



Chesterton House

A Center for Christian Studies

"daring to discuss the important and the amusing"

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

An early Church Father once asked, "What hath Athens to do with Jerusalem?" In other words, what does the best secular learning have to do with the revelation of Jesus Christ? The common practice of compartmentalizing faith suggests that the answer is often "not much."

Chesterton House, by contrast, seeks to promote the ancient ideal of "faith seeking understanding." Through public lectures and our residential initiative, we seek to re-weave faith and learning, the church and the academy, the life of the mind and the care of the soul.

For the seventeen men who inaugurated our living-learning center last year, cooking, cleaning, conversing, eating, praying, and practicing hospitality together has been a tremendous experience—not always easy, but always rewarding.

We are now providing the same opportunity for thirteen women! At our fall retreat, all thirty students gathered for

food, fellowship, prayer, and a discussion of Andy Crouch's *Culture Making*.

Adding a second residence is a step of faith, as is adding staff. Barb Westin brings years of experience to her position as Undergraduate Ministries Director. Also joining us in part-time capacities are Gary Villa, Spiritual Director; James Pothen '10, Undergraduate Programs Coordinator; and Charlie Smith, Resident Advisor. Along with bookkeeper Janice Merrill and me, we are now six!



Chesterton House staff (left to right): Karl Johnson, James Pothen, Charlie Smith, Barb Westin, Gary Villa, Janice Merrill.

Having more staff enables us to increase the breadth and depth of our programming. After reading Cornelius Plantinga's *Engaging God's World*, for example, we hosted the author for dinner and discussion. As one student said, "these are the moments of which college is made."

These are also the moments you make possible through your prayers and financial support. Please enjoy this report of last year's activity, and please support this year's program with a year-end gift.

As for Athens and Jerusalem, we tell students that spiritual life and school life need not conflict. As Plantinga puts it, "One way to love God is to know and love God's work. Learning is therefore a *spiritual calling*: properly done, it attaches us to God."

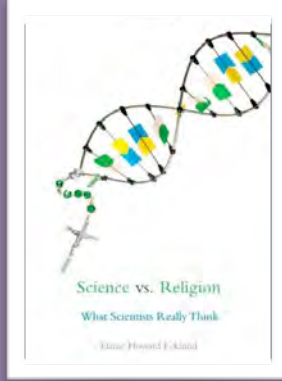
Karl E. Johnson
Director

Chesterton House
118 Anabel Taylor Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

PUBLIC LECTURES

 AUDIO AVAILABLE ONLINE


 “A Way Forward for Dialogue Between Religious and Scientific Communities”
Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund
Rice University



 “Worldviews of Great Scientists”
Dr. Henry Fritz Schaefer,
University of Georgia



Rev. Peter Harris (right), founder of A Rocha, visits with Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Director of Cornell's Lab of Ornithology.

 “Why Tree Frogs Need Believers: Christian Concern for the Environment”
Rev. Peter Harris, A Rocha

“Blood and Water, Beards and Trumpets: The Gospel in Old Testament Ritual”
Dr. Ryan O'Dowd
Cornell University

FILMS



Rev. Steve Froehlich discusses Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors* with Asian American InterVarsity.



CONFERENCES

“Christianity and Science: From Conflict to Complementary”
Dr. Ted Davis, Messiah College
Graduate/Faculty Conference

Jubilee!

2011-2012 EVENTS

“The Church and Food”
Dr. Gary Fick, Cornell University

“Secularization, Religion and the University's Critics”
Dr. John Sommerville, University of Florida
Alan T. and Linda M. Beimfohr Lecture


A Conversation on Science and Faith
Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University
Dr. Ian Hutchinson, MIT
Veritas Forum

“Can We Know the World—and Still Love the World?”
Dr. Steven Garber, Washington Institute
Institute of Biblical Studies

Neal Plantinga discusses his book *Engaging God's World with the men of Chesterton House* prior to his public lecture.



INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

 “A Breviary of Christian Virtue”
Dr. Cornelius Plantinga,
Calvin Theological Seminary
(5 lectures)

OUR MISSION

is to facilitate discovery of the intellectual riches of the historic Christian faith, thereby empowering more faithful Christian living.

FRIDAY CONVERSATIONS

· theology · praxis · culture · pizza

Guests included:

Dr. Ryan O'Dowd on making the most of college

Rev. Steve Froehlich on loving the world without worshipping its idols

Kelly O'Neal on vocation

David Moriah on race

Capt. Larry Olsen on just war



Stephen Calk on business

Dr. Wayne Barnard on social justice ✨

Chris Leydard on sport and spirituality

Dr. Rebecca Heidkamp on Haiti



Dr. Ted Davis on science and religion

Dr. Richard Baer, Dr. Ryan O'Dowd, and Justin McGeary on NeoCalvinism

✨ via webconference



lfe Samuel Adedoyin, a Hotel Administration major from Nigeria, served as a student representative on the board.



Dr. Richard Baer visits with Cornell President Emeritus Frank H.T. Rhodes at a Chesterton House reception.

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

“Jesus as an Engineer”
Dr. Ryan O'Dowd

“Transformation and Power: Reflections on Romans 14”
Justin McGeary

“The University’s Mission and Solomon’s Temple”
Justin McGeary

“Is Heaven Boring?”
Dr. Karl Johnson

THANKS

also to the organizations that shared expenses with us through co-sponsoring events:

- Bethel Grove Bible Church
- Coalition for Christian Outreach
- Cornell United Religious Work
- Graduate Christian Fellowship
- Intercollegiate Studies Institute
- Keeton House
- New Life Presbyterian Church

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				Larson
				Louis, J
				Love, A

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010-2011

INCOME

Gifts	159,544
Rental Income	109,455
Other	1,047

TOTAL INCOME 270,046

EXPENSE

Acquisitions	2,335
Communications	4,293
Computer	2,283
Facility	83,922
Insurance	5,291
Professional Fees	1,822
Programming & Public Relations	9,132
Salaries & Benefits	129,164
Supplies & Miscellaneous	4,111
Travel	5,308

TOTAL EXPENSE 247,660

NET INCOME 22,386

HOW TO GIVE

BY PHONE

Contact Randy Stair
PCA Foundation
1-800-700-3221

BY MAIL

Send checks to:
Chesterton House
118 Anabel Taylor Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

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list of those providing support to Chesterton House from July 2010 through June 2011.

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*In memory of
 Helen Froehlich

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www.giving.cornell.edu/give
 Designation: select "other" and
 enter "Chesterton House"
 Forward email confirmation to:
info@chestertonhouse.org

*Many students
 struggle to maintain
 faith on campus.
 Chesterton House,
 with its track record
 of solid teaching,
 not only helps them
 keep it, but to grow
 in grace and to
 spread the good
 news. It's essential
 to have an
 organization like
 this on campus,
 which is why I am
 delighted to support
 Chesterton House.*

- Carol Nolan

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 Stouffer, Jim & Wanda
 Trinity Presbyterian Church
 (Rye, NY)
 Williamson, David & Ann
 Zhu, Wei-Jing



RESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE

"The year I spent living in Chesterton House was valuable beyond compare. It shaped me in many inexplicable ways for the better and will certainly be a large part of the memories I carry on." - Resident, 2011



The inaugural group of Chesterton House residents celebrating one year.



In August 2011 we started a companion residential living learning center for women named Sophia House. Residents of both houses get together several times each semester for retreats, dinners, discussions, and other special events.