Our School is Walking Boldly into a New Day

On February 2nd 2006, the Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher was installed as Vancouver School of Theology’s sixth Principal. Dr. Fletcher is the first Anglican principal since the union of the Anglican Theological College and Union College in 1971, and the first woman to serve in the role.

In her installation service, Wendy was welcomed by representatives of VST’s supporting denominations at the national and provincial levels, VST’s First Nations partners, the Association of Theological Schools, and neighbouring schools including St. Marks, Carey Hall, St. Andrew’s Hall, Regent College and UBC.

In 2000 Dr. Fletcher joined VST as Associate Professor and Academic Dean, and was then appointed Full Professor and VP Academic and Dean. She will bring her considerable skills and vision for the School to her new role, working with a new configuration of staff and faculty to deliver a curriculum redesigned to meet the needs of today’s theological students. At the same time, Wendy assumes her new duties as students, faculty and staff return to the Iona Building after a two and a half year exile while that building has undergone a total renovation.

On February 3 and 4 VST’s Board of Governors met and heard from their new Principal: “As we all know, our School is walking boldly into a new day. Our new space, our new structures, our fresh vision all signal a clarion call to re-make ourselves as we fashion a new path into God’s future.”

continued on page 2
Dr. Fletcher is well known as both teacher and scholar. She is widely published in her field of expertise, the history of protestant women in the modern era, with particular attention to issues of gender, race and social identity. She is involved with the church across the denominational spectrum at the national and international level, having served on many commissions and working groups including the World Council of Churches, and the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada. Her commitment to local issues is evidenced by her teaching at the Carnegie Center's evening education program for residents of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and her passion for developing models of contextually based theological education in learning environments of urban social dislocation.

Her scholarly pursuits have not dimmed her love of teaching and commitment to the students at VST. She is a highly respected and sought after professor, known for her passion and inspiration in and out of the classroom.

In her installation address she drew on her teaching experience in setting the context for her principalship. “As a teacher, I have long stressed in my classroom that the questions we ask determine the answers we find. The questions we ask shape our capacity to interpret our world and in that shaping determine the fabric and frame of the world we will create.”

“The questions we ask shape our capacity to interpret our world and in that shaping determine the fabric and frame of the world we will create.”

“On this night, I invite us to re-frame our question. I invite us to...head directly to the heart of the matter asking ourselves: what does God intend for us?... We are called to engage the dramatic and troubling reality of the world which God loves. We are called to jump off the frames upon which our canvases have stretched themselves and run to meet the world with eyes, hearts, minds and arms wide open. We are called to engage the present – not to fix it, not to save it – that would be God’s work, but to engage it. Standing on the ground between shadow and sight we are asked to become the ones God has created us to be, bearers of a word of life and possibility – in this city, in this moment, in this hour – standing on the ground between shadow and sight.

“Tonight we choose. On this night we stand together on the edge of the cliff and with our eyes lifted toward forever, we honour God’s movement in our past, we embrace the gift of God in our present, and together we jump – radically committed to our future, knowing that grace will lift us, that grace will carry us, that grace will bring us home. God so loved the world....”

For the full text of Wendy’s installation address, visit www.vst.edu.
On December 16, 2005 faculty, staff and students moved back into the Iona building after two and a half years of extensive renovation. The newly configured building boasts spacious classrooms and meeting rooms, offices and lounges, all under the UBC wireless umbrella, and new elevators for access to all floors.

Energy efficiency, introduced in part by the installation of double-paned windows and internal insulation, was key in the design rationale. Other key components include:

**Mechanical**
- 100% outdoor air building providing free cooling vs. mechanical cooling (no refrigerants are used),
- heat from the residences is recaptured and re-used via a heat recovery ventilator,
- control system maximizes energy utilization, 60% less than for traditional systems,
- variable frequency drives on the air handler fan motors and the heating pumps reduce electrical energy consumption at part load operating conditions,
- domestic hot water is generated from the building main system eliminating the need for a separate boiler system.

**Water Conservation**
- dual flush toilets and low flow shower heads in residential bathrooms,
- low flow metered flush valves for toilets, low flow infra-red flush valves for urinals and low flow faucets for public washrooms.

**Electrical**
- energy efficient lighting with wide use of power saving fluorescent tubes,
- exterior lighting controls turn off lighting during daylight hours,
- occupancy sensors ensure that lighting is on only when rooms are occupied.

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Celebrate the official opening of the historic Iona building
**MAY 5, 2006**

Please visit our website www.vst.edu for more details
Reaching Out Across the Pacific

One woman’s legacy helps forge new relationships

by Corinne Rogers

VST is often the beneficiary of will bequests left by those generous souls who support the work of the School and want to leave a legacy beyond their life. One such bequest, just recently received, provides for two generous bursaries from the estate of Dien East.

Born in 1912 in the Netherlands, Dien moved to Canada in 1946, but spent much of her adult life in Indonesia before returning to live in West Vancouver. Dien and husband Gordon East were active members of West Vancouver United Church (WVUC) and it was there through preaching and visits by representatives of VST that she heard about the financial challenges for students and the need for bursaries to help them.

Dien loved VST and she loved Indonesia. With the guidance of the Rev. John Gouws at WVUC she determined a way in which she could contribute beyond her life to ministry and the students who were following their calling. Through her will she established two bursaries – one to be awarded at the discretion of the School, and one for an Indonesian student who comes to study at VST.

Our first step in honoring the terms of Dien’s will has been to begin to establish connections with theological schools in Indonesia.

From October 15-21, 2005 I attended the General Assembly of the Association of Theological Schools of South East Asia (ATESEA) hosted by the McIlvray Faculty of Theology at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

ATESEA has 97 member schools in 16 countries. Nineteen of those schools are in Indonesia, and eight of those are accredited by ATESEA at the Masters level or higher. I was able to meet with the Indonesian delegates and I witnessed first hand their deep commitment of faith as they explored the assembly’s topic – Rethinking the Critical Asian Principle – with humour, grace, intensity and generosity.

This represents another positive and productive step in VST’s participation in the global ecumenical community.

Corinne Rogers
What do you get when you bring together Presbyterian students and faculty from across Canada with Presbyterian students and faculty from Taiwan? You get friendship, singing, theology, and prayer of course! That's what we all experienced in a four day conference and exposure tour of the beautiful “butterfly island” of Taiwan last August. The conference itself focused on issues in interpretation. Professors from colleges and seminaries in Taiwan and Canada read papers and facilitated discussions on a wide variety of topics, including Karl Barth, gender and aboriginal issues and cross-cultural identity. We discovered many similarities and celebrated our differences.

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Presbyterian Church in Canada have a long friendship, dating back to the turn of the century when a Canadian missionary named Rev. MacKay took up residence in Taiwan. He became something of a local hero, and is credited with many education and health care initiatives. He was followed (among others) by James and Lillian Dickson from Canada. James worked as principle of Taiwan Theological College in the 1960s. Since then Canadians and Taiwanese have held a fondness for each other that this joint conference strengthened and renewed.

Representatives from VST/St. Andrew’s Hall included Professor Pat Dutcher-Walls and second year M. Div. student Wendy Adams. Pat gave a thorough and accessible presentation on the history and status of Biblical Interpretation, entitled: “Remembering our Future.” Wendy, and each of the student representatives, gave a short talk on the theme “Preparing to Preach”, discussing the selection of texts, and meeting exegetical and social challenges of weekly sermon preparation.

VST was doubly blessed on the evening of Wendy’s installation when Coast Salish carver Jackie Timothy delivered his 14-foot totem pole to the Iona Building. The pole, called “All My Relations” and carved in white pine, reflects the art and people of the west coast in the representation of the raven holding the moon, the salmon, frog and grizzly bear, and the eagle. Says Timothy, “As I started the initial cuts I thought about the designs and how I could relate ‘Past, Present and Future.’” A fitting part of VST’s new vision!
New Archives at VST!

On February 3, 2006 the Board of Governors passed a motion approving the building of new space to house the archival collections of the United Church, BC Conference, the Provincial Synod of BC and Yukon, the Diocese of New Westminster and VST’s own records. With this landmark decision the VST Board commits to a future which honours our past and present partnership with our founding denominations. We are creating a ground which will hold our stories in a present which is rapidly changing and a future which is fragile. This commitment will ensure that our birthright, the story of our beginnings and our journeys, will survive to illuminate the seeking of future generations.

Archives Building Project

“[The archives] belongs not to myself, not to the church, not to the School. It is for the corporate memory of our life with God, in all of its beauty and tragedy and wonder.” Bob Stewart, Archivist for BC Conference

The Plan

- 7,500 – 8,000 square foot underground archival repository for the United Church (60% of the total holdings), the Anglican Church (30%) and Vancouver School of Theology (10%),
- Full environmental control system,
- A combination of open and compact shelving,
- Study and research space, and
- Offices for the archivists and volunteers.

If you would like to support this project, your tax-receiptable donation will be gratefully received! Please refer to the response card on the back of Perspectives, or call Corinne at 604-822-9813 for more information.

For those wishing to honour Bob, mark your gift “Bob Stewart Archives, United Church, BC Conference.”

Ode to Gerald’s Tree (And Gerald’s Love of Her)

Love wherever you find it,
wherever you glimpse its face
is a beautiful thing;
that space that frames a meeting
where adoration touches
grace received and given;
where ardour fanned
by beauty and length of days-
seasons passing
winter white (every five years or so) on elegant
winter bones
opening Self to
azure green haze
soon a flower
then a leaf
before it cedes/seeds
itself in orange glory,
pass through place
to winter come again
that ardour never
dies but becomes
the space that holds a life
and spends itself
companion witness eternally
re-making sight,
that lens by which we See
this world and then leave it.

Wendy Fletcher, January 08, 2005
From the Editor - Margaret McAvity

In this New Year I would like to greet you with the words Wendy Fletcher spoke at the reunion last July: “the path is made by walking.” Let us walk into this New Year with confidence in the One who guides our feet into the way of peace.

The VST alumni association has found a new vitality. The reunion in the summer brought people together and generated interest in the ongoing life of the School and the ministries in which people are engaged. But how do we maintain this energy with people who are living very busy lives, who do not have a lot of extra time or resources, and who are scattered across the country and beyond?

We trust that those who use the Internet are checking regularly to keep up to date on what is happening at VST (www.vst.edu).

If you have ideas or volunteer energy for the Alumnae/i Association and the Landmark Legacy campaign, let’s hear from you! In particular, we are looking for someone in each decade to be a contact person, to phone people in those years, to follow up, to put people in touch with each other. If you are that person, we would love to hear from you. Contact Sharon Salomons (sharonsalomons@telus.net), Margaret McAvity (margaretmcavity@primus.ca) or Mary Campbell (604-822-9819) or Corinne Rogers (604-822-9813) in the Development Office.

Remembering our Future - Alumnae/i Reunion 2005

“VST is a jewel and gives jewels to the church.” This was one person’s summary of the alumnae/i reunion last summer. From the lively conversations at the barbeque on Friday evening to the thoughtful and moving final worship on Sunday morning, the reunion was a great success. People enjoyed catching up with former friends and colleagues, meeting alums from other years and listening to each others’ stories of ministry. A few old “ghosts” appeared and some were laid to rest. Current faculty gave us an update on new programs, we had a tour of new and renovated buildings, and we had informal sharing, excellent food and some great door prizes. For many people the programming was what gave this reunion its particular strength.

On Friday evening Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and newest faculty member set the tone for “Remembering Our Future” in her reflection from the Book of Deuteronomy. Then on Saturday, six alums told their personal stories and inspired us with the living out of the gospel message in a variety of ministries.

Anita Fast (M.T.S. ’99) and David Greenwood (M.Div.’95) spoke about ministry in places of conflict and violence. Anita, who volunteered for three years with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in occupied Palestinian territories, focused on Jesus’ call to be peacemakers. Quoting Mennonite Ronald J. Snider, she said the cost of being God’s reconciling people in a broken world can mean accepting the possibility of death. “Everyone assumes that for the sake of peace it is moral and just for soldiers to get killed... Do we not have as much courage as soldiers?” Her words reverberate still as we watch and wait and pray for four members of the Christian Peacemakers teams taken hostage in Baghdad in November 2005 and whose fate is still unknown. David Greenwood gave a picture of military chaplaincy as both ordinary (Sunday school classes, baptism, marriages, funerals) and out of the ordinary (creating sacred space in a bombed-out building in Bosnia, making a chapel from metal shipping containers, supervising an ammunitions amnesty, distributing dental supplies, chickens and pregnant cows!)

Two United Church ministers spoke of parish ministry from different perspectives – Gordon Laird (B.D. ’68) is retired and Karen Medland (M.Div.’02) is at the beginning of her ministry. Kevin Arndt (M.Div.’98) contrasted the limited theology of the popular piety of our culture with the gospel call to speak to the powers. With poise and passion Mary Fontaine (M.Div.’03) recounted stories of her people and the vision of healing and reconciliation.
What could have made it better? There were a few suggestions for refinements but the only real regret expressed was that some people were hoping to see former friends and colleagues who were not there. Even though more than 75 people attended, one from as far away as New Zealand, and representatives from eight decades of VST and its predecessors, Union College and the Anglican Theological College came, there were many who could not come and who were missed.

On the final day of the reunion we did some brainstorming about where we go from here. There was definite enthusiasm to have another reunion in two to five years time. To make this possible we need a committee of willing volunteers and a commitment from someone in each decade to be a contact person. Meanwhile, in the interval between the reunions, let’s encourage each other to attend the G. Peter Kaye lectures and to attend whatever alum events we can plan.

Our heartfelt thanks to Corinne Rogers and Mary Campbell in the development office for all their efforts on our behalf.

Alumni Reunion Planning Team: Sharon Salomons, Margaret McAvity, Gilli McLaren, Wendy McFeely, Roberta Fraser, Anita Fast, Lynne McNaughton, Barbara Boruff, Cindy Terry.

Breakfast with Wendy

In February Wendy hosted two breakfasts for local alums - a chance for them to “come home”, hear from Wendy her vision for the School, tour the new building, ask questions and share hopes and concerns.

A recurring question in many people’s mind is about the financial health of the School. Wendy addressed that issue head on:

“The land development has not been the panacea that was hoped when it was first planned. First of all, we were told to expect the work to take ten months - but we were out of the Iona Building for two and a half years, meaning lost housing and conference revenue and increased storage costs and rental fees on portable classrooms. Construction costs have soared - not only for us - witness the Olympics! As well, the provincial government cancelled operating grants to all graduate theological colleges - a $250,000 yearly blow for us - and cancelled faculty housing grants prompting the Board to increase salaries to fair levels. The result? Increased operating deficits for several years that were covered out of land sale revenue intended for endowment.

On the plus side, as construction costs soared so did land values, and our sales figures have been much larger than originally anticipated.

Despite this, we have had to implement a staff and faculty restructuring: positions added in recent years have been cut back; some retirements will not be replaced.

Even though the story of our present has not unfolded as we had anticipated, I do believe not only in the integrity of our present but also in the possibility of our future. I am committed to seeing us operating in the black within two years. We will live within our means, we will be guided by the principals of transparency and accountability, we will honour your trust. I invite you to call me at 604-822-6315 or email kimfung@vst.edu at any time with your comments or questions.
At long last the Iona Building is open again! The Vancouver School of Theology Board of Governors’ meeting in early February was held in the newly finished Board Room of the Iona Building. This new room is one level above the previous board room, a level which we weren’t able to access safely before the renovations (at least we weren’t supposed to!)

After a longer-than-anticipated occupancy of the Chancellor building, the School moved back into the Iona building over the Christmas season. The new design utilizes the space much more efficiently – there are some great new classrooms, a bright and spacious student lounge and study carrel area (in what used to be Level III), new offices and also a renovated hotel floor.

The excitement of the completion of the renovation of the Iona building was overshadowed by the difficult decision we faced last fall regarding restructuring the operations of the School. Although we have known for some time that the property development would not solve all the financial difficulties facing the School, we had hoped we would not have to ever take such drastic measures. Therefore at its May 2005 meeting the Board of Governors mandated the Principal and Dean to eliminate all operating deficits within five years and immediately reduce the annual budget by roughly $500,000 for the budget year 2006-2007. At the October, 2005 meeting, the Board approved a restructuring plan presenting an average 28% cut of staffing, faculty and admin. There was much debate and discussion about the ramifications of such a decision but it had become clear that such a course of action was the responsible thing to do.

There is also much good news to celebrate in the life of the School. Wendy Fletcher became Principal of the School beginning January 1, 2006 following Ken MacQueen’s departure at the end of 2005. There is increased enrollment particularly in the Masters of Arts in Theological Studies program as well as through the Chalmers Institute. The property development continues. The lots upon which sit the Chancellor building and Columbian House are expected to be sold this spring. The Epiphany Chapel will remain where it currently stands and will be renovated in order to be a stand-alone building and the School’s principle worship space. There are initial plans to build space for the archives underground south-west of the Iona building.

Overall there continues to be a sense of hope around the future of the School as we move into creative ways to address the theological education needs of our ever-changing world and ever-changing church. There is also enthusiasm among alums for a revitalized alumnae/i association following the very successful reunion last summer.

If you have further questions about the work of the Board of Governors please do not hesitate to send me an email (sharonsalomons@telus.net). As your alumnae/i representative I would be happy to bring your questions and concerns to the Board.

Blessings to you all and in the ministries to which you are called.

Sharon Salomons

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From Our Alum Representative on the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors meet in the new Boardroom, February 3, 2006
This time last year Deb Bowman (M.Div 1994) wrote an article in ALUMNET encouraging us to participate in the Landmark Legacy campaign “in order that not only the best of the past is preserved but also the very exciting reality of the present and potential of the future.” An idea was presented at the reunion, discussed and endorsed by those present, whereby the alumnae/i, if they so wish, would focus their contributions to the Landmark Legacy into “the Rotunda Fund” for the renovated Iona building. The Rotunda would then be named appropriately as a gift of the alumnae/i. It was during a tour of the “new” Iona Building that some alumnae/i reflected on the significance of the Rotunda in their lives as students and became exited about the idea of making the Rotunda our legacy. Janice Bray Noonan shares these reflections:

“I think of the rotunda as the womb of the Iona building, a building in which so many of us underwent formation and transformation. The rotunda in particular was a place of welcoming, a place of warmth and friendliness where students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to visit casually with each other. It was a place where friendships developed, where tears were shed, where words of support and encouragement were spoken. It was the location of many kinds of gatherings and celebrations. One year it was even transformed into a fine-dining hall for the year-end party.”

In her enthusiasm for alumnae/i naming the Rotunda as their primary participation in the Landmark Legacy she says:

“When I first arrived at VST, feeling like I was about to jump blindfolded off a cliff, I stepped in through the front main entrance and the rotunda welcomed me into its warm embrace. Over my time there I must have walked in and out of those doors over a thousand times and most of the time there was a friendly face about. Even if no one was around, the rotunda still had a friendly atmosphere. In my final year there, I lived in the Iona building and was also expecting my first child – due April 12, the last day of classes. Maura was born 4 weeks early and when we brought her ‘home’ from the hospital we entered the Iona building by the rear main entrance. There, my daughter too was welcomed into the rotunda’s embrace and into the loving embrace and excitement of several friends who happened to be there visiting with each other when we arrived. Two months later, when the semester had finished and we had received the OK from our doctor, we packed our belongings and walked one last time through the rotunda and out the front entrance to return home to Saskatoon.”

The Rotunda is a special place in the School, and through the decades has received hundreds of us in and sent us forth. The idea of supporting the “Rotunda Fund” for the Landmark Legacy Campaign excited those present at the reunion. If it also excites you please contact Corinne Rogers, Director of Development (604-822-9813 or corinne@vst.edu) and offer your suggestions about how you can help this idea become a reality.

by Margaret McAvity
VST Auxiliary presents...

Gospel Voices for VST

Universal Gospel Choir
and special guest

A Benefit Concert for the Students of Vancouver School of Theology

The Universal Gospel Choir is an exciting community choir based in Vancouver that sings songs from a wide variety of cultures. All proceeds to the VST Auxiliary to support student bursaries.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH, 8PM

St. Andrew’s-Wesley United Church, Burrard and Nelson, Vancouver

Tickets: $20 / $10 (child 12 and under)
Visiting Distinguished Scholar Series
Dr. John Dominic Crossan

John Dominic Crossan was a Roman Catholic monk from 1950-69 before becoming a professor, now Emeritus, of Religious Studies at DePaul University in Chicago (1969-95). He has written over 21 books on earliest Christianity, most recently co-authoring with archaeologist Jonathan L. Reed Excavating Jesus: Beneath the Stones, Behind the Texts and In Search of Paul: How Jesus’ Apostle Opposed Rome’s Empire with God’s Kingdom.

In Search of Paul: “How Jesus’ Apostle Opposed Rome’s Empire with God’s Kingdom”

Tuesday, July 25th, 7:30pm, Public Lecture
St. Mary (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church, 2490 West 37th Avenue

The Visiting Distinguished Scholar series is supported by a friend and benefactor of Vancouver School of Theology and Chalmers Institute.

If you are interested in becoming a benefactor of Chalmers Institute or the Visiting Distinguished Scholar series, please call VST’s Development Office at 604-822-9813.
Official Opening of The Thomas Merton Reading Room
Iona Building, Vancouver School of Theology

Tuesday, July 4, 6:30pm
Remarks and Ritual Opening

Dr. Paul M. Pearson, President, International Thomas Merton Society
Dr. Ross Labrie, President, Thomas Merton Society of Canada
Abbot Damien Thompson, O.C.S.O.
Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher, Principal, Vancouver School of Theology

Reception to follow
Public Lecture, 7:30-9:30pm
Backstage Stories with Thomas Merton
By Bernie Lucht
Executive Producer of CBC’s ‘Ideas’ and ‘Tapestry’

July 3 - 28
A Hidden Wholeness: The Zen Photography of Thomas Merton
An Exhibit of 35 Photographs by Thomas Merton

Gallery Talks by Paul Pearson about Thomas Merton’s Photography
12:45-1:20 pm, July 5 and 7, 2006

Native Ministries Consortium

Summer School
July 9 - 22, 2006

Come join us for the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School! For two weeks each July, a vibrant community comes together at VST to learn, worship, share and celebrate. NMC Summer School courses are ecumenical and open to anyone with an interest in ministry in a First Nations setting or who wishes to consider the philosophical and theological dimensions of aboriginal thought. Courses examine historical and social issues, literary-oral traditions, artistic and other cultural aspects of Christian and indigenous spiritualities.

Highlights for 2006 include Robert Davidson on “Art and Spirituality” and Jenny Te Paa on “Global Church Politics.”

VISIT US ON-LINE:
www.vst.edu/summer/nmcss.php or contact the Native Ministries Program Office for more information or a brochure.

Phone 604-822-9480 • Fax 604-822-9212 • Email nmp@vst.edu On-line registration is available on the VST website.

The Maltese Labyrinth

VST’s newly installed Maltese labyrinth is ready for you to walk!

Located on the South-East side of the Iona Building, nestled in the park area near the planned meditation garden, our labyrinth is fully accessible, made of permanent materials, and available to the public year round.
People

Faculty

Congratulations to Sharon Betcher who has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective July 1, 2006. Sharon joined the faculty in 2001, and teaches constructive theology.

Martin Brokenleg sits on the David Suzuki Elders’ Council at the David Suzuki Foundation. In the past months he has been training teachers and school administrators on youth at risk in Grand Rapids, MB; Merritt, BC; San Antonio, Texas; and Red Deer, AB (where he spoke to 1800 teachers.) He has also done an evening of training for parents in Langley, BC.

Wendy Fletcher delivered a paper, “Women, Sex and Family: Deconstructing Christian Gender Identities”, as Visiting Distinguished Scholar at the University of Victoria on February 12. On the same weekend she participated in the working group of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, UVic; part of the preparation for a book to be published by Pearson Press on religion and ethnicity in Canada.

Gerald Hobbs has published a long chapter, “Bucer, the Jews and Judaism”, in a major work on Jews, Judaism and the Reformation (Leiden 2006). On February 1st, he spoke as part of an inter-faith dialogue at the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre on “Hagar and Ishmael in the Christian tradition”. In late March, he will present jointly with Elisabeth Jones (formerly of VST, now Dean of Studies in Montreal) a session on Catholic reformers and the Psalms, at the Society for Reformation Research annual meeting in Cambridge, England.

The Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University has undertaken a 3-year initiative to examine issues of citizenship from the perspective of the humanities, addressing such questions as: How do we define our relationship to the place where we live and work? What are our links to the institutions of the country of which we are citizens? Study groups have been organized to examine different aspects of the problems associated with citizenship focusing on citizenship in relation to the environment, to culture, to social justice, to religion, to the university, and to modernity. Alan Lai has been invited to participate in the group focusing on religion, examining how religion intersects with politics in the formal sense and will examine religion’s role in civil society in present-day Canada. For more information visit http://www.sfu.ca/humanities-institute/citizenship.htm.

Alan is also co-editing a book called Practicing Religious Education in Asian North American Perspectives. In mid-March his group of scholars will travel to Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley to co-facilitate a workshop called Asia Across the Curriculum.

In the week of February 6 Richard Leggett traveled to San Francisco to represent the Joint Commission of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada at a meeting of the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee.

Jim McCullum underwent successful knee replacement surgery on January 31st. All the best, Jim, for a speedy recovery.

Joan Wyatt shared her research in the Chalmers Theological Forum on February 9: Speaking Transformation in the United Church of Canada.

Shiella Fodchuk will be going to Costa Mesa, California in April to present a paper to The Annual Conference of Spiritual Directors International. The title: “Journey of the Soul: the Drama of Spiritual Transformation in Dante’s Divine Comedy.” Shiella reports: “Spiritual Directors International has 5000 members, from many different faith traditions and countries. In 2007 the annual meeting will be in Vancouver and VST is playing a role in preparing for the conference. Spiritual Directors International’s Coordinating Council met at VST on February 10 for a planning meeting. Members of the Council came from the UK, Canada and the US. They met with about 40 local spiritual directors and VST MATS students and myself. It was a very productive meeting and our visitors were astonished by the wonderful view from room 527 in Iona. They wanted to move to Vancouver!”

Staff

Welcome Tara Bentall King, our new student recruitment coordinator. Tara will begin her duties in March, where you can find her on the first floor in Rm. 114. Tara has just completed her MATS in History and Theology and will graduate in May.

Gillian McLeod has been appointed as Director of the H.R. MacMillan Theological Library, effective March 6, 2006. Gillian has a Master of Theological Studies with Honours from Huron College, London, Ontario and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. She comes to us from Whatcom Community College, Bellingham WA.
People

where she was Instruction/ Systems Librarian. Welcome, Gillian!

Alumni/ae

80’s

Logan McMenamie ('86) was appointed by the Bishop as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, BC effective January 15, 2006.

John Snyder ('86) has been appointed for two years as the “Transitional Minister” of the Nanton-Cayley Pastoral Charge in Foothills Presbytery of the United Church of Canada.

90’s

Shortly after attending the Alum Reunion, David Greenwood ('99) was reassigned in August 2005 by the Canadian Forces to become the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Staff Chaplain at Colorado Springs, Colorado USA.

This fall David Peterson ('95) joined St. John the Baptist, in Cobble Hill, BC as Priest Associate.

Ena Van Zoeren ('91) is happy to announce that she has been called to be the minister in the Wyoming and Camlachie Pastoral Charge; she has been settled as of November 1st and scrambled to be ready for Christmas, with a few funerals and weddings thrown in to keep life interesting.

00’s

Heidi Brear ('04) has been appointed to be curate at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

Recent VST graduates Scott McLeod ('05), and Nigel Tully ('05) were ordained to the Priesthood by the Bishop at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria on February 2, 2006. Both in Victoria, Scott is the Assistant Curate at St. Mary the Virgin and Nigel holds the same position at St. Peter’s Lakehill.

Robert Miles ('00) suffered a heart attack just before Christmas and entered the New Year in St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Christopher Page ('01) has been appointed rector of St. Philip Oak Bay and Archdeacon of Juan de Fuca effective January 15, 2006.

Marnie Peterson ('03), curate for St. Alban’s, Richmond, was priested on December 4 and then went on maternity leave a week later. Congratulations to Marnie and Mark McIntyre on the December 20th birth of their third child, a son named Gabriel Mark Peterson McIntyre, 9 lb. 6 oz.! Also priested on December 4 were Craig Vance ('03), Priest-in-charge of Christ the Redeemer, Surrey and Craig Luccock ('05), Curate at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver and Sorrento Centre (in summer), and Liz Ruder ('05), Curate at St. Philip’s, Vancouver.

Student News

On December 4 soon-to-graduate Paul Guiton was ordained to the transitional diaconate and will share his time as curate between St. Andrew’s, Langley and St. Oswald, Port Kells, Surrey.

Alum Obituaries

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bulman ('54) died in Burnaby on January 29, 2006, from injuries sustained in a car accident in November. He was an idealist in a world sorely in need of idealism, a faithful follower of Jesus, and a prayerful man. He will be sorely missed. A funeral service was held on February 4 at Northwood United Church in Surrey.

Bob Stewart ('75) died suddenly on November 15, 2005. Bob was a valued friend of the VST community and had a large network of friends through his work as United Church Archivist for British Columbia, his book club, and his commitment to First United Church. A celebration of Bob’s life was held at First United Church on November 25. Bob’s passion, especially in the past year, has been the construction of new Archives space at VST.

In a letter Bob wrote to several friends of the summer of 2005 he said: “People who know me will know that I have a singular passion for archives, and in particular for the welfare and development of the B.C. Conference United Church Archives where I have worked over the past twenty-five years. The archives has been a rich source of both pleasure and meaning for my life. It has been a passionate calling, and now as I move toward the last years of the labour of my life, I have one great vision that will bring my work to completion. I want to build a new archives that will look after our archival needs for several decades.”

Donations can be made to the Archives Project, Vancouver School of Theology, 6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1L4

Congratulations to this year’s graduands

MAY 8, 2006
Convocation will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Message from Ken MacQueen

I would like to thank the VST community for the acknowledgement and the gift at the Christmas party just prior to the Christmas break. As you know, my duties as Principal ended over the holiday, and Dr. Wendy Fletcher is now in place. I appreciate the occasion, have hung the Kluckner painting, and am moving on to my other tasks.

I wish at this time to offer best wishes to the entire VST community.

Blessings, Ken MacQueen
Yes! I would like to make a gift to VST

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Thank you for your support