



Reclaiming commencement

1 message

Consortium of Christian Study Centers <comm@cscmovement.org>

Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 7:52 PM

Reply-To: comm@cscmovement.org

To: "\"Karlee Rene Bowlby\"" <comm@cscmovement.org>



Consortium of Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

June 2026 Newsletter

Dear Karlee,

The spring semester has now come to a close, and if you'll indulge me, I'd like to share a somewhat personal anecdote.

When in 1989 I graduated from Cornell, I attended the university's baccalaureate service. It was a little strange, as a secular baccalaureate is wont to be. And not surprisingly, it was very small. I suspect I may not have even known about it except that I was performing with the Wind Ensemble.

A few years later, I believe it was, the university ceased offering these services. My own reaction at the time was ambivalent. On the one hand, it seemed a further indication of advancing secularization. On the other hand, there was really little point in the formality.

Fast forward to May 2026. I returned to Cornell for my son's graduation last week, and lo and behold, our family experienced a marvelous baccalaureate service that opened with these worshipful words: "We are gathered here in part to mark the real accomplishment of our graduating seniors who have come to the end of a season of rigorous study at this institution. We are also here to show gratitude for the many family members and friends who helped make this day possible. But our primary reason for being here is to give glory to the Triune God: to thank him for his faithfulness in what has been and to remember that our calling now as we step forth from this place is to partner in his work of new creation with the knowledge that he is coming soon to right all wrongs and restore all things."

Wow! As you might guess, this was not a university-sponsored event. It was offered rather by Chesterton House, the study center serving Cornell. But there is also an interesting backstory. I believe the very first baccalaureate service offered by a study center took place at Upper House some years ago. John Terrill and the team there in Madison were invited to share the idea at the Annual Meeting. Now other centers are borrowing the idea and following suit.

This is what the Consortium has aimed to do since our inception almost twenty years ago—facilitate the sharing of best practices among study center directors and staff.

As the parent of a graduating senior, it was greatly encouraging to me—as I hope it is also to you—to hear these additional words shared by Chesterton House's Senior Post-Doctoral Academic Associate, Jimmy Myers:

"We are therefore seeking to reclaim the commencement ceremony for bachelor students as a sacred moment to give thanks to the Lord of all and reflect on the good work he is calling us to do in this world whose present form is passing away."

Soli Deo Gloria,



Karl E. Johnson
Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- Check out the keynotes for this year's Annual Meeting and two CCSC zoom events coming up this month
- Take a look at study center events and conferences happening this summer
- Learn about partner organization conferences and online events you may be interested in attending
- See our curated list of recommended articles and podcasts related to the study center movement
- Peruse the list of jobs available at several of our study centers and partners

CCSC News & Events



2026 Annual Meeting Keynote Speakers

*Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29
Madison, WI*

The Consortium is pleased to announce the keynote speakers for the 16th Annual Meeting taking place at Upper House and hosted by the SL Brown Foundation. **Meghan Sullivan** is the Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame and will be speaking on "Ethical Formation in the Era of Powerful AI." **Brad East** is Associate Professor of Theology at Abilene Christian University and will be giving a talk entitled "The Happiest Places on Earth: Translation, Vocation, and Integration at Christian Study Centers." Click below to learn more about this year's annual meeting and to register.

[Learn more and register](#)



"Starting a Study Center" with Karl Johnson

Online: Thursday, June 4 at 2:15pm ET

If you are interested in starting a study center, we welcome you to join us for an open discussion with **Karl Johnson** on this very important topic. Click below to register.

[Register now](#)



Big News, Gratitude & Looking Forward

Online: Tuesday, June 30 at 7:30pm ET

Please join us for an important and very encouraging update from the Consortium. At this event, we will make an important public announcement about how donor support is advancing the Consortium's mission and also honoring those who have brought us this far. More information will follow later this month. Please save the date or, for a further sneak preview of this news, click through and register for the event. We hope to see you there!

[Register now](#)



Register for The Faculty Theological Collaborative

*Monday, August 3 – Wednesday, August 5
Durham, NC*

The Faculty Theological Collaborative, hosted by the Center for Christianity & Scholarship, supports Christian professors at secular universities through advanced theological training, living examples of the unity of faith and scholarship, and rich fellowship with faculty across institutions and disciplines. This three-day workshop is built around a series of dialogues between academic theologians and scholars in the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. This year's topic is "What It Means to Be Human" and the keynote is **Warren Smith**. In addition to the Consortium of Christian Study Centers, the event is co-sponsored by Anselm House, Octet Collaborative, and Regent College. Click below to learn about the other speakers and to register.

[Learn more and register](#)

Study Center Events



C.S. Lewis Study Center: Conference on Thornton Wilder

*Friday, June 12 - Saturday, June 13
Northfield, Massachusetts*

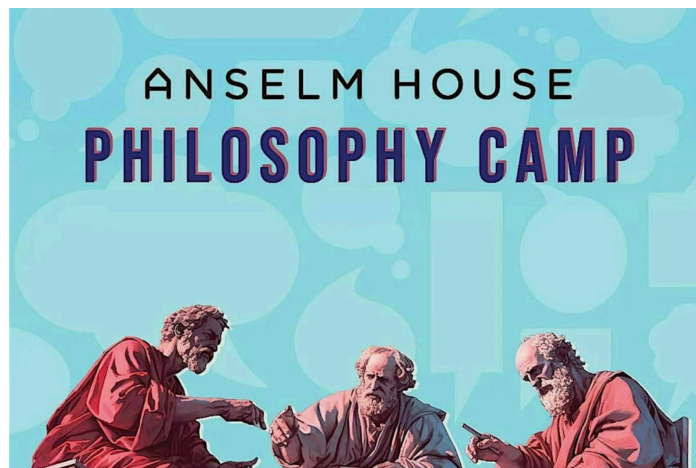
[Learn more](#)



Upper House: "The Story of the BibleProject" with Tim Mackie

Thursday, June 18 at 7pm
Madison, WI

[Learn more](#)



Anselm House: Philosophy Camp for High Schoolers

Monday, June 22 - Thursday, June 25 (register by June 7)
Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)



Anselm House: "Dignity and the Care of the Sick" with Daniel Sulmasy

Friday, August 7 at 7pm
Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)

Partner Organization Events



Association for Public Justice

"Just Living: Your Role in Global Health" Webinar

Online: Thursday, June 4 at 6pm ET

APJ is an action arm of the Center for Public Justice. Join their webinar to hear from the Director of Global Health and Civic Engagement at the Center for Public Justice, **Shem Opolot**, on the state of global health, followed by a conversation on the Christian basis for foreign aid, along with how you can advocate for the faithful institutions providing services overseas.

[Learn more and register](#)



"Redeeming Eden" Online Book Club

Online:

Thursdays, June 18 & July 23 at 9pm ET (women only)

Wednesday, July 22 at 8pm ET

InterVarsity's Faculty Ministry, Emerging Scholars Network, and Women Scholars and Professionals are teaming up this summer and invite you to join them as they read and discuss *Redeeming Eden: How Women in the Bible Advance the Story of Salvation*. The June 18 and July 23 meetings are for women only and discuss particular sections of the book. The July 22 meeting is for men and women and is a discussion of the entire book.

[Learn more and register](#)

the Center
for Christianity
& Public Life



Book Salon with Ian Marcus Corbin

Tuesday, June 23 at 6pm
Washington D.C.

Capita and the Center for Christianity in Public Life are hosting a conversation on belonging and a signing of **Ian Marcus Corbin's** newly released book, *To Arrive Where We Started: Belonging in the Modern World*.

[Learn more and register](#)



Annual Meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation

Friday, July 24 - Monday, July 27
Gordon College: Wenham, MA

The theme of ASA's 2026 Annual Meeting, "Science Faith Synergy: Glorifying God and Serving the World," is inspired by 1 Peter 4:10. Registration is now live! ASA has extended a special offer to directors of Christian Study Centers: you can sign up for a free ASA membership with the code ASA2026GIFT, which will provide a discount on their Annual Meeting registration. Click below to learn more about the speakers and to register.

[Learn more and register](#)

Plough

ANOTHER LIFE IS POSSIBLE

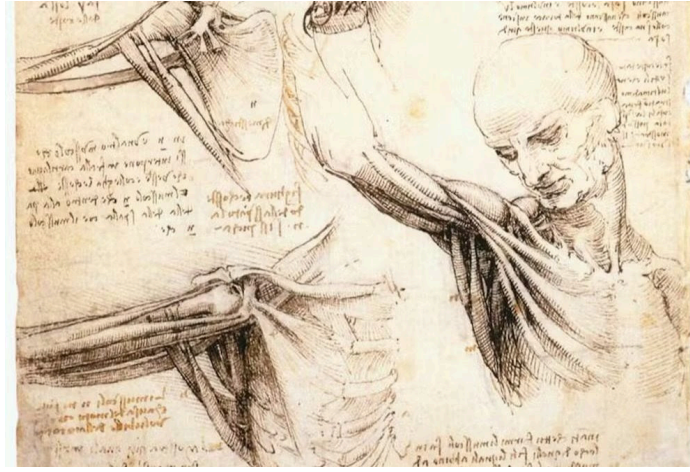
Conference for Gen Z & Young Millenials

Friday, July 31 - Sunday, August 2
Montgomery, NY

The Fox Hill Bruderhof community is hosting a conference for Gen Z and young millenials on the topic of "sustaining revival." The Sustaining Revival Conference will be rooted in the Gospels and dedicated to finding and taking the steps to sustain a new or revitalized faith.

[Learn more and register](#)

[Recommendations](#)



The Raised Hand: Audio Edition

TRH's series on the role of human educators in the age of AI may be over, but you can still catch their final audio edition – a conversation between **Ethan Schrum** (associate professor of history at Azusa Pacific University) and **Adam Laats** (SUNY Distinguished Professor of Education and History at Binghamton University) hosted by **Susan Swanke** (Manager of Academic Programs for the Lumen Center). If you missed any of the other audio editions in the series, you can go back and listen over the summer while you wait for TRH to start posting essays again in the fall!

[Listen now](#)



Christianity Today Article on Study Centers

In an article recently published by *Christianity Today*, **Marvin Olasky** writes that Christian Study Centers are uniquely positioned to “reject arrogance from academia and the government alike.” Click below to download a pdf version of the article made accessible to the CCSC network with the generous permission of the author and *Christianity Today*.

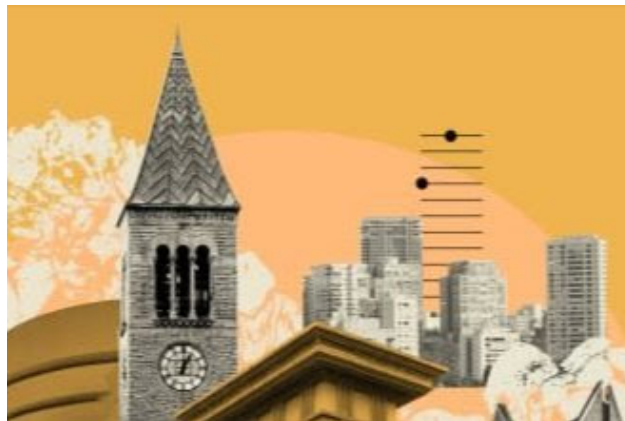
[Access pdf](#)



New Podcast from SLBF Studio

A new history podcast from the Stephen & Laurel Brown Foundation is inviting listeners to take a serious, storydriven look at one of the most influential and often misunderstood movements in American history. *American Evangelicals: A History Podcast*, hosted by historians **John Fea**, **Dan Hummel**, and **Maggie Capra**, launched its first episode of a twelve-part series last month. Spanning the religious revivals of the 18th century to the cultural and political conflicts of the 21st, each episode is a conversation based on the historical research of its hosts, the deep scholarship on American evangelicals, and the lives of real figures who shaped the movement.

[Listen now](#)



CCPL Article: "Critiquing the Country You Love"

In this article published by The Center for Christianity & Public Life, **Justin R. Hawkins** (Consortium Intern Program Mentor and postdoctoral researcher in bioethics at Columbia University Irving Medical Center) explores the idea that "real patriotism often calls for tough love."

[Read now](#)



Free Course: "Surprised by the God of Hope"

In this free online course made possible by Veritas Forum, theologian **N.T. Wright** invites us to rediscover the Christian story as one of radical hope and to explore how that hope can animate our lives and academic work. Over a series of 24 lectures, you will learn how the Christian hope for life in God's new creation should inspire and inform the mission of the church and individual followers of Jesus today. Each lesson is set up in an easily digestible format, with approximately 20 minutes of video along with questions. Participants will have access to the course for a year and can continue it at their own pace.

[Access course](#)

Job Openings



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

Editor

Engagement & Events Manager

Administrative Manager

[Apply here](#)

 *Center for Christianity
and Scholarship*

Hospitality Manager

Development Coordinator

Undergrad Program Coordinator

[Click above to apply](#)

SL BROWN FOUNDATION

Director of Finance

Technology Manager

Facilities Assistant

[Apply here](#)



RIVENDELL
INSTITUTE

Part-Time Administrative Assistant

[Apply here](#)



**Have you seen the Consortium's 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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