

CAMPUS CORNER

MAY 28, 2017 • ISSUE #44

Ratio Christi: Campus Apologetics, by Jordan Andershock

Last fall, a new campus organization came to UT and quickly captured my attention. The name of this organization is Ratio Christi (RC) which means “The Reason of Christ.” This group is dedicated to training people in Christian apologetics and equipping them for the different challenges they will encounter. The primary areas of outreach for RC are university campuses. The group has numerous chapters at many universities with UT being one of the newest. Since this is the UT chapter’s inaugural year, the group had nowhere to meet. The CSC graciously allowed the chapter to meet in the annex on Wednesday nights.

Apart from the normal CSC activities, this is one of my favorite things that occurs at the Melrose house. Some of the things that RC has done this year include studies on many different groups including Muslims, Mormons, and Scientologists with a focus on how to effectively minister to members of these groups as Christian apologists. We also cover different theological debates such as young-earth and old-earth creationism. One week, RC was able to acquire an actual, hand-copied scroll of the Torah which dates to the 1700s for students to examine. Sometimes, members will just sit and debate back and forth about different biblical questions we have for the entire session. As you can tell, the topics are varied. Regardless of what we are studying, however, we ensure that the goal of each session is to further equip us to help spread the message of Jesus Christ.

Ratio Christi also has several UT faculty backers and provides a way for students to interact with these Christian professors who they may not have known even existed. The UT chapter is led by Anna Kitko who has degrees in both Religion and Philosophy and is set to complete her Masters of Biblical Studies in 2017. Anna has been a phenomenal instructor and always offers insightful and biblical answers to the many questions which our group discusses. She is an incredibly hard worker and has done a fantastic job of organizing RC for this first year.

This organization and its members have been a blessing and encouragement for me in my personal walk. I feel much more competent at addressing many seemingly complex issues which have entangled and pulled many of my peers away from God. If you are someone who is interested in learning more about apologetics, feel free to stop by the CSC next fall on Tuesdays at 7 P.M.



RATIO CHRISTI
CAMPUS APOLOGETICS ALLIANCE

Jordan Andershock
served as the
2016-2017 President
of Ratio Christi.

He was also honored with the
Legatus Christi
Ambassador for Christ award.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

JORDAN ANDERSHOCK, *Computer Science*

“Thank you so much for being an awesome church family to me. You are one of the best churches I have known, and it has been a privilege to serve alongside you for the kingdom. Thank you especially to Mr. and Mrs. Troxler for inviting me to sit with them during my first visit to Laurel and for being like a second family to me here in Knoxville.”

BRYAN SHRADER, *Business Analytics*

“I am so blessed to have spent my college years as a part of this church. I love how everyone in the congregation supports the CSC and is welcoming to the college students. I have felt so welcomed by everyone and Laurel has felt like home. Continue to love and support the CSC and the students involved. Your commitment and effort really does make a difference in the lives of so many college students that will go on to reach many people in many different places. Thank you!”

SYDNEY SHAVER, *Anthropology*

“Thank you for your support of the CSC. You are awesome for helping to show the love of Christ through this ministry.”

RYAN HAAS, *Finance; Business Analytics*

“I would like to say thank you for the servant’s heart that you displayed to the students. Thank you for going out of your way to make the students feel like they were at home.”

CLINT SHANNON, *Geography; Journalism & Electronic Media*

“Thanks for investing your love, time, and energy into the Christian Student Center and us students. You mean more to us than you may know, and you help us get through a huge time of transition in our lives.”

ADAM HUBLER, *Biochemistry; Cellular & Molecular Biology*

“Thank you for making me a Knoxvilleian. Thank you for opening your homes, the countless meals, warm smiles, and handshakes. Thank you for investing your time in a man who came and went in four short years. Thank you for leading Bible studies, Sunday classes, and Thursday night lessons. Most of all, thank you for being a shining beacon of God’s love to the Knoxville community.”

ANDREW NEAL, *German*

“Thanks for putting so much effort into the CSC. Its been a great place for me for the last few years.”

DONOVAN JUSTICE, *Criminology and Criminal Justice*

“Thank you so much for your support of the CSC. I cannot tell you how much something as simple as a home-cooked meal can completely change a college student’s day for the better. The CSC is truly a safe harbor of Christian love in a stormy sea of papers, deadlines, insanity, resistance, and chaos. Christ’s work is being done on the campus of the University of Tennessee through the CSC.”

DARCIE MCCAFFERTY, *Anthropology*

“Thank you all for continually supporting the CSC. I’m so appreciative for the time, work, and dedication that go into maintaining the CSC. Everything that the congregation does, does not go unnoticed. I’ve gained friendships and a stronger faith through this organization. A million thank you’s couldn’t be enough to express my gratitude!”

DEREK WATKINS, *Chemical Engineering*

“Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and always being the solid rock in a very influential time in all students’ lives. It was the family that I gained through Laurel Church of Christ that introduced me to the CSC and convinced me to give my life to Christ.”