

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A Farewell to Dr. Todd Ream

Dear JWHC Alumni,

It is with great sadness I share that this spring was Dr. Todd Ream's final semester with us in the John Wesley Honors College. He has accepted a position as Professor of Higher Education at Taylor University and begins his new responsibilities in August 2013.

As most of you are well aware, during his six-year tenure in the John Wesley Honors College, Dr. Ream has blessed all of us with a passion and gift for teaching and scholarship that has significantly shaped the ethos of our learning community. Dr. Ream's departure will be a big loss for us. But when we consider the many contributions he has made over the years to this community, it becomes clear that his presence will continue to be felt for many years to come as we cultivate initiatives and patterns of excellence he helped to establish.



Having said that, we are excited to see how God will continue to use Dr. Ream to foster His kingdom through his new responsibilities at Taylor.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. David Riggs

P.S. The following page has pictures and memories from students and alumni alike, which share what Dr. Ream meant in their lives. We encourage you to continue to post your stories on the JWHC Facebook page.

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Dr. Ream and Some Members of the JWHC Class of 2013

Spring 2013

Volume 3, Issue 2

"Dr. Ream, thank you so much for all you invested in us. I appreciate how seamlessly you mastered the challenge of integrating our classroom content and its application (even if I never listen to Switchfoot again). I also knew that at any point your door was open if I needed it. You have been an incredible encouragement. Thank you." - Meredith Osborn, Class of 2013



"Two words: shark tank." - Kay Slagle

"We'll miss you, Dr. Ream!!" - Kate Cook, Class of 2010



Andrea Rahman's Favorite "Ream-ism": "I'm in charge for thirty seconds, at least, until we get back to our regularly scheduled anarchy."

Dr. Todd Christopher Ream. What a man! He has a true passion and talent for getting students to think. He did not treat class time as merely discussion time, but as thinking time with a purpose! The energy he brought to the classroom was itself provoking and inquisitive, but also humble and considerate. Dr. Ream challenged us to go beyond reading the text and to consider the implications of our discussions. He also has an excellent sense of humor which does not get enough credit (in part because his students typically deprive themselves of sleep and good food). As a teacher, Dr. Ream is impressive. But as a person, as an advisor and presence, Todd has left an even greater impression. What does it mean to work excellently as an academician for God? What does it mean to work excellently in your professional vocation and at the same time devote oneself to leading a Christ-centered family? How does one appropriately challenge students to assess their aspirations and plans? What does hospitality and encouragement look like in a college environment? In light of what we believe and think, how do we strive to live rightly? My answers to these questions in great part (and at first without my knowing it) took form in the very person of Todd Ream, because he demonstrates the answers with his life. Our IWU and JWHC community is losing a powerhouse of a professor, but we are so grateful for the time he spent with us. Grace and Peace to the Reams! "Best," Luke Nelsen, Class of 2012



"My first night at IWU was spent, in part, at Dr. Ream's home with my NSO group. It was the first IWU professor home I was invited into, and our classes were invited again and again. He taught us how to think critically about popular culture, philosophy, and holistic learning. He introduced us to *Desiring the Kingdom* and Oppie and U2. He put up with all of our shenanigans, the shark tank had a lot of them, and often encouraged them. He was the professor who helped us make out our five-year, ten-year, and twenty-year plans, even when we were changing our minds every other week (not that I know from experience). Plus, we should all miss all of the Riggs-Ream banter because that is quality." - Annastasia Bonczyk, Class of 2011



"Thanks for caring enough to stop randomly when you saw us in between classes to point out greater life lessons such as 'wear a jacket when it's cold outside' and 'Pop Tarts do not equal lunch.'" - Rachel Eldridge, Rising Junior in the Mary C. Dodd Honors Program

P.S. No memories or reflections would be complete without mention of his wife Sara's amazing ice cream dessert! It's spectacular.

"Dr. Ream, I loved having you as a professor for my research seminar. You brought a great balance of challenging questions and witty comments." - Andrea Rahman, Class of 2010

Alumni Profile Luke Nelsen Class of 2012

What is your hometown?

Springfield, IL

What was your major?

Mathematics!

What was your favorite Honors College course?

New Testament Survey with Dr. Amy Peeler

What was your final thesis topic?

“The Role of Mathematics in the Christian Liberal Arts”

What is your current career/vocation?

I am a graduate assistant working on my M.A. in mathematics at Miami University (Ohio).

In what ways have your experiences in the Honors College prepared you for life now?

The Honors College took my understanding of the Christian narrative from a shallow, careless level to a deeper and meaningful one (i.e., it helped me realize the richness of my belief!). The genuinely interested professors gave warnings and advice, honest answers, and daily actions that modeled how thinking Christians love God wholly.

What has been your best experience since graduating from Indiana Wesleyan?

Perhaps becoming an uncle in July! I will say, however, that last week my officemate admitted that we were probably friends. That is a splendid victory!



What's Happening in the LLLC?

In the spring of 2013, the Liberal Learning and Life Calling tutorials focused on “Gender and Sexual Identity.” To do this (and to do it well), the students started with readings from the first chapter of James K.A. Smith’s *Desiring the Kingdom* and Benedict XVI’s *Deus Caritas Est*. Continuing on, they read C.S. Lewis’s *The Four Loves* and discussed what it means for us to participate in God’s love. The class also read Janelle Paris’s critique of employing “heterosexuality” and

“homosexuality” as categories of human existence in *The End of Sexual Identity*, as well as multiple shorter readings.

In May Term, several students are continuing the conversation with Jeff Chu’s *Does Jesus Really Love Me?*, Henri Nouwen’s *Life of the Beloved* and *Intimacy*, and *On Loving God* by St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

The LLLC one-credit hour tutorials, which for many of you were a mainstay of the

honors curriculum, are slowly being phased out as the JWHC introduces a new general education curriculum that replaces nearly all the core required courses at IWU. Incoming students now take six three-hour LLLC courses on topics such as “What is Truth?”, “What is Beauty?”, “What is Humanity?”, “What is the Good Life?”, “Who is My Neighbor?”, and “How Then Shall We Live?”

Upcoming Events

Principium Faculty Lecture Series

The Roots of Dostoevsky's Pragmatism
with Dr. Steve Horst

September 16, 2013
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Elder 143

Principium Faculty Lecture Series

Characterization of Moringa oleifera, a Medicinal Plant and Nutritional Source
with Dr. Grace Miller

September 23, 2013
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Elder 143

President's Author Series

Save the date for this special **alumni** President's Author Series event, to be held during Homecoming weekend. Meet current JWHC students and faculty, spend time with old friends, and celebrate the **15th anniversary** of the JWHC's founding!

*Christians and the Color Line:
Race and Religion after
Divided by Faith*

with Dr. Rusty Hawkins,
JWHC Associate Professor
of Humanities and History

October 5, 2013,
from 4:00 pm-6:30 p.m.

A conversational interview
Dr. Hawkins in the Globe,
followed by dinner in Henry
West Banquet Hall

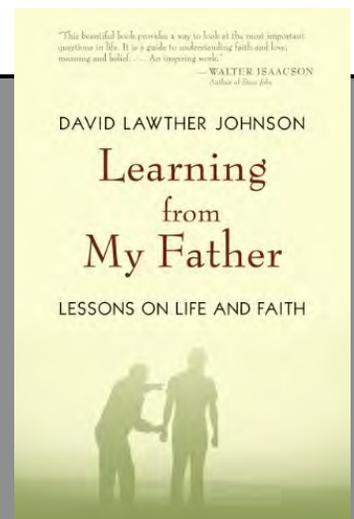
Watch for your invitation next fall — or
RSVP now to reserve your spot by
emailing honors.office@indwes.edu.



Athens and Jerusalem Seminar

*Learning from My Father:
Lessons on Life and Faith*
with David Lawther Johnson

October 28, 2013
4:00-5:00 pm
Globe Theatre



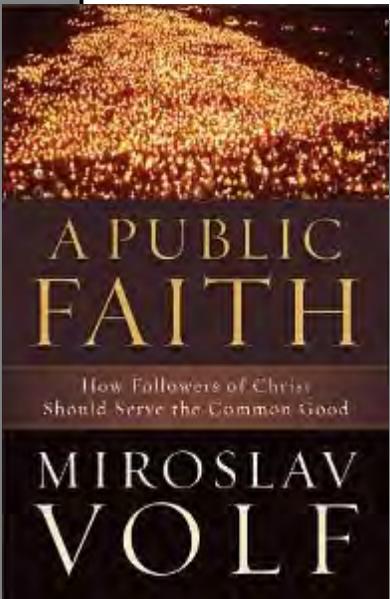
More Upcoming Events

This fall, we welcome Miroslav Volf, the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He will discuss the role of religion in public life and the place of Christian faith in our increasingly pluralistic society.

A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good with Miroslav Volf



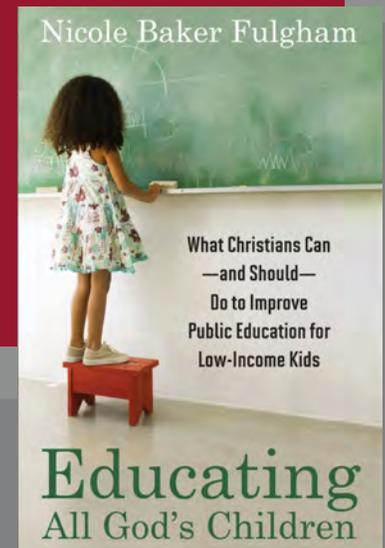
September 26, 2013
7:00 pm
Globe Theatre



IWU's School of Education and the JWHC also welcome Dr. Nicole Baker Fulham, author of *Educating All of God's Children*. Recognized by Christianity Today as one of the "50 Women to Watch: Those Most Shaping the Church and Culture," Dr. Fulham will be speaking on how Christians can—and should—seek to reform public schools.

Educating All God's Children: What Christians Can—and Should—Do to Improve Public Education for Low-Income Kids with Dr. Nicole Baker Fulham

November 5, 2013
7:00 pm



Congratulations, Graduates!



*Pictured from left to right,
top to bottom:*

Zachary Arneson

Chris Arney

Courtney Bidwell

Jaki Brueggen

Jenna Childress

Michael Conner

Kelsey Davitt

Bailey Haskins

Rachel Heffern

Jana Hunsley

Katherine Loughead

**Class
of
2013**



*Pictured from left to right,
top to bottom:*

Kristie Oke

Meredith Osborn

Rachel Potter

Emily Smith

Allie Urbina

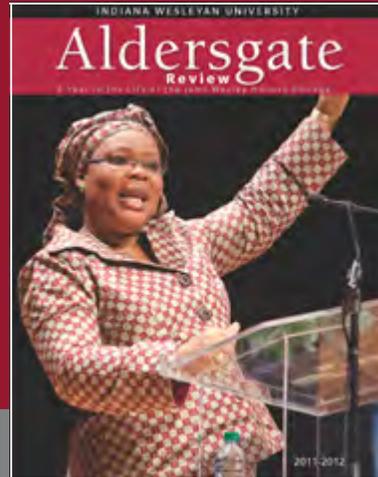
Katie Welch

Natalie Wierenga

Watch for...

Keep an eye out for the *Aldersgate Review* later this summer with writings from current JWHC scholars and faculty!

If you wish to receive the *Aldersgate Review* by mail, but don't think we have the correct address, please email your current address to **honors.office@indwes.edu**.

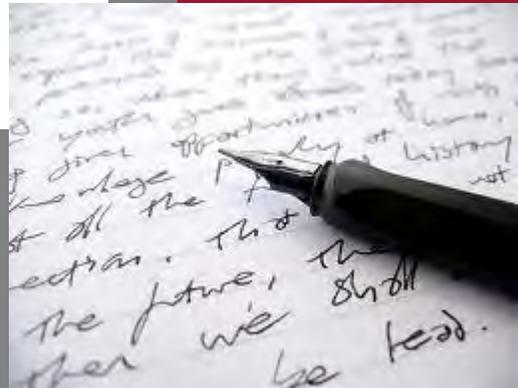


Future Class Notes

We would like to spotlight major events in your lives: career moves, weddings, births, etc. Please email all announcements and any updates to your contact information to

honors.office@indwes.edu.

Feel free to include pictures in your email!



Stay connected to the JWHC! We hope you can join us for the Honors College alumni event during Homecoming. See page 4 for details.

Tying the Knot!



Ms. Amanda Sprouse has worked as a graduate assistant with the Honors College this year, and we are sad to see her go. However, she won't be so very far away! Amanda has accepted a position at IWU as the new RD of married housing.

“But doesn't one have to be married to live in married housing?”, you might ask. Indeed, one does! This August, Amanda is marrying **Josh Weaver (Class of 2012)**. We are excited to see two wonderful IWU alumni (and one JWHC alumnus) beginning their life together. Many blessing for the journey!



JWHC alum **Cory Sprunger (Class of 2011)** and his fiancée Allison Heers would like to announce they are getting married this summer! Because family and friends live so far apart, the couple is having two receptions in two parts of the country—one on May 26, 2013, in Tulare, California, and the other on June 22, 2013, in Berne, Indiana. The future Mr. and Mrs. Sprunger plan on moving back to Indiana after graduating from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2014.

We couldn't be happier you for both!
Everyone is invited to either one of the receptions! If you would like to RSVP, go to coryandallision.com!



A Few More Memories



Mike Conner (left) with Dr. Riggs (right)



Sara Scheunemann (left) with Bailey Haskins (right)



Courtney Bidwell (left) with Dr. Toland (right)



Jaki Brueggen (left) with Dr. Hawkins (right)



Current postdoctoral fellow Sameer Yadav (left) and future scholar Noah Yadav (right)



Jenna Childress (left) with Dr. Bressler (right)



Dr. Ream (left) with alum Aaron Morrison (right, Class of 2012 and Graduate Student in Dr. Ream's new program at Taylor)