



Karlee Bowlby <comm@cscmovement.org>

One million students will arrive on our campuses this month (please pray!)

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Consortium of
Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

August 2025 Newsletter

Dear Karlee,

As the dust settles from the Consortium's 15th Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, we give thanks to all who contributed, including the many staff, volunteers, and interns, as well as our wonderful hosts at the Center for Christian Study. And we give thanks to God for three days of encouragement, enriching lectures, practical workshops, and conversations with friends new and old alike. We love making this gathering happen, and it's a good thing, for in just one month's time we'll begin planning all over again—this time for the 2026 meeting at Upper House in Madison, WI.

At our Wednesday morning gathering, I mentioned that one of the things we desire to see in the movement is growth not merely in the number and size of centers or the age of centers (do see the several anniversary events listed below), but also growth in the sense of maturity. Although we surely have miles to travel, one encouraging sign of the maturation of the movement is a burgeoning literature about the work of Christian Study Centers, including no less than six articles that have come out over the last six years. (By comparison, I have no such articles in my files from the previous 10+ years.) This literature has been made possible by PhD-level staff in non-director positions, which is another encouraging and somewhat recent development in study center land.

As the busiest season of the year for the Consortium gives way to the busiest season of the year for the Consortium's member centers, we invite you to join us in prayer for the one million students arriving at universities with a study center presence, and for the staff of those centers as they prepare to welcome as many of those students as possible.

In Christ,



Karl E. Johnson
Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- Give thanks with us for a successful Annual Meeting
- Check out the list of upcoming study center **welcome events** and **anniversary celebrations**
- Tune into relevant webinars from our partner organizations
- Celebrate the accomplishments of directors at our centers and partners
- Enjoy our recommendations for August, including an NYT article by Annual Meeting keynote speaker Jenn Frey
- Take a look at the jobs available at several study centers and partners

CCSC News & Events



Giving Thanks for a Great Annual Meeting

"You are making them better by the year. Truly a highlight of my year."

We are grateful to all 150 attendees of the Consortium's 15th Annual Meeting for making it one of the best and most memorable Annual Meetings to date. We hope everyone was encouraged, made valuable connections, and is looking forward to next year at Upper House!



Welcome, Interns!

The Consortium is excited to welcome the 2025-26 cohort of our Internship Program! Click the link below to learn more about each intern and the study center where they will be serving.

[Learn more](#)



CCSC's New Mailing Address

The Consortium is moving its offices in Charlottesville. Our new mailing address is:

**PO Box 6555
Charlottesville, VA 22906**

Study Center Events



Center Welcome Events

From pre-orientation camps to BBQ lunches, study centers across the country are welcoming new and returning students with a slate of exciting events. Take a look at the list below and think about sharing a welcome event link with a student you know who might appreciate the invitation!

[Anselm House](#)

University of Minnesota

[Beatrice Institute](#)

University of Pittsburgh

[Cambridge House](#)

College of William & Mary

[Center for Christian Study](#)

University of Virginia

[Chesterton House](#)

Cornell University

[Christian Study Center of Gainesville](#)

University of Florida

[East Carolina Study Center](#)

East Carolina University

[Michigan Christian Study Center](#)

University of Michigan

[NC State Study Center](#)

North Carolina State University

[Theological Horizons](#)

University of Virginia

[Upper House](#)

University of Wisconsin-Madison



Center Anniversary Celebrations

Multiple Christian Study Centers are celebrating anniversaries this year! Consider joining in the festivities by registering for one of the events below:

Rivendell Institute (Yale)

Celebrating 30 years

October 18, 2025

Christian Study Center of Gainesville

Celebrating 25 years

October 9-11, 2025

Chesterton House (Cornell)

Celebrating 25 years

October 3-4, 2025

North Carolina Study Center

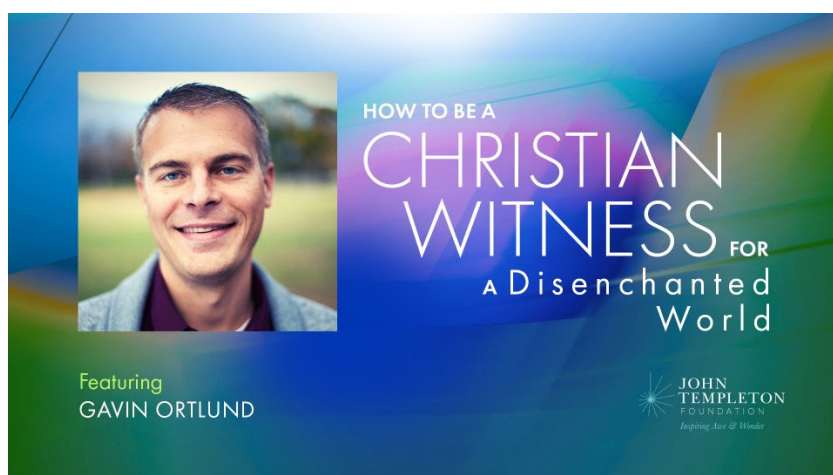
Celebrating 10 years

September 26-27, 2025

East Carolina Study Center

Celebrating 3 years

September 19, 2025



Upper House Event with Gavin Ortlund

Tuesday, August 5, 7-8:30pm

365 E Campus Mall

Madison, WI 53715

Next week, Upper House is hosting an evening of thoughtful conversation in which Christian apologist and YouTube commentator **Gavin Ortlund** will diagnose the current cultural moment and offer specific strategies for how Christians can

respond with the hope of the gospel in ways that speak to our disenchanting age.

Register

Partner Organization Events



Art Business 101 for Christian Creatives

Webinar for Christian Creatives

Online: Sunday, August 3, 5pm (PST)

Arts & Entertainment Ministries is offering a free webinar for Christian Creatives this weekend. "Art Business 101" is open to creative practitioners of any medium and offers connection with fellow creatives as well as steps and tips to create a business that honors God and provides a living wage.

Register



Webinar with Center for Public Justice Should Pastors Endorse Political Candidates?

Online: Thursday, August 21, 12-1:45pm (ET)

This nonpartisan webinar will offer a thoughtful discussion of the legal frameworks and theological perspectives that can guide faith leaders when navigating complex questions related to the topic of political endorsement.

Register



Trinity Forum Conversation about Blaise Pascal

Online: Friday, August 29, 1:30-2:30pm (ET)

Interested in learning more about the thinker behind the [Pascal Study Center](#) name? The Trinity Forum is hosting an online conversation later this month with **Graham Tomlin**, author of "Blaise Pascal: The Man who Made the Modern World".

Register



Davenant Hall Fall Term

Registration for Davenant Hall's Fall Term is open now through August 24th. Check out the fascinating list of primary-source-based classes in Theology, Bible, Philosophy, and Christian History being offered. These classes aim to deepen both faith and theological understanding, and can be taken part-time or full-time as part of a degree program or as an auditor.

[Learn more](#)



Congratulations to Study Center Director Ben Sanders 2025 ASA Campus Ministry Award

American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) is honored to celebrate the work of **Ben Sanders** with the 2025 ASA Campus Ministry Award. Ben is Executive Director at Arizona Center for Christian Studies. An innovative study center leader, Ben has developed the remarkable Conference on Faith and Science (COFAS), among many other accomplishments. Please congratulate Ben with us!



THE CICERONIAN SOCIETY

Call for Conference Papers

The Ciceronian Society invites proposals for panels, paper presentations, and roundtables for their annual interdisciplinary conference which will take place March 12-14, 2026 at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. While their core themes remain tradition, place, and 'things divine,' this year they strongly encourage proposals related to the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Proposals are due September 1, 2025.

[Learn more](#)

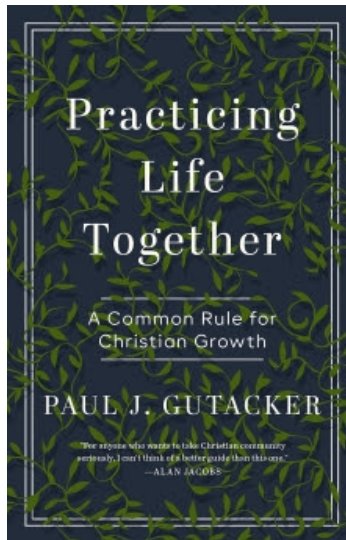
Recommendations



[NYT Article on Liberal Arts Education by Jenn Frey](#)

The New York Times recently published an article by **Jennifer A. Frey**, who gave one of the keynote addresses at the Consortium's Annual Meeting last month. The piece is entitled "This Is Who's Really Driving the Decline in Liberal Arts Education".

[Read now](#)



New Book: "Practicing Life Together"

Brazos Fellows director **Paul Gutacker** has written a book that invites emerging adults to consider participating in a common rule that will guide their growth and cultivate genuine community after leaving college. Click below to learn more about "Practicing Life Together: A Common Rule for Christian Growth".

[Learn more](#)



Podcast Series on Creation and the Arts

The Trinity Forum podcast is hosting a special series this summer. "Beside Still Waters" focuses on the places where art, creation, and Creator meet to bring restoration and life into a world fatigued by division, brokenness, and hurt. From Jazz to Jane Austen and between, these conversations with creatives explore how the arts answer the questions of what can enrich, refresh, and challenge our inner lives.

[Listen now](#)

Job Openings



ANSELM
HOUSE

CFL Program Manager

[Apply here](#)



Wake Forest
Study Center
En Christo Pro Humanitate

Ministry Associate

[Apply here](#)

SL BROWN
FOUNDATION

Human Resources Manager

Executive Assistant to the Executive Office

Communications Coordinator

[Apply here](#)



The Christian Study Center Movement

Did you watch the Consortium's new video about the study center movement yet?
View and share the video [here](#).

As always, keep sending your events our way so that we may distribute them to all who have expressed interest in the good work of the Consortium's members and partners.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you?

Sign Up

Support the Movement



Cultivating Thoughtful Christian Presence

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