Developing Inter-religious Literacy
In 21st century Canada, religious leaders are called to be inter-religiously literate. Routinely, we work with other faith groups on public issues. When tragedy strikes, we reach out to other religious groups. Almost every congregation includes inter-faith families. So, at VST, we help students and faculty strengthen their inter-religious skills.

Gaining Knowledge
In the fall, we offered our very popular three-weekend graduate course, *Spiritual Formation in Communities*. Michael Newton shared Buddhist philosophy, history, and meditation. Seemi Ghazi introduced students to Islamic prayer, Sufi traditions, and Quranic recitation. Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan shared Jewish spiritual practices: Shabbat, blessing, and creative Biblical interpretation.

In the spring, we introduced a new course, *Gender and Sexuality in Religious Traditions*. Using theology, sacred story, and personal narrative, Rabbi Laura and students explored the role of women and LGBTQ2S+ persons in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Indigenous traditions.

Encountering Difference Respectfully
This was a theme of our summer school offerings. VST Research Associate Dr. Terry Neiman taught *Speaking of Faith*, introducing students to the theory and practice of dialogue. Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan taught *Religious Pluralism* in the Indigenous Studies Program. Together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous students discussed different approaches to multiculturalism and reconciliation. They put their discussions into practice, visiting a Buddhist Temple, and welcoming guest speaker Imam Tariq Azeem into their worship circle.

Sharing Spiritual Practice
Our optional, prayerful, experiential Commons Hour programs introduce the VST community to spiritual practice across traditions. In October, the musicians of Sulam Jewish World Music Ensemble led *Praying With Psalms: A Musical Introduction to Jewish Liturgy*. In March, Sikh teacher Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning led *The Goldsmith Meditation*, based on Sikh teachings about spiritual growth.

Researching New Ideas
Three of our advanced students in the Indigenous and Inter-religious Studies M.A. Program are working on their final thesis projects. Rowan Beaulieu is researching the fusion of *Indigenous and Christian practices in Metis Spirituality*. Eloeeza is creating a website teaching *Spiritual Practices of Joy* from multiple traditions. Mathew Arthur is writing a philosophical essay on *Multispecies Eco-Theology*.

Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan was featured along with other prominent Canadian essayists in the book *Spiritual Voices* (edited by Eleanor Clitheroe and Brooke Anderson), and Rabbi Laura’s book *The Infinity Inside: Jewish Spiritual Practice through a Multi-Faith Lens* will be launched this spring. Rabbi Laura and Rev. Ray Aldred, Director of Indigenous Studies, are working with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to create a multi-faith guide to Reconciliation.

Gathering Our Diverse Local Community
Last year’s annual inter-religious conference explored *Spiritual Perspectives on Death and Dying*.

For more information
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