TABLE OF CONTENTS

3  PAGE THREE
   Principal’s Report 2011

6  PAGE SIX
   VST Graduates

9  PAGE NINE
   Graduate Banquet

10 PAGE TEN
    VST’s Booksale

11 PAGE ELEVEN
    John Dominic Crossan
    ISC Inauguration

12 PAGE TWELVE
    Rev. Dr. Sharon Betcher

13 PAGE THIRTEEN
    Chancellor’s Dinner

14 PAGE FOURTEEN
    Sally McFague in India
    A Journey to Cuba

15 PAGE FIFTEEN
    Earth Day Liturgy
    Peter Kaye Lectures

16 PAGE SIXTEEN
    NMC Summer School

18 PAGE EIGHTEEN
    King James Bible
    VSTSA Update

19 PAGE NINETEEN
    2011 Mindfulness Fair

20 PAGE TWENTY
    Board Matters

21 PAGE TWENTY ONE
    Updates from Alumni

22 PAGE TWENTY TWO
    Faculty & Staff Updates

25 PAGE TWENTY FIVE
    Farewell to Retiring Faculty

27 PAGE TWENTY SEVEN
    VST Remembers

28 PAGE TWENTY EIGHT
    Summer School

32 PAGE THIRTY TWO
    With Gratitude We Remember

Vancouver School of Theology
6000 Iona Drive
Vancouver, BC
Canada, V6T 1L4
604-822-9031
1-866-822-9031
www.vst.edu
In honour of this special anniversary and in celebration of the achievement of our graduates, we are joined today by Past Chancellors and Governors, Jean Moore, an early past president of the VST Auxiliary, as well as retired faculty all of whom held the work of VST with loving and faithful hands across these several decades. It is a privilege to recognize them and their contributions to VST this evening.

Many of the students in this year’s class have been working on their programs for longer than they had originally anticipated — though none for 40 years. If we were to name the spiritual virtue of this class, a top contender would definitely be the virtue of endurance. How appropriate that a class known for its endurance should accompany our 40th anniversary celebrations!

It was 40 years ago this spring that the parliament of the province of British Columbia signed the Act which created Vancouver School of Theology. VST was not created ex nihilo. It was formed from the stories of two earlier institutions from very different ecclesial traditions - Anglican Theological College and Union College of the United Church of Canada that joined to become VST in 1971. Our Presbyterian partners joined us some years later, through our affiliation with St. Andrew’s Hall.

When the parliament of this province signed us into being, it mid-wifed the birth of an institution with a very particular vision. What was the vision that so animated the imagination of our forebears that two institutions would give themselves over to death, in the hope of becoming a new thing? That foundational vision was I think clear, and its meaning can be seen in this night. Let’s consider for a moment.

To understand the vision which framed our creation, one beginning word is key — it names our work — education, coming from the Latin root educare. Educare means to draw out, to draw forth. Ahha: a place to begin. A VST education understands that we are not a tabula rasa, a blank slate. All of us come to the project of our own becoming already begun as a story. A VST education understands that the people we will become, the disciples we will become, the leaders we will become are already with us. What is required is a context, an environment, an opportunity for our best becoming... to come.

When the founders of VST closed two schools to make one new creation, we know that that decision caused great heart ache and loss: one school needed one faculty — not two; with one curriculum — not two; with one board — not two. For what would be gained, other paths were lost. And so we see: the future is always built on the back of change.

From the beginning VST framed its world knowing this:
that it could not be all things to all people, that it would never be what some had wanted it to be. Instead, it would have to be what it could be. Once all the dust settled, it would have to be what was in it to be.

What was in it to be? By choosing to leave behind the homogeneity of uni-denominational schools (something that to this day most historic mainline schools in North America will not do) our forbears sounded the note which would define our future: they understood that our best becoming would come in the context of difference. They understood that standing face to face with people, traditions and experiences different than our own would summon from us new things, things we had never seen before, things we would never become without the catalyzing conversation of difference.

Today, 40 years later we celebrate the fruit of their vision. Look with me at the story painted by this year’s graduating class: half of our students are from the historic denominations which framed the original conversation of difference in our school, and the other half come from six other traditions ranging from Orthodox to Buddhist. Our 22 graduates bring with them incredible diversity in life experience nurtured in widely differing cultural and geographic contexts: Anglo-Canadian; Francophone; three distinct first nations; American; Chinese; Taiwanese; Burmese; Lebanese. In the VST conversation of difference, they have become themselves — in new ways — and now they leave us to move toward the four corners of the earth in almost as many different types of work and ministry, as the 22 they are.

This past Friday after a year of work by board and faculty, the VST Board of Governors adopted a new statement of mission, vision and goals for our school. These new words which will frame the context of our next becoming as an institution are printed for the first time anywhere, inside your convocation bulletin this evening. We see in those words the next articulation of the vision from which we come. Affirming the work of our school as education, educare, education which empowers a learned ministry in the service of Jesus Christ, our mission statement also affirms the work of empowering religiously educated leadership for service in the world.

Building on the conversation of difference tended by an earlier era, we see now the reorganization of our school into three distinct but dialogically engaged Centres: the Centre for Public and Pastoral Leadership, the Iona-Pacific Interreligious Centre, and the Indigenous Studies Centre. These three centres will provide the context for the next iteration of the conversation of difference which will anticipate the best becoming of future disciples and leaders. It is the position of VST, that the next generation of effective global citizens can best be nurtured in the conversation of difference, which engagement with diverse religious traditions and indigenous communities will provide.

New degrees such as the MA in Public and Pastoral Leadership and the MA and ThM in Indigenous and Interreligious Studies will companion the MDIV, the MDIV by extension, the MATS and the ThM, so long centrepieces of a VST education, as vehicles for our best becoming in this new millenium. New educational work at extension sites in Calgary, Kelowna and Victoria provide fresh opportunities for theological conversation with lay and clerical learners.

As we focus our work for the next chapter in our story, we return to the wisdom of our founders and see as they did: we can not be all things to all people; we will be what we can be; we will become what it is in us, to become.

As we turn to the future, we say good bye to several friends who have walked with us for many miles but who in the year since our last Convocation have retired or will retire from their work at VST: Dr. Richard Leggett, Dr. Glen Davis and the Reverend Joyce Davis retire from the faculty; Fran Whitfield long an icon in the Registrar’s office, and Val Borthistle and Robert Eldridge the ballast in our library system have also retired. Dr. Louise Rolston retires from her position as Chancellor and the Venerable Ronald Harrison from his work as Board Chair.

Other friends also moved into other work during a period of reorganization: Kim Fung, Jeffrey Preiss, Katie Snikvalds, Eileen Browne, Angel Liu and Dennis Topp. Sean Ayers, our Development Associate moved on to new work in the non-profit sector. Each of these friends has spent themselves
in service to our school in a variety of ways, some over many years. We honour them and their contributions to our common life with gratitude and love.

Even as we say goodbye, we affirm thriving life in the midst of us — this year has seen the largest entering class in the history of our school or its predecessor schools; already we have a large list of strong and diverse admissions for next fall; we see the recognition of Dr. Sharon Betcher as professor; we see staff and administrators who give themselves to the work of holding VST with everything they are; we see the best faculty love can call; we see students who themselves write their meaning as an ode to possibility; we see a Board that believes in our school; we see friends who pray for us and send their gifts of love and money as bread for our journey. Everywhere is life.

As one academic year ends and another opens, we turn to greet new friends who will walk with us into our next chapter: The Very Reverend Dr. Peter Elliott will, in a moment, be installed as our new Chancellor; Dr. Heather Clarke has assumed her new work as our Board Chair. The Reverend Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, the Reverend Brenda Fawkes, and the Reverend Dr. Harold Munn will all join the faculty this fall. Naomi Vogt and Genevieve Roberts have worked tirelessly to support the work of the Principal's office in a time of staff transition. Margaret Trim has joined the Registrar's team and together with Acting Registrar Ruth Musonda has graciously held down the fort while Anita Fast is on parental leave. Likewise Tony Tremblett has supported the work of housing while Yanfen An spends these early months with her newborn son, and Julie Van Baarsen directs the finance area as Ilinca Manisali enjoys time with her newborn daughter. Kirsty Dickson now holds the work of the library with Faye Chisholm. As well, Deborah Eaton-Kent and Dana DeKoven join me in the development work which we so enthusiastically undertake, as a key to our long-term sustainability.

And so we see again what the founders of our school understood: the future is always built on the back of change. As I consider these 40 years, and the signs of life all around, I am struck by one thing: the abiding presence of the Holy in it all. Each page of this story bears its trace (even the pages turned- perhaps especially with the pages turned), every life its fragrance.

Who will our graduates become? What will VST in its future yet become? That story has still to be written. But we look toward that story with delight and anticipation because we see…we see that that story is being written from this present, and from the past which has led us to this place… when we consider that we see…the handprints of grace everywhere we look.

In this past year a long-time friend of the school and former President of the VST Auxiliary, Audrey Halsey, passed away. Audrey never married. She lived a life of service working as a nurse in isolated places in the far north, predominantly in First Nations communities where health care services were very limited. She had spoken often of the hard things she had seen and yet always with that remembering came stories also, of song and art and redemption in the small ordinary grace kind of way. The last time I saw her before she died quite ill from cancer, she was very quiet. But before I left she said, “What I really want to say Wendy is that life was what it was, and it really was beautiful.”

And so we, as VST, turn toward the next 40 years with the witness of our forebears in our hearts and know, in faith, that we will become what it is in us to become, and it will be enough.

And we send you beloved graduates of 2011, with the blessing that we know you will become what it is in you to become…and that will be enough, it will be more than enough: it will be the story by which God is grace in you, for the world…and it will be beautiful. Alleluia.
Archbishop Nareg Alemezian was born in 1962, in Beirut, Lebanon. After graduating from the Theological Seminary of the Armenian Apostolic Church-Catholicosate of Cilicia, in Antelias, Lebanon, in 1981, he was ordained a celibate priest. 1981-1986, he carried on various responsibilities at the Theological Seminary and the Catholicosate. 1986-1991, he continued his theological studies at the Vancouver School of Theology, Canada, and served the parish of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Richmond, Canada. 1991-1997, he was the parish priest of the Sts. Vartanantz Church in New Jersey, USA. Since 1997, he is the Ecumenical Officer of the Catholicosate of Cilicia. He was consecrated a bishop in 2002. He was elevated to the rank of archbishop in 2010. He contributed extensively to many periodicals and is the author of multi-lingual volumes on the Armenian Orthodox Church.

Curtis Bablitz came to VST with a BA in History from UBC and has spent four wonderful, challenging years here. He greatly enjoyed his classes in preaching, church history and reformed theology, as well as all the long discussions with fellow students after class. He is now off to seek a call for ordination in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Sally Balmer came (back) to VST after having graduated with an M.Div. in 1989. Currently serving a United Church of Christ congregation in Anacortes, WA, Sally welcomed the opportunity to pursue a long-time interest in spiritual direction.

Will Ferrey came to VST with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Victoria. Highlights of his time at VST include serving as a student rep on Faculty Council, one year as the school sacristan and discovering theologies of place. Will is moving to Victoria, to take up a position as Assistant Curate at St. Luke’s Anglican Church.

Deborah Foster would like to thank those who have given support during this considerable educational expedition. Special appreciation to Wendy Fletcher, Shiella Fodchuk, Cynthia Bourgeault, and fellow students in the spirituality program. Deborah currently teaches contemplative spirituality to groups, and is developing a program of contemplative practice for youth.

Doreen Giesbrecht came to VST from a career in geriatric nursing and storytelling. Highlights of VST were the excellent and caring professors, the luxury of learning slowly, the challenge to her thinking, and the encouragement to ask questions. Doreen will continue her spiritual and creative life journey in ways not yet revealed.
Adrienne Johnson began her Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction soon after completing her MDiv at VST in 2007. A highlight of her most recent time at VST has been feeling supported to follow her passion for combining spirituality and counselling psychology. Adrienne is now planning to complete her Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology at UBC by the end of this summer.

Andy Kuo came to VST with a Master of Applied Science degree in electrical and computer engineering from UBC. He would like to thank his family, friends, and the churches for all their support and encouragement during his study in VST. He is looking forward to enter into ministry to serve in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Laurie Lamb

The Rev. Carmen Lansdowne is a 3rd year PhD student at the Graduate Theological Union. She continues to present her scholarship at regional, national and international levels, is adjunct faculty at 2 seminaries in Berkeley, and a Doctoral Fellow with the Fund for Theological Education. She thanks especially Richard Leggett and Sharon Betcher for all their love and support.

Julie Lees enjoyed her work in Communications and the theatre before entering VST. Elements of VST life Julie will carry with her include the phenomenal teaching that inspired her imagination and challenged her thinking; and her fulfilling work in the area of recruitment. Julie is excited to be moving into congregational ministry with St. Stephen’s United Church here in Vancouver.

Douglas Lewis came to VST as a retired Water Treatment Engineer and already ordained as a locally identified priest. Time at VST has consisted of the summer courses offered at the Sorrento Centre and finally work on-line. He will continue to serve the Anglican Congregations at Fruitvale and Salmo B. C. and study at VST.

Laura Madsen came to VST in the summer of 2007 searching for a Judaeo-Christian framework in which to ground her spiritual yearning and experiences. She is grateful to VST for the excellent coursework and professorship that guided her emerging theology towards the urban practice of Silence. Laura’s research thesis topic, “Surrendering to Silence: A Heart-Centred Practice,” has taken on a life of its own.
The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still Murray traces his heritage I am a treaty Indian who traces his heritage to Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. He is the incumbent of St. James the Assiniboine Anglican Church in Winnipeg where he has been involved in indigenous ministry since ordination in 1989. One of his accomplishments, in addition to completing this degree, was to help create a diploma in Indigenous Spiritual and Pastoral Care at the University of Winnipeg. He is married to Brenda and they have two sons, Graham, 19, and Michael, 16. Murray is the first Aboriginal person to receive the Doctor of Ministry degree at VST. The title of his thesis is “Sacred Circles: towards Aboriginal Anglican Self-Determination.”

Andrew S Zaw Lwin is grateful for his sponsorship by the Anglican Church of Canada for his VST studies. He plans to return home to teach as a Professor of Homiletics at Holy Cross Theological College in Burma/Myanmar. He is an Anglican priest and is married to his wife Grace; his children are Emmanuella and Shalom.

Ying Wang came to VST with a B.A. in Christian studies and an M.A. in Theology which she earned after serving for seven years at a protestant church in TianJin China. Her time at VST has enriched her theological thinking and has confirmed her Christian passion in the world. Ying is proactively exploring Mandarin ministry opportunities in the greater Vancouver area.

Brenda Wilkinson came from a background of practicing as a Registered Massage Therapist for the last 25 years. Her time at VST has been spent in pursuit of a breath of new life in mainstream religion. She has been called to an appointment as a second minister at North Lonsdale United Church to work with families, youth and children.

James Magee came to the Vancouver School of Theology to pursue his long-standing interests in biblical studies academically. He was proud to represent the school as recipient of the Jeremias Prize at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies held last May at Concordia University in Montreal. He is currently pursuing further graduate work at Trinity Western University in preparation for entry into a PhD program.

Lori Megley Best

Harry Moore Simoogit Mmihlgum Gaak (Shining Raven of the Sky) is from the house of Ax’dii Wil Luu-gooda in the Raven tribe of the Nisga’a Nation. He is the first recipient of the recently developed Diploma of Theological Studies in the Native Ministry program by extension. He is rector of Christ Church, Gingolx at the mouth of the Nass River in northwestern British Columbia. His ministry also includes being the Cultural Director in his community and membership on the Heritage and Preservation Society. During the course of Harry’s studies, he and his wife, Florence, participated in courses at the United College of the Ascension in Birmingham, England.

Doctor Alain-Michel Rocheleau arrived at VST in 2009 with six university degrees, including a Master in Theology, a Master in Social Work, and a Ph.D. in Theatre. He is also completing a Doctorate in Practical Theology at Laval University. Professor Rocheleau has taught French Theatre and Cinema at UBC, since 1992.

Pamela Scott has been very fortunate and has had many inspiring people in her life – inspiring a love of learning. VST is the latest stop in her life long formal and informal educational journey. She hopes the next phase is somewhat lighter in content.

Andrew S Zaw Lwin is grateful for his sponsorship by the Anglican Church of Canada for his VST studies. He plans to return home to teach as a Professor of Homiletics at Holy Cross Theological College in Burma/Myanmar. He is an Anglican priest and is married to his wife Grace; his children are Emmanuella and Shalom.

Ying Wang came to VST with a B.A. in Christian studies and an M.A. in Theology which she earned after serving for seven years at a protestant church in TianJin China. Her time at VST has enriched her theological thinking and has confirmed her Christian passion in the world. Ying is proactively exploring Mandarin ministry opportunities in the greater Vancouver area.

Brenda Wilkinson came from a background of practicing as a Registered Massage Therapist for the last 25 years. Her time at VST has been spent in pursuit of a breath of new life in mainstream religion. She has been called to an appointment as a second minister at North Lonsdale United Church to work with families, youth and children.
Graduate Banquet
Graduates and faculty gathered to celebrate the outstanding contributions of VST’s Class of 2011!
For four days in late February, the sixth floor of VST’s Iona Building became a high-end used book store as over 9,000 books were sold to new owners at nominal cost. Hundreds of students, faculty, and lay people from across Lower Mainland campuses, churches, and communities browsed through a huge, well organized selection of titles in theology, history, and literature.

The VST library had been the recipient of many generous donations of books over the years. Those donations served the library well. Once received, the books were stored in what had been the library’s area of surplus shelving and were then eventually added to the collection or made available for sale in the library.

In recent years, however, it became evident that library gift book storage space would have to be relinquished in order to provide space for ongoing collection growth. While gift books could no longer be housed in the VST library, Library Director Pat Dutcher-Walls and Collection Manager Robert Eldridge were certain that such a wonderful array of books would make for a marvellous book sale!

No one knew the VST library collection better than Robert. After many years of managing our 100,000+ item library, his expertise was unparalleled. Robert executed a successful sale through tireless organization: he categorized a huge inventory, scheduled hard-working volunteers, arranged wide-spread advertising and coordinated facility logistics. Robert noted the dedicated work of VST Operations Director Elaine Young and her staff and VST Student Will Ferrey, who coordinated volunteers.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of students at neighbouring St. Mark’s College, most of the books remaining after the sale will be shipped to a library in Zambia.

Many thanks to Robert, Elaine and her staff, Will, VST student volunteers and many friends of the school for making VST’s largest ever book sale such a success!
JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN’S VST VISIT

John Dominic Crossan helped to secure VST’s rightly celebrated reputation for fostering excellence in biblical study when he engaged the School with a free evening lecture and a three-lecture workshop dedicated to the theme of God and violence. Crossan’s work, most recently in cooperation with Marcus Borg, has made as one of its central tasks an informed theological response to the misuses of state power. Professor Crossan joins a host of biblical scholars who post-9/11 have pursued biblical study that assesses the abuses of imperial violence, as well as Christian contributions to it historically and in our contemporary world. Professor Crossan joined the School as part of its 40th Anniversary Visiting Distinguished Scholar series. Over the course of the two days, he contextualized the teachings of Jesus and Paul within broad biblical traditions concerning social justice. Using a method of comparative analysis, he worked with the contrasting images of retributive and distributive justice which run through Scripture. Setting these contrasting motifs in conversation with each other, Crossan elaborated his thesis with regard to the case to be made for an interpretation of God as grounded in a posture of non-violence, and a turning of God toward the world in an ethic of just and peaceable life reflecting the intention of God that all should have enough. The two days with our Visiting Distinguished Scholar was a time of intellectual refreshment and spiritual renewal. We are grateful for his time with us.

ISC INAUGURATION

The work of the centre is by no means new. It has been going on at VST in various ways for over twenty-five years. It began with the first Native Ministries Consortium summer school and continued through the establishment and accreditation of the Native Ministries Master of Divinity degree program, a first in extension education. A persistent partner supporting this work all along the way has been the Centre for Indian Scholars, an outgrowth of the Indian Ecumenical Movement in the seventies. In a parallel aboriginal education development, Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute began its innovative work in the Nass Valley in 1994. Joining together in 2004, these groups formed Yuuhadaax, now the steering committee for a more focused and consolidated effort, the Indigenous Studies Centre at VST. Gathering all the work into one canoe, so to speak, we look forward to another twenty-five years, at least, traveling and navigating together the shoals of colonization into a post-colonial spiritual harbor. By providing both academic and communal opportunities for Aboriginal traditional religious leaders and Christians to meet, teach and learn together, along with those of other faiths, the Centre’s goal is a transformed religious and educational context leading to a transformed world.

The ISC is happy to work with Iona Pacific, the new Inter-Religious Centre at VST, to implement two new graduate-level degrees in Indigenous and Inter-religious Studies. These degrees recognize indigenous spiritualities as world religions and provide a singular integrative opportunity for indigenous, Jewish, Muslim and Christian scholars and practitioners.

It is fitting that we take on a newly formulated task such as this and observe it this week, as our Nisga’a partners celebrate Hobiyyee, the time of new beginnings in the Nisga’a seasonal round. Tradition holds that if the February new crescent moon looks like the bowl of a spoon, the year to come will be abundant. We pray that the bowl of possibilities for this new effort at VST will be full indeed.
Sunday, May 8, VST was delighted to welcome The Reverend Dr. Sharon Betcher to the rank of full professor. Sharon’s promotion was celebrated through the event of her inaugural lecture. Weaving strands of thought between the genres of constructive theology, pneumatology and disability studies, Sharon gave a fascinating lecture on the idea of Spirit as prosthesis. With her usual breath-taking creativity, Dr. Betcher wove a poetic ode to the possible at the intersection of Spirit and corporality. This lecture provided an opportunity for the gathered crowd to hear Sharon’s thinking across the range of her academic work, noting her doctoral thesis which worked in pneumatology and her recent seminal thinking in the area of disability studies (Spirit and the Politics of Disablement; Fortress, 2007)
We were blessed to be surrounded by wonderful friends as VST celebrated its annual Chancellor’s Dinner on March 8th. As many of you know, 2011 marks the school’s 40th anniversary and this year’s Chancellor’s Dinner was the most successful incarnation of this tradition to date! The University Golf Club provided the perfect setting to honour the recent transitions in the school’s leadership. Outgoing Chair of the Board, The Venerable Ronald Harrison, and outgoing Chancellor, Dr. Louise Rolston, were both honoured for their long and notable contributions to the life of VST. The strong leadership and wise guidance both offered to VST throughout their tenure has been invaluable to the school. Along with the celebration of Louise’s and Ron’s time at VST, we also had occasion to celebrate the appointments of incoming Chair, Dr. Heather Clarke, and incoming Chancellor, The Very Reverend Dr. Peter Elliott. Both were welcomed to their new roles with enthusiasm by all those in attendance.

What’s more, award-winning journalist Douglas Todd was on hand to deliver an address entitled “13 Ways to a More Appealing Church.” Douglas Todd’s talk was well received by all in attendance and gave the crowd much to talk about afterward. We extend many thanks to Mr. Todd for his willingness to share some of his insights and comments with attendees.

In addition, the evening provided opportunities for attendees to contribute to the financial well-being of the school. We were delighted to offer a silent auction at dinner and were impressed by the contributions of not VST community members but also those of the local businesses that provided items to auction. VST would like to thank all who contributed to make this event such a smashing success! And we hope to see you at next year’s Chancellor’s Dinner.
We joined the Montréal School of Theology for their annual trip (meeting them was nice in itself). In Cuba we visited several churches, the seminary in Matanzas and heard from many different people about Cuba and how they ministered there.

A few things really stood out for me. The biggest was how the churches we visited were so focused on helping their neighbours. They would examine their context and see how they could meet the needs of those who lived in the area. A rural church we visited runs a farm and a sesame press with the proceeds supporting the community. An urban church hosts a drop-in centre for the elderly while another encourages ecumenical artistic projects and jobs. Something else that stood out was the poverty. Most people did not seem well off, but we also did not see or hear signs of people who were homeless. There is apparently nothing like the poverty or abuses that happen in our Downtown East Side.

SALLY MCFAGUE
IN INDIA

Professors Sallie McFague and Janet Gear will be attending a conference sponsored by the Dalai Lama’s Mind and Life Institute in Dharmasala, India this coming October. It is an invitation-only, working conference of about fifteen people to help create an environmental policy for the Institute. The conference, entitled “Ecology, Ethics and Interdependence” will cover topics such as global warming, the human impact on global systems for sustaining life, ethical issues, the Buddhist philosophy of interdependence, how we must change our behavior, integrating science and environmental ethics. Professor McFague will make a presentation entitled “A Role for Theology: Models of God, the World, and the Self.” Other participants include R.K Pachauri, Chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Diana Liverman of the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University; Gregory Norris of the Harvard School of Public Health; Thupten Jinpa, Institute for Tibetan Classics; Vandana Shiva, environmental activist and member of the International Forum on Globalization; Elke Weber of the Center for Research on Environmental Decisions at Columbia University. For many years the Institute has sponsored conferences focused on recent studies in brain plasticity which suggest that the malleable brain can be trained to be more compassionate, a critical issue if individuals are to behave in peaceful, altruistic ways to aid in addressing the planet’s economic and environmental crises. While in the past most of the focus has been on the conversation between science and Buddhism, for the first time a Christian theologian will be a major participant in the discussions on how belief can turn into action. Professor McFague is presently engaged in writing a book on the relationship between kenosis (self-emptying) and climate change; hence, the focus of the Institute and her project are very close. She will also be attending a pre-meeting in Boulder, CO this July to become acquainted with the other participants and prepare for their week-long set of meetings with the Dalai Lama.

A JOURNEY TO CUBA
Reflections from VST Student Peter Rombeek

We joined the Montréal School of Theology for their annual trip (meeting them was nice in itself). In Cuba we visited several churches, the seminary in Matanzas and heard from many different people about Cuba and how they ministered there.

A few things really stood out for me. The biggest was how the churches we visited were so focused on helping their neighbours. They would examine their context and see how they could meet the needs of those who lived in the area. A rural church we visited runs a farm and a sesame press with the proceeds supporting the community. An urban church hosts a drop-in centre for the elderly while another encourages ecumenical artistic projects and jobs. Something else that stood out was the poverty. Most people did not seem well off, but we also did not see or hear signs of people who were homeless. There is apparently nothing like the poverty or abuses that happen in our Downtown East Side.

The third impression that we heard everywhere was that times may be tough, but they have survived in the past and together they will again.

I encourage you to continue to pay attention to the church in Cuba. This is a culture that is changing and trying to improve people’s lives.
Combining VST’s Worship in the City project with VST course requirements, students in Paula Sampson’s Introduction to Christian Worship class planned and carried out an original liturgical celebration for the Earth on the Spring Equinox in the Epiphany Chapel meditation garden. Even the sun came out for the occasion! Four groups of four students each worked with dedication and skill to produce this work. Here, in the students’ own words, are their impressions of the experience as they led those assembled to gather, listen, respond, and go forth with prayer and commitment to God’s mission for our planet.

“Good worship is symbolic and sensuous, telling its story in a way that reaches beyond the conscious and cognitive. We achieved this through the use of concrete symbols with evocative connotations: richly-coloured fabrics, a flame that burned continually in our centre, textured objects placed tenderly on a symbolic map, white robes with white buckets splashing cleansing waters of renewal, and music both ethereal and earthy.”

“I was deeply honoured to be a part the “four directions” gathering ceremony. Solidarity in the four of us coming into the liminal space was experienced quite profoundly. The calling of all of us together also drove home the theme of responsibility —to draw us together in one human family.”

“I believe our disparate backgrounds provided an advantage. We created a meaningful service by using our different traditions, backgrounds and ages to address the concerns of our planet and the celebration of the Spring Equinox.”

Paula adds: “In the context of inclusive Christian worship, the students worked cooperatively and assiduously to craft a liturgy that respected several denominational understandings of divine-creation-human relationship. They achieved an effective balance among narrative, symbol and prayer. They more than justified the confidence I had in their liturgical competence.”

From May 8 to 10 VST was delighted to welcome Dr. Catherine Keller as this year’s Peter Kaye Lecturer. Through two public lectures and a day-long continuing education workshop Dr. Keller led us through a fascinating interdisciplinary journey unpacking the theme of Holy Entanglements drawing on themes from quantum physics (string theory), political science, constructive theology, and comparative religion woven together in conversation with the spiritual teachings of Nicolas of Cusa to create a fascinating intellectual tour de force. We express gratitude to Dr. Keller for her willingness to engage the VST community in this extremely stimulating conversation.
Everyone is welcome to participate in this joint venture by the Native Ministries Consortium (NMC). Since 1985, under First Nations direction, the Consortium has developed community-based training programs for Native ministries, lay and ordained, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The Native Ministries Summer School is a major aspect of this work. Under Consortium initiation and active participation, Vancouver School of Theology offers a Master of Divinity degree by extension for people in Native ministries. The Consortium members are the Anglican First Nations Council of Caledonia, Native Ministries Council, BC Conference (United Church of Canada), Episcopal Church in Navajoland, Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, Cook Native American Ministries (Tempe, AZ), Henry Budd College for Ministry (The Pas, MB), Indigenous Theological Training Institute (Episcopal Church) and Vancouver School of Theology (VST).

To learn more, please visit the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School page of our website: www.vst.edu

WEEK OF JULY 11 – 15

1) Lament: Voices for Healing and Reconciliation
Dr. Kathryn Rickert, Adjunct Faculty, School of Theology & Ministry, Seattle University, and Dr. Christina Roberts, Gros Ventre & Assiniboine, Assistant Professor, English Department, Seattle University.

2) Preaching in an Indigenous Context
The Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, Lakota, Missioner, The Dept. of Indian Work; Vicar, All Saints Indian Mission, and Missioner, Multicultural Ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota.

3) Christ is for Indigenous Peoples
The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, Ministry Development Officer, Anglican Diocese of Kootenay.

4) Indigenous Peoples Confront Globalization
Dr. Jeff Corntassel, Cherokee, Acting Director, Indigenous Governance Program, University of Victoria.

5) Reconciliation Acts, Ceremonies, Rites, and Rituals in First Nations Families, Communities, and Nations
Members of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society will provide facilitation and leadership in this program.
WEEK OF JULY 18 – 22

6) Alcoholism Among Native People
The Rev. Hank Lebeau, Lakota, Associate Rector, St. Philips Episcopal Church, and Director, Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church, Inc.

7) Interpreting the Bible in Cultural Context
Dr. Harry Maier, Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Studies, Vancouver School of Theology

8) Moral Sources in Many Stories: An Introduction to Christian Ethics
The Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson, Nisga’a (adopted) Director, Native Ministries Program and Assistant Professor of Ethics and Native Studies, Vancouver School of Theology

9) Is Your Church Worth Keeping Open?
The Rev. Dr. Cecil Corbett, Nez Perce, Emeritus Member of the Native Ministries Consortium, and The Rev. Dr. Gary Kush, Director of Webucators.org and Presbyterian minister (retired).

10) Canada’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the Good News
The Rev. Andrew Wesley, Mushkegowuk, Anglican Priest in the Diocese of Toronto and Toronto Urban Native Ministry at Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.
CELEBRATING THE KING JAMES BIBLE
A 400TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2011 celebrations will take place throughout the English-speaking world, on the occasion of the 400th birthday of the King James Version of the Bible.

From 1604 to 1611, a group of fifty scholars and leading clergy of the Church of England worked in teams to prepare a new version of the English Bible that would draw together the best of previous translations, and unite the nation, around a common text for the Bible. The King James Bible, as it has been popularly called, would gradually win its place in the hearts of most English Christians, whether Anglican or Dissenters. It came to shape the character of the English language like no other book; the great treasure of English literature, and of poetry in particular, cannot be fully understood without a familiarity with the majestic cadences and vocabulary of the KJV. Over the past century, newer translations benefitting from more recent biblical studies and archaeological discoveries, have replaced the King James in most public worship and private reading. It retains however a special place in the hearts and memory banks of most older Christians. This anniversary becomes an occasion to recognize and celebrate this great gift.

An aspect of the KJV that is not widely recognized is the fundamental contribution of Jewish scholarship to the making of the translation.

VST will continue to mark this year by participation with the UBC Library, Regent College, and University Hill congregation, amongst others, in two events in September. On September 6th at 7:00 pm we will formally open an Exhibition of rare Bibles at the UBC Library Rare Book Room, Irving Barber Centre, UBC. Professor Gerald Hobbs will give an address. On Friday, September 9th at 7:00 pm, VST will host a public lecture by Professor David Jeffries of Baylor University to recognize the event. For more information, contact VST.

VSTSA UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

On behalf of the VSTSA, I would like to congratulate the graduates of 2011, our 40th anniversary class. It was a wonderful convocation, very moving and inspirational. Many of us are now taking a welcome breather from papers and other assignments and moving into summer employment and/or extra courses to ease the load next school year. Already, I am sure, the rush rush of the last few months is abating, leaving in its place a sense of relief and accomplishment. Whether you have completed year one or two, take a deep breath and pat yourself on the back!!

In preparation for the return to class in the fall, I would like to urge you to think of where you can help with the VSTSA. We will be having elections in the fall for various positions and your help and participation is essential to the running of this organization. We will also need some folks to help out during orientation week. If you have any suggestions of things that either you wished you had known to begin the school year or things you discovered that helped you navigate the terms more successfully, please email me at: hardingjoann@ymail.com.

I wish you all a very blessed, restful and rejuvenating summer!

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Harding, President, VSTSA
2011 MINDFULNESS FAIR

In a distracted world, mindfulness has become a desirable religious expression in the West. While persons in the West have increasingly found such important insights in Buddhist and yogic practice, the Christian path too has diverse practices that promote mindfulness. Such became the focus of a learning fair, “Christian Mindfulness Practices,” organized by VST theologian, Dr. Sharon Betcher, and students enrolled in her 2011 spring semester course “Spirit and/as Mindfulness Practice.”

The Learning Fair, held on February 16 and attended by 115 persons, opened with a keynote presentation, “The Mindfulness Practise of Simone Weil: Paying Attention to the Other” by VST Distinguished Theologian in Residence Dr. Sallie McFague. Dr. McFague spoke about the parable of the Good Samaritan as central to Weil’s practice: “...the Samaritan is good because he did the two things necessary for a needy other: he paid attention to him, restoring him to the human community, and he did so at the most basic level of the other’s needs, food and medical care.” Weil described “attention” as the rarest form of generosity, and the habit of attention could be thought of as the substance of prayer. Throughout her life, Weil —McFague reminded her audience— identified with the most oppressed groups in society, continually standing in solidarity with the socially marginalized. In doing this, Weil demonstrated a rare talent for both contemplative attention and action.

Following the keynote lecture, seven distinct workshops in diverse forms of Christian mindfulness practice were offered. These included a guided labyrinth walk, led by JoAnne Tharalson, a member of St. Paul’s Labyrinth Guild, and a session on the “Sacrament of the Present Moment,” an exploration of the spiritual thought of Jean Pierre de Caussade, an 18th century French Jesuit priest and spiritual director, led by Chris Dierkes, VST Alumnus and Curate at Christ Church Cathedral. Susan Koppersmith, a participant in the learning fair, spoke of this as an especially moving and transformative session for her, one within which she found herself “filled to overflowing with new soul impulses for my future.”

Bruce Harding, VST Musician in Residence, led a workshop on meditative chant entitled “Centering in Song.” Catherine Jennings, Spiritual Director and VST alumnus, instructed participants on mindful eating in a session entitled “Fasting, Food and Freedom.” During the second round of workshops, Dr. Matthia Langone, a local iconographer and VST alumnus, led a workshop on “The Way of the Icon.” Anita Fast, VST’s Registrar and herself a VST alumnus, introduced persons to “Mindfulness in Action: The Mennonite Path” while Dr. Mark Stein, an independent Jewish scholar, dialogued with Dr. Sharon Betcher on “Remembering the Sabbath: Mindfulness and the Liturgical Pattern of Time”.

The Learning Fair concluded with a 5pm contemplative eucharist service. This worship service, leaning into the modes of silence and meditation and carried more by choreography than words, set out from the apophatic wisdom of Nicholas of Cusa: [T]he theology of negation is so necessary to the theology of affirmation that without it God would not be worshiped as the infinite God but as creature; and such worship is idolatry, for it gives to an image that which belongs only to truth itself (On Learned Ignorance). The service was conducted mostly in what one worshipper described as the most profound, deep and shared silence he had ever experienced.

For Christians, mindfulness can name a way of moving through God so as to stay mindful of the world as it can also imply knowing the self …
I write this message enveloped in the joy and love of Easter and with a sense of being supported and encouraged, while at the same time challenged to openness and exploration in my own faith journey. Not only was Easter Sunday a wonderful reminder of God’s enduring love, but in my church, Shaughnessy Heights United, it was also confirmation for five young-in-age girls (13-14 year olds), who were wise, curious and brave beyond those years, in their questioning, examining and confirming of their faith. I had the privilege of being a companion-mentor to one of those young girls and was challenged, uplifted and spiritually enriched as we discussed questions of faith and considered our similarities and differences in beliefs and understandings. “My confirmand” was, and I’m sure will continue to be, a wonderful blessing for me. I pray that your journey through Lent and Easter was similarly enriching to you in your faith journey.

As a member, and now chair, of the VST Board of Governors, I find that I am also challenged in my faith journey, as well as supported and encouraged by other members of the Board and VST faculty and staff. As with all journeys, there are things given up and things taken on – including understandings, commitments, people, etc. Since January, the Board has said good-bye to our recent chair, The Venerable Ronald Harrison, and to Dr. Louise Rolston, our recent chancellor. Both Ronald and Louise served VST in a variety of roles over the years for which the School is very appreciative and I thank them in particular for being mentors for me.

We welcomed The Very Reverend Peter Elliott as Chancellor for an initial three-year term effective January 1, 2011. Dean Elliott was awarded with the degree Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) by VST in 2009 and has served as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral since 1994. His VST appointment celebrates a long-term close relationship between Christ Church Cathedral and Vancouver School of Theology. The Chancellor is a voluntary senior leadership position and so Dean Elliott will participate in the life of the school as a member of the Board of Governors and Faculty Council and as President of the Friends of VST (formerly the women’s auxiliary). He will also preside, as an officer of the School, at Convocation. Most recently Dean Elliott presided at the Chancellor’s Dinner, a very successful fund(d) and friend raising evening.

Ruth Cheuh has agreed to join the Board of Governors as a Director-at-large and we look forward to her contributions in our governance. Born in Taiwan, Ruth received her Masters in Social Work in the USA and came to Canada in 1974, where she worked in the mental health field for over 30 years. She is an elder at Vancouver Taiwanese Presbyterian Church and on the Board of Management for St. Andrew’s Hall (SAH). As with all Board members, Ruth will join one of the four Board Committees. We look forward to her direct contributions to VST and her continuing support through SAH.

You can see pictures, titles and affiliations of all Members of the Board of Governors on our website: www.vst.edu.

One of the important responsibilities of the Board of Governors is to appoint a principal and determine the terms of that appointment. Dr. Wendy Fletcher’s current six-year contract expires in 2012 during her sabbatical. Thus the Board embarked on an extensive review of Dr. Fletcher’s performance as Principal and Dean in the fall of 2010, the results of which were, as we expected, overwhelmingly positive. The Board of Governors enthusiastically and unanimously agreed to invite her to renew her contract as Principal and Dean for another five years. We are so thankful and happy that she has agreed!

It is with a sense of anticipation and enthusiasm that I embark on my journey as Chair of VST’s Board of Governors knowing that I have support, not only from the VST Board, faculty and staff, but also from my Shaughnessy Heights United Church friends and ministers and other members of the United Church of Canada. I welcome the opportunity to learn more from friends, alumni, staff and faculty of VST and to meet you at one of the many VST events. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me – I would love to hear from you (heather.clarke@shaw.ca; 604-733-9329.)

With thanks for the support and caring you have shown for VST – may it continue to grow.
Alumni from around the lower mainland gathered to share dinner, memories and news before proceeding upstairs to enjoy the first Peter Kaye Lecture delivered by Dr. Catherine Keller.

REV. JOHN LOUGHEED
We are pleased to report that Rev. John Lougheed has been appointed the new Director of Spiritual Care at the Grand River Hospital and Regional Cancer Centre in Kitchener, Ontario. We wish him all the best in his new spiritual and professional endeavors.

ROSS SMILLIE
Ross Smillie (M.Div. 1986) will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his graduation from VST and ordination in the United Church this year. Nearly sixteen of those years have been spent serving St. Andrew’s United Church in Lacombe. Ross’ new book, Practicing Reverence: An Ethic for Sustainable Earth Communities, will be published by Copper House (Wood Lake Books) in October.

PAULA PORTER LEGGETT
After 12 years of ministry with St. Faith’s Anglican Church in south Vancouver, alumnus Paula Porter Leggett (’95) accepted a new position as Rector at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church in Langley, B.C. which she began on March 1st. Her induction was celebrated with Bishop Michael Ingham on St. Patrick’s Day. Paula and Richard will be looking for a new home that allows them to continue their ministries in both Langley and Vancouver (Richard is priest-in-charge at St. Faith’s). Paula continues to serve the Diocese as a chair of the Murrin Fund Committee and Anglican representative to the MacMillian Fund, and as an EFM mentor, although she is passing on her two Vancouver-based groups (St. Faith’s, and St. Paul’s, West End) to new mentors as part of her relocation.
FACULTY UPDATES

THE REV. DR. RICHARD LEGGETT

Dr. Richard Leggett, Emeritus Professor of Liturgical Studies, was the preacher at the opening eucharist of the first joint meeting of the Council of General Synod (Anglican) and the National Church Council (Lutheran) on Thursday, 31 March 2011. Dr Leggett has been involved in the development of full communion between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada since 1992 and was one of the authors of “The Waterloo Declaration”, the foundation of the full communion agreement between the two churches established in 2001. Dr Leggett has also been appointed to a five-year term on the Liturgy Task Force of the Anglican Church of Canada, a task force charged with taking the next steps in liturgical renewal for Canadian Anglicans.

THE REV. JOYCE DAVIS

Joyce Davis completes five years with VST this spring as the Director of Field Education. “It was a very stimulating and sometimes challenging appointment,” she says. “The greatest joy was the interaction with students and the opportunity to help them as they often wrestled to clarify God’s call for their lives as it unfolded in their field education experiences.” Personally, Joyce is also thankful for the opportunity to audit classes and discuss her own writing project with helpful professors. She has been gathering stories from Presbyterian Diaconal Ministers and writing a history of the Order of Diaconal Ministries in the Presbyterian Church in Canada since 1908. It is entitled, From the Bottom Up: a Story of Collegial Leadership. She expects it to be published this summer.

THE REV. DR. GLEN DAVIS

The Rev. Dr. Glen Davis has completed five years as Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation and has decided to retire this summer. He says that these years at VST have been a pure gift and a marvelous way to end a long and varied career. Working with and learning from courageous students and inspirational faculty has been a privilege for which he will always be grateful. He and Joyce plan to spend more time in their beloved Cape Breton, especially during summer and fall. Glen also hopes to do some writing and volunteer work, some of it, hopefully, at VST and St. Andrew’s Hall, and wherever else God might lead.

THE REV. DR. PATRICIA DUTCHER-WALLS

Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Dean of Studies, has preached several times at local congregations during Spring semester, including St. Aidan’s Presbyterian Church (her “home” congregation). Of special note was her preaching at the anniversary service of Knox Presbyterian Church in Victoria (Board member Rev. Laura Kavanagh’s church). And on May 8, she gave a talk at Beacon Unitarian Church in New Westminster on the theme of social justice. Upcoming dates include the Ladies Retreat of Westminster Presbytery in June at the Presbytery camp on the Sunshine Coast, where she will lead a program entitled, “A Woman’s Walk.”

THE REV. DR. HAROLD MUNN

Harold was named Victoria Citizen of the Year by CFAX radio in recognition of his work with homelessness and with the wider community in that city over the past 13 years, and was the subject of TV and print specials. In addition, the Canadian Church Press awarded Harold with the following three awards. We are proud of Harold in his work:

First place: What are you doing this weekend? How’s the God business?
CATEGORY: Newspaper department

Second Place: If I’d washed the dishes
CATEGORY: Theological Reflection: devotional and inspirational

Third place: It was the Holy Book to him; Blessed are the confused; If I’d washed the dishes
CATEGORY: Newspaper column

And from the Associated Church Press, Harold received an Honourable Mention for his column generally as a theme of “fresh expression of church”

Harold and Claire will be travelling on holiday up the coast in late May, and then helping baby-sit two small grandchildren in Edmonton before moving to VST in August. They are both very much looking forward to joining the VST community.

THE REV. DR. STEPHEN FARRIS

Dr. Stephen Farris has been recovering from a minor heart attack he suffered in late February. His health prognosis is excellent and he is now back at work full time. He has
preached recently at the 100th anniversary service of both St. Columba and Kerrisdale Presbyterian Churches in Vancouver, at Vancouver Taiwanese Church, Coquitlam Presbyterian Church and at the service of induction of Rev. Emmanuel and Bushra Cheema by the Presbytery of Westminster. He is writing an article on Preaching Joshua for the journal Interpretation. His essay, “Calvin and the Preaching of the Lively Word,” will appear shortly in the collection edited by Richard Topping and John Vissers, Calvin @ 500

THE REV. DR. PAULA Sampson

Paula Sampson attended the first meeting of the Theological Education Commission of the Anglican Church of Canada in Calgary March 22 – 24. As one of the group’s five members, she participated as the group began its task of preparing principles, competencies and standards for those whom the church has called into presbyteral ministry. In addition, Paula gave a paper, “Global Village, Global City: a story the longhouse could tell to the shopping mall,” in April at the American Indian section of the Western Social Science Association in Salt Lake City.

THE REV. DR. Richard Topping

Richard Topping was in Toronto in March for a meeting of the Church Doctrine Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He also conducted a workshop at Calvin Presbyterian Church, North Bay entitled The Bible: Artifact, Literature and Living Voice, and preached in the Sunday morning service. In April, he took part in a conference in Minneapolis at Luther Seminary on the history and theology of Luther and Calvin. In May, Richard was a discussion facilitator at the Doxa Documentary Film Festival in Vancouver. He is a leading a congregational retreat for First Presbyterian Church at Camp Douglas in June. This summer Richard is preaching at a number of churches in the Vancouver area including West Vancouver and North Wood United Churches, Kerrisdale, Calvin -Abbotsford, the Chinese and Richmond Presbyterian Churches. A book he co-edited, Calvin@500, that includes essays by Stephen Farris, Gerald Hobbs and Lynne McNaughton, is set to be released this summer.

RABBI ROBERT Daum

Iona Pacific Director and Associate Professor Rabbi Robert Daum was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa in Los Angeles on May 16, 2011 at the 136th Graduation Ceremonies of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). Professor Daum was honored for 25 years of scholarly distinction as an alumnus of HUC-JIR. Founded in 1875, HUC-JIR is the oldest institution of higher Jewish education in the United States and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR’s scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. Rabbi Daum was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1986 after five years of study at its Jerusalem and New York campuses.

Professor Robert A. Daum published a 26-page scholarly article in the first issue of the second century of The Jewish Quarterly Review (101.1), entitled “Rhetorical Form and Didactic Content in a Rabbinic Poem.” The JQR is published quarterly for the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. It is the oldest English-language journal in the field of Jewish studies.

Dr. Robert Daum has been appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Steering Committee of the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University. To create a home for dialogue which provides the best possible environment for interaction and full participation by all delegates was the goal of the university when the Dialogue Centre was planned. The Wosk Centre for Dialogue has hosted the heads of state, religious and political leaders, delegations, arbitrations, deliberations, private negotiations on environmental and legal concerns, annual general meetings conferences on a wide range of topics — all of which shared a concern for achieving a high level of communication among delegates.
We were delighted to welcome several new faces in the New Year at VST. Dana DeKoven joined us for six months as a part-time grants writer, helping specifically to identify grants opportunities for the Native Ministries programs and Iona Pacific Inter-religious Centre. Kirsty Dickson joined the Library staff as half-time Coordinator of Technical Services — Acquisitions and Cataloguing. Kirsty's other half-time position is down the street in the St. Mark's Library. In the Principal's Office, Deborah Eaton-Kent joined staff for a six-month contract as Coordinator of Major Gifts and Planned Giving and Shannon Lythgoe joined us in early June as Coordinator of Marketing, Communications and Recruitment.

At the end of March, Julie van Baarsen came on board on a maternity leave contract for Ilinca Manisali, Director of Finance. Tony Tremblett also stepped in to assist as Acting Housing Coordinator while Yanfen An spends time with her new-born son.

VST has also had to say goodbye as two employees journeyed away from VST to embark on new adventures. Dennis Topp in the Finance Department has moved on from his work with VST last month, and Sean Ayers, our Development Associate, made the transition to work as Development Officer with the Vancouver Heritage Foundation. Finally, Val Borthistle and Robert Eldridge retired from their positions in the library. We thank Dennis, Sean, Val, and Robert for their contributions to VST and wish them well in their future endeavors.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Professors Mark Vessey (UBC), Sharon V. Betcher, Robert A. Daum, and Harry O. Maier co-edited *The Calling of the Nations: Exegesis, Ethnography, and Empire in a Biblical-Historic Present*, a scholarly anthology published in January by the University of Toronto Press. “The essays in this volume discuss the ways in which biblical understandings have shaped Western – and particularly European and North American – assumptions about the nature and meaning of the nation.” In addition to co-editing the volume, which features post-colonial readings of the Bible, each of the four editors also authored a chapter. Dr. Daum’s chapter is “Recalling the Nation’s Terrain: Narrative, Territory, and Canon.” Dr. Maier authored “Dominion from Sea to Sea: Eusebius of Caesarea, Constantine the Great, and the Exegesis of Empire” as well as “Biblical Narrative and the (De)stabilization of the Colonial Subject.” Dr. Betcher’s Epilogue is entitled “‘Paradise Highway’: Of Global Cities and Postcolonial Reading Practices.” Other contributors to the volume are scholars based at universities in Canada, the U.S., and Europe.

Professors Mark Vessey (UBC), Sharon V. Betcher, Robert A. Daum, and Harry O. Maier
Farewell to Retiring Faculty

GLEN AND JOYCE DAVIS

The St. Andrew’s Hall and Vancouver School of Theology community give thanks for the faithful service of the Reverend Doctor Glen Davis as Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation for the last five years.

Glen served as a missionary among the Korean minority in Japan for 15 years. He speaks Korean and Japanese fluently. He spent 18 years as a mission administrator in the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and served as General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency. His mission involvements and ecumenical partnership work took him to more than 50 countries and he has led mission-awareness tours to East Asia, Africa and Central America. He has visited all 46 presbyteries of the PCC as preacher, mission speaker and conference leader. He served congregations as pastor both in Japan and in Canada, and was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the PCC in 2000. After the retirement of both Glen and his wife Joyce from their final pastoral charge, Knox Church, Agincourt, Ontario, Glen came to Vancouver to fill the position of Director of Denominational Formation. In that role, he was the primary influence on the shaping of future Presbyterian ministers, studying in Vancouver. Both Glen’s students and his faculty colleagues will long remember and be thankful for Glen’s ministry in this capacity. His gentle but firm patience carried students through many crises. His practical wisdom, gained through the varied experience of a long ministry, was invaluable in his teaching. His good humour and sage advice was always appreciated by his colleagues. He displays the intellectual and physical vigour of a far younger man and defeats students and younger ministers of the presbytery regularly at squash and tennis. But the time for a more complete retirement now draws near and Glen will be relinquishing this position. We pray for long health, happy times with his family and continued service in whatever capacity seems right.”

The community of St. Andrew’s Hall and VST gives thanks for the ministry of Rev. Joyce Davis who has served as Field Education Supervisor for VST, for most of that same period which her husband Glen has also served at the school. Joyce is a member of the Order of Diaconal Ministry and is presently researching a history of that order. She is also a graduate of Knox College and was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacraments. She shared with Glen in the ministry at Knox Church, Agincourt. During most of the last five years, Joyce has served as Field Education Supervisor at VST. Field Education has become a primary factor in the education and evaluation of theological students. It is, however, a complex programme to administer, demanding as it does, careful and consistent contact with students, supervisors, churches and other ministry placements. The widely varied needs of students demand great patience and creativity on the part of the administrator. Joyce has provided just those qualities and, in addition, a keen pastoral sense. This sense is both a comfort to students and of great assistance to faculty colleagues in their ongoing task of evaluating the fitness for ministry of candidates for the ministry. We give thanks also for Joyce’s ministry among us and likewise pray for her a long and healthy retirement.

RICHARD LEGGETT

Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett graduated magna cum laude in German and Secondary education from the University of Denver in 1975. After spending several years as a secondary school teacher, he moved toward a vocation in the Anglican presbyterate. Completing a Master of Divinity degree in 1981 at Nashotah House, Richard then served after ordination in the Episcopal Church, on the staff of the Diocese of Colorado. It was there that Richard met Paula. Following his time with the Diocese, Richard served in parish ministry and then began work at the University of Notre Dame in graduate theological studies. In 1987, he graduated from Notre Dame with an MA in Liturgical Studies and then in 1993 with the PhD. His thesis completed under the direction of Dr. James White was entitled “Unity and Diversity in Anglican Ordination Rites 1970 to 1980.”

Dr. Leggett joined the faculty of Vancouver School of Theology in 1987, as Assistant Professor of Liturgics and Church History. In 1996, he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure and then in 2001 to Professor of Liturgical Studies.

During the past almost 25 years of service to this school, Richard has contributed to both the educational life of VST and to the wider church through his involvement in a wide range of significant activities.

Within VST, Richard was an early supporter of the nascent Native Ministries degree programme and made a significant contribution to its development and growth as part of the school’s core mission. Richard served on the VST Board of Governors, and as Chair of Faculty Association for many years, undertaking the enormous project of re-writing the
faculty handbook. As well, he served as Acting Director of Studies and Acting Dean in turn, as well as Acting Director of the Chalmers Institute. His willingness over time, to take on a wide variety of administrative roles and tasks on behalf of the school is notable.

Beyond the walls of the school, Richard has distinguished himself as a seminal member of the Anglican Lutheran Dialogue which brought inter-communion to the Anglican and Lutheran churches in Canada, through the Waterloo Declaration. He was and continues to be a founding member of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue of Vancouver. Richard was recognized for his contribution to that work in 2009 by the Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific Region, through the “Morris Saltzman Award for Outstanding Contribution to community relations in British Columbia.”

Richard has contributed over many years to the work of the Anglican church both locally and internationally through service in many capacities including: as a Director of the Board of the Anglican Theological Review – holding the position of Vice President from 2006 until the present, as a member of the Board of the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada, as a delegate to General Synod, and as a member of the Provincial Standing Committee on ministry for the ecclesiastical province of British Columbia – to name but a few.

Space permits us only a brief glimpse into the many involvements and contributions of Richard to the life of our school and of our church over more than three decades. But with these brief comments, we express our appreciation for the work this faithful companion of our common work, this friend of our church.

We know that Richard’s work has not ended. It moves now simply into the next stage of what we know will be a continued self-offering in the service of education and our church. Richard has been named Professor Emeritus of Liturgical Studies by the VST Board of Governors. This distinction not only recognizes his past contribution but anticipates his ongoing role as teacher and mentor in the life of our faith communities.

Saturday, May 07, VST was delighted to host the occasion of The Reverend Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett’s retirement lecture. Dr. Leggett has served VST as both Professor of Church History and of Liturgical Studies since 1987. After his retirement, he continues his relationship with VST as Professor Emeriti of Liturgical Studies. An enthusiastic group of students, faculty colleagues, VST alumni and church leaders gathered to hear a fabulous lecture looking at the implication of living in a post holocaust world for liturgical formularies. Spanning the disciplines of liturgy, history and theology Dr. Leggett’s incisive lecture opened critical windows on the relationship between race and liturgy in the post colonial imagination.
VST REMEMBERS…

Tom Cameron-Fawkes
With profound sorrow, VST learned of the sudden passing of Deborah Cameron-Fawke’s Husband, Tom on April 5, 2011, at the age of 63. Tom was a dedicated unionist who in his long career worked for the IWA, the BC Federation of Labour and the United Food and Commercial Workers union local 1518. Our deepest sympathies go to Deborah and her family.

Betty Pletcher
We deep sadness we share the news that a long time friend of VST, Betty Pletcher, passed away on April 14, 2011. Betty supported our work in many ways, including many years as a member and then President of the VST Auxiliary. Betty believed wholeheartedly in the importance of theological education and was always an enthusiastic contributor to the well being of theological students through her work, prayer and financial gifts.

Audrey Halsey
On May 25th, 2010 VST said goodbye to another long-time friend of VST; Audrey Halsey was a member of the former VST Auxiliary of which she served a President for several years. Recently she took out her first membership as a “Friends of VST”. Audrey was born in England and has served the Anglican Church throughout her life as an active lay member. As well, she devoted herself to a career in nursing on several continents and in many isolated regions of the world. She journeyed for many years with several First Nations communities in Canada’s Arctic. Audrey was a woman of deep compassion, sincerity and generosity. She will be deeply missed.

Connie Chisholm
On Wednesday, February 23, 2011, Connie Chisholm died peacefully at Schaffer Residence at Oakside, near Salmon Arm. Connie’s life centered on her family and the church: St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Inverness, St. Margaret’s Cedar Cottage, Vancouver and St. John the Evangelist, Salmon Arm. A life member of the Anglican Church Women (W.A.) she worked tirelessly in the Dorcas Department at W.A. House Vancouver. Connie had also dedicated her energy and time to the Auxiliary at VST, and her work was recognized with an honourary life membership. We will miss her contribution to the school. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Van Seters

Rev. John Allen Sanderson Godfrey
We were very sorry to hear that the Rev. John Allen Sanderson Godfrey passed away on May 4th, 2011. John (aka Jack) was an alumnus from Union College, the former VST. In 1963, John started his four year short course for ordination at Union College and became ordained in 1967. He served in 100 Mile House, Greenwood, and Kimberly before moving on to the Alberta and Northwest conference, serving in several southern Alberta charges. In his last years before retirement in 1989 he was Chair of Presbytery. It was always in the pursuit of helping others that he lived his life, even in retirement. Our thoughts are with John’s family and friends.

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Van Seters
VST mourns the passing of the Rev. Dr. Arthur Van Seters, Saturday, May 21st. Art was Principal and Associate Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Preaching from 1984 to 1992. He was instrumental in leading the school through these years when it was realizing and living out its practice of theological education. Further, Art was Principal when the Native Ministries Program was approved by faculty and put into operation in 1989. He was an important ally of and advocate for Aboriginal theological education and a great supporter. Art’s tenure also saw the expansion of the H.R. MacMillan Library at VST.

In the Diamond Jubilee Lectures in 1987, marking the 60th year since the founding of Anglican Theological College and Union College, Art contributed a lecture, “Present Discernment and Future Vision.” In it he reflects on the widening demands on theological education to be professional, academic, missional and ecumenical. However, he also reflects about a vision particularly suited to the context of multi-cultural North American society. A quote from that lecture stands as a lasting tribute to Art’s leadership in the church and at VST.

The theological school joins other disciplines in the university (and beyond it) to discern the false readings of reality and to indicate, in as clear a way as possible, that the future depends on religious, spiritual transformation. This is tough intellectual work, calling for courageous, impatient determination to name idolatry and break the images that legitimate ideology. In all this, informational learning is not enough; transformational learning is also essential. As a community of discourse the theological school engages in the reconstruction of religious identity in order that the church may witness more faithfully.

Art had been coping with an aggressive form of non Hodgkin lymphoma for over five years, and yet maintained activities in service to the church until very recently. He leaves his beloved wife Rowena, five sons and four daughters-in-law, and nine grandchildren.
SUMMER SCHOOL
To register for any of our Summer School courses, please visit the Summer School section of our website: www.vst.edu

2011 WEEK ONE

DR. MATTHIA LANGONE
The Way of the Icon: Encountering its Mystery and Meaning
July 11-15, 8:30-11:30 am
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit/Degree
Credit: Basic.

The mystery and power of the Icon has drawn spiritual seekers for centuries, which may be traced, in part, to its underlying Incarnational Theology that guides its artistic form and explains its deep relation to the self. This course will explore the Icon's history and meaning and the whole process of its painting technique as a spiritual discipline and will include hands-on exercises. No previous artistic experience is needed; materials will be provided for a minimal fee.

Matthia Langone, Masters in Art and Spirituality (Regent College) and Doctor of Ministry (VST). Following extensive training in Vancouver, Florence and Russia, Matthia, an iconographer, has developed a series of spiritual workshops focusing on the dignity and uniqueness of the human person in relation to The Way of the Icon.

THE REV. ERIC LAW
Blessings Beyond Borders: Missional Ministries in the Grace Margin
July 11-15, 8:30-11:30 am
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit.

Learn how to create a Grace Margin – a gracious environment for local church leaders to address their fear and emerge out of their old paradigm into a missional way of thinking about church, sharing God's blessing, bringing God's grace to the emerging generation while being authentically themselves.

The Rev. Eric H. F. Law, the executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute for competent leadership in a diverse changing world, is the international known author of 6 books including The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb.

DR. AMYN B. SAJOO
2011 IONA PACIFIC VISITING SCHOLAR
Faith and Modernity: Islam in a Secular Age
July 11-15, 2-5 pm
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit/Degree
Credit: Basic and Advanced.

This course will explore vital themes in the making of Muslim modernity – beginning with an exploration of the common understanding of “modernity” as a break with tradition and a marriage with the secular. We will then consider the interplay of culture, ethics and politics in Islam's diverse communities and societies.

Amyn B. Sajoo is a scholar at Simon Fraser University's Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies & Cultures, editor of the Muslim Heritage series, and the University of Victoria's 2011 Distinguished Lecturer on Islam.

PUBLIC LECTURE
DR. AMYN B. SAJOO
Tuesday, July 12, 7 pm
Public Islam: Citizenship, Identity, Anxiety
Location: VST’s Epiphany Chapel
- Dr. Sajoo’s lecture plus the lectures by Dr. Keller are available as a combination Certificate unit course, Religions in Interaction, with Dr. Sharon Betcher

2011 WEEK TWO

THE REV. DR. WALTER VOGELS
Job: Speaking about God in Suffering
July 18-22, 8:30-11:30 am
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit/Degree
Credit: Basic and Advanced.

Wisdom in all cultures has a tendency to be conservative, we want to control our lives. But at times life escapes us and wisdom then questions traditional answers. That is what the Book of Job does concerning the painful mystery of suffering. It is a masterpiece not only of biblical but of world literature. The course reflects upon its place in Wisdom Literature and goes through the whole book to discover its view on suffering.

Walter Vogels, Priest of the Missionaries of Africa, studies in Leuven, Rome, Ottawa, Paris, and Jerusalem. Dr. Vogels holds a PhD and Doctorate in biblical theology, Licentiate in Bible, and is professor emeritus Old Testament St. Paul University (Ottawa).

DR. KATHLEEN DEIGNAN, CND
Masters of the Soul and of the Cosmos: Thomas Merton and Thomas Berry in Dialogue on Healing the Self / the Earth

July 18-22, 2-5 pm
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit/Degree Credit: Basic and Advanced.

Merton and Berry – two of the most remarkable spiritual masters of our time – and all time – come together in an intensive conversation animated by Kathleen Deignan, CND. As prophets and culture critics, both masters announced the perils and crises of our moment. As visionaries and poets, both saw the new frontiers of human spiritual evolution, languaged them into clarity, and charted revelatory maps to guide us forward from our wasteland worlds into regions of greater vitality, depth and solidarity with all life. As midwives of the new creation, both labored in the Great Work of our time: to birth the new human person for the new age.

Kathleen Deignan, CND is Professor of Religious Studies at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. The founding director of Iona Spirituality Institute, she is the author of ChristSpirit: The Theology of Shaker Christianity and more recently When the Trees Say Nothing: Thomas Merton’s Writings on Nature and Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours. www.ScholaMinistries.org

PUBLIC LECTURE
KATHLEEN DEIGNAN, CND
Love for the Paradise Mystery: Thomas Merton, Contemplative Ecologist
Thursday, July 21, 7 pm
Location: VST’s Epiphany Chapel

DR. THOMAS LONG
Preaching the Parables of Jesus
July 18-22, 2-5 pm
Course available for: Audit/Certificate Credit/Degree Credit: Basic and Advanced.

Parables were at the heart of Jesus’ teaching ministry and are “instruments of the reign of God” in the form of language and story. In this course, we will become acquainted with current hermeneutical approaches to the New Testament parables, engage in responsible and creative interpretation of several parables in canonical context, and explore preaching possibilities on these parables. (Limit to 15 Degree Credit students, as each will preach a sermon on a parable in the class – no limit to Auditors.)

Thomas G. Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Dr. Long is the author of textbooks on preaching and worship, collections of sermons, and biblical commentaries on Matthew and Hebrews. His most recent books are Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral and Preaching from Memory to Hope.

PUBLIC LECTURE
DR. THOMAS LONG
Preaching Changes Its Mind: The Shift from “Narrative” to “Wisdom”
Sunday, July 17, 7 pm
Location: West Point Grey Presbyterian Church, 4397 West 12th Avenue
Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen

I am the one whose praise echoes on high.

I adorn all the earth.
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.
I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.

I am led by the spirit to feed The purest streams.

I am the rain coming from the dew that causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.

I call forth tears, The aroma of holy work.

I am yearning for good.
PLEASE SUPPORT VST

In its 40th anniversary year, VST is redoubling its efforts to support students in their desire for an intellectually rigorous, contextually engaged, and spiritually illuminating theological education. We are working to increase our financial support for students in every part of our institutional life. As one of our students recently said, in thanks for the support of our donors and supporters:

“I am overwhelmed by the kindness of this school. I did not know that an institution could be kind, but all around me I have found compassion and generosity, a school with a heart of flesh.”

Your donations support a world-class theological education that combines academic excellence with compassion and grace.

There are many ways you can help to support the important work that we do at Vancouver School of Theology.

GIFTS OF CASH: Donate today by phone or mail or donate online.

BEQUESTS: A charitable bequest is a gift left in your estate which results in not only a legacy for you but also a tax savings for your estate.

MONTHLY GIVING: As a monthly donor you will make a difference every day! Monthly giving is an easy and affordable way to spread your contribution throughout the year. It's easy to make donations directly by credit card or by withdrawing from your bank account.

SECURITIES OR STOCK: Donate publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) and pay no capital gains on the appreciated value of your investment.

LIFE INSURANCE: You may have an existing or paid up life insurance policy that you or your family no longer need. Or you can purchase a new policy. There are tax advantages to you and your estate with these gifts.

RETIREMENT FUNDS: One of the simplest ways to leave a legacy is to name a charity as a beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF. At the end of your lifetime, VST would receive all or a portion of the RRSP or RRIF proceeds, and a donation receipt will reduce your estate income taxes.

A GIFT IN MEMORY: Pay tribute to someone special by making a donation in their honour.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY: Allows you to make a gift today while assuring you a fixed income for the rest of your life.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST: A life income gift that enables you to give today (with immediate tax savings), while retaining use of the asset.

PROPERTY: Make a gift through a transfer of residential, commercial or undeveloped real estate or a gift of jewelry or art.

WITH GRATITUDE WE REMEMBER

We are very sad to say that VST lost several friends this year. Although every VST story resounds within its walls long after its earthly chapter has closed, some friends have left legacy gifts to VST, ensuring that the school can continue to live out its mission. It is with deep honour that we report the gifts many of our friends have entrusted us with. We are deeply grateful to those who have remembered VST in their wills – it is their love and trust that holds the work of the school and we honour their legacy.

If you would like to find out how to remember VST in your will, please contact Deborah Eaton-Kent at 604-822-9809 or e-mail her at dekent@vst.edu.
Yes! I would like to make a gift to VST

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ Province __________ Postal Code ____________
Phone ____________________________ Email ________________________________

Enclosed is my donation: ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other ____________________
I would like to pay via: ☐ Cheque ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard
Card number __________________________ Expiry Date __________________________
Signature ________________________________________________________________

Please use my gift:
☐ Where it is needed most
☐ For the Iona Pacific inter-Religious Centre
☐ Other

☐ I would like information about leaving a gift for VST in my will
☐ I have already remembered VST in my will