



Sapientia et Scientia

Samuel Fuller School

“...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
Colossians 2:2b-3

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Upcoming Events

- February 28 –**
9AM-2PM and 5PM-8PM: Open House
- March 8 –**
End of Term Two
- March 7 –**
All School Field Trip to BSO
- March 14 –**
National Latin Exam
- March 15 –**
Noon Dismissal: Classical Education Seminar and Banquet
- March 22 –**
Noon Dismissal: Parent Teacher Conferences



Monday Missive

Climbing Hills to Tackle Mountains: The Path to Cern

Excerpts from *The Classical Difference* (Summer 2017)

On a typical day, Andrew Brinkerhoff hops on his bike and pedals to work at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN)—home to the world’s largest and most powerful particle accelerator.

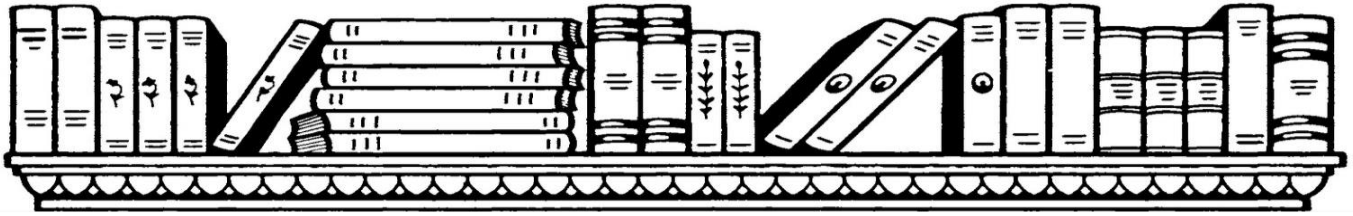
The 2005 Mars Hill Academy (Mason, Ohio) alumnus studied particle physics at the University of Notre Dame, followed by 18 months analyzing particle collision data in Switzerland at the European Center for Nuclear Research’s (CERN) Large Hadron Collider—the world’s largest and most powerful particle accelerator. His name is listed among those physicists who contributed to the Higgs discovery paper, which made international headlines in 2012 for the discovery of a sub-atomic particle that gives matter its mass.

Then, Brinkerhoff landed a post-doctoral position through the University of Florida, and he’s been working at CERN since August 2016. “I didn’t even think about studying physics until my senior year of high school. I wouldn’t say I dreamed of becoming a physicist: I more or less fell into it,” said Brinkerhoff, who earned a perfect SAT score. “However, getting into physics late in the game (by some people’s perspective) and not having Advanced Placement (AP) classes in high school was no hindrance at all.

In fact, Brinkerhoff attributes much of his success to his classical education at Mars Hill Academy: the wide historical and philosophical perspective, the ability to communicate, and an appreciation for learning in different fields — and the connections between them. “I think the Mars Hill approach likely served me better than an AP approach. Building a good physics intuition and becoming adept at problem-solving are more important than having seen a certain set of content before college, where you will cover it again anyway,” he explained. “Also, studying physics and calculus in the same year at Mars Hill allowed each class to reinforce the other—which makes sense, given that Newton originally developed calculus in order to understand physics. Even in college, the first physics course is often algebra-based; so in that sense, I was already ahead of the game in high school.”

Brinkerhoff, who earned his bachelor’s degree in physics from Grove City College, found that many universities do not allow AP credits to replace core required classes in a technical field like physics or engineering. Additionally, students could get caught up in rote procedures but miss crucial details, “because they haven’t understood first what the study is for, and thus haven’t thought through how the logical sequence of a particular technique is designed to produce a certain conclusion.”

“The key to effective research is a thorough understanding of both the internals of your work and its relation to other research, and an ability to communicate both the details and the big picture as part of a cohesive, compelling whole,” he said. “In most technical fields, even though success is measured by communication (publications and conference talks), effective communication is little emphasized or taught. This means that even competent writers and speakers will stand out — and rhetors of the caliber that Mars Hill churns out even more so. ... is why the skills of systematic, comprehensive analysis and intelligible, persuasive communication taught at Mars Hill are likely to serve its students better in all of those fields than additional technical instruction in any of them.”



Announcements and News

CLASSICAL EDUCATION SEMINAR AND BANQUET

You are invited to our annual Classical Education Seminar and Banquet on **Thursday, March 15th** where Kevin Clark will speak. Clark is a faculty member at The Geneva School in Florida where he has taught such courses as aesthetics, rhetoric, Christian theology, and the history of Western philosophy. He also co-wrote **The Liberal Arts Tradition** with Ravi Jain. He is sure to have much wisdom and insight to share with us. Please purchase tickets on our website by **March 7th**.

EARLY REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2018-19 school year is now open! Please visit our website and click on the "Registration Form" tab under "Admissions." Any registrations received after **April 1st** will be charged a \$50 fee.

FINANCIAL AID

If you wish to apply for financial aid for the 2018-19 school year, the application is now available on the website under the "Admissions" tab. This application must be submitted by **May 1st**.

ENROLLING A SIBLING

If you plan to enroll new siblings at SFS, fill out the Registration form and call Alia to schedule STS or ISEE testing for entrance evaluation.

OPEN HOUSE

If you know anyone who might be interested in SFS for their children, encourage them to visit SFS at our **Open House** this **Wednesday, February 28th**.

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Please pray for our **6th** and **8th grade** students as they prepare to take the Introduction to Latin and Latin I exams on Wednesday, March 14th. Mrs. Murdy has been working hard to get them ready, and we are rooting for them all to do a wonderful job!

ANYTHING ABOUT MUSICALS?

The 3rd through 8th grades are busy preparing for our hilarious spring musicals. If you have any of the following props or costume pieces, which we can borrow for the plays, please contact Alia.

Props

- Red hooded cape
- 6 CSB or boy scout shirts
- Military officer's hat
- Large fake potted trees or plants
- Clip on hoop earrings
- Life preserver or anchor
- Empty bottles with corks (3 or 4)
- Coconut mug with paper umbrellas (for drinks)

Costumes

- Anything suitable for pirates (6th – 8th grade sizes)
- Woodland animal costumes (3rd – 5th grade sizes)

FIELD TRIP TO BSO

Next **Wednesday, March 7th** is our all school field trip to the BSO. We are looking forward to hearing a premier orchestra perform beautiful **pieces** by composers such as Prokofiev and Dvorak. Please sign and return the attached **field trip form** by Friday, **March 2nd**.

