“Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, teach them to think straight, if possible.”

Robert M. Hutchins
Christ College is the honors college of Valparaiso University. Established in 1966-1967, Christ College provides interdisciplinary, honors-level study to academically talented students. The curriculum, taught by master teacher-scholars, emphasizes the liberal arts and the humanities—history, literature, art, philosophy, and religion.

The College takes its name from respected colleges established centuries ago. In the tradition of those institutions, Christ College is dedicated to the cultivation of intellectual, moral, and spiritual virtues. The College’s name also suggests its accord with Valparaiso University’s definition of itself as a university in the Christian intellectual tradition.

The Christ College building, named Mueller Hall in honor of its principal benefactor, the late Reverend Ewald H. Mueller, longtime pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey, was dedicated in April 1970.

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Peter Kametos
Dean

Margaret Franson
Associate Dean

Jo Ellen Zromkoski
Office Coordinator

The Spillikin Newsletter

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Homecoming 2015

2015 CHRIST COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

Caleb Rollins was selected as CC’s 2015 Distinguished Student. Caleb maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Valparaiso University, with three majors. And he made time for a study abroad semester in Namibia as well.

Caleb was actively engaged with the ministries of Valpo’s Chapel of the Resurrection, including the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, the Social Action Leadership Team (SALT). He has held leadership positions in SALT’s World Relief Campaigns for the past two years.

Caleb has been an Orientation Assistant, making incoming first-year students and their families feel comfortable and confident about their choice of Valpo as their undergraduate school.

In 2013 President Heckler nominated Caleb as a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for demonstrating outstanding leadership and civic engagement. Caleb spent the summer of 2014 in Washington, DC, as a CAPS Fellow through Valpo’s Institute for Leadership and Service. The CAPS Fellows Program helps students to develop their sense of Calling and Purpose in Society through intensive experiential learning opportunities. Caleb interned at Lutheran Services of America, assisting with research on foundation and corporate development opportunities.

“Caleb Rollins is truly passionate about social justice and has gained an education at Valpo that will prepare him for a splendid career in the nonprofit sector. He is articulate, thoughtful, personable, and he has a wonderful sense of humor. But especially, he is a model of Lutheran character, student leadership, and service on our campus. I expect him to be a faithful alumnus, one we will soon recruit to become a member of the Christ College Alumni Advisory Board,” said Associate Dean Margaret Franson.

Caleb will spend next year with Lutheran Volunteer Corps as director of community outreach for Trinity Lutheran Congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Kelsey Larson, also a CC senior, was named one of four Distinguished Students from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Each year the deans of each of Valparaiso University’s colleges nominate graduating students whose outstanding academic record, leadership, service, and character exemplify the highest level of student achievement. A committee of the Valparaiso University Alumni Association Board of Directors selects from among these nominees. Just before Commencement these extraordinary seniors, their families and friends, and college administrators and mentors join President Mark Heckler at a gala luncheon to celebrate their accomplishments.

Caleb Rollins
Hometown - Cedar Falls, Iowa
Majors – International Service, Philanthropic Leadership and Service, and Humanities

Kelsey Larson
Hometown - Southfield, Missouri
Majors – Chemistry, Physics

Paul Yox
Hometown - Mount Pleasant, Texas
Majors – Finance, Economics

CC senior Paul Yox was named VUAA’s Distinguished Student from the College of Business. Yox studied finance at the University of Washington.

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The Spillikin 2015

PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCEES

This May, thirteen Christ College seniors and three juniors were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious academic honors society:

Karl Anliker, ’15, History, Zionsville, Indiana

Nadia Atassi, ’15, English and Humanities, Valparaiso, Indiana

Emily Curosh, ’15, Classics, Whiting, Indiana


Jeneal Hunt, ’16, Chemistry, Greenfield, Indiana

Brett Kelly, ’15, Chemistry and Biology, Dyer, Indiana

Charlotte Lindstrom, ’15, Music and French, Farmersville, Ohio

Brandon McCartney, ’15, Spanish, Cleveland, Ohio

Caryn Toby, ’16, Biology, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Nola Prough, ’15, Spanish and Communications, Goshen, Indiana

Angela Silski, ’15, Chemistry and Spanish, Tinley Park, Illinois

Danielle Steinwart, ’16, Creative Writing, Montgomery, Illinois

Alexander Uryga, ’15, Political Science and History, LaPorte, Indiana

Garrett Warren, ’15, English and Economics, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Lziel Zeeman, ’15, Biology and Chemistry, Lombard, Illinois

Chloe Lash, ’15, Biology and Chemistry, Plain City, Ohio

The society honors students of the highest academic excellence and scholarly achievement studying in the liberal arts and sciences.

Christ College has maintained an excellent tradition of student membership in Phi Beta Kappa since the Eta of Indiana chapter was established in 2004.

CC SENIORS RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP

Eight Christ College seniors received the 2015 Student Affairs Outstanding Leadership and Service Award: Karl Anliker, history, Zionsville, Indiana; Kelli Chavez, sociology, Merrillville, Indiana; Nathan King, communication, Parker, Colorado; Trevor Richardson, history and political science, Princeton, Indiana; Caleb Rollins, international service and philanthropy leadership, and scholarship and community service, Cuernavaca, Mexico; and Alexander Uryga, political science and history, LaPorte, Indiana.

These students, nominated by faculty and staff across campus, were recognized for broad participation, leadership, and exceptional dedication and service in the Valparaiso campus and community.

CC CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATE PLANS

Volunteer Programs and Internships

Orr Fellow, Angie’s List, Indianapolis, Indiana

Teach for America, Elementary Teacher, South Dakota

Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Donations and Communications Coordinator, El Centro de la Raza, Seattle, Washington

Volunteer, Young Adults in Global Mission, Madagascar

Government Relations and Advocacy Intern, International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Teach for America, Secondary English Teacher, South Dakota

Customer Support Intern, Wi-Tronix, Bolingbrook, Illinois

Ministry Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

CAPS Fellow, Health Administration Intern, Wittenberg Village, Crown Point, Indiana

Volunteer, Young Adults in Global Mission

Employment

Investment Analyst, Rocacon Investment Advisors, Norwalk, Connecticut

Business/Finance Manager, Ethos Group, South Bend, Indiana

Assistant Stage Manager, Haven Theatre, Chicago, Illinois

Director of Community Outreach, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Medical Schools and Other Health Care Programs

PsyD, Clinical Psychology, Adler University, Chicago, Illinois

DDS, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

PhD, Physical Therapy, Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana

MA, Mental Health Counseling, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana

Other Graduate Programs

PhD, Chemical Biology, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts

MA, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois

MS, Plant Biology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

MS, Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota

MA, College Student Personnel, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio

Other Graduate Programs

PhD, Chemistry, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana

PhD, Pure Mathematics, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

MS, Digital Media, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

MA, Film Scoring, Seattle Film Institute, Seattle, Washington

JD, Michigan State University Law School, East Lansing, Michigan

MA, Teaching, Franklin Institute, Universidad de Alcala, Madrid, Spain

PhD, Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

AM, Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

PhD, Atmospheric Science, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

MA, Education, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

JD, University of Notre Dame Law School, South Bend, Indiana

MS, Civil Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

PhD, Nuclear Physics, The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana

MA, Humanities and Literature, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

MS, Atmospheric Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

Study Abroad, Shanghai, China

KEEP IN TOUCH!

We are eager to hear from alumni and share your news and accomplishments with other alumni and friends. Please send your news to:

Christ College | Valparaiso University | 1300 Chapel Drive | Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

(219) 464-5022 | christ.college@valpo.edu

The Spillikin 2015

The Spillikin 2015
SOPHOMORE SAMUEL BRANDT RECEIVES DONNELLEY PRIZE

Danielle Steinwart ’16

Samuel Brandt ’17
Hometown – Portland, Oregon
Major – Physics

Samuel Brandt was awarded Valparaiso University’s Donnelley Prize for his essay, “The Prayed Existence: A Formulation of Fulfilled Environmentalism.” This prize is given annually to the student who writes the most outstanding essay regarding humankind’s relationship with the environment. A faculty committee from the College of Arts and Sciences and Christ College selected Brandt for the award, which includes a $750 cash prize. Dr. Strachan and Vivian Donnelley established the Donnelley Prize in order to engage Valpo students in interdisciplinary research regarding humans and nature.

In his essay, Brandt delves into humanity’s relationship with the environment from a Christian theological standpoint. He begins with the idea that the ordination of creation is to worship the creator; therefore, a “fulfilled existence” is one in which the person is aware of and participates in the universal prayer of creation in conversation with God. Brandt explores how the life of Christ can be considered as a model for this, and he discusses numerous opportunities for practical application of this ethic, while emphasizing the spiritually holistic nature of Christian environmentalism in the context of the city. He concludes that restoring our proper relationship with the rest of creation involves a fulfillment of humanity’s calling to worship God with the rest of creation.

This summer, Brandt will be working at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington.

THREE SENIORS GRADUATE WITH TAU BETA PI HONORS

Three Christ College 2015 graduates who earned degrees from the College of Engineering are members of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society. Tau Beta Pi inducts junior and senior students with strong academic achievement and exemplary character, and who foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges. Tau Beta Pi is the nation’s second-oldest honor society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. There are collegiate chapters at 242 U.S. colleges and universities. Valparaiso’s Indiana Delta chapter was chartered in 1963.

Civil Engineering and Chinese Japanese Studies
Aura Lee Harper-Smith (Evanston, Illinois)

Electrical Engineering
Cody Johnson (Valparaiso, Indiana)
Andrew Kortze (Rockford, Illinois)

VALPO CELEBRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Chloe Lash and Laura Polakowski – Bird Dispersal of Native and Non-Native Fruiting Plants in a Northwest Indiana Nature Preserve

Nadia Atassi – From Epistolary to Narrative Novels: Truth and Self-Perception in Victorian Literature

Aaron Roggow, Chase Greenhagen, Danielle Desmond and Timothy Krentz – Robotic Application of the Any Colony Optimization Algorithm

SCHWEITZER HEALTHCARE FELLOWSHIP TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Emily Knippenberg ’16, Parker, Colorado

In my time as an undergraduate, I have discovered that the culture at Valparaiso University is fueled by leadership and service. We are taught to cultivate scholarship, faith, and community, to engage in the deeper issues of the world, and to strive to improve the world around us through service in our vocation. As an aspiring nurse, this calling resonates deeply with me, and I have found that my passion for medicine and relationships supports each of my endeavors at Valpo. I have also found that I am not alone, but rather am surrounded by incredibly gifted classmates who constantly seek to learn and to serve through the medical profession. This past spring, four of my Christ College classmates and I were given the opportunity to discover how our passion for medicine meets our purpose in society through our participation in the annual Healthcare Service Learning Trip with Valpo’s College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Joining me on this trip was Liral Zeeman ’15 (Lombard, Illinois), Benjamin Hoemann ’16 (Washington, Missouri), Jeneal Hunt ’16 (Greenfield, Indiana), and Caroline Meyer ’16 (Fort Wayne, Indiana). Because of the support given to us through the Christ College Dean’s Annual Fund and the Schweitzer Healthcare Fellowship, we were able to serve and be served by communities in urban Costa Rica and rural Nicaragua. In doing so, were touched by lasting and profound experiences that will forever shape our calling in medicine.

While the two weeks spent in Central America passed rapidly, the impact they left upon us will never fade. For Caroline Meyer this impact was found in the depth of relationships that she experienced: “As a pre-med student, I had not had many opportunities for real patient interaction. You can love the science behind the medicine but if you can’t love the people, you can’t make it in the medical field. I knew I loved the science years ago but now I know that the people are the real blessings of the medical field.” In his reflection upon the trip, Benjamin Hoemann echoed these thoughts on the value of relationships and identified the responsibility that he will one day have as a physician: “There will always be a power disparity between the doctor and patient, however a doctor or a health care provider will be more effective and efficient if he or she works to eliminate this power disparity. One can do this by creating a relationship of trust between the doctor and patient, one that truly values and recognizes the patient’s concerns and responds to the patient in a respectful manner.”

The experience for Jeneal Hunt strengthened her convictions about access to healthcare and furthered her passion to serve as a physician’s assistant: “My experience during the Healthcare Service Learning Trip in Central America has reaffirmed my passion for primary care in underserved communities. After this experience, I view adequate access to healthcare as a basic human right, because I believe everyone has a right to primary care to prevent and treat illnesses. Working and serving in these communities in Central America where many people have little access to regular healthcare has opened my eyes and ignited a passion in me for primary healthcare. This experience has prepared me to provide quality, culturally sensitive patient care, as I follow my dream of becoming a physician’s assistant.”

Stated best by Caroline Meyer: “The few words of thanks I have to offer here cannot express how deeply grateful I am to have received the opportunity to go on the health service trip to Central America. The trip was a journey of adventure and self-discovery, which I could never forget. Every day on the trip I looked forward to the new things I would learn, things I brought back with me and will carry with me forever. I know for sure now that the medical field is my calling. Thank you again for the blessing of this trip.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

PHOTO PROVIDED
CHRIST COLLEGE STUDENTS ATTEND NCUR 2015

Lauren Hargrave ’15 and Michelle Sopetti ’15

Four Christ College students engaged in an academic journey at the 29th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research. NCUR 2015 was held at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and Spokane, Washington. Sarah Black ’15, Lauren Hargrave ’15, Michelle Sopetti ’15, and Benjamin Hoemann ’16 gave oral presentations that spanned the topics of religion, biology, philosophy, and ethics. Valparaiso University student oral presentations included Sarah Black's Catholic Youth Organizations Resistance and Collapse During the Nazi Regime, Michelle Sopetti and Lauren Hargrave’s Longevity of SYBR Safe Signal in Agarose Gel Electrophoresis, and Benjamin Hoemann’s Neuroimaging: An Ethical Approach. Christ College senior Chelsea Kiehl’s paper entitled Better to Hear Than to See: The Psychological Advantage of Film Music and sophomore Nicole Thompson’s paper entitled The Topsy-Turvy Gender Carnival: The Use of Humor in Little Women were both accepted for presentation at NCUR; however, neither was able to attend the conference. Professor Edward Upton, Christ College faculty member and Coordinator of Undergraduate Research, served as a great source of knowledge and encouragement on the trip.

Students enjoyed interacting with student presenters in both poster and oral sessions as well as engaging in conversations with representatives at a graduate school fair. In addition, Christ College students delighted in exploring downtown Spokane in the opportunity to enjoy dinner overlooking Spokane Falls. Students felt it was an excellent chance to speak with students from other institutions in order to make contacts in various research areas. Benjamin Hoemann said, “NCUR allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of different programs that are offered throughout the country.” Students returned to Valpo with great appreciation for their opportunity to attend NCUR and all enjoyed a very positive experience. Without the generous gifts from Christ College friends and alumni, through the Dean’s Annual Fund students would have been unable to participate. Lauren Hargrave said, “I am grateful to have been able to present research with fellow students and friends at NCUR. I have been blessed by the opportunities that Christ College has offered to its students during my time at Valparaiso University. I am grateful to each of the donors and for the support of Christ College that made this wonderful trip a possibility.”

Students were able to attend sessions for their own enjoyment in different subjects, something that Christ College encourages in its students. Michelle Sopetti said, “Attending NCUR allowed me to augment my speaking skills, and to engage with students from other universities and disciplines who share my passion for advancing science to enhance the capacity and dignity of humanity.” Students in attendance felt that this trip had a positive impact on their Valpo experience and gave them a sense of design, computer skills, and knowledge of Chinese language and culture.

Michele Helen Reyes ’15

Senior Michele Helen Reyes is an excellent example of the varied ways that Christ College students engage with the wider world during their time at Valpo, both inside and outside of the classroom. A marketing major with a Chinese minor, Michele took advantage of all the resources and opportunities for engagement with Asia that are available through the Chinese and Japanese Studies Program, the Confucius Institute at VU, and the Hangzhou China, study center; and she created new opportunities for cultural exchange that will serve Valpo students.

Academically successful, Michele was awarded the English department’s 2014 Margot Ann Uehling Prize for Writing for her Christ College honors thesis entitled “It’s not very effective...: Japanese Popular Culture as a Medium for Soft Power.” Written for Jennifer Prough’s Japanese Visual Culture class, the paper examines the recent strategy on the part of the Japanese government to market Japanese culture as “cool” in the wake of the Japan boom that started in the mid-1990s. Thus, Michele was able to successfully integrate her major field of study into an excellent honors thesis. In addition to her marketing and Christ College courses, Michele spent the fall of her junior year at the Hangzhou Study center where she studied Chinese and traveled around Eastern China to experience the breadth of cultural and regional diversity within China itself.

Michele’s success has not remained confined to academic endeavors. In the spring of 2014 she was selected to be a Project Pengyou Leadership Fellow which took her to a four-day training summit at Harvard University. Project Pengyou is a growing movement to increase the number and diversity of Americans studying in China through providing a community (both virtual and local) of people with experience in China. Using social media this project provides not only a community for shared experiences, but also a range of job search and networking opportunities for those who have studied abroad in China. This year Michele helped launch a chapter of Project Pengyou at Valpo. Moreover, that summer Michele was awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship which took her back to China for an internship at Insignia Technology Co in Hangzhou. There she put her graphic design and interdisciplinary talents to use on a project that created a bilingual English/Chinese website that showcased a virtual tour of the city of Changshu to promote the region as a viable place for foreign business ventures.

Michele received a Chinese Government Scholarship offered by the China Scholarship Council. She will attend East China Normal University. When she returns from China, she hopes to get a graphic design position which will utilize her sense of design, computer skills, and knowledge of Chinese language and culture.
Hellas: A Journey Inward and Abroad

Haajar Shaaban ’16, Crown Point, Indiana

Sometimes I think it was a dream. Was I really thousands of miles away? In a different country with a different language that is a totally different world? Did I really experience its vibrant culture, incredible landscape, and ancient history? Sometimes I struggle to grasp the reality of the trip. But other times, its memories visit me vividly—the sunset, cool air, and relaxed lifestyle on the coast of Nafplio; the hot sun shining on the ancient structures on the Acropolis; the rain tapping on the roof of the bus as we drove through clouds in the mountains of Delphi. These memories could not be captured with photos nor with words, but they have undeniably become a part of me.

This trip was part of a Christ College 300-level seminar taught by Dean Peter Kanelos that enrolled nine students. In Greece we were joined by two tour guides and a bus driver, completing by Dean Peter Kanelos that enrolled nine students. In Greece our tour guide, was especially helpful. He knew practically everything about Greek history, which truly helped give our trip rich context.

As I stood in ancient sites, I often wished I had a time machine so I could see what life had been like. It was perplexing to me that these barren, broken sites were once bustling cities. There are no words for the feeling one experiences standing in a place that is thousands of years old. Human beings like me (but probably also very unlike me) lived their lives here. This was their normal everyday world. And here I was, a person in 2015 from across the world, standing in this place filled with awe.

This trip opened so many doors for me. I not only had an amazing time during those ten days, but have come to think in a different way due to these experiences. I see Greece everywhere—in the greenness of the trees, the warmth of a stranger, the sound of laughter, the feelings of relaxation. My trip to Greece was one of the most genuine experiences I have ever had.

Joining Haajar and Dean Kanelos on the trip to Greece were CC students Heidi Binder ’17, Margaret deVeer ’15, Sarah Hansen ’17, Laura Knuth ’17, Andrew Mueller ’12, Gianna Richardson ’15, and Steven Sekoulopoulos ’18.

William Butler Yeats

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

WILLIAM OLSTMED NAMED PROFESSOR EMERITUS

On behalf of the Valparaiso University Board of Directors President Mark Heckler has conferred upon longtime CC faculty member William R. Olmsted the title of Professor Emeritus in Christ College. Olmsted, who officially retired from teaching at the end of 2009, has continued his research and scholarship as Senior Research Professor.

An interdisciplinary scholar of the humanities, Olmsted has published and lectured on a wide range of subjects, including Dostoevsky, Baudelaire, Freud, Monet, and Derrida. Most of his work has centered on nineteenth century French literature and art, especially the poetry of Charles Baudelaire, and has appeared in Nineteenth Century French Studies, Romanic Review, Modern Philology, The Creuset, and other journals. He has also translated texts by Roland Barthes, Paul Ricouer, and Andrew Bareau.

A valued teacher throughout his career in Christ College, Bill Olmsted taught an extensive array of courses. Among his popular courses were Masterpieces of Literature, Common Readings, Word and Image, Tutorial Studies, Value and Judgment, Interpretation in the Humanities, and Senior Honors Seminar (later Colloquium). Among his many seminars have been The Greek Experience; Literary Modernism, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy; Revolutions of 1848; Early Modernism in Art and Literature; Dostoevsky’s World; Poe and Baudelaire, and Inventing the Body. He received the Teaching Excellence Award from Alpha Lambda Delta at Valparaiso University in 1996. Olmsted earned his BA from the University of Michigan, and his MA and PhD from the Committee on Social Thought of the University of Chicago. He was one of the early Christ College faculty appointed by founding dean Richard Baerpl.

He served Valparaiso University and other communities of which he has been a part in numerous capacities. At Valparaiso he was a member of the Faculty Senate, Honor Council, Library Council, Graduate Council, and the Museum Council, where he contributed substantially to advising on the collections of what became the Brauer Museum. He also worked on a successful NEH Library grant, a Knight Foundation Summer Institute grant (on diversity in the curriculum), and a major Northwest Indiana Humanities Consortium grant project on “Lake Michigan and the Northern Indiana Experience.”

Professor and former dean Mel Piehl ’67 recalls that “in his early years of teaching Bill was a tremendous pool shark, and it was very common for him to take groups of students after class for rounds of pool in the Union (which had pool tables in those days), where they would continue to discuss Plato or Baudelaire or Monet amidst the click-clacking of pool balls. I saw a few of these “contests.” Bill almost always won, but the games took a back seat to all the clever repartee and high spirits that Bill generated among his students.”

Professor Olmsted’s daughter, Jennifer, told this story at his retirement. When she and her brother Nick were younger they loved to come to Mueller Hall, and would sometimes stand outside the classroom door to watch their father teach. One time he became so animated with his chalk that pieces of it broke off. Jennifer saw where one piece had landed and wrote up a sign to hold up at the door: “Daddy, you have a piece of chalk in your hair!”

Of course most of the time “Mr. Olmsted” taught with his doors wide-open, and everyone always knew where his class was because of the constant sound of laughter floating down the hallways. It was part of the atmosphere of CC for many years.
Education is the best provision for the journey to old age.

Aristotle
murders

good bones and simple stories by margaret atwood—

classic text, but i have never read it. for fun: two collections

and noh dramas as well as historical fiction are based on

about the genpei wars in the 1100s in japan; many kabuki,

an epic historical prose/poem

for work: the tale of heike

is grand, beautiful, and thought provoking.

anime every alumnus should know — why? millennium actress

by satoshi kon. kon’s cinematic style is outstanding.

in this film he makes use of the animated format to think about

history and memory, fact and fiction, in 20th century japan.

it is grand, beautiful, and thought provoking.

what’s on your summer reading list?

for work: the tale of heike, an epic historical prose/poem

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A "symposium" in the world of ancient Greece was a festive gathering of friends for the purposes of convivial discussion. In Plato’s Symposium, a party of Athenians discuss the nature of one of humankind’s greatest subjects—love. Socrates rounds off the evening’s speeches by declaring that the highest form of love is philosophy, or the love of wisdom.

In Fall 2015, we mark the thirtieth anniversary of Christ College Symposium, one of the most vibrant traditions of Christ College. Exemplifying the interdisciplinary spirit and commitment to communal inquiry that are central to CC, students and faculty have gathered most Thursday evenings during the academic term for the past three decades to probe some of the deepest questions pertaining to the human experience.

Christ College Symposium was first convened in the autumn of 1985 by Dean Arlin G. Meyer. The initial meeting featured CC alumnae (and current CC National Council member) Dan P. McAdams ’76, who was then an assistant professor at Loyola University. The atmosphere in the early years of Symposium was one of intimate conversation and encounter. Many of the presenters were faculty of Christ College, as well as CC alumni and faculty from across the University. Additionally, several weeks were set aside for student-organized evenings.

The conversations focused on topics of cultural and political interest and the discussion of works of art and literature. One of the most memorable Symposia that first fall was led by professor of theatre, John Steven Paul ’73, who offered scenes from his production of Pirandello’s Six Characters in Search of an Author for analysis by CC students.

In the first years, writers featured prominently, including Rick Barton ’70, Dave Nord ’69, Walt Wangerin Hon ’86, Rene Steinke ’86, Hilda Demuth-Lutze ’82, and others. Alumni from many fields, already distinguished or who would go on to great distinction, participated, including Jacki Lyden ’75, Paul Sieving ’70 and Keith Schoppa ’66.

Symposium titles in the first decade indicate how far-ranging the evening’s topics might be: “Ivory Towers and Wall Street,” “Indian Images of Jesus,” “Chicagos—City and Politics,” “The Modern Idea of the Self,” “Bioarchaeology and the Midwest;” and “What Should We Eat?”

In the fall of 1990, Dean Mark Schwenh’s ’68 inaugural address laid out his vision for Christ College, and the Annual Dean’s Address became a fixed feature of Symposium at the start of each academic year. During Schwenh’s tenure, Symposium became more multi-purposed, with the guiding hand of Associate Dean Margaret Franson, weaving together ever more firmly the intellectual and communal life of the college.

Schwenh stressed the continuity of community built up through regular programming. “We thought it vitally important to have all students reserve a place and time weekly and we both hoped and trusted that once the space was reserved, it would be filled with events that were important to the common life of the college. So it proved.”

Many new traditions grew up within the format: the annual introduction of the Lilly Fellows to the CC student body, the sophomore critique of the Freshman Production, the alumni panel at Homecoming, and Symposium focusing on CC student scholarship.

Additionally, Schwenh worked to expand the focus of Symposium. “We hoped Symposium would extend the range of discourse within the college to include the sciences, public life, and the professions. And we deliberately sought to engage other academic units in the planning so as to create further bonds between CC and the rest of the University.”


As Dean Mel Piehl took over stewardship of Christ College, he saw Symposium as a place that perfectly captured the interdisciplinary nature of the college. “The Symposium always aimed to challenge CC students to become thoroughly aware of wider worlds of general culture and learning beyond their particular disciplines and courses. Accordingly, it offered presenters from diverse areas of history, politics, religion, science, literature and the arts who could communicate with non-specialists, stimulate further conversation, and thereby enhance CC’s mission to ‘inspire love of learning’ on Valpo’s campus and beyond.”

During Piehl’s tenure, Symposium continued to increase its profile. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tim O’Brien, cultural critic Andrew Delbanco, and Christian Wiman, editor of Poetry, were among the many eminent guests during Piehl’s time. The list of colleges and universities that provided scholars to speak is indicative of how wide the reach of Symposium extended: Notre Dame, Baylor, Swarthmore, Williams, Northwestern, Penn State, Columbia, Cambridge, Emory, Rutgers, Duke, Kenyon, Pepperdine, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Princeton, Washington University, and Yale among many others. CC students were also addressed by prominent representatives of public and private organizations, including the US Department of State, the Lilly Endowment, and the National Park Service.

Dean Peter Kanelos was thrilled to inherit such a robust institution and to continue to have the opportunity to work with Dean Franson to keep Symposium a vital component of the CC experience. Taking a turn toward traditional, yet hoping to preserve the vibrant character it had developed, Symposium was restructured into two distinct formats. During the first week of each month, Christ College would offer the CC Symposium Speakers Series, continuing to bring to Christ College, Valparaiso University, and Northwest Indiana communities, nationally- and internationally renowned speakers from a variety of fields. During the other weeks of the term, the CC Fireside Symposium would be held in the Mueller Hall Commons, organized by a member of the CC faculty, focusing on the life of the mind shared by CC students and their professors.

Kanelos described the development, “Our hope is to preserve and promote the best features of the CC Symposium—the intimate, personal encounters provided by Symposium in its early years, where students and faculty engaged one another in robust, multifaceted discussion, as well as the chance to continue to attend to critical voices from outside our community.”

In addition to the change in format, Kanelos introduced a new feature to the CC Symposium, a single, overarching issue that would drive conversations from week to week. In the first year, speakers and students alike where asked to consider the question, “What is Beauty?” “In the spirit of Plato’s Symposium,” he wanted to present universal questions that could be addressed from a variety of perspectives,” explained Kanelos, “Christ College has never been afraid to tackle the big questions in life, and it seemed that we should continue to do so as a purposeful community.”

The 2014 Dean’s Annual Address, entitled “Will Beauty Save the World?” set the tone for the year. The 2014-15 Speakers Series featured an engaging and diverse set of guests, including a composer-in-residence from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a philosopher of aesthetics, a National Book Award-winning poet, a Shakespearean scholar and an Orthodox monk, all tackling the elusive nature of “beauty.” Meanwhile, faculty and students gathered fireside in the Commons to think together about the ways in which beauty was manifest, defined, and challenged, in art, culture, and society.

In its first three decades, Christ College Symposium has exemplified much of what is best about the CC spirit and community. It will undoubtedly continue to do so as Christ College moves brightly into its future.
**KEMPER SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Tiffany Luehrs, International Business and Chinese major has been named Valparaiso University’s 2015-18 Kemper Scholar. The program has been sponsored by the James S. Kemper Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, since 1948. Tiffany is the daughter of Ron and Anne Luehrs of McLean, Virginia.

The Kemper Scholars Program’s mission is to prepare students for professional leadership positions through experiential workplace learning that applies what they learn in their academic programs. The Foundation believes that undergraduate study of the liberal arts represents the best preparation for life and career. The program aims to promote education in the liberal arts while providing students opportunities for career exploration and practical experience.

"Kemper Scholars represent a select group of undergraduates from a group of exemplary liberal arts colleges around the country," explains Dr. Ryan LaHurd, President of the James S. Kemper Foundation. "They are selected because they are committed to their studies and service in their communities and because they have exhibited leadership and well-rounded, ethical character. Throughout the over six decades of the program, scholars have gone on to make outstanding contributions as leaders in organizations around the country."

Kemper Scholars receive annual scholarships based on need during their sophomore, junior, and senior years of college. Kemper Scholars also receive stipends to cover the costs of their work as interns in major non-profit organizations in Chicago during the summer following their sophomore year. Scholars are placed in full-time administrative positions where they can learn about such things as financial management, organizational strategy, fund-raising, and non-profit administration. During the Chicago summer, scholars live in the same apartment residence hall and participate in a weekly seminar while having opportunities to explore the cultural, historical, and entertainment aspects of the city. Following their junior year, scholars have varied opportunities for summer internships in the insurance industry at offices of the Kemper Corporation throughout the United States.

Each year all Kemper Scholars attend a national conference to discuss their internship projects, meet with former Kemper Scholars, and consider topics in administration, leadership and business. They periodically read and discuss major works on leadership, service, ethics, or business; and they have frequent contact with Kemper Foundation staff to discuss the scholars’ academic and professional goals, as well as their hopes for future careers and learning opportunities.

Other Christ College Kemper Scholars include Amanda Master (named Kemper Scholar in 2012), Eric Smith and Victoria Bruick (named Kemper Scholars in 2014). Master spent summer 2013 with the non-profit Rogers Park Business Alliance in Chicago and summer 2014 at Fitness Forum Health & Wellness in Plymouth, Indiana. After graduating in May she began a graduate teaching program through Creighton University in Omaha NE and will be teaching at St. Anthony High School in Milwaukee, WI. During the summer of 2015 Eric Smith will be working with the Metropolitan Planning Council with fundraising and social media and Victoria Bruick will work for the Community Center for Arts Partnership with Columbia. 

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"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

— Albert Einstein

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**THREE POSTDOCTORAL TEACHING FELLOWS SELECTED**

Three new Lilly Fellows in Humanities and the Arts have been appointed for the 2014-2016 academic years.

Nicholas Kauffman earned his BA in English from Hillsdale College. After several years teaching literature at the secondary level, he went on to pursue graduate training in classics at Johns Hopkins University, where he received his PhD in May. His dissertation, "Rereading Death: Ethics and Aesthetics in the Ancient Reception of Homeric Battle Narrative" studies the way the Iliad’s representations of death were incorporated into dialogues about war and violence in later Greek literature. This subject reflects his primary interest as both a scholar and a teacher: the capacity of ancient texts to shape discourse about perennial human questions.

Anthony Minnema earned his BA in history from Calvin College, and an MA in medieval studies from Western Michigan University. He completed his doctorate in European history at the University of Tennessee. His areas of research and teaching interest include premodern Christian-Muslim relations, Arabic-to-Latin translation movements, and the history of information technology. His book manuscript, AlFazl in Latin Christendom, 1150-1600, is under contract with Amsterdam University Press. The monograph examines the European audience of a Latin translation of an Arabic philosophical work, The Intentions of the Philosophers, by the Muslim theologian al-Ghazali. This project uses this work as a lens to see the rise, decline, and recovery of the Arabic philosophical tradition in premodern Europe. The book redefines Arabic philosophy’s role in the European intellectual tradition and reverses the standard narrative of European history in which humanism triumphs as an advance over a narrow scholasticism.

Xueying Wang earned a BA in German from Beijing Foreign Studies University and an MA in literature from Beijing University. After she came to the United States, she earned an MA and a PhD in theology from the University of Notre Dame. Her dissertation, “Gregory of Nyssa on the Corporate Nature of the Human Body,” explores Gregory’s conception of the human body as an important medium of interpersonal relationships, including human beings’ relationship with Christ, the Incarnate Word. Xueying’s research and teaching interests include early Christian theology, theological anthropology, and comparative religions (especially East Asian religions and Christianity).

The three new fellows join these continuing postdoctoral scholars:

Joshua Kercsmar earned his BA in theology from Wheaton College, a MDiv (summa cum laude) from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a PhD in American Religious History from Harvard Divinity School, and his PhD in US History at The University of Notre Dame. His dissertation explores how Britons used their experiences raising five prolific animals—cows, sheep, horses, pigs, and dogs—to understand, implement, and question the enslavement of humans in American between 1550 and 1815. Kercsmar’s teaching and research interests span early America, environmental history, the history of slavery, religious history, and human-animal interactions.

Kenneth Pearce received his BA in philosophy and classical studies and BAS in computer science from the University of Pennsylvania. His honors thesis in philosophy, “The Semantics of Sense Perception in Berkeley,” was later published in Religious Studies. He received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Southern California in May 2014. His dissertation, Language and the Structure of Berkeley’s World, explores the relationship between metaphysics and philosophy of language in relation between metaphysics, theology, and philosophy of science in 17th and 18th century European thought. He has also published articles in contemporary analytic philosophy of religion, and has broad teaching interests in analytic philosophy and the history of Western philosophy and science.

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EIGHTEEN

THE S P I L L I K I N 2015

EIGHTEEN

THE S P I L L I K I N 2015

NINETEEN

THE S P I L L I K I N 2015
While the Freshman Production cultivates a strong sense of community within the freshman class, the Oxford Debates give students the opportunity to hone their forensic skills. When entering the Refectory, members of the audience vote on the merits of the resolution in advance of hearing the arguments. After hearing each side make their case, audience members vote with their feet – leaving the Refectory through either the door labeled “PRO” or the door labeled “CON,” depending on which side they believe made the stronger case. The 29th annual Oxford Debates topics and results were as follows:

**RESOLVED:** Corporations and firms operating in the United States should be legally obligated to pay a minimum stipend to full time college students for internships.

Initial Votes:
- PRO: 50%
- CON: 50%

Post-argument Votes:
- PRO: 36%
- CON: 64%

2015 FRESHMAN PRODUCTION: **ONE LAST SHOT**

Danielle Steinwart ’16

The 42nd annual Christ College Freshman Production, One Last Shot, filled Mueller Hall’s Refectory stage with danger, laughter, and heartbreak, and kept the audience at the edge of their seats.

Set in Prohibition Chicago, One Last Shot follows Finn, a young war veteran seeking a new start. In a popular speakeasy with ties to the mob, Finn befriends fellow customers, including the proprietor Carmen. He soon discovers that alcohol triggers in him a strange prophetic ability.

Trouble ensues when the mob, on a manhunt for a double agent, exploits Finn’s prophetic ability in an attempt to uncover the identity of the mole. Led by the ruthless and manipulative Toni Donissio, the mob will stop at nothing to eradicate the mole once and for all. Now, having endangered his new friends, Finn’s last chance to make things right leads to a crisis of family, loyalty, blood, and love.

One Last Shot was bursting at the seams with rich music. From the catchy crowd-favorite “Don’t Mess with the Mob” to the heart-wrenching Finale, the songs were guaranteed to stay with listeners long after the show ended. Jeffrey Langevin, who played Finn and composed much of the music, said, “The Finale would make me cry every single time, because it was a sign of how far we had come and how hard we had worked.”

Kate Braun, who played Toni, expressed a similar feeling of community brought about by the show: “The most rewarding part about the entire experience for me was how close I was able to become with fellow CC freshmen. It was amazing getting to know everyone and making new friends along the way.”

One Last Shot was directed by Isaac Schoepp ’07, with assistance from associate director Dan Cobbler ’05 and music consultant Alison Grischow ’15.

Every October, Christ College freshmen compose haiku commenting on autumn or the Freshman Program. This fall, a committee chose Andrew Brokaw as the author of the best Freshman Program haiku earning him the honor of lighting the fire in the hearth in the Mueller Hall Commons.

Erica Marske was the first runner-up, describing her thoughts on a Thursday plenary:

_In freshman CC:_

**we discuss circumcision**

_hashtag so college**

Jacquelyn Delorto was the second runner-up:

_Friday night typing_

_Hebrew names not in Spellcheck_

The clock is ticking

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The Spillikin 2015

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The Spillikin 2015
CHRIST COLLEGE DEAN’S ANNUAL FUND

During the summer of 2015, I was given the opportunity to present my molecular biology research at the annual Shock Conference in Denver, Colorado. Through the donations made to the CCC Dean’s Annual Fund, I was able to attend the conference and present my work. This experience allowed me to network with physicians and professional researchers, and also gave me an authentic insight into the world of clinical research which will prove invaluable to my future endeavors in science. Because of this wonderful experience, I offer a heartfelt thank you for your support. Thank you!

Chris Barnes

Friends of Christ College
- Elizabeth Arzge
- Marie Austen
- Dorothy Bass
- Kenneth Mauer
- Patricia Tiessen
- Thomas Spahn
- James Slattery
- Mary Sanders
- Wilbert Reimer
- Florence Oppliger
- Dorothy Bass
- Matthew Dobler
- Catherine Valentine
- Megan Wilken
- Hannah Bloomquist
- Sarah Fonge
- Michael Gallenberg
- Katelyn Steiner
- Bonnie Kranes
- Eileen Wickbold
- Rick Barton
- Eileen Wickbold
- John and Elisabeth Tiessen
- Marcus Kunz
- Hallie Ziemer
- James Brand
- Christ College because of your support. Thank you!
CC SUPER SECRET SNOW MISSION—THE SEQUEL 2015

Danielle Steinwart ’16

Snow was no stranger to Valparaiso’s campus again this winter. While others trudged through the drifts to class, Christ College students engaged in Super Secret Snow Mission—The Sequel. They had twenty-four hours to turn the snowbanks around Mueller Hall into grand snow sculptures. The winners, said to be chosen by an initiate of the Order of Ingenious Icicles in Iceland (aka Dean Kanelos), were awarded a gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice.

Students quickly got to work on their creations. The winning sculpture was not only the biggest, but also employed the most creative use of an icicle. The twenty-foot narwhal guarding Mueller’s northeast corner was crafted by reigning champions sculpture was not only the biggest, but also employed the most creative use of an icicle. The twenty-foot narwhal guarding Mueller’s northeast corner was crafted by reigning champions.

Other snow sculptures included a pair of lions watching over the front steps of Mueller Hall. Sculptors Tobiah Meinzen, Christine Umerley, and Katie Bernabei modeled their lions after the old stone versions outside of castles, as Mueller is the “castle of their hearts.” Bryn Cooley and Sam Tres created a huge open book with the words of Christ College’s own Professor Graber: “Read Carefully and Interpret Responsibly.” The pair explained that a book seemed like the obvious choice, since Christ College is all about delving deeply into texts.

As always, Christ College students displayed wit, creativity, and enthusiasm in their work. If another blustery winter comes Valparaiso’s way, expect a Super Secret Snow Mission—Part Three.

Students of all ages were encouraged to submit work in the categories of poetry, short fiction, critical essay, and creative nonfiction. Among the winners was Taylor Wiese ’15, who received an Academy of American Poets Award.

The program will continue this fall and expand its offerings to include a special topics seminar on Dante’s Divine Comedy. For more information, please visit www.valpo.edu/christcollege or contact the program coordinator, Anna Stewart, at christcollege.masterworks@valpo.edu.

GREAT BOOKS, GREAT CONVERSATIONS: THE MASTERWORKS PROGRAM AT CHRIST COLLEGE FINISHES ITS FIRST YEAR

Professor Anna Stewart

This past fall, Christ College successfully launched a new continuing education program with Valparaiso University’s Graduate School. The Masterworks Program at Christ College organizes lively, semester-long conversations around great texts for its participants, who hail from across northwest Indiana and bring a range of experiences and perspectives to the class’s shared readings and conversations. During this past academic year, those participants committed to weekly 90-minute meetings on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings to discuss works that spanned from ancient Greece to the Renaissance in the fall semester’s “Masterworks I” course, before considering the “modern” period—ranging from Shakespeare to twentieth-century America—in “Masterworks II” this spring.

Current Masterworks participants value the program’s rich readings as well as the opportunity to engage in deeper reflection and discussion with individuals from across their community. As Jason Eckert shared, “The most rewarding aspects for me were that I was exposed to literary works that I would never have picked up on my own, and I met new friends with whom I would have not otherwise crossed paths.” CC alumna Hilda Demuth-Lutze sees the program as a chance to engage in intellectual conversation outside her work as a public high school teacher. “For me the weekly Masterworks classes provide a welcome reprieve from the stresses of my job,” she observed. “Often I am so engaged that I enjoy further reflection on the drive home.” Eckert pointed out how the program has carried CC’s mission of “inspir[ing] love of learning” into the larger community of northwest Indiana, “being in Masterworks has “exposed me to new experiences, expanded my way of thinking, and enriched my life.”

The program will continue this fall and expand its offerings to include a special topics seminar on Dante’s Divine Comedy. For more information, please visit www.valpo.edu/christcollege or contact the program coordinator, Anna Stewart, at christcollege.masterworks@valpo.edu.

CC STUDENTS WIN WORDFEST AWARDS

Each year the Valparaiso University English Department hosts Wordfest, a series of events dedicated to writing, including workshops, readings, lectures, and discussions. Among the activities is the annual writing contest. Students of all years and majors are encouraged to submit work in the categories of poetry, short fiction, critical essay, and creative nonfiction. This year seven Christ College students received awards:

- Poetry Award First Place: Caitlyn Alario ’17
- Poetry Award Second Place: Nicole Thompson ’17
- Poetry Award Third Place: Victoria Bruick ’17
- Academy of American Poets Award: Taylor Wiese ’15
- Critical Essay Award First Place: Daniellie Steinwart ’16
- Critical Essay Award Second Place: Yamen Atassi ’17
- Nonfiction Award Third Place: Carl Colvin ’15
- Short Fiction Award First Place: Yamen Atassi ’17
- Short Fiction Award Second Place: Taylor Wiese ’15
- Short Fiction Award Third Place: Daniellie Steinwart ’16
**CHRIST COLLEGE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD – FOSTERING COMMUNITY THROUGH CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES**

The Christ College Student Advisory Board (SAB), comprised of sophomore, junior and senior students, plans and implements special college activities, advises the Dean’s office about matters that pertain to the overall well-being of the community, initiates new programs, and provides leadership and service for the College.

Among activities the Advisory Board helped plan and implement this year were a CC all-college picnic, a celebration of “Christ College Day” (October 29), service projects benefiting St. Jude Children’s Hospital and Concordia Children’s Orphanage in the Philippines, a CC trip to Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry, and a day-long celebration of Christmas traditions, complete with ornament making, cookie decorating, and classic Christmas movies. Additionally, the SAB sponsored a Shakespeare Week activity night and a CC student art gallery in the Commons.

SAB members are among the most active leaders in every area of campus life. This contributes to the formation of event partnerships between CC and organizations such as SALT (Valpo’s Social Action Leadership Team). The SAB also assists with recruiting prospective students and campus alumni events. As prospective SAB member freshman Emily Owens stated in her SAB application, “Christ College provides an intellectually stimulating environment balanced with an area of campus life. This contributes to the formation of event partnerships between CC and organizations such as SALT (Valpo’s Social Action Leadership Team). The SAB also assists with recruiting prospective students and campus alumni events. As prospective SAB member freshman Emily Owens stated in her SAB application, “Christ College provides an intellectually stimulating environment balanced with an incredible sense of community, resulting in a unique sense of home. The SAB plays an integral part in developing that sense of community.”

Planning for next year’s Christ College social and service activities has already begun. CC is grateful for the commitment of the SAB and for the many new ideas they not only bring to the table but also carry out to completion.

**SHAKESPEARE WEEK 2015**

**Professor Kari-Anne Innes**

Christ College sponsored the Second Annual Shakespeare Week at Valpo February 2-7, 2015. The week featured a residency with the Actors From The London Stage (AFTLS) that culminated in three performances of Macbeth, and included other Christ College events, most notably a symposium with Shakespearean scholar Gary Taylor and a packed house of Christ College students for opening night. AFTLS is a professional touring company, co-founded by renowned actor Patrick Stewart, featuring British actors in tours of Shakespeare’s plays to college campuses across the United States. Each tour begins with a meeting between the actors and faculty to discuss how Shakespeare can complement their week’s curriculum.

This year, the Actors From The London Stage visited five sections of Christ College classes including Texts and Contexts and Word and Image, reaching approximately 167 students. In the classroom, actors worked with students on physical and oral interpretation of the Macbeth text, which Christ College students read as a part of the spring curriculum. In addition, the actors visited thirteen other university courses across campus, as well as four larger workshops for faculty, staff, and community members.

On April 8 Valparaiso University celebrated its second annual day of giving, encouraging contributions to the University. The day’s theme was “Proud to be Valpo.”

On Wednesday evening, the Christ College Symposium Speaker Series featured Distinguished Research Professor Gary Taylor, Florida State University, in a lecture titled “Beauty and Truth and Shakespeare.” The lecture consisted of images of artistic masterpieces inspired by Shakespeare contrasted with the likely more humble realities of theatre production in Elizabethan England. Taylor also spoke on philosophical themes such as the co-existence of beauty, truth, and horror, as seen in plays like this year’s featured production of Macbeth.

Combined, AFTLS classroom visits and Taylor’s lecture prepared students to appreciate beauty in the sparseness of the travelling stage production (for which all props must fit in one suitcase), as well as the darker themes of Macbeth in Thursday evening’s performance.

Dates for the Third Annual Shakespeare Week at Valpo are set for January 11-16, 2016 with performances of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Actors From The London Stage on January 15, 16, and 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the University Theatre. Tickets are $20 general public; $10 Valpo faculty, staff, and students. Call residency coordinator Kari-Anne Innes at 219-464-6843 for more information. Call the Center for the Arts box office at 219-464-5162 for tickets. For updates about Shakespeare Week, follow us on Facebook at “Shakespeare Week at Valpo.”

**T W E N T Y - S I X**

**T W E N T Y - S E V E N**
Homecoming 2014 Alumni Panel

Jill Schlueter-Kim ’90 (standing left), Executive Director, Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana, Highland, Indiana

Mark Kerins ’00 (seated right), Professor, Division of Film and Media Arts, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Jessica Amrozowicz Kerins ’00 (seated left), Professor, Department of Biology, Eastfield College, Mesquite, Texas

Karen Carson ’05 (standing right), Teacher, English Literature and Composition, Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Homecoming 2015 Christ College Alumni Reading

Steinke is the author of three novels: The Fires, Holy Skirts, and Friendswood. The Fires grew from work she did in a CC class while she was a student. Holy Skirts, an historical novel based on the life of the Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven, a flamboyant German-born artist and poet who lived for several years in New York City’s Greenwich Village, was a finalist for the 2005 National Book Award.

National Public Radio said of her latest book, Friendswood, “Texas is a huge, complicated state, and it’s sometimes a difficult one for authors to get right. Not so for Rene Steinke, whose Friendswood does a near-perfect job capturing the feel not just of the titular city but of southeast Texas as a whole. One of the most interesting novels to be set in the Lone Star State in quite a while.” –NPR, Great Reads of 2014

Fredrick “Rick” Barton is an award-winning fiction writer and critic. He is the author of six books, including the volume of essays, Rowing to Sweden, and the novels The El Cholo Feeling Passes, Courting Pandemonium, Black and White on the Rocks, and A House Divided, which won the William Faulkner Prize. Barton is writer in residence and University Research Professor in the Creative Writing Workshop, University of New Orleans.

Pulitzer Prize winning writer Richard Ford called Barton’s fifth novel, In the Wake of the Flagship, “wonderfully inventive, and addictive to read.” Barton has a lot of important Human Business on his mind in this exceptional novel: race, history, the South, hurricanes, laughter, love, and much more.”

Steinke and Barton will read from their books on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 6:30 pm, Duesenberg Recital Hall, Center for the Arts. This Wordfest event is organized by CC alumna Allison Schuette ’93, Associate Professor of English.

Christ College Alumni Reception

Saturday, September 26, 2015
Mueller Hall Commons
3:30–5:00 PM

The Spillikin 2015