

anthem

FALL 2019 THE MAGAZINE OF AMBROSE UNIVERSITY

¡Pura vida!

A journey of discoveries
in Costa Rica



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“ We discovered that there are as many reasons to return to Costa Rica as there are reasons to be thankful for the first visit.

Ted Pike

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AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY

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Fall 2019

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of alumni, students, faculty, staff and
supporters of Ambrose University.



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Building bridges, not walls

In May, I had the opportunity to bring the morning sermon at The Bridge, a church affiliate with the Church of the Nazarene. As I drove into the parking lot, I was struck by what seemed to be a slogan, printed just below the church name: "building bridges, not walls." How very timely, I thought, that this would be the message — a kind of Gospel message — at a time of deep polarization in our world.

This could very well be the motto of Ambrose University as well. We are keen to build bridges — with businesses for our Business majors, with social agencies for our Behavioural Science students, with the boards of education for the Education program and, of course with denominations and church groups for our Ministry and Seminary students.

We also have strategic partnerships and associations with other academic institutions. These agreements enable students to complete their degrees after studying at two institutions. Such a transfer agreement was recently concluded with Bow Valley College in Calgary. A student will be able to complete a two-year certificate at BVC and come to Ambrose to complete their degree in Business, the Arts or Behavioural Science.

We also signed an agreement with Horizon College in Saskatoon recently, building a bridge for students who wish to start in Saskatoon and finish their degree in Theology or Ministry at Ambrose.

Further, our Music and Theatre program leaders are currently in conversation with the Mount Royal University Conservatory's Advanced Performance program. This agreement and partnership would offer students performance opportunities at the Conservatory for credit towards a Music degree at Ambrose.

We are also very pleased to see the emergence of what is called "dual credit" for senior high school students. In this arrangement, students complete high school credit courses — often not in their high school, but with a university — and use that credit to fulfil requirements for their Ambrose degree.

In each of these cases, bridges are being built as Ambrose fulfills its mission through strategic partnership with other fine institutions. We celebrate these opportunities to work collaboratively to give our students the very best education possible.

The stories in this issue of *Anthem* also reflect this theme and highlight more ways in which our faculty, alumni and students are building bridges. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon T. Smith".

Gordon T. Smith, PhD

President
Professor of Systematic and Spiritual Theology



*We celebrate these
opportunities to work
collaboratively to
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very best education
possible.*



Speaking up for his city

Country music star Paul Brandt was a guest on the *Faith Effects* podcast, hosted by Mark Buchanan and Bernie Van De Walle, in August 2019. Brandt spoke about his #NotInMyCity initiative to raise awareness and take action to prevent and end sexual exploitation and trafficking, especially among children and youth. Catch the podcast at anchor.fm/faitheffects.

For the latest news and information, visit ambrose.edu/news

New lab has great chemistry

A new, roomy, well-equipped lab tailored to the needs of chemistry faculty and students opened at Ambrose this summer, creating the ideal environment in which to apply theoretical learning and concepts. Lab design and furnishings are purpose-built. Twelve sinks support distillation, filtration and other tasks. Fume hoods ensure experiments with certain chemical reactions can be done safely. A rotary evaporator helps remove solvents so students can do further analysis on final products, and do experiments and analysis in a single lab period. Twelve state-of-the-art spectrophotometers measure how much light chemical substances absorb. With chemistry considered a foundation for all other sciences, the new lab is a vital contribution to students' hands-on learning.



Podcast helps find the best fit

As an associate professor teaching recruitment, human resources, organizational behaviour and marketing — and with a professional background working in HR leadership positions in the social services, health care, energy and government sectors — Ambrose's **Tim Vanderpyl** has a lot of knowledge and experience to offer companies seeking employees who fit their teams. Recruitment Now, a podcast Vanderpyl hosts with Luke Gass, CEO of TopRecruiter, shares ideas and insights into the world of recruiting. Together, the hosts' extensive background in the field to find and share best practices from recruiters and researchers around the world. Check it out at recruitment-now.com.



New Residence Director right at home

Odum Abekah, a music associate at First Alliance Church, started a new role as Ambrose's new Residence Director in August 2019, building on experience in residence life at Toronto's Humber College and Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. As a residence life leader, Abekah provides mentorship and support for residence students, ensuring they have every chance to grow holistically in the active living-learning experience they share with fellow students.



Conference keynote in Brazil

Is technology lulling us into a state where we are actually ignoring real life? Ambrose's **Dr. Jim Cresswell**, Associate Professor of Psychology, shared his thoughts on this timely topic as a keynote speaker at *Philosophy and History of Psychology*, a national conference held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil this past April.

Cresswell talked about how people in the '60s raised the alarm, and posited that psychological research may lead people to think we know more than we do, and contribute to making people avoid asking hard questions about themselves. He noted how one of the founders of psychology had ideas for how research could be done in a less-alienating way.



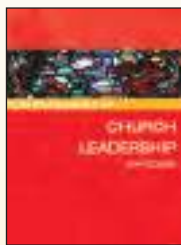
First New Canadian Bursary awarded

Yasmina Jabre, a Bachelor of Arts (English) student who grew up in Lebanon, is the first recipient of Ambrose University's New Canadian Bursary. Books have always been Jabre's passion. While studying to become a doctor, she began writing to help cope with stress — and her dream of becoming a writer and editor took shape. Being a writer is generally frowned upon in Lebanon, so Jabre came to Canada. The Bursary was conceived by **Hannah Temple** (CBC '01). It is her family's heartfelt way to "pay forward" support received from Canada when they were forced to flee Vietnam. Read this remarkable story of courage, resilience and generosity in the Fall 2017 issue of *Anthem* at ambrose.edu/about/media-publications.



Through publications, presentations and myriad other scholarly activities, Ambrose faculty and staff contribute to the expansion of knowledge worldwide. A sampling of recent works includes:

Jonathan Coutts
SCM Studyguide: Church Leadership, April 2019



Jim Cresswell
The Ethos of Theorizing, co-editor, August 2019



Ernie Klassen
"Un Avivamiento Verdadero" (Authentic Revival) (Spanish) with Teologia Para Vivir (Theology to live by), co-editor, August 2019

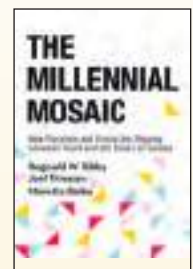


Colleen McCubbin
Publisher of Shopping Cart Boy: Poems of My Life, shortlisted for the Children's and Young Adult Book of the Year Award by the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, June 2019

Alyssa Michaud
"Is It Live, or Is It Vocaloid? Virtual Singers in Live Performances" presentation at the Canadian University Music Society in Conjunction with the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Vancouver, June 2019

Angie Redecopp
"With Power Comes Responsibility: Parent Company Liability in Business and Human Rights," presentation at the Academy of Legal Studies in Business, Montreal, August 2019

Joel Thiessen, Monetta Bailey, Reginald Bibby
The Millennial Mosaic: How Pluralism and Choice Are Shaping Canadian Youth and The Future of Canada, July 2019



Arch Wong, Bill McAlpine, Joel Thiessen, Keith Walker
"The relevance of what pastoral/ denominational leaders and theological educators are saying about preparing leaders for ministry" Practical Theology, May 2019

Visit the Ambrose Bookstore for books and other materials authored by Ambrose faculty and staff ambrose.edu/bookstore.

Welcome to new Ambrose family members

Ambrose University is excited and happy to welcome several new faces to the campus this fall.

Ernie and Marilyn Klassen • International Workers in Residence, 2019–21

Long-time international workers who served with the C&MA in Peru for 22 years, the Klassens come to Calgary after serving in Spain for the past six years. Ernie received an MDiv and an MMis from Canadian Theological Seminary, and subsequently completed his Doctor of Ministry and post-doctoral studies. Marilyn is an alumna of Canadian Bible College, and completed her MA from Azusa Pacific University. She served most recently as the project manager for a school of discipleship and missions on the coast of Spain.



Dr. Mark Bartel • Associate Professor, Music

Mark is a versatile conductor and music educator. His current research focuses on active peace-building through the choral experience. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music and Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University.



Kathryn Crawford • Assistant Professor, Education

Kathryn joins the faculty after serving as a lecturer in the Bachelor of Education program and as its Director of Field Education. She is currently completing her Doctor of Education, and her research interests include teacher education, field experience and Indigenous pedagogies.



Dr. Jonathan Coutts • Assistant Professor, Christian Theology

Jon comes to Ambrose from Trinity College in Bristol, England. He completed his Bachelor of Theology at Canadian Bible College, MA in Theology at Briercrest Seminary and PhD in Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen.



Faith + AFFECTS

Bernie Van De Walle, a historical theologian and Mark Buchanan, a pastoral theologian, riff and banter about faith and life as they interview a colourful cast of thinkers and doers on what they're, well ... thinking and doing, and why it matters.

ambrose.edu/podcasts

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- ED 621 Teaching Children for Faith Formation
- ED 641 Strategies of Youth Ministry
- NT 606 Romans
- PT 501 Personal Formation and Development

ONLINE

- MI 501 Personal and Corporate Outreach
- PR 501 Between Two Worlds: Scripture for Preaching and Teaching

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(Back L-R) Dr. Ken Draper (Professor of History), Barrett Hileman (Chair, Ambrose Arts and Director of Theatre), Kim McLachlan (Behavioural Science Program Coordinator), Helen Thiessen (Executive Director of Enrolment Management and Registrar), Laura Cochrane (Assistant Registrar), Dr. Ted Pike (Acting Chair of Biology).

(Front L-R) Tim Vanderpyl (Associate Professor of Business Administration), Dr. Gordon T. Smith (President), Dr. Linda Schwartz (Dean of Arts and Science).



AU + BVC = MOU

A new agreement between Ambrose University and Bow Valley College adds up to degree-transfer opportunities for students



“ This agreement ...helps to build community and excellence in academic pursuits, and creates new educational opportunities for learners.

Bow Valley College students can now follow a direct path toward their degrees — one that leads right to Ambrose University.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two schools in October enables students graduating from BVC’s two-year Addictions Studies, Child and Youth Care and Justice Studies diploma programs to transfer the credits they’ve earned toward a four-year Ambrose Behavioural Science degree.

“This agreement demonstrates our shared commitment to furthering education,” says Dr. Gordon T. Smith, President of Ambrose University. “It helps to build community and excellence in academic pursuits, and creates new educational opportunities for learners.”

The MOU is among several Ambrose initiatives to forge strategic partnerships and associations with other institutions in Alberta and beyond. The intent is to create more and different avenues for degree completion. These may align better with learners’ needs and circumstances, and therefore enable more people to reach their academic goals.

Collaborative efforts such as these are central to Ambrose’s mission, and are likely to grow because of the University’s membership in the province-wide Campus Alberta network.

“We look forward to welcoming Bow Valley College students as they complete their degree at our institution,” Smith says. “As part of this MOU, we also look forward to continuing the relationship with Bow Valley College and to creating further opportunities for students in the future.” □

More information about transferring credits from Bow Valley College to Ambrose University is available at ambrose.edu/bowvalleycollege.

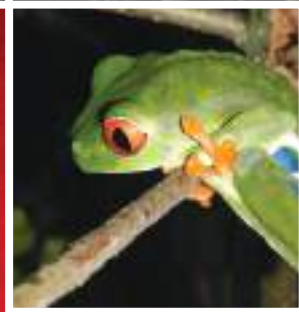
From its main Calgary campus and seven regional campuses across southern Alberta, Bow Valley College serves approximately 16,000 students from 50 countries. It offers career certificate, diploma and post-diploma certificate programs, as well as adult upgrading, English language learning and career and specialized services for newcomers to Canada. Learn more about BVC at bowvalleycollege.ca.



¡PURA VIDA! IN COSTA RICA

An Ambrose University travel-study
trip is a journey of discoveries

by Dr. Ted Pike
Acting Chair, Biology





“ We discovered that every step in the rain forest offers something unique if one has eyes to see and ears to hear.

What do three-toed sloths, crocodiles, red-eyed tree frogs, mahogany-billed toucans, morpho butterflies, giant hercules beetles and Ambrose University have in common?

While many things may come to mind, the answer we are looking for is: 14 Bachelor of Science – Biology students experiencing the ecology and biodiversity of Costa Rica in a field course in conservation biology.

Some seasoned in international travel and some novices, we flew to San Jose in very late April 2019 and proceeded to spend eight days exploring the variety of habitats that Costa Rica supports. In doing so, we focused on cultural differences between Canada and Costa Rica, as well as the wonders of different types of rain forest and riverine ecosystems.

Our ultimate goal was to gain some understanding of the different ways Canadian and Costa Rican national parks are being stressed and managed.

We discovered that every step in the rain forest offers something unique if one has eyes to see and ears to hear.

We discovered that there is no sense in trying to stay dry, and that a good waterproof camera and a decent pair of binoculars are essential. Everything happens on or near the ground, or at a height of nearly 30 metres.

We discovered that the night offers something very different from the day, and that early morning and dusk are different still.

We discovered that without rain forest, the central valley would have no water: the forest creates the rivers.

We discovered that people who own farms near the rain forest are active in reforestation, and that international efforts to reduce carbon footprints are central to the reforestation initiative.

We discovered that the government in Costa Rica is at the forefront of preserving rain forest with protection and regulation but lacks the money to manage. Management has thus fallen into the hands of the people who live in or near the forest.

We discovered that, in spite of instability in nearby national governments, initiatives to create a Mesoamerican Biological Corridor system are alive and well.

We discovered that people who own reserves are eager for the volunteer service of Canadian students in maintaining trails and planting trees.

We discovered that Christians recognize each other even in different countries.

We discovered that there are as many reasons to return to Costa Rica as there are reasons to be thankful for the first visit.

¡Pura vida! Life is good! □

Dr. Ted Pike's passion in science is anything to do with insects, and he works in the areas of biodiversity, ecology, life history and evolution, as well as in biogeography. He is Past Chair of the Entomological Society of Canada Endangered Species committee, and has led a workshop on environmental education in Uganda with the Jane Goodall Institute.





Roaring to go...



A new community volleyball club — affiliated with the Ambrose Lions — starts to heat up provincial competition this fall



“ There will be a great synergy when our varsity athletes and coaches are involved at the youth level.

Colin Kubinec

Volleyball is a popular sport in Alberta and, starting this fall, high-calibre young players have a brand new opportunity to hone their skills — and Ambrose Athletics has a new way to reach out to the community: the Lions Volleyball Club.

The club is independently owned and operated by a non-profit society. Affiliated with Ambrose, it mirrors the University's emphasis on growing in body, mind and spirit by promoting excellence in sport while fostering strong relationships.

“We feel it's important to have the opportunity for young people to combine high-performance sport with relational experiences,” says Randy Jamieson, Club President. “We've been very purposeful in the Club's creation. As they grow older, few players will remember all the wins and losses, but they will remember friendships.

“So we are focusing on excellence, on quality rather than quantity. We want the teams to be social and spiritual — and to be competitive and win.”

More than 70 athletes aged 13–17 have signed up for 12 teams, 13U–17U (most are girls' teams because of high demand). During club volleyball's December–May season, they will compete against some of the top teams in Alberta and Western Canada and also aim to take part in provincial and national tournaments. Experienced coaches are drawn from the community.

The connection to Ambrose is a “wonderful fit,” Jamieson says. “Ambrose adds credibility and excitement, and brings young players into contact with varsity players. It supports the faith emphasis we want, and we've been able to grow quickly as a result.

“In time, I hope our players will go on to play for Ambrose, and that Ambrose grads, seeking to go out and disciple in the community, become our coaches.”

Club affiliation is an exciting new chapter for Ambrose Athletics, as the community Lions become a de facto extension of the post-secondary program. “This will be awesome exposure for our brand and a great opportunity to develop future varsity athletes,” says Colin Kubinec, Director of Athletics at Ambrose.

“There will be a great synergy when our varsity athletes and coaches are involved at the youth level, and when they and our alumni give back to the community through service and ministry.”

The Club, he notes, has been a long-held dream, and its debut marks the culmination of some seven years of dreaming and work, primarily by the community's Jamieson, Corey Cowper and Todd Basaraba, and Ambrose's Kubinec and Paul Armbruster.

“It's exciting,” Kubinec says. “We worked hard to set this up the right way. We're ready. The community is ready. And the positive energy in the volleyball community says this is the right time.” □

We want the teams to be social and spiritual – and we want them to win. ”

Randy Jamieson

**Connect with the
Lions Volleyball Club**

info@lionsvolleyball.ca

403-668-7750

lionsvolleyball.ca

instagram.com/lionsvolleyballclub

twitter.com/LionsVBClub

“ WE ARE
TRAINING PEOPLE
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AND INTELLIGENT
CONVERSATIONS.
ARCH WONG

CULTIVATING AWE, WONDER

Ambrose is the first university in Canada
to receive a Science for Seminaries grant
to enrich theological education with
cutting-edge science



Science seldom plays a central role in seminary education, but making it more of a conversation partner with theology has the potential to broaden perspectives, deepen the understanding of professors and students, and create a rich dialogue that benefits congregations and society alike.

Ambrose University is taking concrete steps to do just that. It is the first post-secondary institution in Canada to receive a US\$75,000 Science for Seminaries grant to help increase the interplay between the two disciplines.

A project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program, in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools, the Science for Seminaries project helps a diverse group of seminaries integrate science into their core curricula. It provides support and resources to seminary professors to encourage informed dialogue and a positive understanding of science among future leaders of the church.

"We are training people for vocational ministry, and training pastors and people in other ministry contexts, to be able to have candid, sustained and intelligent conversations," says Dr. Arch Wong, who co-leads the project with Dr. Beth Stovell. "This project helps to engage science and scientists in a thoughtful way."

"Our goal is that students better understand their own world view, and that they are better equipped to engage members of their congregations who are scientists or are interested in science," Stovell explains.

The grant helps fund science-related initiatives that aren't completely new to Ambrose. Alongside Stovell and Wong, faculty such as Mark Buchanan and Dr. Christina Conroy, who are also part of the project team, have been keenly interested in incorporating more science into their courses. For example, in one of Stovell's courses looking at the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, she explores the spectrum of perspectives that Christians hold about creation. Wong's course on

teaching and learning incorporates information about neuroscience. Buchanan looks at the connections between neuroscience and formation. Conroy delves into theology and trauma, bringing neuroscience and the science of epigenetics into conversation with the claims of theology.

"All of us in small ways are having some of these conversations," Stovell says. "But it definitely changes when we sit down with a scientific advisor. Then we can learn more about what we should be reading, sharing and talking about. It deepens and enriches what we're doing in a serious way."

This is where Ambrose's Dr. Matthew Morris, an evolutionary biologist and committed Christian — and one of the project's scientific advisors — fits in.

"This is an opportunity to engage with seminary students and faculty in a way that scientists aren't often invited to," he says. "Science has an awful lot to offer, and can enrich faith in a variety of ways. Scientific discussions enhance our capacity to praise the Creator, and facilitate awe and wonder about this incredibly crazy and marvelous world."

While Morris says he has no difficulty linking science and faith, it can be a challenge for some, in part because there is a great deal of misunderstanding about what science is saying. "Misunderstanding usually comes from the extreme right and the extreme left," he explains. "But there is a huge silent majority in the sciences who find the correspondence between science and faith to be a compelling, mind-blowing, spiritual reality."

He believes "intentional robust conversations" like those being fostered through the Science for Seminaries grant are necessary, because the subject can be deeply polarizing.

"Even people who fundamentally disagree with one another need to build a dialogue," he says. "People in ministry need to understand that there are Christians in their congregations who may hold very different opinions on science and faith."

At Ambrose, those conversations are taking many different forms, from inviting scientists to be part of courses, to events such as Seminary Supper with a Scientist, to integration into the annual Ambrose Research Conference (ARC) in March. The theme of ARC 2020 will be Faithful Science and, as part of the conference, a guest plenary speaker will focus on how western science and Indigenous science fit together, especially with respect to environmental sustainability.

Interdisciplinary consultant John Van Sloten, a Calgary pastor, teacher and writer, is also supported by the grant, and has been instrumental in helping to find speakers and presenters.

"Ambrose really cares about those interdisciplinary spaces, that we engage in the bigger questions, many of which have scientific implications," Stovell says. "Part of the value in our seminary is making sure people coming out are grounded, that they understand there are different ways to be faithful."

"This grant is a catalyst," Wong adds. "And because we are the first institution in Canada to receive a Science for Seminaries grant, we are pioneers. What we learn in our project we hope to be able to share with others in the future." □

The Ambrose Science for Seminaries Team

Dr. Arch Wong (Professor of Practical Theology), co-lead

Dr. Beth Stovell (Associate Professor of Old Testament), co-lead

Mark Buchanan (Chair, Continuing Education and Pastoral Formation), faculty member

Dr. Christina Conroy (Assistant Professor of Theology), faculty member

Dr. Matthew Morris (Assistant Professor of Biology), science advisor

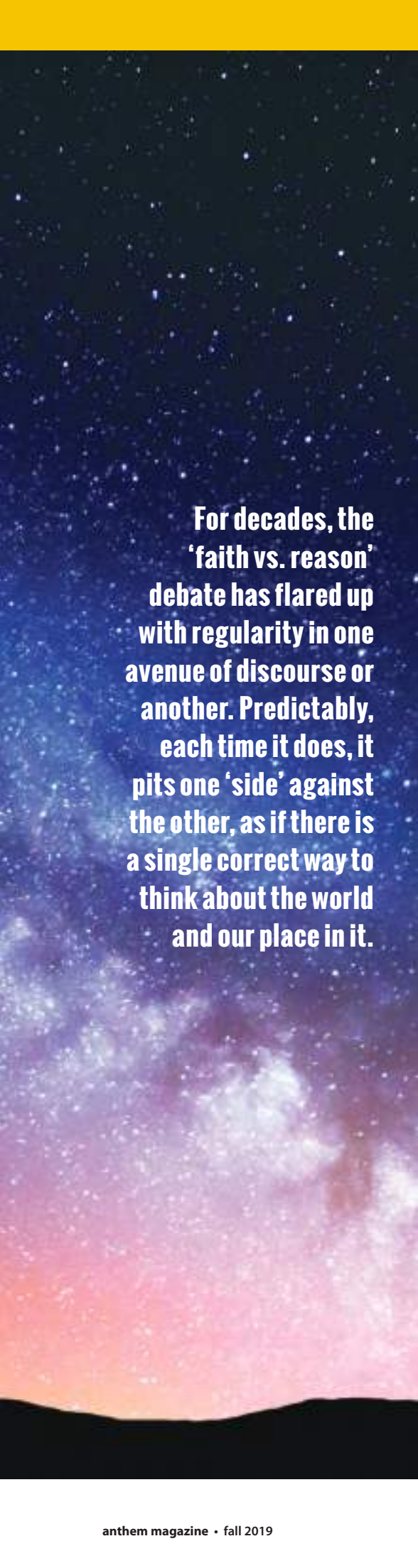
John Van Sloten (Calgary pastor, teacher and writer), interdisciplinary consultant

Learn more about Science for Seminaries at scienceforseminaries.org.

spotlight

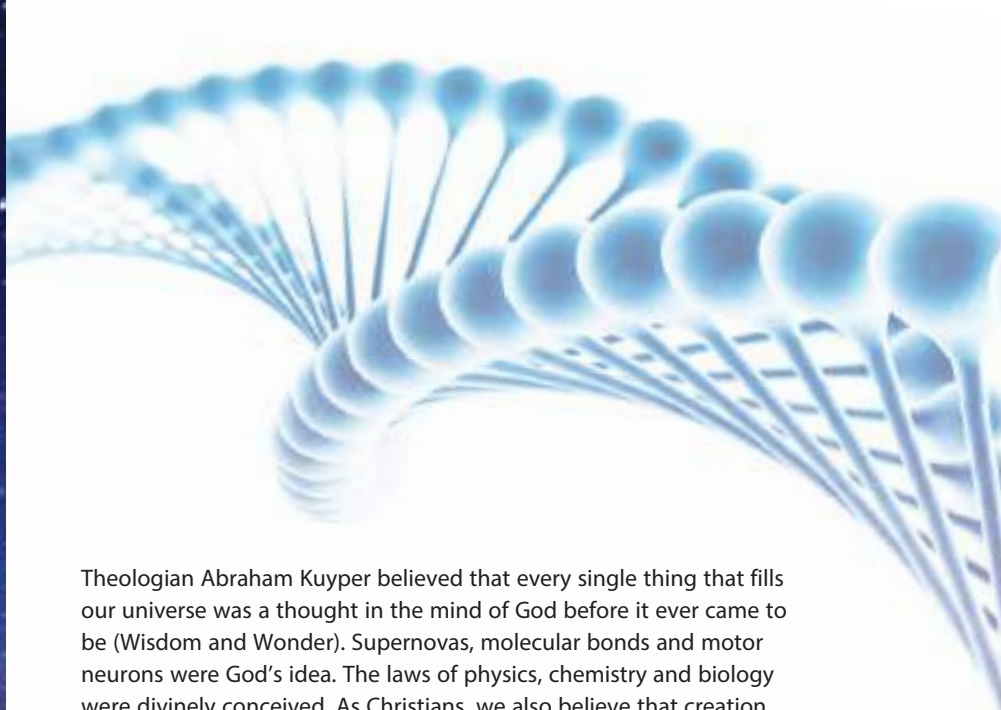
KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE MIND OF A SCIENTIST





For decades, the 'faith vs. reason' debate has flared up with regularity in one avenue of discourse or another. Predictably, each time it does, it pits one 'side' against the other, as if there is a single correct way to think about the world and our place in it.

Polarity doesn't serve us well, either as individuals or as a society. John Van Sloten is a member of the Ambrose University Science for Seminaries Grant team, which hopes to enrich the conversation and help bridge the divide. He posits that scientists are made in the image of God, and that if you study them, they can teach you something about how God thinks.



Theologian Abraham Kuyper believed that every single thing that fills our universe was a thought in the mind of God before it ever came to be (Wisdom and Wonder). Supernovas, molecular bonds and motor neurons were God's idea. The laws of physics, chemistry and biology were divinely conceived. As Christians, we also believe that creation speaks, that day after day it "pours forth speech," and night after night it "reveals knowledge." (Psalm 19, NIV).

To help us understand what's being said through creation, God created scientists — in his own image he created them.

According to astronomer Johannes Kepler, God has placed deep empirical sensibilities into the minds of scientists, so that their thoughts can follow after his; and as theologian and physicist John Polkinghorne has observed, "There is a remarkable congruence between the experienced rationality of our minds and the perceived rationality of the world around us." (*The Creation and Structure of the Physical World*).

This congruence can be a lens into the empirical mind of God.

Years ago, I preached a sermon on radiation therapy, with the help of a friend who had written three textbooks on the topic. Through speaking about his work, I began to better understand the mind of a medical physicist.

My friend was always good at physics and math in school and did well at any course that was rationally structured. He was a keen observer with a questioning curiosity; he wanted to know how things worked. He was organized, reasoned and clear thinking. To him, good science had to make a practical difference; in his case, that meant improving health care. His capacity to assess and measure came naturally, as did quantitative >

KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE MIND OF A SCIENTIST

analysis. His well-developed ability to process large quantities of data enabled him to tackle complex questions. He took all the time needed to get to the right answer and he was good at seeing patterns. His love for teaching ranged from one-on-one interactions to writing textbooks. For him, knowledge was a gift to be shared. He loved research and analysis and wanted to do his part to help people with cancer.

As I considered his rational aptitudes, I was reminded of the empirical mind of God. God clearly understands how things work; his reason holds the cosmos together. God sees and knows the measure of all things and has an infinite capacity to process data, recognize patterns and make every

connection. He is rational and good at math.

For a moment, my scientist friend became a lens through which I could see God more clearly. As I considered each of my friend's empirical sensibilities,

I began to see patterns. His rational satisfaction in understanding how something worked was like God's rational satisfaction in having made that thing work. His gratification in noticing a pattern was connected to God's gratification in creating that pattern.

Making these connections, I realized that scientists really do think God's thoughts after him: through the scientist doing the work and, by extension, through the rationally observant capacities of anyone engaging that scientist's work.

In 2016, scientific history was made when, for the first time, humanity heard the sound of two black holes colliding 1.3 billion years ago. This discovery led Caltech's David Reitze, executive director of the Laser Interferometer

Gravitational-Wave Observatory to exclaim, "We did it! ...Up to now we've been deaf to gravitational waves, but today we are able to hear them." So through the collective work of empirically image-bearing scientists, humanity's image-bearing capacity to hear was exponentially enhanced.

When I first heard the news, I was dumbstruck. To think that science was able to hear what Einstein could only imagine was deeply compelling. God was there when those two black holes collided — when they poured forth their speech! Black holes were a thought in God's mind. God speaks the languages of space time and gravitational acceleration. Through these languages, God reveals things about himself that the scriptures cannot fully capture.

Where the psalmist can write words about the glory of the cosmos, black holes can emit sounds (and now images too!). Augustine once said, "I can experience far more than I can understand about the Trinity." Perhaps this is why God chooses to reveal himself through two books: the Bible and creation. Science enables us to see, hear and feel God's glory via creation.

Every time we witness a scientist's delight in discovering something new, we are getting a glimpse of a God who takes delight in seeing the goodness of creation. Whenever science comes to know something more, we can be reminded of the all-knowing mind of God, and how God has made us to know things more. Every time science names a new discovery, we can smile at the fact that God already knows the name of everything and will one day have a new name for all things.

Whenever scientists providentially intervene in the created order and make something more of it, we can know that they really do image a God who mysteriously does the same. A scientist working in her lab is the best proof of the possibility of a providentially intervening God. When scientists do their work

in interdependent community — geographically and over time — we see that their ways really do reflect the ways of an interdependent Godhead.

Over the past eight years I've co-preached sermons with epigenetic researchers, hydrologists, astronomers, orthopedic surgeons, geologists, nephrologists, biologists, DNA researchers, chemists, physicists, neuroscientists, geophysicists and more. When I bring all of these empirical image-bearers to mind, my heart swells with gratitude.

How else would I have known that God has embedded his restorative grace within creation, via the trillions of DNA repairs that happen in our bodies every second? Where would I be without the comfort that God has brought to my often unsettled mind, if I didn't know about a recently discovered psyche-saving, neural stress-reducing mechanism that he's built into human brains? How would I have learned to better see unseen things apart from the analogical wisdom of geophysics?

It's as though God is showing us more and more of who he is through all that science is. This makes science a great ally of the Christian faith. What "scientism" seeks to undermine, science affirms in a most powerful way. □

John Van Sloten is a Calgary pastor, teacher and writer. For over 20 years he's been delving into a worldview that seeks to discern God's voice in all things. His

first book, *The Day Metallica Came to Church; Searching for the Everywhere God in Everything* (2010), looks for glimpses of God in pop culture. His second, *Every Job a Parable: What Walmart Greeters, Nurses and Astronauts tell us about God* (2017), listens for God's words at work. John has received three John Templeton Foundation sub-grants to explore preaching science and is currently part of the Ambrose Science for Seminaries grant team. His science sermons are available at johnvansloten.com.



I realized that scientists really do think God's thoughts after him: through the scientist doing the work and, by extension, through the rationally observant capacities of anyone engaging that scientist's work.



All in a day's learning

Seminary workshop series offers valuable opportunities to address many of today's leadership challenges

What can you do in a day? Clean your house? Binge watch a TV series? Go shopping? How about delving into issues that are particularly relevant in today's world? And deepening your knowledge, growing your faith and, if you wish, earning academic credit?

Ambrose Seminary's series of one-day workshops, offered in different venues throughout Calgary, has steadily gained traction since launching in 2018. The 2019–20 offerings are maintaining that momentum by being equally popular and thought-provoking.

"This is graduate-level teaching presented in a crisp and focused way," says Mark Buchanan, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology. "People leave these in-depth, five-hour sessions with real skills, knowledge and tools."

Self-funded and responsive to community need, the workshops are designed for pastors, people working in ministry, seminary and undergraduate students, and members of the public. Each workshop can be taken for general interest or one academic credit. Live streaming extends the reach, making it possible for people anywhere to take part.

"You can feel the excitement rising in the room as the workshops unfold," Buchanan says. "We are teaching and talking about issues people are wrestling with in real time." He notes that workshops centering on leadership and pastoral theology, and led by Ambrose faculty and respected pastors, have been received with gratitude.

"As a seminary, we recognize that it's hard for people to carve out time in their lives to come to campus and live in residence," Buchanan says. "Through the workshops, we can replicate the energy and dynamism found in classrooms, without requiring a massive time commitment. With live streaming, we can take the workshops far and wide.

"This approach is incredibly valuable for learners and Ambrose faculty, and for the university itself," he says, explaining that there is always pressure to match excellent content with effective delivery.

"When we see the transformation in the life of a student or faculty member, when we see something holy happen, we know it matters." □



We are teaching and talking about issues people are wrestling with in real time. ”

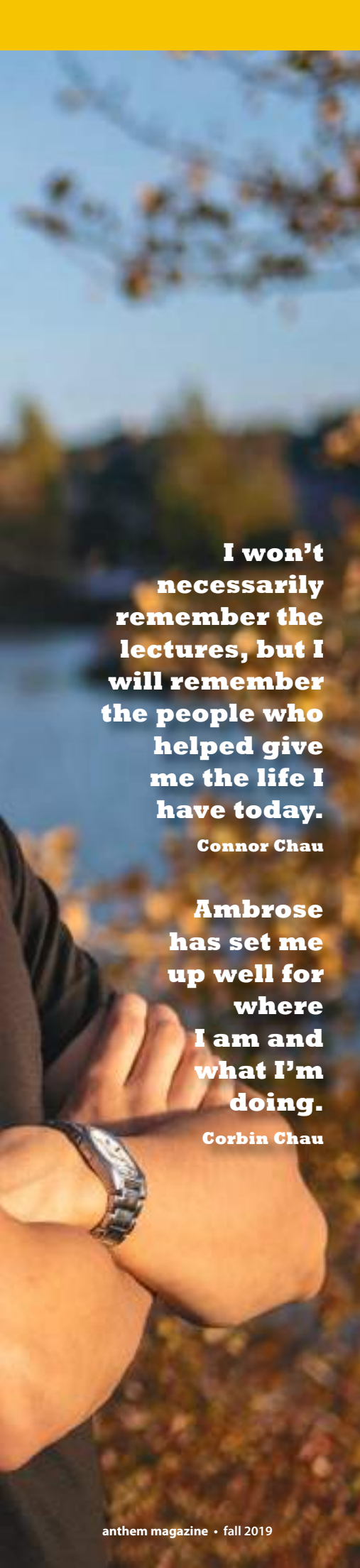
* Learn more!... Upcoming workshop details are available at atlarge.ambrose.edu/ambrose-for-you or contact dquapp@ambrose.edu for more information.



Brotherly Business

**Two brothers. One program.
Two experiences leading to two
different business directions**

Corbin and Connor Chau



I won't necessarily remember the lectures, but I will remember the people who helped give me the life I have today.

Connor Chau

Ambrose has set me up well for where I am and what I'm doing.

Corbin Chau

Brothers **Corbin** and **Connor Chau** grew up in a close family and did a lot together. So it should come as no surprise that, when it was time for post-secondary education, they followed similar paths.

Originally from Swift Current, Sk., both made their way to Ambrose University. Both lived in residence while they were students. Both graduated from the Bachelor of Business Administration program — Corbin in 2014 and Connor in 2016. Both now work in Calgary.

This is where their paths diverge, for while they completed the same program at the same university, each had a different experience that paved the way for the future.

Corbin was the trailblazer, starting at Ambrose in 2008, the school's very first academic year under its new name. He has since built on the academic foundations of his degree and has been working in finance with Farm Credit Canada, an agricultural lender, for the past three years.

Connor capitalized on the peer network he built at Ambrose and began a career at DECO Windshield Repair. He has since been able to move up the ranks, and is now the COO of the company, which has more than 200 employees and 130 locations across Canada.

“Neither of us really had a clear picture of what we wanted to do after high school,” Corbin says, explaining that business seemed to be the most appealing avenue. Calgary became the destination because his youth pastor had spoken highly of Canadian Bible College, one of Ambrose's founding schools.

In his first year, Corbin was among several students from Swift Current at Ambrose (the group, at one point numbering nine or 10, became known as the “Swifties”). The community

he found on campus, combined with the opportunity to grow his faith alongside his academic learning, confirmed that he was in the right place. Connor knew it would be right for him, too.

“For me, the opportunity to get connected to the Ambrose community, live in residence, take part in worship, in basketball was what drew me to the school in the first place,” Connor says.

Both quickly discovered that Ambrose's small class sizes and holistic approach to business education — even the often-dreaded group projects that promote collaboration and diversity of opinion — enabled them to acquire knowledge, skills and insights far beyond textbook theory.

“There was an emphasis on thinking critically and evaluating situations, and on building confidence that translates into the business environment,” Connor notes. “I was also able to take part in travel study. I often think of the people we met in Africa and how they think about their problems. As a result, my approach to business includes questioning our responsibility as business people in the world, beyond making a profit and delivering value to customers.”

“Ambrose has set me up well for where I am and what I'm doing,” Corbin says. “It's pretty easy to trace a direct line back to my classes.”

For Connor, it's all about the people. “In 5–10 years, I won't necessarily remember the lectures, but I will remember the people — the peers, the pros — who impacted my life and helped give me the life I have today.” □

Photo by Eddie Chau



DISPELLING THE MILLENNIALS MYTH

A new book co-authored by Ambrose professors concludes that members of the oft-maligned generation are, in many respects, like everyone else

*Drs. Joel Thiessen and Monetta Bailey (pictured L–R) of Ambrose University and Dr. Reginald Bibby from the University of Lethbridge are co-authors of *The Millennial Mosaic*. The book offers insights that parents, teachers, influencers, employers, anyone who works with youth — plus millennials themselves — would find useful. It can be purchased at the Ambrose Bookstore, ambrose.edu/bookstore.*

“
As they grow older and develop a broader understanding of the world, some of the issues that seem very black-and-white now will become more grey.

Dr. Monetta Bailey



Millennials are complex, but they are far more similar to previous generations than they are dissimilar.

Dr. Joel Thiessen

“Millennials are typically”

If you believe the popular narrative, the words you choose for the end of that sentence could well include entitled, narcissistic, lazy, unfocused or drifting without goals.

In truth, words like informed, diverse, open, tolerant and tech-savvy might be better descriptors of Canada’s youngest adults. Also called Gen Y or the echo boom, this generation includes those born between 1986 and 2005 — and contrary to what you may have heard, millennials aren’t all that different from previous generations.

This is among the insightful take-aways from a recently published book by the University of Lethbridge’s Dr. Reginald Bibby and Ambrose University’s Dr. Joel Thiessen (Professor of Sociology and Director of the Flourishing Congregations Institute) and Dr. Monetta Bailey (Assistant Professor of Sociology). The *Millennial Mosaic* is based on data from thousands of national surveys, past and present, which were analyzed to compare millennials to older Canadians, both today and yesterday.

“Millennials are complex, but they are far more similar to previous generations than they are dissimilar,” Thiessen says. “But two things do stand out: their use of technology and access to information and knowledge, and an underlying current of pluralism — openness, tolerance, acceptance of diversity — which plays out most notably in the areas of gender and sexuality.”

“The media portray millennials as this freak of a generation,” Bailey adds. “It isn’t true. Impartial evidence shows that, in fact, they aren’t that different in beliefs and values, but they do express things differently and through different channels.”

They also grew up and now live in a world flooded with choices, and with oceans of information on a whole range of issues, both local and global, streaming in via news and social media. That has its pluses and minuses, because while it has reframed their orientation, millennials have received little guidance in navigating those seas.

“Arguably, millennials have been shortchanged by not knowing how to make good choices,” Thiessen notes. “At the same time, this whole environment is new to the parents, teachers and other influencers in their lives.”

Bailey explains that finding a path forward in an evolving world isn’t new to millennials, but the volume of choices and pace of change is definitely new. People will need to find ways to work through it. “As they grow older and develop a broader understanding of the world, some of the issues that seem very black-and-white now will become more grey.

“Like previous generations, where young people are now is not where they will be years from now.”

Places like Ambrose, with its emphasis on the liberal arts, have a key role to play in preparing millennials to grapple with the pros and cons of dealing with various issues, and in providing a framework for thinking about and making choices. The book can contribute to that by helping to dispel stereotypes, deepen professors’ understanding of their students and the complexity of their lives, and prompt new ways to relate.

“We can reinforce the need to think carefully and critically about a range of things in society,” Thiessen says. “Sometimes in this technological age we are passive receivers. We need to think about choice. It’s not all inherently good.” □

Nader Soliman takes every opportunity to be in the mountains and reach new heights, this time the highest he's ever climbed: to 1,700m up Mount Temple, near Moraine Lake.



Moved by Mountains

Faith, high-quality education and the draw of a spectacular natural environment prove irresistible for an Ambrose alum

“I wanted my education to be shaped by and infused with faith — and I adore being in the mountains. They were the deciding factor.”

Nader Soliman (Bachelor of Education – Elementary '19) moved from New Glasgow, N.S., to Calgary to follow his heart — his passion for teaching, his faith and, oh, those glorious mountains! “They were a big pull,” he says with a laugh. “I thought to myself that if there was an opportunity to move to Calgary, I would.”

Ambrose University was his ticket. On a visit to the campus before enrolling, Soliman sat in on a third-year preaching class that started with the professor praying for the students. “That in itself was huge,” he says. And, combined with Ambrose’s small class sizes and reputation for high-quality teaching, it convinced him that he had found the right place.

He had already found the right program. While at Dalhousie University completing his B.Sc. (majoring in Chemistry and International Development Studies), Soliman worked with the Power to Change campus ministry.



Photo courtesy Nader Soliman

He travelled across Atlantic Canada, and to Ontario and Australia building student-led ministries of prayer and discipleship. Hearing how those students grew cemented his desire to teach.

Soliman currently has a full-year temporary teaching contract, substitute teaching in French Immersion across the Calgary Board of Education. David Thompson School became his designated school in October, and he teaches Grade 6 French Math, and Grade 8 Math and Social Studies.

"I love working with elementary students; they're so full of joy, stories and antics," he says. "I love seeing kids go through the struggle of learning. They think something is impossible, and then there's that light-bulb, oh-my-goodness moment."

Soliman also recognizes that as one of the few male teachers at the elementary level, he's an important role model for students, and especially for boys. "In my first kindergarten through grade 4 practicum at Ambrose, I was the only male teacher in the whole school," he notes, adding

that students were so used to having female teachers, some called him "Madame" by mistake.

"Kids whose parents have separated don't always have positive male role models. I don't want to be their father but to be an example as a male. I want to help them build a healthy foundation in their lives, so they won't have to repair broken things later."

Having more latitude to discuss faith would be a benefit, since what Soliman can say and do in the public school system has limits. "The public system is great for meeting everybody, for diversity," he says. "In Christian or Catholic schools, you can say more and pray with the students, and be explicit about who you are as a Christian. But you can also be in a bit of a bubble.

"I know that where I am now, I still have an impact and am able to be a light to people from all over the world who are here in Calgary. It's a privilege to be here." □

I love seeing kids think something is impossible and then there's that light bulb, oh-my-goodness moment. ”

family&friends

Ambrose University is blessed to be part of a large, growing and vibrant community.

Meet some of the many people within it — and share your own news with others by visiting ambrose.edu or emailing anthem@ambrose.edu.

Stay in TOUCH!



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Farewell to former CBC and CNC facilities

Fond memories will soon be all that remain of the former CBC and CNC facilities in Regina and Winnipeg. At the end of August 2019, demolition work began on the former CBC complex to make way for a new 100,000 sq. ft. commercial development. At about the same time, the CNC facilities in Winnipeg were also being demolished. CBC and CNC left their spaces years ago when they became founding schools of Ambrose University.



Passing into the presence of Jesus

Prayers and condolences are extended to friends and family who have passed away. Please submit your memorial announcements at ambrose.edu/anthem.

Bruce McPherson Fleming (CNC '51) passed away on June 2, 2019. Bruce intertwined his teaching and preaching talents throughout his professional life, later adding building skills to construct a church in Port Alberni, B.C., and in Manteca, Calif. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lorene, three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Do you have a fond or fun memory from your student, Teaching or work days?

Share it with Family & Friends In *Anthem*!

Send a note, a few bullet points or a thought or two (and a photo, if you have one) to anthem@ambrose.edu to be included in an upcoming issue.

You'll help grow the Ambrose community and inspire others to do the same!



Dave (CBC '69) and **Pamela (Klemke)** (CBC '68) **Belsey** have retired to Toronto.

Kalie (Eeles) Calverley (BA – Behavioural Science '11), Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Ambrose, married Paul Calverley on June 1, 2019.



Ed Drewlo (CTS '72) and his wife Carolyn have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

David Dryden (Business Administration '17) married **Madison McBlain** (Bachelor of Theology – Church Ministry student) in Creston, B.C. on July 13, 2019.



Julian Erb, Director of Community Life at Ambrose, and wife Yukiko were married on June 15, 2019.



Lois Franklin (CBC '79; CTS '90) served in Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico, in counselling, leadership developing and mentorship capacities. She returned to Canada in 2017 and currently lives in Deloraine, Man.



Lori (CBC '80) and **Callin** (CBC '81; CTS '84) **Friesen** were called to ministry in Winnipeg, and later, through Seminary, to Guatemala City and Mexico City for several years. Now back in Saskatoon, Lori works as a nurse and Callin as an associate at Walmart, and they serve the Westgate Alliance Church. ▼



Elise (Gaetz) Fitzgerald, Communications Specialist at Ambrose, married Jordan Fitzgerald on June 29, 2019.



Steve Heidt, Director of Institutional Data Analysis at Ambrose, and wife Jenny welcomed their fourth child, Amelia Lynn, on Sept. 1, 2019. ▼



Wayne and Betty (Stewart) Kerr (CBC '64) have retired to St. Thomas, Ont.



Stuart Lightbody (CBC '64) and ▲ his wife JoAnne have begun their second decade of "retirement" from the C&MA. They served as a pastor and wife and as missionaries in Colombia, and Stuart later served as the Vice-president of Canadian Ministries at the National Ministry Centre. He also served a number of years with SEND International.

Paige Mansell (BA – History '16) will receive her MA in History from the University of Calgary at Convocation in November 2019. She currently works at the Michener House Museum and Archives and the Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery.

Del (CBC '59) and **Jane (Halverson)** (CBC '58) **McKenzie** began ministry in Montana, subsequently moving to Grande Prairie and Sherwood Park, Alta. They retired to Moses Lake, Wash., in 2003. Jane was diagnosed with dementia in 2009 and is in an adult care facility. Del continues to counsel, mentor and teach.

Dave (CBC '67; CTS '82) and **Arlene** (CBC'66) **Peters** have happily become great grandparents.



TV Thomas (CTS '74) continues to travel the world in evangelism.

KICK OFF!

family&friends

Kicking off the new academic year

Students, alumni, faculty and staff get 2019–20 rolling with fun and festivities

Community building, great food, roaring for the Lions in the soccer home opener and a whole lot of fun were in plentiful supply on Sept. 6, 2019, when more than 400 people from the Ambrose community took part in the Kick-off event. Organized by Ambrose Student Council, with assistance from Athletics, Student Life, Alumni and Community Relations, and Communications — and thanks to the support of Nforce and Goertzen Complete Services — the annual event was a highlight for organizers, attendees and athletes alike.

- A The Kick-off event shows that Ambrose is so much more than a place to get a degree. It's a place to get plugged into a community
- B Gussie the dog, dressed in her finest Lion apparel, was the unofficial mascot for the Lions soccer home opener
- C Ambrose women's volleyball team members were part of the large crowd cheering on the soccer Lions' — a great display of support
- D Unfortunately, both the men's and women's soccer teams were defeated, but the crowds never stopped cheering
- E Some quick fun: Lime scooter races in the Commons
- F "Bubble soccer" contributed laughs to a spirited and joyful evening
- G Awesome music from Freedog got people on their feet



Photos by Elise Fitzgerald

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joinus!

Here are just some of the many events happening at Ambrose University in coming months.

Visit ambrose.edu/events for a complete listing and all the details.

All events take place at Ambrose University, unless otherwise noted.



Mark Your Calendar

An evening with Dr. Joel Thiessen
Public Lecture

April 20, 2020 @ 7:30 pm

Join Dr. Thiessen as he shares the latest research on millennials in Canada.

Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
657 Milner Avenue,
Scarborough, Ont

Details at ambrose.edu/evening-joel-thiessen-april-20-2020

coming events

2020 Ambrose Pastors Conference

Life Together: Discipleship in an Age of Distraction

February 19, 2020



Ambrose is teaming up with the Flourishing Congregations Institute to offer the latest research on Canadian churches as well as strategies from some of Canada's leading church thinkers and practitioners.

> For information on speakers and schedule, or to register: www.eventbrite.ca and type in Ambrose University in the search bar.

Legacy Youth Conference

March 13-15, 2020

An annual highlight, where high school students (Grades 9-12) meet with God and learn to go deeper in their faith. LYC is organized and hosted by Ambrose students.

> Full details are coming. Watch ambrose.edu/legacy-youth-conference

Music, song, theatre

Christmas at Ambrose

December 6-7, 2019

Carols, readings and wonderful music featuring the Ambrose Choir and Orchestra.

> Ambrose University
Tickets \$20 adult/\$15 student, senior, employee

Ambrose at the Ironwood

February 25, 2020

Featuring Jazz program students and faculty.

> Ironwood Stage and Grill
\$15 cover charge at the door

We Dream: Ambrose University Singers

February 29, 2020

> Scarborough United Church
Tickets \$15 adult/\$10 student, senior, employee

7 Questions: Ambrose University Theatre

April 2-4, 2020

A collective creation written and performed by Acting students. Ambrose University Movement Studio. Tickets \$15 adult/\$10 student, senior, employee (limited seating; book early)

> Explore Ambrose Arts and buy tickets online at ambrose.edu/arts



One-day workshops

Can also be completed for academic course credit. More info at registrar@ambrose.edu.

Our Story in God's Story

November 20, 2019 • led by Pastor Stuart Williams

Biblical Theology of Suffering and Hope - Part 1

January 15, 2020 • led by Dr. Beth Stovell

Biblical Theology of Suffering and Hope - Part 2

February 12, 2020 • led by Dr. Beth Stovell

Plunging the Depths of Spiritual Renewal

February 22, 2020 • led by Pastor Roger Helland

Biblical Theology of Suffering and Hope - Part 3

March 11, 2020 • led by Dr. Beth Stovell



Early bird single-workshop registration \$69/person; regular \$79 includes lunch).

For workshop details and to sign up, go to atlargeambrose.edu/ambrose-for-you



LOOKING AHEAD WITH GRATITUDE

“ When I developed an increasing interest in the sciences, it seemed that God was ushering me towards a career in health care.

Maddy Kehler is President of the Student Council at Ambrose University. She is in the final year of the Bachelor of Science – Biology program and hopes to begin medical school studies in 2020.

When I was younger, I never paid any mind to the mention of the future, as it always seemed to be a term used to describe a life far away from mine. Career, responsibilities and “adulting,” as I like to call it, were simply three intangible words.

Then one day I blinked. Now I am standing face to face with my future as I prepare to graduate from the Bachelor of Science – Biology program this coming April, and am looking forward to what this will hold for me.

As I meditated on the words “looking forward” and what they mean to me, I reflected on my goal to find a life where I could live into my passion for helping others and learn more about health sciences.

This goal has been in my line of sight since my second year of university and has translated into pursuing a career in medicine. From an early age, I felt that God had placed a deep care for others inside me. When I developed an increasing interest in the sciences, it seemed that God was ushering me towards a career in health care.

As initially daunting as the thought of pursuing a career in medicine seemed, God fixed my eyes on this goal. That has propelled me throughout my degree and continues to propel me as I prepare to graduate. I have just finished applying to medical school for the following academic year.

One of the things I learned over the last four years was how nucleotide excision repair can repair DNA strands after damage from the sun’s UVA rays — and how the incredible Lord we serve created our bodies perfectly so we can embrace the warmth of the sun.

Ambrose has been the perfect place for me to grow in my knowledge of advanced physiology and developmental biology, while also growing in my faith. This ability to learn about both of these simultaneously, I believe, will equip me to be a bivocational worker upon graduation.

I believe the world needs those who are to be the hands and feet of Jesus in every field — from educators, to social workers, to actors and everyone in between. My time at Ambrose has shown me that Christ’s light can shine in every discipline through kindness and by using the gifts we have each been given.

So, as I prepare to graduate in the spring and have this chapter of my life end, I look forward with excitement to embrace what the future has in store for me, while reminding myself of how thankful I am for the past four years at Ambrose.

If not for my time here — of growing into more of who God has created me to be — I don’t know if I would be looking forward to pursuing these big dreams. For that I am truly grateful. □

by Maddy Kehler

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