

anthem

The magazine of Ambrose University College

FALL/WINTER 2011

The Global Classroom

Travel Study Programs



AMBROSE







The dome of the Carmelite Church and the spire of the Anglican Cathedral of St. Paul in Valletta, the capital of Malta. Participants in the Down Ancient Paths sojourn to Malta experienced this and much more as part of the travel study program The Malta Institute: Exploring "The Sacred" at a Mediterranean Crossroads. This issue of Anthem features travel study at Ambrose and the importance of these ventures.

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Our Commitment to Educational Travel




R. Riley Coulter, DMin
Chancellor and Acting President

The theme of this issue of *Anthem* is educational travel, the opportunity our students have to travel to various parts of the world as an integral part of their educational experience at Ambrose. This past summer, Ambrose students travelled to China (Behavioural Science and Education), Costa Rica (Biology), Dominican Republic (Business and Behavioural Science), England (English), Greece (History), Ireland (Down Ancient Paths), Italy (History and Music), and Malta (Down Ancient Paths). As well, as part of the OnSite program – a six to nine month practicum experience – students are serving in, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, Paraguay, Philippines, and Poland.

What an amazing opportunity for learning and discovery our students have enjoyed through these educational travel experiences!

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In some of the earliest discussions concerning the establishment of Ambrose, when we articulated what we wanted for our students, the commitment was made that, “Every graduate receive(s) some international experience during their years as a student.” We continue to be committed to that goal. And in more recent documents, as a part of our Strategic Plan, when describing our World Focus, we state, “Internationalization addressed within disciplines... is encouraged through short and long term international travel and study.”

You will enjoy reading the adventures and discoveries of our students and professors in this issue. We appreciate the tremendous effort of our faculty to facilitate these travel experiences. We pray for safety and grace for our students as they experience new cultures, discover new perspectives, and learn of God’s work in our world. And we pray that, as the students discover and experience their world, God would place within them a deep sense of responsibility for global issues as Christians in the twenty-first century. 

Ambrose Students Help Reform a Nation

Dr Adriana Fishta Bejko

There are many ways to teach English to non-English speakers here in Canada but we chose to travel and be guests in Chinese classrooms because, as John Wesley stresses, it is much better to “carry relief to the people who need it than it is to send it, both for our own sake and for theirs.” Not many people are given the opportunity we were given to minister to over 1600 students and instructors through serving them in a place that does not appear to allow for chances to share the gospel. As team leader, I was amazed at the humble attitude and servanthood displayed by our Ambrose students. Although the living arrangements were much better than we expected, they were not the same as in Canada. However, instead of complaining, the team showed that they can live an abundant life, filled with the gifts and fruit of the Spirit.

Our students taught English to university age students (not much younger than themselves): classes had 50 to 60 students, the temperatures hit 38 degrees Celsius and humidity was sometimes as high as 90 to 100 percent, but the students persevered because they knew they were transforming lives, which will become the basis of a transformed society.

A social care for all people, especially the young students in our classes, marked the daily activities of the team. Although this is the first year that Ambrose sent students to Hope University in China, our team was successful in turning a former dull campus where English was considered “an unnecessary burden,” into a place that



Ambrose education students taught in China this past summer.

was “set on fire by the Ambrose team,” as Vice President Jin said. Learning was happening not only in the classrooms but at restaurant tables as we shared meals with our students and Chinese colleagues, in a basketball game, in a debate team, on the soccer field, at the Canada Day Celebration we organized for our new friends, at the 5:00 a.m. practice sessions for final exams, and in the coolness of the underground parkade where students would retreat to study when the sun hit the zenith.

We enjoyed meeting new friends and having a chance to talk to people from another part of the world. Our Chinese colleagues and students expressed their appreciation for us in different ways. One student said, “At Hope College we got to know some amazing friends from Ambrose College, we learned each other’s culture and exchanged ideas like brothers and sisters.” Another, “It gives us an experience other than school.” Yet another, “You are Christians. You help people in an unconditional way.” The Chinese rarely display emotions publicly, but at the farewell dinner in our honour, both teams were hugging and crying and saying “This is not goodbye; it is just au revoir – until we see each other again.” But the gratitude didn’t all flow one way. Ambrose education student Amy Wright commented, “The most memorable experience was arriving 15 minutes early for class and having every

student already seated and cheering as I walked through the door. Having a foreign teacher was a rare opportunity for them. It makes me realize how blessed I was to be able to represent Canadians, Christianity, and Ambrose University College.”

The team was transformed by its Chinese experience and we look forward to Ambrose students serving at Hope University in the future. When we work together remarkable achievements result. Thanks be to God for all the service we have been able to give to hundreds of individuals. To serve others is to follow the example and direct command of Jesus. Success has nothing to do with what we gain in life or accomplish for ourselves – it is what we do for others that counts. **A**

Ambrose Well-Represented at Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting

Each year in November several thousand professors and graduate students from around the world travel to the United States for the annual meetings of the American Association of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) to network with colleagues, to stay current in their disciplines, and to connect with potential publishers of their work. This year, these two associations are meeting jointly in San Francisco, and five Ambrose professors are participating in the program. Ray Aldred (Assistant

Professor of Theology) and Mabilia Kenzo (Professor of Systematic Theology) are part of a roundtable discussion focused on postcolonial dimensions of mission. Rob Snow (Associate Professor of New Testament) is presenting a paper entitled, “Mark’s Son of Man and the Mysterious Picture of Jesus.” Bernie Van De Walle (Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology) is presiding at meetings of the Christian Theological Research Fellowship which meets in conjunction with the AAR. Several other Ambrose faculty are attending the meetings as well. Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Spilsbury, who will also be in attendance at the meeting chairing sessions of the Josephus group of the SBL, notes, “Faculty scholarship and publication are critical for the success of Ambrose as a centre of higher learning in Canada, and I am delighted by the involvement of our professors in important international conferences of this kind.” ■

English Professor Makes Good Use of Sabbatical Time

Associate Professor of English Literature Dr Rita Dirks Heath was on sabbatical from January 1 to July 1, 2011. At the beginning of January she presented a paper at the Modern Language Association Congress (MLA) in Los Angeles – an annual conference where thousands of literature and modern languages scholars meet together. Her paper explored the use of Mennonite Low German in Miriam Toews’s *A Complicated Kindness*, the 2004 novel that won Canada’s Governor General Award. At the end of June, Rita was in Dublin, Ireland, at The New Europe at the Crossroads Conference, where she presented a paper on the integration of Mennonites into mainstream Canadian culture as represented, again, in the novels of Miriam Toews.

In between conferences, she wrote a twenty-page article for the journal *Canadian Literature*; presented a paper at the Ambrose Research Conference; acted as external reader for an interdisciplinary

master’s thesis at Regent College; and went to England, Wales, and Scotland with Dr Tim Heath’s class, English 404 Literary Landscapes.

During her sabbatical time, she found that she had been honoured by her *alma mater*, the University of Alberta, by having her name inscribed on the Excellence of Teaching wall there in recognition of an award for teaching she won while completing her doctoral work.

Although now back at Ambrose full-time and teaching a number of classes, she is continuing the work begun during her sabbatical by finishing an article for a book to be published next year, writing two papers for the 2012 MLA congress – this time on Virginia Woolf and Mikhail Bulgakov and writing proposals for two more conferences, one in Canada and one in Berlin. Dr Dirks Heath notes that the concept of scholarly sabbatical derives from the biblical principle of Sabbath: “A time set apart for renewal

as a scholar, citizen, and teacher.” Given her continued activity, she concludes, “Scholarly sabbaticals exist not for rest but to bring renewal, so I am grateful for the opportunity my sabbatical has given me to strengthen and deepen my scholarship in service of my teaching in the English program at Ambrose.”

Congratulations, Dr Dirks Heath, on your accomplishments! ■

Murray Downey Lectureship Series

February 15 to 16, 2012: *My Heart. God’s Passion. Aligning My Heart With God’s*. The Murray Downey Lectureship series is hosting guest speaker Sunder Krishnan. Come prepared to be challenged and inspired as Rev. Krishnan speaks on God’s unchanging purpose for the world, and how you are to play your part in the drama of redemption. The lectures are free and open to the public. ■

For more information: speaker@ambrose.edu

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Professor Brings International Experience to the Classroom

Dr David Peat joined the education faculty in August of this year following an already varied career which has taken him to places like Singapore, Kuwait, and Qatar, as well as the Yukon and other areas of Canada.

He spent a number of years teaching in the Canadian public school system before returning to university to obtain a Master of Education degree and his PhD. Also during this time he qualified as a reading clinician, and became a chartered psychologist. Armed with these new skills he worked extensively with children with special educational needs, both directly in the classroom and at the administrative level designing and developing programs and services.

Although he initially carried out this work in Canada, in 1997 he and his family moved overseas. In Kuwait he worked in a hospital setting with families overcoming serious challenges arising from the development of a disabling condition, or suffering from anxiety, depression, anger, grief, and behavioural issues related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Although in the Kuwaiti context the trauma was primarily the result of war, children and families are equally prone to the same manifestations of distress as the result of a natural disaster. Working with ActionAid International, Dr Peat was able to spend time in the Maldives following the 2004 tsunami, training front-line workers offering support to traumatized children in that region. Not all of our education graduates will work in a Middle-Eastern context, or in a region affected by a disaster as broad



Associate Professor of Education David Peat spent a number of years overseas. Sharing his experiences with students brings a new dimension to classroom instruction.

Kuwaiti and Qatari peoples. In Singapore the cultural differences may not have been as extreme, but it was still a very different situation than North America. These experiences help him to prepare Ambrose students for a unique feature of our Education degree: an optional post-certification international placement, with partial funding available from Ambrose. The placement provides valuable teaching experience in a non-North American context. “Being able to take advantage of this overseas experience allows the student to understand that the living conditions we take for granted in the west are only experienced by a very small proportion of the world’s population. Teachers don’t have – and don’t need to have - all the answers, but we can be Salt and Light to the lives of our students,” notes Peat, going on to add that the experience can help give students an increased understanding of place and help them to identify if their calling is to an overseas ministry or to a home-based situation in Canada.

With such a rich background to draw from as he develops the educators of tomorrow at Ambrose, Dr Peat is a welcome addition to the education faculty and brings a new dimension to the program. **E**

Teachers don’t have all the answers, but we can be Salt and Light to the lives of our students.

and devastating as the tsunami, but even in the Canadian context they are likely to come across refugees from war-torn areas of the world, or those who have suffered other forms of trauma during their short lifetimes. Dr Peat’s experience with children in these situations positions him well to assist Ambrose students as they prepare for some of the special needs these children will have in the classroom.

Culturally, moving to the Middle East required a shift in perception of the accepted western norm of dress and behavior and it gave him valuable insight into the lives and culture of the

Taking the Choir on the Road and the Autobahn, and the Motorway, and the Superstrada...

Brenda Quantz, nee Wheaton, is a graduate of Canadian Nazarene College (CNC). She arrived in Winnipeg (home of CNC at that time) from Amherst, Nova Scotia in January of 1972. She met her husband Don that year (Don is the Program Chair for Music at Ambrose and Director of the Chamber Choir) and says she has been following him around the globe ever since!

They moved to Calgary in 1995 with their children Krista and Matthew. Natasha was born in Calgary and will graduate from grade 12 this year. Matt has been studying and teaching in Korea for the past five years. Sadly, their daughter Krista died of cancer in 1998.

Since moving to Calgary Brenda has worked at Mount Royal University and is currently the Administrative Assistant to the Chair of General Education.

On a number of occasions Brenda has been able to accompany Don on choir tours to Europe. She has travelled to England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Austria, Italy, Austria, and Hungary with tours; the groups have typically numbered approximately 20 students, faculty, and staff.

We asked Brenda for her impressions of the tours:

Each trip has been a smorgasbord of experiences and each trip has left me with memories that will last a lifetime. I'll never forget travelling to Great Britain, my first time overseas, and landing in Scotland.



Travelling with students
and sensing the excitement
they bring every day is
exhilarating, exhausting
and rewarding!

I'd never seen grass so green! Hearing the choir sing in massive stone cathedrals or small chapels was a thrill that has never lessened over the years.

Helping prepare stew in the backyard of a small church in Hajdúhadház, Hungary, and later enjoying it with the local congregation is another highlight hard to forget. We couldn't speak their language nor they ours, but somehow we

CNC graduate Brenda Quantz has travelled extensively with choir tours over the years.

communicated.


A few highlights from our recent trip to Italy: a night walk through Rome, enjoying cappuccino at Mac Cafe at the train station, attending church services with fellow Christians, singing for our supper in Sermione, hearing that one of our couples got engaged in Vienna on a gondola, and coming around a corner and seeing the Leaning Tower of Pisa for the first time. Each experience has left indelible marks on my mind. Unforgettable moments!

Each trip has been different and each came with its own challenges and thrills.

Why is this opportunity so important for students?

Travelling with students and sensing the excitement they bring every day is exhilarating, exhausting and rewarding! Hearing them express their respect for history, sharing their wonder at the beauty and majesty of the countryside, and watching them share their faith through song and testimony helped me see with new eyes all that God has given us.

I'm usually so tired when I return, I say I'll probably never go again but after about two weeks I start hoping the director will allow me to tag along next time!

Thank you, Brenda, for your support of the Ambrose travel study programs! 

Reflections on an English Adventure

A cup of tea at the Eagle and Child pub in Oxford where the Inklings gathered. Holding a first edition of *Lyrical Ballads* by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Stonehenge at sunrise while reading excerpts from *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy. Experiencing Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at the Globe Theatre and *Les Miserables* at the Queen's Theatre in London.

These are just some of the experiences described by third year English Literature student Michelle Moody. She was a participant in the recent trip to England organized as part of English 404 Literary Landscapes: Travel Studies in Great Britain. Offered every other year to all Ambrose students meeting the prerequisites, or with the permission of the department, the trip takes students to a number of different places in Great Britain. The course provides academic credit to students upon successful completion of a number of exercises during the trip and a research paper completed on their return.

Commenting on the trip, Michelle noted, "I have been travelling England vicariously for many years through the literature I have read and studied, but never before had the opportunity to embark upon my own adventures to the places I have imagined. My decision to participate in the English literature travel study program at Ambrose is one that I will never regret. Through my engagement in this travel study, an abundance of opportunities were presented to me and the adventures that I previously dreamt of became a reality."


Travelling in May, an uncertain month



Third year English literature student Michelle Moody reflects on her trip to England this summer.

a visiting researcher would not be able to recreate the immersive four-day experience that the archive's curator Jeff Cowton and Dr Tim Heath, who teaches English 404, create for students on the Ambrose travel study venture.

For Michelle, the opportunity to take this trip with friends who share similar passions and the knowledgeable Ambrose professors was "irresistible." She comments that her expectations of the trip were far exceeded by her experiences.

When asked about the benefits of a travel study trip such as this, Michelle's response was unequivocal: "My time in England reinforced my understanding of why travel studies are such an important opportunity for students. Throughout my time in England, the door was opened for me to examine and view literature and the world I live in from a new perspective and influenced not only the way I interpret and read literature, but also the way I write. I was given opportunities that would have truly been impossible if not for my position as part of the travel study group from Ambrose, and these opportunities have enriched my post-secondary education." A fine endorsement, indeed, of the value of travel study programs. 

"... the door was opened for me to examine and view literature and the world I live in from a new perspective."

for weather in England, the group enjoyed good weather, delightful scenery, and many experiences that shed light on the context in which some of England's best-known authors wrote. Grasmere, situated in the Lake District in North-Western England, was home to poet William Wordsworth and the trip participants were able to visit the Jerwood Centre which houses a large archive of British Romanticism material, including a significant number of first editions. Access to the collection is only available by appointment, yet even



Ambrose Lions Season Preview

The 2011-12 sports season at Ambrose University College has begun and hopes are high for the coming year. With many returning players and a number of new players, the Ambrose Lions will be a tough team to beat – in every sport.

Volleyball

The men's and women's volleyball teams kicked off the year with identical 3-0 records with wins over the Prairie Pilots, the Canadian University College Aurora, and the St. Mary's Lightning in Alberta Colleges Athletics League (ACAL) action. The women's team has nine returning players, while the men's team has just four, but both teams are in a good position to build upon last year's success.

Phil Wideman returns for his third season as head coach of the women's team, while Mike Dandenault, a former Lions men's volleyball MVP (2009) joins the men's team as their new bench boss. Both coaches took their teams to Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) tournaments to begin the year and showed that they are not far off from moving up to the next level.

Futsal

The men's and women's futsal teams begin this year in a new league, the ACAC. This is a significant step up for the program, but both teams are coming off back-to-back ACAL championships and are poised and ready to take that step.

Ryan Shantz returns as head coach of the men's team after a two-year hiatus from the team, while the women welcome former Lions volleyball and basketball player Mike Ellergodt as their new coach this season. The teams have been practicing on the brand new Rundle College field (a local private school located just behind the Ambrose campus) for the first two months of the school year in preparation for the move indoors in November.

Hockey

The men's hockey team prepares for its fourth season in the Calgary Adult Hockey League (CAHL). Head Coach Ryan Willison is in his eighth year as the head coach of the men's hockey team and has high hopes for the season.

"We have some solid returning players this year. Our top point producers are back from last year (Tyson McCombs and TJ Smith), while we also added a top sniper, Dare Mably, from the Briercrest Clippers of the ACAC," noted Willison.

The hockey team looks to be deeper at forward, while the defence is younger, but will be very enthusiastic and eager to develop. They anticipate improving on their second round playoff exit from one year ago.

Basketball

The men's and women's basketball teams are in a rebuilding process, but still have high hopes for the upcoming season. Sean Boyer returns as the women's coach, while former player Tyler Fisher takes the helm of the men's team.

Boyer and Fisher have begun training with the teams already and have seen positive results. There is some outstanding skill and raw talent, and it will be up to the

coaches to refine that skill into solid team play.

Both teams will be stocked with new players so it is hard to predict what the season will look like. Some feel the Lions could sneak up on the rest of the competition. The basketball season will kick off in January, so there is still time yet

to develop and prepare for the upcoming season.

The Ambrose Lions covet the support of its fans and the greater Ambrose Community. 📧

For more information about any of these teams or ways that you could be involved, contact Ryan Willison, Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation: rwillison@ambrose.edu or 403-410-2924.

Ambrose Lions Player Profiles



Loree Evans: Women's Futsal

Loree returns as a second year forward with the Lions women's futsal team and as the Athletic Leadership Team representative. She is a solid athlete and an even better student. She was the athlete with the highest GPA last year; she is in the Christian Studies Program.

Loree is from Edmonton and decided to come to Ambrose initially for only a short time, but later discovered that God wanted her to stay. She loves playing in front of the Lions fans, who are widely recognized to be some of the loudest anywhere!

After she graduates she hopes to be able to pursue a master's program in speech pathology and eventually use her skills overseas in some capacity. 📧



Riley Mahoney: Men's Futsal

Riley is in his third year at Ambrose. He is a member of the men's futsal team and is the Athletic Leadership Team representative for men's futsal.

Riley grew up as a missionary kid in Malaysia and developed a love for the sport of soccer and a love for Jesus. Riley brings his faith to the futsal pitch every game and practice and is a leader in every sense of the word for this team.

Riley will help to lead the men this year as they venture into uncharted waters – the Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference. It is a significant step up for the program, but with players like Riley around, not only will they be good competition, they will also be focused on Christ both on and off the field. 📧

The Malta Institute: Ambrose Goes Mediterranean



*A street in Valletta,
capital of Malta.*

Charles Nienkirchen, PhD

In the witty words of a native scholar, the miniscule, Maltese archipelago often disappears in the fold of an atlas. In reality, it is situated in a narrow, central Mediterranean channel separating Sicily from North Africa. Despite its English-speaking heritage and touristic appeal, it is little known by Canadians and consequently underappreciated as a potential holiday travel destination. However, the literate educational traveller would be hard pressed to find another country capable of serving up a greater wealth of historical and cultural treasures

The literate educational traveller would be hard pressed to find another country capable of serving up a greater wealth of historical and cultural treasures.

to be savoured in such a compacted space. The archaeological record of the islands, which includes one of the most extraordinary underground burial sites in the world (The Hypogeum), testifies indisputably to the existence of a Neolithic temple culture in numerous locations which predates the legendary Stonehenge by more than a millennium. The islands thus rank as one of the earliest locations of settled religious observance in the spiritual journey of humankind.

For the connoisseur of world history, Malta possesses a captivating timeline inhabited since the dawn of human history by Neolithic communities; their Bronze Age descendants; Phoenician traders; Greek, Carthaginian and Roman conquerors; Muslim invaders; and the Order of the Knights of St. John (birthed in the Crusades) right up to the over 400,000 persons who reside there today making it one of the most densely populated countries in the world. In modern times, Malta's natural harbours and dockyard facilities made it an unsinkable fortress-colony, a crucial source of supply for the

British forces locked in a life and death struggle against the Axis powers in North Africa during the second world war.

For those with a penchant for Christian antiquity, Malta holds yet another fascination. It is the leading contender among historians as the most likely place of the Apostle Paul's famous, biblically-recorded shipwreck en route to Rome. From this event, enshrined in the national memory, the sensitively disputed claim arises regarding the first century conversion of the Maltese to Christianity and their unbroken fidelity to the Catholic Christian tradition since that time.

All roads in Malta lead to its massively-walled capital city, Valletta, perched on a rocky peninsula. It is a military masterpiece constructed in only six years following the Great Siege in 1565 to withstand a second Muslim onslaught which never came. A lavish display of Renaissance architecture trimmed with militaristic bravado, the city was built by the Grand Master Jean de la Vallette to showcase the sumptuous, aristocratic culture of the Knights who had triumphed over the infidel Turks. Amazingly, despite the bombing blitz of World War II, much of the city has remained unspoilt, spared for subsequent generations to feast on its visual grandeur.

The dense, historical cultural heritage of Malta with its paradisiacal climate and cornucopia of learning opportunities made it an enchanting environment for another imaginative educational travel experience provided by Ambrose's Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program this past May. Sixteen persons accompanied by two Ambrose professors participated in The

Malta Institute: Exploring “The Sacred” at a Mediterranean Crossroads. A special feature of the integrative curriculum of the institute was the enthusiastic involvement of a broad cross section of faculty from the University of Malta, each of whom articulated a seasoned, disciplinary-specific interpretation of the theme of ‘the sacred’ as it has shaped and coloured the past and present landscapes of Malta.

Mount St. Joseph Retreat House, the home of the institute, possessed an ambience consistent with the theme of exploring “the sacred” in the Maltese islands. It is a spacious facility planted in an enchanting garden setting conducive to quiet and contemplation. Situated on the outskirts of urban life in the centre of Malta, the added bonus of the location is a panoramic view of the fortified city of Mdina, the island’s Roman-founded, medieval capital and most evocative city.

The liturgy of learning enjoyed by the participants had a daily pulse which began with the gentle serenade of birds heralding the early morning light. Stimulating lectures followed breakfast in a light-filled room which opened to rooftop vistas of the Mediterranean and the town of Mosta with the dominating dome of its immense parish church (the fourth largest in Europe). Regular interludes of robust mealtime conversations punctuated the day and lecture-enhancing guided field trips in the afternoons explored all parts of Malta as well as the neighbouring islands of Gozo and Comino. Each evening became a tranquil diminuendo in the post-supper hours of private reading, reflection, and rest which were gradually enveloped in a penetrating, nocturnal silence typical of houses of prayer operated by religious orders.

The institute commenced with an introductory lecture by Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, a veteran purveyor of large ideas and a Maltese intellectual icon of international acclaim. He set the stage for what was to come with a masterful overview of Malta’s history as a “sacred



The famous painting of the Shipwreck of St. Paul by Maltese painter Francesco Zahra.

island” from the time of the ancient Greek bard Homer to that of the twentieth century American novelist Thomas Pynchon. He returned at the conclusion to analyze the formidable challenges confronting a theocratic society on a “sacred island” in an age of secularization epitomized in the heated battle of the billboards over an impending national divorce referendum (which the pro-divorce faction narrowly won).

Over two weeks, the institute’s brightly-coloured educational mosaic was unveiled. The program of study commenced with the experience of Malta’s festive rhythms in the form of an afternoon excursion to Floriana to have firsthand exposure to the chaos and revelry of a local *fiesta*. It jubilantly commemorated St. Publius, the island’s alleged first Christian bishop. This was followed up with an evening of animated ecumenical dialogue with a local youth group calling itself “Energy,” in the parish church of Naxxar. Dr Anna Vella, a physician with addictions expertise and a marriage and family life specialist, supplied a theoretical framework for understanding what had been experienced with an anecdote-spiced analysis of changing religious values, gender roles, and demographic trends in Malta.

In the ensuing days, several members of the Faculty of the University of Malta exegeted a variety of topics and provided the conceptual frameworks for understanding the multidimensional aspects of “the sacred” motif in the islands’ history and culture. Professor Anthony Bonanno, a notable classics scholar involved in the discovery and conservation of Malta’s archaeological heritage, critically assessed the validity of identifying Malta’s neolithic temples as venues for practising fertility rites associated with prehistorical “goddess” worship. Charles Dalli, a late medieval expert, sifted in finely nuanced fashion the somewhat controversial evidence germane to Malta’s “Arabic” identity and the complicated process of transition back to a Christian society after centuries of Islamic rule. Dr Conrad Thake, a specialist in the history of sacred architecture, provided a

Delve into the Global Christian Heritage

Ambrose’s award-winning Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program is featuring the following upcoming ventures:

Mediterranean Chapters in the Story of Western Christianity: Rome to Venice Cruise

March 29 – April 13, 2012

Summer School in the Holy Land (Jordan/Israel)

April 30 – May 31, 2012

The Search for Ancient Christians on the Silk Road: China and Beyond

July 8 – August 7, 2012

Magnificent Ethiopia: Where Ancient Christian Voices Still Speak

January 2013 – dates TBA

The Search for Ancient Christians in North Africa and Mediterranean Cruise (Sicily/Malta/Tunisia/Libya/Egypt)

February or March 2013 – dates TBA

Summer School in the ‘Other’ Holy Lands (Turkey/Greece/Albania)

May 2013 – dates TBA


For more information contact Dr Charles Nienkirchen: cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu



The interior of St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

the “Battle of the Bays”) over the exact location of the apostle Paul’s shipwreck. The complex underground cemeteries of St. Paul and St. Agatha in Rabat offered dimly-lit frescoed venues for discussing the relative strength of the evidence supporting a first century Christian presence on Malta. Place and street names with linguistic traces of Arabic and a Muslim cemetery adjoining a Roman villa awakened interest in both the Arabic origins of the Maltese language and the residual influence of Islam on Maltese culture, fashioning a possible role for Malta as a contemporary intermediary between Islam and the West. The city of Valletta, a glorious monument to the Knights of St. John who achieved a decisive victory over Islam, raised the

issue as to whether there is still a case to be made for “Christian militarism.”

Participants in The Malta Institute were enthusiastic about what they experienced. They lauded it as “a worthy expansion of the Down Ancient Paths brand of educational travel,” and an “adventure with lots to think, reflect, and ponder on,” in a “photographic paradise.” Most importantly, it was for them an opportunity to explore more of the fascinating world of early Christianity in a less familiar corner of the “Greater Holy Land.” 

Dr Nienkirchen is Professor of Christian History and Spirituality at Ambrose as well as the Creator/ Director of the award-winning Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program at Ambrose University College. For a schedule of upcoming Down Ancient Paths ventures see www.downancientpaths.com

masterful overview of the notable, not to be missed themes in Malta’s major churches and chapels. Ambrose’s own Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Paul Spilsbury, joined with the Maltese faculty and inspirationally traced the theme of liminality in the spirituality of the Apostle Paul as evidenced in his writings and life journey.

The Malta Institute was anything but a staid, classroom-bound version of education, albeit on a Mediterranean island. An assortment of professionally guided field trips took the walls off the classroom and opened up an array of possibilities for learning *in situ* where the big questions of Maltese history could be dissected in 3D.

The curious Neolithic temples of Tarxien, Hagar Qim, Ggantija, and Mnajdra provided a dramatic context for integrating biblical with world history timelines and contemplating the implications of such for the emergence of both polytheism and monotheism in the religious consciousness of humankind. An excursion to St. Paul’s Islands and a rustic display of anchors from Roman cargo ships to be seen in the Vittoriosa Maritime and Gozo Archaeological Museums fuelled an ongoing, vigorous discussion (nicknamed

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History Comes Alive in Greece and Italy

History travel study gives students the opportunity to discover the past in a whole new way, bringing to life the people and events studied in the classroom by exploring the sites where history was made. In May 2011 a group of 14 students and guests travelled to Italy and Greece, visiting Rome, Tivoli, Florence, Olympia, Athens, and Corinth. Included was a wonderful day of relaxation on a Mediterranean cruise ship.

Each day included many “Wow!” moments, from the Colosseum, Castel Sant’Angelo, or Sistine Chapel in Rome to the Accademia and Duomo in Florence, Villa Adriana and Villa d’Este in Tivoli, and famous Greek sites like Ancient Olympia, Corinthian temples, and the Athenian Parthenon. The group even stood on windy Mars Hill, where the Apostle Paul presented the gospel and debated with Greek philosophers. Every day someone exclaimed, “I can’t believe I’m in ...!” Still, the favourite was probably Florence, Italy, home of the Renaissance. Perhaps it was the fact that the hotel was a refurbished stone residence with a medieval tower, or that palaces, cathedrals, markets, and gelato shops were right around the corner.

The aim of the trip was to explore the ancient classical and Christian roots of Western Civilization, and it was interesting to see how Roman government, Greek philosophy and art, and early Christianity interacted with one another. It was especially moving to see how important both early and Renaissance Christianity were in the shaping of Western culture. As one student put it, “Being able to visit the various ancient catacombs and burial sites of the Early Church martyrs and Fathers

was incredible. I felt spiritually refreshed when I returned.”

Dr Kyle Jantzen: kjantzen@ambrose.edu

Taking English to England

Robert Kroetsch, the distinguished Albertan poet and novelist, says, “I wear geography next to my skin.” This remark hints nicely at some of the reasons why the English program at Ambrose offers a travel study course – English 404 Literary Landscapes – on a biennial rotation. As much as possible, English travel study places students not merely in museums, but rather in the towns, villages, footpaths, and houses in which authors such as John Milton and John Ruskin lived. Moreover, the course aims to put the actual manuscripts, letters, and first editions of the major literary works from the English literary tradition into the hands of students to ensure that their study of literature is an experiential and emplaced one. This idea of emplacement explains why travel study is so powerful an educational tool, for the relationship between text and landscape serves as one of the richest definers of culture, identity, imagination, story, and verse – the stuff of literary inquiry. This point is simple but significant, for Canadians intrinsically conceive of their own identity and culture through landscape, but the vast majority of literature that students read for their English degree emanates from England. Travel study in England, then, makes real that which lives only in books for most students.

The most recent iteration of the three-credit course ran this past spring, from May 5th to 22nd. Before leaving for the eighteen-day trip to England, Wales, and Scotland, students met a number of times to prepare for the trip, chiefly to ensure that they had some input into the itinerary. The itinerary itself emphasized major authors and major literary movements, so



One of the highlights of the history trip to Italy and Greece was seeing St. Peter's in Rome.

students attended two live performances at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and special emphasis was given to understanding the London of Geoffrey Chaucer, Samuel Johnson, Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, and other significant authors. The trip also emphasized rural England, so a small charter coach allowed the group to travel relevant back roads and into villages. This style of travel caps the course at fifteen participants because to take a larger group would necessitate a larger vehicle that would not fit down the narrow lanes and roads that are the environs of figures such as Thomas Hardy and the Romantic poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. The latter poet receives particular attention in the course when travellers spend four days in the Jerwood Centre, the literary archive in the village of Grasmere that houses the key materials associated with English Romanticism. Jeff Cowton, the archive’s curator, gave students an intensive and immersive experience that would make any scholar envious: private access to letters, journals, manuscripts, first editions, rare books, landscape paintings, and handwriting study (palaeography).

This course is offered biennially. For more information contact Dr Tim Heath: theath@ambrose.edu




Recipients of microfinance loans participate in an accountability meeting.

Business Program Visits Microfinance Organizations in Latin America

This spring the Ambrose business program travelled to Latin America for a two-week travel study course looking at economic and community development in the region. The trip was a follow-up to Business 461 International Microfinance over the winter term where students learned about microfinance – the provision of small loans to the working poor. As a unique aspect of this course, Ambrose partnered with two microfinance organizations – HOPE/Esperanza International in the Dominican Republic, and MEDA/MiCredito in Nicaragua – to have students conduct research consulting on a variety of topics and issues these organizations face in their operations. At the conclusion of the course, the students then had the opportunity to travel to Latin America to deliver their research findings and visit some of the programs they had been working on.

The trip was offered in collaboration with the behavioural science department as part of the new development studies program at Ambrose, with professors Jeff Huebner and Peter Doell leading a group of eight students. Trip activities included visiting with staff at the microfinance organizations and learning about their field operations; meeting microenterprise loan recipients and visiting their businesses to see how their lives are being improved; conducting interview surveys with clients for an accounting audit; and meeting with community development groups such as Compassion International and local

church leaders to learn about the economic, political and spiritual context in each of the countries.

The trip provided students with experience-based learning opportunities which allowed them to see first-hand how international development impacts individuals and communities in underdeveloped regions around the world. Business student TJ Smith remarked: “The whole trip was a great learning experience for me, both educationally and spiritually. I hope to never forget the lessons I have learned from the trip and apply them to my daily life... I do not want to live just an ordinary life, but instead make an impact in the world.” 

Professor Jeff Huebner: jhuebner@ambrose.edu

Chamber Singers 2011 Travel Study to Italy

Chamber Singers participated in a travel study/choir tour to Italy in May. The two-week event was the culmination of a year of rehearsing and performing and was one of the highlights of their post-secondary educational experience. The tour incorporated both learning and performing experiences.

The adventure began in Rome where the group visited the Colosseum, the Forum, the Pantheon, and the amazing Trevi Fountain. In stark contrast to these monumental structures, a small Nazarene church in one of the Roman suburbs was the venue for a concert performed by the choir. The choir felt blessed to mingle with the congregation and share in a reception after the service.


While in Rome the group spent a day Palestrina, a small town just south of the city. Palestrina is the name sake of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, the foremost choral composer of the 16th century. The choir was privileged to sing Palestrina’s *Sicut Cervus*, led by student conductor Michael Ibsen, in the Cathedral where Palestrina led music. Choir Director Don Quantz commented, “What an experience! This helped us to better understand the acoustical and performance

practices that Palestrina would have encountered and thereby inform our own performances.”

He continued, “Our next stop was Florence where we visited a number of significant sites including the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (often called “Duomo”) which features a magnificent dome and the Accademia Gallery which houses Michelangelo’s *David*. We had a great time at the local Nazarene Church where we sang in the Italian service, enjoyed a pasta lunch and sang in the Spanish service. What a delight to share our music, but also sing the Italian and Spanish worship songs with the congregation.”

From Florence the group travelled to Milan where the students were able to visit St. Ambrose Cathedral and got permission to sing a couple of songs in the sanctuary. “We actually saw St. Ambrose’s 1800 year old relics (bones), located under the sanctuary area. What a great opportunity to chat with the students about various liturgical and ceremonial practices that have been part of Christian worship throughout the centuries,” noted Quantz.

After a rest day in Sirmioni, a lakeside resort in Northern Italy, the tour finished in Venice. There the choir participated in a Sacred Choral Festival, joining with other choirs from various parts of Europe and performed in Antonio Vivaldi’s church! A visit to St. Mark’s Cathedral, where Giovanni Gabrielli established the polychoral style, and other sites made it an unforgettable experience.

Quantz concludes, “The value of travel studies cannot be overstated. For the music students on this tour, it allowed them to see many of the places that are important in music history, understand the acoustical and spatial aspects of famous performing venues, sense the cultural and historical significance of such a rich heritage, and share their music in this context. Beyond that, it allowed professor and student to learn together and develop relationships of friendship and camaraderie. We can’t wait to see where we are going next!” 

Dr Don Quantz: dquantz@ambrose.edu



Board Chair Alex Baum with his wife Cyndie.

Interview with the Board Chair

Alex Baum reflects on his time as chair and what may be next for Ambrose.

Q: For those who don't know you too well, tell us about yourself.

How does being a "missionary kid" from Africa and now a business person qualify one to be a Governor for Ambrose University College? I still ask myself that question from time to time and the answer always comes back affirming this call. My desire to serve Ambrose came from my wife Cyndie; her love for academics and a passion for lifelong learning is always present. She instilled that in our three sons (Corry, 32, Kelly, 30, Ryan, 27) and, over the years, in me. With this reality in our home, when I was asked to serve in this capacity at Ambrose, the answer came easily. It has been a privilege and honor to serve alongside some very special people assembled from across Canada on the Ambrose Board of Governors.

Q: You have been board chair for a little over four years now. What stands out for you?

If I were to only have two words to describe the last four years at Ambrose it would be these: "Beyond Coincidence."

So many factors have come together to the benefit of Ambrose: The three academic institutions now in close physical proximity and exploring ways to work more closely together; the Light Rail Transit system expanded to the property lines making access for students so much easier; the recent opening of the Residence and Education Centre; continued enrolment growth; provincial and federal funding for a private university college; a continued focus

on the Seminary; the education degree; staff and faculty we believe are second to none; September when the students arrive, and graduation in April, highlights indeed. And I believe the best is yet to come. . . .

Q: Ambrose has just been through some difficult times. What can you tell us about that? How does the institution move on from that?

The Ambrose community will always be grateful to President Howard Wilson and Vice President Greg Needham for their years of service and passion for Ambrose. Greg was instrumental in the construction of the campus as we know it today, and that will always be a part of the history of Ambrose. In the two years President Wilson was with Ambrose several significant initiatives were accomplished, including the building of the new Residence and Education Centre, and the move to the next athletic conference level. Howard also will be remembered for his commitment to the motto, "Ambrose is all about Jesus. . . all about students."

We recognize that challenges will come. It would be nice to pick the ones we want, but that is not possible. So we learn from our past, take what is learned and lean into the future.

Q: What do you see as the next steps for Ambrose?

There are so many places that we could go with this. As a board we are committed to doing our best to foster a world class learning environment that prepares men and women for His service, but there are some practical matters that have to be attended to in order to achieve that. We are in the early stages of the work of the Presidential Search Committee. Chancellor Riley Coulter is more than able to accept the role of acting president and the

board is grateful for his willingness to act in this capacity during this interim period. This has allowed the board time to assemble a team that will be empowered to begin the search for the new president.

Another important development will be the reinstatement of the Master Planning Committee, chaired by Rolly Laing, which will study the space available on the Ambrose lands and ensure that any future development is carefully planned in order to reflect institutional priorities and best use of space. It is the desire of the governors to be actively engaged in these master planning activities for the campus. With the anticipation of continued enrolment growth we believe now is the time to invest in this process.

We will see much more engagement from the board. The governors recently agreed to add one more board meeting per year to the schedule to provide additional opportunity to engage. Governor Ken Stankieveh has an active presence on campus, and he is excited to serve in this way.

On a personal note, in addition to continued enrolment growth, can we dream that Ambrose might one day have a world class fine arts and worship complex? And for our athletes, perhaps we might one day follow Trinity Western University's lead by competing at the highest university athletic levels.

Q: Briefly summarize Ambrose's financial situation. What can concerned alumni and friends do to help Ambrose?

From a business perspective, using a "debt to equity" ratio, Ambrose is in a very good position. The assets far outweigh the liabilities. But, we do have capital debt and the sooner we can retire that debt the sooner these funds can be directed towards scholarships, enhancing program offerings, and investing in our staff and faculty. Board policy is to operate with a balanced budget. This is not accomplished without great effort and sacrifice from our administrators, staff and faculty.

The continued financial support from our founding denominations is crucial, along with the many individuals who believe in the mission of Ambrose; the importance of these donors cannot be overstated.

I would encourage any friend of Ambrose to prayerfully consider how they could help. We especially value your prayers. Of course, the school does need financial assistance to be able to provide the top-quality education that is our stated intention. In these days of economic turmoil and uncertainty we appreciate every gift that we receive. **A**



Residence and Education Centre Opens

The landscape of the Ambrose campus has changed significantly in the past year. On October 28, 2010, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Residence and Education Centre was held. Students representing those who would live in and benefit from the new facility acted as the official sod-turners. Within days the site was a hive of activity as the general contractor, Elan Construction Ltd., moved in to start the project.

Work barely stopped for the next ten months as Elan workers laboured diligently to meet the September 2011 delivery date. In a feat of focus and determination, the crews worked through a harsh winter that extended well into the spring months. The late arrival of spring created significant challenges, including a three-week weather-related delay in the construction timing. Despite the challenges, Elan brought the project to completion on time, and the building opened in early September. Ambrose is extremely grateful to all involved, and particularly to Senior Site Superintendent Henry Rarog of Elan Construction and to Project Manager Randy Aspinall.

On September 2, 2011, the building was handed over to Ambrose allowing beds to be made, blinds to be hung, and education program staff to move into their dedicated space on the ground floor. The new facility


This new [facility] is critical for us in providing more space for students to be living on the Ambrose campus and enjoying all the benefits this provides.

is now home to 40 students and the sense of community builds day by day. With a tunnel connecting the two residence buildings, students can easily access the facilities in either building which alleviates any sense of “us” and “them” in relation to the two residence cohorts.

The dedicated space for the education program came not a moment too soon as the program enjoyed significant new enrolment this year. Program Chair Dr Bernie Potvin commented, “At most times during the day students will be found working in the open space, collaborating over a group project, meeting for some theological discussion, or gathering around some great idea. Community is being formed and given the nature of the profession these students are about to enter into, not much more could be asked from a

space like the one we have been blessed to work in.”

The New Residence and Education Centre will be dedicated in the chapel service on November 17; key personnel involved in the project will be recognized and the new facility dedicated.

Although we were unable to reach our fundraising goal of \$2.5M prior to the opening of the new building, we continue to thank our heavenly Father for the grace and generosity of our supporters. Many sacrificial gifts and pledges have been made and a number of rooms have been named. Board Chair Alex Baum noted that he is grateful for the significant leadership gifts committed by Ambrose Governors which helped to get the project off the ground. Acting Ambrose President Dr Riley Coulter concurred, adding, “This new Residence and Education Centre is critical for us in providing more space for students to be living on the Ambrose campus and enjoying all the benefits this provides. People have been led by God to be very generous with us, and supportive of this new building, and we are deeply honoured and grateful.” 

For more information on the Residence and Education Centre, or to make a donation, contact Gordon Hallett, External Relations Representative, at 403.331.9943 or ghallett@ambrose.edu



Ambrose students Tawny Buhler, Andrew Love, and Bethany Royall perform selections from Shakespeare's Henry V.

English Class Performs Shakespeare's *Henry V*

On Friday, October 21, 2011, three students from the English 350 Shakespeare class performed selections from Shakespeare's *Henry V*. The play tells the story of one of England's favourite kings, who, in 1415, conquered the French at the famous Battle of Agincourt. The viewer follows the transformation of a youthful irrepressible Prince Hal into the revered Christian King Henry, who consciously seeks to do what is right by God. Although Henry's troops are much fewer in number than the French, and tired and cold and starved, the English miraculously win the battle, for which Henry credits God: "Oh, God, thy arm was here! / And not to us, but to thy arm alone, / Ascribe we all" (IV.8.106-108). In the end, Henry also successfully woos and marries the French Princess Katharine. Tawny Buhler, Andrew Love, and Bethany Royall undertook to play the roles of Katharine, King Henry, and Alice (Katharine's maid), respectively, along with other major

and minor roles (twelve in all). The trio delivered first-rate performances, from Henry V's rousing speeches to the troops before battle, to the humorous exchanges, in French, between Katharine and Alice and later Henry and Katharine (in English and French). The audience was delighted by the powerful delivery of dialogue, riveting characterization, beautiful costumes, and music.

Tawny, Andrew, and Bethany are to be commended for offering a truly memorable theatre experience. **A**

Ambrose Enrolment Continues Upward Trend

If the halls at Ambrose seem to be a little busier this semester, it is because there are 40 more students enrolled than there were at this time last year! Overall, enrolment has increased eight percent in full-time equivalent, and just over six percent in headcount.

"We are delighted with the very strong increase in enrolment this fall," commented Ambrose Chancellor and Acting President Riley Coulter. "One of the fundamental strengths of our school is the outstanding programs we offer, in a variety of fields, and students are recognizing this as they make their plans for post secondary education. We are grateful to God for this significant increase."

Undergraduate programs saw the largest growth with an increase of 12.6 percent at the undergraduate level. The youth ministries, worship arts, behavioural science, music, and business programs experienced the greatest year on year growth. The Seminary, unfortunately, experienced a decline year on year, despite encouraging enrolment in the new Chinese programs. The fledgling education program welcomed its second 24-person cohort in September, effectively doubling the number of students in the program.

Key to the increased enrolment were the 248 students new to Ambrose that we welcomed at the beginning of September. A record number of students applied to Ambrose (418), and the enrolment team worked diligently to help these students find their way to Ambrose in September. The additional residence space afforded by the new Residence and Education Centre was instrumental in the increased numbers, as the extra availability of residence space meant that we were able to accommodate all who applied, something that would have been impossible without the new building.

We give thanks to our Lord for entrusting these students to us. **A**

Breaking Bread: Providing Space for Community

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings seminary professors and students can be found gathered in the “Seminarea” eating together. For about an hour, relationships flesh out as plates empty. Many students either are leaving late afternoon classes or arriving for evening classes, and dinner time is a good chance to follow discussions wherever they lead outside the classroom.

The group of 10 to 15 students and faculty members grew both deliberately and organically. Faculty-initiated, the suppers are a direct response to focus group feedback; but student participation brings them to life.

Dean of Seminary Dr Arch Wong hopes to promote these connections. “Knowing faculty outside the classroom is an important factor in the student motivation to learn. Building community enhances the learning experience; more frequent academic-student contact helps students to manage their problems and enhances their intellectual commitments. They can talk about values and future plans. It may start as academic, but in the end, it helps them to establish relationships.”

With roughly 130 seminary students currently enrolled, face to face interaction proves a valuable principle in what Dr Wong terms “good teaching and good learning.” Fleshing out this principle further, seminary students have initiated a monthly theology night off-campus. From 8 to 11 p.m., over wings, students and faculty bat around arguments on the theological topic of the night.

The seminary also holds a day-long retreat for students once a semester, centred on a theme; the Fall 2011 semester retreat featured the topic “God’s will.” A two-day retreat will be offered February 2012. These events often draw 25 to 30 percent of the seminary student body, yet another indicator of the hunger for connection and community. **a**

Students Dive Deep Into Real World Ministry

Behind the scenes of North American Barna surveys and books on millennial ministry trends, theory always boils down to a local congregation – and Ambrose students are learning that first-hand.

Sophomore Youth Ministry major Nathan Hildebrandt serves Calgary-based Westside King’s Church as a youth ministry assistant and is discovering what goes into creating a connected, engaged youth group.

Westside King’s Church, led by Pastor Chris Wiersma, meets in an old building in southwest Calgary, but its impact reaches far beyond its lively walls. Whether partnering with the Calgary Homeless Foundation or welcoming exhausted souls to the refreshing suburban monastery, students like Nathan learn the rhythms of balancing local ministry demands with pressing worldwide needs. The congregation balances local emphases, like serving the homeless, with mission

trips to Africa and partnering with Mercy Ships. Over the past summer, the youth group Nathan serves sent 22 students to the Dominican Republic, where they built homes and partnered with area orphanages.

But day-to-day administrative tasks keep Nathan busy following up with students, maintaining the database, and staying in contact with absent youth group members. He helps implement Junior High recreational activities and assists with Sunday morning small groups. This practical application of classroom principles – explored in courses like contemporary evangelism and strategies of youth ministry – lays a foundation of experience that will continue to pay dividends long after graduation. Nathan is not sure what kind of church he hopes to work with in the future but, for now, he’s learning how the textbook theory of adolescent development can work hand-in-hand with laser tag. **a**

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CNC Alumni Celebrate with Homecoming 2011


The first weekend in October saw over 150 Canadian Nazarene College (CNC) alumni and friends gather on the Ambrose campus for a packed weekend of homecoming events. Coming from as far afield as Florida, California, Oklahoma, and Montana, as well as numerous Canadian towns and cities, the group gathered together to eat, reminisce, reflect, laugh, cry, and celebrate their time at CNC. Some had attended while the school was still in Red Deer, Alberta, others after the move to Winnipeg, Manitoba, but all had fond memories to share.

On Friday night the festivities began with a concert by pianists Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young which was well received by the homecoming guests and others from the local community. Nielson and Young thrilled the crowd with a variety of musical styles and genres throughout the evening, ranging from hymns and old favourites to classical pieces.

Saturday morning began with a brunch and an opportunity to bring an update on what each graduate had been doing in the intervening years. As the audience consisted mainly of graduates from the 1955 to 1965 period, there was much friendly competition to see who had the most grand- and great-grand kids!

Immediately following the brunch the mood became more reflective as the group moved to the music wing for the dedication of the John Rosfeld Music Studio. John Rosfeld was a professor at CNC from 1959 to 1963 and during his time at CNC was an inspiration to many of those present. Dr Ronald Fry led the prayer of dedication, noting, "Today we dedicate this studio as a place where serious thought is given to the importance of music in the life of the church," and praying, "Help us to understand that the ultimate goal of our music and worship is to glorify our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

On Saturday evening the group gathered once more for a celebration banquet and a one-of-a-kind gathering of alumni as a choir formed especially for the event. Ably assisted by the Ambrose Chamber Singers, the choir sang two pieces arranged by Rosfeld: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* and a piece called *A Glorious Church*. The rousing performances were a highlight of the evening and complemented the equally spirited and upbeat numbers performed by quartets and trios that were either reunited or specially formed for the event. Rounding out the evening was an enthusiastic rendition of the school song, *Hail, Canadian Nazarene College!*

Ambrose was delighted to host this wonderful event and to celebrate the alumni that are an integral part of the history of the school – their influence and experiences made a vital contribution to the school that we now call Ambrose. Asked for his reaction, Acting Ambrose President Dr Riley Coulter, commented, "What a wonderful time of fellowship and renewal we enjoyed at this homecoming! We certainly appreciated welcoming former students to our new campus and spending time in catching up on years past. This was a special time for all who attended; thanks to Brent Jones and Marilyn Rosfeld for their help in facilitating the event." Thanks, indeed, to all who participated! 

If you would be interested in organizing a reunion for your contemporaries, please contact us at alumni@ambrose.edu

FAMILY ties

1960s



Bob (CBC '69, former CBC/CTS President) and **Carol (Dodds) Rose** (CBC '69, former faculty) write, "Thank you for your prayers. God continues to give us peace and the ability to trust in his goodness. My [Bob's] sense of wellness continues to increase each week, due in large part to the hemodialysis I'm now on 3 times a week. I'm still in the middle of chemotherapy so no word yet on whether the growth in the tumor is stopped or is reversing, but God is in control of that agenda. **Carol** and I are finding ways to live fully in each day God gives us, and to entrust the future to Him. We feel very blessed to have so many people concerned about us, and thank God for all his gifts to us. I'm now basically retired; however, I am doing a bit of consulting and contract work as I have energy."

Tom (CNC '65) and **Shirley (Sargent) (CNC '65) Campbell** are enjoying retirement in Florida after more than 40 years of pastoral ministry with the Church of the Nazarene. Among their interests are reading, gardening, singing, and pulpit supply.

1970s

Bob (CNC '83) and **Lavon (Wolstenholm) Tattrie** (CNC '74) recently completed a three month sabbatical after having served in the Lacombe Nazarene Church for seven years. Both their daughters **Shannelle** Falk (NUC '02) and **Jenn** Tattrie (NUC '04) are also Ambrose graduates.

2000s



George (former President) and **Beverly Durance** moved to Chicago in May of 2009 in order for **George** to assume leadership of TeachBeyond, an organization which provides educational services globally. **George** explains TeachBeyond's vision in 3 short videos at www.teachbeyond.org. **George** travels extensively to build the organizational structure and to work with team members to create platforms for educational services. Bev works as the US coordinator for Donor Services, a busy job as the organization has sent out 70 new workers so far in 2011. She also thoroughly enjoys teaching German at Wheaton College and singing in the church choir.

For the Durance children, 2011 has been a year of change. After four years in Belgium, **Myrna (Durance)** (CBC '99, CTS '03) and **Shawn Keough** (CBC '03) are working at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, where **Shawn** is Associate Professor of Church History and **Myrna** is the Director of Liturgical Music and Assistant Professor of Music. This makes for a busy life with 3 young children, Hudson (5), Gabriel (2) and Dominic (5 months). **David** (attended CBC '01-'02) and Nancy along with their three children (Jonathan (7), Joel (4), and Benjamin (2)) have experienced a clear call on their lives to shift out of a successful career with Telus Mobility to a pioneering work with TeachBeyond in Viet Nam. They are in the final stages of fundraising with the goal of being in Viet Nam in November. It would take too long to explain their ministry here but it is a fascinating combination of teaching and business, uniquely suited to their skills and training.

For information contact **David** at ddurance@teachbeyond.org. **Jonathan** (AUC '09) and **Ruth Anne** (Munnings) (AUC '09) remain in Calgary and treasure every contact they have with Ambrose. **Jonathan** successfully defended his master's thesis on September 6, 2011, and will graduate from the University of Calgary with an master's in history. He currently works as a financial services representative at TD Canada Trust and hopes to pursue a BEEd degree in the future. **Ruth Anne** is completing a stellar performance at Starbucks as the best barista ever and begins the Nurses Aid program at Bow Valley College beginning in October. Bev writes, "We, George and Bev, are so grateful for our ministry and for how God continues to lead and guide our children. We pray regularly for Ambrose and cherish every memory of our friends there."

WEDDINGS



Bethany Love Ulriksen (AUC '10) and **Darrell Ulriksen** (AUC '04) were married on June 25, 2011 at Foothills Alliance Church in Calgary, AB. **Darrell** recently started a new career at a preschool for special needs children and **Bethany** works as a youth pastor at Praise International Fellowship, a C&MA church in Calgary. The wedding was hosted by **Rick Love** (CBC '83, current Ambrose Seminary staff) and **Patricia Love** (CBC '82, CTS '83), officiated by **Chris Ulriksen** (CBC '01), included 9 Ambrose Alumni in the wedding party, and was attended by over 30 current and former Christian and Missionary Alliance pastors and missionaries or Ambrose faculty members.



Ryan Willison (current staff) married Corlene Diebolt on July 16, 2011. **Ryan** has worked at Ambrose since 2004 while Corlene is the former children's pastor at High River Alliance. They recently purchased a house together in Calgary and plan to continue serving in this area.



Joan (Foster) (CBC '60, retired Alliance missionary) and **Melvin Sylvester** (CBC '56, Chancellor Emeritus) were married on June 25, 2011 at Springbank Community Church near Calgary. They were joined by many family and friends as they celebrated this special day.

BIRTHS



On July 7, 2011 at 3:32, 3:34 and 3:36am **Curtis** (AS '10) and **Shaunna (Rempel) Christison** (AUC '09) welcomed three beautiful babies into the world: Cole Matthew (3lbs 5oz), Ryder James (3lbs 8 1/2oz) and Sophia Abigail (2lbs 13 1/2oz). As Curtis noted, "It was the most precious day of our lives!!"

MEMORIAMS

Reginald James Edey (WCBI '48, former staff) passed away peacefully on March 19, 2011. His daughter, **Norma (Edey)** Kingdon (CBC '73) wrote, "We are grateful that we know where he is and thankful for his example and his life." **Reg** loved to work with his hands and spent most of his adult life working as a carpenter, including on the CBC campus and at church.

Lena (Dohms) Warden (WCBI '48), beloved wife of **Bert** (WCBI '48) went to be with Jesus on June 6, 2011. **Bert** writes, "She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer shortly after Christmas 2010 and the disease took her rapidly. However, we praise the Lord for sparing her the pain that so often accompanies this form of cancer. She was ushered into heaven peacefully. Though we are sorrowing and feeling the separation, we know we have just said "until later" and not "goodbye." **Lena** is survived by her husband of 62½ years, **Bert**; children **Len** (CBC '84, CTS '86) (Diane), Gaileen, Judy, Joy (Bob) Brougher, **Evan** (CBC '91) (Betty), Lori (Gary) Schmidt and Bonnie (Dean) Salvog; sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; sisters Mary Reinheimer, Edith Dohms and **Alice** Wall (CBC '48), sister-in-law **Honor** Warden (CBC '52); and many, many nieces and nephews and extended family on the Dohms side of the family.

Ken McVety (WCBI '48) passed away on March 30, 2011. In his final year at WCBI he served as class president and in 1966 he was awarded Alumnus of the Year. He married **Olive Archer** (WCBI '47) in 1948 and together they spent many years serving in Japan, as missionaries with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), and with the Word of Life Press literature ministry in that country. In 1994 **Olive** went to be with her Lord after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. In 1996 **Ken** married Anne Uchida, a fellow missionary who was with CrossWorld in Brazil and with TEAM in Japan for 34 years.

Edna (Hawken) **Downey**, wife of former faculty member **Murray**, and mother of **Deane** (CBC '64, former governor), **Raymur** (Viola) (CBC '63, former CBC faculty), **Luci**

(CBC '69) (**Bruce Rushton**, CBC '72), Neil, Lois, Stanford, and Glenni, was promoted from this life into the presence of her Lord and Saviour on August 4, 2011, at the age of 95. As well as her children she leaves behind 17 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Edna was predeceased by **Murray** in 1992. **Edna** was always very active in campus life, "...filling the demanding roles of encourager to her husband, mother to their seven children, and frequent hostess to Bible College students, faculty colleagues and their families, a variety of Christian workers-and the hungry friends of her children!" **Edna** and **Murray** served at CBC for 31 years, leaving in 1972 to spend time in Australia where they became involved in a theological education by extension program and assisted in the founding of the Alliance College of Theology in Canberra. Returning to Canada in 1976 **Murray** developed a ten-course extension education program covering all the books of the Bible as a Canadian Bible College-affiliated initiative. **Edna** unhesitatingly supported her husband in this enterprise, typing up all ten of the study manuals for these courses. Ambrose is honoured to have the **Murray** and **Edna** Downey Scholarship Fund in recognition of these two special people.

Save the Date

May 7-9, 2012
Seniors Retreat

Building on the success of the 2011 Finishing Well Seniors Retreat we will be hosting the next retreat on campus in May 2012. More details will follow. If you would like to receive details directly, please email alumni@ambrose.edu

Keep in touch!

If you have an update you would like included in Family Ties, send a note to alumni@ambrose.edu for inclusion in a future edition.

Academically Sponsored International Sojourns

Dr Charles Cook
Professor of Global Studies and Mission

Claims abound regarding the value of an intercultural international travel learning experience during a young adult's formative college years. Researchers continue to explore the significance of university initiatives that provide learners with the opportunity to learn and engage in the world in ways that make them increasingly aware of "others" and their "otherness." As intercultural interaction between people continues to increase, so does the need for a new generation of globally aware, culturally sensitive Canadians. "If there are any predictions we can make with certainty about the twenty-first century," observes interculturalist Richard Brislin, it is that "... people will continue to experience death, continue to be taxed, and continue to experience extensive intercultural contact."

For some 43 years Ambrose University College and Seminary has sought to intentionally internationalize its teaching and learning by providing opportunities for students to engage in a wide range of study-service travel abroad opportunities. Early initiatives have provided a rich legacy of international travel at Ambrose. Initiatives like the Alliance Youth Corps (AYC), the Philippine Student Alliance Lay Movement (PSALM) and the OnSite study-service abroad program have provided a variety of international travel learning experiences for more than 600

Ambrose students. This edition of *Anthem* celebrates the ongoing value of travel, study, and service learning that continues to be fostered at Ambrose.

The richness of international study-service travel continues to be a significant aspect of Ambrose. The ongoing examination of the distinction between education and learning has generated a wealth of insight on how we learn. Educators continue to explore learning outcomes generated by the integration of formal learning experiences with international study-travel programs that bring out the pedagogical value of field-based service-learning and the transformative nature of experiential learning. Of particular interest to many disciplines is the role that study, service,

and travel abroad play in enabling learners to develop lifelong learning skills that permit them to function more effectively in a global society. In the process, academic institutions are also discovering that international study and/or service programs provide a significant means of internationalizing their curriculum and assisting learners with the skills they need to live in an increasingly globalized world.

At Ambrose, we believe that academically sponsored intercultural or international study-service travel experiences are a significant way of providing an important learning opportunity for our students and provide a context for critical reflection. After all, we too are the "other" to someone. **A**



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