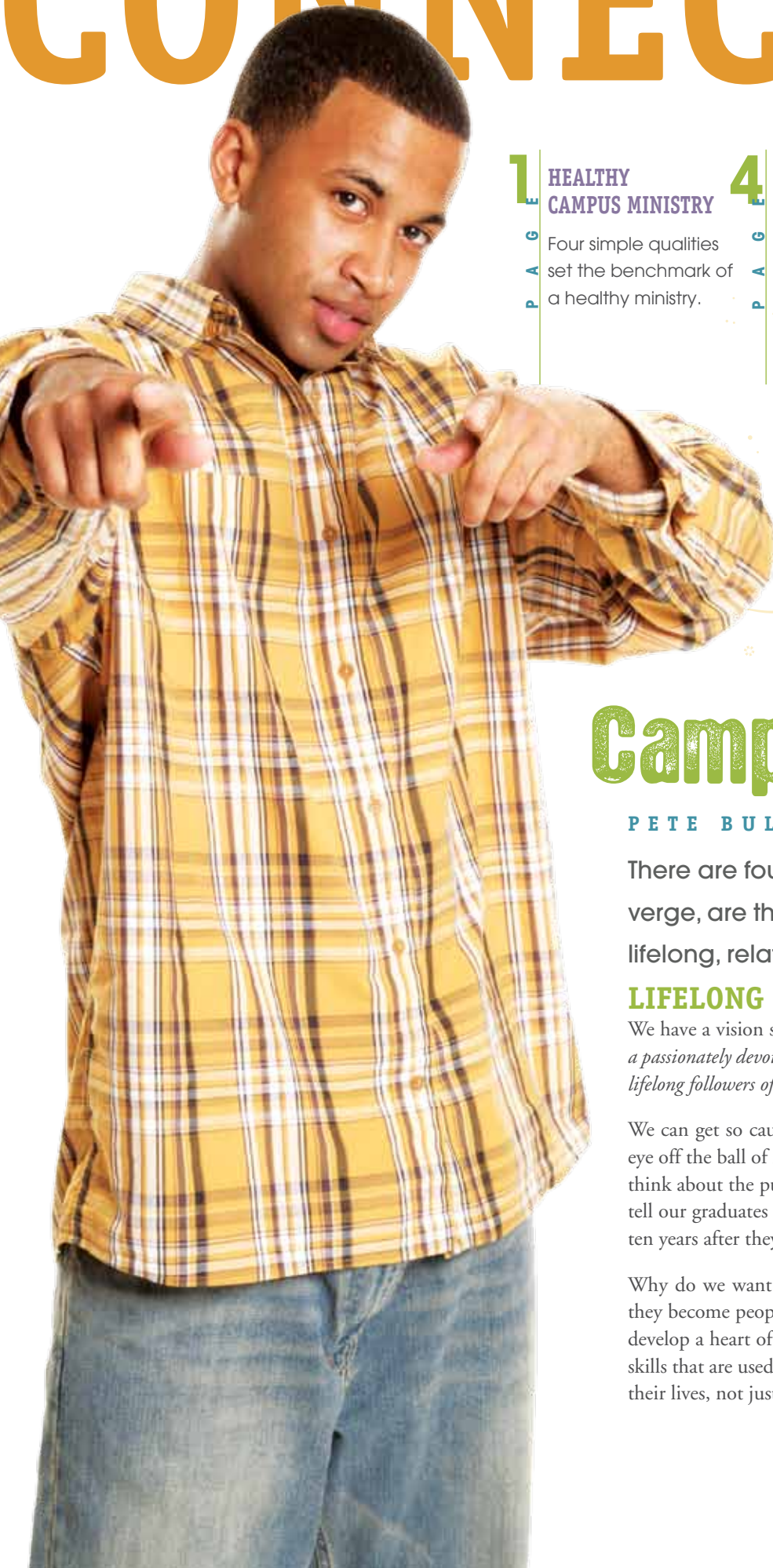


CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4 SPRING 2010



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"Avoid Autopilot Syndrome": Spring Fever isn't the only condition that can zap your ministry.

The Healthy Campus Ministry

PETE BULLETTE

There are four simple qualities that, if they converge, are the sign of a very healthy ministry: lifelong, relational, authentic and substantive.

LIFELONG

We have a vision statement in *Chi Alpha at UVA: Chi Alpha at UVA is a passionately devoted, diverse, missional community of the Spirit, building lifelong followers of Jesus.*

We can get so caught up making good Chi Alphans that we take our eye off the ball of making lifelong followers of Jesus. We should always think about the purpose of what we do through a lifelong lens. I often tell our graduates that I don't know if I have done my job until five or ten years after they have graduated.

Why do we want our students to evangelize, give, serve, or pray? So they become people who courageously share their faith all of their life; develop a heart of generosity for the rest of their life; develop ministry skills that are used the rest of their lives; and value prayer for the rest of their lives, not just while on campus.

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FREE!

Chi Alpha Connection is a free quarterly publication offering insight to ministry on the college and university campus. To subscribe, contact the national Chi Alpha office.

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

DISCIPLESHIP: INTEGRAL, INTERPERSONAL, INTENTIONAL AND INTENSIVE

Chi Alpha is intentional about discipling students; it is at the heart of how we do campus ministry. Our approach and understanding of discipleship is relationally driven and demands we invest our very lives (1 Thess. 2:8). It is a time-intensive and costly process by which a more experienced follower of Christ shares with a newer believer the commitment, understanding and basic skills necessary to know and obey Jesus Christ as Lord. It is more than teaching, it is training and life transference. (11 Tim. 2:2).

Waylon Moore in *New Testament Follow-Up* explains that time intensity and the costliness of discipleship is due to the focus or concentration. "A decision that our ministry will be intensive, rather than extensive will change our whole life. Quality begets quantity. It takes vision to train one man to reach the mass."

Disciples are never mass-produced; rather, they are the result of in-depth, time-consuming, dedicated ministry. For campus missionaries and Christian student leaders to be effective in ministry to students, they must invest and concentrate their energies on a few. Robert Coleman, in *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, identified the true nature of discipleship as a practical method for a church pastor (campus missionary/student leader):

"...It may be more difficult for a pastor to develop a discipling lifestyle, since the pastor's role is largely influenced by (a tradition which) gives little place for this kind of ministry...That is why a pastor (campus missionary/Christian student leader) must have a clearly-established priority for discipleship, if it is to be done. In a sense, he has to be able to work on two wavelengths at the same time: keep the church (campus ministry) program going to satisfy the public, while, in the more private area, fulfill the calling of a disciple maker."

In *Discipleship by Design*, Harv Herman underscores the same principle: "Disciple the faithful and pastor the unfaithful...This prioritizes the pastor's (campus leader's) purpose...You must never eliminate pastoring, for there will always be those who need you to care for them. Nevertheless, invest the majority of your time, energy, prayer and equipping on those who are faithful."

In Pete Bullette's cover story, *The Healthy Campus Ministry*, he outlines the larger framework and environment—relational, authentic and substantive—that must be in place for discipleship to thrive. In *The Strategic and Spirit-led Missionary* (pp 4-5), Harv Herman adds the intentional strategy and spirit-led dynamic. When we see this blend of strategic leader and spiritual mentor come together, a powerful truth emerges. Wisdom, planning, and purposeful use of time and resources yield effective ministry. When people and resources are organized and mobilized under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, they make the greatest possible impact for the kingdom of God.

As we conclude another school year of labor on behalf of students, we need to evaluate where we placed our priorities and energies. Waylon Moore says multiplying ministry (discipleship) "...takes 3-5 years to become obvious." This means it takes that long before people become aware of the growth in their midst.

A discipling ministry's steady exertion in the secular university is essential, and if we recognize the need to lay the groundwork year in and year out to reproduce followers of Jesus Christ, if we can see campus ministry and its fruitfulness with a long-term view, and if we can properly invest our energies, abilities, gifts and calling as God enables and requires, discipling on campus will be a rewarding and fulfilling exertion, and students will experience and know a solid, Christ-centered spirituality that will provide them a foundation for a lifetime of following Christ.

Dennis Gaylor is the national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA.



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The Healthy Campus Ministry

RELATIONAL: IMPACTS THE STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES WE USE.

This refers to the way you handle ministry as well as the type of culture your ministry develops. If it is relational, it will be very hospitable and loving.

I heard someone say that if you don't love people, then get out of the ministry. We are to be shepherds that love students and who build relationships with students. For example, I regularly meet with a small group for small group leaders; I go on a missions trip every Spring Break to build relationships with the students on the trip; and every year, our staff forms discipleship groups with students who are new to the ministry to help us get to know them.

My encouragement would be to make sure you use a relational structure for ministry and as you grow, your culture must stay small, meaning you must keep small groups at the center of the fellowship. Our structures need to support relationship and be built around relationship.

AUTHENTIC: IMPACTS THE STYLE WE USE.

This also refers to the way you handle ministry and the type of culture your ministry develops.

Every year, we evaluate our fellowship using a handful of students. We ask them why they chose to be part of Chi Alpha and why they think other people did the same. Every year, they tell us they chose Chi Alpha because it was relational and that it was authentic.

IMPACTS THE WAY WE DO MINISTRY.

It impacts the style that is used. Create an authentic atmosphere.

It impacts the way technology is used. Technology is not neutral. I use it when I feel it will help create authenticity, and I don't use it superfluously. Sometimes there is nothing more authentic than face-to-face, eye-to-eye.

The desire for authenticity is reflected in the reemergence of a desire for social justice and ministry to the poor. Chi Alphans want their faith to connect with real life.

To quote Curt Harlow, West Coast area director: Don't dumb it down, but sincere it up. Don't compromise who you are, but make sure that the way you express yourself comes off very sincere with explanation, so you don't end up with Lowest Common Denominator religion.

Live a life of integrity. You need to be the same person on stage as off. Show your heart; show some passion!

SUBSTANTIVE: IMPACTS MY STUDY.

I am thoroughly convinced that this generation wants substance. Three years ago, *Christianity Today* published an article entitled "The Young, the Reformed and the Restless," which talked about a resurgence of Calvinism among young people. I realized that it is in Calvinist churches that they find a coherent theology where they get substance and where they learn and grow.

Consider the people who deliver the top-rated ministry podcasts today: Mark Driscoll, Rob Bell, Andy Stanley, John Piper, and Dr. Tim Keller. All of these people are intelligent, but they also work hard at delivering something of substance. They are also full of authenticity, which is evident in their presentation.

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MORE TO LIFE

I attended Catholic mass until my parents had a falling out with the church when I was 13. My high school years quickly came and went and the Christians I encountered there were few and far between. With only my friends and family as an example, I assumed that religion had died out.

Coming into college, I knew there just had to be more to life than weekend parties, but I couldn't grasp what that was. I tried a bunch of new things until I finally decided to join some hall mates at Chi Alpha's Monday Night Live the third week of my first year.

I expected a small room of people praying to a God that no longer existed in the 21st century; hence, my astonishment at the theatre full of college students worshipping God. I was hesitant at first; even confused. Hadn't they heard that God was a thing of the past? But, as worship came to a close and Pete (Bullette) started talking about how God had worked in his life, I felt a sensation come over me like never before. Tears came to my eyes as I realized that God was real, and that He was exactly who I had been seeking.

I can honestly say that my life has not been the same since that first night at Chi Alpha. I joined a core group where I not only made my best friends at UVA but also voiced all my questions and received answers without a hint of judgment or belittlement. I have matured immensely thanks to the overwhelming system of support and accountability that Chi Alpha provides.

As I think back to my pre-college years, I can see how I have grown in faith and as a person. I have gained self-confidence by knowing who I am as a child of God, and I take every day as an opportunity to thank God for His work in my life.



Carleigh is in her second year at the University of Virginia. She is an apprentice, training for co-leadership in Chi Alpha. Pete Bullette is her campus pastor.

THE STRATEGIC

AND SPIRIT-LED MISSIONARY

BY HARVEY A. HERMAN

Is it possible for a missionary to be totally led by the Holy Spirit and at the same time make deliberate and long-term plans? I am convinced they can. In fact, to be effective, they must. Unfortunately, I run into some leaders who feel being strategic and being Spirit-led are mutually exclusive notions. They feel to be truly led by the Spirit, you must keep your human reasoning out of the equation. In contrast, the apostle Paul provides a convincing example of the deliberately strategic, Spirit-led missionary.

In just over ten years, Paul planted churches in four culturally-distinct provinces of the Roman Empire: Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia and Asia. He moved seamlessly from one city to another, making spiritual, emotional and personal connections with people while fostering a self-perpetuating model of leadership everywhere he went—a style that intentionally created leaders who would, in turn, create other leaders.

While on his second missionary journey, Paul revisited the church plants from his first journey—Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe—then continued north up the prolific Roman road through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia.

Here is what I think happened at this point in the story. Travelling along the Roman road, they came to an intersection and Paul wanted to turn left. That would take him to the region of Asia and to the prominent city of Ephesus. The Gospel writer Luke tells us that at this intersection, the Holy Spirit stopped them from preaching the Word in Asia.

I believe Paul exhibits two integral components of a missionary's job.

Not deterred, Paul continued north up the road to the border of Bithynia and the influential cross-roads city of Byzantium. Again, "the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to" turn west into Bithynia (Acts 16:7b). They instead followed the road east to Troas, a principal seaport on the Aegean Sea.

"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" (Acts 16:9). What strikes me is Paul walked without stopping through the Macedonian cities of Samothrace and Neapolis and trudged up the Roman road "to

Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia" (Acts 16:12). Luke then records the birth of the Philippian church with the conversions of Lydia and the jailer with his entire family.

Why do I retell this travelogue? Because in this summary passage, I believe Paul exhibits two integral components of a missionary's job. First, Paul was led by the Spirit in all he did. He had a discerning spirit, a trained ear to hear the voice of God, and his will was malleable to the will of God. At every point along the Roman road, Paul was listening for the Spirit's direction.

A missionary is a counter-intuitive blend of spiritual mentor and strategic leader.

A missionary is sensitive to the spontaneous promptings of the Holy Spirit, while simultaneously being very thoughtful, deliberate, and intentional.

Therefore, the first essential characteristic of a missionary is spiritual sensitivity and discernment. A missionary nurtures his own personal relationship with Christ, while at the same time, seeking to foster spiritual transformation in others, enhance their personal authenticity, help them integrate their inner and outer lives, and help people achieve increased levels of self-knowledge and depth in their relationship with God.

The second thing we see in Paul is his strategic leadership. I am convinced Paul intended to take the gospel to the impact cities of

the Roman world, all interconnected by the Roman roads. For example, he knew if the gospel could take hold in Ephesus, it would spread throughout Asia Minor. Nevertheless, at this time, the Spirit prevented him from doing so. When we read ahead, we know Paul eventually invested a couple years of his life in Ephesus, but not now.

Even when he received the Macedonian call, Paul did not stop in two pivotal Macedonian cities. Instead, he headed straight for Philippi. Again, Paul was convinced if the gospel gained a foothold in the dominant Roman colony of Philippi, it would grow throughout the whole region of Macedonia.

It is interesting to note that Neapolis (which literally means "new city") served as the port city for the Macedonian region. Many years after Paul planted the church in Philippi, the name of Neapolis was changed to Christopolis (the city of Christ). Apparently Paul's strategy worked.

What then is a missionary? A missionary is a counter-intuitive blend of spiritual mentor and strategic leader. A missionary is sensitive to the spontaneous promptings of the Holy Spirit, while simultaneously being very thoughtful, deliberate, and intentional. Because God's calling is specific, a missionary must serve as a visionary leader. She motivates others to join with her in the fulfillment of a God-inspired vision. She thinks, plans, mobilizes, sets goals and serves with others to implement a God-inspired plan. She scans the environment for changes in the culture that could strengthen or threaten her efforts. She prays over emergent issues, asking for divine direction on things that may alter the plans. She is a person recognized by her life of personal piety and corporate leadership.

I encourage you, please don't make an artificial distinction between the leading of the Holy Spirit and your responsibility to provide visionary and strategic leadership. They are not mutually exclusive concepts. In fact, they are both essential for the effective missionary to fulfill the call of God on his life.



Dr. Harv Herman is the National Staff Training and Resource Director for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA. He is the author of *Discipleship by Design* and holds a Master of Arts from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Strategic Leadership from Regent University. Harv lives in Palmyra, Virginia, with his wife, Sally.

LIKE JESUS

Accomplished mission with imperfect people. Like Jesus, we work to accomplish mission with imperfect people.

Established a clear sense of purpose and direction. Like Jesus, we must be clear in our purpose and direction.

Communicated his vision to his followers. Like Jesus, we must communicate vision to our followers.

Recruited and selected people. Like Jesus, we must recruit and select people.

Trained others to take up his mission after he left. Like Jesus, we must prepare people to take over when we are gone.

Dealt with constant conflicts, demands on time, energy and resources. Like Jesus, we deal with conflicts, time demands, energy sacrifice and resources.

Handled fierce competition. Like Jesus, we have to deal with competing agendas and priorities.

Faced temptations of instant gratification, recognition, and misuse of power. Like Jesus, we are tempted by instant gratification, the need to be recognized, and the need for power.

Handled criticism, rejection, distractions, and opposition. Like Jesus we will face criticism, rejection, distractions and oppositions.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



AVOID AUTOPILOT SYNDROME

The spring semester can be an incredible challenge for those of us ministering to college students. The *first half* [February in particular] is often filled with struggles related to a lack of motivation, seasonal depression, etc., and the *second half* is often a sprint to the finish.

In similar fashion to the students we serve, our temptation after spring break can be to slip into auto-pilot, and coast on into the summer break ahead. The second half of the second semester [for those of us on the semester system] can be one of the most challenging in which to find meaningful ministry opportunities. But *here are a few that I think we need to be certain NOT to overlook:*

- Follow-up with those who went on a spring break mission/service trip
- Seniors who are preparing for graduation
- Celebrate your leaders who have faithfully served with you this year
- Next year's leaders

We definitely want to finish well with those students we have been actively involved with all year long... but these four areas might be some of the best opportunities we have for new, meaningful ministry in this final segment of the academic year.

Follow-up with spring break mission participants. This is a group that just had a powerful shared experience... quite possibly something that was life changing. Taking the time to intentionally follow-up with them—individually and as a group—can provide some meaningful space for these students to reconnect and share their stories, and can prove to be an affirmation of their experience as well as a confirmation on some directions that they may sense God leading them in as a result of their spring break experience.

Seniors preparing to graduate. Speaking of a group in search of God's direction... Seniors preparing to graduate tend to be looking for people with wisdom, willing ears and a possible "in" with "the Big Guy" to hear them out and ask them questions. Regardless of how involved students have been with your ministries throughout their time on campus, preparing to graduate seems to create a sense of urgency, as well as a willingness and openness towards seeking out and receiving spiritual care and guidance regarding their future. We must find ways to be available to this group.

Celebrate your leaders. This is so important! **When we celebrate our student leaders at the end of the year we show them how much they are valued.** This can be incredibly important for them, as well as the future of your ministry. Leaders who are not appreciated are likely not to return, nor are they likely to have fond things to say about our ministry to others.

Next year's leaders. Finally, this final segment of the academic year is a great time to start preparing for next year. **BE INTENTIONAL!** Recruit your new team. Begin praying, building relationships and training for the upcoming year. This is valuable time that you don't want to forego.

There is still plenty of ministry to be done in this final leg of the year. Setting our system on autopilot cannot be an option. We **MUST** finish well!

What ministry opportunities do you see from where you sit?



Dr. Guy Chmielecki is University Minister at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/guychmielecki> and continue this Autopilot conversation by checking out his blog at <http://campusministryguy.blogspot.com/>.

The Healthy Campus Ministry

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IMPACTS MY PRIORITIES.

In my second year on campus, Brady Bobbink told me something that I have never forgotten. He said, "Pete, if you have two nickels to spend, you have to determine where you are going to spend them." I would commend you to consider these three things: building relationships, leading with authenticity and faithfully studying to bring substance.

In his book, *The Fabric of Faithfulness*, Steven Garber says he sees three characteristics in people who were disciplined in college and continue to be "oaks of righteousness" beyond their university years:

1. They formed convictions, a Christian worldview (substance).
2. They engaged in Christian community (relational).
3. They had a mentor who embodied the convictions that were forming (relational, authentic).

This is what makes a ministry truly healthy and our fruit lifelong. This is incarnational ministry.



Pete and Amy Bullette graduated from Southern Illinois University where they were both involved with Chi Alpha. While working in secular jobs after graduation, God called them to Chi Alpha. They spent a year working with Chi Alpha at Georgetown University and in 2000, started a Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at the University of Virginia.

Pete and Amy are passionate about Jesus and helping students grow deeper in their walk with Christ. They also have a very cute son, Ian!

CAMPUS NEWS



SMUT FOR SMUT AT UTSA

Members of Atheist Agenda at the University of Texas at San Antonio held their annual "Smut for Smut" campaign, giving students pornographic magazines in exchange for any religious text. Group leaders argue that religious books, including the Bible, advocate for the mistreatment of women and are, therefore, no better than pornography.

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100302/atheist-group-trade-your-bibles-in-for-porn/>



COED DORM ROOMS A GOOD ALTERNATIVE FOR SOME

As gender barriers on campus continue to dissipate, living arrangements are becoming more gender neutral. About 50 schools in the U.S. now allow men and women to room together. This living arrangement began as a way to accommodate gay, bisexual, and transgender students who felt more comfortable living with someone of the opposite sex, and school officials say most heterosexuals in the program are platonic friends.

latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dorm-gender15-2010mar15,0,4585257.story



STUDENTS WANT "OUR LORD" PHRASE OFF DIPLOMAS

A group of students at Trinity University is lobbying trustees to drop a reference to "Our Lord" on their diplomas, arguing it does not respect the diversity of religions on campus. Although it was founded by Presbyterians and maintains a covenant relationship with the church, the university purportedly states it is not a religious institution and should foster a diverse environment.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/life/religion/new/6934689>



U.S. STUDENTS PROTEST BUDGET CUTS, HIGHER TUITION

Faced with plunging tax revenue and massive budget shortfalls, states have slashed funding to K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities, leaving underfunded schools to cancel classes, furlough instructors, and raise tuition. Anger over increased tuition and budget cuts drove students across the country to stage demonstrations.

<http://theapple.monster.com/news/articles/9700-angry-us-students-protest-cuts-to-higher-education>

introducing

CHI ALPHA MENTERSHIP

Would you consider giving a year of service back to your local Chi Alpha group after graduation and at the same time be folded into online learning community? If so, the Training Team for national Chi Alpha is rolling out an interactive learning experience just for you.

The **Mentership** will equip students in the competencies of **Servant Leadership Theory**. For more information, go to chialpha.com/leaders/training/menterships/.



The XA Network is an exit strategy to mobilize our XA graduates as they move into the workplace and find a church home. It seeks to network them geographically, relationally, and vocationally, and includes a strategy to plant university churches and partner with existing church plants.

Three Key Components of the XAN:

- XA Networking Community
- Training and Development
- XA Church Planting Network

Check out XANetwork.org to find out how we are implementing this strategy and how you can be a part of making it happen!

RUI AND CMC

New staff and current staff training this summer.

chialpha.com/leaders/events

Reach the U
Springfield, MO 6-13-19

Campus Missions
Conference
Phoenix, AZ, July 12-16

