

*John Wesley*  
**HONORS COLLEGE**  
Indiana Wesleyan University

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Advent 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## A Note From the Director

We are pleased to launch the inaugural issue of the John Wesley Honors College Alumni Newsletter.



As the JWHC Vision attests, we want to cultivate a learning community that nurtures and engages “faculty, student, *and* alumni servant-leaders.” We hope this newsletter becomes a useful avenue for facilitating your involvement in such efforts.

I hope this Advent season lends many opportunities for you to reflect on the wonders of the Incarnation. May we never tire of pondering anew the depths and riches of God’s love manifest in Christ.

Grace and Peace,



## Our Hope for Future Issues

Our desire is to share life’s joys and experiences in an engaging manner. We want to create a newsletter that you will find both interesting and an accurate reflection of

you, the alumni. As such, your input is critical. We need constructive feedback, suggestions, and your stories. This issue should give you a brief glimpse of the

elements we plan to include in future issues; see page five for ways that you can become more involved with this newsletter’s production and the JWHC itself.

## JWHC Vision

- To foster a community of faculty, student, and alumni servant-leaders who are engaged in the faithful pursuit of understanding, wisdom, and virtue.
- To be a community of men and women who can compete intellectually with the best and brightest of our peers globally.
- To be kingdom-of-God people who are adept at integrating faith, learning, service, and life calling into a Christian life well-lived.

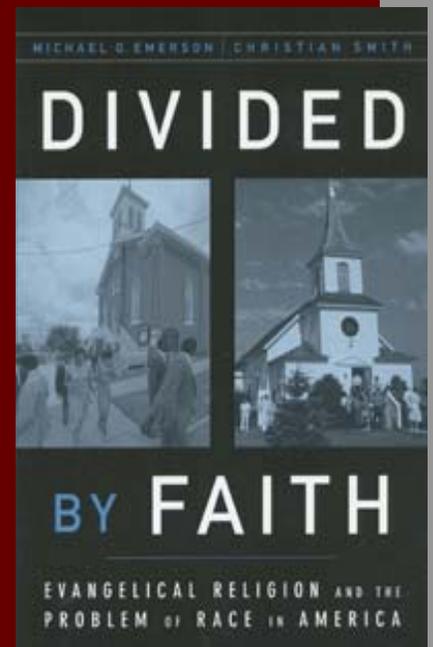
In this way, the JWHC aims to be a nationally-recognized leader in collegiate honors education that serves and enriches Church and society, as it bolsters Indiana Wesleyan's efforts to be a premiere Christian university.

### Divided by Faith: A Decade Retrospective October 15-16, 2010

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of Michael Emerson and Christian Smith's book, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*, the John Wesley Honors College sponsored "Divided by Faith: A Decade Retrospective."

The two day conference brought scholars

researching race and religion in American society together with an array of church practitioners interested in the challenges and promise of racial and ethnic diversity in their congregations. The conference featured several panels of speakers who shared papers and their current research, followed by a time for questions and answers.



**A video of the session  
"Pursuing Diversity in  
the Church: An Interview  
and Panel Discussion"  
is posted on the  
JWHC website:**

[http://jwhc.indwes.edu/  
campus\\_events/  
divided\\_by\\_faith/index.html](http://jwhc.indwes.edu/campus_events/divided_by_faith/index.html)

**Alumni Profile**  
*Stephanie Hershberger*  
**Class of 2009**



**What is your hometown?**

Shipshewana, IN

**What was your major? Your final thesis topic?**

Major: Accounting, Finance, and Economics

Thesis Topic: "Christianity's Influence on the Accounting Professional"

**What is your current career/vocation?**

Staff Accountant at BKD, LLP (public accounting firm in downtown Indianapolis)

**In what ways have your experiences in the JWHC prepared you for your life now?**

I see that JWHC really pushed me to succeed on a higher level and stretched me to go beyond what I thought my abilities were. JWHC made me realize that I was capable of much, much more than I ever thought possible — and I have taken that knowledge into my professional career, which has helped me to work harder and be more positive.

**Featured Class:**  
**Problems in Narnia and**  
**Middle-Earth:**  
**Friendships, Love, and God**



Throughout the course of the semester, Dr. Charles Bressler has explored the concepts of friendship and love as he and his students travelled to Narnia and Middle-earth.

They have considered Aslan's and Iluvatar's vision of love as they examined friendships between hobbits, between hobbits and other species, between humans and immortal beings, between humans and

Narnians, and between humans and God. They have unearthed various — and sometimes competing — definitions of friendship and love, including how issues of gender sometimes cloud and sometimes enhance relationships.

They have tackled and researched cutting edge scholarship in the canons of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, reading such works as

*The Chronicles of Narnia,*  
*The Problem of Pain,*  
*The Weight of Glory,*  
*The Four Loves,*  
*The Lord of the Rings,* and a variety of scholarly essays authored by Lewis, Tolkien, and others.

By the semester's end, each student will have produced a scholarly essay on a current "problem" area in either Lewis or Tolkien scholarship.

## JWHC students are currently reading:

*What Is a Person?*

Christian Smith

*God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution*

Thomas Kidd

*Hannah's Child:*

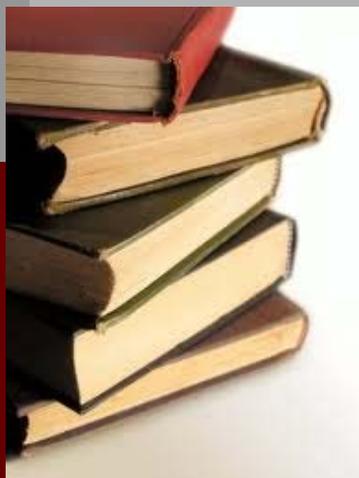
*A Theologian's Memoir*

Stanley Hauerwas

*Allah:*

*A Christian Response*

Miroslav Volf



## JWHC Classes Fall 2010

Old Testament Survey, Dr. Lennox

New Testament Survey, Prof. Peeler

Humanities Philosophy, Dr. Horst & Dr. Ream

Humanities World Civilization, Dr. Toland

Humanities World Literature, Dr. Allison

Becoming World Changers, Dr. Riggs

Liberal Learning Life Calling Portfolio

History of the Muslim/Christian Encounter,  
Dr. Toland

Honors Research Tutorials, Dr. Bressler &  
Dr. Hawkins

Honors Research Seminar, Dr. Ream

## Alumni Profile *Micah Childress* Class of 2005

**What is your hometown?**

Madison, IN

**What was your major? Your final thesis topic?**

Major: History/Political Science

Thesis: "John Hunt Morgan and His Civil War Raids"

**What is your current career/vocation?**

Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Assistant / Graduate Instructor at Purdue University

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

They have helped me learn to integrate my faith into teaching my classes.

**How did the Honors College shape how you view your vocation?**

Honors College enabled me to use my mind, through scholarship and teaching, for Christian infiltration into secular academia.



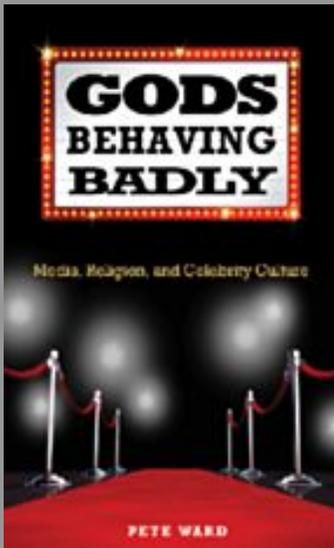
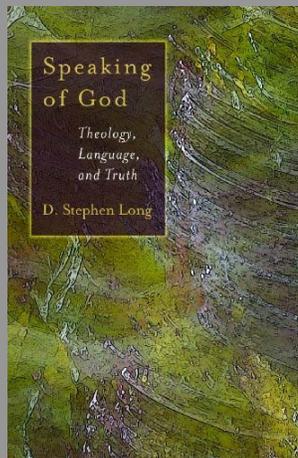
## Class Notes

In future issues, this is where 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 Holly Willman at [holly.willman@myemail.indwes.edu](mailto:holly.willman@myemail.indwes.edu).

We would love it if you included pictures in your email!

## Upcoming Events

**Athens and  
Jerusalem Seminar**  
with  
Dr. D. Stephen Long  
March 15, 2011  
at 4:00 pm  
in the Globe Theater  
All are welcome!



**President's Author Series**  
with Dr. Pete Ward

March 28, 2011  
from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

Cost is \$12 per person.  
RSVP to

[honors.office@indwes.edu](mailto:honors.office@indwes.edu)  
by Friday, March 12, 2011,  
if you wish to attend.

## Lend a Hand...

Please let us know if you are interested in helping the John Wesley Honors College.

Here are some ways to get involved:

- Writing articles for the Alumni Newsletter or the new JWHC Annual Magazine (yet to be named)
- Facilitating the JWHC Alumni Facebook group
- Informing us of any internships or job opportunities at your place of employment
- Mentoring current JWHC students

Email [honors.office@indwes.edu](mailto:honors.office@indwes.edu) if you'd like to serve in one of these ways!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Our group name is  
John Wesley Honors College Alumni**