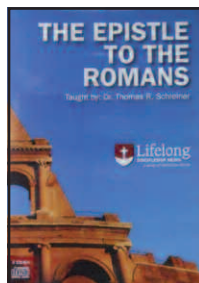
**Members of Athletes in Action at Brown continued to meet for weekly dinners and scripture discussions.**

Roughly 15 student-athletes attended the discussion groups, which focused on obedience to scripture, evangelism training, and how to expose non-Christian students to the relevance and reality of a Christian worldview. According to the event coordinators, the students were "strengthened in their Christian faith and in their confidence in the validity, reliability, and truth of the Bible and Christianity."

**CHRISTIAN UNION**

**Lifelong Discipleship Media**

Lifelong Discipleship Media, a teaching ministry of Christian Union, recently released its inaugural series, *The Epistle to the Romans*. The series, available in video and audio formats, features theologian Thomas



**Lifelong Discipleship Media, a ministry of Christian Union, recently released *The Epistle To The Romans*, a course taught by Dr. Thomas Schreiner.**

Schreiner's insights into the Apostle Paul's influential epistle. As well, the ministry recently finished filming a series

on faith and law involving noted Christian legal expert Michael Schutt. Lifelong Discipleship Media was launched in 2009 to help fulfill Christian Union's mission of developing Christian leaders to transform culture. *The Epistle to the Romans* can be ordered at [www.lifelongdiscipleship.com](http://www.lifelongdiscipleship.com).

**Intern Will Pursue Seminary Degree**

Justin Woyak (Princeton '09), who served a one-year internship with Christian Union during the past academic year, will begin studies at Bethlehem College and Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this summer.



**Justin Woyak, Princeton '09, served as a ministry intern with Christian Union.**

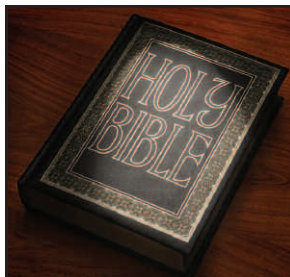
As a senior, Woyak was the president of Princeton Faith and Action ([www.pfanda.com](http://www.pfanda.com)), Christian Union's leadership development ministry. He served with the ministry this past year as an intern.

"Jesus has done more for me and through me than I asked for in prayer or even imagined he might," he said. "We have sought God through prayer, humility, and fasting, his Word, obedience, repentance, perseverance, and called others to do the same."

**Seeking God in the summer**

Students from Princeton Faith and Action are investing their time in spiritual advancement this summer. Princeton Faith and Action (PFA) students are seeking to complete a program in which they will read through the Bible in 90 days.

In addition, a group of female students in PFA are reading *Me, Myself, and Lies: A Thought Closet Makeover*. The study, by Jennifer Rothschild, encourages women to replace negative thoughts with positive truths from Scriptures.



**Princeton Faith and Action Students are seeking to read through the Bible's 66 books in 90 days.**

12 event was organized by Columbia Catholic Undergraduates in conjunction with InterVarsity.

Eden is a frequent speaker to college students and young-adults on the findings in her 2006 book, *The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Your Clothes On*. The lecture attracted some first-time visitors, and about 25 students continued the earlier discussion in a dessert session with Eden.

**Mattison Lecture Prompts Attendees to Imitate Christ**

Catholic moral theologian William C. Mattison was the guest lecturer at Columbia this spring at an event sponsored by Columbia Catholic Undergraduates ([www.columbia.edu/cu/earl/ccm/ccu](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/earl/ccm/ccu)). Mattison spoke on the topic of "The Passionate Life: Emotion, Happiness, and Morality in a Life of Discipleship."

Mattison engaged the audience throughout the presentation. A question and answer period followed the event, which was partially funded by a Christian Union grant. According to one student, the lecture "made all of its attendants more aware of the need to imitate Christ by cultivating virtuous character within ourselves."

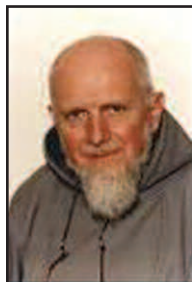


**Moral Theologian William C. Mattison spoke about "The Passionate Life" during a presentation sponsored by Columbia Catholic Undergraduates.**

**COLUMBIA**

**Father Groeschel Boycotts New York Times**

Father Benedict Groeschel, who received his doctorate in psychology from Columbia in 1971, recently encouraged



**Father Benedict Groeschel, Columbia '71, has taken the New York Times to task for its anti-Catholic bias.**

viewers of his *Sunday Night Live* television show on Catholic network EWTN to stop reading the *New York Times* due to its anti-Catholic and anti-Christian bias.

A former reader of the *Times*, Groeschel has repeatedly informed viewers of his program of articles which he believes to be inaccurate and biased.

**Author Lectures on Chastity**

Author and journalist Dawn Eden recently spoke to Columbia students about the relevance of chastity. The April



**Author Dawn Eden recently spoke to Columbia Catholic Undergraduates about the relevance of chastity and the findings from her book, *Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Our Clothes On*.**

**CORNELL**

**Prayer Movement Gains Momentum**

Students with Campus On A Hill at Cornell ([rso.cornell.edu/campusonahill](http://rso.cornell.edu/campusonahill)) spent time seeking God during a weeklong prayer movement this April. The students drew closer to God through prayer, fasting, praise, and sharing God's Word. According to Christians on the campus, attendance at prayer meetings has been on the increase and there have been reports of dramatic changes occurring in the lives of believers on campus.



**Students with Campus on a Hill participated in a week-long prayer movement to help them draw nearer to God.**

*iStock*



**Navigators Bring Hope to Inmates**



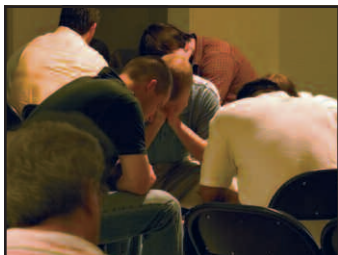
**Cornell students are ministering to inmates across the country through a letter-writing outreach program.**

The Navigators at Cornell University are reaching out to prisoners across the country by participating in a letter-writing program.

In the spring, members of the campus ministry began writing to prisoners on behalf of the Prisoner Express, a program based in Ithaca, New York, that promotes rehabilitation by offering inmates mail, information, education, and opportunities for creative self-expressions.

“It touches the prisoners deeply,” said Gary Fine, the program’s founder. “Contact with the free outside world helps them to maintain a sense of hope. The act of reaching out is a spiritual act.”

**Summer Ministry Keeps Students Fired Up**



**Christians who remained on campus during the summer stay connected to one another and to Christ through the Cornell Summer Fellowship.**

Cornell Christians remaining on campus in June, July, and August are staying connected through the Cornell Summer Fellowship. “With all the recent revitalizing ministries occurring around Cornell, summer is not the time for the body of believers at Cornell to grow lukewarm in their faith,” said Bethany Nichols ’12.

“Summer can be an awesome time for us to refocus on God and discern how he can use us in his plans for the upcoming school year.” The students also plan to spend time in prayer and service during their summer time in Ithaca.

**DARTMOUTH**

**Students Awarded Grants for Peace Programs**

Dartmouth students DeVon Mosley ’09 and Mahmud Johnson ’13 were each recipients of Kathryn Wasserman Davis Project for Peace grants. The students received \$10,000, which is awarded to help support grassroots efforts to promote peace. The students’ initiatives will be implemented this summer in their hometowns.



*Mediapix/World Economic Forum*

**Mahmud Johnson ’13 was one of two Dartmouth students awarded the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Project for Peace grant.**

Mosley, who is from Desoto, Texas, developed the Desoto Peace Project, which seeks to encourage at-risk youth to avoid gang membership and stay in school. Johnson will return to his hometown of Monrovia, Liberia, and promote education and staying in school through his iMHere! program.

**Campus Crusade Seeks Stronger Impact at Dartmouth**

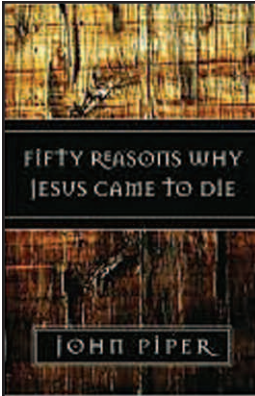


**Students with Campus Crusade for Christ at Brown participated in a Vision Banquet held at the Hanover Inn.**

Christian Impact at Dartmouth College ([www.dartmouthci.org](http://www.dartmouthci.org)) held a banquet for about sixty students, staffers, partners, and other ministry leaders on May 15 at the Hanover Inn. The campus ministry organized the event to celebrate achievements during the 2009-2010 academic

year, encourage greater direct ministry to students, and increase the ministry’s network.

Organizers said they wanted to expand partnerships with area churches and raise funds for the 2010-2011 year. “We’re trying to share what God is doing on campus,” said Faye Gillespie, a Crusade staffer at Dartmouth.



Roughly 300 copies of John Piper's book, *50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, were distributed at Dartmouth by students with Christian Impact.

**The Reason for the (Easter) Season**

Students involved with Christian Impact recently passed out 300 copies of an evangelistic book to their peers.

The students distributed John Piper's book, *50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, before Easter in an effort to encourage their classmates to consider the meaning of the holiday.

"For the students who were involved, it was really motivating. It was a way for them to share their faith with people," said Ryan Bouton (Dartmouth '01), a staffer with Christian Impact.

**Patheos.com Explores Issues of Faith**

Patheos.com, an Internet enterprise geared toward aiding the global discourse on religion, is gaining popularity, according to one of its founders, Timothy Dalrymple, Harvard PhD '09. "Patheos connects seekers, students, and believers with faith communities, scholars, and resources for deeper exploration and greater understanding of faith practices, wisdom traditions, and spirituality," according to the Web site.

The site also features experts like Ralph Marston, Tim Muldoon, Jaime Clark-Soles, and Alyce McKenzie, who offer information on a variety of topics and issues regarding faith.



Patheos.com, a popular Web site co-founded by Timothy Dalrymple (Harvard Ph.D. '09), provides resources for believers and seekers.

**HARVARD**

**Night of Prayer Focuses on Nation's Schools**

Christians with a heart for the nation's college campuses met at Cambridge Commons for the Harvard University Night of Prayer on July 3. While based out of Cambridge Commons, the believers also prayed at Harvard Yard beneath the tree where George Washington established the Continental Army on July 3, 1775.

With blankets, Bibles and snacks, the believers worshipped and prayed to the Lord throughout the night on behalf of Harvard and other colleges throughout the country.



Christians with a heart for Harvard held a Night of Prayer, interceding for the campus at Cambridge Commons and Harvard Yard.

**Old Testament Reading Plan Creates Summer Focus**

In an effort to help students continue to seek the Lord and stay diligent in growing in knowledge and awareness of what the Bible teaches about God's character and his ways and purposes, members of Harvard College Faith and Action have committed to reading the entire Old Testament this summer. According to Harvard College Faith and Action Ministry Fellow Nick Nowalk, an increased knowledge of the Old Testament teachings is an important complement to the New Testament Bible courses offered by the ministry during the academic year.

Although separated by distance, the students will be drawn together in their commitment to read through the books of the Old Testament and discuss them each week through e-mail. Harvard College Faith and Action is a leadership development ministry that is resourced and served by Christian Union.



Christian Union ministry fellow Nick Nowalk is helping Harvard students read through the Old Testament this summer.

**PENN**

**Meetings Equip Students to Share the Gospel**

Each Thursday throughout the spring semester, Penn Students for Christ ([www.pennstudentsforchrist.org](http://www.pennstudentsforchrist.org)) hosted a large group gathering that aimed to empower Christians to engage the Penn community for Christ more confidently. Specifically, four of the meetings were focused on outreach through intentional sharing of the Gospel and living a life of sacrificial service.



**Several gatherings were held this spring in an effort to equip members of Penn Students for Christ to more confidently reach out to their community.**

Additional meetings included presentations by keynote speakers, as well as nights of prayer and worship.

Christian Union helped fund the events, which PSC coordinators consider “a primary vehicle” for conveying their ministry vision: “To be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that we are enabled and compelled to love God, love one another, and love our campus.”



*iStock*

**Nearly a dozen students from Penn Students for Christ helped distribute meals to the homeless in Philadelphia’s City Center.**

Ten students from the Penn Students for Christ at the University of Pennsylvania made and handed out sandwiches at lunchtime on April 24. The project was a joint-service event with the Muslim Students Association (MSA) and Fixing Philly.

“The event opened a door to work with MSA in the future and do more service events with them,” said Dalton Banks ’12.

**Christians, Muslims Work Together to Feed Homeless**

Students from Penn Students for Christ recently helped distribute about fifty meals to the homeless in Philadelphia’s City Center.

Ten students from the Penn Students for Christ at the University of Pennsylvania

**‘Thriving in the Desert’**

Thirty-two students with Penn Students for Christ participated in the campus ministry’s spring retreat from March 26 to 28.

The group ventured to the KOA in Coatesville, where the theme of the retreat centered on the “thriving in the desert.” Aaron Repucci, a leader with Liberti church in Philadelphia’s Fishtown community, explained that God uses stressful periods to reveal idolatry and improper foundations.

“We need to instead trust in God for the direction of our lives,” said Phil Cook ’11.

As well, students focused on ministering to one another, especially the 10 freshmen who attended their first retreat.



**Members of Penn Students for Christ traveled to Coatesville, Pennsylvania, this spring for their annual retreat.**

**PRINCETON**

**Concert Raises Funds for Clean Water in Haitian village**

Manna Christian Fellowship ([www.princeton.edu/~manna](http://www.princeton.edu/~manna)) recently held a concert at Princeton University to benefit an organization working to establish clean-water infrastructure in a rural village in Haiti.

The campus ministry hosted “Waves of Mercy” on April 29 to support Generosity Water’s efforts in Lasource. More than 200 people attended the concert, which featured the band Tim Be Told as well as rap artists Lyrics and Manifest.

Manna leaders said they were inspired to support Generosity Water after hearing the story of Josue Lajeunesse, a Princeton custodian who is working to improve the welfare of his native Lasource.



**Manna Christian Fellowship hosted the Waves of Mercy concert to benefit the work of a humanitarian organization in Lasource, Haiti.**



**Hallelujah! Celebrates Twenty Years of Worship**



**Kenyatta Gilbert, assistant professor of homiletics at Howard University, was one of the speakers when Hallelujah! at Princeton recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Hallelujah!—Princeton’s student-led Christian worship service that reflects African-American traditions—celebrated its twentieth anniversary this spring.

Organizers observed the milestone with a series of events, including an appearance by Kenyatta Gilbert, assistant professor of homiletics at Howard University; a revival service led by Rev. Dennis Blackwell of Asbury United Methodist Church; and a Gospel music celebration featuring the Princeton Univer-

sity Gospel Ensemble and other worship teams.

“For me, Hallelujah! has been a place to fellowship, grow spiritually and build relationships with other students,” said Denzel Cadet ’10, ministry president.

**Conference Examines Role of Religion, Ethics in Marketplace**



**Business, religion, and academic leaders gathered at Princeton this spring to discuss the economic implications of Pope Benedict’s encyclical, Caritas in Veritas (Love in Truth).**

Thought leaders in the arenas of business, religion, and academia gathered at Princeton on April 9 to participate in a conference sponsored by the Princeton University Faith & Work Initiative entitled, “Civilizing The Economy: A New Way of Understanding Business Enterprise?”

The event focused on the ramifications of and possibilities for Caritas in Veritas (Love in Truth), the recent encyclical by Pope Benedict that generated broad media response. The encyclical served as a starting point for a broader discussion on religion, ethics, and the marketplace.



**Member of the International House Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri came to Yale in April.**

April 3 for a day of prayer. Members of the ministry team prayed with students for a moving of the Spirit on campus and also made themselves available throughout the day to pray individually for and with students.

“We love Jesus and we want him to have his inheritance at Yale,” stated one student.

**Gender-Neutral Housing Offered in Fall**

Gender-neutral housing will be offered to Yale seniors this fall. According to a statement in the *Yale Daily News*, seniors have the option of living in mixed-gender suites, but not mixed-gender bedrooms. “Students in romantic relationships are discouraged from rooming together in this configuration,” said a *Yale Daily News* report.

Last year, students held a “sleep-in” on Cross Campus to protest the university’s delayed decision on the issue. Yale is among the last of Ivy schools to incorporate gender-neutral housing into its living options.



**Gender Neutral Housing will now be offered at Yale beginning with the fall semester.**

**Educational Leadership Ministry Program Launch**



*Courtesy of Yale Divinity School*

**The Educational Leadership Ministry Program, a new offering by the Yale Divinity School, will focus on equipping ordained and lay ministry leaders.**

The Yale Divinity School ([www.yale.edu/divinity](http://www.yale.edu/divinity)) now offers an Educational Leadership Ministry Program. The program will focus on “equipping leaders to serve as ordained and lay chaplains, administrators, and teachers of religion in a variety of schools.”

Additionally, the curriculum will seek to prepare students to deal with the variety of challenges and issues currently facing today’s parish and church communities.

**YALE**

**International House of Prayer Visits Yale**

Roughly 60 members of the International House of Prayer, based in Kansas City, Missouri, came to Yale on

**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**  
PRAY WITH US DURING  
THE 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR



## PRAYER FOR THE *Ivy League*



Each year, thousands of students pass through the halls of Ivy League institutions and move out into the world to take positions of leadership in our society. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them, over 90%, have had no regular Christian influence in their lives during these critical college years.

At Christian Union, we are prayerfully seeking God for the transformation of all 8 Ivy League campuses. Hebrews 11:1 says that faith "is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (KJV)." As we expectantly look through the eyes of faith, we see an Ivy League that is radically different than today's version. We see an Ivy League that reflects the presence and Lordship of Jesus Christ. We see an Ivy League that has returned to its roots and sends out Christian men and women who will change the world.

Today, it is our divine opportunity to bring change to the universities we hold so dear. **Prayer for the Ivy League** is mobilizing 600 alumni, family, friends and supporters to partner with us in daily prayer for the students and staff of these schools. Each week you'll receive prayer requests, updates, and devotionals gathered by us from the students and ministries on these campuses. You can have an impact today from where you're sitting. Join us, won't you?

To join Prayer for the Ivy League, you may sign up online at [www.christian-union.org/prayer](http://www.christian-union.org/prayer), send an email to [prayer@christian-union.org](mailto:prayer@christian-union.org), or write to:

Prayer for the Ivy League, Christian Union, 240 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542.

BROWN • COLUMBIA • CORNELL • DARTMOUTH • HARVARD • PENN • PRINCETON • YALE

## THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN UNION

By Matthew W. Bennett, Founder and President, Christian Union



Following is the mission and vision of Christian Union, printed in each issue of the Ivy League Christian Observer to keep new readers informed of the ministry's purpose and passion.

America is unusual in the industrialized world in that it has significant spiritual devotion, but unfortunately, lacks Christian vitality among those who are in positions of cultural influence. Many of the most influential people in academia, the arts, business, education, government, media, medicine, and law are decidedly secular in their outlook. Unfortunately, the Christian community itself is mostly to blame for this sad state of affairs. Over a hundred years ago, large segments of the Christian community decided that intellectualism and positions of cultural influence were to be avoided and left those arenas to the secularists. Years later, Christians have lamented that so much of the culture is directed and influenced by those with values contrary to the Gospel of Christ. Of course, this should be no surprise.

### Why the Ministry Exists:

Christian Union was founded in 2002 to rectify this imbalance by developing Christian leaders to impact the larger culture. The ministry is strategically focused on a very influential and unreached segment of the U.S population – the portion of the population that makes much of the decisions that affect the daily lives of all Americans. Christian Union focuses on developing Christian leaders through events and conferences throughout the country, but directs most of its energy toward eight university campuses because of their extraordinary influence. Research has shown that just eight of the 2,500 universities in the country produce 50% of the most influential leaders. It's incredible to consider, but out of 21 million current American college students, a small segment of only 100,000 students on a small number of campuses will occupy 50% of the most influential leadership roles in the United States. Graduates from these schools will also have extraordinary influence on the international scene.



Christian Union Founder and President, Matthew W. Bennett, Cornell BS '88, MBA '89.

Currently, these campuses are extremely secular in their outlook, representing a slow-motion train wreck that has been negatively impacting our country and world for a generation. Astoundingly, 93% of the students on these campuses have no regular Christian influence in their lives. These campuses include Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale.

### Mission

Even with the help of local churches and godly national campus ministries, the proportion of Christian involvement and impact on these campuses has not changed in 50 years. There is no good reason to expect that America will substantively change spiritually in the next 50 years if these campuses are not dramatically changed in our present day. New approaches and energy need to be poured into making it a priority for the Christian church to see that the lives of these leaders are strengthened with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the mission of Christian Union is to develop Christian leaders at these colleges in order to dramatically

change the direction of the nation.

### Three Values of the Ministry

In its mission, Christian Union is characterized by three values of paramount concern. First, the ministry is organizational and engaging in its approach. Several team members have M.B.A.s and provide training for the ministry to be strategic and purposeful. Every quarter the ministry compares its progress against goals in a number of key indicators. Jim Collins' monograph, *Good to Great in the Social Sector*, has been a tremendous aid in providing direction for the ministry. This strategic-mindedness is also reflected in how students are mentored on campus. They are coached to be dynamic, faithful leaders, who make an impact for Christ on their sports teams, academic departments, social clubs, and extra-curricular activities such as singing groups and theater.

Secondly, Christian Union works deliberately to engage



## Christian Union emphasizes the importance of seeking God wholeheartedly.

students. In order to have a realistic chance of seeing them develop into Christian leaders in a few short years, ministry workers of substantial caliber are needed to mentor and teach them. Christian Union's ministry workers are "ministry fellows" who have a strong educational and experiential background. Many have advanced seminary degrees including masters of divinity, masters of theology, and a Ph.D. in New Testament. Others have experience in some of the best companies in the world including McKinsey and Co. Years of educational training and life experience give the ministry fellows the ability to mentor students and teach them biblical depth, theology, Christian worldview, and integration of faith with academic disciplines and anticipated vocations.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, Christian Union emphasizes the importance of seeking God wholeheartedly. What's the point of having a Christian in a position of cultural influence if his devotion to God, faith, and spiritual strength is so weak that his values do not significantly differ from his or her secularist peers? Daniel of Bible fame serves as an inspiration. He was extremely organized and focused in his outlook, which he had to be as second in command of the most powerful nations in the world in his day: Babylon and Persia. He also was known to be extremely intelligent which is why he was selected to enter the King's

service, learning the literature of the Chaldeans. Yet, Daniel also had a devotion to God so strong that even under the threat of death, he would not eat food defiled by idols, would not bow down to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar, and would not cease praying three times per day.

After teaching the students to be good leaders organizationally, and developing their intellectual knowledge of the Christian faith, they also need to be taught how to seek God with their whole heart day and night: praying fervently, humbling themselves, reading the Scriptures often, repenting of sins daily, and obeying the Spirit promptly.

### Activities

Christian Union fulfills its mission on campus through a variety of activities. These are divided into three categories: 1) partnership ministry, 2) ministry centers, and 3) Christian leadership development programs.

In its Partnership ministry, Christian Union assists ministries in a variety of Christian-related initiatives, spending \$200,000 per year on the eight campuses. Approximately fifty projects are sponsored annually. Past projects have included funding Christian speakers to come to campus, evangelistic outreaches, community service projects, pro-life initiatives, conferences to help ministries recruit interns to



*Developing Christian Leaders to Transform Culture*

join their staffs, and many others. Though the vast majority of Christian Union's spending goes towards its own programs (see category 3), the ministry is unique in that it devotes so many resources to the furtherance of a faithful Christian presence through other organizations.

Christian Union's second category of ministry on campus is the ministry centers, which are currently in operation at three campuses: Brown, Cornell, and Princeton. These facilities range in size from 3,600 to 5,500 square feet and exist for the benefit of the Christian cause on campus. Every semester hundreds of small and large events happen in these facilities. These events are sponsored by Christian Union and also by many other ministries, free of charge. The ministry centers offer space for offices, fellowship meals, prayer meetings, organizational meetings, small lectures, receptions, Alpha courses, and other uses. Christian Union plans to have ministry centers on the remaining five campuses in the next number of years.

The third category of ministry activities on campus, and by far the largest and of the most significance, is Christian Union's Christian Leadership Development Programs, which require full-time staff on campus. Currently, Christian Leadership Development Programs are present on two campuses, Harvard and Princeton, with plans to begin at Yale in 2010 and Dartmouth in 2011 (other cam-

puses will be added down the line).

The focal point of the Christian Leadership Development Programs are the Bible Courses, which are led by a Christian Union ministry fellow and contain 8-10 students each. These are very popular and there is often a waiting list for students to join. As of spring 2010, there were 24 Bible Courses meeting weekly on the Princeton campus and five on the Harvard campus. Students need to be sponsored in order to be able to join a Bible Course so there is great need for more sponsors in order to touch the lives of more students (for information see [www.christian-union.org/sponsorship](http://www.christian-union.org/sponsorship)). Each sponsorship means that one more student will receive the opportunity to develop into a Christian leader.

In addition to the Bible Courses, students benefit from a weekly Christian leadership development lecture series, various conferences, as well as service and training opportunities. Christian Leadership Development Programs include one-on-one mentoring of students so that they can be coached to live for Christ wholeheartedly, understand the depths and implications of their faith in Christ, and make a godly impact in their spheres of activity and influence.

By helping students succeed in affecting change on campus, Christian Union is preparing them to impact the culture when they graduate. And by God's grace, they will be the agents of change that help transform the United States and the world.

**Christian Leadership Development Programs include one-on-one mentoring of students so that they can be coached to live for Christ wholeheartedly, understand the depths and implications of their faith in Christ, and make a godly impact in their spheres of activity and influence.**



## HARVEY FELLOWS PROGRAM

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHRISTIANS AT PREMIER SECULAR UNIVERSITIES

*Investing in Christians for the Marketplace*



**MustardSeed**  
FOUNDATION

Visit [www.harveyfellows.org](http://www.harveyfellows.org)  
for more details

## REPENT...AGAIN AND AGAIN

By Scott Jones



When God's Spirit draws near, one result is that his people are convicted of sin. We have seen this at Princeton on retreats and during our daily prayer gatherings at noon. Students overwhelmed – in the best kind of way – by God's holiness feel the weight of their sin and courageously confess either to the entire group or within a smaller setting. It is a powerful mark of God's presence when sin is acknowledged and turned from. Still, as wonderful and transformative as these dramatic outpourings can be, we often remind our students that repentance ought not be an irregular and exceptional part of their Christian lives.

Turning from sin – which is what repentance means – is an ongoing directive for God's people. We are never fully free from the influence of sin in our lives this side of eternity. Therefore, we must continually acknowledge our brokenness before God and others. One of the most powerful Scriptures that speak of our need for ongoing repentance is 1 John 1:7-10:

*7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

There is much we could say about these verses but I'll limit myself to three critical observations:

1. Repentance requires an acknowledgment of our lack of perfection (vv. 8, 10). Such acknowledgement is, quite simply, "the truth." To suggest otherwise about ourselves is to make Christ out to be a liar. There's more at stake in our confession of imperfection than we might initially realize; we're undermining the very message

and mission of Christ if we do otherwise.

2. In v. 9 John says that if we confess, God will forgive because he is faithful and *just*. I find this shocking. Most of us would probably expect this verse to say, if we confess our sins he is faithful and *merciful* to forgive our sins. I know when I mess up, my first instinct is to think something like, "I hope God chooses the 'mercy' card on this one and not the 'justice' card." Well, v. 8 says that it's his *justice* that dictates our ongoing forgiveness following confession. This is because Christ's death is a legal transaction in which Christ receives our penalty and, in return, we receive a full and ongoing pardon for any of the sins we have, or will commit. God is now, in that sense, bound by his perfect justice to forgive us when we appeal to Christ's sacrifice for our sin.
3. This text gives us two profound reasons to practice ongoing, consistent repentance. First, it twice mentions (vv. 7 and 9) that repentance is the means by which Christ's cleansing comes in the life of the believer. Many of us feel the deep guilt and shame of sin and while the offer of forgiveness is important, what we require at a deeper level is cleansing. In order for us to experience this deep reality, we must repent. Second, it is through repentance that we have true, lasting and rich fellowship with one another. I see this often in our Bible Courses when one of the students steps out and confesses a struggle in his life. Almost immediately, others respond with empathy often admitting their own struggle in that area.

It has been wonderful to see God moving in the hearts of the students at Princeton as we seek him at noon prayer and when he comes with power on our retreats. However, the true sign of God's continued work in our midst is evident when we hear of students gathering in small groups to confront, confess and turn from their sin on a consistent basis. May you and I follow their example as we draw close to God on a day-by-day basis, expecting His forgiveness and His cleansing.

*Scott Jones, Cornell '04, is a ministry fellow with Christian Union. He has completed Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS

## BROWN

- Pray for students who accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior this past academic year. Pray that they continue to grow through discipleship and become bold witnesses for the Lord, both on and off campus.
- Be in prayer for the incoming freshmen and transfer students. Pray that the Lord places many believers at Brown in the class of 2014.
- Intercede for the new student leaders of campus ministries.

## COLUMBIA

- Pray for the Catholic Undergraduate ministry as it serves many committed students on campus. Pray for its continued success, growth, and outreach.
- Pray that bridges to seekers and non-Christian students will continue to be built through events like the Veritas Forum.
- Lift up Columbia students who have been on mission trips over the summer. Pray that their lives will be forever changed and as they will carry newfound zeal into the upcoming school year.

## CORNELL

- Be in prayer for students, graduates, and undergraduates who remained on campus during the summer. Pray that their regular times of Bible study, prayer, and fellowship would continue in the new academic year.
- In light of the six suicides on campus this past year, please pray for students who are struggling silently with depression, feelings of hopelessness, and being overwhelmed due to the pressures of academic workloads and expectations. Pray that these students seek out help.

## DARTMOUTH

- The 24/7 Prayer Room was established at Dartmouth by Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, and Agape Christian Fellowship in 2008 and has been a great blessing. Please pray that enough funds will be raised to keep it open.
- Pray that campus ministry leaders will be rested and refreshed this summer. Pray for those who are raising support for the upcoming year, and for others who will be travelling or taking part in ministry work away from Dartmouth.

## HARVARD

- Pray for the new leadership team of Harvard College Asian American Christian Fellowship. Pray that their walks with the Lord will be strengthened and that they will be intentional in their influence and discipleship of others.
- Lift up Harvard students concluding overseas summer mission trips, serving in countries including South Africa, Guatemala, and China. Pray for their safe return and that they will continue to be effective witnesses on campus this fall.

## PENN

- Penn Medical Christian Fellowship has continued to meet for regular fellowship over the summer, gathering for study and prayer. Pray that these meetings bear much fruit this summer and during the upcoming year.
- Pray for the ministry of Penn Newman Center, as it supports, challenges, and inspires Penn's Catholic community to live a life that shines for Jesus Christ, and as it prepares Catholic leaders on campus and in the world at large.

## PRINCETON

- Pray for each student who served on a mission team in Haiti this summer, a venture that was jointly sponsored by several campus ministries. Pray that God would bless these students abundantly as they continue to serve the campus community this fall.
- Pray that as campus ministries put more emphasis on prayer, the Christian community at Princeton will be strengthened and unified, and God will bring many students, faculty, and staff to himself.

## YALE

- The International Church at Yale provides hospitality, dinners, and help with the English language. Pray that inquiring seekers and Christians from other nations find acceptance and a strong church family at the International Church at Yale.
- Pray for students who were part of the Yale Summer Christian Fellowship. Pray that they will be an encouragement to each other and spend time exploring more about God through regular times of Bible Study and prayer.

*"John Jay was one of the great architects of American liberty.... I have no doubt that the John Jay Institute will help many of our most gifted young people more fully to understand and appreciate 'the blessings of liberty' bequeathed to us by America's founding fathers."*

ROBERT P. GEORGE, J.D., D.PHIL.  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

THE JOHN JAY INSTITUTE FOR FAITH, SOCIETY AND LAW

*announces its*

## 2011 Fellowships

The John Jay Institute for Faith, Society and Law is committed to developing the next generation of principled public leaders.

Explore a graduate-level theological, political, and legal curriculum designed for law, government, and divinity students with world-class faculty and visiting lecturers. Fellowships begin with a semester in residence in Colorado Springs, followed by a 12-week placement in a public policy related field in Washington, D.C., various state capitals, or international political centers. Commissioned Fellows join an elite professional fraternity already serving the nation.

We encourage applications from college graduates who seek to pursue their respective callings in the public square.

**Application deadline for the Fall 2011 term: March 4, 2011**

For more information, visit [www.johnjayinstitute.org](http://www.johnjayinstitute.org) or call (719) 471-8900.



719-471-8900 • [www.johnjayinstitute.org](http://www.johnjayinstitute.org)







# From the bottom of our hearts, “Thank You!”

Through your generous giving, Christian leaders  
are being developed to change culture.



**Rebekah McCallum**, Princeton '10

Hometown: Brunswick, MD

Major: Anthropology, with Certificate in South Asian Studies

Campus Activities: Mathey College Undergraduate Fellow, Capoeira (Afro-Brazilian martial arts dance), Christian Union Prayer Team Co-Leader

*My sophomore year I took a course about how religion is portrayed in the U.S. media. Christian music, televangelists, and the movie 'Jesus Camp' were discussed. Christianity was portrayed in a rather unflattering light. Some of my fellow students made abrasive comments, so I approached the professor about sharing my testimony. She wasn't Christian but agreed that the students (many of whom were atheists) needed to hear that people still experience their faith. I prayed and drafted a testimony about my own personal Christian experience, including Biblical references. Several Christian Union staff and other Christian friends reviewed my notes. They shared invaluable feedback and prayed for me. At the next class meeting, I stepped out and shared my faith. As a result, my classmates heard a Christian perspective they would not have otherwise.*

[www.Christian-Union.org/Giving](http://www.Christian-Union.org/Giving)

[Giving@Christian-Union.org](mailto:Giving@Christian-Union.org)



CHRISTIAN UNION  
240 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542  
USA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*“At Trinity, we help students understand not only what is happening culturally but why it is happening. Students learn to think theologically and missiologically about culture, to recognize that cultural engagement is a significant part of the practice of the ministry of the Gospel.”*

*— Dr. Peter Cha, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology*

# Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

*Ask tough questions*

*Expand your understanding*

*Explore different perspectives*

*Experience relevant ministry*

**GO**  
deeper

Understand the gospel with depth,  
so you can proclaim it clearly and live it wisely.

Contact us today: **800.557.3624** or **www.teds.edu**

**Programs:** Master of Divinity • Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries • Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology • Master of Arts in Ministry • Master of Arts in Urban Ministry • Master of Arts (Biblical and Near Eastern Archaeology and Languages, Christian Studies, Christian Thought, Church History, Evangelism, History of Christianity in America, Intercultural Studies, New Testament, Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Philosophy of Religion) • Master of Theology • Doctor of Ministry • Doctor of Philosophy • Certificate in Christian Studies

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School is part of Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois.  
Extension sites in Akron, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, and South Florida.